



KZNQG MYSTERY SEW-ALONG - Designed by Sue Cameron for KZNQG

Third Instalment – 29 June 2020

Sue's Monologue

- Please remember that an accurate $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance is necessary for the pieces of this quilt to fit together perfectly. Patchwork is like a puzzle. The pieces should all fit together easily without having to stretch your fabrics.
- Make sure you have a quarter inch foot on your sewing machine and that you do all the steps as accurately as you possibly can. These steps include cutting, pinning, stitching and pressing.
- Every time you switch on your machine, change your stitch length down to 2 so that your stitches are less likely to unravel.
- Fill up several bobbins with your neutral sewing thread before you start stitching. This is a great time saver.
- Remember to clean out the bobbin area of your sewing machine with a lint brush EVERY time you change your bobbin.
- Lastly, if your machine is more noisy than usual, change your needle.

Half Square Triangles (HST)



There are so many different methods for making Half Square Triangles (HSTs). I prefer to use a method that starts with squares, not triangles. Once the stitching is done, the squares are then cut into HSTs.

- For the larger quilt sizes, lots of HSTs are needed so a quicker method of making them may be used. A problem with these methods is that the fabric combinations for all the HSTs will be the same. This may be undesirable for a scrap quilt.
- You will need to decide which method you would like to use. **DO NOT MAKE ALL THE METHODS BELOW – CHOOSE ONE!**



Method No. 1

This method is a simple method that yields 2 HST units at a time. It is the **most suitable method for a scrap quilt** as you are more able to mix and match your light and dark fabric combinations.

- For a **cot quilt**, cut **12 light 5"** squares and **12 dark 5"** squares
- For a **lap quilt**, cut **16 light 5"** squares and **16 dark 5"** squares
- For a **single bed** quilt, cut **34 light 5"** squares and **34 dark 5"** squares
- For a **queen size** quilt, cut **48 light 5"** squares and **48 dark 5"** squares
- Rule an accurate **diagonal line** from corner to corner across the wrong side of the 5" light squares. Make sure the line goes right into the corners.
- Pin one dark and one light 5" squares together with right sides facing and so that the edges meet accurately.
- Line up the side of your ¼ inch foot with the drawn line. Stitch a ¼" on either side of the drawn line. Chain piece these, beginning with a leader scrap as mentioned in the 2nd instalment of notes. Remember to stitch the second side of the drawn line!
- Should you **not have a ¼" foot**, mark your quarter inch seam allowances on either side of the line. Make sure you make allowances for the width of your pencil lead - if not your seam allowance will be too big. Remeasure your seam allowances before you stitch to make sure they are perfect. This measurement is best checked using the space between the quarter inch and half inch markings on your ruler rather than between the quarter inch marking and edge of your ruler.
- Cut on the pencil line and press seams towards the dark fabric. When pressing HSTs, try to press with the grain of fabric. This helps to prevent the stitched line from stretching out of shape. Remember – it is on the bias and is therefore a stretchy seam.
- **Cut each HST unit down to 4½" square.** (See instructions for "cutting down HSTs to size" on page 4 below)
- You should have 24 HSTs for a cot quilt, 32 for a lap quilt, 68 for a single bed quilt and 96 for a queen size quilt.

Method No. 2

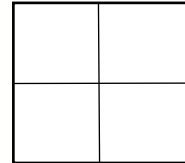
This method yields 8 HST units at a time.

- For a **cot quilt**, cut **three 10" squares dark fabric** and **three 10" squares light fabric**.
- For a **lap quilt**, cut **four 10" squares dark fabric** and **four 10" squares light fabric**.

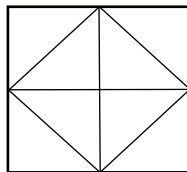


- For a **single bed** quilt, cut **eight 10" squares dark fabric** and **eight 10" squares light fabric**. Also cut **two 5" squares light** and **two 5" squares dark** which you would use method 1 (above) to make into HSTs.

