CORINNE SOVEY

QUILTS & PATTERNS

PLAYGROUND SKILLBUILDER

MONTH 3

MONTH 3 > HALF SQUARE TRIANGLES (HST)

CUTTING CHART

C1			
C1			
A	(1) 12 × 12	C	(1) 6 × 6
B	(1) 9 × 9	D	(1) 17 ½ × 4 ⅜
C2			
C2			
E	(1) 17 ½ × 4 ⅜		
C3			
C3			
F	(1) 12 × 12		
C5			
C5			
G	(1) 6 × 6		
C6			
C6			
H	(1) 9 × 9		

SQUARING UP/TRIMMING HSTS

This example shows how you trim a 4.25" square down to 4" square.

4.25" SQUARE

TRIM TO 4" SQUARE

Find the corner of your ruler where there is a diagonal line pointed upward towards the right side (seen above in yellow). It is helpful to have a square ruler to make this easier, but you can make do with a typical 6.5 x 24.5 ruler.

For this example you would find the 4" mark on the top and right side (shown above as the labeled 4 circles and the red outlined square). If you are trimming a lot of HSTs you can mark these lines with washi tape so you don't have to think quite as hard each time.

Line up the seam of your HST with the 45 degree line on your ruler (yellow line above). Position the ruler so that you can square up the top right corner (top edge and right edge above) while making sure there is some overhang on the bottom left that you will trim in the next step.

Flip your HST so that the corner you just trimmed is now the bottom left corner. Line up your HST again with the 45 degree line on your ruler. Position the ruler so that the bottom left corner aligns perfectly with the 4" measurement lines. Trim the top right corner to finish squaring up your HST.

PRESSING
I recommend you press all seams open for your HSTs.

STARCH
As always, I recommend using starch but it is particularly important for the 4X HST and strip piecing methods.

EXTRA HSTS
In the interest of covering more skills and methods, you will end up with extra half square triangles for a couple of methods.

2X HST (TRADITIONAL METHOD)

1. This method will use your C and G units. On one of the units draw a line diagonally from the bottom left corner to the top right corner on the wrong side of the fabric. This will be your cutting line (shown above in red). Draw another line 1/4 inch to the left of the line you just drew (shown above as a dashed black line). This will be one of your stitching lines. Draw another line 1/4 inch to the right of the first line you drew. This will be your other stitching line.

2. Place the unit you drew the lines on right sides together with your other unit. Stitch along the stitching lines.

3. Cut your unit in half diagonally from corner to corner along the red cut line you drew in step one. Press seams open.

4. Square-up/trim your units to 5 ½ inches using the instructions on page three.

4X HST (4 AT A TIME METHOD)

1. This method will use your C and G units. You end up with bias edges using this method so I strongly recommend you starch your fabric before sewing.

On one of the units draw a line diagonally from the bottom left corner to the top right corner on the wrong side of the fabric. On the same unit draw another line diagonally from the bottom right corner to the top left corner on the wrong side of the fabric to make an X. These will be your cutting lines (shown above in red).

Place the unit you drew the lines on right sides together with your other unit. Stitch around the outer edge of the square on all sides using ¼ inch seam allowance (shown above as the dashed black line).

4X HST (4 AT A TIME METHOD) CONTINUED

2. Cut your unit into quarters along the red cut lines you drew in step one to produce 4 HSTs. Press seams open.

Square-up/trim your units to 5 ½ inches using the instructions on page three. You will have one extra HST.

8X HST (MAGIC 8 METHOD)

1. This method will use your A and F units.

On one of the units draw a line diagonally from the bottom left corner to the top right corner on the wrong side of the fabric. On the same unit draw another line diagonally from the bottom right corner to the top left corner on the wrong side of the fabric to make an X (shown above in red).

Draw lines 1/4 inch to the left and right of the lines you just drew (shown above as a dashed black line). These will be your stitching lines.

Place the unit you drew the lines on right sides together with your other unit. Stitch along the stitching lines.

2. Cut your unit into four squares by cutting the square along the perpendicular lines shown as green lines above in the first image.

