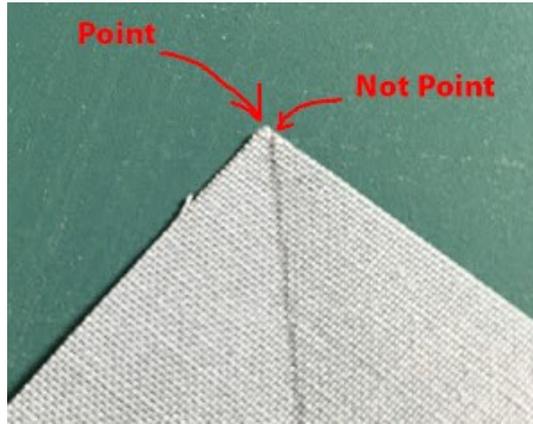
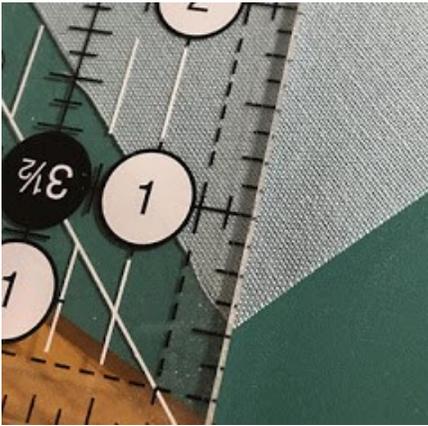


The Skinny on the HST Line

When some people make HSTs, they start out by drawing the line on the back of one of the squares. Placing the ruler so it lines up perfectly with opposite corners. . .

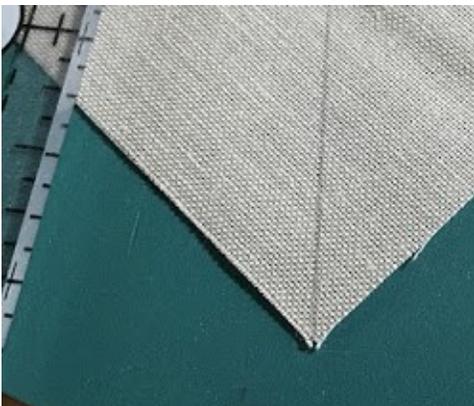


When you align the fabric square points with the edge of the ruler, the thickness of the pencil creates a line just a tiny bit to the right of the diagonal center of the square. (It'll be a little to the left if you write with your left hand.) So when you sew your HST will be uneven.

To fix this when drawing the line to make HSTs, slide the ruler over just a hair to the left of the points (or right of the points for lefties), enough to accommodate the width of your pencil, pen, or whatever writing instrument you're using.



Like this



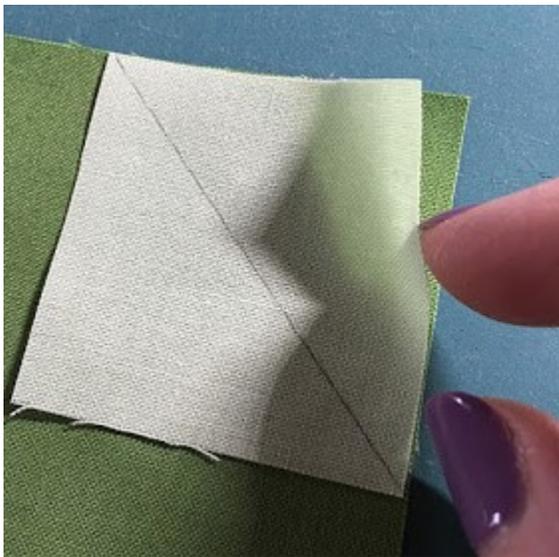
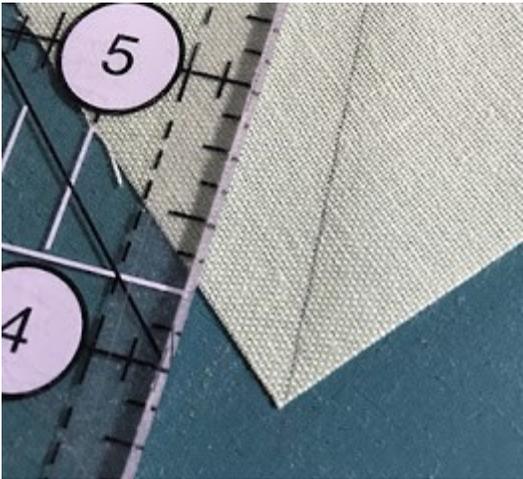
Then draw the line and you'll be spot on.

Stitch-and-Flip Corners

Sometimes a line just a hair to one side of the exact diagonal can be an ADVANTAGE. Take those stitch-and-flip corners--for a snowball block, for example.

This time you WANT to align the ruler with the fabric square points, and draw the line just slightly to one side.

By drawing the line just to the side of the square's diagonal, you are creating the scant seam line--in other words, you're making accommodation for the thickness of the fabric in the turn of the fold once the unit is pressed.



When you draw the line to one side of the diagonal, then align the square on the corner of the larger unit. Make sure the line is closest to the outer edge of the larger square. Then sew on the line. When you press the stitch-and-flip unit, if you've sewn on the line carefully, the corners should be pretty darn close to stacked up.

A Recap

1. For HST's slide the ruler slightly to one side of the diagonal to draw the guide line
2. For stitch-and-flip units, align the ruler point-to-point to draw the sewing line