

# Quilt for All Deurstikwerk vir Alma

## SEWING MACHINE MAT/COVER

COMPILED BY LINDA VENTER FOR BERNINA RSA 2023

This challenge is an individual project, and all participants will be required to do 1 x row of blocks per month, using the patchwork technique specified in the monthly challenge.

The final challenge will require that you assemble the patchwork rows, sandwich the mat, machine quilt it, add the pockets, and finish it off with binding.

The quilting may be done on your domestic machine or using a quilt frame.



Participants must post a photograph of the monthly patchwork row, and a short description on how they implemented the patchwork technique, on the [Quilt for All / Deurstikwerk vir Alma!](#) Facebook page.

If you are not a Facebook user, you can email the pictures and a short description of your monthly progress to [lorette@berninasa.com](mailto:lorette@berninasa.com) and she will post it to Facebook on your behalf.

It is a multipurpose item as it doubles as a machine cover too.

The sewing machine mat has pockets so that you can have your most used sewing tools, such as scissors, cutters, template rulers, etc. close on hand while sewing.

We will also add a little thread catcher with Velcro tape to the mat.

The size of the mat will depend on the size of your machine, so that your machine can fit easily on the mat, and it will cover your machine too, when not in use.

Our sewing machine mat is for the bigger machines and the size is 24" x 60".

The minimum size sewing mat for this challenge is 18" x 40" which will be perfect for the smaller machines.

### **Fabric requirements**

We all have some cut off fabrics from previous quilt projects and this is the ideal opportunity to use those scraps.

You will need a good selection of scrap fabrics or 25cm of 4 to 6 different fabrics, including black fabric.

Also backing fabric and batting for your required size sewing mat for your machine.



We will make use of a selection of presser feet:

- Patchwork; walking foot; free motion quilting foot, ruler foot, etc.
- Coordinating threads and some ricrac in the colour of your choice.



## Challenge #1 Half Square Triangle patchwork technique



Once again, accurate measuring, accurate cutting, accurate marking and accurate stitching and calculating the size per block, is very important to ensure a perfect Half Square Triangle border.

When using half square triangle blocks for your block, try them in multiple ways before choosing the final sequence of your patchwork rows. You will be amazed how it changes the look of your quilt.

There are many different ways that you can arrange your half square triangle blocks, such as diamond half square triangle, Zigzag half square triangle, Chevron with Goose half square, etc.

You may also create your own pattern/s with the half triangle squares.

The half square triangle is one of the most basic units in patchwork. You will know it is a half square triangle if two triangles sewn together make a square.

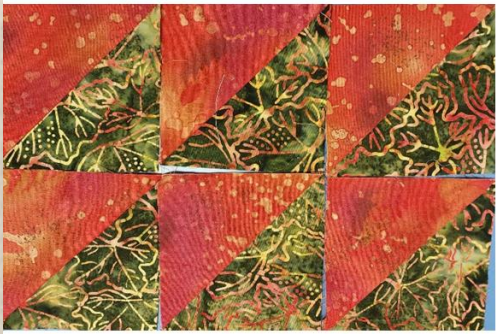
The half square triangle may be used as a unit within a block or be a block by itself.

A half square triangle is made up of two squares of fabric, sewn diagonally down the middle. The squares are usually cut from two contrasting colours to show up in the design.

Always square up your fabric. The bias seam will be contained within the edges of your half square triangle and all the outside edges will be on the straight grain of the fabric. By doing it this way your quilt top will not stretch.

Half square triangles can be arranged in many different ways to create other designs. Think of pinwheels, flying geese and diamonds.





There are many ways and ideas on the internet to do some really quick sewing and cutting of half square triangles if you have to do a lot of them, using the same fabrics.



Be sure to cut and stitch accurately for the best results.

Be very careful when you iron the centre seam allowance that you do not stretch it.

Iron the seams to the dark side of the fabric whenever possible. You can also iron them open.

This is a very quick and easy way to do blocks for a quilt project.

### **Block sizes**

Decide how big you want your finished block to be, and add a 1" for seam allowances.

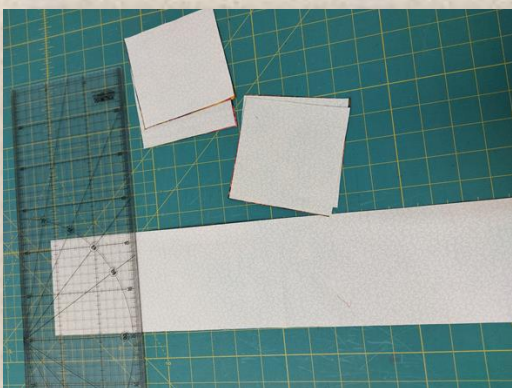
If your finished block needs to be 4", you will cut strips or squares that measure 5" e.g.  $\frac{1}{2}$ " for cross seams and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " for the sides.

### **Strip cutting and string piecing method.**

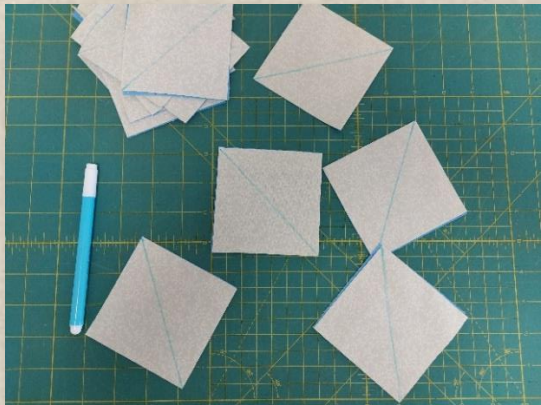
- Choose the colours that you want to use, and cut strips according to your calculated size of the blocks, plus seam allowance.



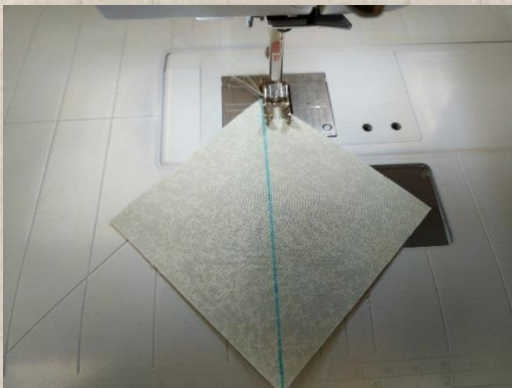
- Place these strips right sides facing, and cut the required size squares from these strips.



- Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner and stitch on either side of this line, with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.



- Use the quarter inch presser foot (Bernina #37, #57 or #97), and remember to sew both sides of the line in the same direction, i.e. from top to bottom.



- Cut each square accurately on the diagonal line between the two rows of stitching. Press the triangle blocks open, with the seam allowance facing the darker fabric.





- Place the triangle blocks in the sequence/pattern that you want.

### Half triangle blocks made from 2 squares

Here are the super simple steps to make 2 Half Square Triangles from 2 squares of fabric, once they are cut to size.

- Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of 1 square.



- Match up the squares right sides together.
- Sew on each side of the diagonal line, using a scant  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.



- Cut directly on the line.



- Press the seam.
- Arrange the blocks in the pattern that you prefer.



### **Bernina Tip**

Stand away and look through the camera lens of your cell phone to see if this is what you want, before assembling your blocks.

You can also combine various block layouts for interesting effects.

- Stitch the blocks together with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.





- You may add a sashing if you want to separate the rows of each challenge.



Have fun making your first row of your unique sewing machine mat.

**Well done, you have made it!!**

**Now you are ready for the next challenge!**

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