

Quarter Square Triangles Tutorial

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Introduction

This method will create 2 quarter-square triangle (QST) units from 2 squares of fabric. The benefit of this method is you're working with the grain of the fabric and therefore, there is less chance of stretching when sewing the units together.

Determine what size you want the finished unit to be once the triangles are sewn together – and then add 1-1/4" to that measurement. You may prefer to add 1-1/2" which will leave you more excess so that you can square up your unit.

The chart to the right shows some common finished QST unit sizes and the fabric square sizes required to make them.

Fabric Square Cutting Chart	
Finished QST Size	Fabric Square Size
1"	2-1/4"
1-1/2"	2-3/4"
2"	3-1/4"
2-1/2"	3-3/4"
3"	4-1/4"
3-1/2"	4-3/4"
4"	5-1/4"
4-1/2"	5-3/4"
5"	6-1/4"
5-1/2"	6-3/4"
6"	7-1/4"
X"	X" + 1-1/4"

Making the QST Unit

Cut square A and square B from 2 different fabrics.

Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner on the wrong side of square B (figure 1).

Lay one square B (with line) on top of one square A, right sides together (figure 2). Sew a scant 1/4" on each side of the drawn line on square B (figure 3). Cut apart along the line (figure 4). Open the B/A units and press the seam allowance toward the darker fabric (figure 5). You have created 2 half-square triangle (HST) units.

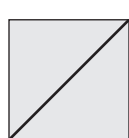


Figure 1

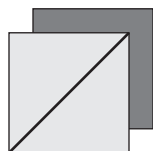


Figure 2

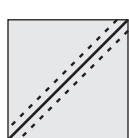


Figure 3

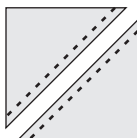


Figure 4

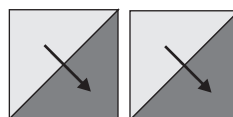


Figure 5

Draw a line on the wrong side of one HST unit (figure 6).

Lay the two HST units right sides together, with the colors opposite of each other. Nest the center seams together and align the edges (figure 7). Sew a scant 1/4" on each side of the line (figure 8). Cut apart along line (figure 9). Open the QST units and press the seam allowance to one side or open (figure 10). You have created 2 QST units.

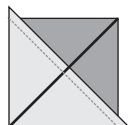


Figure 6

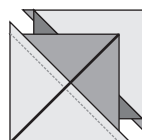


Figure 7

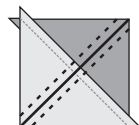


Figure 8

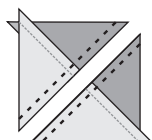


Figure 9

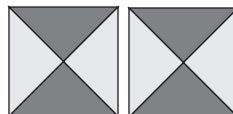


Figure 10

Scant 1/4" Seam

A scant 1/4" seam is about 1 to 2 threads less than a full 1/4". It helps account for the tiny fold of fabric you lose when you sew a seam and then fold it over and press it. If you are finding out that your blocks are turning out just a hair smaller than they are supposed to be, try sewing a scant 1/4" seam instead of a true 1/4" seam.