

# HOW TO MASS PRODUCE HALF-SQUARE TRIANGLES USING JELLY ROLL STRIPS

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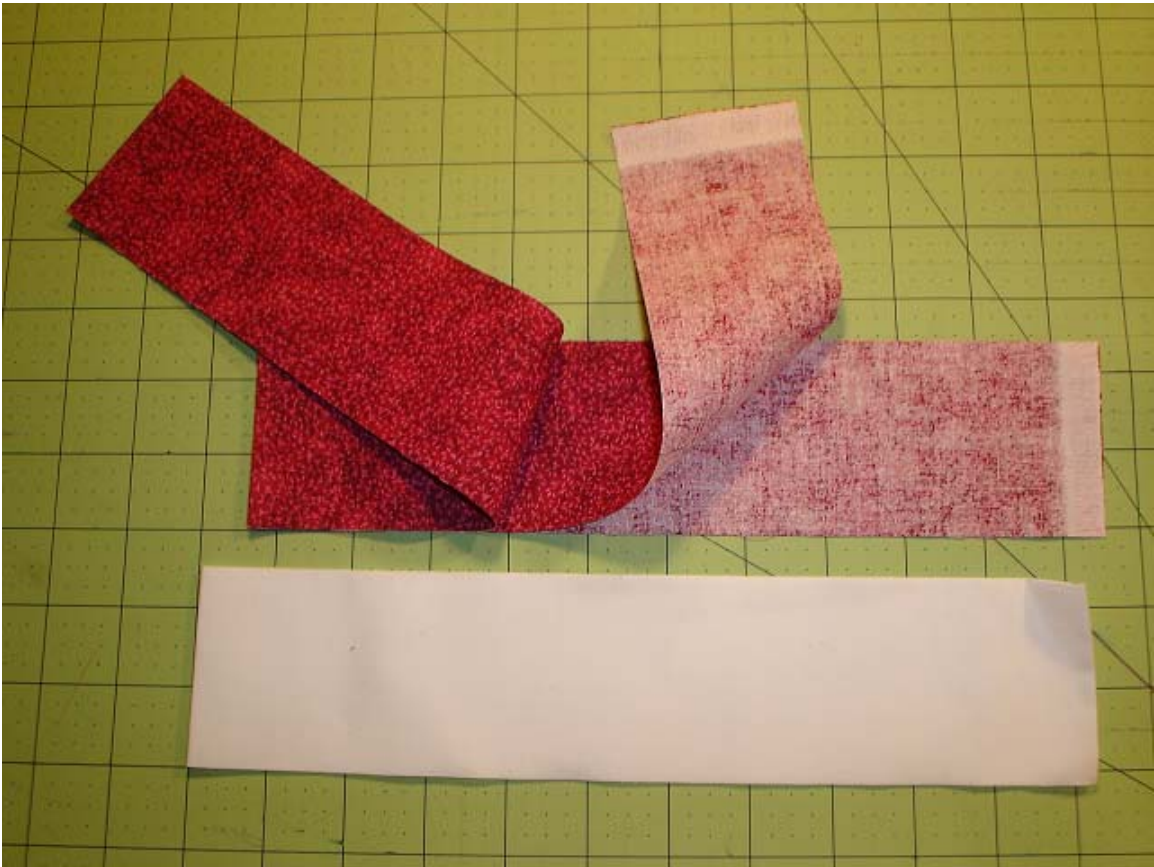
Just 2 jelly roll strips produced the pile of half-square triangles above!

If you've ever spent any serious time creating half-square triangles (HSTs) from traditional methods – sewing two triangles together, marking a set of two squares and then sewing two seams down either side of the diagonal, doing the “3 Dudes” method on two large squares to create 4 triangles... well, you're going to love this method!! It is actually a pleasure to create HSTs using jelly roll strips. Believe me, pleasure is not a word I ever thought I'd be using about those frustrating little blocks!

