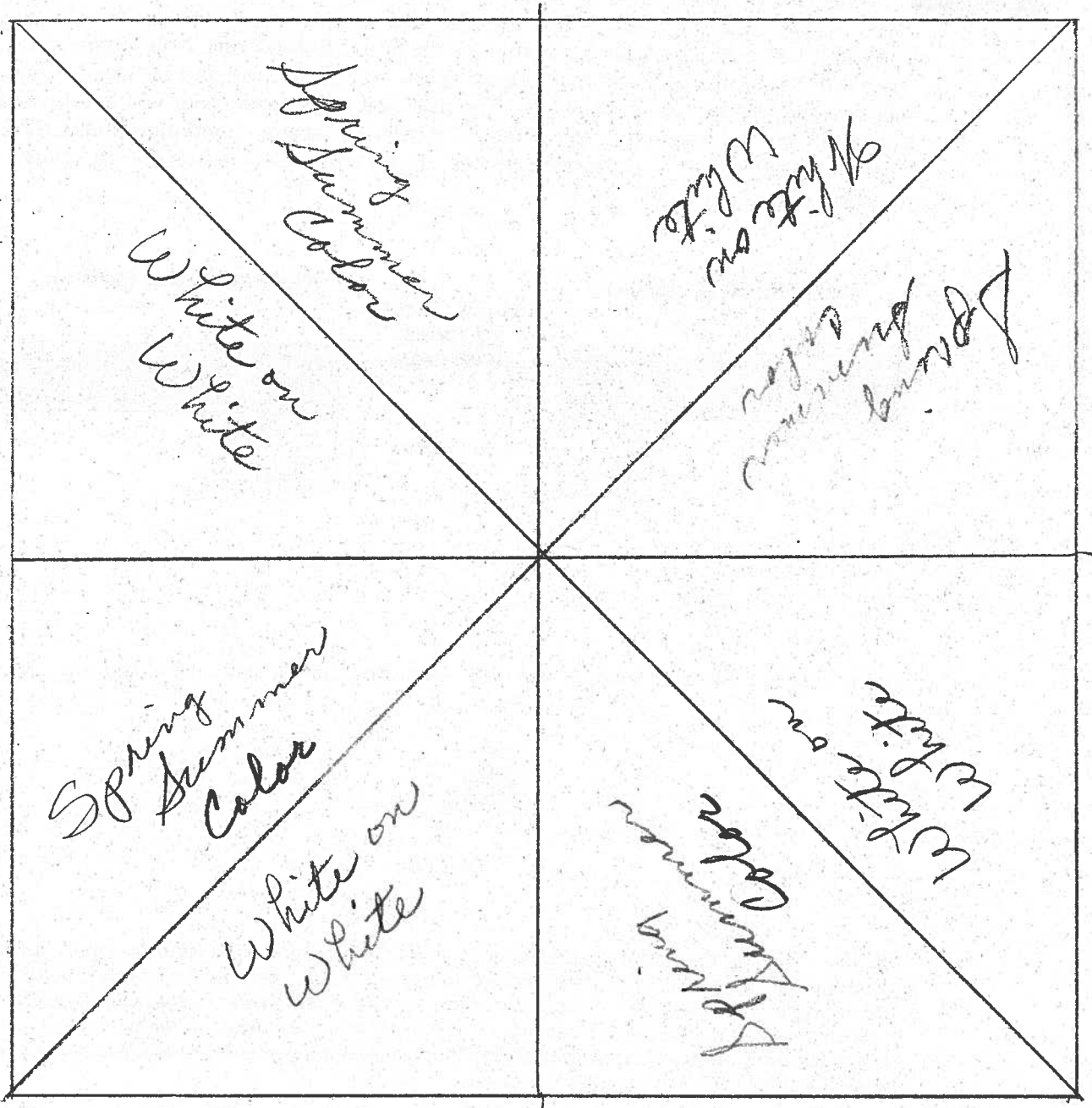


Pin Wheel Block for Raffle Basket



Please use white on white
and spring + summer colors.
Make sure the pin wheel goes
in the direction illustrated.

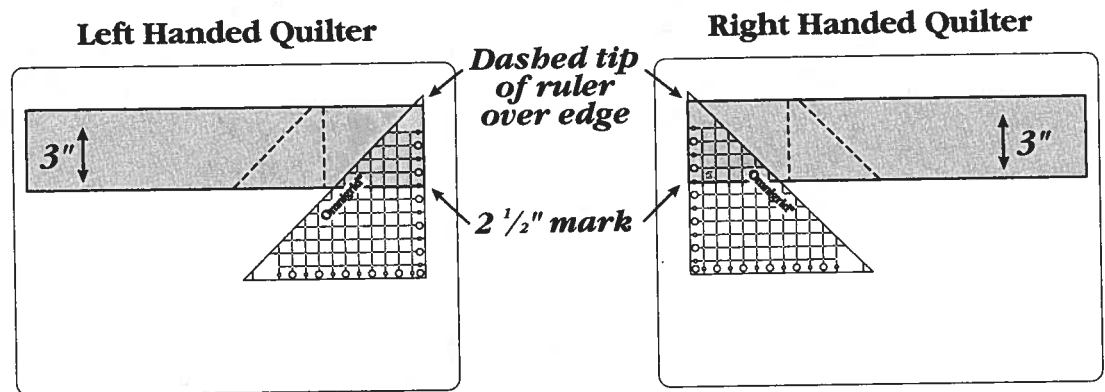
1 1/2" unfinished

Example: Desired finished square: 2 1/2"

