

Block 3 – Triangles



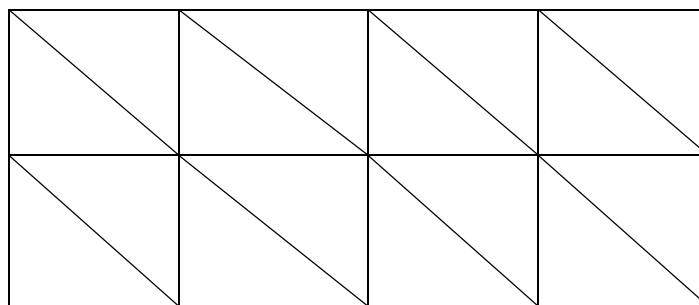
With this block we will be making half square triangles. The usual way of making a half square triangles is to start with two squares measuring say $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches placing them right sides together, drawing a line diagonally, stitching a quarter of an inch on either side of the line, then cutting on the drawn line, thus making two half square triangles each measuring $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In other words, for a finished square made up of two triangles, the starting measurement has to allow for the diagonal seams across the square and must be $\frac{7}{8}$ ths.

In this block we will be making more than two half square triangles in one go.

Cutting Plan

Two fabrics (one light one dark) $16\frac{1}{2}$ x 9in.

On one of the fabrics you are going to draw a grid of eight squares, two rows of four each square measuring $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches. You can use a pencil, fine fabric marker, or pen (but not heat removal pens as you will be ironing the fabric before sewing). The drawn lines will not show on the finished square. Draw your first line a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the top of your fabric and draw a line horizontally. Mark $3\frac{3}{8}$ along the line to the end. Place your ruler vertically on the horizontal line, to make sure you are drawing a straight line, and using the marks you have made, draw a line from top to bottom. Then mark the $3\frac{3}{8}$ increments down the first vertical line and the last vertical line and draw lines horizontally across your fabric. Once you have drawn your squares, draw diagonal lines as shown on the diagram below.



Take your fabrics to the ironing board and iron them right sides together. This will keep the two layers together. Pin the fabrics together to keep them from moving, Stitch a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ inch each side of a diagonal line, using a slightly smaller stitch length than usual. You can draw the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch stitching line if you want, but remember to stitch just inside the drawn line, towards the centre diagonal line, as you will lose some fabric when you open up your triangle. This is why you always need to stitch just a few thread widths from the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch mark.

Once the pairs of lines have been stitched, using a ruler and cutter, cut the vertical lines. Without moving the fabric, cut along the drawn horizontal lines. Finally, cut along the drawn diagonal lines. Some of the triangles will have a line of stitches across one corner. Loosen these gently by pulling the fabrics apart – they will easily come undone and the threads can be removed. Press each square from the front with the seam towards the darker fabric. You now have 16 half square triangles which should all measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Arrange your triangle squares in the design and stitch the top 4 squares together, and then repeat with second to last row. Press all seams in the rows in opposite directions ie one row to the right the next row to the left. Then stitch the top row and second row together matching seams carefully, and repeat with third and last row. NOTE: Where two triangles meet in a point, check that they meet in an "arrowhead" $\frac{1}{4}$ in from the top edges of the fabric to give sharp points. When completed, your block should measure $12\frac{1}{2}$ ".