

Quilting with Triangles

LESSON OF 6

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QUILTING & FINISHING

Quilting:

Next we need to decide how we want to add quilting to our quilt. We will begin by making the quilt sandwich – top, batting, and backing fabric. Quilting stitches will hold these three layers together. It isn't a quilt until it is quilted.

We can quilt by hand, by machine with the walking foot with the feed dogs up, or by machine with the feed dogs dropped to do free-motion quilting. For this project, we will be quilting by machine with the walking foot with the feed dogs up. That gives us control to guide the quilt, and the machine will still have the feed dogs up to pull the fabric as it stitches.

Put a new needle in your sewing machine, then select the color of thread you want to use for quilting. Fill two bobbins – you don't want to stop and fill one when you are in the middle of quilting a section. Plan to get up and move around every thirty minutes or so.

Basting the Quilt Sandwich:

There are three ways to baste the quilt:

1. *Hand baste with thread by taking large stitches. Baste a grid about four inches apart to hold the layers together while it is being quilted. This method is good for hand quilting.*
2. *Safety pins can be used to hold the layers together for machine quilting. Try to place the pins in areas where you will not be quilting. Remove the pins as you finish a section. Try to place the pins in areas where you will not be quilting.*
3. *Spray glue for fabric will hold the layers together during machine quilting. Spray glue on the batting to hold the top in place. Turn the quilt over and spray glue on the batting to hold the backing in place.*
4. *Fusible batting – Bonnie is using fusible cotton batting for this quilt. Press the backing to the batting first. Then press the top to the batting.*

Starts and Stops:

On the interior of the quilt, you will want to shorten the stitch length when you start and stop so you can cut off the thread, or leave a tail long enough to knot and bury the ends of the thread.

Stitch In-the-Ditch Every Seam:

To stabilize the quilt, stitch-in-the-ditch every seam of the blocks. Use a fine thread like 60 wt. polyester or 100 wt. silk. Stitch-in-the-ditch along the border too. These stitches will sink into the ditch, provide stability, and not be noticeable.

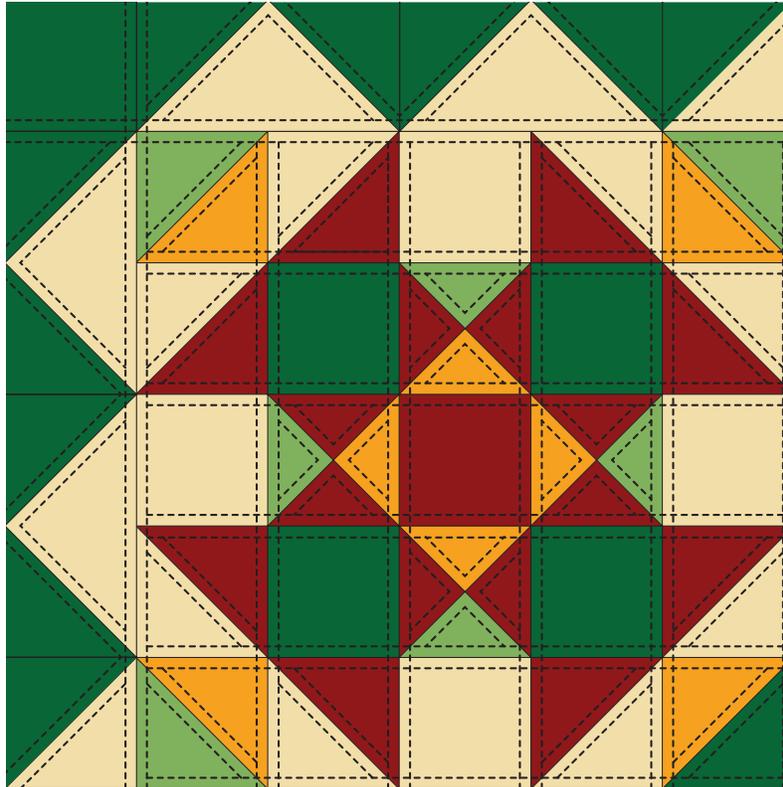
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Quilt Pattern:

For this quilt, we will be quilting with our walking foot and running the edge of the walking foot against the seam line to outline each piece in the quilt. Since the quilt has been stabilized with the in-the-ditch quilting, you can quilt from the edge of the block to the opposite block edge.

Remember: It takes two lines of quilting to create a valley, a hill, and another valley.



After quilting is finished, align your ruler along a seam line that is close to the edge of the quilt to trim away the excess batting and backing. Make sure that you still have $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance on the "Vs" of the Flying Geese border.

Binding:

Here is a link to a video by Bonnie for binding a quilt:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_N4cwlQla0

Other Ways to Use Half-Square Triangles:

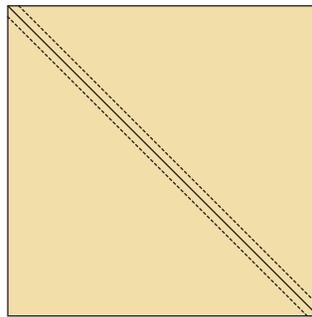
Nine-Patch HST Blocks: Bonnie's HST Scrap Quilt

Sew HSTs into Nine-Patch blocks. Sew HSTs using combinations of light/medium, light/dark, and medium/dark squares.

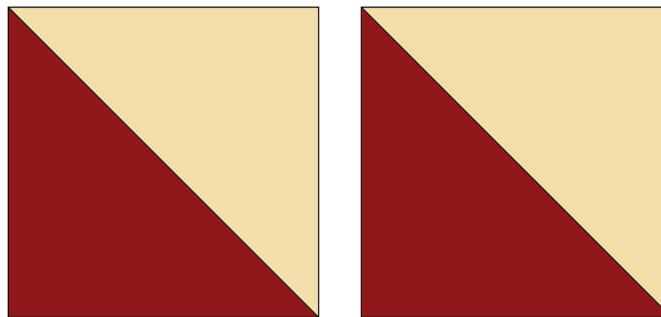
Disappearing Half-Square Triangles:

2 – 10" squares, one light and one dark

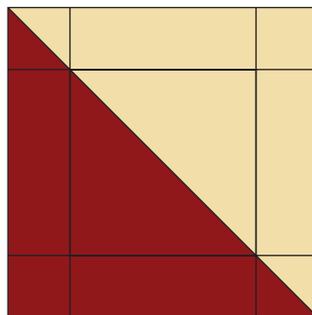
Draw a diagonal line; sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " on each side of the drawn line.



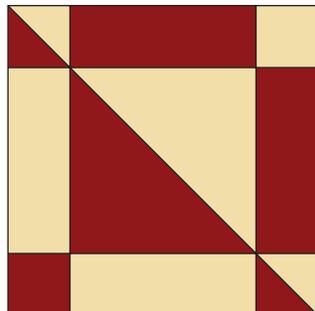
Cut on the drawn line to make two large HSTs.



Cut a 2" strip on each side of the HST.



Switch the light and dark rectangles and you have a new block and didn't need to cut and sew the small pieces.



Congratulations, you have now completed the Quilting with Triangles class and your quilt! Don't forget to put a label on the back of your quilt to document when and why you made it. Quilt On!



Thank you for joining me for this AQS Let's Quilt class. Stay tuned for more classes in the AQS Let's Quilt series.

Bonnie Browning

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