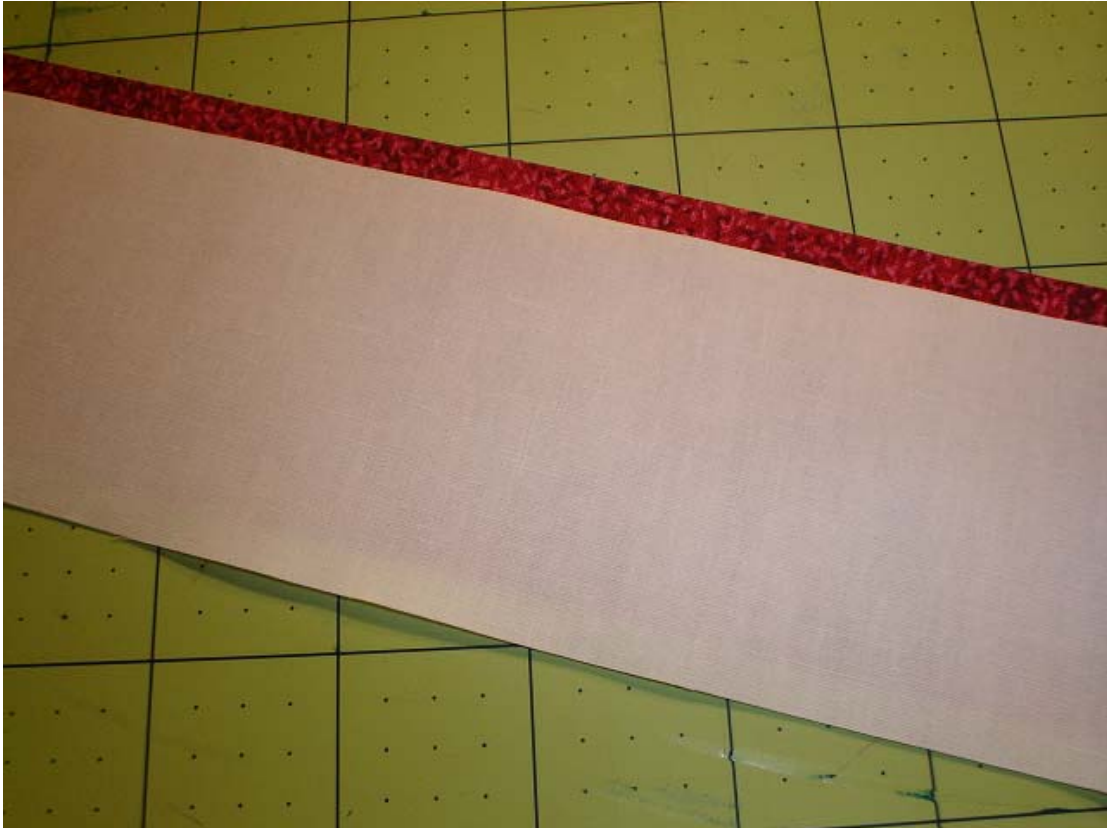
And best of all... this is so simple!

## DIRECTIONS

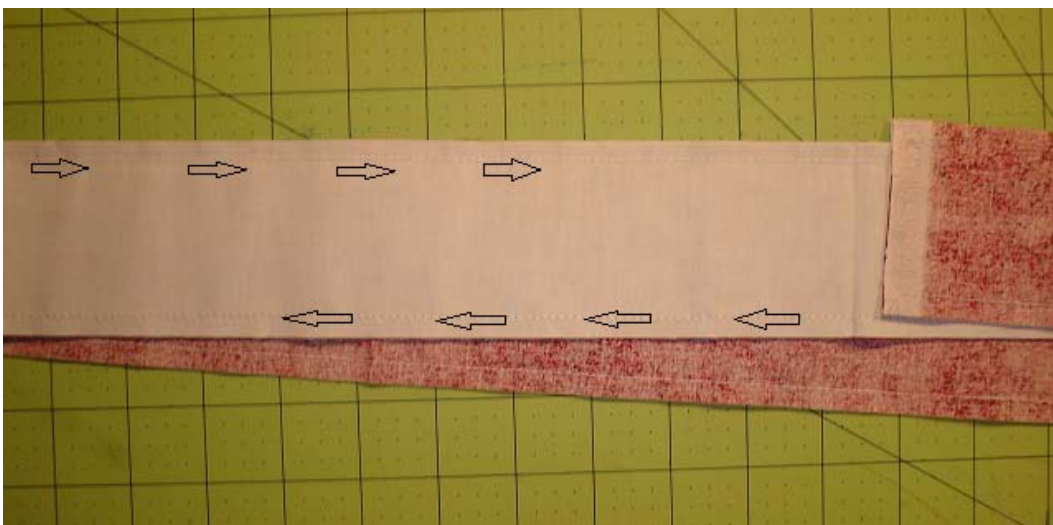
1. First you're going to pick out two strips for each half of your HST.



