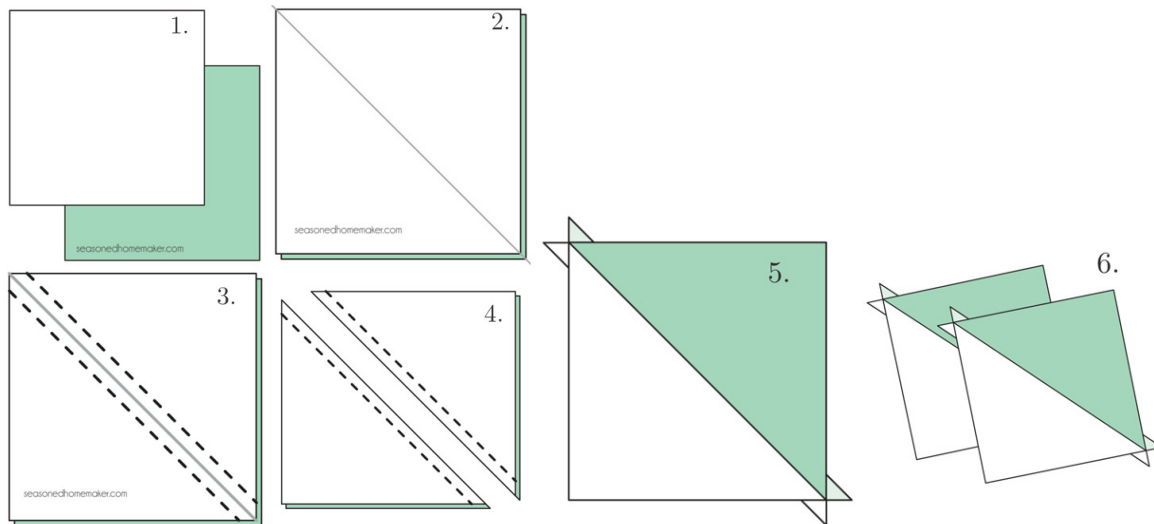


# Parker's Tips for making Half-Square Triangles

## Making 2 at a Time

Cut fabric 1" larger than the desired size of *FINISHED* half-square triangle, i.e., for half-square triangles that finish at 3", cut two squares at 4" and use the sandwich method pictured below. Square up to 3-1/2".



## Making 4 at a Time

DO NOT MAKE 4 AT A TIME -- it puts the bias on all outside edges and makes wonky blocks.

## Making 8 at a Time

Cut 2 fabric squares the size needed as determined by formula and use the method pictured below.

FORMULA: Start with desired *FINISHED* size and multiply by 2, then add 1-3/4", i.e., for half-square triangles that finish at 3", cut two squares at 7-3/4". **Note: I add an extra 1/4" to the size of the cut squares so I can square up to ensure accuracy.**

FIG. 1

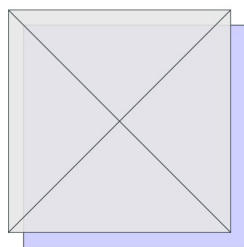


FIG. 2

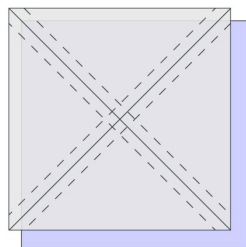


FIG. 3

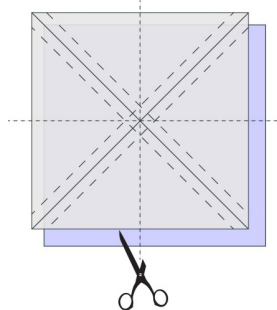
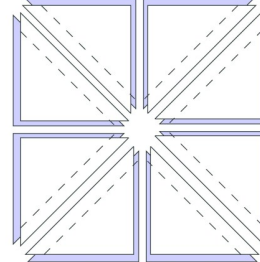


FIG. 4



## **Making 1 at a Time from strips**

Take two strips the size of your desired *UNFINISHED* half-square triangle and layer right sides together. Use a ruler such as Bonnie Hunter's Essential Triangle tool or the Easy Angle ruler and cut triangles. Sew matched sets of triangles together. You can also use die cutters such as cAuQuilt or Sizzix or Cricut.

## **Squaring Up Half-Square Triangles**

I always slightly over-size my beginning squares when I make half-square triangles 2 or 8 at a time. Then, I trim them down for total accuracy.

There are a plethora of tools designed to make squaring half-square triangles easy, here are a few:

Bloc-Loc  
Tucker Trimmer  
Quilt in a Day Triangle Square Up  
Clearly Perfect Slotted trimmers

I prefer Bloc-Loc and Clearly Perfect Slotted trimmers.

## **Using Half-Square Triangles to Make Blocks**

There many, many block configurations you can make using *only* half-square triangles. When combined with squares and rectangles, the possibilities become endless. I've attached a couple of pages illustrating half-square triangle blocks from the 150th Issue of Quiltmaker magazine.

