

Fall Foliage

By Tedi Patterson, tedi.Vta@gmail.com
finished 12" square



"The process of leaves changing colors in the fall is called "senescence." It's a natural process where the green chlorophyll pigments in the leaves break down and reveal other pigments, which gives the leaves their autumn hues."

-AskScience

Lessons:

Make bias tape, bias tape applique', QAYG (Quilt as You Go), Raw edge collage, machine applique', and sewn-in sleeve.

Inspired by [Cluck Cluck Scrap Buster Fall Pillow](#) and

Create bold designs with bias tape appliqué on Fresh Quilting with Latifa...

Fabrics: Iron out wrinkles from your fabrics.

- 5+ pieces of Rectangle Fabric scraps, at least 2.5" x 3" (it doesn't need to be exact) of prints, and/or solids, in a variety of Fall colors: reds, oranges, yellows, purples, greens, browns.
- Fat quarter, brown fabric - print or solid for the tree trunk & branches.
- Background fabrics, Contrasts with your tree fabric.,
Ground 14" x 3" - 4" rectangle.
Sky 14" x 10" rectangle that contrasts with your fabric scraps.
- Batting square 14" square.
- Backing fabric, 14" square.
- Binding fabric, 2.5' x 60+" (¼ yard WOF).

Supplies:

- Bias tape maker 1/2" / 12mm size
- Ruler with 45 degree angle, or cutting mat with 45 degree angle mark
- Cutting mat, ruler, rotary cutter
- Measuring tape
- Double sided fusible web like Steam a Seam 2 (my preference) or Heat and Bond Lite - 6" x 12"
- Silicon pressing sheet or parchment paper
- Steam iron

- Scissors: for paper and fabric. Serrated, too, but not necessary.
- Non-erasable fabric marker or pencil.
- Open-toe foot and switch plate (don't use a single-hole switch plate when freemotion quilting).
- Sewing machine
- Basic sewing supplies
- Quilt basting spray, like 505

Optional but helpful

- serrated scissors like Karen K Buckley
- dryer sheet to remove adhesive residue that may get on your iron. Place a dryer sheet on your ironing surface and iron.
- alcohol wipes if your needle gets sticky.

Background

With right sides together, sew the long side of your ground fabric to the long side of your sky fabric.

Make your quilt sandwich: background fabric, batting, and back fabric.

Baste together with spray or large stitches.



Set aside.

Tree Layout

Decide if you want to have your tree centered or off-center.

Using a non-erasable marker/pencil:

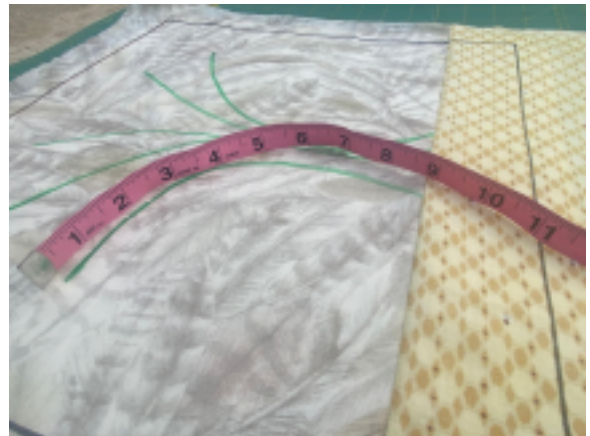
- Draw a 12.5" square on top of your block, including at least 2" of ground fabric.
- Draw the skeleton of your tree onto the background fabric.
- I made 5 branches, but you can do more or less.
- Keep branches wide apart so you will have room to place your leaves.
- Remember that there will be a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance all around the perimeter.

Make bias tape

You can skip this step completely if you use purchased bias tape. But if you make your own, the color possibilities are endless.

Make bias tape with the bias tape maker and iron. You can make long strips, then cut them as you go, or cut them into individual pieces.

You will need at least 5 bias strips that are 10+ inches long. Use a measuring tape on your longest drawn line to get an approximate length.



From the tree trunk fabric, cut 1" strips on the bias, 45-degree angle.



Working on your ironing surface, with the fabric wrong side up, feed one end through the bias tape maker.

If you are having trouble sliding it through, use a pin in the slot on top of the bias tape maker to guide it

through.

Pin the end that peeks out to your surface.

Iron the pinned fabric while pushing the iron against the narrow end of the bias tape maker. It may be helpful to tilt the maker up at a 90-degree angle, sliding it as you push the iron.



