

## GENERAL TIPS FOR STRIP CUTTING

Strip cutting of the fabric is the first step you do prior to cutting the geometric shapes with the **Omnigrid** ruler.

It is recommended that when cutting more than one folded thickness of fabric, the folded edges of the fabric be staggered so as not to push the thick edge with the cutter when starting the cut. Staggering also allows you to end your cutting stroke smoothly and gradually.

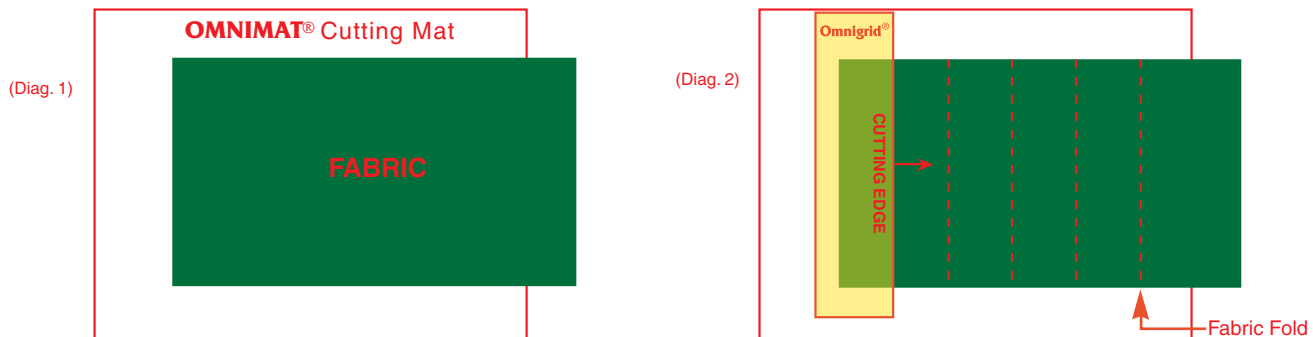
Use the 6" x 24" (#24) **Omnigrid** ruler for cutting strips, as the length enables you to cut across the full width of the folded fabrics even though they are staggered. Only stagger the fabrics by about 1/8 inch.

It is important that you keep pressure on the **Omnigrid** ruler at all times when making cuts. To do this we suggest using your hand much like an inch worm while holding the **Omnigrid** ruler. That is, keeping pressure on the fingers when moving the thumb, then keeping pressure on the thumb when moving the fingers. Cut only the distance that your hand has moved each time to ensure accurate cuts.

When cutting strips, squares and rectangles, right handers will normally have the bulk of the fabric to the right of the **Omnigrid** ruler. Likewise, left handers just the opposite. The "keeper" piece of fabric you are cutting generally lies under the **Omnigrid** ruler.

## STEPS FOR STRIP CUTTING FABRIC SINGLE & MULTIPLE LAYERS

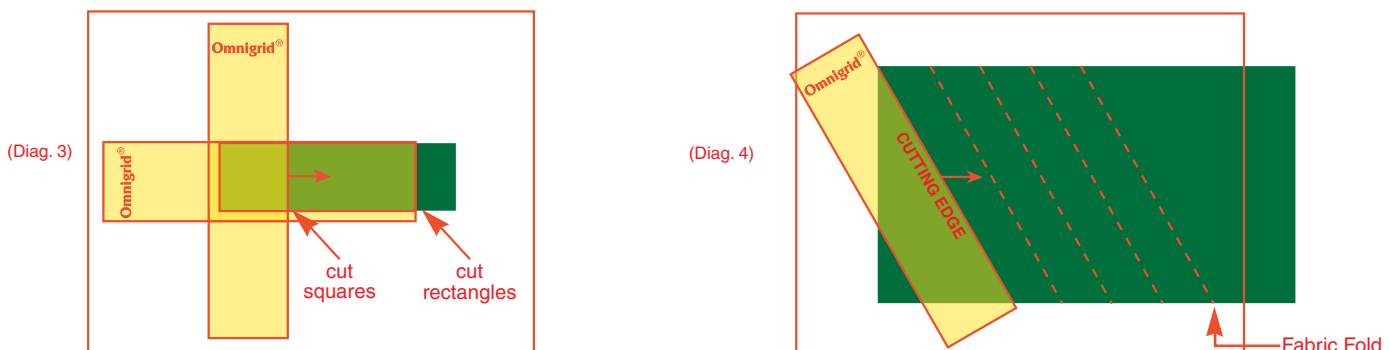
- 1) Fold your fabric in half, selvage edges together, then place on a mat lengthwise. **(Diag.1)**



