



HOW-TO: HALF-SQUARE TRIANGLES

Here's the simple method for making right triangles without the extra cutting time needed to cut each triangle individually. When making a large number of these, it's efficient to work in an assembly-line manner.

- 1 Align two squares, right sides together. With a pencil or chalk and a ruler, mark a diagonal line from corner to corner (see figure A).
- 2 Stitch along one side of the diagonal, $\frac{1}{4}$ in/6 mm from the marked line. Turn the fabric and stitch along the other side of the line $\frac{1}{4}$ in/6 mm from the line (see figure B). You will not need to backstitch your sewn lines because your finished piece will be stitched together with another piece.

QUICK TIP: If your fabric tends to pucker for the first few stitches because of the pull of the feed dogs on the corner, try using a scrap of fabric to get started. Simply start sewing on the scrap, then follow behind immediately with your fabric. Clip the scrap from your fabric and use it for the next piece until it's full of stitches. Then use a new scrap. You may also need to reduce the tension to prevent puckering.

- 3 Using a ruler as your guide, cut along the marked line, forming two separate pieces (see figure C).
- 4 Open the pieces and finger press the seam to one side. Clip off the overlapping bits of fabric. You now have two finished half-square triangles (as shown in figure D). Square them up, if needed (see page XX).

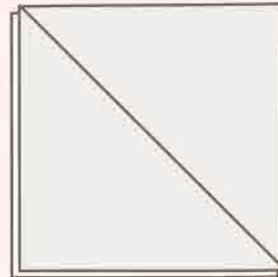


fig. A

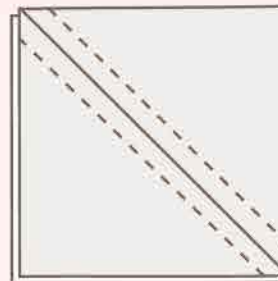


fig. B

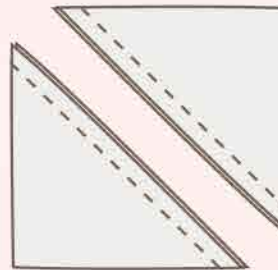


fig. C

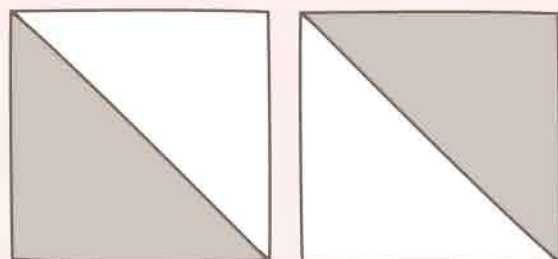


fig. D