



Jane's Exotic Garden Tree

An original quilt by Jane Sassaman for FreeSpirit Fabrics.
Approximately 30" x 50".

Place the frame shaped interfacing on the back of the Little Leaf fabric. Be sure that it is lined up squarely with the leaf print and fuse. Now cut on your outline through the interfacing/fabric. You should now have an empty frame of fabric.

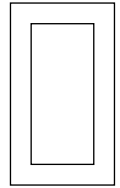


Figure 1.

- Now we need to design our central character, the tree. Trace the tree shape from the photo on to tracing paper and take it to your local copy shop for enlarging. The tree should extend beyond the inside edges of the fabric border. Figure 3.

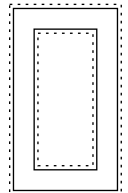


Figure 2.

Do not include the black spirals at the base of the tree, they are separate pieces.

- Now you need to transfer the tree outline to another piece of interfacing. If you want your tree to look exactly like this picture you will need to flip your drawing over and retrace the design on the back side of the paper. Then trace the reversed design on to the non-stick side of your interfacing. It will turn right after it gets adhered to the fabric and is cut out. But first you need to cut the interfacing tree outside your drawn line and fuse it to the back side of your black fabric. Now you can cut out the tree exactly on the line, fabric and interfacing together. Figure 4.

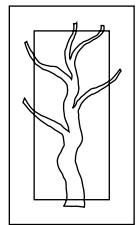


Figure 3.

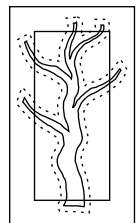


Figure 4.

- You may have noticed that the tree is to be set on two different pieces of background fabric, so you will need to create the interfacing patterns for two halves. First lay out your fabric frame face down on a table then center the tree, also face down, on top of it. When you are satisfied with its position, place a piece of interfacing on top of the tree and frame, non-stick side towards you. Draw a line down the center of the tree and outside the frame edge. Figure 5.

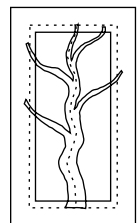


Figure 5.

Cut the interfacing exactly on the lines. You will have two pieces of interfacing that fit exactly together. Fuse one half on the back of the yellow fabric with green dots and the other to the yellow fabric with

Jane's Exotic Garden Quilt is done in the broderie perse style, a 19th century appliqué technique which imitates embroidered fabrics and oriental rugs. Originally, broderie perse quilts were made using groups of individually cut out chintz flowers which were applied to a whole cloth background. But for our 21st century quilt we are using FreeSpirit's elegant cotton prints from the Jane's Exotic Garden collection.

Materials List

1/3 yd. of *each* desired fabric (provided you have whole designs in the yardage)

Color Connectors: Black

3 yards Medium weight Iron-on interfacing

1 1/2 yads. Backing

1 1/2 yds. Little Leaf design

First we must create the background for our garden. This background must be able to support a lot of appliqué and embroidery, so it will be backed throughout with a medium weight iron-on interfacing. The interfacing acts as a stabilizer and makes for easier handling.

- Begin by drawing the outline of the outer rectangular border on the non-stick side of your interfacing. A fine permanent marker will work well for drawing on interfacing throughout this project. Figure 1.

Cut your interfacing just beyond your drawn lines.
Figure 2.

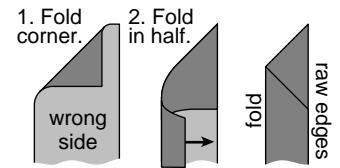
green dots and the other to the yellow fabric with blue dots. Make sure that the dots run parallel to the long edge. Cut the fabric exactly around the edges of your interfacing.

- Now you can turn the dotted fabric face-up and butt the two halves together. Lay the tree on top so the center joint is covered. Baste the tree to the yellow backgrounds. You can baste by hand, machine or spray glue. I recommend using a straight machine stitch (black thread) extremely close to the trees edge for best results. After basting, finish the raw tree edges with a black satin stitch. Cut away the yellow fabric/interfacing from behind the tree. Iron.
- Lay the tree section face up on your table, then place the fabric frame on top of it. Be sure they are centered before they are machine basted together. Baste with black thread. Then finish the raw edge with a black satin stitch. Again, cut away all the excess fabric on the underside. Iron. Now your background is ready to applique on.
- Choose the flowers and leaves you want to use from Jane's Exotic Garden collection, back them with interfacing and cut them out. Next, trace two opposing spirals to the non-stick side of your interfacing. Cut the interfacing outside the line and fuse them to the back of another piece of black fabric, then cut the fabric/interfacing exactly on the line. The rest is up to you. Arrange and rearrange your elements on the background until you find a composition that is pleasing and pin them into place.
- Take a deep breath, because now the fun begins. Start the appliqué process by attaching the pieces that are independent and do not touch anything but the background. Look at the photo and you will see that the tree's leaves and flowers are independent pieces. They do not overlap any other elements, but sit directly on the background. Machine baste each of these shapes around their outer edges with a matching color of thread. You may find it easiest to use a free-motion stitch for basting. After basting, finish the raw edge of each shape with a satin stitch or the decorative stitch of your choice. Always cut away the background fabric beneath each appliquéd shape to reduce bulk and make your quilt top easier to manage. When the first layer of shapes have been applied and cut away from behind, proceed to the next layer and attach them in the same way. Continue until all the elements are sewn on, finished with embroidery and the excess fabrics are cut away. Iron.

Hooray! Your top is finished. Layer, quilt, and bind it and and enjoy the Exotic Garden!

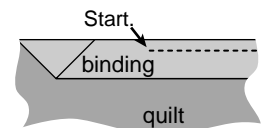
Binding

- Cut binding strips $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x width of fabric, then piece together on the short ends to make approximately 200" of continuous binding.
- Fold the binding in half lengthwise with wrong sides together and press.



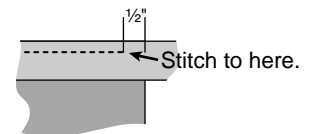
- Fold raw edge on short side diagonally, then fold the strip in half wrong sides together to form the binding and press.

- Line up the raw edges of the quilt front and the doubled raw edge of the binding and sew around the quilt beginning at the center bot-

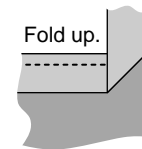


tom edge, 1" from fold, using $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance.

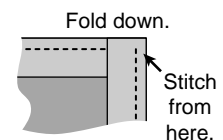
- As you approach a corner, stop $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance away from the raw edge.



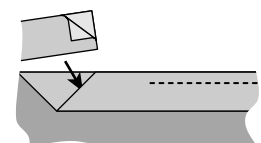
- Fold the binding strip up as shown so that you have a 45° angle.



- Fold the binding strip straight down making sure the raw edges of the binding are even with the raw edges of the quilt. Begin stitching $\frac{1}{2}$ " (seam allowance) away from the folded edge of the binding. (The stitching should meet but not overlap at the corners.)



- As you approach the starting point, tuck the end of the binding strip inside the folded section as shown and complete the stitching.



- Turn folded edge to the back and hand stitch in place.

