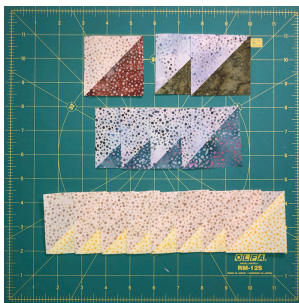
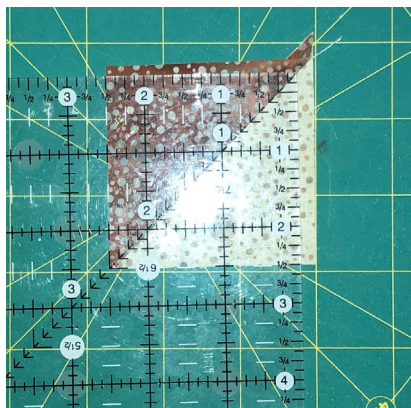
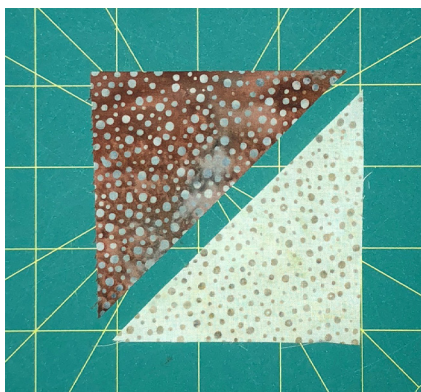


Making Multiple Half Square Triangles (HSTs)



Single HST

If you're making HSTs of different colors or ones that are not of multiples of 2, 4 or 8, more than likely you'll have to make individual HSTs. Cut two right triangles in the correct colors to the correct size -- take **finished size** and add $\frac{7}{8}$ ". For example, if I need a 2" finished ($2\frac{1}{2}$ " unfinished) HST, I cut out two squares 2" plus $\frac{7}{8}$ " equals $2\frac{7}{8}$ ". (I like the precision of trimming my HSTs to size after sewing, so I always cut my pieces a bit oversized to allow me to do this, so I will add a minimum of $\frac{1}{4}$ " more -- in my case, I will cut my squares something like $3\frac{1}{4}$ ".) Sew triangles together, press seam to darker color and trim to size ($2\frac{1}{2}$ " square in this case). The downside of this method is that the long edge of the triangle is cut on the bias and could stretch. When I use this method, I starch my fabric pretty well to try to keep stretching to a minimum.



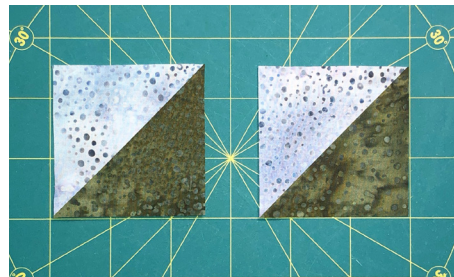
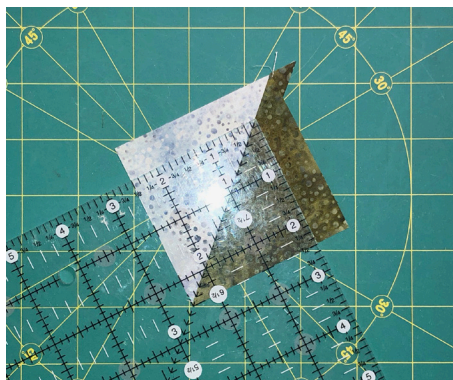
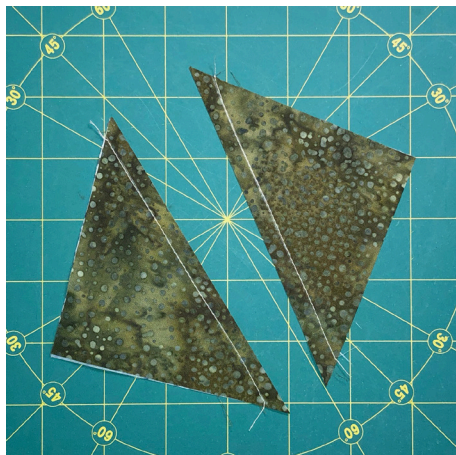
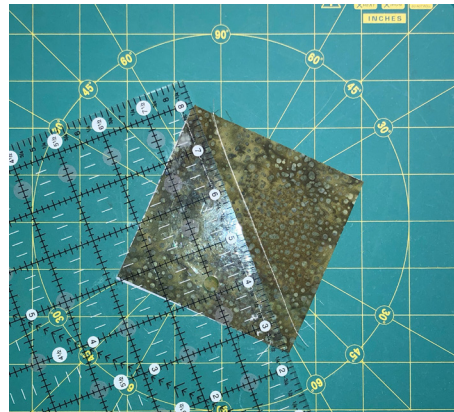
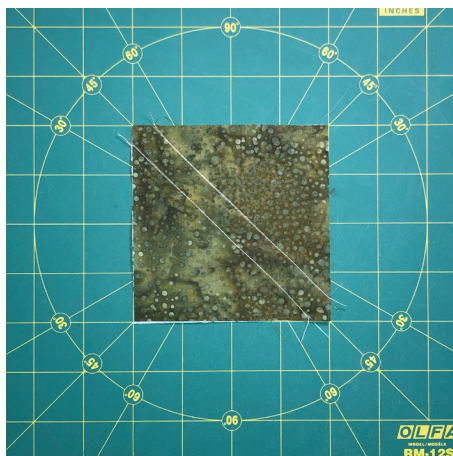
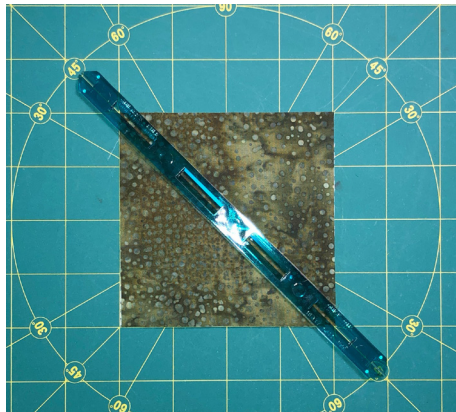
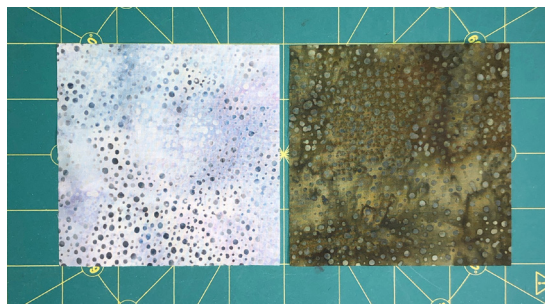
Multiple HSTs

