



—IN THE LEAFY TREETOPS

A quilt along by Patchwork Posse

<http://patchworkposse.com/blog>

Materials Needed:



4-6 fat quarters of LIGHT fabric.

One with a bit of print, but they aren't screaming color at you.

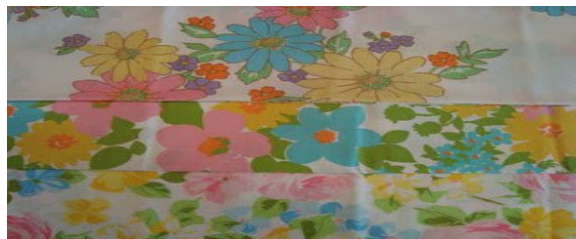


6 fat quarters of screaming color fabrics
they just need them to contrast enough with the other pieces.



1 sheet for the border + the back
Finished size is 45X45 –or something like that.

8 fat quarters or 9 1/2 X9 1/2 inch squares of something in-between the color screamers and the lights. Something with just enough pattern –but not too much now. something like these:



So you need to cut:

Light colored fabric—

Cut 32 squares that are 3 1/2 inch X 3 1/2 inch.

Cut 16 squares that are 2 1/2 inch X 2 1/2 inch.

HINT: if you would like each block to have their ‘own’ background and not scrappy—cut 4 squares from each light colored fabric. -Each block will use 4 squares- If you want them to be mixed and matched them just cut them up and don’t worry about that.

Screaming color fabric—

Cut 40 squares that are 3 1/2 inch X 3 1/2 inch.

Cut 20 squares that are 2 1/2 inch X 2 1/2 inch.

HINT: If you would like each block to have their ‘own’ color and not scrappy—cut 5 squares from each colored fabric. -Each block will use 5 squares- If you are looking for a totally scrappy quilt, then cut away.

**I made mine not so scrappy. Each block has their ‘own’ background and their ‘own’ colored piece....see some below—now don’t think because i showed you that they end up to be 9 patches that you can just go ahead and sew them all together !) whatever what was that? who said that?



let’s move on. shall we?

In between fabrics—

Cut 8 squares that are 9 1/2 inch X 9 1/2 inch.

Border Fabric–

Cut 4 strips 6 1/2 inch X 36 inch



Sewing Instructions:

1) Grab your squares and lay them out in the following pattern.....9 patch



2) Sew them together. You want to sew the top row together, then the middle, then the bottom. This will make your life a BUNCH easier trying to keep those all in the right order.

3) Iron those girls! This will make the points work right if you do. I ironed mine all the same direction. Now, don't freak out on me.....see the center? It is the same on both sides, so i can 'flip' it to make the seams opposite. See that? ok. calm down. Now, go iron some stuff.

4) Sew the rows together. See how you make the seams match? See them go in different directions? Because you ironed them. good.



Now, pin them:



This will definitely help in keeping those corners nice. Believe me.

5) Finish these up by ironing them again.



6) Repeat till you have 8 of these. These will end up to be 9 1/2 inch square

Piecing the Top:

1) Lay out the center of the quilt as follows:

1st row—spacer, 9 patch, spacer, 9 patch

2nd row— 9 patch, spacer, 9 patch, spacer

3rd row—see how this is going? spacer, 9 patch, spacer, 9 patch

4th row— 9 patch, spacer, 9 patch, spacer



2) Sew these blocks together in their rows:



3) Sew those rows together to get a nice center of the quilt top.

Did you end up with a nice center of a quilt? yippee!!!

3) Now for the border. Sew the 6 1/2 inch 9 patch squares to the ends of 2 of the borders.

4) Sew one border (it has no 9 patches on the ends) and sew it to the top of the quilt center.

Repeat: Sew the second border (it also has no 9 patches on the ends) and sew it to the bottom of the quilt center.

5) Sew the border —now, this one has the 9 patches on the ends... to one side of the quilt center. You can pin the seam of the 9 patch to the seam of the border. they should match nicely. Finish up with sewing the other border to the other side.



6) Your finished quilt top will now look like this:



Today you will be cutting the leaves, branches, and birds.—

Fabric review for applique pieces:

LEAVES: I used 3 different fabrics for the leaves. There are 5 big leaves and 13 smaller leaves. My big leaves are made with one fabric and the smaller ones have 2 different fabrics.

You can use fat quarters for these. or just mix and match for the more scrappy look.

