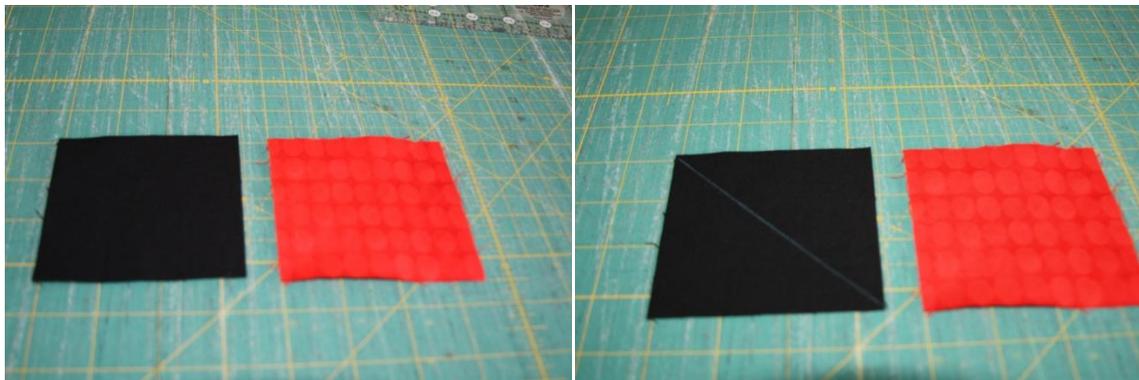


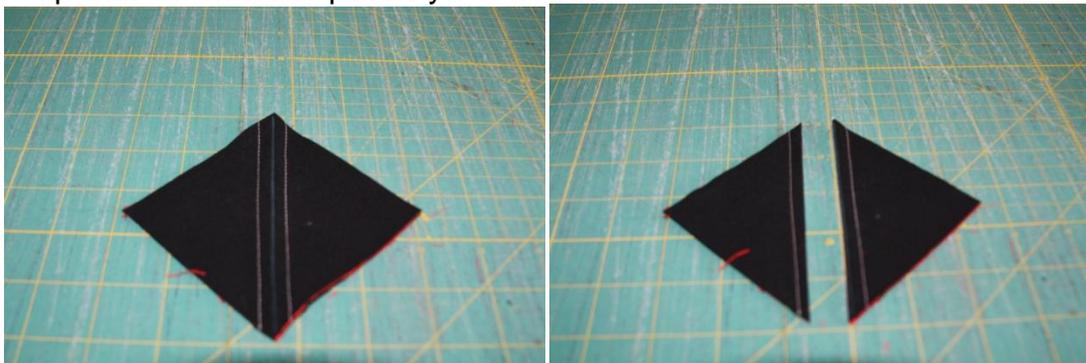
Half Square Triangles A Tutorial

Half square triangles are one of the most basic patches in quilting that is also one of the most versatile. There are many layout options that each produce a different finished look and likewise, there are many construction technique options. While I haven't tried all of the construction techniques, I have tried at least 5 of them and I'm going to share my favorite technique, along with some of my favorite layout options.

For ease of cutting, I like to start with 2 equal sized squares that are ever so slightly over sized, then trim to size for perfect HSTs. I made a cheat sheet (see separate download called HST Chart), that I keep very close to my cutting table for quick reference.



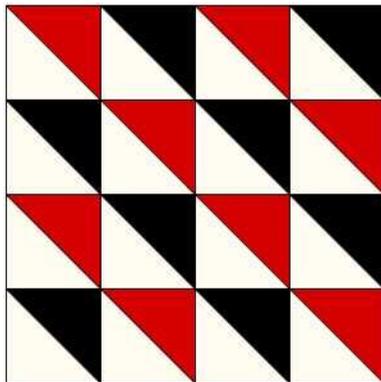
Start by marking a line down the center of one square, diagonally. Sew a 1/4" seam from each side of the marked line, cut on the line, press and you have 2 half square triangles (HSTs). Using the 45 degree line on your ruler lined up on the center diagonal seam, the HST can be trimmed to the desired finish size. I am careful when marking to not press too hard and possibly stretch the fabric.



