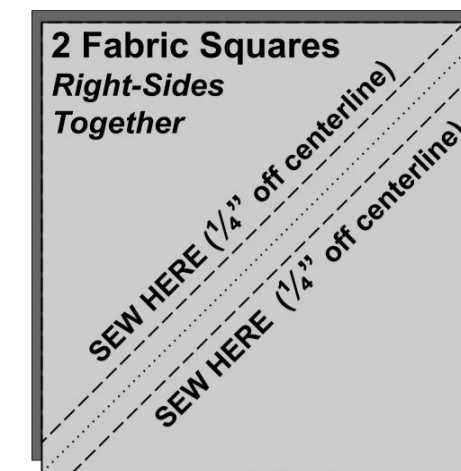
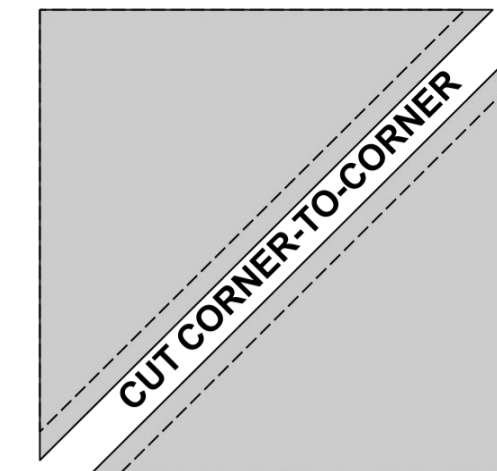


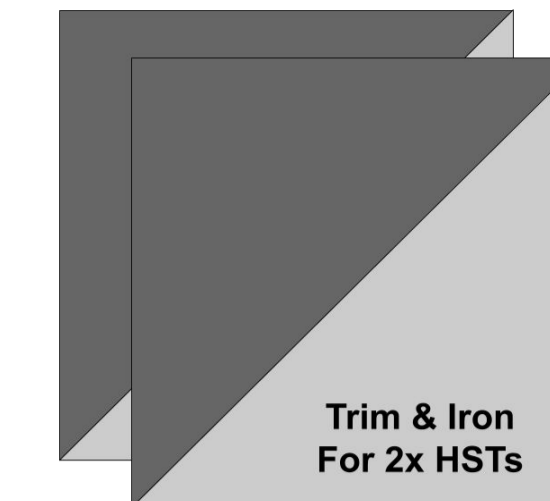
Half Square Triangles (HSTs) Supplemental Instructions: Trimming And Scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " Seams



2 Fabric Squares
Right-Sides
Together
SEW HERE ($\frac{1}{4}$ " off centerline)
SEW HERE ($\frac{1}{4}$ " off centerline)



Cut apart on
diagonal



Trim 2 HSTs to size
& Press Open

Right Sides Together
Sew SCANT $\frac{1}{4}$ " to
either side of diagonal line

Whether you make HSTs 2-at-a-time or 4-at-a-time, each method calls for sewing multiple $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams. We typically recommend sewing these seams as **Scant $\frac{1}{4}$ "**. Why? Most patterns try to minimize waste during the trimming, so the pieces are usually close to the final size. If the pieces are misaligned or the seam is too heavy ($>\frac{1}{4}$ "), the HST will not open to full size! The scant seam just gives a little 'wiggle room'.

