

# Football Fans

Make this 42" x 42" table topper in your favorite team colors to cover the card table holding snacks during the big game!

The quick and easy piecing of this project makes it perfect for beginners.



## Fabric Requirements

- Background: 1 yard
- Orange: 1 yard
- Green: 1/2 yard

## Helpful but not Required

A June Tailor [ShapeCut ruler](#) to cut strips  
A [Rotating Mat](#) for squaring up blocks  
A 3-1/2" square ruler  
A 6-1/2" square ruler

Before beginning this or any other project, wash and press your fabric. If you like the behavior of crisp fabric as you cut, sew, and press your project, try a little [Best Press](#) when you iron it. Take the time to clean your machine, put in a new needle, and fill a few bobbins. It will save you time later.

Unless the pattern tells you otherwise, you should always assume that the seam in any quilting pattern is 1/4" wide. WOF means Width-of-Fabric.

## Cutting

### Background

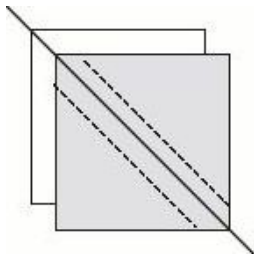
- (3) strips 3-1/2" wide by WOF, cut into (28) 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" squares.
- (3) strips 4" wide by WOF, cut into (30) 4" x 4" squares.
- (1) strip 4-1/2" wide by WOF, cut into (6) 4-1/2" x 4-1/2" squares and (3) 4" x 4" squares.

### Orange

- (1) strip 6 1/2" wide by WOF, cut into (2) 6-1/2" x 6-1/2" squares and (2) 4-1/2" x 4-1/2" squares.
- (2) strips 4" wide by WOF, cut into (15) 4" x 4" squares.
- (6) strips 3-1/2" wide by the WOF. Cut two strips into (22) 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" squares. The other (4) strips will be used in the outer border.

### Green

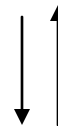
- (1) strip 4 3/4" wide by WOF, cut into (2) 4 3/4" x 4 3/4" squares and (4) 4-1/2" x 4-1/2" squares.
- (3) strips 4" wide by WOF, cut into (28) 4" x 4" squares.



This quilt is made up almost entirely of half square triangle units (HSTs.) The traditional method of making HSTs is to place a 4" x 4" dark square right sides together with a 4" x 4" light square. Draw a diagonal line on the back of the light square. Sew 1/4" on both sides of the line. Cut on the line and press to the dark. You will have made two blocks which measure slightly larger than 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" square.

To square up this block, place a 3-1/2" square ruler on top of the block, matching the diagonal corners. Cut around the ruler. This straightens the edges and clips off any dog ears. If you don't have a 3-1/2" ruler, use the corner of a larger ruler by matching the diagonal seam of the block with the 3-1/2" mark on the ruler and cutting off any excess. If you have a rotating mat, you will find it very helpful right now.

Pressing instructions are shown by an arrow next to the picture. Pressing seams allowances in opposite directions will help reduce bulk when the blocks are sewn together. This keeps the top laying flatter, making it easier to quilt. You may occasionally find that you need to change the direction of a seam allowance.



### Making Green HSTs

Using (20) green 4" x 4" squares and (20) background 4" x 4" squares, make (40) HST blocks and square them up to 3-1/2" x 3-1/2". Press to the dark.



### Making Orange HSTs

Using (10) orange 4" x 4" squares and (10) background 4" x 4" squares, make (20) HST blocks and square them up to 3-1/2" x 3-1/2". Press to the dark.

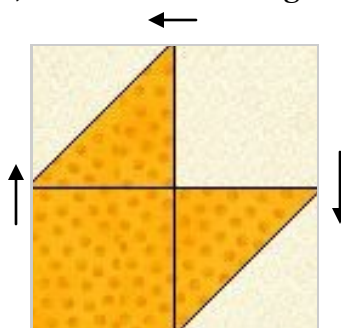


### Making the Blocks

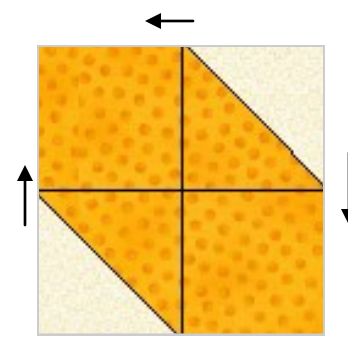
Using the HSTs that you just made, (28) 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" background squares and (16) 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" orange squares, make the following blocks:



Make 12



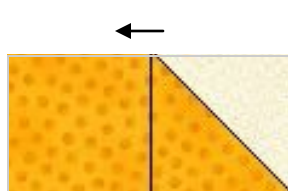
Make 4



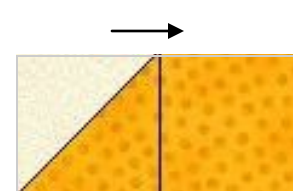
Make 4



Make 8 Flying Geese Blocks



Make 2



Make 2

## General Directions for Making 3 Part HSTs



This block is made the same way as a HST. First, place a solid square right sides together with a HST unit that you have already made. Draw a line on the diagonal so it crosses over the seam. When you sew a seam  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from this line, you will make a 3-part HST as shown. Press to the larger triangle.



