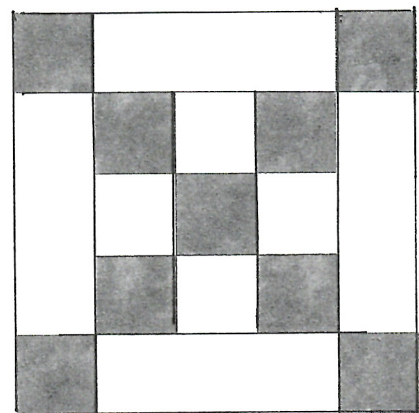
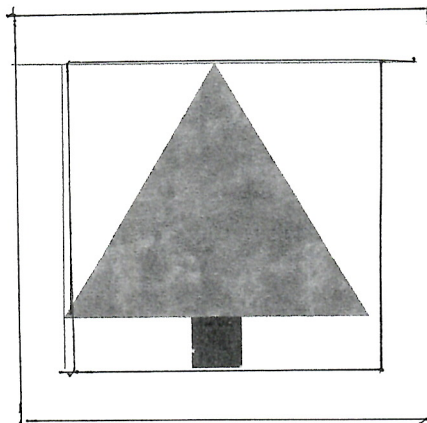
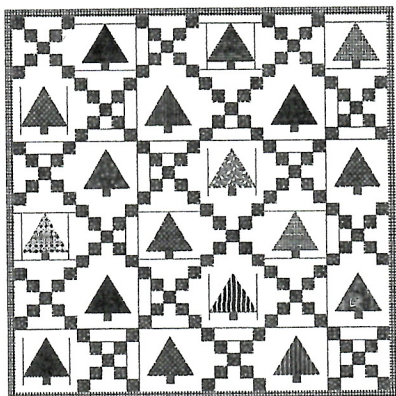


WINTER TREE Block
and IRISH CHAIN Block - 10-1/2" unfinished

CSnS Nov 2024



- * **BACKGROUND COLORS:** Cream, Vanilla, Whites, and/or Winter Holiday and Christmas cream/vanilla/white-on-white prints and blenders
- * **TREE COLORS:** Your choice – Green prints, blenders. Or Winter Holiday or Christmas prints. Or just get frisky with stripes or zippy fun prints any colors. Brown trunks.
- * **IRISH CHAIN COLORS:** Lots of options - red center patches with the inner four color squares in one green, and the outer four in a different green. Or, blocks done with all the color patches in red. So, do whatever makes you happy – greens, reds, winter holidays fabrics, just have fun. Use up those holiday fabrics! We'll let the winners sort it out!
- * **SIZE OF BLOCKS:** 10-1/2"
- * **TRICKY STUFF:** The tree – we're using templates to cut the tree fabric out. Just read the directions as you are doing it, and take it step by step. I've built in extra wide sashing so you can be absolutely sure your tree block will work! Get frisky with the fabrics, and let's have some fun with this!
- * **CUTTING for Irish Chain block:**
BACKGROUND fabric: four squares at 2-1/2" x 2-1/2"
and four strips at 2-1/2" x 6-1/2"
COLOR PATCHES: nine squares at 2-1/2" x 2-1/2"
- * **PIECING the Irish Chain block:**
 1. It's easiest to lay the pieces out in the shape of the block before you start sewing. Keep in mind you're making a 9 patch, and then putting sashing around it with corner color patches in the corners.
 2. Sew your center 9 patch together. Then sew a background strip on two opposite sides.
 3. Sew color squares on each end of the two remaining background strips, and then sew them on the two other sides, completing the block. Sit there and admire that fancy looking block you just made!

4. If you're feeling the joy of making, dig out more fun fabric and make another. 😊
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MAKING THE TREE BLOCK – USING TEMPLATES:

1. **THIS STEP NEEDS EXTRA ATTENTION:** Using your paper scissors (smiles), cut around the tree template, and the two “wing shaped” background templates to get them ready to use. Cut carefully, and pay attention to accurately cutting around the curved tips of the seam allowance at the top and side points of the tree and the wing-shaped background templates. Those curves are your guides to match when you sew the pieces together.

2. The side of the template paper with writing is the **RIGHT SIDE**. Place your tree template **RIGHT SIDE UP** on your tree fabric which is also **RIGHT SIDE UP**. Pin the template to the fabric in the three corner areas, using flat head pins if you have them. (Flat head pins let you lay a ruler onto the template without wobbling while you rotary cut around the template edges.)

