

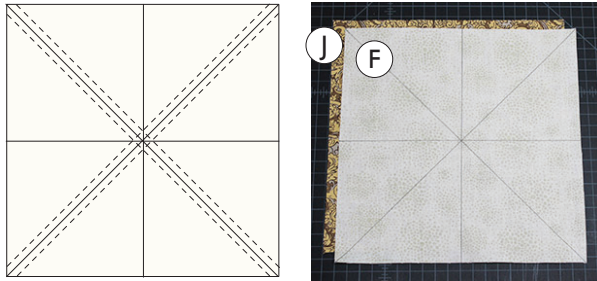
# Part 2 Notes

## HSTs - Method 2:

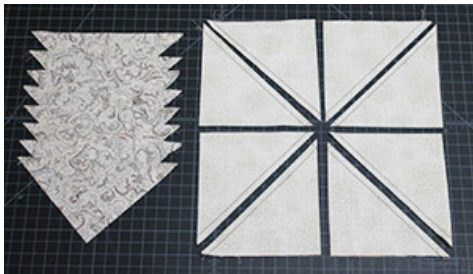
This alternate method for making HSTs is similar to Method 1 described in Part 1, except eight HSTs are made at one time instead of two. The squares are slightly oversized to allow for easier cutting, squaring up and precision.

Here is the math: Adding 1" to the 4" finished size of the HSTs makes a 5" square. A 2 x 2 grid of 5" squares is a 10" square.

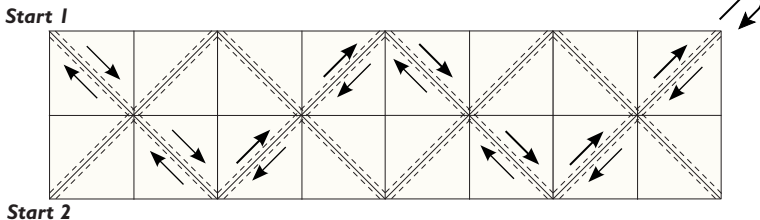
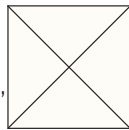
Draw a centered vertical and horizontal line (at 5"). Draw two diagonal lines from corner-to-corner. You may draw the sewing lines 1/4" away on each side or follow the diagonal line with the edge of a 1/4" presser foot to sew. Lay an **F** on a **J**.



Sew on each side of the diagonal lines (dashed), 1/4" away from the center line (solid). Cut on the center diagonal lines (solid). Without moving any sections out of place, cut on the vertical and horizontal lines (solid). Each pair of 10" squares makes eight HSTs.

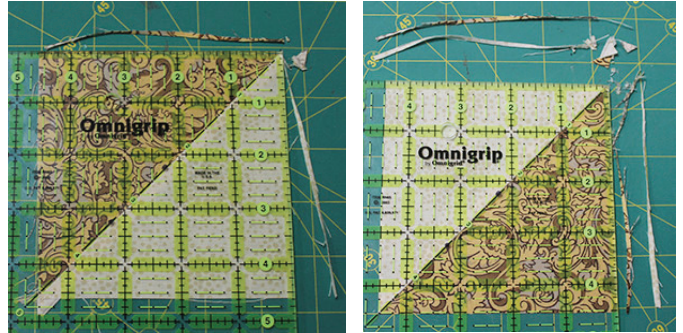


For those of you who detest marking lines, draw only the center diagonal lines, use your 1/4" foot as a guide to sew on each side of the marked line, and cut the horizontal and vertical lines at the 5" using lines on your ruler. That is only two lines for eight HSTs! You can also draw lines (dashed lines can be omitted) for four 10" squares across the width of fabric and sew continuously to make thirty-two HSTs at a time.



**Note:** In Part 1, Step 5, the seam allowance was pressed away from the background fabric. For the HSTs in Part 2, Step 6, press the seam allowances toward the background fabric so the HSTs will nest when joined.

Square up to 4-1/2" square following the process in Part 1. Trim two sides and rotate to trim the other two sides, keeping the 45° angle line on the seam and the seam precisely in the corners.



A cutting mat that rotates can facilitate the squaring up of HSTs.