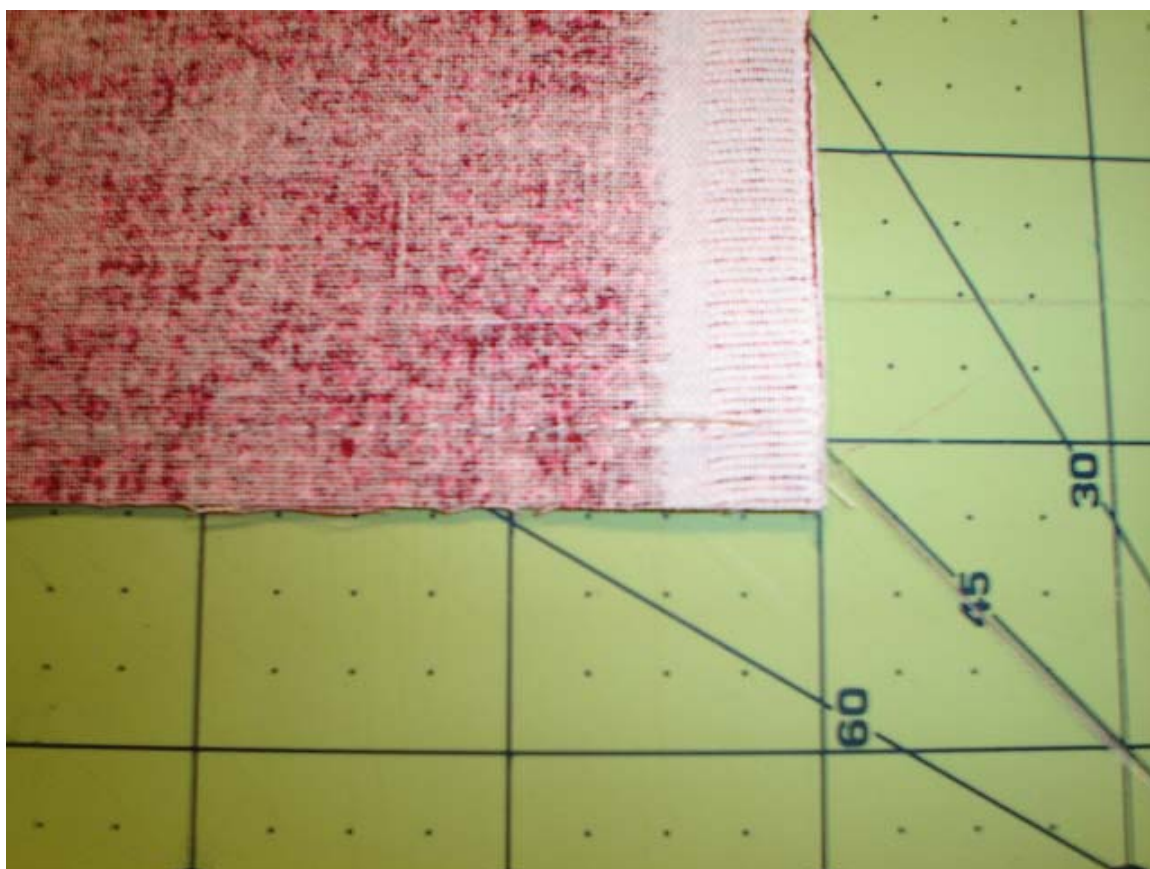
2. Next, open them all the way up, and put them right sides together.



