

Magic 8 Method for half square triangles

By [Karen Walker](#) on January 21, 2014

STEP 1: Cut two squares 8"

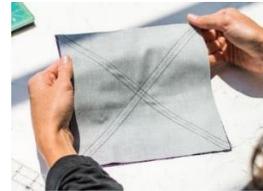
STEP 2:

Place the two squares on top of each other, with right sides together. Then, on one of the fabrics, draw two diagonal lines corner to corner. Pin squares together if desired.



STEP 3:

Next, you'll stitch a total of four lines: 2 on both sides of each diagonal line, $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the line. As usual, it's very important to sew precise seams because this will affect the finished size of each half square triangle (HST). It is recommended you sew just a hair less than $\frac{1}{4}$ " to allow for the fabric that is used when pressing seams.



STEP 4:

Now, you can carefully cut the sewn square into the eight HSTs. You'll make a total of four cuts.

CUT 1:

Cut vertically right down the center. Align your ruler with the center where your drawn lines intersect and one straight edge of the fabric squares.



CUT 2:

Make a second cut that's perpendicular to the cut you just made. At this point, it's best to leave the fabric pieces where they are — don't try to rotate the fabric! Instead, walk around your table so you are better positioned to make the cut, or turn your cutting mat.



CUTS 3 AND 4:

Cut on both of the drawn diagonal lines, between your stitching lines. Again, it's best not to move your fabric; instead, move your body or your board so that you don't shift the fabric.



STEP 5:

Now that you're done with your cuts, you can separate the cut pieces and open them up to reveal your perfect half-square triangles! Trim each HST to $3 \frac{1}{2}$ ". Press the seams to the darker side and you're ready to use them in a project.