



Half-Square Triangles (HST)

The workhorse unit — two triangles seamed into a square, used everywhere from pinwheels to flying geese. Two ways to make them; both start from plain squares, and every cut size below already includes the seam allowance.

2-at-a-time — the everyday method

Draw a diagonal on the back of the lighter square, pair it with a darker square, sew a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " on both sides of the line, then cut on the line. Press to the darker fabric and square each unit up. One pair of squares → two HSTs.

Finished HST	Cut 2 Squares	Square Each Up To
1"	$1\frac{7}{8}$ "	$1\frac{1}{2}$ "
$1\frac{1}{2}$ "	$2\frac{3}{8}$ "	2"
2"	$2\frac{7}{8}$ "	$2\frac{1}{2}$ "
$2\frac{1}{2}$ "	$3\frac{3}{8}$ "	3"
3"	$3\frac{7}{8}$ "	$3\frac{1}{2}$ "
$3\frac{1}{2}$ "	$4\frac{3}{8}$ "	4"
4"	$4\frac{7}{8}$ "	$4\frac{1}{2}$ "
$4\frac{1}{2}$ "	$5\frac{3}{8}$ "	5"
5"	$5\frac{7}{8}$ "	$5\frac{1}{2}$ "
$5\frac{1}{2}$ "	$6\frac{3}{8}$ "	6"
6"	$6\frac{7}{8}$ "	$6\frac{1}{2}$ "
$6\frac{1}{2}$ "	$7\frac{3}{8}$ "	7"
7"	$7\frac{7}{8}$ "	$7\frac{1}{2}$ "

8-at-a-time — when you need a pile of them

Pair two squares right sides together, mark both diagonals, sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " on each side of both lines, then cut apart — vertically, horizontally, and on both diagonals (4 cuts). One pair → eight HSTs. Press to the darker fabric and square each unit up. One pair of squares → eight HSTs.

Finished HST	Cut 2 Squares	Square Each Up To
$\frac{1}{2}$ "	3"	1"
1"	4"	$1\frac{1}{2}$ "
$1\frac{1}{2}$ "	5"	2"
2"	6"	$2\frac{1}{2}$ "
$2\frac{1}{2}$ "	7"	3"
3"	8"	$3\frac{1}{2}$ "
$3\frac{1}{2}$ "	9"	4"
4"	10"	$4\frac{1}{2}$ "
$4\frac{1}{2}$ "	11"	5"
5"	12"	$5\frac{1}{2}$ "
$5\frac{1}{2}$ "	13"	6"
6"	14"	$6\frac{1}{2}$ "