

# HOW TO MAKE LOTS OF HSTS

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Free Tip

<http://carterquilter.wordpress.com/>

*This is the way that I do it. There is no right or wrong about this process. Others use other processes and tools and come out with great HSTs. I simply want to share what works for me.*

*Using the right tools is a must to be able to efficiently make lots of HSTs.*

*My main tools are templates, some that I print out for myself and some that I buy. My other main tool is large, sharp scissors.*

**Scissors -** Using templates can require lots of cutting with scissors. I like to do this while watching TV in the evening. I use larger sized, sharp scissors. You can also cut the templates apart using a rotary cutter.

**If you have problems with carpal tunnel or your hands are weak you may want to consider using another method to make your HSTs. I sometimes use the Wondercut\* ruler and am happy with these HSTs in my projects. This saves you from having to cut through the paper and the fabric.**

## **Why I like templates.**

**I can make lots of HSTs at the same time.**

**If I am careful and sew on the lines and cut on the lines I have perfect HSTs that do NOT have to be trimmed later. This is VERY important to me if I make a quilt that uses 1100 HSTs.**

**I sew my fabric to the templates during the day. In the evenings, while watching TV with DH, I cut them apart, remove the paper, finger press them and trim the triangle corners.**

**It is also VERY easy to make little and cute (1" finished) HSTs that are perfect and that everyone oohs and aahs over.**

## **Triangle Magic\***

**Inexpensive.**

**Efficient use of fabric – little waste.**

**Prints on my home computer.**

**Prints templates for finished size HSTs – 1” to 7” at ¼ “ increments.**

**For example:**

**1” finished HSTs – (40) per sheet of printer paper.**

**2” finished HSTs – (12) per sheet of printer paper.**

## **Triangles on a Roll\***

**Many HSTs from a width of fabric cut.**

**Reasonably priced and I look for sales.**

**Great if I want lots of HSTs in the same two colors.**

**For example:**

**(60) 2” finished HSTs from (2) 6.5” by 42” cuts of fabric.**

## **My Goals**

**To build up an inventory of 6.5" by 9.5" rectangles to be used with my HST templates.**

**To make 2" finished (2.5" unfinished HSTs) (12 per template)**

**To make my HSTs scrappy.**

**To use my Hawaiian fabrics, batik fabrics and light solids.**

*(DH and I made a fabulous trip to Hawaii in 2009 and I now have a wonderful selection of Hawaiian fabrics that I want to use for these HSTs).*

**Possible Color Combinations for My HSTs**

**Hawaiian fabric and lights**

**Batik fabric and lights**

**Hawaiian fabric and batik fabric**

**Use Triangle Magic as my tool for this project.**

## **Cutting My Fabric:**

**Cut a 9" to 9.5" by width of fabric (42"-45") from each of my fabrics.  
If I am using a ¼ yard cut it will be closer to 9".  
9.5" works better with the templates but 9" is okay.**

**Cross cut each of these into 6.5" by 9.5" rectangles.  
Yields 5-6 rectangles per fabric. (I cut 5 and cut the rest into 2.5" squares.)**

**You can also use a FQ.  
Yields (5) 6.5" by 9.5" rectangles per FQ plus extra for 2.5" squares.**

**I save all of my scraps in 2" and 2.5" squares.  
I don't save strips or other cuts.**

**When I have lots of squares I make quilts using my  
Scrappy Split Rail pattern.**

## **Stash for Making My HSTs:**

**The raw ingredients for my HSTs are these 6.5" by 9.5" rectangles.  
I cut all my yardage that I want to use for my HST stash into these  
rectangles.**

**I want to have a large selection of fabrics to work with.  
The scrappier the better.**

**I will only be making HSTs from these rectangles when I decide on the quilt I  
will be making and then only the required HSTs for that quilt.**

**This way I will have much more flexibility when new projects come up..  
I can combine my fabrics in many different color ways depending on my  
pattern.**

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Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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### \* Triangle Magic

[http://www.quiltpro.com/go.php?id=Triangle\\_Magic\\_half\\_mainpage](http://www.quiltpro.com/go.php?id=Triangle_Magic_half_mainpage)

### \*Triangles on a Roll

Google this product. It is sometimes available from eBay and is also available from many vendors on the web and in stores.

### \*Wondercut Ruler

Google this product. It is available from many vendors on the web and in stores.

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