

My Christmas Tree



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by Sharon Pederson

I live in a cozy little house surrounded by huge trees – mostly evergreen – but when it comes to choosing a Christmas Tree I have to go to the miniature section or it won't fit in my house. So, this little charmer, at 16 ½" x 18½" in size, will work beautifully for me. It might be just the thing you are looking for too – either for your own house or as a gift for a friend.

It's quick and easy and if you have an AccuQuilt cutter it is super fast.

I am very fortunate in that I have the wonderful suitcase full of beautiful Aurifil Threads so I was able to find exactly the right colour to quilt my tree and its ornaments.

I chose batiks (from Island Batik) for my tree and decorations, but I couldn't resist a wonderful red, green, and gold print for the inner border (which is actually faux piping) and binding.

Materials

- 1 piece 12½" x 14½" background fabric
- 2 pieces 1" x 12½" red & green striped print for faux piping
- 2 pieces 1" x 14½" red & green striped print for faux piping
- 2 pieces 2½" x 12½" dark green for border
- 2 pieces 2½" x 18½" dark green for border
- 1 piece 19" x 21" for backing
- 1 piece 19" x 21" batting
- 2 pieces 2½" x 42" red & green striped print for binding
- Assorted red and green batiks for tree and ornaments
- 1 piece 2½" x 2½" gold batik for star
- Steam-A-Seam 2 for appliqué pieces

Directions

1. Find the vertical center of the background fabric and finger press. On the center fold, measure 2 ½" down from the top, and ¾" up from the bottom, and with a washable marker, make a dot at each point.
2. Put two more dots 1½" up from the bottom and ¾" in from the edge on both sides. Connect the outside dots to the top dot, using a ruler. The bottom curve as shown (Illustration 1) will require a little freehand drawing. Don't worry about making a perfect curve as it is only a placement guideline and will be covered up in the Assembly stage.
3. With your AccuQuilt Rose of Sharon die, (Studio # 50342, or Go #55045) cut 41 of the smallest blossoms in a variety of green fabrics with fusible web attached to the wrong side.
4. Similarly, cut 30 of the next largest blossom on your die. If you do not have an AccuQuilt cutter trace the patterns provided onto the covering paper of your fusible web, remove the backing paper (not the one with your design on it), finger press to the wrong side of your fabric and cut them out.
5. Do the same for 49 of the small circles and one star (AccuQuilt Go die # 55028).

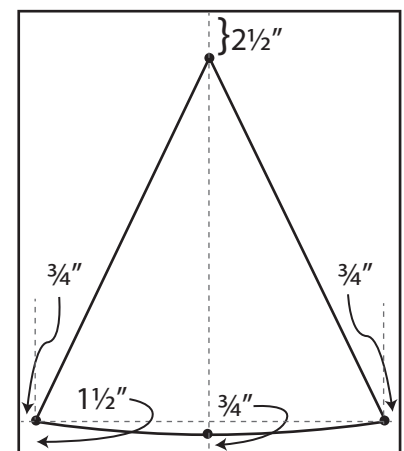


Illustration 1

Assembly

1. Starting with a small blossom, peel the backing paper off and position it on the top of your guideline making sure there will be room for the star. I found it easier to start with the green blossom shape then add the star.
2. Following the guidelines, place green blossom shapes down both sides, remember to leave at least 1/2" from the edge at the sides so your faux piping doesn't cover your tree. Then fill in the spaces. There is no 'right' way to do this, put the pieces where it pleases you and leave as much 'white' space in between as you like.
3. Now add the red decorations in the same manner. That is, put them where you want them, add other colours if you wish, embellish your tree with glittery stuff if that's what you want. In short, 'decorate' your tree.
4. When you have everything exactly where you want it, fuse them following the manufacturer's instructions.

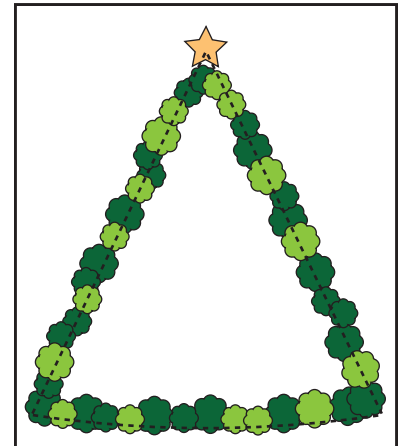


Illustration 2

The Faux Piping and Borders

Faux Piping does not have the cording in it that true piping has – hence the name Faux (which just means 'mock') Piping.