Size of the strip to cut: 3"

$$2 \frac{1}{2}'' + \frac{1}{2}'' = 3''$$

STEP ONE: Place one of the 3" strips on the mat. "Square Up" the short edge of the strip. Next, position the ruler on the strip with the dashed tip of the ruler over the top edge and the 2 1/2" marking along the bottom of the strip. Rotary cut. Now, rotate the ruler 180°. Line up the 2 1/2" marking along the top of the strip and the dashed line will be along the bottom of the strip. The diagonal edge of the ruler will line up with the freshly cut diagonal edge of the fabric. Rotary cut again. Continue rotating the ruler every other time to cut more triangles. Don't forget to occasionally "resquare" the short end of the strip.



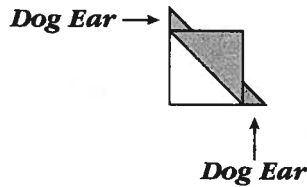
You will notice that this triangle has only one "dog ear" at one end of the triangle.



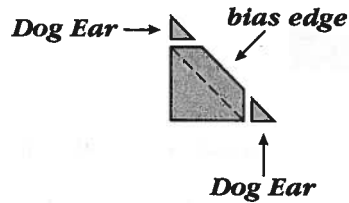
NOTE: A great time saver when using Method #1 or Method #2 is to cut two strips of fabric (a light strip and a dark strip of the desired colors) and place them right sides together making sure all edges align perfectly. (Have the wrong side of the light fabric facing you. It will be easier on your eyes when rotary cutting). Position the ruler according to the method you are using and start cutting. No additional handling is needed when you are ready to sew the triangles together. They are already matched!

After sewing the two triangles together along the long bias edge and pressing, you will notice the two triangles have what quilters call "dog ears" at the opposite 45° ends. Often times the pressed squares seem elongated, not true squares. To prevent the square from becoming elongated after sewing, you should always cut the dog ears off first. Then press.

A sewn and pressed square with dog ears attached.

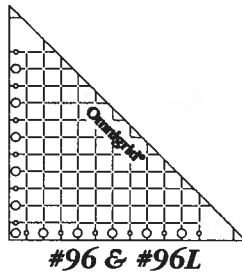


A sewn square with the dog ears cut off before pressing.



NOTE: Many times while cutting a square in half diagonally, the square would slip at the last 1/2" of cutting and I would not have a true diagonal (45°) cut. I have had countless students tell me the same thing. After experimenting, I finally discovered that I was not stabilizing the square under the ruler. Now I always place my first finger tip on top of the ruler, directly over the fabric triangle. This way the square cannot move, because of the pressure on the ruler from my finger tip.

METHOD #2



Method #2 uses one of two new innovative rulers by Omnigrd®. They are called #96 and #96L - The Half Square Ruler. The #96 ruler is half of a 6" square and allows you to cut up to 6" triangles. The #96L is half of an 8" square and allows you to cut up to 8" triangles.

What is so wonderful about these rulers is that the guesswork has been taken out of cutting a half square triangle because the seam allowances are "built into" the rulers.

Add on seam allowance to the FINISHED size of a Square from which two Half Square Triangles will be cut:

Add 1/2" to the height/width (The words height and width are interchangeable)

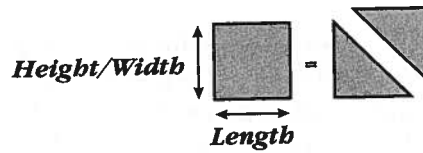
NOTE: Another way of determining the height/width of the strip is to simply measure from the dashed line near the top of the ruler to the bottom line of the desired size.

Continued



CUTTING A HALF SQUARE TRIANGLE

A half square triangle is simply a square cut in half diagonally, once. It is one of the most widely used shapes in quilting. I will share two different methods with you for cutting this shape.



METHOD #1

Add on seam allowance to the FINISHED size of a Square from which two Half Square Triangles will be cut:

Add 7/8" to the height/width (The words height and width are interchangeable)

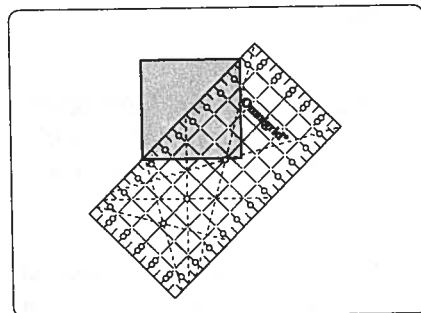
Add 7/8" to the length

Example: Desired finished square: 2 1/8"

Size of square to cut: 3"
 $2 \frac{1}{8} + \frac{7}{8} = 3$

STEP ONE: Place one of the previously cut 3" squares on the mat. Now place the ruler diagonally over the square. Make absolutely sure that the ruler crosses the opposite corners perfectly. Rotary cut. You will have two triangles.

Left Handed Quilter



Right Handed Quilter