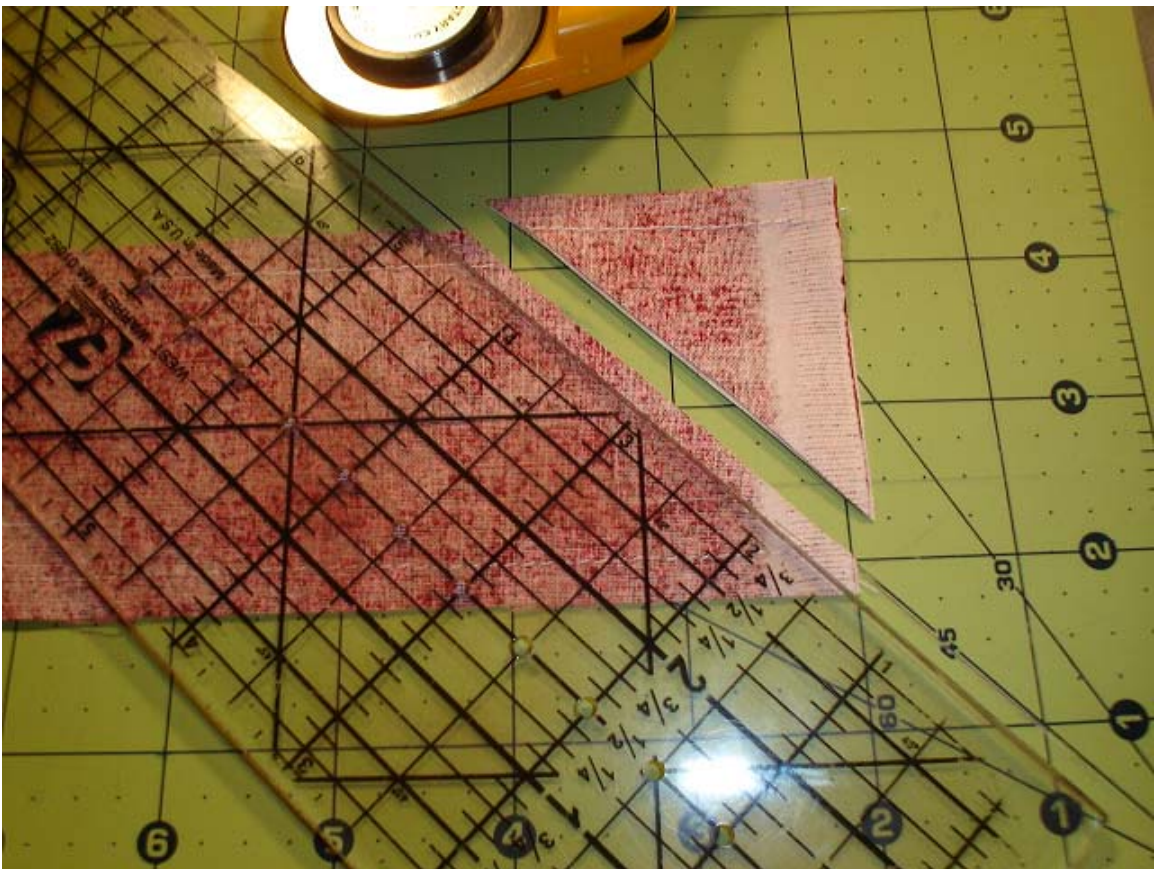
3. Sew a seam all the way down the edges, on both sides. (This forms a tube.)