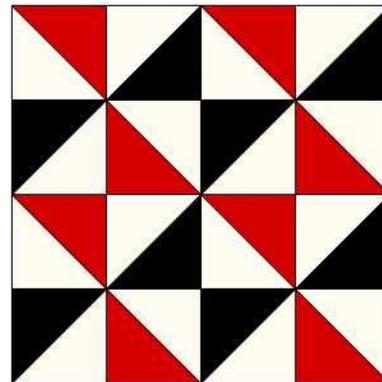


This method also lends itself to chain piecing.

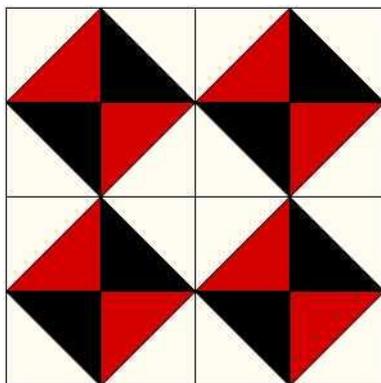
With the use of contrasting values, you can achieve many different looks, as shown below. Each of these layouts was created by using only half square triangles. I have used black/white and red/white, so you can see the layout of each half square triangle. Imagine the many looks you can create by adding or changing colors!



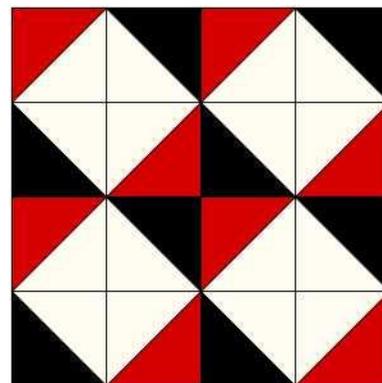
HST Alternating



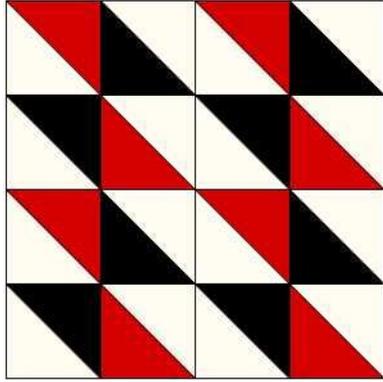
HST Pinwheels



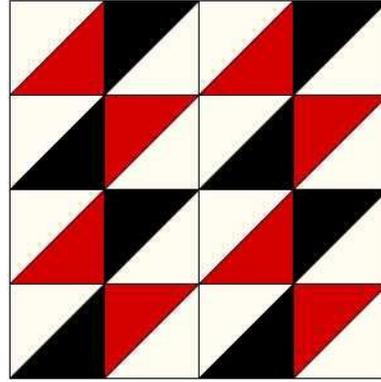
HST Center Color



