What size do I need to cut?

There is a 'formula' for virtually every shape we need to cut for patchwork. Hopefully the following will help you to work out how to set your blocks on point.

Finished size – this is the size of the unit/piece once it is stitched into the block/quilt.

Rounding up to the nearest ⅛ inch. If you have had to use a calculator then you need decimals not fractions.

⅛ = 0.125 ¼ = 0.25 ⅜ = 0.375 ½ = 0.5

⅝ = 0.625 ¾ = 0.75 ⅞ = 0.875

Magic formula for setting triangles for quilts set on point

The magic number to remember is 1.414.

For edge (or side) triangles (quarter-square triangles) - multiply by 1.414 and add 1¼" seam allowance.

e.g. finished block size of 8:- 8 **X** 1.414 = 11.312 + 1.25 (seam allowance) = 12.562; round up to the nearest ⅛. = 12⅝".

For corner triangles (half-square triangles) divide by 1.414 and add ⅞".

e.g. finished block size of 8":- 8 ÷ 1.414 + 0.875 (⅞) = 6.5327 rounded up = 6⅝".

Rounding up may make your triangles slightly larger than required – but remember that you can always trim things down later; it is more difficult to add in that extra ⅛ inch! If you prefer you can always round up to the nearest ¼ inch instead of an eighth, you'll just have a little more to trim off.

Finished size of blocks	Size to cut edge/side triangles	Size to cut corner triangles
6	9¾	5⅛
7	11¼	5⅞
8	12⅝	6⅝
9	14	7¼
10	15½	8
11	16⅞	8¾
12	18¼	9⅜
14	21⅛	10⅞
16	23⅞	12¼
18	26¾	13⅝
20	29⅝	15⅛