

Simple Half Square Triangle AccuQuilt Quilt

Stephanie Sinden - Twilight Quilters' Guild - June 2018

This tutorial will help you get your material ready at home to easily cut out a small quilt at the NCPL. We will be using the 6" finished HST die from the 12" Qube. This quilt will be 42" x 48". Perfect for a crib quilt or a lap quilt.

You will need 1.25m each of a patterned fabric and a plain fabric. Pressing will make things easier. From each fabric, cut six 7.5" strips the width of the fabric (~ 42" WOF). Pair the patterned and plain fabrics the strips, right sides together. You will have 6 pairs.

YOU ARE READY FOR THE LIBRARY! But it will help if you watch this 8 minute video first! Use this [link](#) or Google "AccuQuilt Go Big Electric video"

You should also take to the library a pair of small scissors, a container to neatly store your cut triangles, a small bag for your scraps and some pins.

AT THE LIBRARY, you will need to go to the desk and "checkout" a maker space pass for the room. If this is your first time using the John Race MakerSpace you will need to sign a waiver. Staff can help you get started. The GO! Big Electric Cutter might be on the counter and the dies are in the cupboard. You will be using die #3 in the storage box.

There are 2 triangle shapes on the die. The cutting blades are sunk into the foam. Don't press on them with your fingers or hands as they will slice you. The notches are where the dog-eared corners will be cut off. Since you are cutting 6 layers of fabric at a time, you will have 6 HST blocks cut each time you pass the die through the cutter. You will also need a plastic cutting mat to cover your fabrics. There is an assortment of mats and you might have to hunt for the one that matches the die.

Take 3 of your strip pairs and stack them. There are guide lines marked on the dies to show you where the cutting blades are in the foam. Using these lines, centre your fabric stack. (These lines were not drawn on the die before these photos were taken.) You need to be sure your fabric covers the die shape you are cutting.

You will notice that the darker foam, the die shape, is angled on the die. This is so the fabric feeds through the rollers evenly. You will be lining up the straight of grain of the fabric with the angle, not the edge of the die.



Once your fabric is positioned on the die, place a cutting mat over the die. Use a mat that just covers the die. A 10" square works for this die. Move the die and mat toward the roller blade, sort of in the middle on the bed of the cutter. The rest of the fabric stack will just trail behind. The die will automatically feed through once you get it started, stopping on the other side when done. If you have too many layers, the cutter will stop. If you forget to put the mat on top, nothing will cut and you just put it though again!

Slide the mat off the die and there are your perfect HST pairs, stacked up 3 on each side. If any threads haven't cut, snip them with your scissors. **If you have uncut threads more than a couple time, let the staff know. This means the mat needs to be replaced.**

From this one pass through the cutter, you will have 6 matched pairs of HSTs ready to take home and sew. If you are careful handling them, they should not shift and will be perfectly matched.

You will have a "railroad" mess left on the sides. Trim these with your scissors, align your stack again, and run the die through again. You can get 5 passes through for each strip set. If your fabric is a generous 44", you might get 6 passes through if you are frugal with your fabric placement.



Notes:

AccuQuilt's Cutting Reference Chart gives you the cutting details for every die. Find it [here](#) or Google "AccuQuilt Fabric Reference Chart". I rounded up the measurement for this die 1/4" so you have a little more fabric on both sides when you align your fabric on the die. And I find it easier to cut multiple 7.5" strips than 7.25" strips.

The Pre-cut measurements don't have to be precise. They are meant to be rough-cuts, just to simplify the prep cutting.

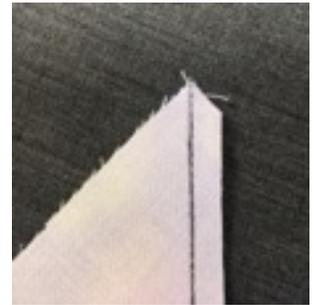
For these 6" Finished HSTs, you can easily make your quilt larger or smaller with some simple math. Out of each WOF, you get 5 completed HSTs. From a matched pair of strips (1 patterned and 1 plain), you get 10 HSTs. We used 56 blocks above and there were 4 bonus blocks. If you are wanting to use more fabrics, sketch out your plan and count up the blocks of each colour and do the simple math to figure the strips needed of each colour.

If you want to use fat quarters (FQs), you will find that you can only get 8 HSTs from each FQ. Unless they are a full 22.5" wide.

If you want to use scraps, each 7.5" square will give you 2 HSTs when paired with a plain fabric. And because you are placing the layers on the die more individually, you might be able to squeeze two out of a 7.25" square.

Sewing your Blocks Together

If you placed your fabric strips right-sides together before cutting, you will be able to take triangles and sew them together (with a 1/4" seam) very easily. If you sew with the lighter fabric on top, it will be easier to see that they are evenly matched up. The black line shows where you will sew. Because the dog ears have been cut off, you won't have to trim them later. The long edge of the triangle is on the bias, so take care not to stretch it, as you would with any bias edge.



There are hundreds of possible layouts for HST quilts. The two that I used are pictured below. The library also has a die to cut 3" finished HSTs if these look too big for you! And assorted sizes of rectangles, squares, wedges and circles. Now that you have conquered the basic use of our AccuQuilt GO! Big Electric cutter, take a look at the other dies at the library and let your imagination go wild.