BRANCHES: I used one fabric for the branches. They are strips –not cut on the bias– i maybe should have, but figured that they are going to be shaggy so really, if there was a pucker every once in awhile it was no biggie. I also left the edges where they join, or change size, or direction raw. They will shag and give it some more character. That is the idea anyways. So far, it works.

BIRDS: Mine are matchy-matchy. You will need a dark and a light/medium color fabric. The bird in one and the wing in the contrasting other. You will also need just a bit of yellow for the beak. The birds are smaller than 6" square.



CUTTING:

1) Cut the patterns out.

2) Place pattern on the front of the fabric —don't worry now– and trace around them. Cut them out on this drawn line. I DID NOT USE wonder under or iron on backing. I just let the fabric be by itself. It will shag easier.



3) The bird will need to be reversed for one!!

3) Cut out all the leaves and birds.

4) Cut strips of fabric out of the branch fabric. You will need to make 4 strips of 1 1/2 inch wide and 3 strips of 2 inch wide. These are cut from salvage to salvage edge.

PINNING:

You will be pinning forever. Just know that and it will all be ok. ok?

* Find a place to lay out the quilt top. This will make the pinning and placing a lot easier.

1) Using the layout template- Lay the applique pieces in place..

2) Pin the leaves, branches, birds in their place according to the layout. *This is not the law girls. if you want to add, switch, move or delete something do it! And, This is where the pins come in handy. They are easy to move and switch and turn and whatever else to make them just right.

****HINTS**** at the end of the strip I cut it at a diagonal. *When going from a thick branch to a skinny one just lay them on top of each other- cut at a diagonal- they will be fine when washed.* Don't force the curves. *if you are really having a hard time CUT IT!!! at an angle of course...but it will be fine in the wash later.*

The strips of branches have no length given because you are really just eye-balling it. Lay the strip down, eye-ball, eye-ball, then cut at an angle. Move to the next branch.



Layed all out and pinned:



Birds added:



See the edges?



Don't worry about them...the ends, edges, and joints:



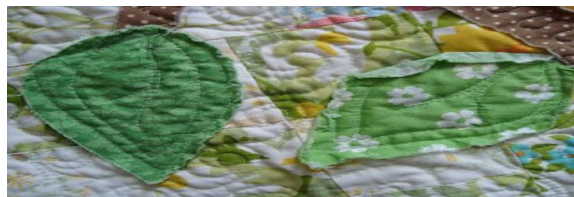
Quilting—

- 1) If you are quilting this on a big quilting frame, just load it up. pins and all!! when you get to that area, watch the pins- make sure you don't run over one or your finger while trying to remove one.
- 2) If you are quilting this on a normal machine using the walking foot or quilting foot....make your quilt 'sandwich' as usual. You would want to replace those pins though with safety pins so when you scrunch and bunch it to quilt it you won't get poked and bleed.

So layer your top (with all those safety pins) on top of the batting, and then on top of the backing. Now you need to add more pins! I know, you think there wouldn't be any more room, but those 1st pins only hold down the applique...not the quilt sandwich together. After pinning till you have no more pins left in the pin box, you can quilt it. Remove the pins when getting close to them.

With the appliques—start at a place where you don't have to remove the pin if possible. This will help that applique not shift so much.

LEAVES:



I entered the leaf at the bottom point- where it joins the branches- i sewed around once then again –keep this 1/2 inch from the edge. It might get a little pucker at the entrance point where the leaf shifted.....don't worry about it. It will shag in the wash and then you'll never know it! Then I sewed down the center and made some 'veins'.

BRANCHES:



I just sewed down the center of each branch with a wiggly, squiggly thing. this keeps the center very secured and the edge will shag nicely. See where the little branches join? They are cut at angles and then really just stitched in the center like all the rest.

BIRDS:



I sewed all the way around the bird once. At the tail i did pointy, jagged stitching for the 'tail feathers' Then i jumped into the wing at the front or back point and sewed back and forth for 'wing feathers'. The beak is sewn around the edges over lapping the head a bit—so no background shows between the beak and body. I did do a bit of stitching for feet...see the little feet? they don't show much, but still cute.