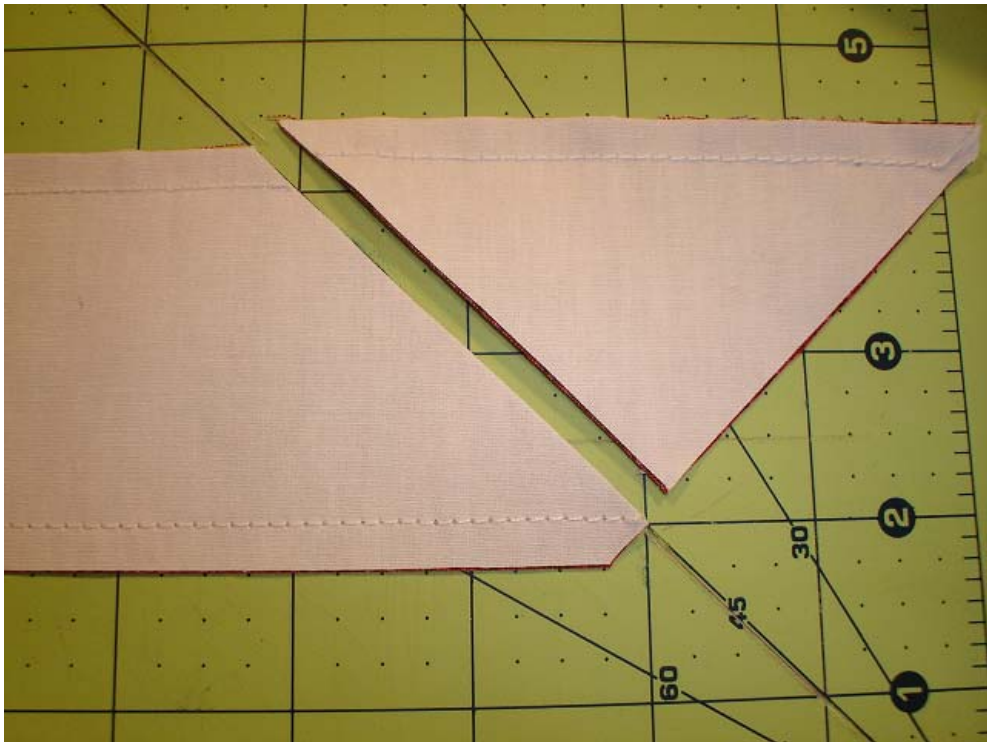
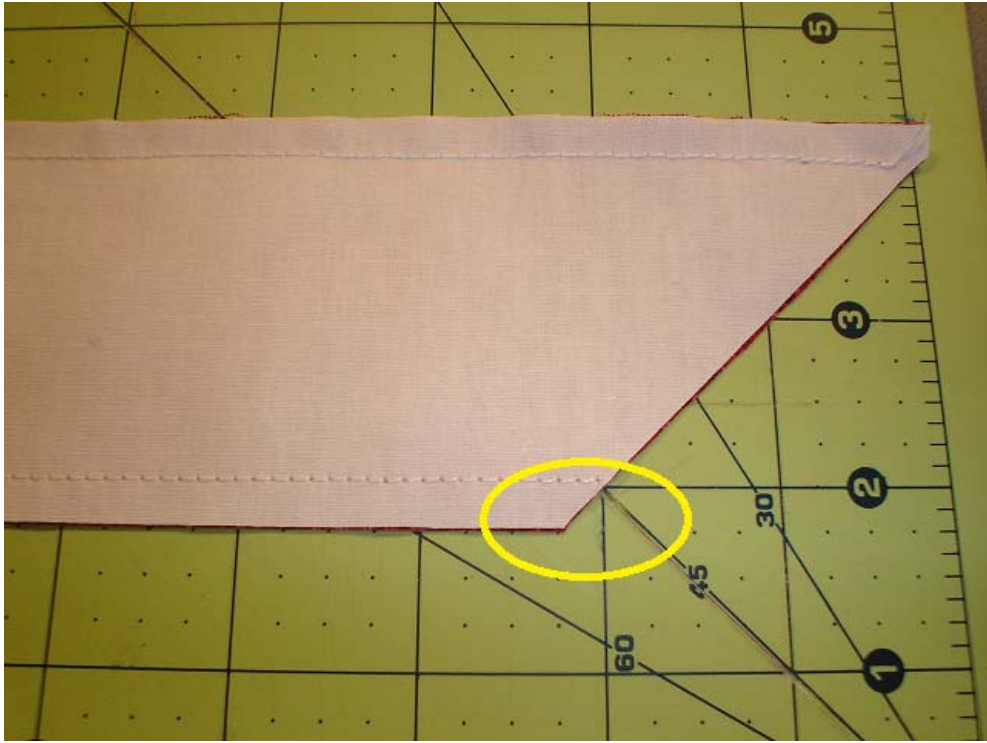
4. Find the 45 degree angle on your rotary board. Line up your tube so that the bottom right corner is being directly divided by the 45 degree line - then, move the tube down  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. (This will put your **seam** right on the line)



5. Cut on the 45 degree line. This first cut will be a throwaway piece. Also, unless your selvage edges are very wide, there's no need to trim them off first since the majority of the edge gets trimmed off in this step.