### Step One: Making the HSTs



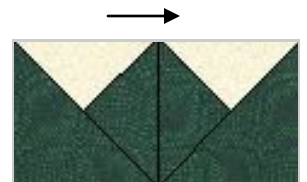
Using (4) green  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " squares and (4)  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " background squares, make (8) green HSTs using the traditional method. Press to the dark and square these up to 4" x 4".



Using (2) orange  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " squares and (2)  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " background squares, make (4) orange HSTs using the traditional method. Press to the dark and square these up to 4" x 4".

### Step Two: Finishing the 3 Part HST

Using the (8) green-and-background HSTs that you just made and (8) 4" x 4" squares, place a 4" x 4" green square right sides together with a HST. Draw a line of the diagonal of the green square, making sure it crosses the seam of the HST.



Make 8

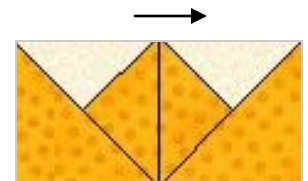
Sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on either side of this line, then cut on the line. Press and square up to  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ". Make (16) of these units, then sew them together as shown to the right.



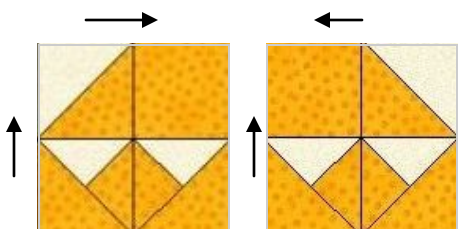
Use these (8) blocks with the (8) Flying Geese blocks to make (8) blocks like the one to the left.

### Step Three: Finishing the Orange 3 Part HSTs

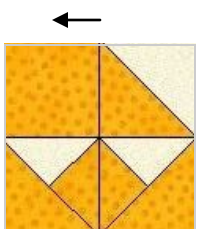
Using the (4) orange-and-background HSTs that you just made and (4) 4" x 4" squares, place a 4" x 4" orange square right sides together with a HST. Draw a line of the diagonal of the orange square, making sure it crosses the seam of the HST.



Make 4



Make 2



Make 2

Sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " on either side of this line, then cut on the line. Press and square up to  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ". Make (8) of these units, then sew them together as shown above.

Use these (4) blocks with the (4) angled blocks to make (4) blocks like the ones to the left.

## Making a Square-in-a-Square Block

Cut two 4" x 4" background squares on the diagonal. Sew a triangle to opposite sides of a 4 3/4" x 4 3/4" green square as shown. Press toward the triangle. Make two.



Step 1



Step 2

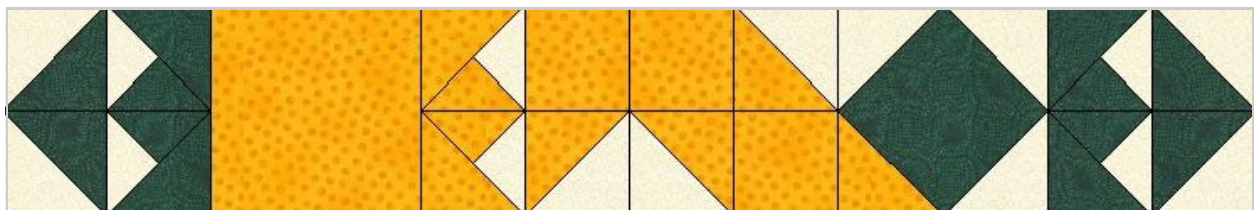
Square up your block by placing the center of the 6 1/2" ruler on the center of the block, matching the diagonal line on the ruler with the opposite corners. Cut around the ruler, taking care not to cut off the 1/4" seam allowance at the tip of each square.