1. Fold lengthwise and press the four pieces you have cut for the Faux Piping.
2. Starting with the top and bottom edges first, align the raw edges of the Faux Piping with the raw edge of your background fabric. With a 1/8" seam allowance baste them in place. (Illustration 3)
3. Repeat for the two sides. Do not press the piping to the outside, just leave it exactly where it is. (Illustration 4)
4. In the same order, and with a 1/4" seam allowance, sew the borders on and press the seams toward the border. The Faux Piping then looks like a very narrow border. (Illustration 5, 6, & 7)

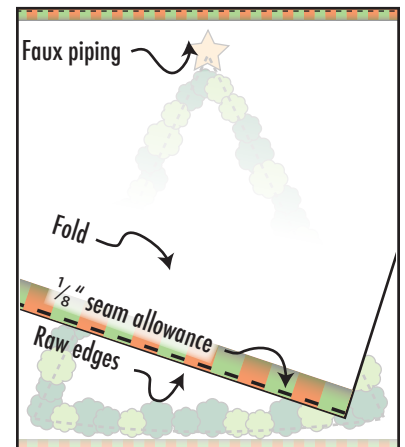


Illustration 3

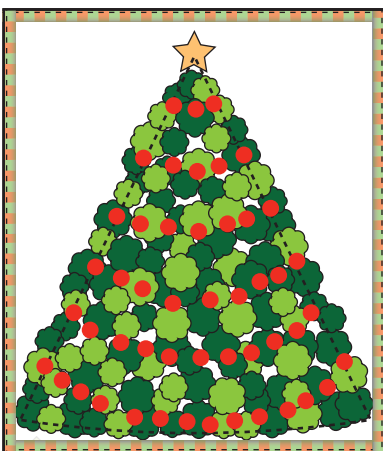


Illustration 4

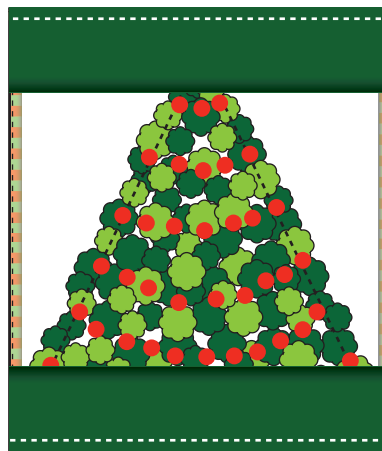


Illustration 5

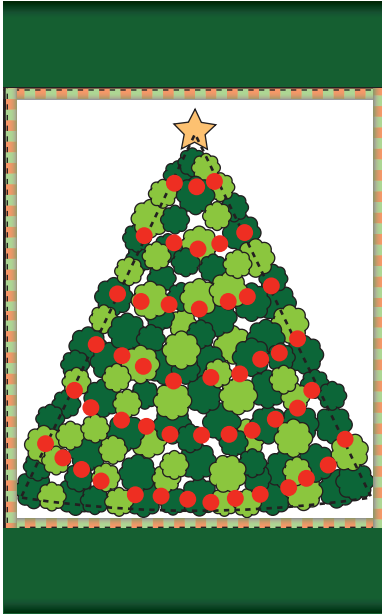


Illustration 6



Illustration 7

Finishing

1. I used fusible batting to layer my wall hanging, then outline quilted the green, red, and gold fabrics with the perfect color match in 40wt Aurifil Mako Cotton thread.
2. With the fabric of your choice add the binding, and a hanging sleeve if you wish, and Ta Daa !! you have a lovely little Christmas Tree for your house or the house of a friend.

With best wishes for a Happy Holiday season.

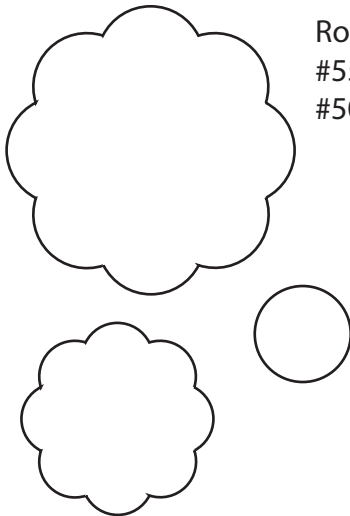
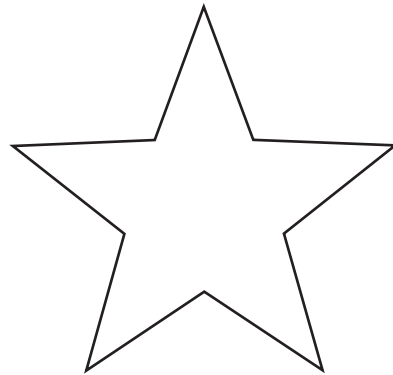


Illustration 8

Rose of Sharon Die
 #55045 - Go
 #50342 - Studio



Star Die
 #55028 - Go

