

SCRAPPY HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE QUILTS

These directions are written to make a finished quilt measuring 60"x72", 8 blocks across by 10 rows down. The finished size of the block is approximately 7 ½". If you wish to make any of the blocks a solid background, measure your ½ square block and cut the background strips according to this measurement.

Background fabric. 2 ¼ - 2 ½ yds. To make the patterns shown, you will need 80 blocks – more for a few of the patterns. You will need to cut 12 strips @ 6" WOF which totals 60". I suggest you have more than 60" in case you want to make more strips and/or you want to cut some square blocks to use in some of the patterns. Since 10 rows is a little short of the 80" we usually make our Safe House quilts, you could add a 4" border top and bottom and maybe a 2" border on each side to make the quilt look more finished.

Another possibility would be to use a different background fabric for an interesting variation in some of the patterns. Note that one background strip will yield 7 triangles. When you add the next piece of background, you will sew it on straight. The seam will hardly be noticed when the quilt is finished. Two strips will yield 15 blocks. Knowing this will help you decide how many cuts of background you will need to yield the number of blocks you need for whatever it is you want to use the different blocks for. For example, the pinwheel blocks need 4 blocks each. It would take 2 strips to yield 12 blocks, enough to finish 3 pinwheels. Four strips would yield enough for 6 pinwheels. Then you can set the blocks on a diagonal top left to lower right.

This is a wonderful way of using up your extra fabric from previous quilts. Remember, your goal is to reduce your stash. Cut strips from 1 ½" to 3" wide.

Put a strip of blue painter's tape across the bottom of your mat, beginning at the right edge, left edge for left handed people. Mark the 6" and 12" distance from the end. Lay a strip of fabric on the mat. Cut the strip at 6 ½" (or a little more), or 12 ½" (or a little more). If your scrap is more than 2 ½" you could save it to make a unit of smaller strips that could be cut at 2" and used in a border, or throw it out.

You might want to separate these strips according to how you want to use them. You could separate them by value – light, medium and dark. Later you can mix them up if you like, however, having some components that are all dark fabrics and some that are all light fabrics can be interesting.

To sew your strip units, you could be totally random, i.e., pick up two strips and sew them. Or, you can be mindful of what fabrics you sew together, i.e., consider sewing a more neutral looking strip to a print strip, or two different colors. This way, your look is still scrappy but not REALLY scrappy, if you know what I mean. Start by sewing 2 6" strips together. After you have a pile of pairs, press all the seams in the same direction. Then pick up 2 pairs, sew them together, then press. Always sew from the top so that edge is almost straight. When your unit is less than 24", lay them on the ironing board and make sure all the seams are pressed well. Using your 6 x 24 ruler, trim the top edge then cut the other side of the 6" ruler. Next, sew 2 or 3 of these units together making sure the seam allowances all go in the same direction. Randomly sew these units together to 40 -45" lengths. You may choose to sew more strips together, depending on how comfortable you are with a long piece of fabric.

When sewing 12" lengths together, stop after sewing 2 or 3 pairs. Trim as above and cut 2 units @ 6". Keeping your units smaller insures that you will be unaware of the repeats of the same fabrics. Mix these units with the above units.

You may want to sew 2 or even 3 background strips together. This seam will hardly be noticeable when the quilt is finished. Place the background fabric right sides together on the "strip" fabric, strips on top with the