

HALF-SQUARE TRIANGLES THE “MAGIC 8” WAY

Half-Square Triangles (HSTs) are one of the most basic and versatile quilting units. They are easy enough for beginners to make with the basic tools. You can mix them and match them to create dynamic shading, many traditional blocks and your own new creations! Unfortunately, many people tend to dislike making HSTs because even though they are easy to make, they aren't very exciting and take several steps to complete.

I did not invent this method, but of various alternatives to the basic half-square triangle method this one is my favorite. It lets you make EIGHT Half-Square Triangles (HSTs) at a time without creating bias edges.

To calculate the size square you'll need, determine either

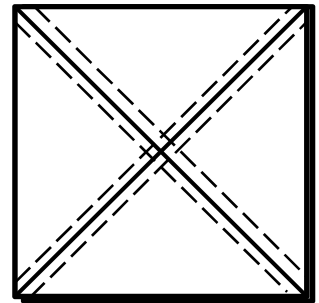
- the UNFINISHED size of HST you wish to make and add $\frac{1}{2}$ " – then multiply by 2 OR
- the FINISHED size of the HST you wish to make and add 1" – then multiple by 2.

For example...to make 3.5" UNFINISHED HSTs the traditional way you'll need 2) 4" fabric squares. To make the Magic 8 Method you'll need 2) 8" squares. My measurement is slightly larger than is commonly instructed, but accommodates easy trimming "to square up."

Place Fabric-1 Square and Fabric-2 Square right sides together.

Mark diagonal lines in BOTH directions on the lighter fabric, creating an "X"

Stitch a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam along both sides of the drawn lines.



Now make FOUR CUTS as indicated by the red lines.

- Horizontally
- Vertically
- On both drawn lines

Fold each section open and press. Then square up to 3.5" x 3.5" making sure the seam line is at a 45 degree angle running corner to corner.