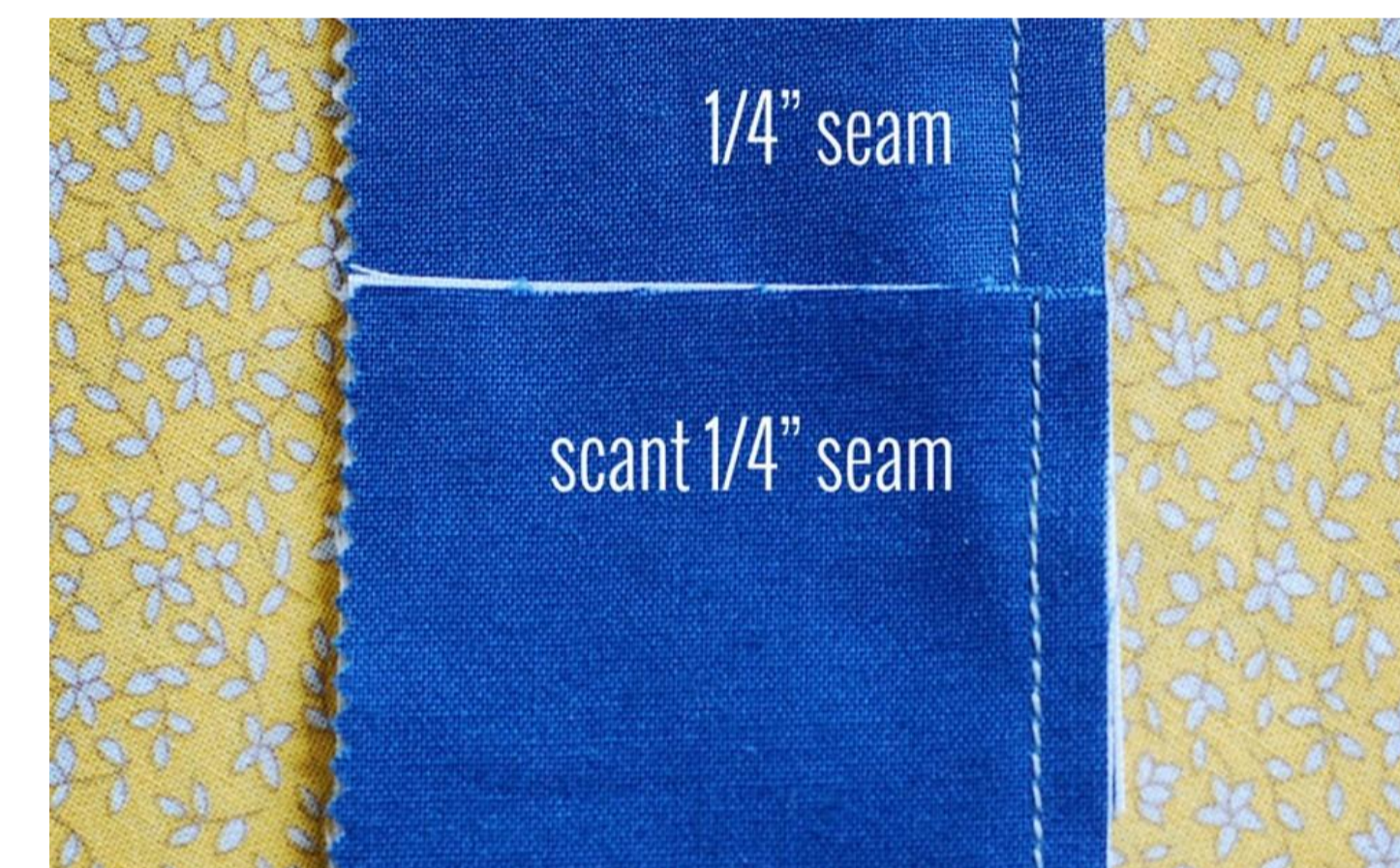
What's a SCANT $\frac{1}{4}$ " inch seam??

Text & Photo Courtesy of www.keepnuinstitchesquilting.com

A Scant Quarter Inch is a measurement that is usually 1 to 2 thread-width narrower than an exact Quarter Inch.

So, if you use an exact quarter inch allowance, you will be sewing into the finished piece by 1 to 2 threads width too much.

