

“Peaky & Spike” Triangle Squares

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CUTTING

The formula for calculating the sizes of squares and rectangles follows this general format:

- Squares – Cut (UNFINISHED unit size $1/2$ ") x (UNFINISHED unit size + $1/2$ inch)
- Rectangles – Cut (UNFINISHED unit size + 1") x ($1/2$ UNFINISHED unit size + 1")
 - To allow for a little more “wiggle room” when it’s time to trim your Triangle Squares, you can increase the rectangle cuts to 1.25" if desired. Leave squares as indicated above.
 - A pair of rectangles makes 2 units, so consider also cutting 2 squares at a time for this process.

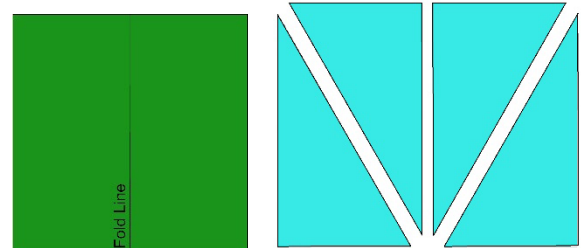
IMPORTANT NOTE: These units use a directional marking and placement method to create the triangle units with the proper orientations. I find it helpful to remember the directions in terms of a map...making a “trip” EITHER from Washington State to Florida OR California to Maine. Because you cannot change the orientation of a triangle cut from a rectangle by turning it around, it’s critical to understand and follow the directional indicators for quilting success!



SEWING

Fold the square(s) in half with right sides together and press to create a visible center line.

Lay two rectangles on your cutting mat with right sides up. Cut one from **Washington to Florida**. Cut the other from **California to Maine**. I recommend cutting them two at a time, in pairs, leaving both on your cutting mat until you’ve finished the cutting process.

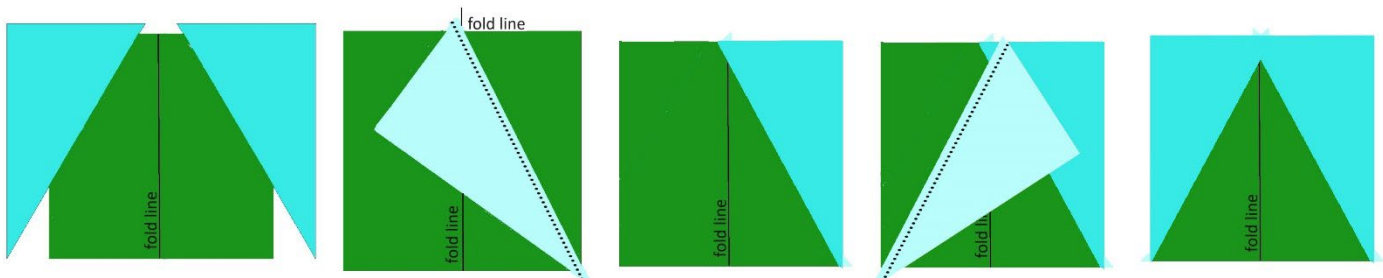


Select one triangle from each of the rectangles you just cut. Lay them on top of the square with right sides up just to verify you have two pieces with the correct angle selected. **NOTE:** Your triangles will be larger than the square.

Move one triangle away from your work area, flip the other over/wrong sides together and align that bias cut edge ON the fold line and ON the bottom corner. (Overlap only $1/4$ " at the top and if the tail at the corner is longer, that’s okay!) **NOTE:** Make sure your alignment is as described. Your stitches do NOT come off at the fold or the corner, but $1/4$ " away.

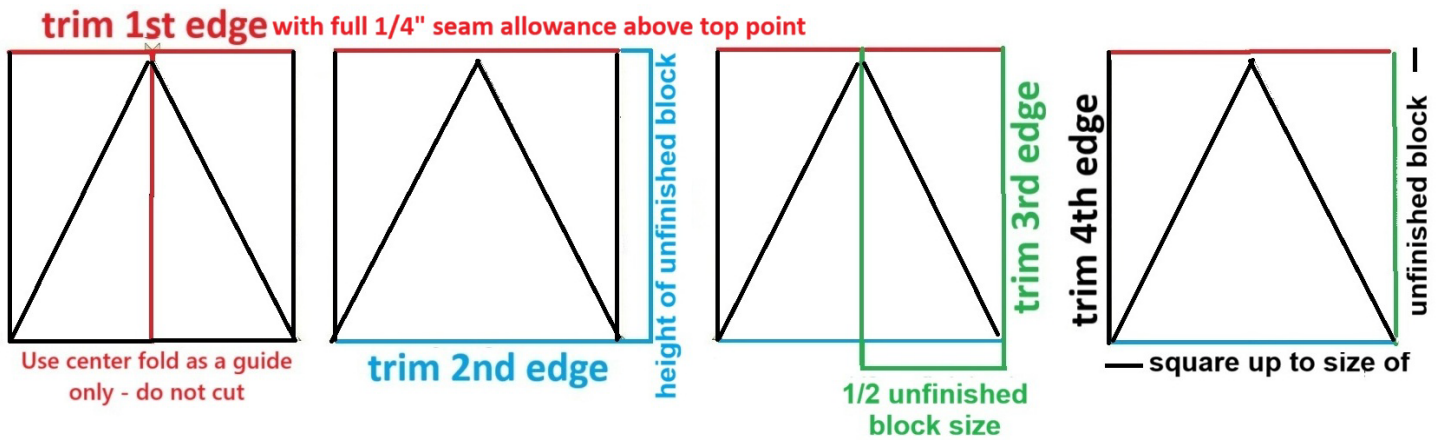
Stitch $1/4$ " from the triangle edge. Fold back and press lightly without stretching the bias. Then because you covered the fold you pressed in the square, refold and press the center of the square again.

In the same manner and using the second, corresponding turquoise triangle, place it on the M square using the pressed center line and the other bottom corner of the square as your guides. Stitch $1/4$ " from the edge of the triangle. Fold back and press lightly. **NOTE:** This process does NOT produce even edges and corners when you press back (as, for example, in a snowball block) but don’t worry about any wonky-ness...we’re going to trim these to the perfect size!



TRIMMING

The instructions below show the steps to trim using any standard rotary cutting ruler.



Alternatively, you can “fussy cut” your units using a square ruler the size of your UNFINISHED unit.

Remember that you still need to leave a minimum of 1/4" above the apex/point of the center triangle. Also pay attention to both the center fold line and to the lower corners to make sure your unit looks straight. Cut all 4 sides without moving your square ruler, using a rotating cutting mat, a small mat you can turn manually or by walking around your cutting table.