

THE CLEVER  
LITTLE BOOK

*of*

**QUILTY**  
KNOW HOW

»» PIECING

PIECING

# STACK + WHACK

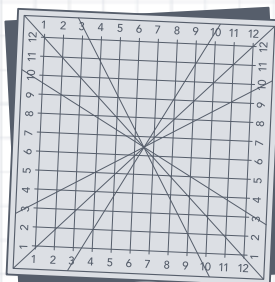
A term commonly used to describe the technique where, rather than cutting one layer of fabric at a time, multiple layers of fabrics are stacked up and cut at the same time. Anything from three to six layers can be cut at once, while still maintaining accuracy. Cutting your fabric this way is quick and easy, and is really effective for quilts with a large number of pieces the same size.

## OUR FAVOURITE TOOLS

### ROTATING CUTTING MAT

Allows you to make cuts from different directions without disturbing your stacked fabrics.

**TRY THIS...** Fiskars self-heal rotating cutting mat.



### SQUEEZE HANDLE ROTARY CUTTER

This automatically closes the guard when you're not using it, so you'll never forget!

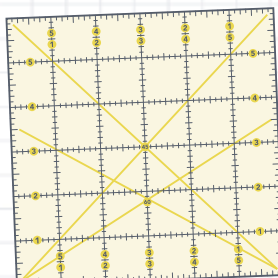
**TRY THIS...** Olfa Deluxe Ergo rotary cutter.



### 6IN SQUARE QUILT RULER

This ruler is the perfect size for cutting out strips or stacks without the long ends getting in your way.

**TRY THIS...** Omigrid 6in ruler.

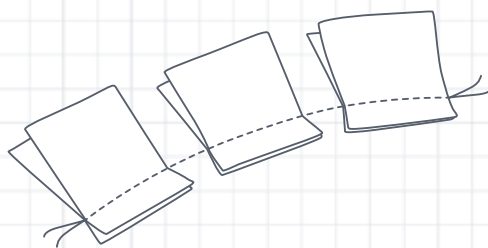


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# CHAIN PIECING

Another time-saver is chain piecing, which means stitching together multiples of the same shape without cutting the thread between each seam.

- 1 You need to prepare fabrics for sewing (with right sides together) and stitch as you normally would.
- 2 Once your first pair has passed under the presser foot, you sew a couple of extra stitches before feeding in the second pair of fabrics. This action creates a small chain of stitches separating the first pair of fabrics from the second – you need to leave this in place between each pair.
- 3 Repeat until all of the fabrics are sewn (and connected) in the same way.
- 4 Then remove from your machine and snip the threads between each of your pieces.



CHAIN PIECING IS A GREAT WAY TO  
KEEP FABRIC ORGANISED IF YOU'RE  
SEWING A LARGE QUILT TOP.

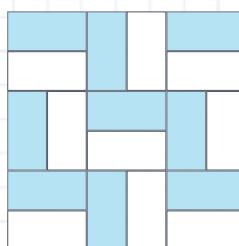
# STRIP PIECING

The idea behind strip piecing a quilt is simple: most quilts are created with a series of squares or rectangles arranged in a certain colour pattern. Instead of cutting each individual piece, in strip piecing you piece long strips of fabrics in the relevant colour pattern, then cut them apart and stitch the pieces back together.

## WHAT BLOCKS?

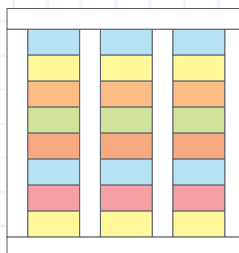
### STAIRWAY BLOCKS

Cut squares from a pair of sewn strips. Line them up in a block, turning every other square.



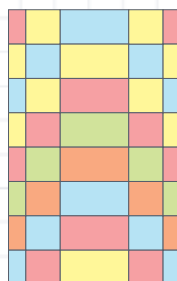
### CHINESE COINS

Keep it simple and make this traditional pattern by sashing sections of strips.



### BARGELLO

Cut sections from your strips to different widths and offset to create a Bargello pattern.

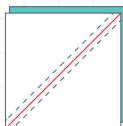


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# HALF-SQUARE TRIANGLES

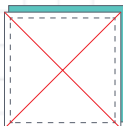
Half-square triangles are a staple for quilters. It's so simple – just pair two squares (right sides together), sew along the dashed lines and cut on the red lines to yield a number of HSTs. Use the charts below to determine what size squares of fabric to start with.