Now cut the four squares from the previous step along the red cut lines you drew in step one (shown above in the second image as a dashed black line) to produce 8 HSTs. Press your seams open and trim four of the squares to 5 ½ inches. You will have four leftover squares.

STRIP PIECED HST

1. This method will use your D and E units. You end up with bias edges using this method so I strongly recommend you starch your fabric before sewing.

Place your units right sides together and stitch together along one long edge using a ¼ inch seam allowance (shown above as the dashed black line). Repeat along the other long edge to form a tube.

2. If your ruler doesn't have a 45 degree line on it already you will need to take a piece of washi or masking tape and mark a straight line at 45 degrees to help you cut out your triangles (shown above in red). Align the 45 degree line with the stitched seam and cut up the left side of the ruler (shown above in blue).

3. Now move the ruler to the other side and align the 45 degree line with the top stitched line and cut along the blue line shown above to give you your first HST.

4. Continue down the tube strip, as seen above, to make the next HST.

5. Repeat one more time to get your third HST.

6. Once you have your HSTs you can press your seams open and you shouldn't have to trim them at all! They should measure 5 ½ inches. This is my favorite method by far because I hate trimming. The bias edges can be dealth with either by starching before you sew, or by cutting your intitial strips along the bias so that the bias is sewn together at the start.

PUTTING THEM ALL TOGETHER

1. Use the diagrams above to sew four rows of three half square triangles each. If you want to nest your seams you can press the top two rows to one side and the bottom to rows to the opposite side.

2. Sew the first column of the diagram together. Then sew the second column of the diagram together.

3. The final step is to sew the first column from the above diagrams above the second column of the above diagrams. Your final block should measure 15 ½ inches wide by 20 ½ tall.

2X HST METHOD

TRADITIONAL METHOD

EQUATION

FINISHED HST SIZE
PLUS 7/8 INCH
EQUALS
MINIMUM SIZE OF YOUR STARTING SQUARES

ADD AT LEAST 1/4 INCH TO THAT FOR WIGGLE ROOM TO TRIM

HST SIZES		SIZE OF SQUARES TO MAKE HST	
Finished HST Size (Size Once Sewn Together)	Unfinished HST Size (Size Before Being Sewn Together)	Minimum Size of Starting Squares (No wiggle room to trim)	Suggested Size of Starting Squares (Sized to be trimmed down)
1	1 1/2	1 7/8	
1 1/4	1 3/4	2 1/8	2 1/2
1 1/2	2	2 3/8	2 3/4
1 3/4	2 1/4	2 5/8	3
2	2 1/2	2 7/8	3 1/4
2 1/4	2 3/4	3 1/8	3 1/2
2 1/2	3	3 3/8	3 3/4
2 3/4	3 1/4	3 5/8	4
3	3 1/2	3 7/8	4 1/4
3 1/4	3 3/4	4 1/8	4 1/2
3 1/2	4	4 3/8	4 3/4
3 3/4	4 1/4	4 5/8	5
4	4 1/2	4 7/8	5 1/4
4 1/4	4 3/4	5 1/8	5 1/2
4 1/2	5	5 3/8	5 3/4
4 3/4	5 1/4	5 5/8	6
5	5 1/2	5 7/8	6 1/4
5 1/4	5 3/4	6 1/8	6 1/2
5 1/2	6	6 3/8	6 3/4
5 3/4	6 1/4	6 5/8	7
6	6 1/2	6 7/8	7 1/4
6 1/4	6 3/4	7 1/8	7 1/2
6 1/2	7	7 3/8	7 3/4
6 3/4	7 1/4	7 5/8	8
7	7 1/2	7 7/8	8 1/4
7 1/4	7 3/4	8 1/8	8 1/2
7 1/2	8	8 3/8	8 3/4
7 3/4	8 1/4	8 5/8	9
8	8 1/2	8 7/8	9 1/4
8 1/4	8 3/4	9 1/8	9 1/2
8 1/2	9	9 3/8	9 3/4
8 3/4	9 1/4	9 5/8	10
9	9 1/2	9 7/8	10 1/4
9 1/4	9 3/4	10 1/8	10 1/2
9 1/2	10	10 3/8	10 3/4
9 3/4	10 1/4	10 5/8	11
10	10 1/2	10 7/8	11 1/4
10 1/4	10 3/4	11 1/8	11 1/2
10 1/2	11	11 3/8	11 3/4
10 3/4	11 1/4	11 5/8	12
11	11 1/2	11 7/8	12 1/4
11 1/4	11 3/4	12 1/8	12 1/2
11 1/2	12	12 3/8	12 3/4
11 3/4	12 1/4	12 5/8	13
12	12 1/2	12 7/8	13 1/4
12 1/4	12 3/4	13 1/8	13 1/2
12 1/2	13	13 3/8	13 3/4
12 3/4	13 1/4	13 5/8	14
13	13 1/2	13 7/8	14 1/4
13 1/4	13 3/4	14 1/8	14 1/2
13 1/2	14	14 3/8	14 3/4
13 3/4	14 1/4	14 5/8	15
14	14 1/2	14 7/8	15 1/4
14 1/4	14 3/4	15 1/8	15 1/2
14 1/2	15	15 3/8	15 3/4
14 3/4	15 1/4	15 5/8	16
15	15 1/2	15 7/8	16 1/4

