

HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE QUILT BLOCKS

SCRAP-SF QUILTING BASICS February 1, 2023 with Lorraine Woodruff-Long

GOALS FOR TODAY'S CLASS

- Learn the versatility of the HST block
- Learn how to make FOUR 3.5" HSTs at a time from two 5.5" pieces of fabric.
- Make FOUR sets of FOUR 3.5" resulting in a total of SIXTEEN 3.5" HSTs
- Play with arrangements of 16 (4 rows of 4)
- Sew together a 16 block HST

Quilting things to know, GENERALLY:

- Seams are sewn $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge.
 - You can usually easily see this on your sewing machine plate – or from the edge of the sewing machine foot.
 - For this particular method of making several HSTs at a time, it helps to be as accurate as possible so that all your HSTs are the same size so that you can use them to build bigger combinations and the seams points will all match up.
- Press your seams open after sewing to get the cleanest, most accurate, result for piecing.
 - For some things you can just "press it open" – but pressing after sewing is a good habit to stick to.

STEP 1: Pick 4 sets of precut 5.5"

- You'll have a total of 8 pieces of fabric that are 5.5" each
- Notice 2 pieces are each contrasted with one "light" and one "dark"

STEP 2: On each of the four "light" fabrics, using a pencil and a ruler, draw a line $\frac{1}{4}$ " around the edge to serve as a sewing stitch guideline

- If you can sew accurately using the machine or foot guide, you don't need to do this step.

STEP 3: With light and dark fabrics aligned and RIGHT SIDE TOGETHER, sew around all four edges of each set of 2 fabrics.

- If it is difficult to align the fabrics cleanly, use pins. However, be sure to remove the pins as you sew so that your machine needle doesn't hit the pin while sewing – you might break the sewing machine needle.

STEP 4: Using a pencil and a ruler, draw a line from one corner to the opposite corner

- From top left, to bottom right; From top right, to bottom left
- Try to draw the line so that it cuts through the "L" sewn in each corner

STEP 5: Using sharp scissors or a rotary cutter, cut along your pencil lines

HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE QUILT BLOCKS

STEP 6: Open up your 4 HSTs and admire your work!

STEP 7: Go to the iron and press the seams open and flat

STEP 8: Check to see if your new HSTs are 3.5" square, or very close to it.

- Cut off the little "tails" on the edges of the HST blocks.

STEP 9: Repeat Steps 1-8 three more times so that you make 16 HSTs

STEP 10: Play with the arrangement of 4 blocks across and 4 blocks down. See what floats your boat!

- Lay your blocks in your favorite shape before sewing them together into a 12" block

1	2	9	10
3	4	11	12
5	6	13	14
7	8	15	16

STEP 11: Sew pieces 1 & 2 together, RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER and MATCHING THE SEAMS so the seams align. Be sure to use ¼" seams!

- Lay each of the two sewn pieces down as you go so you can still see the block arrangement.
- Do the same with pieces:
 - 1 & 2 ▪ 9 & 10
 - 3 & 4 ▪ 11 & 12
 - 5 & 6 ▪ 13 & 14
 - 7 & 8 ▪ 15 & 16

STEP 12: Sew the middle pieces together to complete the line – be sure to sew ¼" seams



Line 1 (Sew 2 & 9 together)	1	2	9	10
Line 2 (Sew 4 & 11 together)	3	4	11	12
Line 3 (Sew 6 & 13 together)	5	6	13	14
Line 4 Line 1 (Sew 8 & 15 together)	7	8	15	16

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STEP 13: Lay out your lines – Check to make sure your pieces are still organized as you planned. It's easy to accidentally get something turned around!

STEP 14: Sew the lines together. Be sure to align the seams for each piece across the lines!

- Line 1 to Line 2
- Line 3 to Line 4

Line 1	1	2	9	10	
Line 2	3	4	11	12	←
Line 3	5	6	13	14	
Line 4	7	8	15	16	←

STEP 15: Press open the seams of the Line 1 / 2 and Line 3 / 4

- After you press, lay it next to your table to make sure everything is still organized as you planned!

