



JANUARY 2007 BLOCK OF THE MONTH

HST Challenge

Turn in at February meeting

Techniques: Laying out 16 HSTs (half-square triangle patches) into the block of your choice, with 4 HSTs in each of 4 rows. Make your HSTs the traditional way or try the sew-on-paper method (templates available only at the GSQ meeting; you can also use Thangles® or other pre-printed HST paper for 2-inch finished half-square triangles).

Block size: 8-1/2 unfinished

Colors: *Dark:* A small or medium-scale print, any colors. *Light:* cream, taupe or beige (solid, tone-on-tone or light print)

Cutting:

- Traditional HSTs: Cut eight (8) 2-7/8-inch squares of light and eight (8) 2-7/8-inch squares of dark
- Using sew-on-paper method: Cut one (1) 6-inch wide strip of DARK and one (1) 6-inch wide strip of LIGHT, approximately 13 inches long.

Construction:

- TRADITIONAL: Put one dark square right side together with one light square. Draw a line diagonally across light square. Sew ¼-inch on either side of the drawn line. Cut on drawn line. Makes 2 HSTs. Repeat until you have 16 HSTs. Do not press seams yet. Wait until you've decided on how you want to lay out the 16 HST patches.
- SEW-ON-PAPER METHOD: Cut out paper templates, leaving about ¼-inch of paper all the way around. Put dark and light 6-inch strips right sides together and pin paper templates to the light side. **Sew** on the dotted lines. **Cut** on the solid lines. If you plan it right, you can start sewing at one edge and sew continually along all the dotted lines until you reach the end of the template. You may need to sew "outside" the block to turn corners and you can also sew outside the template to get to the second template. Remove the paper AFTER you have cut all the solid lines. The two templates attached make a total of **24** HSTs; you will only need to make 16, which is 1 complete template and 1/3 of the second template.

Laying Out Your Block:

There are many ways to put 16 HSTs into a block (here are a few). Play around with the layout until you get one you like; then plan your pressing strategy so that the first and third rows are pressed to the left and the second and fourth rows are pressed to the right.

