


Suzie's Quick Tip: Cutting Triangles

Triangles with a 45 degree angle come in two forms:

Half Square Triangles

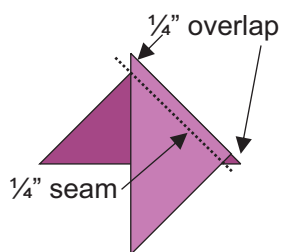
Quarter Square Triangles

The appropriate triangle to use in piecing a block depends upon where the straight of grain falls.

 **Half Square Triangles** are made from a square that has been cut in half diagonally. The shorter sides of the triangle are the same size, and fall on the straight grain of the fabric. The seam allowance is $\frac{7}{8}$ " more than the finished size of the short triangle edges.

Quarter Square Triangles are made from a square that has been cut in quarters diagonally. The longest edge falls on the straight grain of the fabric. The seam allowance is $1\frac{1}{4}$ " more than the finished size of the long edge.. 

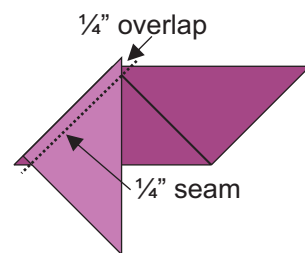
Often a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance is necessary when sewing triangles. Here's a quick way to check out your seam allowance (please note that this example uses a quarter square triangle):

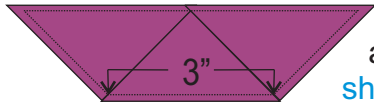


1. Cut a $4\frac{1}{4}$ " Square into 4 pieces diagonally.

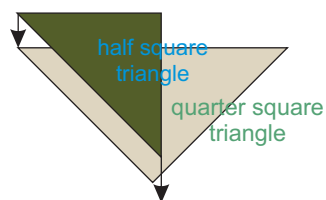
2. Sew two triangles together along the short edge, right sides together.

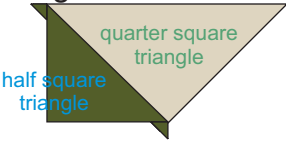
3. Press the seam open. **Trim the dog ears after pressing.** Then add a third triangle to the left hand side.



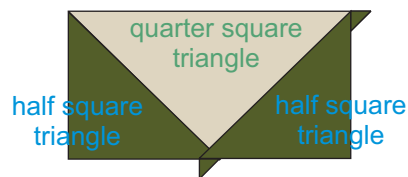
 4. Press the seam open and trim the dog ears. Measure up $\frac{1}{4}$ " (seam allowance), and measure the long edge of the center triangle at the seams. **It should be exactly 3" wide.** If the measurement is off - even just a tiny amount, adjust your needle position, and try again. It is really important that this measurement is exact. This will insure that your quilt blocks are the correct size. You'll be glad that you've spent the extra time doing this.

Suzie's Quick Tip: Sewing Triangles Together



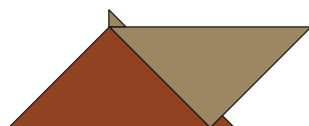
When you are sewing a **Quarter Square triangle** and a **Half Square triangle** together, place the Half Square triangle on top of the Quarter Square triangle. The top edge and the left hand edges of the Half Square and Quarter Square triangles will match exactly. The bottom point of the Half Square triangle will extend a bit past the bottom of the Quarter Square triangle. 

Sew the seam and press. Trim the "dog ears" so that they are flush with the half square triangle.



If you sew another half square triangle to the other side of the quarter square triangle, the process is the same. Remember to match the top edges prior to sewing. Press and then trim the dog ears.

To sew two quarter square triangles together, the edges will meet, but you will need to overlap the corners of the triangles $\frac{1}{4}$ ", as indicated in the diagram on the right.



Press and then trim the dog ears.

