



Quarter-square triangles

As with many things in patchwork and quilting, there are several ways to make these. Each method is worth mastering so you can choose the appropriate one depending on the application. Here is editor Lynelle Slade's expert how-to for making them.

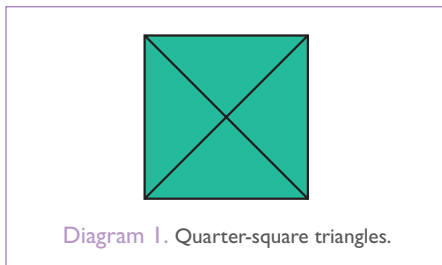


Diagram 1. Quarter-square triangles.

QUARTER-SQUARE TRIANGLES

These have a bias edge on the two shorter sides and the longer edge on the straight of grain, see diagram 1. They are made by cutting a square on both diagonals to yield four quarter-square triangles. To work out the cutting size of the squares, add $1\frac{1}{4}$ in to the finished size of the unit required. There are several methods of cutting and sewing to make quarter-square triangle units.

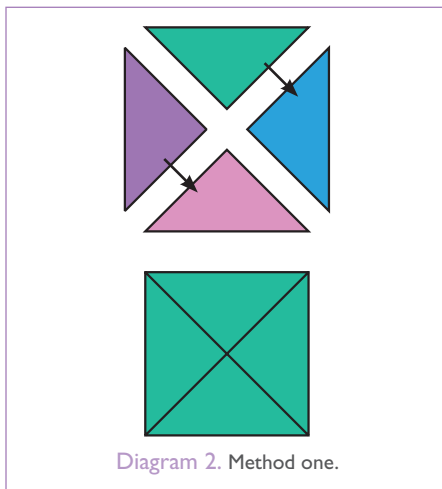


Diagram 2. Method one.

METHOD ONE – CUT EACH SQUARE ON BOTH DIAGONALS

Use this method when a wide variety of colour combinations is required. Referring to diagram 2, cut the square on both diagonals from corner to corner. Join the quarter-square triangles in pairs, pressing the seams in opposite directions, then stitch the pairs together and press the

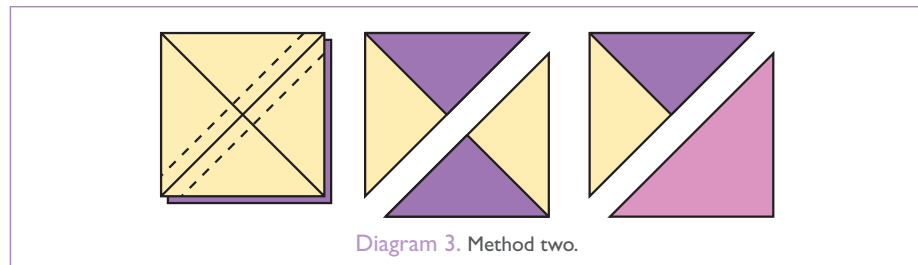


Diagram 3. Method two.

seam. If you are making a large quantity, chain-piece the units to save time.

METHOD TWO – SEWING ON ONE DIAGONAL AND CUTTING ON BOTH

This method can also be used to join the quarter-square triangles to other shapes but it saves time if you have lots to make. Referring to diagram 3, rule two diagonal lines from corner to corner on the wrong side of the lighter print square. Put the square right sides facing with a second one, ensuring the lighter one is on top. Sew a seam $\frac{1}{4}$ in either side of one diagonal line. Cut the squares apart along both ruled lines and press the seams towards the darker fabric. These units can be sewn together to form a square or used to make other units as shown.

METHOD THREE – SEWING ON BOTH DIAGONALS AND CUTTING THE UNITS

This method is particularly timesaving when multiple units of the same colourway are required. Referring to diagram 4, rule two lines from corner to corner on the wrong side of the lighter print square. Pair the squares right sides facing with the lighter square on top. Sew a seam $\frac{1}{4}$ in either side of one ruled line. Cut the squares apart along that line and press the seams towards the darker print.

On the wrong side of the units, extend the drawn line from one side of the square to the other corner as shown. Pair the two pieced squares right sides facing, ensuring

that the same colour triangles sit opposite each other. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ in either side of the drawn line and cut the squares apart. Press the seams well to complete the unit. ❖

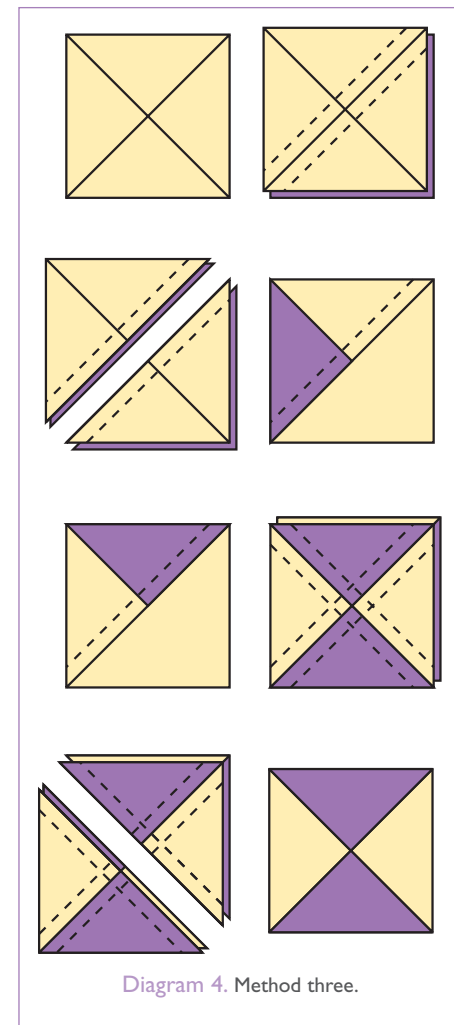


Diagram 4. Method three.