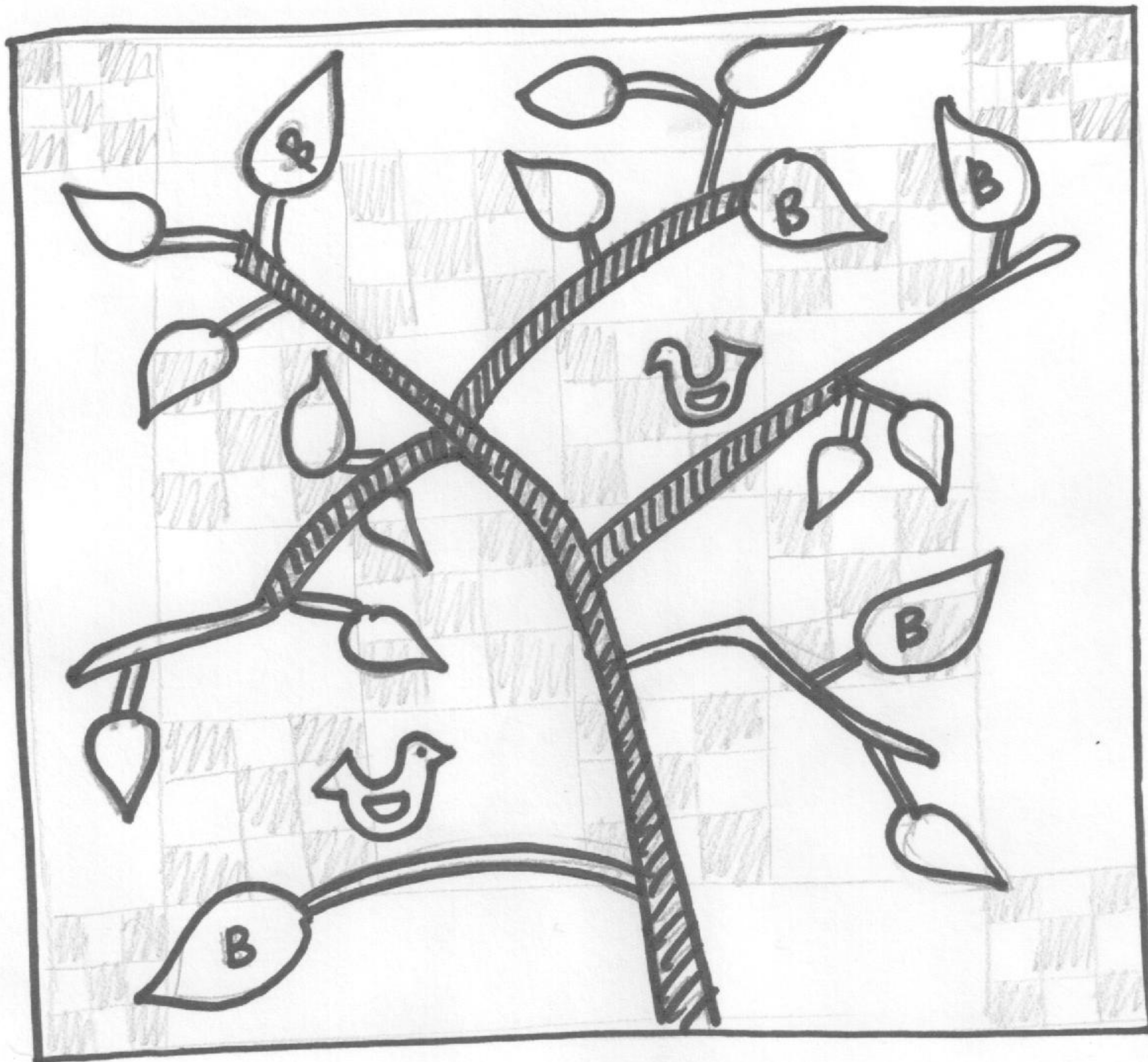
FILL:




I did swirlies all over. You could easily do a meander between everything else. See the branches and the leaves too? You just need something that will get you from one place to the other and keep all the sandwich parts together.

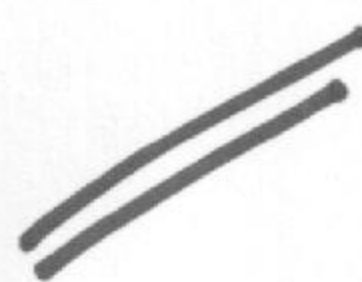
Now, all you need to do is bind, wash and use it!!!





 = BIG LEAVES

 = Little Leaves

 = skinny branch

 = thick branch

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whosies.blogspot.com

