

Perfect Points Sampler: Lesson Three

Discussion Forum posting for Perfect Points Quilt Along by Ann Johnson 3/20/12

Lesson Three gets more challenging. The Bear's Paw and Friendship Star blocks are made with half-square triangles (HSTs). The one-inch finished size of the HSTs requires precise piecing and most likely a scant 1/4" seam allowance. The blocks are surrounded by frames to allow them to fit in the 8" finished framework of the sampler. This lets you practice maintaining sharp points set against another block or border.

A grid method is used to make the HSTs but you may make yours with individual pairs of squares or the method of your choice. Use a size larger than the one needed for 1" finished squares so you can trim them to the correct size for increased precision.

Please reread the positioning pin tutorial and hints on precision piecing if needed. This may be a time to try cutting the pieces one threadwidth larger than stated. Experiment with techniques for making HSTs to find one that works well for you.

HSTs too small? For quilt along members new to quilting, the Friendship Star block may be especially difficult. You can substitute a block made with fewer, larger HSTs. Pair individual squares or use the grid from Step 7; make the squares 3" or even 3-1/4". Combine a lighter and darker fabric, draw the lines, sew, cut and press. Square-up to 2-1/2" square. Experiment placing them in different 2 x 3 layouts (the block is 6" x 8" finished). To substitute the Bear's Paw block, place the HSTs in a 4 x 4 layout to create a star or other pleasing formation. Neither block would have a frame.

Other Resources: Check out our tutorials on HSTs at www.connectingthreads.com/tutorials/quilting_tutorials.html

Video Intro to Half Square Triangles (note swirling of seams for pinwheel)

Half Square Triangles: Specialty Tools

Wonder Cut Ruler Demo (the HSTs will have bias edges, consider making with bias strips)

Brenda Hennings Triangulations

June Tailor Perfect Half Square and Quarter Square Ruler Demo

Fons and Porter Half and Quarter Square Ruler Demo

Quick Quarter II

Related Products: Here are some useful products for making HSTs and quarter-square triangles (QSTs) from the CT website. *Hint - there are more HSTs and some QSTs in your near future!* If you go to the Perfect Points Quilt Along Discussion Forum posting for March 20th, these products each have a direct link to the web site. You can see these products demonstrated by viewing the tutorials listed above.

Square Ruler: You will need a square ruler with a 45 degree angle line for squaring up! Check out the options for OmniGrip, Creative Grid (Olfa) or 81990 Fons & Porter Square Up Ruler. I will post a blog about rulers very soon... check the comment wall.

HSTs and QSTs:

81963 Half Square Triangle Sets (smaller set for our lessons) and 81964 (haven't used them but great idea - would be my choice of tools)

81762 Sew Easy Guide (to guide your sewing of diagonal lines, even without drawing them)

90174 Triangulations 3 (useful for when you have lots, very small or odd-sizes; sewn on paper grid and but have to remove paper afterwards)

81907 Perfect Half Square and Quarter Square Ruler

81826 Fons & Porter Half Square and Quarter Square Ruler (cutting and sewing triangles)

81053 Quick Quarter II (used to draw diagonal cutting and sewing lines)

81315 Wonder Cut Ruler (recommend using with bias strips to avoid bias edges on all four sides of HST or QST)

Lessons 4 & 5 Supplies: Just in case you want to order ahead; all are optional. Lesson 5 has paper piecing so you may want to order some foundation paper. Note: you could use it to draw and print your own grids for making HSTs and QSTs if you like that method.

20712 C & T Simple Foundations Translucent Vellum Paper

Carol Doak's Foundation Paper 20824 Letter Size and 21139 Legal Size

90134 Carol Doak Teaches you to Paper Piece DVD (useful if you have never done paper piecing or want a review)

You may want a ruler with 60 degree angle for a surprise optional block...most 6-1/2" x 24" ruler have it.

81849 Fons & Porter Binding Tool (discussed in Ann's Binding Basics tutorial)

81892 Perfect Binding Miter