

The Half-Square Triangle Challenge

The half-square triangle (HST) is one of the most versatile and widely used building blocks in quilting, but have you ever tried making an entire quilt using only HSTs?



What is an HST?

A half-square triangle is a square made by joining two right-angle triangles along the diagonal. Each triangle forms half of the square, creating endless possibilities when arranged in different layouts.

How to Make Them

There are many ways to construct HSTs! A quick Google or YouTube search will reveal numerous techniques and helpful formulas for creating HSTs of different sizes. Select the method that best suits your needs and style. If you need a square, use the same fabric for both sides of the HST!

Why an HST Challenge?

- This challenge is designed to be accessible to quilters of all experience levels, just like our popular “40 Shades of Red” challenge.
- It’s a great opportunity to practice a fundamental quilting technique while exploring your creativity.
- You’ll improve at precision sewing, avoid cutting off points, and gain confidence working with bias edges.
- It’s easy to create designs by arranging HSTs without a pattern.
- Best of all, HSTs prove that with just one basic skill, you can create visually striking designs simply through color, fabric, and layout.

Challenge Rules

- Your project must be started **after the July meeting** and **completed by the March 23, 2026 meeting**.
- **Maximum dimensions:** 36” x 36”.
- Your design must be made **entirely of HSTs**. Squares may be created by sewing two HSTs together. No other pieced blocks or shapes are allowed.
- The quilt must include either **hanging corners or a sleeve** for display purposes.
- It must be a true **quilt sandwich** consisting of a top, middle, and back held together by quilting stitches or ties.
- You may use **published patterns**, but we also welcome **original designs or unique interpretations** for a more personal touch.
- You may add **embellishment** (e.g., thread, paint, ink, beads) to **enhance**, but they must not detract from the HST challenge.
- Members will vote at the March 23, 2026 meeting.