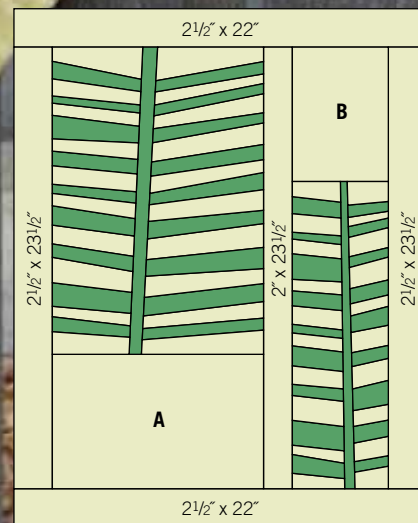


Two Trees

By Irene Berry

Sometimes a quilter needs a “no wrong answers” kind of project, as an antidote. After an intense quilt experience—the designing, the auditioning, the second guessing, the making all the corners meet and the points match—a person can use a break. Not from quilting, of course, but from precision. Two Trees is just such a project. Cut strips, sew them together, cut them apart, sew them together, no worrying allowed.

A traditional binding just wouldn’t have looked right, so you get a break from that, too. Two Trees is faced, with a wide binding turned to the back, using a technique Jennifer Rounds shows us in the June 2013 issue of TQL.



Two Trees Quilt Assembly

Two Trees

Fabric & Cutting Requirements

Yellow	$\frac{5}{8}$ yd.	2 strips $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $23\frac{1}{2}$ ", 1 strip 2" x $23\frac{1}{2}$ ", 2 strips $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 22", 1 A, 1 B, Strips for block piecing*
Green	fat $\frac{1}{4}$	Strips for block piecing*
Binding**		
Backing	$\frac{3}{4}$ yd.	26" x 32"
Batting		26" x 32"

Yardage is based on fabric 40" wide.

*Read "Cutting the fabric" below before cutting these strips.

**Refer to "Finishing Face-Off: Straight-Faced Edging or Facing with Fancy Corners" in the June 2013 issue of TQL for instructions for finishing this quilt with facing as pictured. You'll have two methods to choose from. Alternatively, purchase $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of fabric to make a traditional binding.

Designed and made by

Irene Berry

Quilt size

$21\frac{1}{2}$ " x 27 "

Block sizes

11 " x 16 " and 5 " x 16 "

Patches

A = $7\frac{1}{2}$ " x $11\frac{1}{2}$ "

B = $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x $7\frac{1}{2}$ "

Cutting the fabric

From the yellow fabric, cut the first 5 strips listed and the patches. Freehand, cut 10 uneven, "wonky" 20" long strips ("wonky" meaning the cutting lines are casual instead of exactly parallel). Cut 2 of the strips about 2" to $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. Cut the remaining strips between 1" and $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide.

Cut 11 wonky 20" long strips from the green fabric. They can vary between 1" and $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Set 2 green strips aside for tree trunks.

Making the blocks

Join the strips alternately, beginning and ending with the wider yellow strips. Press the seam allowances open as you add each strip. It's handy to have a pressing surface near the sewing machine for this—it is easier to press the seam allowances as you add each strip rather than waiting until you are finished with the strip set (Fig. 1).

Fold the resulting strip set in half like a book and press lightly to find the center. Don't worry if it's not exact. Using the fold as your guide, use your rotary cutter and ruler to cut a long wedge out of the center (Fig. 2). **Tip:** Work with the seam allowances facing you for easier cutting. The wedge should be about 3" across at the bottom. Save the wedge for another use.

Sew a trunk strip between the panels (Fig. 3). Press the seam allowances toward the trunk.

Trim the tree block to $11\frac{1}{2}$ " x $16\frac{1}{2}$ ". Make a straight cut across the top of the block first, and use that as your baseline for trimming the sides and bottom (Fig. 4).

Sew the remaining trunk between the left-over side pieces. Press. Trim the second block to $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x $16\frac{1}{2}$ " (Fig. 5).

Assembling the quilt

Referring to the quilt assembly diagram, join the A to the bottom of the big tree block and the B to the top of the small tree block. Sew the narrow $23\frac{1}{2}$ " yellow strip between the units you just made. Sew the remaining $23\frac{1}{2}$ " yellow strips to the sides of the quilt. Finally, sew the remaining yellow strips to the top and bottom of the quilt.



Fig. 1

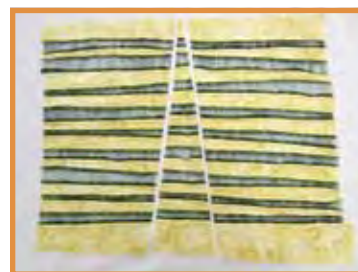


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Finishing the quilt

Irene quilted Two Trees in the ditch around the tree patches. She repeated the tree motifs in the background quilting. If you wish to mark quilting motifs, do so now.

Layer the backing, batting, and quilt top. Quilt on the marked lines or as desired.

Face or bind the quilt to finish. **TQL**