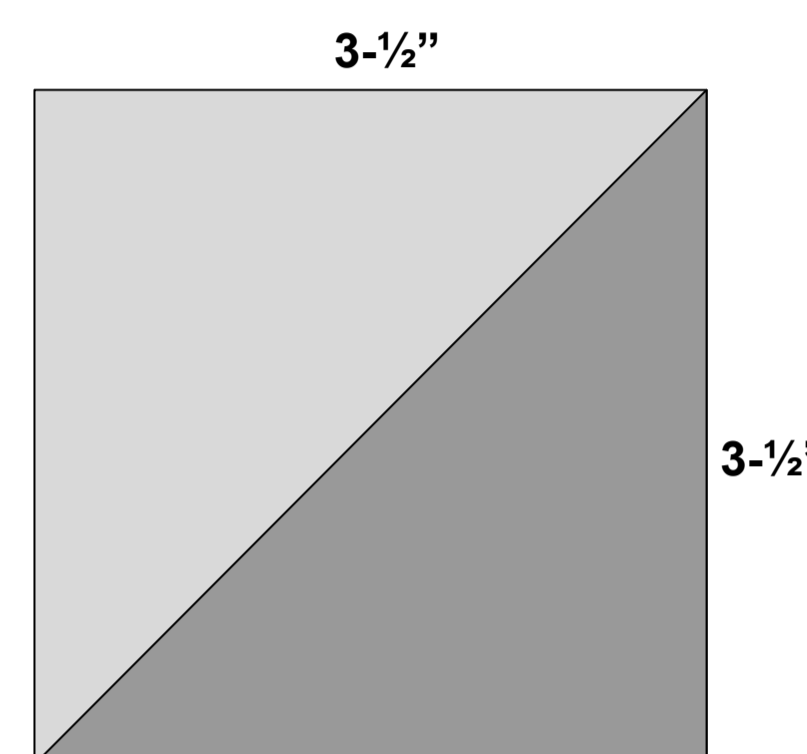
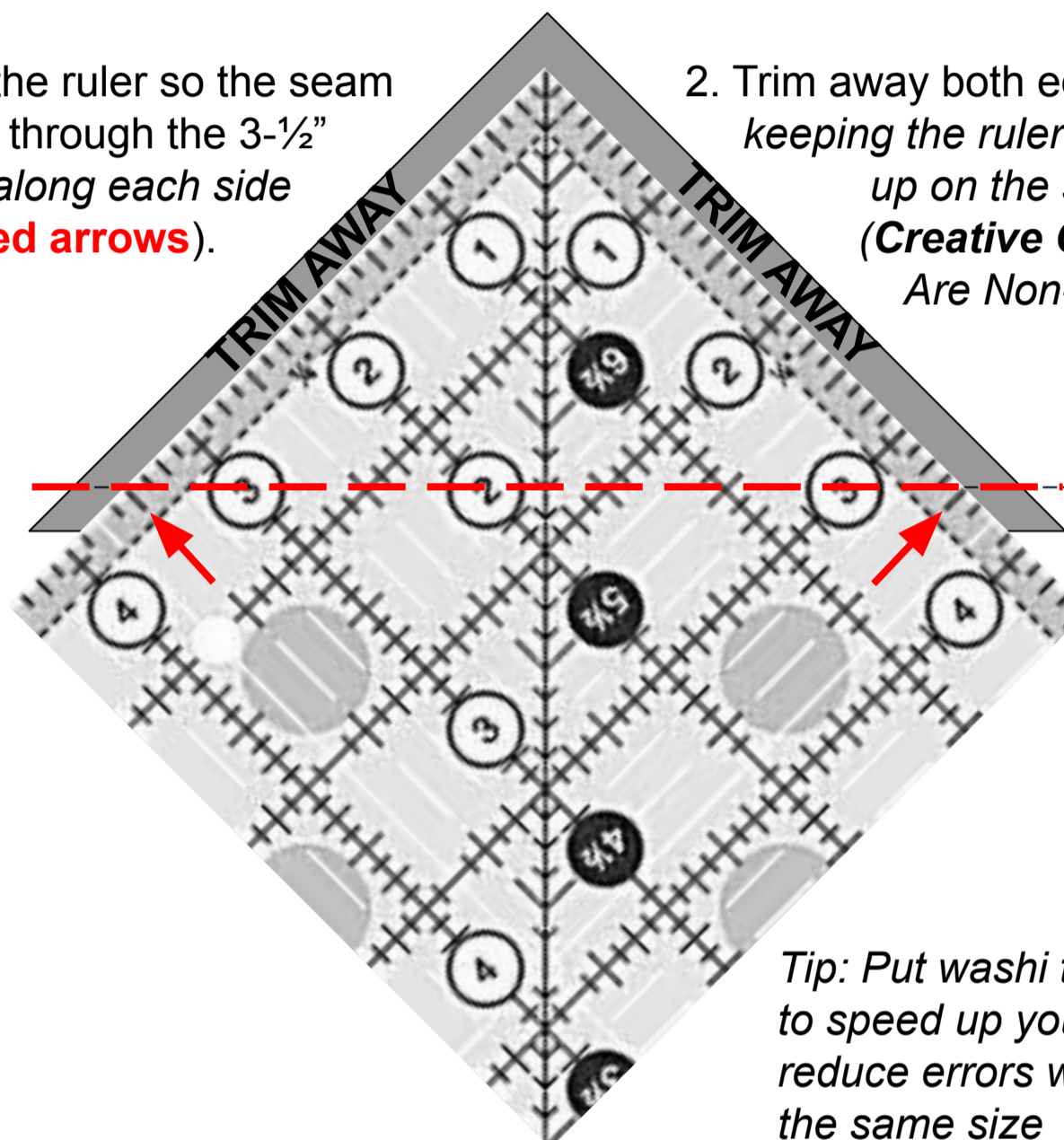
Keep in mind the Scant $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam is also determined by the type/weight of fabric and size of thread you're using to sew together your quilt pieces.



