

Quick Method for Half-square-triangle Units:

Rather than cutting triangles from squares or strips and then sewing the triangles together, consider using this quick and accurate method for making half-square triangle units. Use this method for cutting triangles for patterns such as *Line Dance*, *Dancing under the Midnight Sun*, *Tropical Morning*, and any other patterns that call for half-square triangle units.

To create two identical half-square-triangle units:

1. Cut one square each from two different fabrics. Cut these squares approximately 1" - 1 1/4" larger than the desired finished size of the half-square triangle unit. If you need a 3" triangle unit (finished), then cut your squares 4" - 4 1/4" wide. We like using the larger measurement, as we can easily trim the unit to its perfect unfinished size.
2. Draw a diagonal line from one corner to the opposite corner on the wrong side of the lighter fabric square (diagram 1).
3. With right sides together, pin the two squares together (diagram 2). Sew 1/4" from one side of the drawn diagonal line. Repeat, this time sewing 1/4" from the other side of the diagonal line (diagram 2). It's easy to chain-piece these units, sewing down one side of all units and then sewing down the other side of the units.
4. With each unit, cut directly on the drawn line between the two lines of stitching (diagram 3). You will have two identical over-sized triangle units.
5. Set the seams. Press the units open (diagram 4). Press the seam allowances to one side.
6. Using a square ruler, carefully trim the unit to its exact unfinished size (finished size + 1/2" for seam allowances). For perfectly-sized squares, line up the 45-degree line on your square ruler with the unit's diagonal seam line. Trim off the excess fabric on all four sides of the unit (diagram 5).