- 2) Square up your fabric edge by placing the **Omnigrid** ruler on the fabric, as close to the edge as possible, and make an initial cut with a rotary cutter

3) Square up your **Omnigrid** ruler on the fabric at the desired grid measurement. Make your cut along the edge with a rotary cutter. Lift the **Omnigrid** ruler, remove the cut fabric, then reposition the **Omnigrid** ruler using the grid and cut again, repeating until you have the quantity you need. **(Diag.2)** If strips or cuts wider than six inches are needed, turn your **Omnigrid** ruler lengthwise, mark using the grid, reposition the **Omnigrid** ruler vertically and then cut.

- 4) For squares and rectangles position a cut strip lengthwise on your mat, stack if desired. Position your **Omnigrid** ruler as shown at the desired increment and cut. Turn your **Omnigrid** ruler lengthwise to cut rectangles longer than six inches. **(Diag.3)**



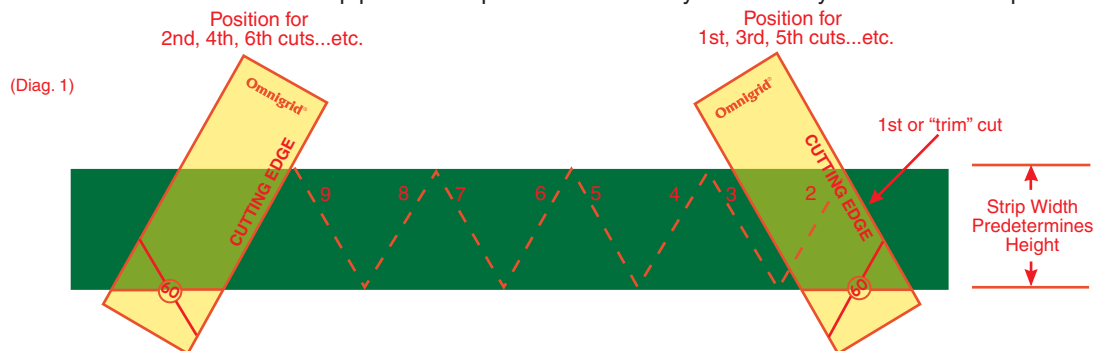
- 5) For bias cuts and angle cuts, right handers will normally use the angle lines starting from the lower right edge of the **Omnigrid** ruler, left handers the lower left edge. The fabric under the **Omnigrid** ruler will be cut at the same angle as the line is labeled. If multiple bias strips are needed, use the **Omnigrid** ruler as in step 3 above to mark the widths and then cut the angles needed. **(Diag.4)**

## CREATING EQUILATERAL 30°, 45°, AND 60° TRIANGLES USING ANGLE CUTS

Use the 6" x 12" (#12), 3" x 18" (#18A) or 3-1/2" x 24" (#3524) **Omnigrd** ruler for your angle cuts as their sizes make them more convenient to use. The following example creates a 60° equilateral triangle but a 30° or 45° equilateral triangle can be created using exactly the same method.

Please note that 45° equilateral triangles can be used to make squares composed of two triangles.