If you have to make a lot of HSTs from the same two colors, it's quicker and easier to make multiples HSTs. I like the precision of trimming my HSTs to size after sewing, so I always cut my squares a bit oversized to allow me to do this.

Two HSTs

Determine the **finished size** of your HST units. Your pattern should tell you this. Take this size and add $\frac{7}{8}$ ". I always go oversize and trim back to size, so I add 1" at a minimum. If I need 2" finished HSTs, I will cut my fabric 3- $\frac{1}{4}$ " square. I would suggest experimenting with scrap fabric for the first one you make to be certain you have the correct initial sized squares to get the finished sized HSTs you need.

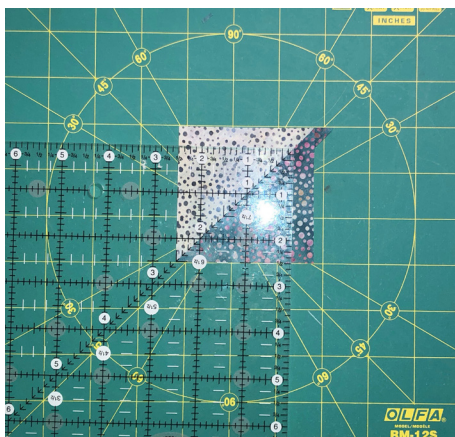
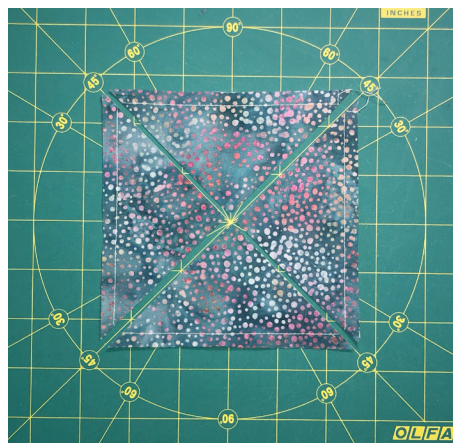
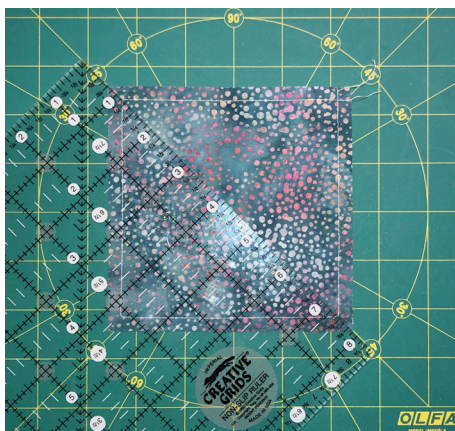
Cut two squares of the correct size. Place one on top of the other, right sides together. Either mark diagonally from one point to the other and then mark $\frac{1}{4}$ " each side of that line for your stitching lines or use a $\frac{1}{2}$ " ruler and just mark the sewing lines. Sew on these two lines. Cut square in half from point to point between the stitching lines. Press seams to darker color. Trim to correct size (2- $\frac{1}{2}$ " square in this case). You have two HSTs.



Four HSTs

Determine the **finished size** of your HST units. Once again, your pattern should tell you this. Take this measurement and add 2". The math on this one is complicated and uses the sine of the angle (ending up with adding something like 0.707" to the finished size) and you end up with measurements not found on your quilting ruler :o). So I just make my squares 2" larger than the finished size and trim down to size. If you need 2" finished HSTs (2-1/2" unfinished HSTs), cut two pieces of fabric 4-1/2" square. Once again, the edges of your HSTs will be on the bias, so don't stretch your fabric when sewing and startch your fabric before cutting.

Cut two squares of the correct size. Place one on top of the other, right sides together. Sew 1/4" seam around all four edges. Cut diagonal from corner to corner. Repeat for the other corners. Press seam towards darker color. Trim to correct size (2-1/2" square in this case). You have four HSTs.



Eight HSTs

Determine the ***finished size*** of your HST units. Once again, your pattern should tell you this. Take this measurement and multiply by 2. Add 1-3/4" to this number. If you need 2-1/2" unfinished HSTs, multiply 2-1/2" times 2 which equals 5". Adding another 1-3/4" will give you 6-3/4". So, you will need to cut two 6-3/4" squares. I round up to 7" to allow me to trim to size. Place one on top of the other, right sides together. Sew 1/4" seam around all four edges. Cut diagonal from corner to corner. Repeat for the other two corners. Without moving the pieces apart, cut through the center up and down and left to right, keep your ruler perpendicular to the edges of the fabric. Press seam towards darker color. Trim to correct size (in this case, 2-1/2" square). You have eight HSTs.

