

Valentine's Day Mini Mystery Quilt - Step 2

By Kathleen Tracy

Now we're going to take a few of the pieces you cut from Step 1 and make a little magic. Pull out the four 3 ¼" light squares and the four 3 ¼" red squares. Let's make some hourglass units.

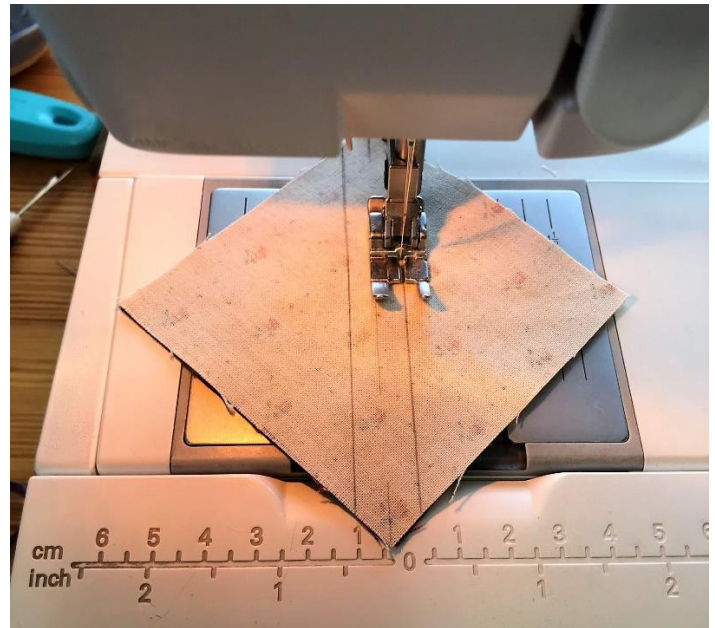
There are a couple of different ways to make the hourglass unit. The simplest way is to just cut the squares into triangles and sew them together (see below). The other, more popular, method is to layer two fabric squares and sew first before you cut. Both ways will give you the same result. It all depends upon which one you find easiest to do.

Here's the layering method -

1. Layer a light 3 ¼" square with a red 3 ¼" square, right sides together. Draw a diagonal line from one corner to the opposite corner and sew ¼" away from the line on both sides. I'm not great at accurately eyeballing the sewing lines so I always draw a line on both sides of the center with my nifty Quilters Quick Quarter ruler and then sew on the line.. Ask for this tool at your local quilt shop or try a shop online or Amazon. I use this ruler for making half-square triangles as well.



Layer two squares right sides together.



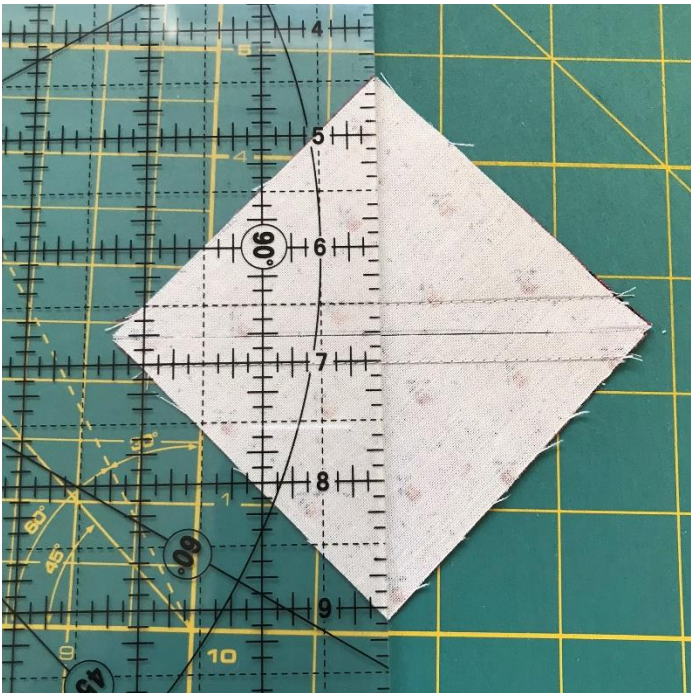
Sew on both lines ¼" away from center diagonal line.