Using any width fabric strip line up the 60° angle line of the **Omnigrd** ruler with the bottom edge of the strip and make a cut along the long edge of the **Omnigrd** ruler. Rotate the ruler to the other 60° line and line it up with the bottom edge of the strip, at the same time making sure that the **Omnigrd** ruler also intersects with the top point of the previous cut. Make your cut and you will have an equilateral triangle. **(Diag.1)**

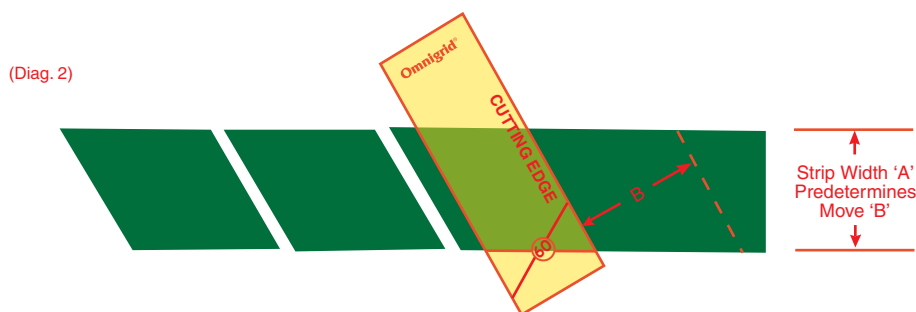


## CREATING EQUILATERAL 30°, 45° AND 60° DIAMONDS USING ANGLE CUTS

Use the 6" x 12" (#12), 3" x 18" (#18A) or 3-1/2" x 24" (#3524) **Omnigrd** ruler for your angle cuts as their sizes make them more convenient to use. The following example creates a 2-1/2" 60° diamond but a 30° or 45° diamond can be created with exactly the same method using any width fabric strip.

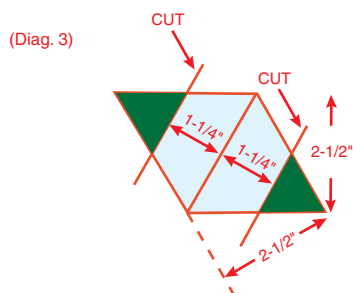
Please note that 60° diamonds can be used to make a 6-pointed star, rolling star, baby blocks and hexagon star pattern. The 45° diamonds are used to make your 8-pointed star designs.

Using a 2-1/2" fabric strip line up the 60° angle line of the **Omnigrd** ruler with the bottom edge of the strip and make a cut along the long edge of the **Omnigrd** ruler. Then measure 2-1/2" from the last cut and repeat your cut. **(Diag.2)**



## CREATING HEXAGONS USING 60° DIAMONDS

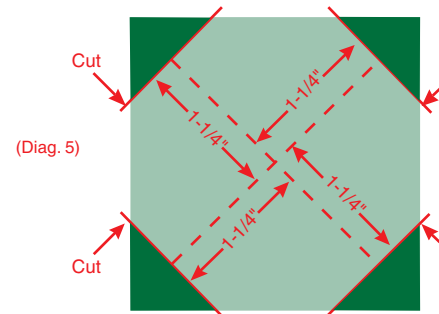
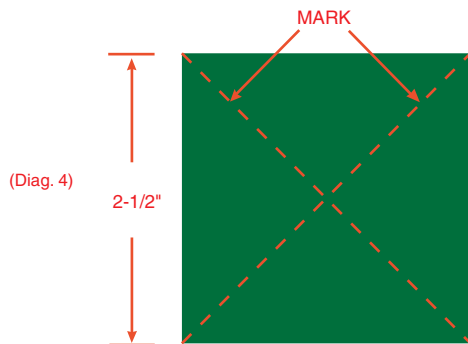
The following example uses a 2-1/2" 60° diamond as cut in previous section. Find the middle of the diamond at the short width. Measure to each side of this middle point one half the measurement of the width of the strip you originally cut. In this case it will be 1-1/4". Make the first cut, then turn the fabric a half-turn and make your second cut. Yes, you have a perfect hexagon! **(Diag.3)**



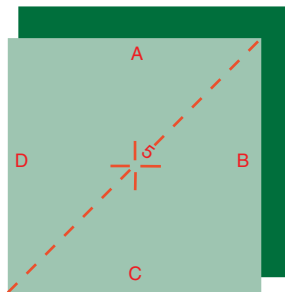
## CREATING OCTAGONS FROM SQUARES

The following example creates a 2-1/2" octagon from a 2-1/2" square.