**Olfa Rotary Cutting Mat**



**Round-About 3 Piece Set by Martelli Enterprises**



## Fussy Cutting:

Fussy cutting is a great way to focus on a design in a fabric. For this quilt, fussy cutting is optional, but the repetition of the highlighted design will add visual interest. Either the same design or an assortment of designs may be fussy cut.

The fussy cut squares consist of an image centered in the piece to be cut, often from the focal fabric. For the fabric used in the Mystery 2014 pattern, the large off-white flowers in Fabric 4 really stood out, so they were centered in the **K** and **L** pieces. This was easily accomplished with the use of a square ruler.

The first steps are to identify the designs to be fussy cut, count how many you need, and plan the placement, preferably using a square ruler, so there is room to include seam allowances.

Next, you need to find the center point of the unfinished square size. Place the ruler with the 1" and 1" marks in the upper right corner (for right-handed people). Reverse all the instructions if left-handed.



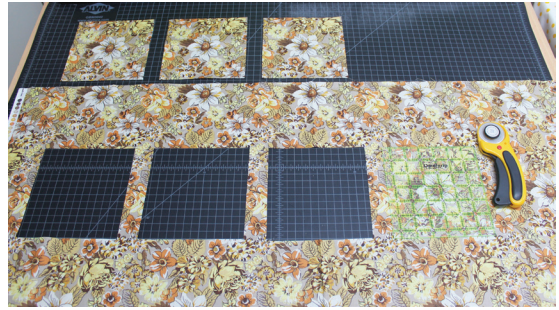
Since **Ks** are cut at 6-1/2", and half of that is 3-1/4", find the point 3-1/4" down from the top and the right edge and mark the ruler with a marking pen. Repeat to find the center point for the 4-1/2" square **Ls**, which is 2-1/4".



**2-1/4" mark  
for fussy cutting  
4-1/2" squares**

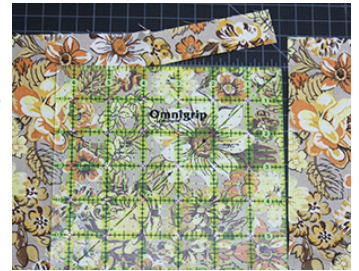
**3-1/4" mark  
for fussy cutting  
6-1/2" squares**

It is a good idea to cut the larger pieces first. To cut the **Ks**, place the ruler with the 3-1/4" mark in the center of the flower. A 6-1/2" square ruler is particularly easy since you just have to cut around the ruler.

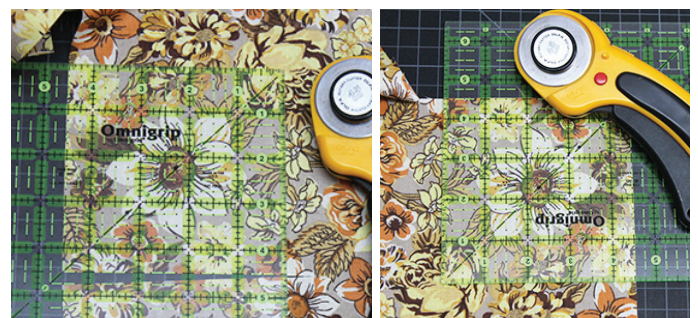


For the 4-1/2" squares, or if you don't have a 6-1/2" ruler for the larger squares, you will need to cut two sides, rotate the fabric or the ruler 180°, and cut the other two sides.

First, for the 4-1/2" squares, place the 2-1/4" mark in the center of the flower. Cut the top and right edge just past the 4-1/2" mark.



Rotate the fabric 180° so the cut edges are at the 4-1/2" lines on the left and bottom. Cut the right edge and top again, just past the 4-1/2" marks, to finish fussy cutting the square. Alternately, you can rotate the ruler 180° and trim on the left and bottom edges.



**Rotate fabric**

**Rotate ruler**

Repeat until you have fussy cut four **Ks** and twelve **Ls**.



