



## How to Series with

## Judie Bellingham

### Definition:

**A Half Square Triangle Unit (HSTU) is made up of two triangles of different colored fabric, sewn together to form a square.**

The method that is discussed here is very accurate and easy. It's the Sew before you Cut method.

The benefit of making HSTU's this way is that sewing on the cut bias is avoided, which inevitably causes the fabric to stretch.

### Here's How:

1. cut one square of light value fabric measuring  $5 \frac{7}{8}$ " square.
2. cut one square of dark value fabric measuring  $5 \frac{7}{8}$ " square.
3. place one light fabric square onto a dark fabric square, right sides together and mark a pencil line on the light fabric diagonally from corner to opposite corner. See diagram at right.

*Tip: Lightly spray on the right sides of each square, and press these squares together with a hot iron. The spray starch holds the squares together, avoiding pinning and possibly skewing the two blocks whilst you sew.*

4. sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam accurately on both sides of the drawn line. See diagram at right.
5. using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut on the pencil line to form two Half Square Triangle Units.

Two Half Square Triangle Units measuring 5" square will be made.

### FORMULA for making Half Square Triangle Units:

The formula for making HSTU is to **add  $\frac{7}{8}$ "** to the unfinished measurement. For example if the instructions call for a HSTU that is 5" unfinished, then cut the fabric squares  **$5 \frac{7}{8}$ "**.