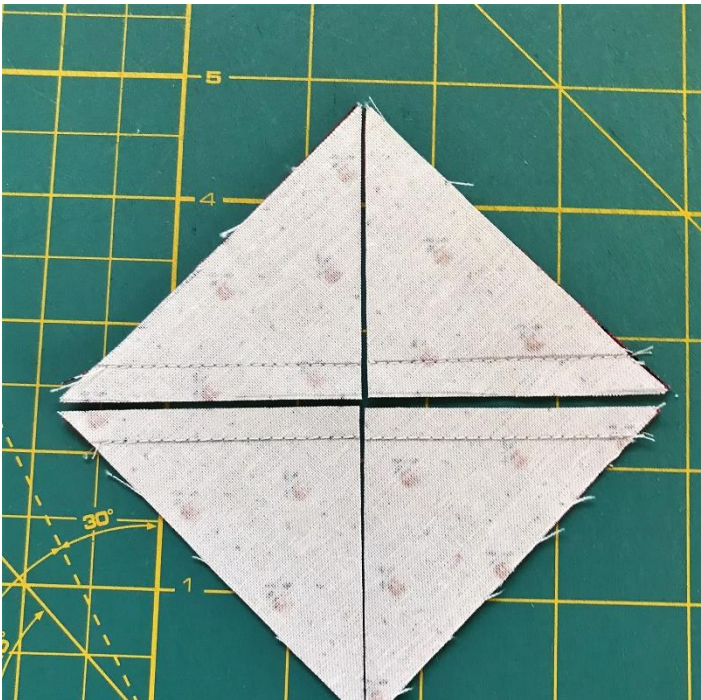
Here's what your squares look like when sewn.



Cut on the middle drawn line.



Cut once more on the diagonal.



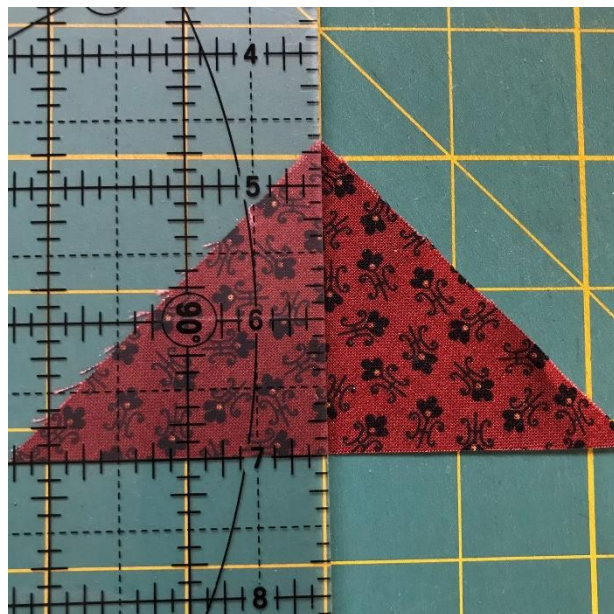
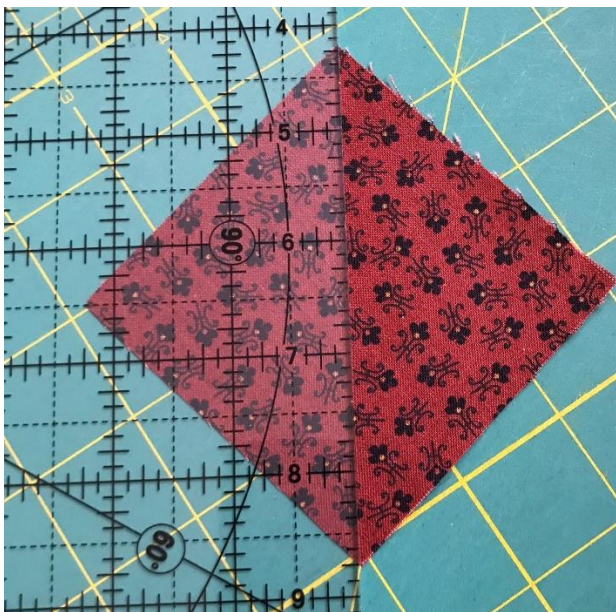
This gives you four sewn triangle sections.



Press the four sections open, trim and sew these together in pairs to make two hourglass units. Layer and sew the remaining $3\frac{1}{4}$ " squares (light and red) in the same way to make **8 hourglass units**.

Here's another way to make the hourglass units -

1. Cut each $3\frac{1}{4}$ " square (red and light) **TWICE** on the diagonal as shown below. Line up the edges and points with your ruler to get an exact cut.



Cut each square once on the diagonal. Then, cut each half on the diagonal again. You should have 4 equal triangles. Do this for the four red squares and the four light squares.



2. Pair one light triangle with one red triangle and sew together EXACTLY as shown, placing right angles together and sewing along that edge. Stitch the remaining triangles together in the same way using an accurate 1/4 " seam. You should have **16 triangle units**.



Make 16.



I press my seams open using a little dab of water.



Sew two units together.



3. Sew the two pieces together to make an hourglass unit. Press open and trim to a 2 ½" square.
4. Cut and sew the remaining 3 ¼" squares (light and red) to make **8 hourglass units**.

We'll make the blocks next week.

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