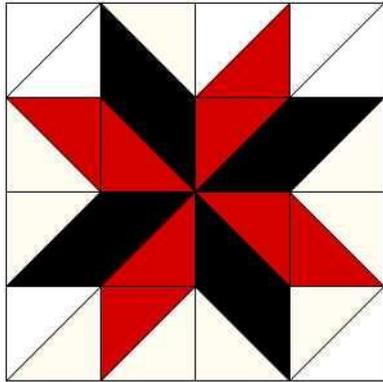
HST Center Light



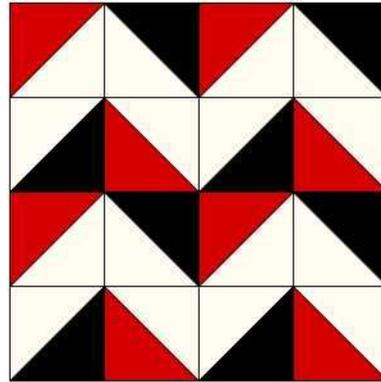
HST Diamonds Left



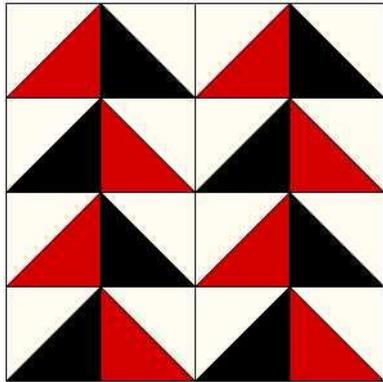
HST Diamonds Right



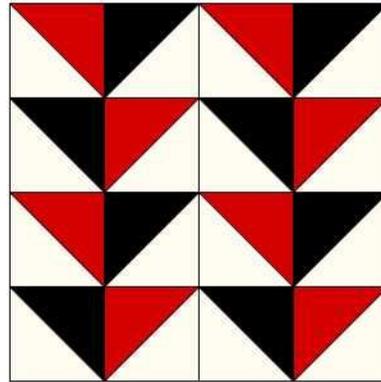
HST Star



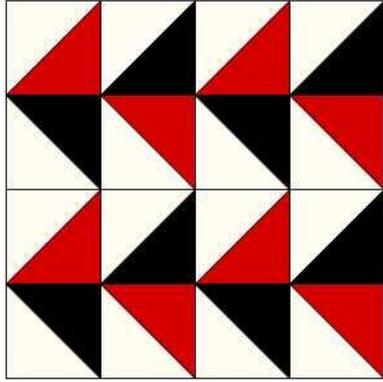
HST Chevron Horiz



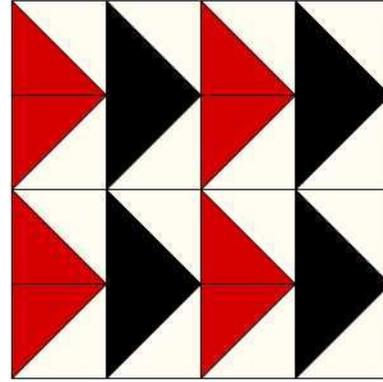
HST Triangles Top



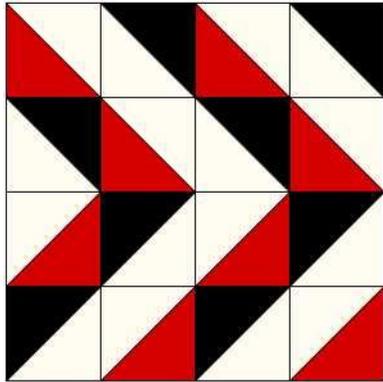
HST Triangles Bottom



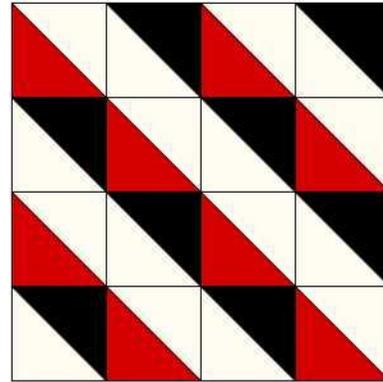
HST Triangles Left



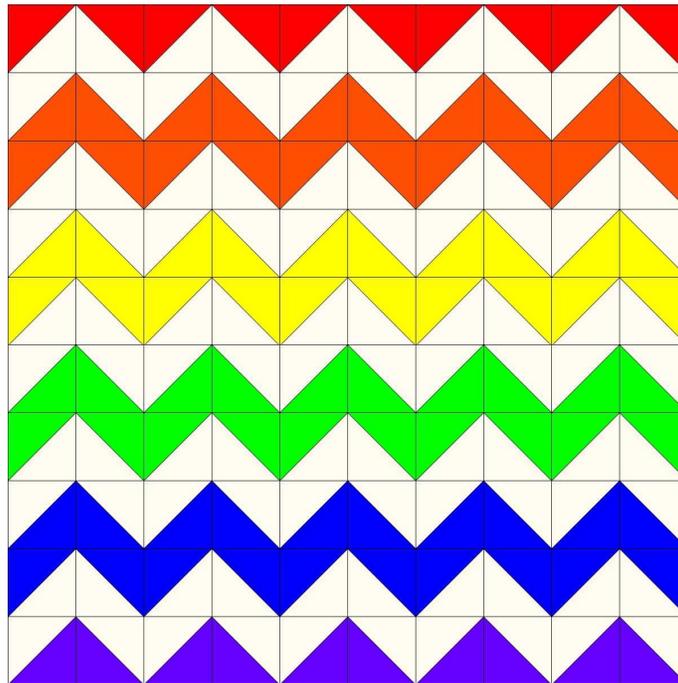
HST Triangles Right



HST Diagonal Right



HST Diagonal Stripe



Rainbow Chevrons HST