



Pattern of the Month - December 2015

By Evelyn George

How To Create a Snowy Tree Block

Here's a tutorial on how to free-cut a fusible-backed fabric triangle into several "tiers" for a whimsical tree to applique onto your holiday block or quilt. You can make a charming tree from just one fabric, or you can combine several different greens or holiday prints to make it even jollier, like the scrappy table runner/wall hanging shown. Instructions are for making several blocks -- they're so much fun, you might want to make a bunch!

- 12½" background squares of white snowflake print (or other tone-on-tone white)
- 3 or 4 8" squares (or 6" x 8" rectangles)* of assorted green prints
- 6" square of brown for tree trunks
- Wonder Under® or other paper-backed fusible of your choice

Fusing: To protect your ironing surface, cover it with an applique pressing sheet or a piece of baker's parchment paper. Cut paper-backed fusible slightly smaller than selected green and brown fabric pieces for trees. Following manufacturer's instructions, iron fusible side of Wonder Under to wrong side of those fabrics.

Cut each green rectangle or square into a triangle, as shown.

--*A wide, squat triangle, made from a rectangle, stretches up to make a nice fat tree.

--A tall triangle, made from a square, stretches up to make a taller, skinnier tree.

For scrappy look, use either all squares, OR all rectangles.

Starting at side of triangle, use scissors to make a wavy cut across the top of the triangle to the other side. This can be at a slight angle, for a more realistic effect. →

Make two or three more wavy cuts, dividing the triangle into several "tiers" of the tree; trim the bottom edge wavy, also. Repeat with all the green triangles.

Play with the assorted tiers, mixing up the greens, or match them, as you like, positioning them on the white background, with some white "snow" showing between the pieces, to make trees.

Round off the sharp corners, trim and reshape tiers as needed to make them look their best.

Cut stems from the brown to go with your trees. Round these off a little, too.

Remove paper backing from all the cut pieces, reposition them on background square (remembering to leave room for seam allowances), and fuse according to manufacturer's directions.

Stitch around all the shapes with a straight stitch 1/8" from raw edges, or use zigzag, blanket stitch or other decorative stitch by machine or hand. Add embellishments if you wish.

Combine blocks into a wall hanging or table runner by adding sashing and borders; make a pillow from one; or add some to a holiday quilt. (Scraps with fusible on them can be used to embellish other projects.)

