

All Sizes Class Plan

From *No Scrap Left Behind*

By Amanda Jean Nyberg

Class Description:

The *All Sizes* quilt (pp. 54–60) contains five different sizes of half-square triangles. In this class, explore the many techniques and tools that are available for making half-square triangles. Try them all at least once, then pick your favorite technique to make the remaining triangles. Other topics that will be covered in this class include a look at fabric values and why they are important and how to sew an accurate quarter-inch seam.

Class Length:

3 or 6 hour class.

Class Supply List:

- Required text: *No Scrap Left Behind* by Amanda Jean Nyberg
- Fabric per project requirements:
 - 3 ¼ yards of scraps or fat quarters in various light-colored fabrics
 - 3 ¼ yards of scraps or fat quarters in various dark-colored fabrics
- Rotary cutter, cutting mat, working sewing machine, 6" × 24" ruler, pins, and any other basic quilting supplies that you would normally take to a class
- 6 ½" square ruler with 45° angle markings (Omnigrd or similar)
- Mechanical pencil
- Any favorite tools that you may have for making HSTs

Other sales opportunities:

- Bloc Loc rulers
- Quick Quarter (by Quilter's Ruler), Quarter Inch Seam Markers (by Fons and Porter), or a similar tool to mark ¼"-seam lines on a square to piece two triangles at once

- Perkins Perfect Piecing Seam Guide (for finding an accurate $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam)
- Thangles or Triangles on a Roll
- Quilt in a Day Square Up Ruler
- 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Omnigrid square
- Rotating cutting mat and blades

Classroom Preparation:

Set up stations for each student to accommodate mats, cutters, and ample room for sewing. Set up one iron for every 3 students.

Class Agenda:

Student Homework Before Class:

1. Choose fabrics for the quilt and separate into light and dark values.
2. Pack machine and sewing supplies.

Teacher Homework Before Class:

1. Prep as many triangle methods and tools as you would like to teach.
2. Make a few examples of triangles with poor value contrast and a few triangles with good value contrast.
3. Prep pieces of fabric for demonstrating how to accurately piece a $\frac{1}{4}$ "-seam allowance (see p. 39). Also, prep plenty of fabric pieces for students to test their seam allowances.

In Class:

1. Start the class with a very brief lesson on values and contrast. Show an example of a few triangles with good value choices (good contrast) and a few triangles with poor value choices (little contrast). TIP: If students are having trouble with this concept, recommend auditioning fabrics on a design wall and viewing them from 10 feet away.
2. Demonstrate how to make a pair of HSTs according to the instructions in the book (pp. 54–60). Use a Quarter Inch Seam Marker or Quilter's Quick Quarter ruler to draw the lines on the squares quickly and accurately. Use a 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " square ruler to trim the triangles to size.

3. Demonstrate how to trim triangles with a Bloc Loc ruler. (For this method, press seams to the side.)
4. Demonstrate how to piece triangles with a Thangles or Triangles on a Roll. This would be especially helpful for the smaller sized triangles in the quilt.
5. Have students try each of these techniques on their own.
6. Demonstrate how to make 8 triangles at a time.
7. Demonstrate the Quilt in a Day ruler method for trimming these triangles.
8. Discuss the importance of careful pressing to avoid distorting the triangles.
9. Allow students to sew for a period of time.
10. About 1 hour before the class is finished, demonstrate how to test and achieve an exact $\frac{1}{4}$ "-seam allowance (p. 39 in the book). A Perkins Perfect Piecing Seam guide may be helpful tool for this demo.
11. At the end of class, encourage students to show their work and ask them to share their method of choice.