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4X HST METHOD

FOUR AT A TIME METHOD

EQUATION

UNFINISHED HST SIZE
DIVIDED BY .64
EQUALS
MINIMUM SIZE OF YOUR STARTING SQUARES
(ROUND TO NEAREST 1/8 INCH)

ADD AT LEAST 1/4 INCH TO THAT FOR WIGGLE ROOM TO TRIM

HST SIZES		SIZE OF SQUARES TO MAKE HST	
Finished HST Size (Size Once Sewn Together)	**Unfinished HST Size** (Size Before Being Sewn Together)	**Minimum Size of Starting Squares** (No wiggle room to trim)	**Suggested Size of Starting Squares** (Sized to be trimmed down)
1	1 1/2	2 3/8	2 5/8
1 1/4	1 3/4	2 3/4	3
1 1/2	2	3 1/8	3 3/8
1 3/4	2 1/4	3 1/2	3 3/4
2	2 1/2	4	4 1/8
2 1/4	2 3/4	4 2/8	4 1/2
2 1/2	3	4 2/3	5
2 3/4	3 1/4	5	5 3/8
3	3 1/2	5 1/2	5 3/4
3 1/4	3 3/4	5 7/8	6 1/8
3 1/2	4	6 1/4	6 1/2
3 3/4	4 1/4	6 5/8	6 7/8
4	4 1/2	7	7 1/4
4 1/4	4 3/4	7 3/8	7 5/8
4 1/2	5	7 7/8	8 1/8
4 3/4	5 1/4	8 2/8	8 1/2
5	5 1/2	8 5/8	8 7/8
5 1/4	5 3/4	9	9 1/4
5 1/2	6	9 3/8	9 5/8
5 3/4	6 1/4	9 3/4	10
6	6 1/2	10 1/8	10 3/8
6 1/4	6 3/4	10 1/2	10 3/4
6 1/2	7	11	11 2/8
6 3/4	7 1/4	11 3/8	11 5/8
7	7 1/2	11 6/8	12
7 1/4	7 3/4	12 1/8	12 3/8
7 1/2	8	12 1/2	12 3/4
7 3/4	8 1/4	12 7/8	13 1/8
8	8 1/2	13 1/4	13 1/2
8 1/4	8 3/4	13 5/8	13 7/8
8 1/2	9	14	14 3/8
8 3/4	9 1/4	14 1/2	14 3/4
9	9 1/2	14 7/8	15 1/8
9 1/4	9 3/4	15 1/4	15 1/2
9 1/2	10	15 5/8	15 7/8
9 3/4	10 1/4	16	16 1/4
10	10 1/2	16 3/8	16 5/8
10 1/4	10 3/4	16 3/4	17
10 1/2	11	17 1/4	17 1/2
10 3/4	11 1/4	17 5/8	17 7/8
11	11 1/2	18	18 1/4
11 1/4	11 3/4	18 3/8	18 5/8
11 1/2	12	18 3/4	19
11 3/4	12 1/4	19 1/8	19 3/8
12	12 1/2	19 1/2	19 3/4
12 1/4	12 3/4	20	20 1/8
12 1/2	13	20 3/8	20 5/8
12 3/4	13 1/4	20 3/4	21
13	13 1/2	21	21 3/8
13 1/4	13 3/4	21 1/2	21 3/4
13 1/2	14	21 7/8	22 1/8
13 3/4	14 1/4	22 1/4	22 1/2
14	14 1/2	22 5/8	22 7/8
14 1/4	14 3/4	23	23 1/4
14 1/2	15	23 1/2	23 3/4
14 3/4	15 1/4	23 7/8	24 1/8
15	15 1/2	24 1/4	24 1/2

