

# 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. With all three angles the same, the sewing is easier. Practice on scraps before beginning your project.

### Cutting

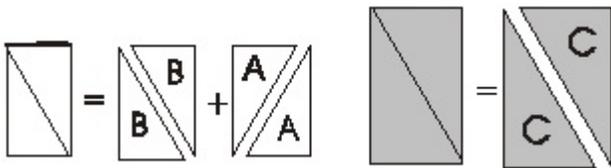
Triangles A, B and C are cut from rectangles. The center (C) triangle is trimmed square using the Thirtysomething Square Up after the unit is sewn. The rectangles are not in the usual 1 to 2 ratio (based on a grid) because they do not yield the 30° angles needed. Instead follow the measurements below. These directions for Thirtysomething units finish either 3" or 4". Cut the rectangles using any standard rotary equipment.

### Rectangle Size Needed

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

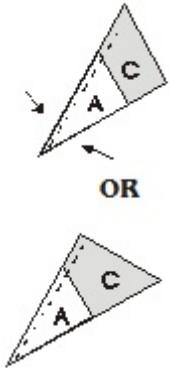
\* Previous directions gave this measurement as 3 3/8" x 5 3/4". Both are correct, but the new dimensions are friendlier to cut.

With wrong sides together, carefully cut the rectangles diagonally corner to corner. Mirror image triangles back to back will result. Separate them and stack in piles of A triangles and B triangles. Stack the C triangles in one pile even though the 60° angle points in two directions. It will be trimmed square after sewing.

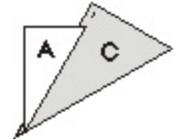


## Sewing Thirtysomething Units

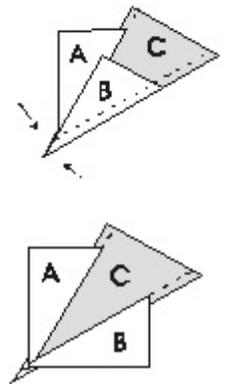
Sew an A triangle to a C triangle first, matching tips precisely. Start stitching at the broad edge of the C triangle rather than at the point. The smaller A triangle will be underneath. Don't be concerned that you will be sewing through a single layer of fabric (patch C) for an inch or so.



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.



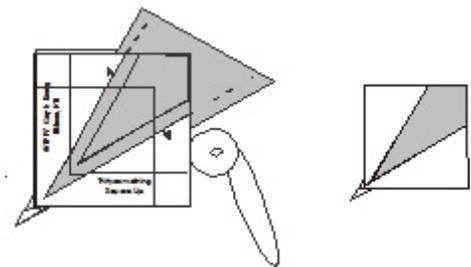
Add a B triangle, matching both raw edges of the three layers at the narrow point. Start stitching at the broad end of the C triangle. The small B triangle will now be on top. Press the seam towards the B triangle.



Note: **Always** sew the long bias edge of the small triangles to the C triangle.

## Squaring Up

The Thirtysomething Square Up tool is 4 1/2", the size of a 4" unit 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.



For the 3" units, 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.

©2013 Gayle Bong

## Onlies

Two new lines were added to the tool in 2013. These are used as a cut-out template to trim squares to make the companion pieces called "Onlies".

For 3" units, cut 3 ½" squares. Pairs of squares wrong sides together will yield mirror image units. Place the Thirtysomething Square Up on any corner of the 3 ½" squares, positioning it as shown (My name is over the corner of the fabric.) Cut the corner off of the squares. Discard the 3 1/8" tall triangle. Sew on a contrasting A or B triangle in place, press. Square up the Onlies unit to 3 ½" trimming any excess fabric from the A or B triangle.