### **Parker's Chart for Making 8 Half-Square Triangles 8 at a Time Lickety Split!**

<b>FINISHED size of 1/2-Square Triangle</b>	<b>Cut Square Size</b>
1-1/2"	5"
2"	6"
2-1/2"	7"
3"	8"
4"	10"
5"	12"
6"	14"

**\*\* Don't forget to square them up because I've added an extra 1/4" to my cut square size.**

# Block Bonanza

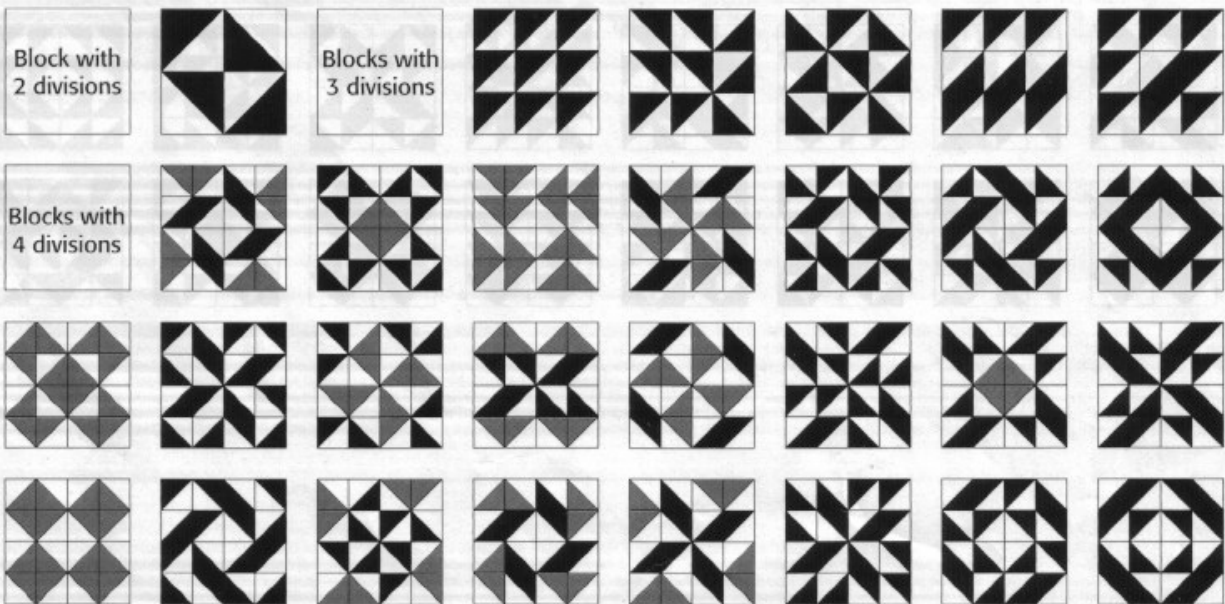
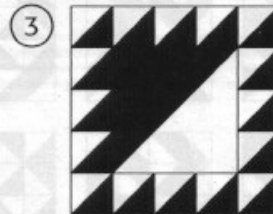
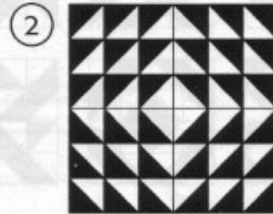
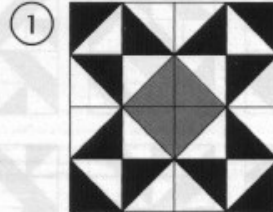
**T**riangle-squares are the building blocks of many different quilt blocks. In celebration of *QM's* 150<sup>th</sup> issue, we're giving you 150 block designs using triangle-square units.

Notice as you look through these designs that some blocks have units that are all the same size and some have 2 different-sized units within the block. So, how do you use these block designs to sew your own blocks? Let's look at unit and block sizes first. There are 2 approaches you can take. One is to know the finished size of the block you want to sew, let's say 12". To determine the size of the triangle-square units you need to make, divide the number of units in the top row (provided they're all the same size—we'll explore what to do if they're not later) into 12". Using block #1 as an example, 12" divided by 4 equals 3". Each triangle-square needs to finish at 3" to make a 12" block.

The other approach is to decide the size of the unit you want to make and multiply that by the number of units in a row to get the finished size of the block. Using block #2 as an example, let's say you want to make 3" units; 3" multiplied by 6 (number of units in a row) equals 18". That will be the finished size of your block.

For blocks that have different-sized units, you'll notice that they still fit onto a grid. You need to determine the relationship between the small and large triangles. Look at block #3. The large triangle is equal to 3 small triangles. If the small triangles are 2" finished, the large triangle would be 2" multiplied by 3 equals 6". If the small triangles are 3" finished, the large triangle would be 3" multiplied by 3 equals 9".

There are lots of ways to make triangle-squares. You can follow our instructions on page 28 or use the Easy Angle ruler as described on page 14, especially useful with pre-cut strips. Other methods include foundation piecing using *Triangles on a Roll*, *Thangles* or *Triangulations* or specialized rulers including *Easy Triangle Tool* from C&T and the *All-in-One Ruler* from Martingale. ■



Blocks with 4 divisions (continued)