3. Cut the fabric tree shape out by cutting the fabric as close to the paper as possible, without cutting the paper. Do a precision, careful job of cutting around those curved seam allowance points. Those curved points are **critical for placing your fabrics for sewing**.

4. Cut out your two “wing shaped” background fabric pieces using the same procedure – pin the right side up templates to the right side up background fabric; carefully cut out.

5. **IMPORTANT** (this saves unsewing): Lay out the tree and background pieces, right side up, before sewing, with a wing shape on each side, so it looks like it is supposed to look to make the block.

6. Gently edge one wing right up to the tree fabric, matching the long edge of the wing shape with the long edge of the tree next to it. Flip the wing shape over onto the tree, so the right sides of fabric are together. As exactly as possible, match up the rounded top and side point of the tree fabric with the rounded ends of the wing shape. Sew, and press to the dark side.

This is what the two pieces will look like when ready to sew:



7. Repeat with the other side, carefully matching the top & side curved points.

8. There might not be an exactly straight line across the top of the two wings you've just sewn on. A little variation, maybe 1/8th inch, is not a crisis. We'll fix that with the sashing.

What is important, is that you have at least a 1/4” seam allowance left over the point at the top of the tree, and next to the points at the sides of the tree. If you don't, please unsew, and match those rounded points, pin it, and re sew a very careful 1/4” seam.

Whew, the tricky part is done!!! You're coasting to victory now!!!

Just a couple more steps:

✧ 9. **Cutting for trunk, background and sashing:**

Tree trunk: 1-1/2" x 2" from brown fabric

Background strips: 1-1/2" x 4" – cut two, one for each side of trunk

Sashing: 1-3/4" x 8-1/2" – cut two of background fabric
1-3/4" x 10-1/2" – cut two of background fabric

10. The trunk patch is wider than it is tall. Sew a 1-1/2" x 4" background strip sew to each of the 1-1/2" tall sides of the trunk patch. Press to dark side.

11. To make sure you get the trunk centered on the tree, fold the bottom of the tree to find the middle, crease it a little. Align the middle of the trunk patch to that crease, and sew the trunk strip onto the bottom of the tree. And now it looks like a tree, big smiles, feel the joy!

12. If the top of the two wing shapes you sewed on aren't exactly even across the top of the tree, maybe one is sticking up a bit, it will make it easier to sew the sashing on if you trim it. Use the **BOTTOM EDGE OF THE TREE FABRIC** as your reference line to square up your top edge of the tree. **BUT**, remember you need to keep a 1/4" seam allowance, above the top tip of the tree. Trim off the excess background fabric on the sides from the tree trunk strip.

(If you don't have a 12-1/2" square ruler, you might want to tape two rulers together, so you can trim that top edge while keeping a ruler line on the bottom edge of the tree. If this step did not make sense to you, just skip this step, and head to the next step. This is supposed to be fun, and we're not sweating the small stuff. Smiles. We'll let the winners sort it out.)

✧ 13. We cut the sashing strips extra wide, at 1-3/4" wide, rather than 1-1/2". This is so there will be extra fabric for squaring up the blocks by whoever wins them.

14. Sew on the sashing – sew an 8-1/2" strip of background to two opposite sides; then sew the two 10-1/2" strips to the two other sides.

15. Wowser, you did it, and that is one very fine tree block! Sit back and feel that yummy flush of quilting joy as you admire that amazing block you just finished. Nice work!!!

You only need to make one, but, you might have lots of holiday fabric you'd like to use up want to make another?

➔ **FOR THE WINNERS OF THE BLOCKS –**

Square up all the blocks to 10-1/2". Using a 12-1/2" (or larger) square ruler makes this so much easier. For the tree blocks, lay the 5-1/4" line of the ruler on the top tip of the tree and straight down thru the center of the trunk. Use the bottom edge of the tree fabric as your reference line for making that 5-1/4" line straight up and down. That gives you an easy way to trim the 2 "sides" of the tree block – to 5-1/4" away from the midline. As for the top and bottom trims, measure the width of the sashing that you have left on the sides you just trimmed. Place your ruler on the block to trim the top, leaving that width of sashing. Look at the width of sashing that would be left on the bottom if you cut to 10-1/2". If the top and bottom widths of sashing are pretty much the same, go for it. You just need to end up with 10-1/2" blocks. Small variations in your sashing widths won't show, because there is so much background fabric around the block, and the neighboring Irish Chain blocks. *ENJOY!*

BACKGROUND
TEMPLATE

B

TREE
TEMPLATE

F

BACKGROUND
TEMPLATE

A