HST Trimming - Option 1 - Before Pressing

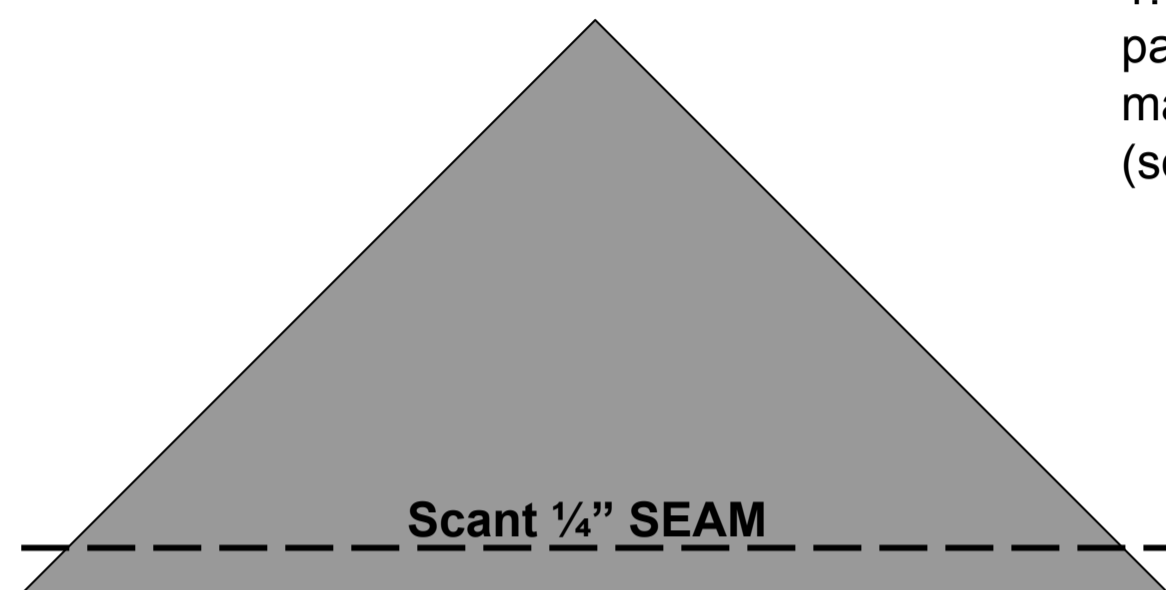
1. Lay the ruler so the seam passes through the 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ " marks along each side (see **Red arrows**).

2. Trim away both edges, keeping the ruler lined up on the seam (**Creative Grids Are Non-slip!**)



3. Press finished HST open - seam to the DARK side (Or press OPEN)

Tip: Put washi tape at the ruler markings, to speed up your repeat placement and to reduce errors when cutting many HSTs of the same size



