

# Half-Square Triangle Block

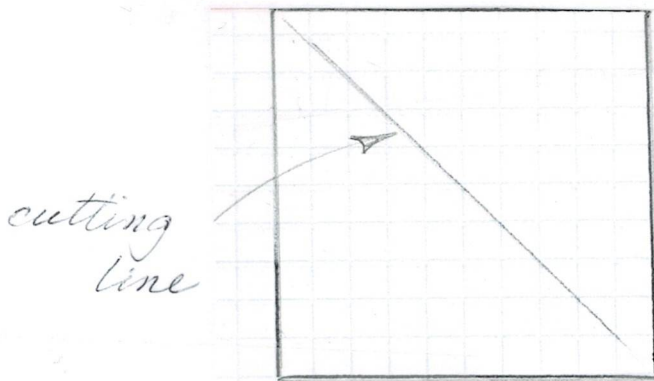
## Construction – 3 Ways

This year the focus of the Block of the Month committee for the year is triangles and half-square triangles are a mainstay of numerous quilt block designs. Many of our blocks will use half-square triangles and variations of them in the blocks we've chosen.

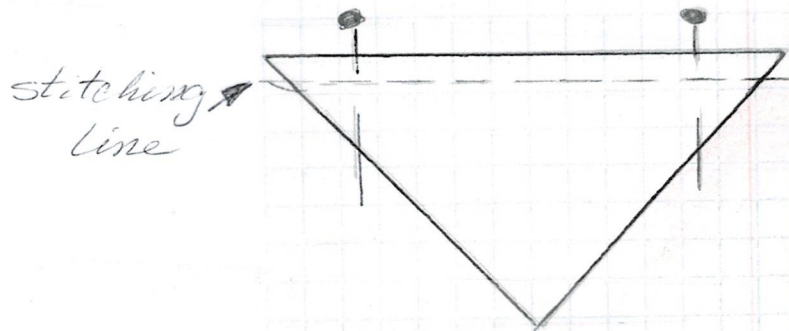
The block for March is the "Card Trick" and it calls for four half-square triangles each of a different color.

To make a single half-square triangle block:

Cut one 5" square of color fabric in half diagonally and cut one 5" square of the background fabric in half diagonally. Draw a line marking the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.



Place the color and background triangles right sides together and sew together along the longest side.



Press the seam to set the stitching (without moving the iron) and then fold back the darker side and press the seam again. The seam allowance should be to the darker color so that it doesn't show through the background fabric.

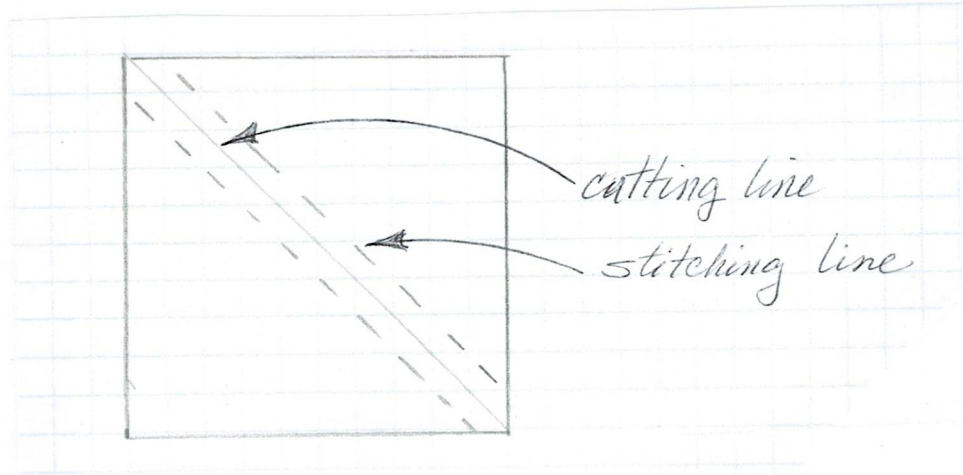
Trim the half-square triangle block using a grid ruler. Align the diagonal line on the ruler with the diagonal line of the block and trim the edges to the correct size. (in this case  $4\frac{1}{2}$ ").

The February block "Flock Block" calls for 2 half-square triangles of the same color as well as 8 smaller half-square triangles of another color.

To make two half-square triangles from a single color:

For the 2 half-square triangle blocks cut one 6" square of the color fabric and a 6" square of the background fabric. Place the squares right sides together, matching the corners and draw a cutting line diagonally from one corner to the opposite. Using a friction pen draw a stitching line  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on both sides of the cutting line. Stitch and press.

Cut along the cutting and press both pieces to set the seam. Fold back the color fabric on both pieces and press again. Using the ruler grid align the diagonal line and trim the half-square triangle blocks to the correct size.



For the 8 smaller half-square triangle blocks cut an 8" square of both the color and background fabrics to have ample fabric for trimming the final blocks. Place the background fabric on top of the color fabric and draw a line diagonally from one corner to the opposite corner. Repeat for the other opposite corners to make an X. Draw sewing lines  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on both sides of the cutting lines. Sew the 4 seams and press. Turn the fabric so the color side is up. The stitching lines form an X as a guide through the center to line up the ruler. Cut from the sides through the center to the opposite sides. Turn the 4 pieces over and cut again on the marked cutting lines. Press the 8 half-square blocks the color side to the back. Using the ruler square grid trim to the finished size.