Make about 50" in total length of bias strips.

Build Your Tree - Machine Applique'



A. Place the bias tape with the folds down. You will run the bias tape **OVER**, not next to, your drawn line.

Top stitch close to one side of the bias tape,



following the curve of the trunk and



branches.



Before you finish stitching the bias tape, cut it where you want it to end, then continue stitching to the end.

B. Press so that the bias tape lies flat.



C. Stitch down the other side of the bias tape.



Overlap the bias tape in the trunk area.



Continue steps A - C until you have completed your tree trunk and branches.

Set aside.

Leaves

Prepare the leaf fabrics.

1. Remove the paper from one side of the fusible web. Leave the paper on the other side.
2. Place fabric rectangles **right sides** up onto the exposed sticky side of the fusible web.
3. Don't let fabric pieces overlap. Gently, smooth out each piece to remove any large air bubbles.
4. Cover with parchment paper or a pressing sheet. Press.
5. Turn over the fabric with parchment paper now on the bottom and paper side of fusible on top. Lightly steam-press the paper side for about 10 seconds, so that it fully adheres to the fabric.

Important! Check to see that the fabric and fusible don't separate from each other. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.

If the fabric isn't completely adhered to the web, press in 5-second increments.

Let cool completely before cutting.

1. Cut the rectangles apart with your paper-cutting scissors or rotary cutter. Trim off any excess fusible.



2. On the back side (paper side), draw your leaves $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" long in almond, circle, oval shapes, or freeform. Vary the sizes and shapes if you like.

3. Cut a minimum of 25 leaves to start. My tree is relatively sparse. Add more leaves if you want a fuller tree.

4. Peel off the backing from the leaves.

5. Place or scatter them on your branches, falling to the ground, or maybe on the ground or floating in the air.

The fusible will help them temporarily stick in place, letting you move them around. They will become permanent only after the pressing stage.

6. When you are satisfied, press them in place with a parchment or pressing sheet on top. Remove the sheet, then steam press for 10 seconds on the front and again on the back of your block. Repeat pressing until the raw edges are completely adhered.



As always, I encourage you to add your own touches.

Maybe a pumpkin or something else sitting on the ground, apples, birds in the tree or sky, a sun or moon, etc. Add these **BEFORE** the next step.



Machine applique & quilting

Note: I try not to cut my thread very often, and I used thread that matched the background color and did continuous stitching.

Starting at the base of the trunk, stitch up along the trunk, then to a branch and around each leaf two or more times, adding veins if you want.

Then continue back down the branch towards the trunk and up to another branch, repeat. Stitch around any other elements that you may have added.

I did Echo quilting after stitching down all the leaves and branches. You can also opt to quilt in straight or wavy lines across the entire block. Stitch at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " apart, close enough to catch most of your leaves. This is a display piece that most likely won't be washed; don't worry about excess fraying.

Trim the block to 12.5" square.

SEWN-IN SLEEVE

Use the 2.5" by 12" fabric strip.

1. On the short side of your strip, fold under $\frac{1}{4}$ " twice towards the wrong side. Press then top stitch. Repeat with the other side.

Fold lengthwise, wrong sides together.

2. On the **BACKSIDE** of your block, center the sleeve's raw edge lined up with the center of the top raw edge of your block. Pin or clip in place. It will be about 1 inch in from either side. The fold of the sleeve will be facing the center of your block.

3. Stitch about $\frac{1}{8}$ " in place at the top raw edge. Back stitching at the beginning and end.

4. Sew on the Binding strip to the right side of the block, but start and end with the binding on any side or bottom. Avoid the top to reduce bulk. You will catch both the sleeve and binding while sewing the top edge.

5. Pin/clip the binding in place, then hand-stitch the binding to the back of your block.



6. Push the bottom edge of the sleeve up towards the binding, about an eighth of an inch. Pin in place. This creates a raised tunnel. It will help your quilt block hang flat.
7. Hand-stitch the bottom of the sleeve to the back.
Keep short ends open.

Congratulations, you completed another mini quilt! Email a

photo of your mini to Joey Strait, and she will post it on the CQA website. JoeyStrait50@gmail.com,

Or Bring it to me at the next meeting.

I can take a picture, then send it to her for you.

You will receive an entry ticket for the May 2026 drawing to win one of three gift certificates from a Local Quilt Shop!

Contact me with any questions.

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