STEP 16: Sew together the top half (Line 1 / 2 and Line 3 / 4) then press open the middle, last seam

Line 1	1	2	9	10	
Line 2	3	4	11	12	
Line 3	5	6	13	14	→
Line 4	7	8	15	16	

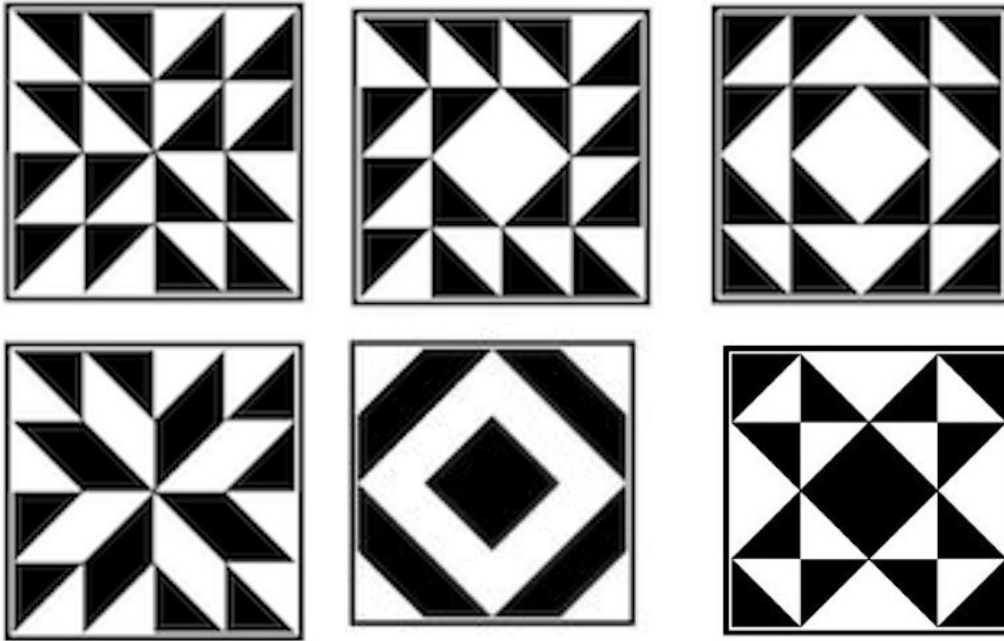
VOILA!

**YOU'VE MADE YOUR FIRST
HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE BLOCK!**

PARADE IT AROUND PROUDLY!

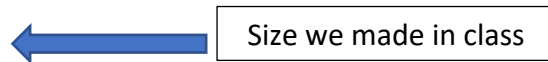
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Some ideas for arrangement of your blocks:



WANT TO MAKE DIFFERENT SIZED HSTs and 16-HST BLOCKS?

HST FINISHED SIZE	CUT SQUARE SIZE
1"	1 5/8"
1 1/2"	2 3/8"
2"	3 1/8"
2 1/2"	4"
3"	4 3/4"
3 1/2"	5 1/2"
4"	6 1/4"
4 1/2"	7"
5"	7 7/8"
5 1/2"	8 5/8"
6"	9 3/8"



FOR COMPLETE INFO FROM THE CLASS:

