

Half Square Triangles

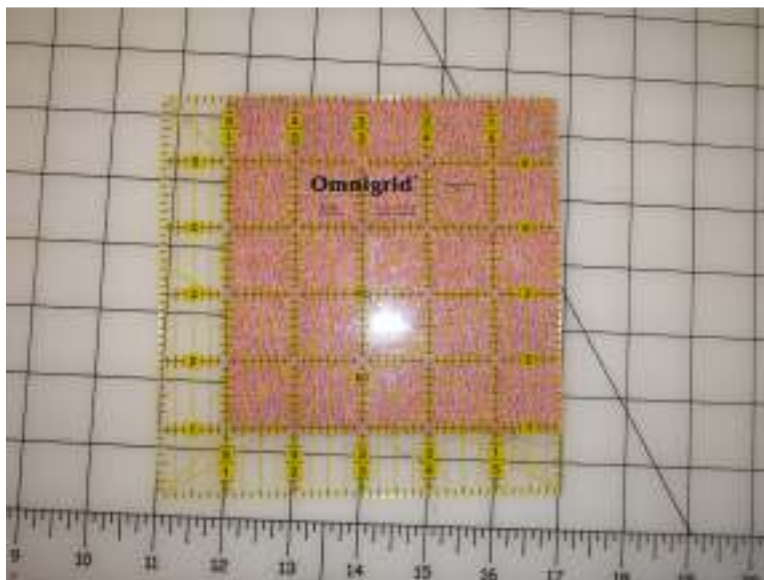
By Michelle (mbar03)

Okay, here's my attempt to explain how to do half-square triangles. If anything is unclear, PLEASE let me know, and I'll try to explain it better.

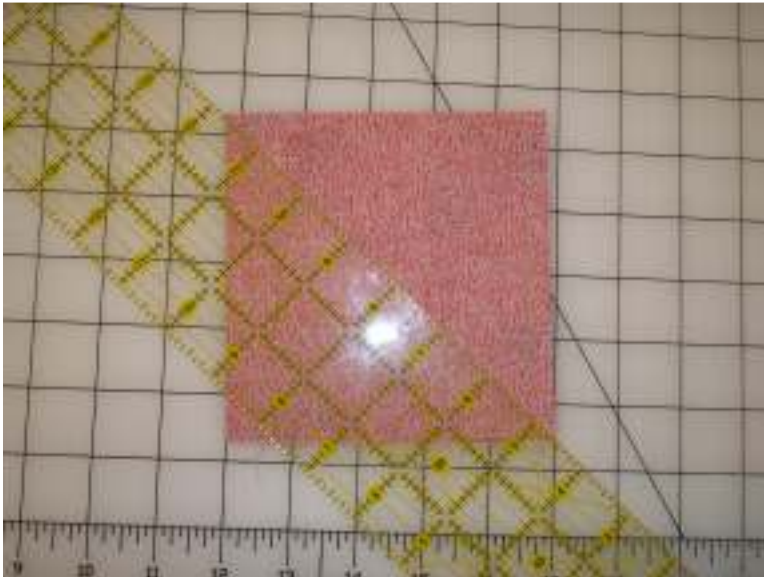
First, take the two fabrics that you are using and place them right sides together.



Since we want our finished squares to be 4 ½", I'm going to cut 5" squares – this will give us some extra fabric to cut off (but not too much).



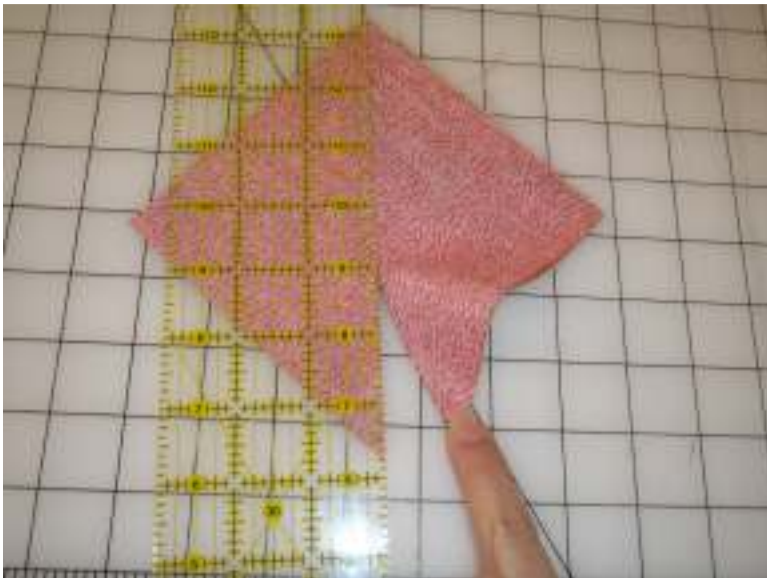
Then we are going to make a line from corner to corner.



Now, we need to sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " from EACH side of the line. You can see (hopefully) in the picture where I have already sewn down one side $\frac{1}{4}$ " from my drawn line, now I'm sewing $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the other side.