Measure and **MARK** diagonal lines across the square using an **Omnigrid** ruler (**Diag.4**). Place the Omnigrid ruler parallel to one of the diagonal lines and use the grid to measure one half the distance of the width of the strip (in this instance, 1-1/4"). Then make your first cut. Turn the fabric a quarter of a turn and repeat until you have all four cuts. Your octagon is now finished! (**Diag.5**)



## SQUARING UP BLOCKS WITH THE **Omnigrid** (#6G, #95, #125, #15) SQUARE RULERS



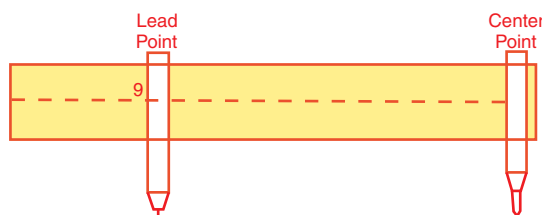
The following example will square a 10" block.

To square up the block, divide the block size in half (i.e. 5") and then locate the 5" intersection on the **Omnigrid** ruler grid by finding the diagonal number.

Place the 5" intersection at the center of the block and then trim the strips off of sides **A** & **B**. Rotate the remaining fabric a full turn and then align the 10" grid marks on the corners of **A** & **B** (your 5" diagonal will remain on center).

Now cut the strips off of **C** & **D** = perfect block.

## HOW TO USE THE **Omnigrid** (#1C) RULER AND THE COMPASS (#OC)



The centered numbers on the **Omnigrid** 1C ruler are for standard measurements. The offset numbers are used to help you establish the radius of the circle.

Tighten the center point holder so that the left side of the holder is on the 12" mark. Then set the left side of the lead point holder at the desired radius, tighten it, and draw your circle.

To create a 18" circle, put the left edge of the lead point holder at the 9" mark, using the offset number 9 as a guide, and then draw your circle.

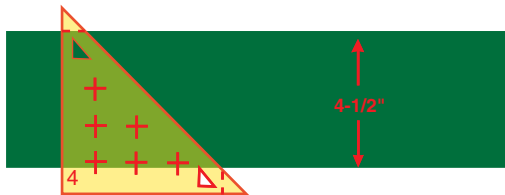
## SEAM ALLOWANCES

The 1" x 6" (#1) and 1" x 12-1/2" (#1C) **Omnigrid** rulers have the quarter inch seam allowance marked in yellow and the 3/16" seam allowance in black so that you can quickly and easily mark your seam allowances. These **Omnigrid** rulers are also very handy to have close by your sewing machine, cutting table, ironing board or you can even carry one with you on trips to the fabric store!

From the directions listed on these pages and a little experimentation you can cut any geometric shape you want. The most common being squares, triangles, diamonds, hexagons and parallelograms.

Remember, if you aren't using your **Omnigrid** rulers for every measuring job you have at hand, you won't be obtaining the full potential of **Omnigrid** rulers. TRY THEM, YOU'LL LOVE THEM!

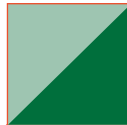
## CREATE 1/2 SQUARE TRIANGLES UP TO 6" USING Omnigrid RULER #96



Cut a strip of fabric 1/2" larger than the desired finished square. Align the **Omnigrid** ruler on the fabric with the dashed tip of the **Omnigrid** ruler at the top edge of the strip and the desired inch grid line at the bottom edge. The number that appears on the lower corner of the square should correspond to the finished size of the square.

Then cut the straight edge and the bias edge. Rotate the ruler and cut additional triangles as needed.