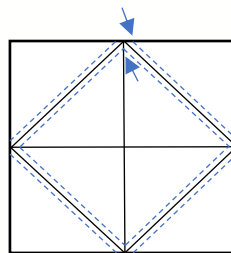
- For a **queen size** quilt, cut **twelve 10" squares dark fabric** and **twelve 10" squares light fabric**.
- Find the centre of the light 10" squares by folding them in half to form a rectangle in one direction and again in the other direction. On the back of the light 10" square, draw a pencil line on each of the fold lines. These should create accurate 5" drawn squares.



- Next draw diagonal lines across the newly drawn squares as in the picture on the right.



- Pin the dark and light 10" squares with right sides facing and so that the edges meet accurately.
- Starting at the positions indicated in the picture below, line up the edge of your quarter inch foot with the drawn diagonal line and stitch on either side of all the diagonal lines. You should be able to stitch the inside stitching lines in one go with only one stop and start if you pivot your fabric when you get to the horizontal and vertical lines. The same should apply to the outside stitching lines.



- Should you **not have a ¼" foot**, mark your quarter inch seam allowances on either side of the line. Make sure you make allowances for the width of your pencil lead - if not your seam allowance will be too big. Remeasure your seam allowances before you stitch to make sure they are perfect. This measurement is best checked using the space between the quarter inch and half inch markings on your ruler rather than between the quarter inch marking and edge of your ruler.
- Press carefully, then cut on all the drawn lines.
- Open up the HSTs and press the seam towards the dark side. When pressing HSTs, try to press with the grain of fabric. This helps to prevent the stitched line from stretching



out of shape. Remember – it is on the bias and is therefore a stretchy seam.

- **Cut each HTS unit down to 4½ inches square.** (See instructions for “cutting down HST”s to size” on page 4, below)
- You should have **24 HST”s for a cot quilt, 32 for a lap quilt, 68 for a single bed quilt and 96 for a queen size quilt.**

Other Methods

- If you use a method similar to Method No. 2 but with a larger starting square of fabric, perhaps 20 inches, you will get more units at a time. The larger you go, though, the more likely the fabric is to warp so I prefer to stick to method 2.
- There is a method where you place a light and a dark square with right sides facing one on top of the other. Pin and then stitch along all four edges of the square and then cut from corner to corner in both directions across the square. This method worries me as all the edges of your HST units will be on the bias and therefore less stable and more likely to stretch. You get 4 HST”s at once from this method.

Cutting Down Half Square Triangle Units to Size

To Square off using this method, you will need a **6½” or 9” quilter”s ruler with a 45° diagonal line printed from corner to corner on the ruler**, a cutting mat and a rotary cutter. This method does not work with rulers whose 45° diagonal line is off the corner.

- These are instructions for right-handed people. Orientate everything in a mirror image if you are left-handed.
- For our purposes, we need to cut the HSTs down to 4½” but any size HST would use the same method.
- Place the HST on the cutting mat, right side up, with the diagonal stitched line running from bottom left to top right.



- Place the ruler on top of the HST so that the diagonal line on the ruler is on the stitched line of the HST. There should be a tiny raw edge sticking out the top edge and the right-hand side of the ruler so that there is something to trim off. Make sure that there is also a raw



edge beyond the 4½ inch vertical and horizontal lines on the ruler i.e. the block is a little larger than the 4½ inch ruler marks. See picture below.



- Trim across the right edge and the top edge with the rotary cutter.
- Remove the ruler and turn the trimmed block 180° so that the diagonal stitched line is in the same position as before.
- Line up the ruler so that the diagonal line is back on the stitched line and that the newly trimmed edges are exactly on the 4½" horizontal and vertical lines. There should be a tiny raw edge over the edges of the ruler so there is something to trim off. See picture below. I apologize for the picture quality.



- Trim across the right edge and the top edge with the rotary cutter.
- Your block should now measure 4½".