

Explorations with the Half-Square Triangle

Techniques explored: Making 8 half-square triangles at once
Using your designer's eye

Fabrics and colors: One black and white print (it may have a few spots of color but should mostly be black and white) and a solid either black or white.

Instructions:

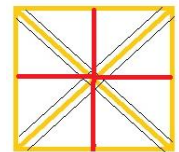
Cut – two 8 inch squares of the solid and two 8 inch squares of the print

Place a solid and a print square with right sides together and draw two diagonal lines on the lighter color.



Sew ¼ inch from both sides of each line. Use a small stitch length.

Make a vertical cut through the centre then a horizontal cut through the centre. Then cut along the previously drawn lines.



Open each of the 8 half-square triangle units and press seams to the darker side by just placing the iron (do not run it back and forth) to minimize the stretch of bias edges. No steam! Cut each unit to 3 ½ " X 3 ½" carefully centering the diagonal. Use a ruler with a diagonal marking if you have one.

Repeat the procedure with the second set of squares.

The Monsoon Challenge: Explore flipping and turning the 16 squares in a pleasing 4 unit by 4 unit pattern. There are at least 72 ways to combine the squares to get interesting symmetries and designs. It's up to you! Have fun!

Once you have the design, sew the units together being mindful of not flipping the orientation while sewing. **Check the placement as you add more units!** It's easy to flip them the wrong way especially for us "non-pinner"!! You may have to repress the direction of the seams to nest the units together to match the points. The block should be 12 ½ by 12 ½ inches (to finish when in a quilt at 12 X 12 inches).