## TWO HSTS



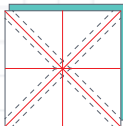
| DESIRED HST SIZE<br>(INC. SEAM<br>ALLOWANCE) | STARTING<br>SQUARE SIZE          |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 2in  | 2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> in |
| 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> in             | 2 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> in |
| 4in  | 4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> in |
| 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> in             | 6 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> in |
| 8in  | 8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> in |

## FOUR HSTS



| DESIRED HST SIZE<br>(INC. SEAM<br>ALLOWANCE) | STARTING<br>SQUARE SIZE          |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 2in  | 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> in |
| 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> in             | 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> in |
| 4in  | 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> in |
| 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> in             | 10in                             |
| 8in  | 12in                             |

## EIGHT HSTS

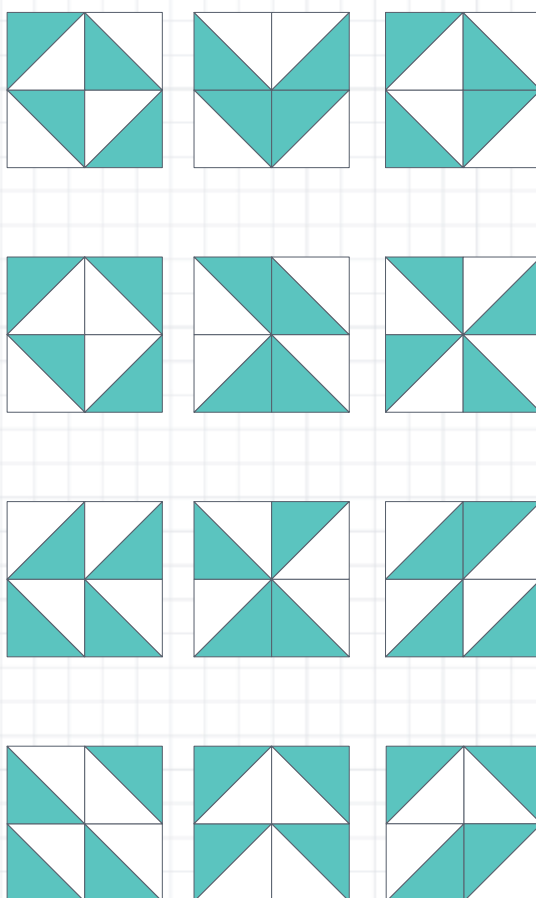


| DESIRED HST SIZE<br>(INC. SEAM<br>ALLOWANCE) | STARTING<br>SQUARE SIZE           |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 2in  | 4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> in  |
| 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> in             | 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> in  |
| 4in  | 8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> in  |
| 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> in             | 13 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> in |
| 8in  | 16 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> in |

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# HST BLOCKS

There are 256 possible combinations for HSTs in a 4 x 4 block. Here are a few of our favourites.



**CLEVER TIP**  
Use graph paper to test out some of your own combinations.

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# FLYING GEESE

Traditionally when making Flying Geese you begin with a single rectangle of fabric, and two squares, and have to trim a considerable amount of fabric from each once your seams have been stitched.

The no-waste method below is a much more efficient way to make Flying Geese, and creates four in one!

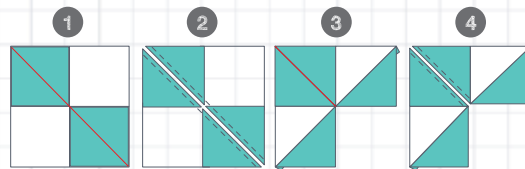
The method below does not give a specific finished size, so you can adjust the measurements to suit your project. Remember: the width of the finished unit is always twice its height.

## CUTTING OUT

To begin with you will need two fabrics: Fabric A and Fabric B.

From Fabric A, cut: One (1) square the finished width of the desired Flying Geese unit plus  $1\frac{1}{4}$ in.

From Fabric B, cut: Four (4) squares that are the finished height of the desired Flying Geese unit plus  $\frac{7}{8}$ in.



**1** Lay two Fabric B squares on a Fabric A square, right sides together. Draw a line from top left to bottom right corners.

**2** Stitch a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ in seam on both sides of the line. Cut apart on the line.

**3** Press seams towards Fabric B. Take a Fabric B square and place with the

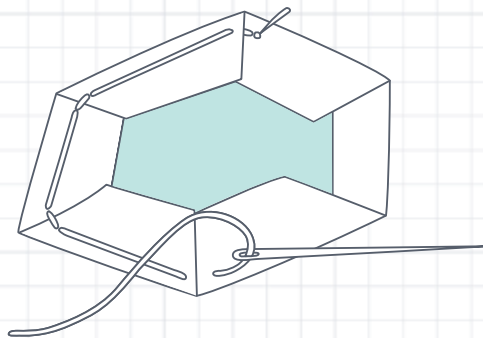
sewn unit, right sides together. Draw a line from top left to bottom right corners.

**4** Sew on both sides of the line. Cut apart on the line and press. Repeat with the remaining unit and fabric B square to make a total of four Flying Geese units.

## EPP BASTING

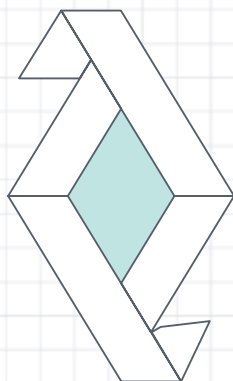
### CORNER TACKING

Pin your paper piece to the centre of your fabric. Fold down each edge of fabric around your paper folds in place at the corners, one at a time, being careful to stitch the fabric and not the paper. Knot off your thread when you reach the first corner again.



### GLUE BASTING

Attach your paper piece to the centre of your fabric using a dot of glue. Apply glue along one edge of your paper piece within the seam allowance, and fold down the first edge. Move to the next edge and repeat. Continue around your paper piece until all four edges are glued.

