

THIRTYSOMETHING SQUARE UP INSTRUCTIONS

Thirtysomething units are easy, accurate and fun to make using this new technique. A Thirtysomething unit is based on the division of a 90° corner, rather than a grid as in the traditional unit. Three 30° angles meet together in the corner of a square. The center patch is kite shaped and the two side pieces are 30-60-90° triangles. With all three angles the same, the sewing is easier. The units finish either 3" or 4".

Cutting

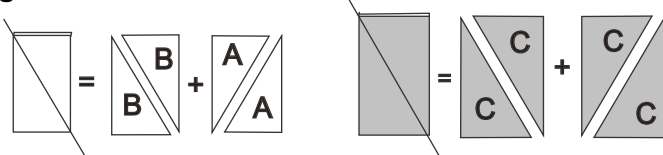
Measurements include 1/4" seam allowances. Triangles A, B and C are cut from rectangles. The center (C) triangle is larger and then the corner is trimmed square after it is sewn, using the Thirtysomething Square Up.

The rectangles for Thirtysomething are not in the usual 1 to 2 ratio (based on a grid) because they do not yield the 30° angles needed. Instead, follow the measurements below. The rectangles can easily be cut using any standard rotary equipment. Strips are cut first, then rectangles are cut from the strips. Strips can be the rectangles length or width.

Rectangle Size Needed

	3" finished units	4" finished
units		
A & B triangles	2 1/2" x 4 1/4"	3 1/8" x 5 3/4"
C triangles	3 3/8" x 5 3/4"	4" x 6 7/8"

With strips folded once, wrong sides together, cut rectangles. Cut the rectangles diagonally to yield A and B triangles back to back. Separate them and stack in piles of A and B triangles. Stack the C triangles in one pile. **Notice the corner with the 60° angle will point in two directions in the C pile. Ignore this.** It will be trimmed later.



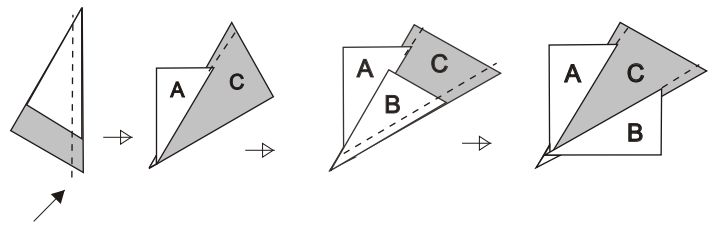
Sewing

Sew an A triangle to a C triangle first, matching tips precisely. Start stitching at the broad edge of the C triangle rather than at the point. The smaller A triangle will be underneath. Don't be concerned that you will be sewing through a single layer of fabric (patch C) for an inch or so.

The seam allowance **must** be pressed toward the A triangle for proper alignment of the B triangle. Hold the point straight while pressing to avoid curved seams. Press carefully to avoid tucks, particularly at the point. Remember, do not trim the point until after the B triangle is sewn on. The point is needed to align the B triangle.

Add a B triangle, matching both raw edges of the three narrow points precisely. Start stitching at the broad end of the C triangle. The small B triangle will now be on top. Press the seam towards the B triangle. Hold the point straight while pressing. Use care not to stretch when pressing.

Note: Always sew the long edge of A and B triangles to the C triangle.



Flip over and begin sewing from this end.

Squaring Up

The Thirtysomething Square Up tool was designed to trim Thirtysomething units that finish either 3" or 4" including seam allowances. It is the exact size of the 4" unit (4 1/2" with seam allowances). Simply align the angled lines marked 4" with the seam lines of the Thirtysomething unit and trim everything extending beyond the edges of the tool.

For the 3" units (3 1/2" with seam allowances), align the inner set of angled lines marked 3" with the seams of the unit. Trim the C triangle and any excess fabric adjacent to it.

Use scissors to trim the pointy seam allowance, or if necessary, rotate both the Thirtysomething unit and the Square Up and align the angled lines marked 4" with the seams to trim the points.

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