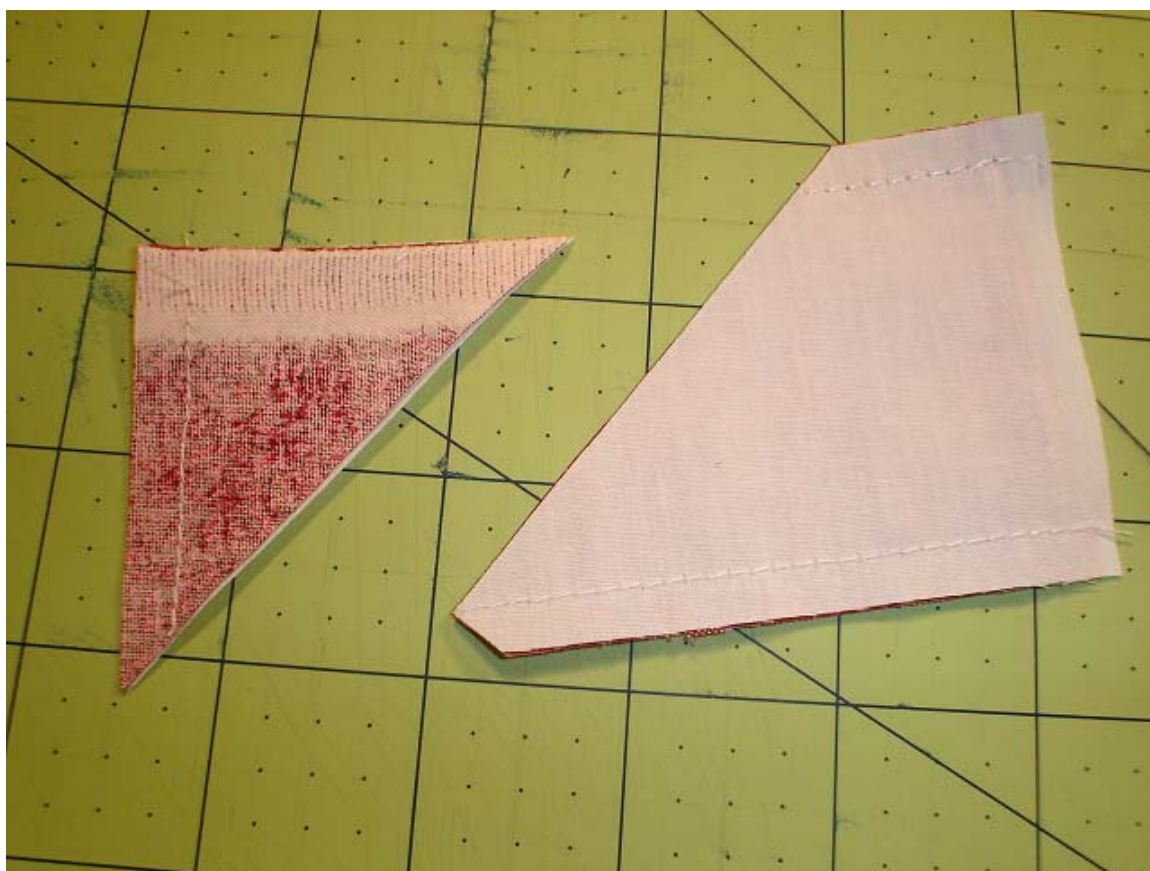


6. Flip your tube, realign the corner (don't forget that the bottom of the tube is  $\frac{1}{4}$  below the line) and cut again on the 45 degree line.

