

THE GRAND QUILT GUILD
ROW of the MONTH 2025 – 2026

ROW/BLOCK #1 September 10, 2025 Due October 8, 2025

BEAR'S PAW



For the purpose of our exercise, we will only be making one fourth (1/4) of the block. Four “Paw blocks” pieced together with a sashing actually comprises the entire block.

This is quite an old classic block first seen in Ohio in 1823. Historians believe it was so named due to all of the stories of bears circulating in the area. The same block appeared a few years later in New York (Long Island) but was called “Ducks - Foot-in-Mud”. Bear’s Paw was probably an easier name to remember. Either way this block has survived to become a classic.

This is a fairly simple block to construct, but precision is required with the half square triangles.

- Any questions or issues please contact me at davidsonmary@rogers.com
- Help with this block will be at my house Saturday September 20 from 9 AM to noon
- 2 Burnett Court Fergus (just up 19th side rd from Freshco)

Instructions are for one 6 (six) inch (finished) block.

Fabric Requirements:

- Background fabric (BKG)
- Paw fabric

Background: Cut: 1 x 4 “ square (for $\frac{1}{2}$ square triangles)

1 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ “ square

Paw Fabric: Cut 1 x 4” square (for $\frac{1}{2}$ square triangles)

1 x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ “ square for paw cent

Assembly:

There are several ways to make HSQ.

The following method makes 4 (four) at a time.

There is a formula to follow:

- divide the size of your unfinished HST square size by 0.64
- this gives you the size of square to cut
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ‘ divided by 0.64 = 3.9” (round up to 4)

Half square triangles (HST) make four (4) at a time:

Place the two 4” squares right sides together (1 BKG & 1 Paw)

****You may want to spray these squares with starch or sizing as they will be sewn on the bias.**

Stitch a $\frac{1}{4}$ “seam around the four sides

FIG. 1

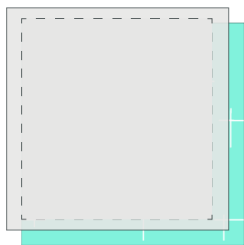


FIG. 2

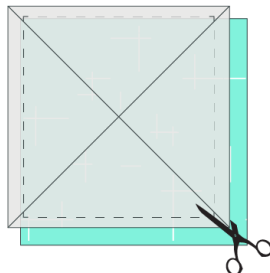


FIG. 3

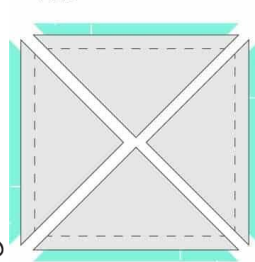
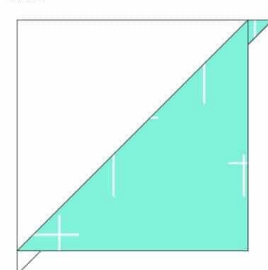


FIG. 4



Now cut the square diagonally from corner to corner to 4 half square triangles (HST).

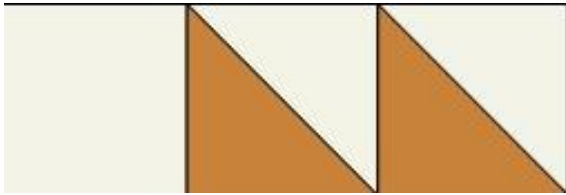
Square the HST to 2 ½ “

Press the seam towards the darker fabric.

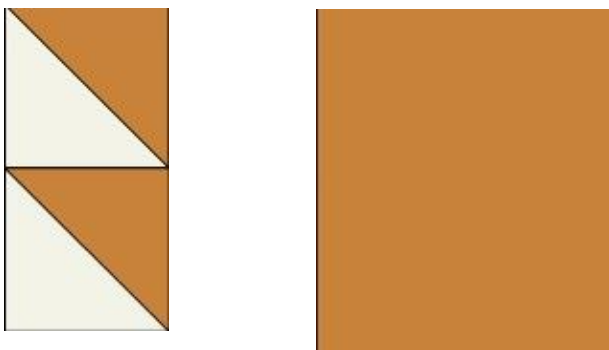
**All seams are ¼ inch unless otherwise stated.

Assembly:

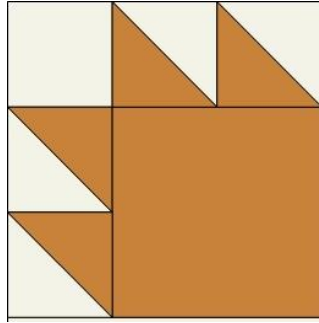
- Stitch 2 HST together as shown
- Add the 2 ½ “ BKG square as shown



- Now stitch the remaining 2 HST together as shown
- And then stitch to the side of the remaining 4 ½ “ square

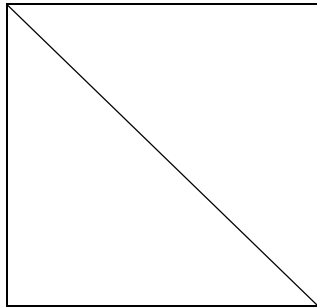


- Now stitch the 2 rows together as shown



An alternate method to make Half square triangles is to make two at a time.

To make 2 (two) HST together:



Cut the 2 fabrics to 3 ¼ ” square.

Draw a line diagonally from one corner to the other.

Sew ¼ “ on either side of the drawn line, then cut on the drawn line.

Square up the HST to 2 ½”

- There are a variety of ways to enhance the center 4 (4 ½) block
 - Make it a four patch
 - Or a mini log cabin
 - Or half square triangle pinwheel
 - Or whatever you can imagine !!
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- **BRING YOUR COMPLETED ROW TO THE NEXT MONTH’S GUILD MEETING.**