

Westshore Quilter's Guild - Christmas Tree Project
April 2017 - November 2017

April 2017 - Tree and 3 French Hens
May 2017 - 12 Drummers Drumming
June 2017 - 11 Pipers Piping
July 2017 - 10 Lords a Leapin
August 2017 - 9 Ladies Dancing and a Partridge in a Pear Tree
September 2017 - 8 Maids a Milking and 2 Turtle Doves
October 2017 - 7 Swans a Swimming and 4 Calling Birds
November 2017 - 6 Geese a Layin and 5 Golden Rings

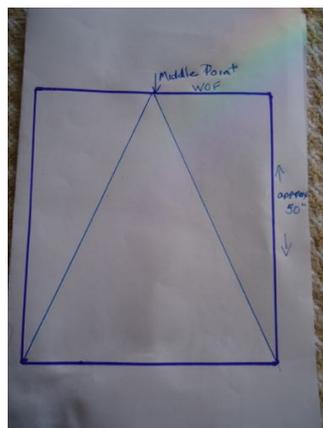
Tree

There are 2 options for the tree. You may make the tree from one piece of fabric or you may construct the tree from hexagons.

One Piece Fabric Tree

We made our one piece fabric trees from scraps, pieced fabric, mile a minute or just one piece of fabric. We used batting and a backing and finished the tree with binding. We will include instructions for the process we used to make our trees but we hope everyone will do whatever they like.

1. Decide on a size for your tree. Keep in mind the size of the objects you are going to apply. Yvonne, Glenda and Ann's trees are approximately WOF x 48". Marlyn's tree is smaller.
2. To make the tree lay out your fabric and find the middle on a WOF side. Use rulers and draw a line from your marked middle point to one of the bottom corners, mark and then cut. Do the same for your other side. Now you have your Christmas Tree shaped fabric.
3. Cut a piece of batting and backing slightly larger than your tree. Sandwich and quilt as desired. Ann and Glenda used straight line quilting. Yvonne's tree is snippets glued down with Elmer's school wash away glue and then intensely free motion quilted. The glue will wash out. Marlyn is using the mile a minute method.
4. A suggestion we heard at the first meeting was to add background sides to the tree and make a lap quilt. What a good idea!
5. Now you are ready to make the ornaments to put on your tree.



Tree Made Totally from Hexagons

You may make your Christmas Tree totally out of hexagons. Keep in mind the size of your tree when choosing a hexagon size. Hexagons are usually sized by the length of their sides. You can multiply the length of a side by 2 and the result will be the widest part of your hexagon. The other side to side dimension will be 1.75 times the length of a side. For instance a hexagon with 1 inch sides will be 2 inches at the widest part and then 1.75 inches from side to side. You may use the images that we provide for your hexagons or you may decide to use geometric shapes and english paper piece or ?

1. Decide on a size for your tree. If you are doing the 12 Days of Christmas, the height of your tree will be 12 times the widest part of your hexagon and the width at the widest part will be 12×1.75 . The hexagon I am using has a finished side length of 2 1/2 inches so my finished hexagon height is 5 inches which gives me a height of 60 inches for my tree and a width or approximately 52 inches.
2. To make one hexagon. Cut a front and back for your hexagon remembering to add a seam allowance. I am using 1/2" seam allowance..
3. Cut the batting without the seam allowance.
4. Layer the top, right side up onto the batting, folding the top around the batting. You may pin, baste or glue to keep in place. Quilt as desired.
5. Add the backing and fold each side over the top twice to create a finished edge, pin. Sew in place. I used a fancy stitch on my machine to sew down.
6. Now you are ready to apply your applique, paint your image or ?.

Note: I used a plastic hexagon template from Hex Essentials. The middle is cut out to the finished side. I will include links to different sites where you can obtain hexagon templates that you may print out.

Ornaments for One Piece Fabric Tree

You may use hexagons, squares, circles or ? for ornaments for your tree and use any medium you like to create the images or ? The idea is to make it yours!
If you decide to make the total number of objects for the 12 days of Christmas there will be 78!
We are suggesting making either one object for each day with the number on it or making smaller different sized objects to make up the number.

The instructions for making the hexagons Yvonne used are in the section above.

Yvonne is using a fabric background with felt applique with reverse applique, embroidery and beading. To make up the total number of objects Yvonne is using pieced hexagons and smaller one fabric hexagons. Large hexagon with image - 2 1/2 inches per side, Medium pieced hexagon - 1 1/2 inch per side, Small hexagon - 1 inch per side and Its Bitsy - 1/2 inch per side.

Glenda is using a fabric background with fabric applique, embroidery and beading.

Ann is using a fabric background with fabric applique, paper piecing, embroidery and beading.

Three French Hens

Here is a link to some free patterns you can use from the Downeast Thunder Farm to make your French Hens.

<http://www.downeastthunderfarm.com/2012/03/a-rooster-in-my-garden-felt-ornament/>

<http://www.downeastthunderfarm.com/2013/04/darling-delaware-hen/>

<http://www.downeastthunderfarm.com/2012/01/a-buff-in-the-box-felt-chicken-ornament-pattern/>

We have found lots of examples on Pinterest.

There are some great images in Debbie Mumm's books "The 12 Days of Christmas" which is in our library.

The Quiltmaker put out a multi month 12 Days of Christmas so if you have saved this series you will have some wonderful images. You can also buy the pattern from them for \$12.95. It is an immediate download.



Useful Links

How to draw a hexagon video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfZzIN_5cgQ

Hexagon templates to print - http://www.lovepatchworkandquilting.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/LPQ_hexagons.pdf

How to make a tumbling block hexagon - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkxfvMVnZV4>

Free templates for birds and other things - <http://www.downeastthunderfarm.com>

Marlyn's French Hen and Instructions

3 French Hens



I used the image as shown above and placed it on a rectangle 3" wide by 4" long (including seam allowance). You may choose to make your image larger and then would need a correspondingly larger rectangle.

Trace the outline of the image onto the front of your fabric with a pigma pen or pencil.

Draw or trace the facial features.

Colour and embroider as you wish.

Cut a backing, sew it to the front, envelope style and stuff.

I used Sharpies to colour in the beret, the facial features and the cox comb (at the top of the head). Please use a very fine pen for the eyes.

I then used 2 strands of black thread to embroider the edge of each stripe with the thought that I would colour alternate stripes black and

white. As I was working on a white background, I found the embroidered lines were sufficient to give the feeling of stripes.

I then used a fairly neutral one strand of floss to embroider the outline of the chicken, and the hat and cock comb were done in the same colour as painted.

Felt the chicken needed to be grounded so did a few green seed stitches below it.

Finally, I drew the number 3 and used Sharpies to colour it.

Note: Please test your pens on the fabric first to see if the colour bleeds as brands do vary. You may choose to just use coloured pencils.

PLAY WITH IT TO MAKE HER YOURS.