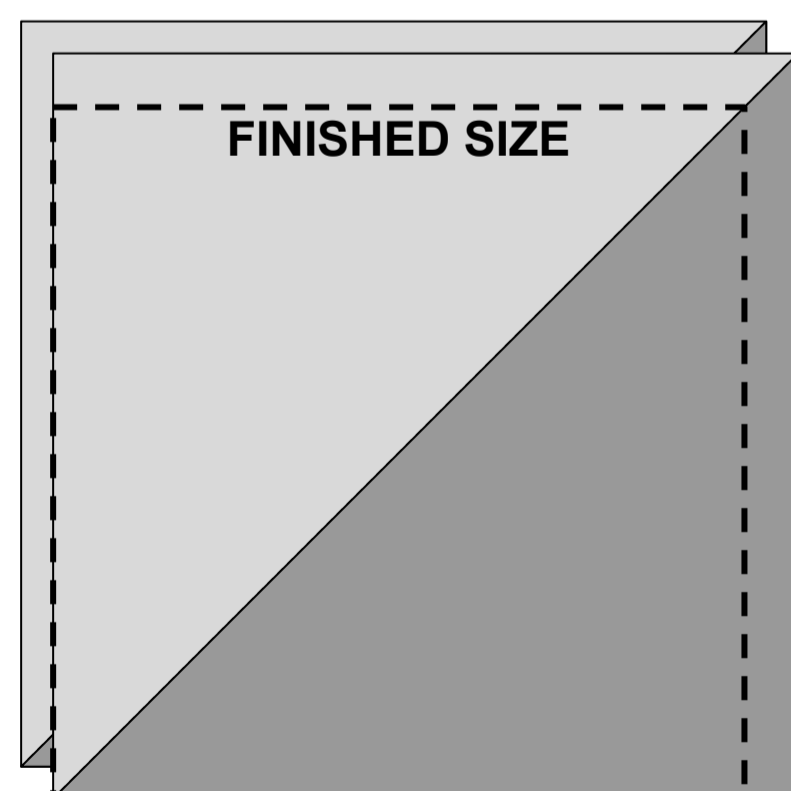
After Cutting HSTs apart, the HST edges are usually about $\frac{1}{8}$ "- $\frac{1}{4}$ " longer than needed.

To square these up to 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ ":
Do not press the HST open yet

****NOTE: These dimensions are specific to 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ " HSTs, but the same techniques can be applied atvarious HST sizes.**

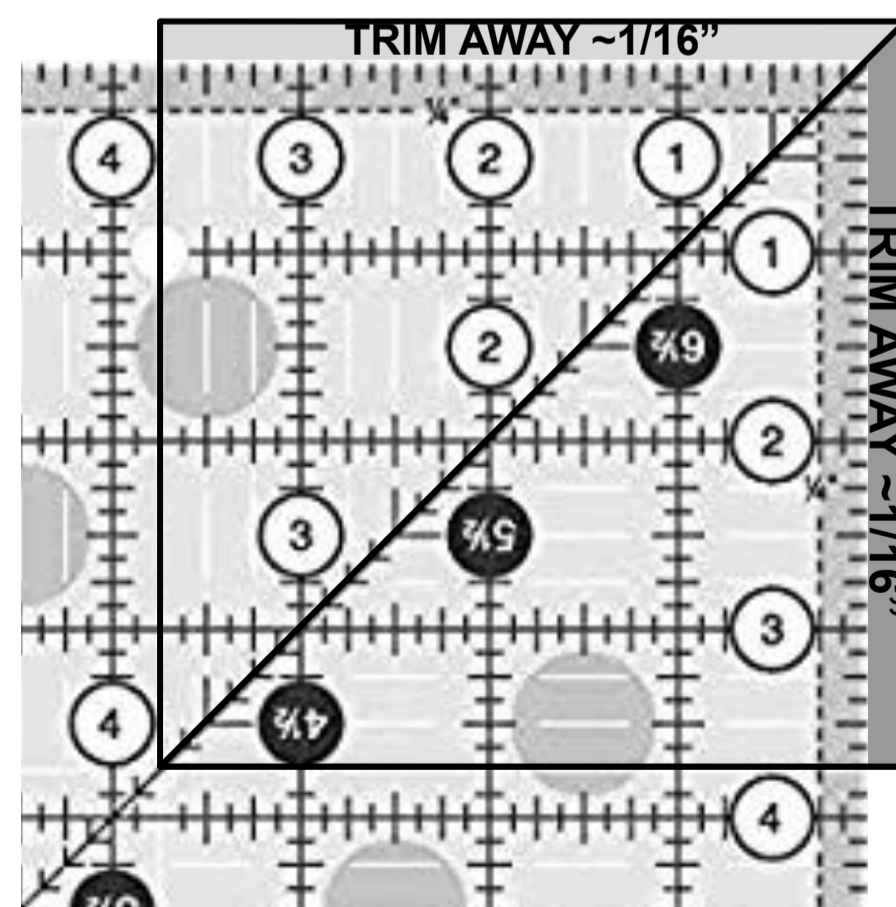
HST Trimming - Option 2 - After Pressing