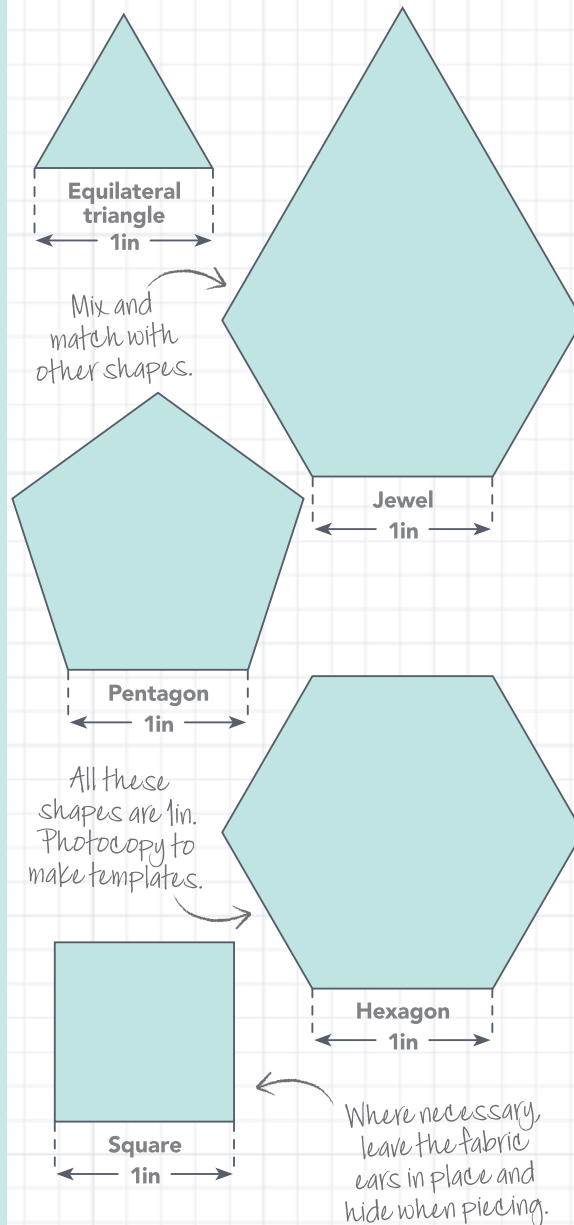


#### CLEVER TIP

Before basting, punch a hole in the centre of your templates to ease removal.

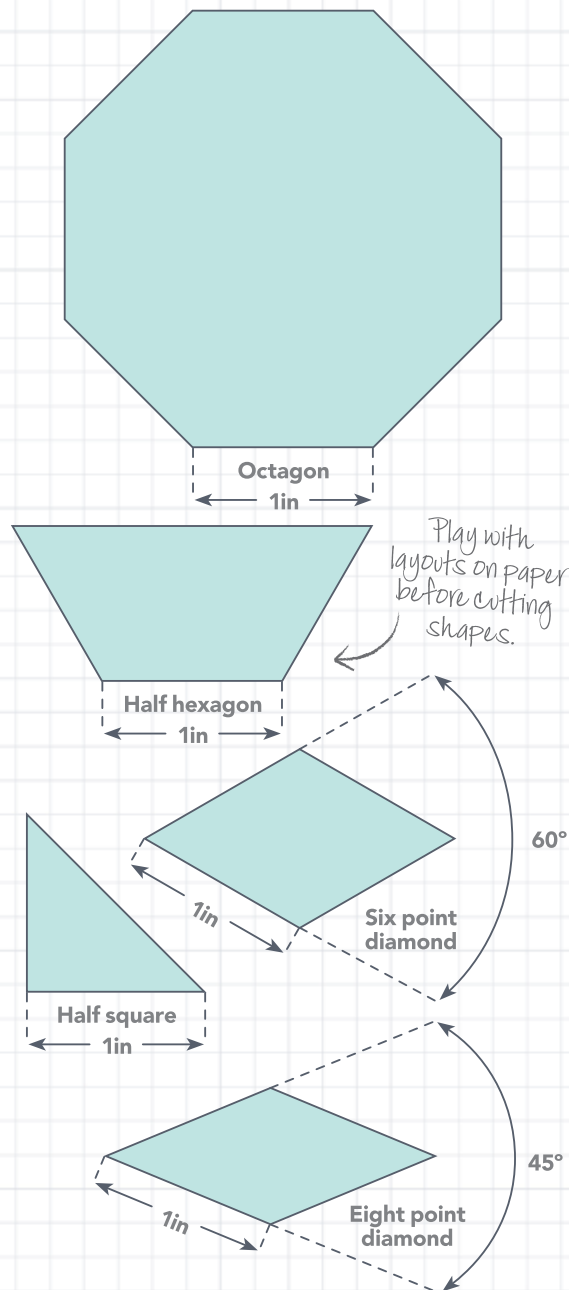


# ESSENTIAL EPP SHAPES



PIECING

## ESSENTIAL EPP SHAPES



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