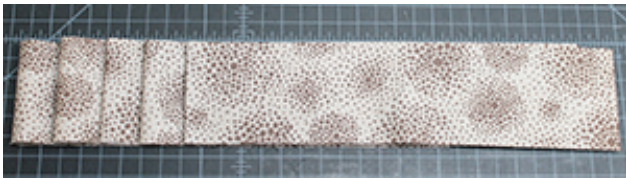


## Piecing Strips:

### Borders

Strips cut on the width of fabric (WOF), usually for borders and binding, are commonly joined with diagonal seams and pressed open. Diagonal seams are less visible to the eye and pressing them open enables them to lie flat. It helps to develop a system for joining multiple strips in a consistent way to avoid mistakes and to make sure the diagonal seam always go the same direction. The photos illustrate a way that works for me; yours may differ.

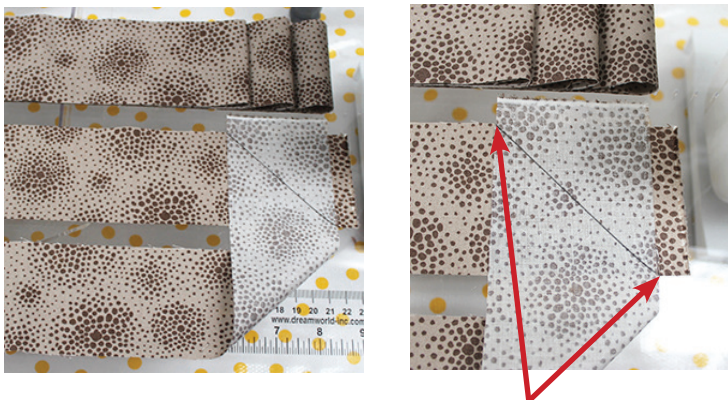
First, cut your **M** strips according to the pattern instructions.



Lay the end of one strip horizontally RS up in front of you. Lay one end of another strip vertically on top, WVS up, perpendicular to the first strip. Extend the selvage beyond where they overlap.



The area of overlap is where the diagonal line is drawn and sewn. Note the direction of the diagonal; consistency with this direction is important. If the line goes the other way, you will not end up with a straight pieced strip.



Be sure to draw the line exactly from corner-to-corner or the edges of the pieced strip will be uneven. Pin if needed.

Sew along the marked line.



With practice, you will find it unnecessary to mark the diagonal line. The trick is to look where you want the needle to end up - not at the needle itself.



**Eyes look here while sewing -  
Not at the needle!**

Chain-piecing the strips works well. Just lay the end of the previous strip and the end of the next strip the same way each time.

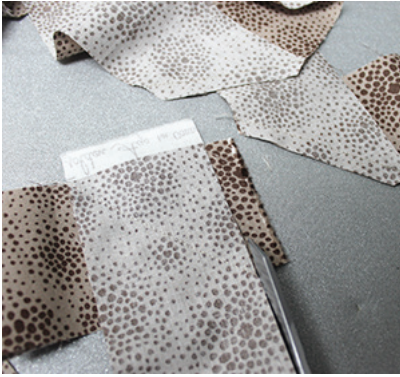


You can trim the seams at the cutting table with a rotary cutter; but I find it easier to take the joined strips to the ironing board and use shears to trim the seams.





Detach one seamed intersection from the chain-pieced strips. Cut on one edge to 1/4" past the seam.



Angle the cut to trim leaving a 1/4" seam allowance.



Trim off the remaining excess fabric, sometimes called the "bunny ear"



The trimmed section looks like this:



You may press the seam open now or wait until all the seams are trimmed. The great thing about the chain-piecing is that it is easy to find the next seam to trim because the rest of the seams are still attached.



The pressed seams lie flat and are somewhat disguised in the print.



If your pieced strips are not straight, it is probably because you did not sew exactly from corner-to-corner as discussed on page 7.

### Binding

Binding strips are cut, pieced, and trimmed in a similar manner. A word about binding strip width - The pattern says to cut the strips at 2-1/4". This is based on a survey of customer preference in the past. Many quilters, including myself, prefer to cut strips 2" wide. This width allows the fold to go just past the seam on the back and produces a tight 1/4" binding. The choice is yours. For an in-depth discussion of binding, please refer to the binding tutorials on the Connecting Threads website.

After piecing the strips, they are folded in half across the width and pressed.