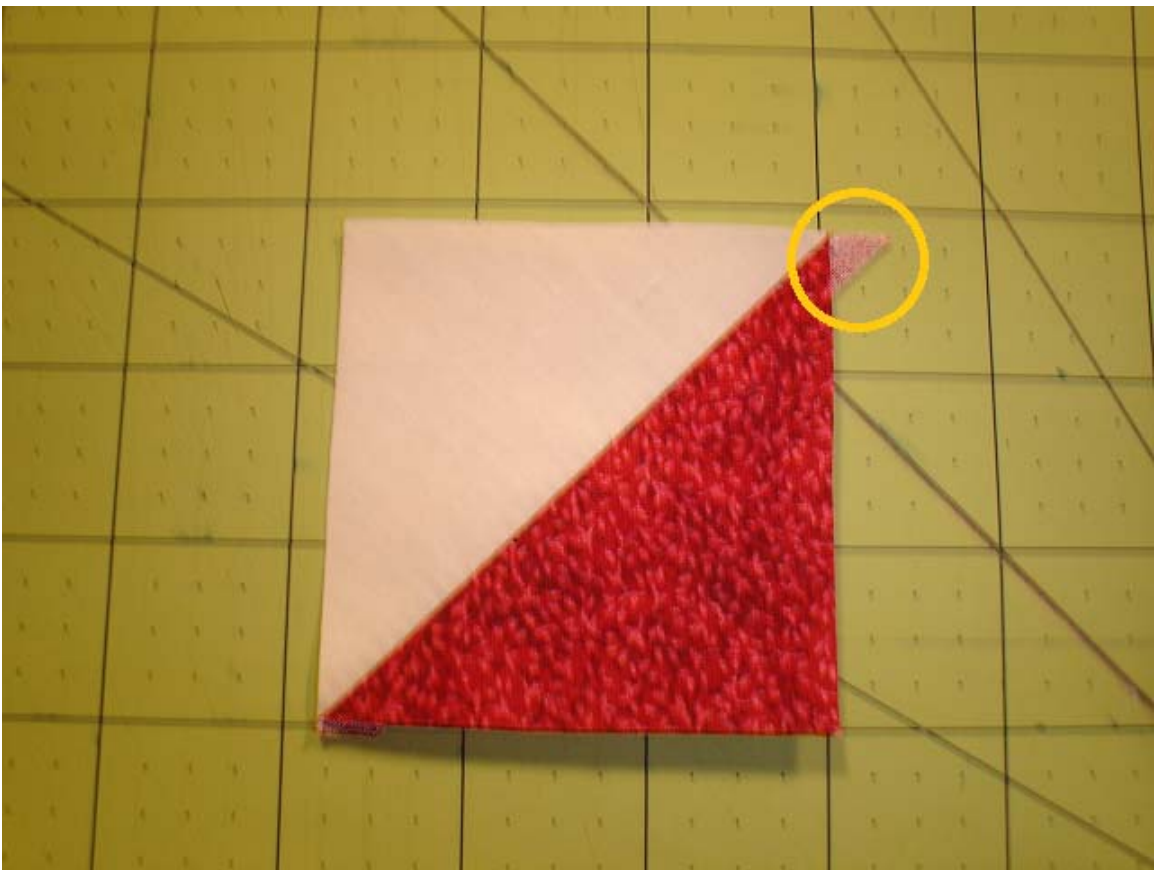


7. Continue flipping and cutting. Depending on how long your strips are, you'll get between 16 and 20 HSTs from each set of 2 strips. (My strips were 44", and I was able to eke 20 out of them!)

This is all the waste I had from my tube! Boy do I love an efficient quilt block.



8. Press open your HSTs. Using my method, you will eliminate the need to trim one side. Other methods exist that involve a lot of flipping and turning of your ruler and some uncomfortable contorting of your arms and shoulders and frankly, dangerous rotary cutting angles. These methods can eliminate the trimming of both triangle edges. **Not worth it!** We are going for safe and effortless here. So just go ahead and trim that one leftover raw edge on each triangle.





9. Gaze lovingly at your large pile of HSTs... then get to work making lots more!



Each HST ends up approximately  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " square.

That's all there is to it! By the way – this took about 20 minutes (including taking the pictures) – so not only is it easy... it's fast! :D

Stay tuned for my HST challenge! I'll be making an HST sampler quilt, one block at a time... you can too!

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