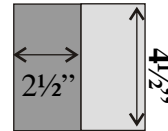


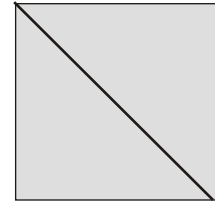
## Half Square Triangles

### Test your Seam Allowance

Make a test square: Use two (2)  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " strips. Sew the strips along the long edge. Open and press. This should measure  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ ". If it measures differently adjust your seam allowance and test again until you get a  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " square. **Depending on your machine this may be done by adjusting the needle or by placement of fabric while sewing. Or by using a thin 60wt thread.**



### Half Square Triangle

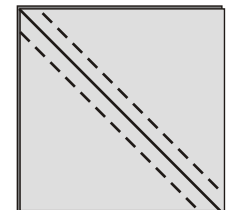


$4\frac{7}{8}$ "

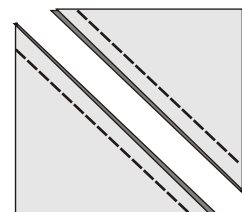
Draw a diagonal line



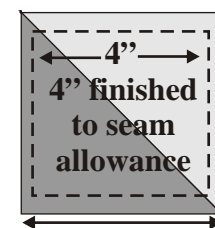
$4\frac{7}{8}$ "



Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on each side of the drawn line



Cut apart on drawn line



$4\frac{1}{2}$ " unfinished  
Open and press seam

A **Half Square Triangle (HST)** is actually two triangles sewn to create a square. There are a couple of ways to make HSTs. From cut triangles or from squares.

The finished size is the measurement of the HST when it sewn into the quilt.

Determine what finished size is needed for the Half Square Triangles. 3", 4" etc.

To make Half Square Triangles from squares  $\frac{7}{8}$ " must be added to the finished measurement.

A finished 4" HST must start from a minimum of two  $4\frac{7}{8}$ " squares or two triangles cut from two  $4\frac{7}{8}$ " squares.

A finished 3" HST must start from a minimum of two  $3\frac{7}{8}$ " squares or two triangles cut from two  $3\frac{7}{8}$ " squares, etc.

(This is a minimum measurement. If the sewing is accurate, the unfinished HST will open and press to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger than the finished size.

If one is not as accurate in sewing the bias seam, add 1" to the finished size and square up the HST. Squaring up will be addressed in another lesson.)

{Even though the diagonal seam is  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", the geometry of the seam being sewn on the diagonal makes it use  $\frac{3}{8}$ " space. Therefore the squares need to add an additional  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to the squares measurements.

It may sound confusing, but it works if all seams are accurate. See test square above. }

### Use one of the following methods:

1. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of lightest square. With right sides together match the squares together. Sew a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam on each side of the drawn line. Cut the square apart along the drawn line. Open the HST and press.

2. With right sides together match the squares together. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut the squares in half on the diagonal. Sew a seam along the diagonal edge using a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Open HST and press.

Scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam=slightly less than a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam