

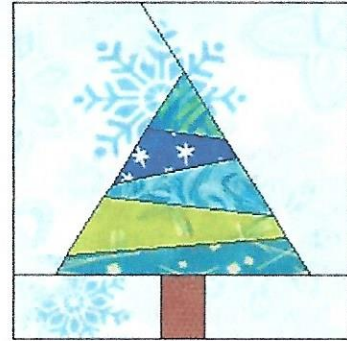


Pattern of the Month - November 2016

By Evelyn George

Little Tree

4" paper foundation pieced block



Foundation pattern for making this block will be available free at the November and December meetings. Please use your favorite paper piecing method; or if you're just learning, there are tutorials online, in quilting magazines, and at our quilt shops. We'll give a few hints, too, to help you be successful. Make a bunch of these cute little trees -- and please don't worry if the first few aren't perfect, just keep going -- you'll learn and get better as you go!

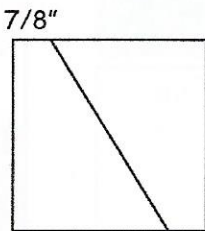
Tip: Next month's pattern will be for a very cute little winter wall hanging, using about 20 of these trees plus one more (secret!) 4" block -- of which you'll only need to make one!
If you'd like to make the December quilt (approx. 28" x 24"), you'll need about 1 1/4 yards of background fabric for the quilt top (2 yards if you want to use the same fabric for the back, too), and assorted scraps for the trees.
Suggested fabrics are a snowy-looking, non-directional, white or light color for the background; at least 5 different blue and/or green scraps for the tree; and brown for the trunk, but of course you could use any colors you like.

We'll provide one copy of the foundation pattern per member. First, make yourself one sample copy and check to be sure it copied accurately. Then print enough foundations for about 24 tree blocks (12 copies, with 2 blocks per page) so you'll have a few extras to practice on. Each block has two parts, the tree top and the trunk, which are foundation pieced separately and then joined together.

Precut fabric pieces (for 1 block):

<u>Section A (tree top)</u>		<u>Section B (trunk)</u>
<u>Assorted blues/greens</u>	<u>Background</u>	
A1 1 1/2" x 4"	A6 and A7: 4 1/2" squares of	B1 1" x 1 1/2" brown for trunk
A2 1 1/2" x 3 1/4"	background fabric; cut in pairs,	B2 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" background
A3 1 1/2" x 2 3/4"	right sides together as shown ↓	B3 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" background
A4 1 1/2" x 2 1/4"		
A5 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"		

(For scrappier trees, stack several tree fabrics, cut 1 1/2" strips, and cut pieces A1 through A5 from all the fabrics at the same time, then use different combinations for each tree.)

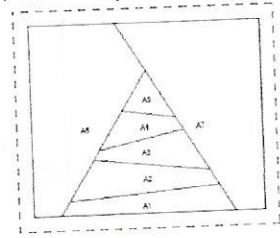


← Layer two 4 1/2" background squares right sides together. Lay ruler at angle shown, and cut. Separate the right and left pairs; this makes two mirror image pairs (enough for two blocks).

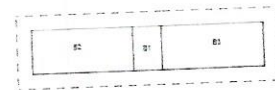
Trim most of excess paper from foundation, leaving about 1/8" outside of the outermost, lighter line (seam allowances), separating A and B sections. Be careful not to remove any of the seam allowance! Pre-fold each paper foundation along all the inner seam lines, creasing well. (A postcard is very helpful to get a nice crease.) This helps in two ways: it makes it easier to fold paper out of the way to trim off excess fabric before adding the next piece; and it makes paper easier to remove when block is finished.

Set stitch length to a shorter stitch, about 1.5 (at least 15 stitches per inch). This makes a strong seam, since you don't backstitch, and it also makes paper easier to remove. Use regular sewing thread in a neutral color; a larger needle, such as 90/14, which will help perforate the paper; and an open toe presser foot, or one with a center mark, to help you stay on the stitching line.

The solid lines are stitching lines. Dotted lines represent seam allowances → --and will also be your final trimming lines, after assembly.



Sew on the printed side of the paper, with fabric pieces underneath. Stitch on the line, adding the pieces of fabric in numerical order.



First, with printed side of paper foundation facing down, center the A1 fabric piece right side up on the paper so it will completely cover the A1 shape on the other side (peek to make sure), and extend at least 1/4" beyond the lines, including the outermost one at the bottom edge; fabric should extend at least to the bottom edge of the paper. Pin in place. Turn foundation over to printed side, and fold on the line between A1 and A2, exposing the fabric edge. Adjust if needed so 1/4" of fabric extends beyond the fold, and repin from the paper side.

From the fabric side again, position fabric A2 on top of A1, right sides together, raw edges matching 1/4" past the stitching line between A1 and A2. Now pin on that line, open out the A2 fabric and hold it up to the light to be sure it is going to cover the A2 section adequately. When you're sure both fabrics are correctly positioned, stitch on the line -- removing pin just before sewing. Open out fabric and finger press, or press with iron (no steam).

Before adding A3, fold the pattern on the next line (between A2 and A3) and trim excess, leaving 1/4" seam allowance. Continue adding pieces in order to complete Foundation A; when adding A6 and A7, where the seam line goes to outer edge of block, extend stitching all the way to outer edge of paper. Make Foundation section B in the same manner. Trim outer edges of both foundation sections on the dotted lines before joining A to B.

Some quilters prefer to leave the paper in place until all the blocks are stitched together, while others prefer to remove it before joining the sections or blocks (in which case, outer edges can be stay-stitched 1/8" from raw edges to prevent stretching). It's your preference, and either way, pinning to match edges is a good idea. In any case, the paper has to come off before quilting!

Little Tree 4" foundation pieced block

When PRINTING make sure to specify ACTUAL SIZE. Do not use Fit, Shrink or Scale settings.

