A QUILTPLAN PIECING GUIDE

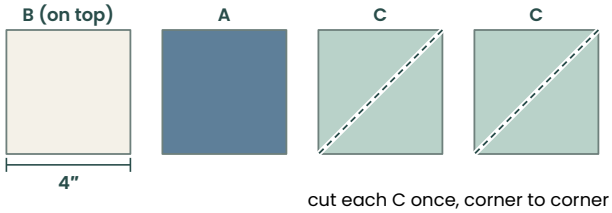
SPLIT QUARTER-SQUARE TRIANGLES

Four at a time, all facing the same way.

A square split corner to corner, with one half a single big triangle and the other half **two small triangles side by side**. Quilters also call it a three-patch quarter-square triangle or a half-hourglass. The quick way to make it, a half-square triangle sewn to a plain square, always gives one unit and its **mirror image**. This way makes **four that match** from one set of squares, with nothing left over.



What you cut, for four units



Shown for a unit that finishes at 2½": one square each of A and B and two of C, all 4". A and B are the two small triangles, C the big one. Every size is in the chart below.

Finished unit	Cut 1 A, 1 B, 2 C squares	Trim each unit to	Cut exact, no trim: A and B / C
1½"	3"	2"	2¾" / 2⅜"
2"	3½"	2½"	3¼" / 2⅞"
2½"	4"	3"	3¾" / 3⅜"
3"	4½"	3½"	4¼" / 3⅞"
3½"	5"	4"	4¾" / 4⅜"
4"	5½"	4½"	5¼" / 4⅞"
4½"	6"	5"	5¾" / 5⅜"
5"	6½"	5½"	6¼" / 5⅞"
6"	7½"	6½"	7¼" / 6⅞"

One set makes four units. Every square is cut 1½" bigger than the finished size, which leaves a little to trim true on every side. The last column is the exact size: A and B 1¼" over, C ⅞" over. It leaves nothing to trim, so it only works if every seam is exactly a quarter inch.

Which way it faces



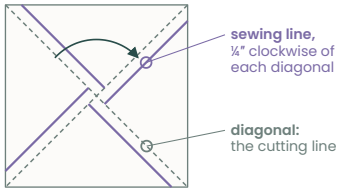
B on top



A on top: the mirror

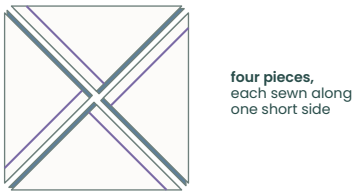
Hold the unit with the big triangle at the bottom right. The small triangle on the **left** is the fabric that goes **on top** when you mark and sew, here B. Put the other one on top and every unit comes out the mirror image. Check your pattern's picture before you start: all four come out the same way.

Making them



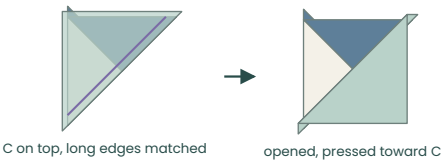
1 · Mark the top square

On the **wrong side of B**, draw both diagonals, corner to corner: those are the cutting lines. Then in each of the four triangles, draw a **sewing line a quarter inch from the diagonal** you come to first going **clockwise**, from the edge to the other diagonal. The four lines make a pinwheel. On a dark fabric, use a light marker.



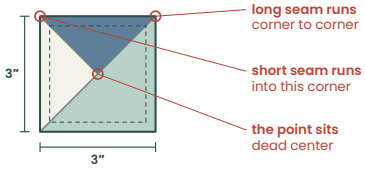
3 · Cut on both diagonals

Cut corner to corner on both drawn diagonals. You have **four pieces**, and each one is sewn along one of its short sides.



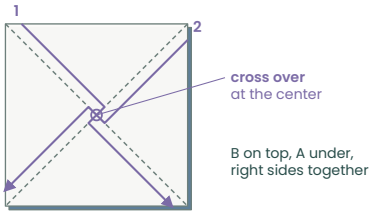
5 · Add the big triangle

Cut each C square once, corner to corner, for four triangles. Lay a C triangle on each A/B piece, right sides together, **long edges matched**, with a little of C hanging past each end. Sew a quarter inch from the long edge. This seam is **bias to bias**, so do not pull it. Open and **press toward C**.



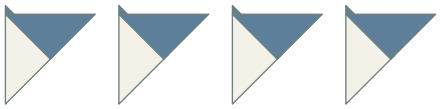
7 · Check it

It measures 3" each way. The point where A and B meet is **dead center**, the seam between them runs **into one corner**, and the long seam runs **corner to corner**. Those three are what make its points meet its neighbors in the block.



2 · Sew in two passes

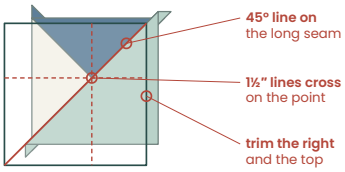
Lay B on A, **right sides together**, edges matched. Sew one sewing line from the edge to the center, **cross over** the half inch to the next line, and sew it to the far edge. Do the same along the other diagonal. Nothing has been cut on the bias yet, so nothing stretches.



four alike: A along the top, B down the side

4 · Open and press

Open each piece and **press toward the darker** of A and B, pressing down rather than sliding the iron. Each is now a big triangle made of two small ones, and **all four match**. A little seam allowance pokes past the square corner: the trim takes it off.



6 · Trim it to 3"

Find the **point** where A and B meet the long seam. Lay the ruler's **1½" lines** crossing on that point and its **45° line on the long seam**. Trim the right and the top. Turn the unit around, line the two cut edges up with the ruler's 3" lines, check the point is still on the 1½" lines, and trim the other two sides.

Good to know

- **Why 1½" bigger?** Sewn and pressed, 4" squares make a unit a little over 3¼", so the trim takes a little over ⅛" off each side.
- **Why not two at a time?** A half-square triangle on a plain square gives one unit and its mirror every time, however it is laid. A block that wants four alike would leave four spare.
- **Trim from the point,** not from the edges. C is cut a touch bigger than it needs, so its edges are not a guide.

B on top **A** underneath **C** big triangle