

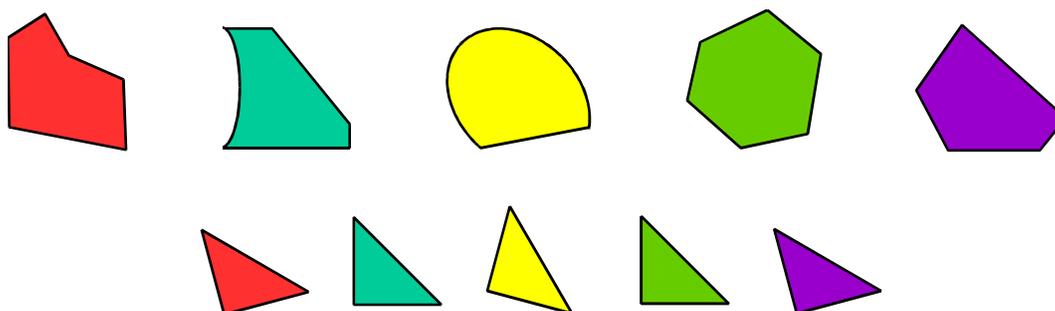
Free! Downloadable Block and Quilt Patterns for the ScrapMaster™ Ruler,

*Judy Hopkins' cool tool for cutting perfect half-square triangles
in an assortment of useful sizes from irregularly-shaped scraps*

Most modern quiltmakers started quilting without the benefit of a scrap bag, a fabric source that was critical to the creation of many early quilts. Using modern tools and quick cutting and piecing techniques, quilters of our generation learned to capture the flavor of the scrap quilt by combining a large assortment of pieces cut from purchased or "collected" yardage. As we made more quilts, we accumulated more scraps—but we found that our high-tech tools and efficient cutting methods were often useless in the face of an assortment of small, irregularly-shaped pieces of fabric.

Faced with a daunting accumulation of scraps and limited time with which to deal with them, I started looking for ways to apply contemporary cutting methods to scrap fabrics. The result of my efforts was the ScrapMaster™, a tool for quick-cutting half-square triangles in an assortment of useful sizes from odd-shaped scraps.

Many blocks and quilts contain units made from half-square triangles. The downloadable ScrapMaster patterns feature blocks and quilts that are made from scrap half-square triangles and other simple shapes that can be quick-cut from scraps or yardage. The patterns include cutting and piecing instructions for the blocks, plus suggested quilt plans in several different sizes. With these fun, free patterns and the ScrapMaster™ ruler, you can transform your scraps into charming, classic quilts.



Using the ScrapMaster Patterns

*Directions for using the ScrapMaster™
ruler are packaged with the ruler.*

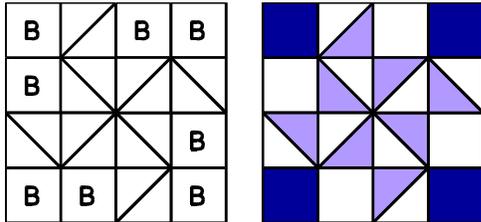
Half-square triangles up to 3" (finished) can be cut from scraps using the ScrapMaster ruler. Larger block pieces and setting pieces can be cut from scraps or from purchased or collected fabrics

To quick-cut larger pieces, you'll need a 6" or 8" square cutting ruler marked in 1/8" increments. You may also need a 12" or 15" square cutting ruler, and a long cutting ruler.

continued on the next page

Understanding the Block Drawings

In each pattern, the first block drawing is unshaded and includes letter designations for all pieces except the smallest triangles in the block. The second drawing is shaded to indicate value placement.



Piecing diagrams are included as part of the instructions.

Choosing and Combining Fabrics

Some block patterns call for an assortment of light and dark fabrics, others for a combination of lights, mediums and darks. Your fabric and color choices will depend on what's available in your scrap bag. The shaded outline may show only one or two "fabrics" for a particular value range; because you'll be working with scraps, you may be using a number of different fabrics to represent a single value. When cutting the pieces shown as "dark" in the shaded outlines, for example, you can use two, three, or ten different dark fabrics. These might be all the same color (like an assortment of dark blues) or different colors of the same value (like a combination of dark blues, greens, and browns).

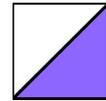
It's difficult—and not really desirable—to maintain consistency in value and contrast in a scrap-bag quilt. Your "light" fabrics may range from light to medium; your "dark" fabrics from medium to dark. Value is relative: if you use just lights and mediums, the mediums will read as dark; if you use just mediums and darks, the mediums will read as lights. Contrast may vary from block to block; the pattern may stand out more in some areas than in others. Remember, much of the charm of the scrap quilt lies in its unstudied variety. Simply do the best you can with what you have and enjoy the inconsistencies and contradictions that will invariably result.

Cutting

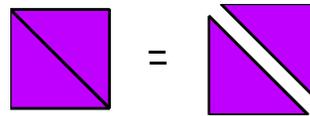
The cutting instructions for most of the patterns yield enough pieces to make a single block. For some patterns—Grape Basket, for example—it's more efficient to cut the pieces for two blocks simultaneously.

All cutting measurements include 1/4" seam allowances; do not add seam allowances to the dimensions given.

Cutting directions for the smallest half-square triangles appear first, often followed by an instruction to join some or all of the triangles into half-square triangle units, as shown at right.



Next come cutting instructions for the other block pieces, keyed to the lettered shapes in the unshaded block outline. You'll need to use a different cutting guide to cut squares and rectangles; the ScrapMaster is not marked for cutting these shapes. When the block includes half-square triangles too large to be cut with the ScrapMaster, you'll be told to cut a square and divide it on the diagonal, as shown:



These patterns include instructions for quilts in anywhere from three to five common sizes—crib, nap, twin, double and queen. The smallest-size quilt is illustrated with each pattern.

The quilt instructions spell out the block and setting piece requirements for each size quilt. Pertinent cutting dimensions for setting pieces are given with the individual quilt instructions; when the setting pieces are the same for all quilt sizes, those cutting dimensions appear below the block piecing diagrams. For quilts that are set on point, setting triangles are cut from squares. For corner triangles, cut two squares the given size and divide them once on the diagonal as shown above. For side triangles, cut square the proper size and divide them twice on the diagonal, as shown:

