

## Shades of Gray by Sue Aylesworth

Some recommended tools:

A fresh blade in your cutter is a beautiful thing.

I will refer to the Eleanor Burns Triangle Square-up Ruler – it's perfect for squaring up your HST (half-square triangle) blocks.

A square ruler for squaring up your blocks – 10 1/2" or larger.

Good quality piecing thread

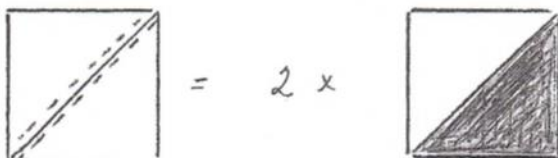
Best Press or Flatter starch alternative

**Some things you probably already know, but just in case you don't.**

**Read the pattern through and separate your fabrics before cutting anything.**

Many of the blocks in the quilt use half-square triangle units. This is my recommended technique.

- x Start with two squares that are an inch larger than you want your finished unit to be. Draw a diagonal line across the back of the lighter fabric.
- x Place them right sides together.
- x Sew a seam on each side of the line, 1/4" away from the line.
- x Cut apart on the line.
- x Use your Eleanor Burns Triangle Square Up ruler to square up each unit before you open and press.
- x Open, press carefully and cut off the little triangle tails.



To add a connector corner:

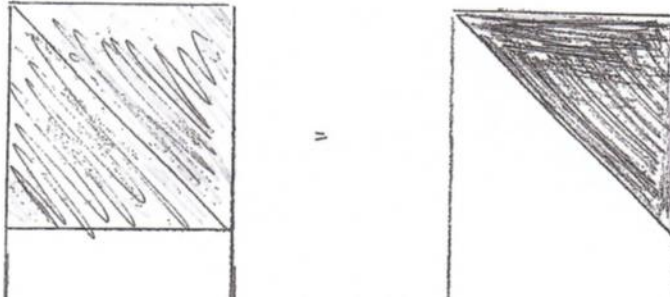
Draw a diagonal line across the back of the square to be added.

Lay this square on the right side of the main fabric. (*Right sides together*)

Sew along the line, fold the connector square over, press in place. Cut away the layers of fabric behind the new corner fabric.

Press each completed block carefully and square up to 10 1/2".

If you're new to piecing blocks, you might want to use these instructions and some fabric you have on hand to test your seam allowance and pressing.



Finishing your Shades Quilt:

Lt. Gray – 1.75m

Dk. Gray – 1m

Border – 1.50m

The hourglass blocks that are placed between the monthly blocks are made up light and dark gray.

Light Gray – 9 – 12" squares (1m)

Dark Gray – 9 – 12" squares (1m)

To make 18 Hourglass blocks:

Start by making HST blocks with the light and dark squares– but don't square them up. Press to the dark side.

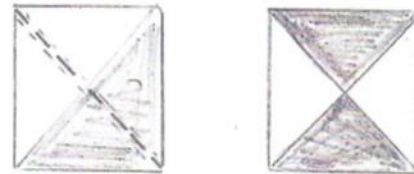
Now place these blocks right sides together, dark to light fabric, matching up the seams.

Draw a diagonal line across the blocks that crosses the seam.

Sew on both sides of the line with 1/4" seam allowance.

Cut apart on the line and press well.

Square up to 10 1/2".



The outer border is made up of 24 split HST blocks.

Light Gray – 6 – 12" squares

Border Print – 18 – 12" squares

Border Print – 4 – 10 1/2" corner squares

The 6 light gray squares and 6 of the border print (12") squares are quartered diagonally.

Sew them together in 24 identical half squares.

Border print – 12" squares – (12 of them) Cut in half diagonally. Sew these to the previous units to make a full block. Square up to 10 1/2", being careful to keep the point in the middle of the block.

You can sew these blocks and add to the rows as we go along to have a finished quilt when you're done.