After we have done that, we cut up the line that we have drawn.



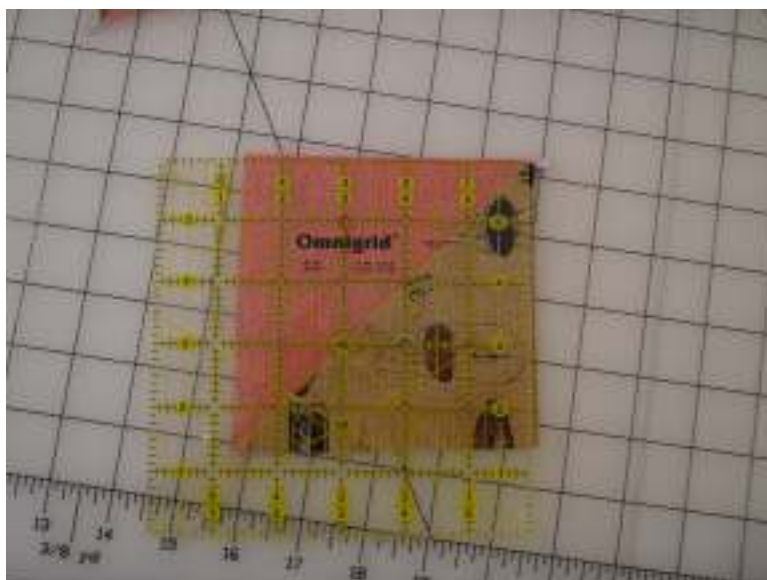
Now we have two triangles.



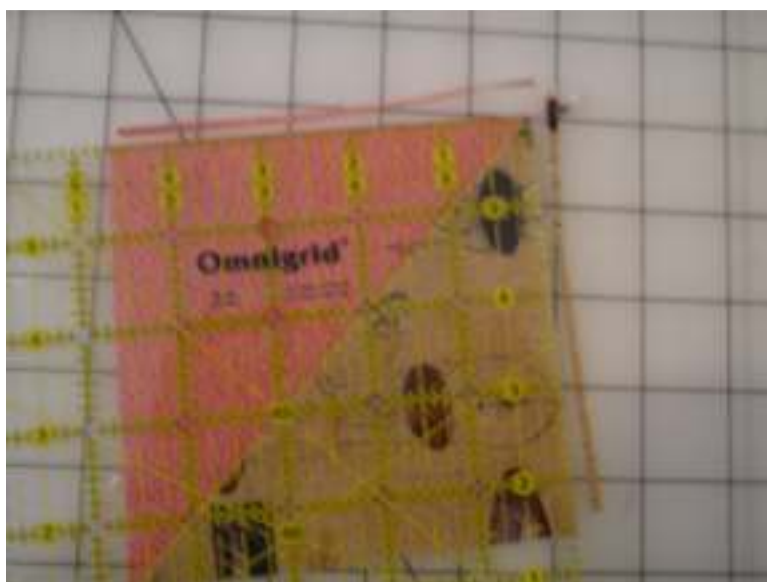
We need to press them open to get squares.



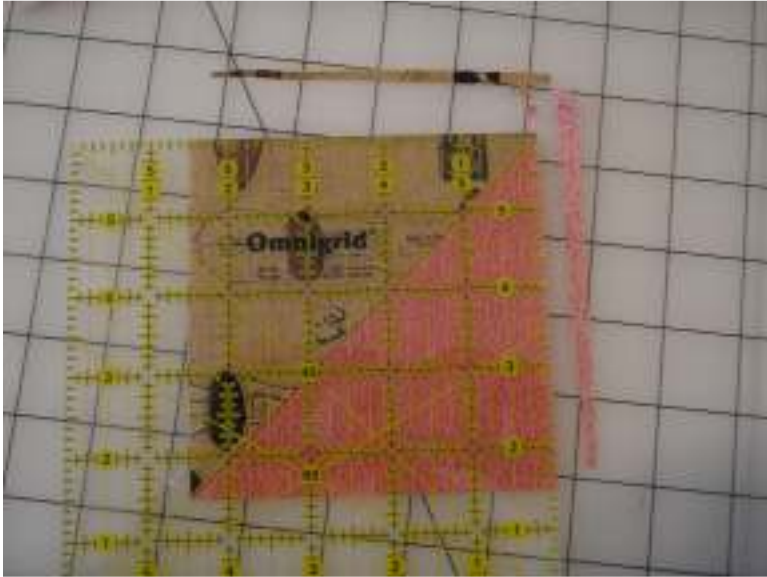
But they're not the right size yet. So take them to your cutting board and put your ruler on them. If you have a quilter's ruler, there will be a diagonal line on the ruler – line that up with the center seam. Can you see that in the picture?



Now, here's a tricky part. Don't line up the bottom on the 4 1/2" line, make it a little bigger and trim off the excess fabric on the two sides that you can see.



Now, flip the square around and THIS time, line up the two sides that you have cut on the 4 1/2" lines, with the diagonal line down the center seam, and cut.



You should now have two 4 ½" squares!