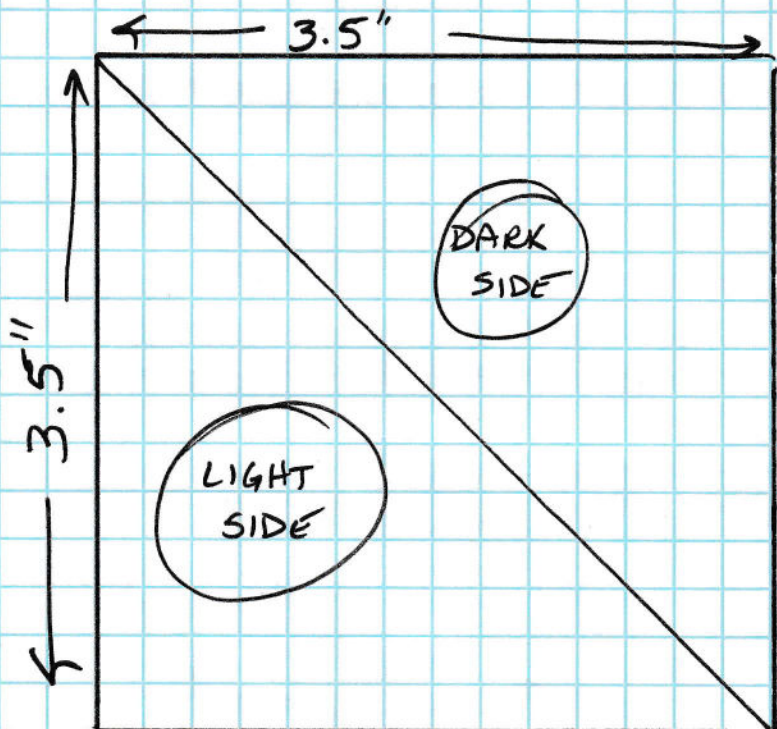
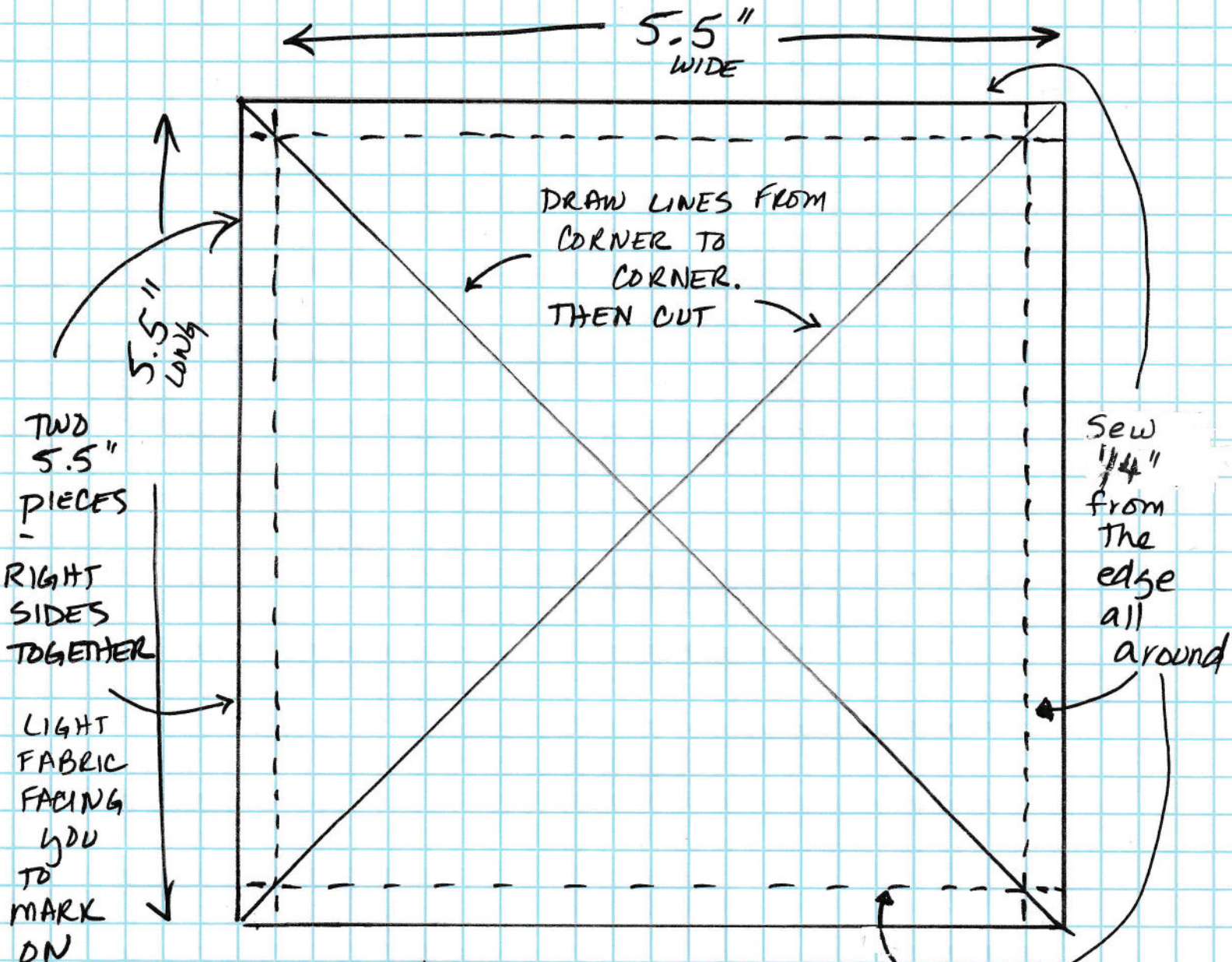
<https://quiltinginthefog.com/half-square-triangles/>

- This handout
- The PowerPoint shown at beginning of class
- 72 different 16 -HST layouts and more HST images and ideas.

Sign up on my email list (SIGN UP SHEET IN CLASS) for future offerings, tips, shows, ideas!

Or email me: Lorraine@quiltinginthefog.com Follow me on Instagram: @quiltinginthefog

Website: QuiltingintheFog.com



ONCE CUT,
YOU WILL HAVE
4 - 3.5" HSTs!

