

November 2021 Block of the Month

Modern Christmas Tree Block



This month's block comes from Amy Smart of Diary of a Quilter at <https://www.diaryofaquilter.com>. These are super easy improv Christmas trees. If you have trouble following my directions, there's a very thorough video tutorial at <https://youtu.be/GCfZkdEKWlw>

These blocks will end up about $7\frac{1}{2}$ " x $9\frac{1}{2}$ " unfinished **but don't trim them to size**. You are going to cut and piece the blocks in pairs. This eliminates fabric waste and makes the blocks come together lickety-split.



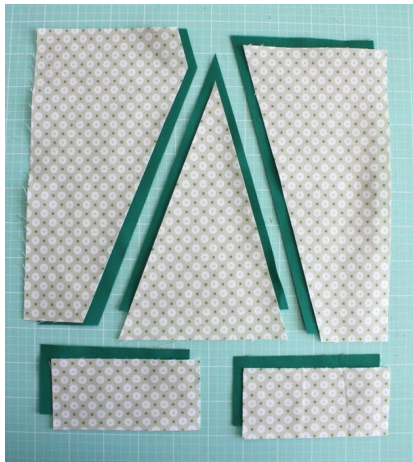
Fabric requirements

- Two squares $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x $8\frac{1}{2}$ "
- Two strips 2" x $8\frac{1}{2}$ "
- Two brown pieces approx. $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x 2"



Stack your two $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x $8\frac{1}{2}$ " contrasting squares on top of each other. Place a quilting ruler at an angle like the picture and make a diagonal cut.

Pull the fabric from the first cut away, and make a second diagonal cut in the other direction to get your tree shape. **Important:** Don't cut your triangle point right at the top of the block – leave lots of room above the point so that there's room for squaring up and for seam-allowance.



Cut your two 2" x $8\frac{1}{2}$ " strips in half to make two sets of 2" x $4\frac{1}{4}$ " strips.

You will now have a matching set looking like this.



Swap out the 'tree' piece and match it up with the contrasting background pieces.

Sew the tree piece to the background side piece starting with the side of the second cut. (as shown) Press to tree.

Trim the top of the seam even with the remaining side of the tree so you have a straight seam to sew.

Sew the other background piece to the unsewn side of the tree.



Once your sides are pieced, square off the bottom so that the edges are straight across.



Sew the two sets of 2" x 4 1/4" strips on either sides of a brown 2" x 1 1/2" 'trunk' piece.



Sew the trunks to the bottom of the blocks. (The trunk strips are purposely wider than the tree parts so that you have wiggle room to center the trunk under the wonky trees.)



Square up the sides of the trunk to match the sides of the block. My block was roughly 7 1/2" x 9 1/2" unfinished. But it doesn't matter exactly what size they end up.

The winner of the blocks will trim all the blocks to the same size.