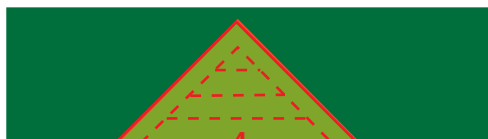
1/2 SQUARE  
4" FINISHED



DO NOT ADD A SEAM ALLOWANCE – IT IS CALCULATED INTO THE **Omnigrid** RULER!

To create a 4" finished square, start by placing two fabrics right sides together and cutting a 4-1/2" strip. Align the dashed tip of the **Omnigrid** ruler on the top edge of the strip and the 4" grid line on the bottom edge. Cut the straight edge and the bias edge. Rotate the **Omnigrid** ruler and cut additional triangles! Sew together along bias edge to complete a finished square.

## CREATE 1/4 SQUARE TRIANGLES UP TO 8" USING Omnigrid RULER #98



1/4 SQUARE  
4" FINISHED



Use either fabric strips or scraps. From the straight edge of the fabric line up the **Omnigrid** ruler at the desired finished size of the square using the grid line. Then cut the two bias edges.

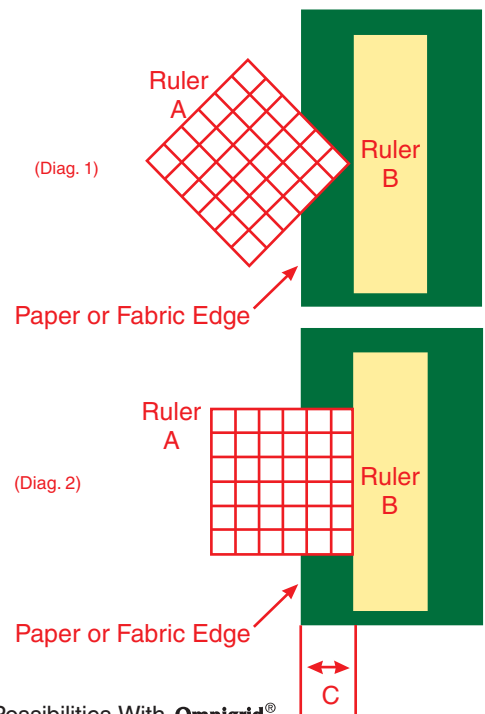
DO NOT ADD A SEAM ALLOWANCE – IT IS CALCULATED IN THE **Omnigrid** RULER!

To create 1/4 of a finished 4" square, align the **Omnigrid** ruler along the straight edge of the fabric using the 4" grid line and cut off the bias edges.

For cutting multiples from strips, measure from the top of the **Omnigrid** ruler down to the grid line of the desired size and cut strips that width.

## HOW TO MAKE A HALF SQUARE

- 1) Turn your square or any **Omnigrid** ruler **A** diagonally and align the edge of the fabric to the desired finished square dimensions. We will use a 3" size for this example. **(Diag.1)**
- 2) Line up another **Omnigrid** ruler **B** or a straight edge parallel to the fabric edge and against the point of **Omnigrid** ruler **A**. **(Diag.1)**
- 3) Next, turn your **Omnigrid** ruler **A** parallel to **Omnigrid** ruler **B** and butt it up next to it. Write down measurement **C** (2-1/8" for this example) for the next step. **(Diag.2)**
- 4) To obtain your strip width, add 1/2" for seam allowance and 1/8" for trimming distortion to measurement **C**. (In this example  $2\text{-}1/8" + 1/2" + 1/8" = 2\text{-}3/4"$  strip width).
- 5) Place 2 fabrics right side together and cut strips 2-3/4" wide on bias.
- 6) Stitch a 1/4" seam allowance on both sides of the bias strip and then make 45° angle cuts edge to edge. Pull out the few stitches on point and press open. You can then trim off distortion and you have your half squares. **(Diag.3)**



If you have any further questions, please refer to our book—Measure the Possibilities With **Omnigrid**®