## Setting the blocks into rows

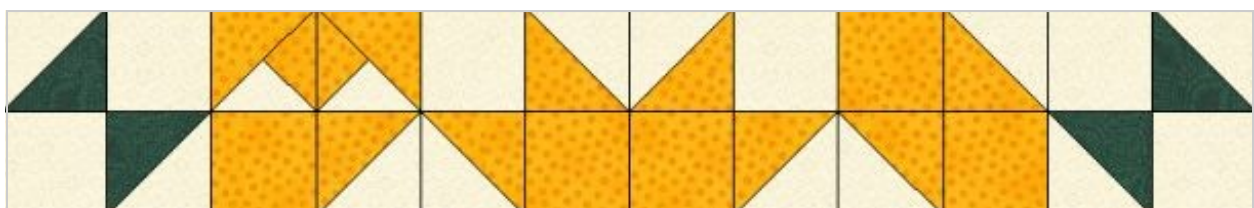
Sew your blocks into two rows like this one. Press your block seams to the right. Label these row one.



Using the (2) 6 1/2" x 6 1/2" squares, sew your blocks into two rows like this one. Press your block seams to the left. Label these row two.



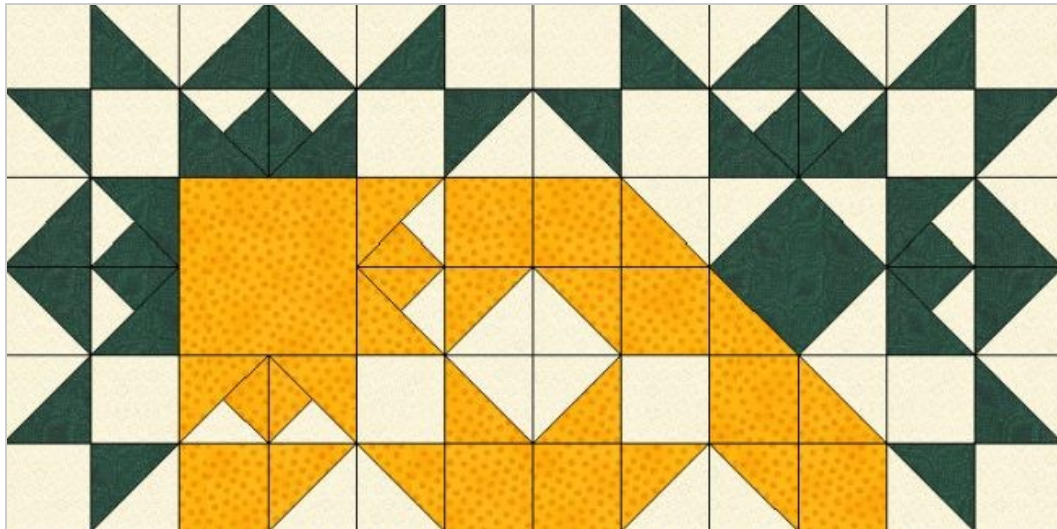
Sew your blocks into two rows like this one. Press your block seams to the right. Label these row three.



## Creating the top

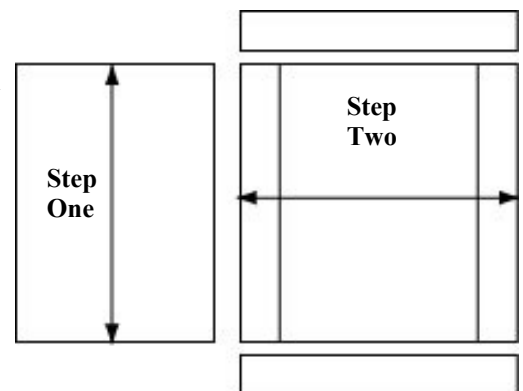
Sew (2) groups of Row One, Two and Three in order. Because you pressed your seams in opposite directions, they should just nestle at the intersections. Use plenty of pins to keep everything straight.

Turn the second row set upside down. Sew the two Row Three rows together to create the football design.



Measure your quilt top through the middle vertically . It should be  $36 \frac{1}{2}$ " but use your measurement. Cut (2) of the Orange  $3\text{-}1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide strips to this length. Mark the center point of these strips and pin them to opposite sides of your quilt top, matching the center of your strip with the center of your quilt top.

Using your walking foot, sew these border pieces to both sides of your top, easing to fit. If one side of the quilt is just the tiniest bit longer than the border, place the quilt top down on the bed of your sewing machine when sewing the border on. The feed dogs will help take up the slack. Reverse the process if it is your border that is longer.



Forcing the quilt top to match two identically cut border strips will help ensure that the quilt is square. Repeat this process when attaching the border to the other two sides of your quilt. (It should be  $42 \frac{1}{2}$ " but use your measurement.) Yes, it would be a lot easier just to cut a long border, sew it on and cut off the excess when you are done BUT that method often results in wavy borders on a finished quilt. Press all border seams toward the border.

You are done! Press your completed top from the wrong side again, making one last check to make sure there are no twisted seams. Pin your top to the wall for a couple of days in an obvious place so you can enjoy it and your family can praise you. Use that time to decide how to finish the quilt.