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8X HST METHOD

MAGIC 8 METHOD

EQUATION

FINISHED HST SIZE
PLUS 1
THEN **MULTIPLY** BY 2
EQUALS
MINIMUM SIZE OF YOUR STARTING SQUARES

ADD AT LEAST 1/4 INCH TO THAT FOR WIGGLE ROOM TO TRIM

HST SIZES		SIZE OF SQUARES TO MAKE HST	
Finished HST Size (Size Once Sewn Together)	**Unfinished HST Size** (Size Before Being Sewn Together)	**Minimum Size of Starting Squares** (No wiggle room to trim)	**Suggested Size of Starting Squares** (Sized to be trimmed down)
1	1 1/2	3 3/4	4
1 1/4	1 3/4	4 1/4	4 1/2
1 1/2	2	4 3/4	5
1 3/4	2 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/2
2	2 1/2	5 3/4	6
2 1/4	2 3/4	6 1/4	6 1/2
2 1/2	3	6 3/4	7
2 3/4	3 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/2
3	3 1/2	7 3/4	8
3 1/4	3 3/4	8 1/4	8 1/2
3 1/2	4	8 3/4	9
3 3/4	4 1/4	9 1/4	9 1/2
4	4 1/2	9 3/4	10
4 1/4	4 3/4	10 1/4	10 1/2
4 1/2	5	10 3/4	11
4 3/4	5 1/4	11 1/4	11 1/2
5	5 1/2	11 3/4	12
5 1/4	5 3/4	12 1/4	12 1/2
5 1/2	6	12 3/4	13
5 3/4	6 1/4	13 1/4	13 1/2
6	6 1/2	13 3/4	14
6 1/4	6 3/4	14 1/4	14 1/2
6 1/2	7	14 3/4	15
6 3/4	7 1/4	15 1/4	15 1/2
7	7 1/2	15 3/4	16
7 1/4	7 3/4	16 1/4	16 1/2
7 1/2	8	16 3/4	17
7 3/4	8 1/4	17 1/4	17 1/2
8	8 1/2	17 3/4	18
8 1/4	8 3/4	18 1/4	18 1/2
8 1/2	9	18 3/4	19
8 3/4	9 1/4	19 1/4	19 1/2
9	9 1/2	19 3/4	20
9 1/4	9 3/4	20 1/4	20 1/2
9 1/2	10	20 3/4	21
9 3/4	10 1/4	21 1/4	21 1/2
10	10 1/2	21 3/4	22
10 1/4	10 3/4	22 1/4	22 1/2
10 1/2	11	22 3/4	23
10 3/4	11 1/4	23 1/4	23 1/2
11	11 1/2	23 3/4	24
11 1/4	11 3/4	24 1/4	24 1/2
11 1/2	12	24 3/4	25
11 3/4	12 1/4	25 1/4	25 1/2
12	12 1/2	25 3/4	26
12 1/4	12 3/4	26 1/4	26 1/2
12 1/2	13	26 3/4	27
12 3/4	13 1/4	27 1/4	27 1/2
13	13 1/2	27 3/4	28
13 1/4	13 3/4	28 1/4	28 1/2
13 1/2	14	28 3/4	29
13 3/4	14 1/4	29 1/4	29 1/2
14	14 1/2	29 3/4	30
14 1/4	14 3/4	30 1/4	30 1/2
14 1/2	15	30 3/4	31
14 3/4	15 1/4	31 1/4	31 1/2
15	15 1/2	31 3/4	32

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