*NOTE: The **BLOC-LOC** HST rulers are great for this! You can feel it lock on to the diagonal seam!
Buy one at Busy Bee Quilts today!

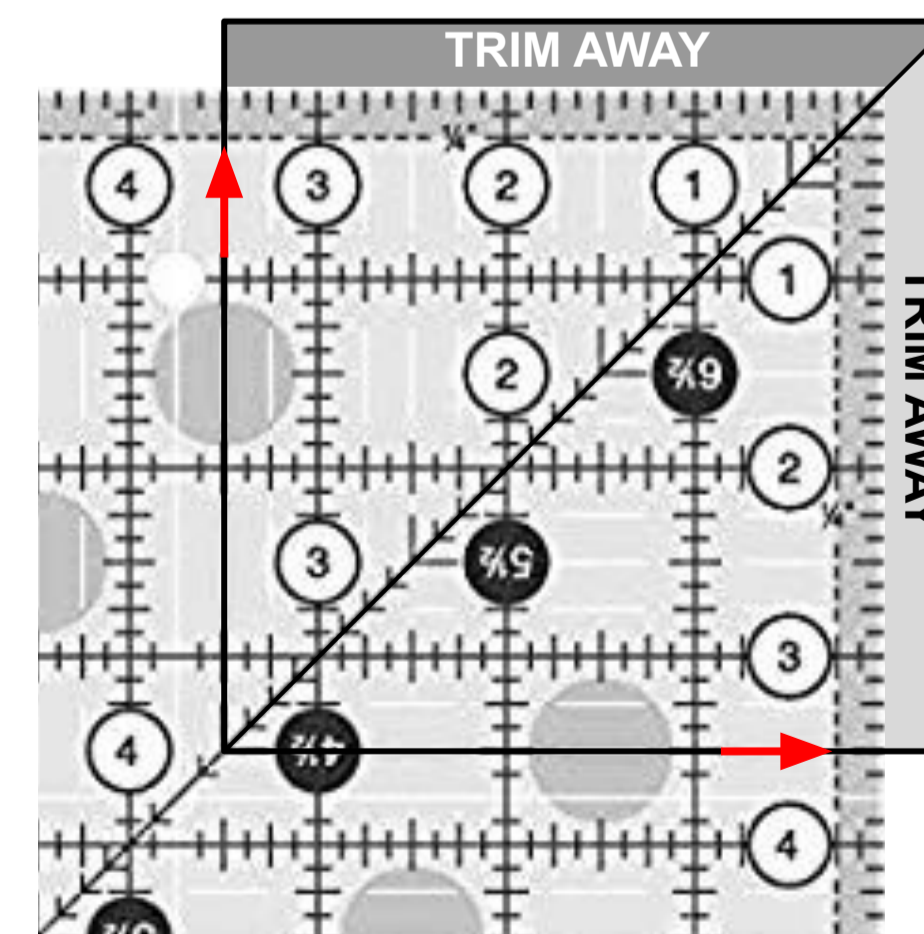


After Cutting HSTs apart, the HST edges are usually about $\frac{1}{8}$ "- $\frac{1}{4}$ " longer than needed.

Let's square these up to
3- $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ "



1. Lay the 45-deg line of your ruler along the 45-deg seam of your HST.
2. Leave a small amount of fabric showing along both edges ($\frac{1}{16}$ " or so)
3. Trim away the $\frac{1}{16}$ " edges to square up



4. Turn the HST around 180-degrees
5. Again, lay the 45-deg line of your ruler along the 45-deg seam of your HST.
6. Align HST to 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ " mark along both edges (**Red Arrows**).
7. Trim away both edges ($\sim\frac{1}{4}$ ") - Finished size: 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ "

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