

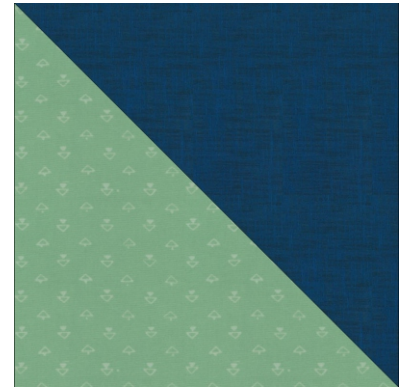
Unwinding with Fiber and Fabric

Pioneerlady at Pithyponderings

Basic Patchwork

Pithy Projects

Half-square Triangle



The Half-square Triangle is a basic component of patchwork quilts. There are many ways to make this patch, but the basic math to make two identical patches from two squares of fabric is quite simple. The magic number to add to the finished block measurement is $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

So let's say we want a finished patch of 4" square. We know that to create that patch we normally add $\frac{1}{2}$ " for seam allowance.

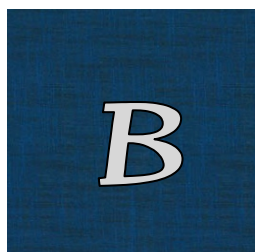
With the Half-square Triangle patch we can add $\frac{7}{8}$ " and it will create a 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " patch once we have sewn the construction seams and made the diagonal cut (see instructions on next page for clarification).

If we have very excellent construction techniques, we will not need to do anything other than press patches. HOWEVER, since imperfection in construction is often the norm, I suggest using 1" rather than $\frac{7}{8}$ " as the magic number. Then once the Half-square patch is made, we can trim them up to the precise measurement we need.

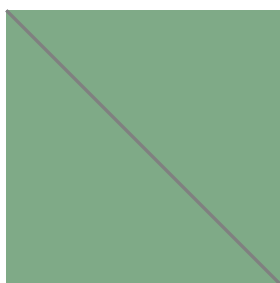
Using the 4" finished square again as the example, we would cut our two squares 5" x 5", sew the construction seams, cut along the diagonal, press the patches open, and trim the patches to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Half-square Triangle

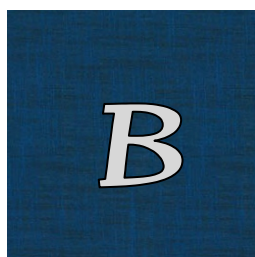
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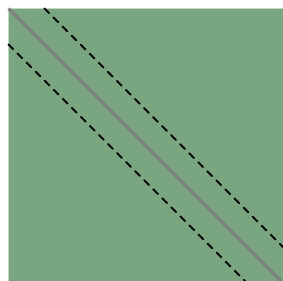
Cut two squares 1" larger than the desired finished measurement.



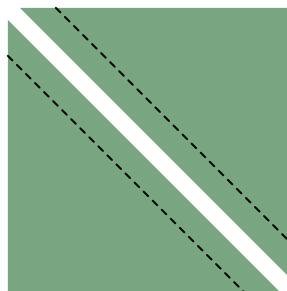
Draw a diagonal line down the middle of each square A making sure to mark on the wrong side of the fabric.



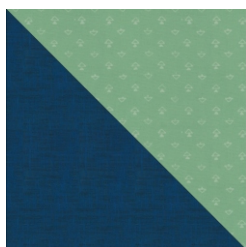
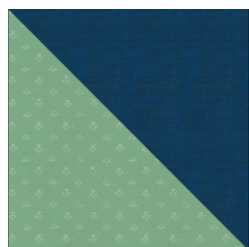
Place right sides of A and B together.



Sew $1/4$ " seam on each side of the drawn diagonal line.



Cut along the drawn diagonal line.



Open block and press. You will have two identical Half-square Triangle patches. Now trim the patches to the desired size.