

Christmas Tree Skirt

by Pam Bono Designs

*Designed by
Susan Clark
of Pam Bono Designs*



Tree Skirt,
58¾" x 58¾",
by Pam Bono

Get ready for the holidays with this timeless tree skirt fit for a quilter. Although the project has many steps, the techniques are straightforward and can be accomplished by any quilter who has a bit of experience. Just follow the directions step-by-step, working on one section at a time. Measure as you go to check that the pieces are the size needed.

For more detailed information on making quilts, see the *AQS Quilting Essentials & Tested Tips* on our Web site at www.AmericanQuilter.com.

Piecing the Tree blocks

To begin a right half-tree block, align a medium-dark green D with an ivory C, right sides together (fig. 1). Mark the diagonal line and sew from corner to corner in the direction shown. Open the patches and press the seam allowances toward the darker fabric.

After you have checked for accuracy, trim away the corners of both fabrics, leaving ¼" seam allowances. Repeat this procedure to join E and F and two pairs of G and H, following the colors shown in figure 4. Refer to figure 2 for joining I and

Fig. 1

J. To join K and L, refer to figure 3, noting that the diagonal is opposite from the previously sewn diagonals. Sew

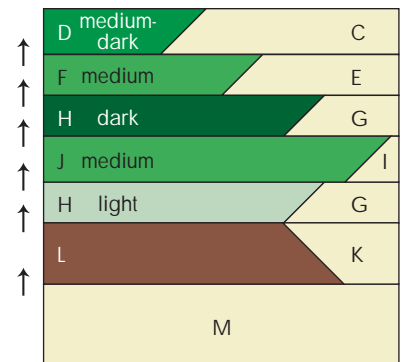


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

the units together as shown (fig. 4) and press the seam allowances in the direction of the arrows. Repeat to make 20 right half-tree blocks.



Right half-tree block – Make 20

Fig. 4

To begin a left half-tree block, align a dark green D with an ivory C, right sides together (fig. 5). Sew from corner to corner as shown. Press and trim as you did before. Repeat this procedure to join E and F and two pairs of G and H, following the colors shown in figure 8. Refer to figure 6 for joining I and J. To join K and L, refer to figure 7, noting that the diagonal is opposite from the previously sewn diagonals. Sew the units together as shown (fig. 8) and press the seam allowances in the

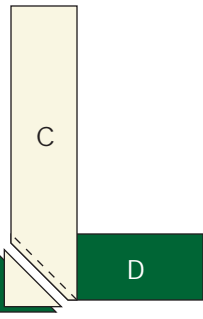


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

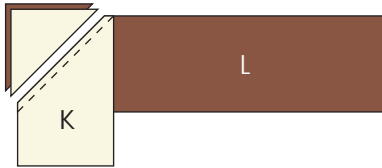
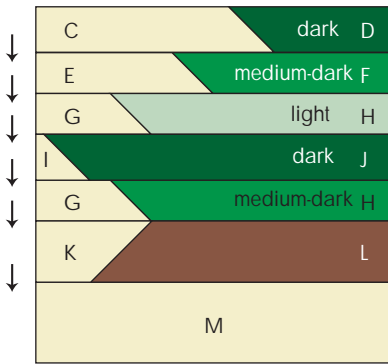


Fig. 7



Left half-tree block – Make 20

Fig. 8

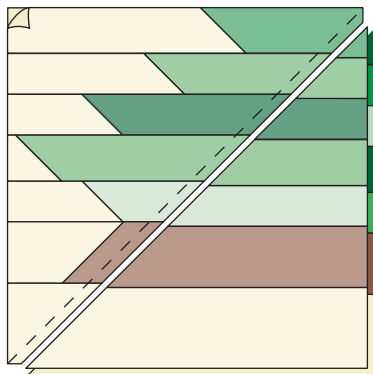


Fig. 9

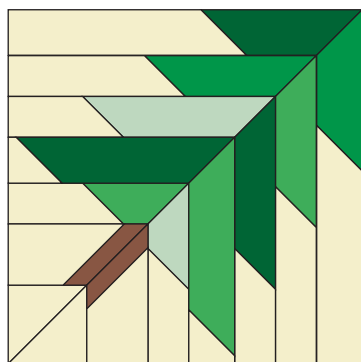


Fig. 10 Tree block – Make 20

FABRIC & CUTTING REQUIREMENTS

Skill level: Intermediate

Quilt size: 58¾" x 58¾"

• Requirements are based on 40" fabric width.

Finished block size: 8¾" x 8¾"

• Strips are cut from selvage to selvage.

Cream print – 2 yards

• 3 strips 8¾" wide.

From these cut: 40 M, 4 U, 2 O, 40 I

• 2 strips 6⅛" wide. From these cut: 40 C

• 2 strips 4⅝" wide. From these cut: 40 E

• 5 strips 3⅝" wide. From these cut: 40 K, 80 G

Light green – ½ yard

• 2 strips 7⅞" wide. From these cut: 40 H

Medium green –
½ yard

• 1 strip 8¾" wide. From this cut: 20 J

• 3 strips 1½" wide. From these cut: 20 F

Medium-dark green –
½ yard

• 1 strip 7⅞" wide. From this cut: 20 H

• 3 strips 1½" wide. From these cut: 20 F

• 2 strips 1⅜" wide. From these cut: 20 D

Dark green –
⅝ yard

• 1 strip 8¾" wide. From this cut: 20 J

• 1 strip 7⅞" wide. From this cut: 20 H

• 2 strips 1⅜" wide. From these cut: 20 D

Brown – ½ yard

• 2 strips 7⅞" wide. From this cut: 40 L

Bright red – ½ yard

• 2 strips 1¾" wide for the strip-set

• 1 strip 7½" wide. From this cut: 8 W, 4 Q, 8 V

• 1 strip 1⅞" wide. From this cut: 4 P

Medium red – ⅔ yard

• 1 strip 6¾" wide. From this cut: 8 S

• 1 strip 1¾" wide for the strip-set

Dark red – 1½ yards

• Set aside 27" for binding

• 1 strip 10¼" wide. From this cut: 8 X, 4 R, 8 W

• 1 strip 4½" wide. From this cut: 4 N,
inner border, 2 strips 1⅜" x 22"

• 1 strip 1⅞" wide. From this cut: 4 Q

• 1 strip 1¾" wide for the strip-set.

• 2 strips 1⅜" wide. From these cut:

inner border, 2 strips 1⅜" x 23¾"

Gold – ⅞ yard

• 2 strips 12½" wide. From these cut: 8 T

From the remainder cut: 1 A, 12 B

Backing – 4 yards

• 2 panels 34" x 67"

Batting

• 67" x 67"

direction of the arrows. Repeat to make 20 left half-tree blocks.

Place a right half-tree and a left half-tree right sides together with raw edges and seams aligned. Since seam allowances were pressed in opposite directions, the seams should align

easily. Mark a diagonal line and then sew on the line (fig. 9). Trim ¼" beyond the stitching, open the block and press the seam allowances open. The block should measure 8¾" x 8¾" from raw edge to raw edge. Repeat to make 20 Tree blocks (fig. 10).

ROTARY CUTTING

Rotary dimensions include seam allowances.

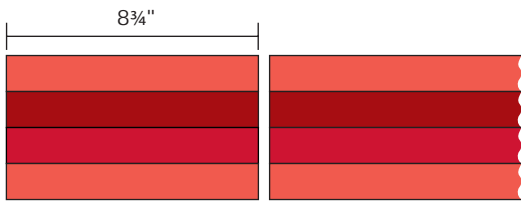
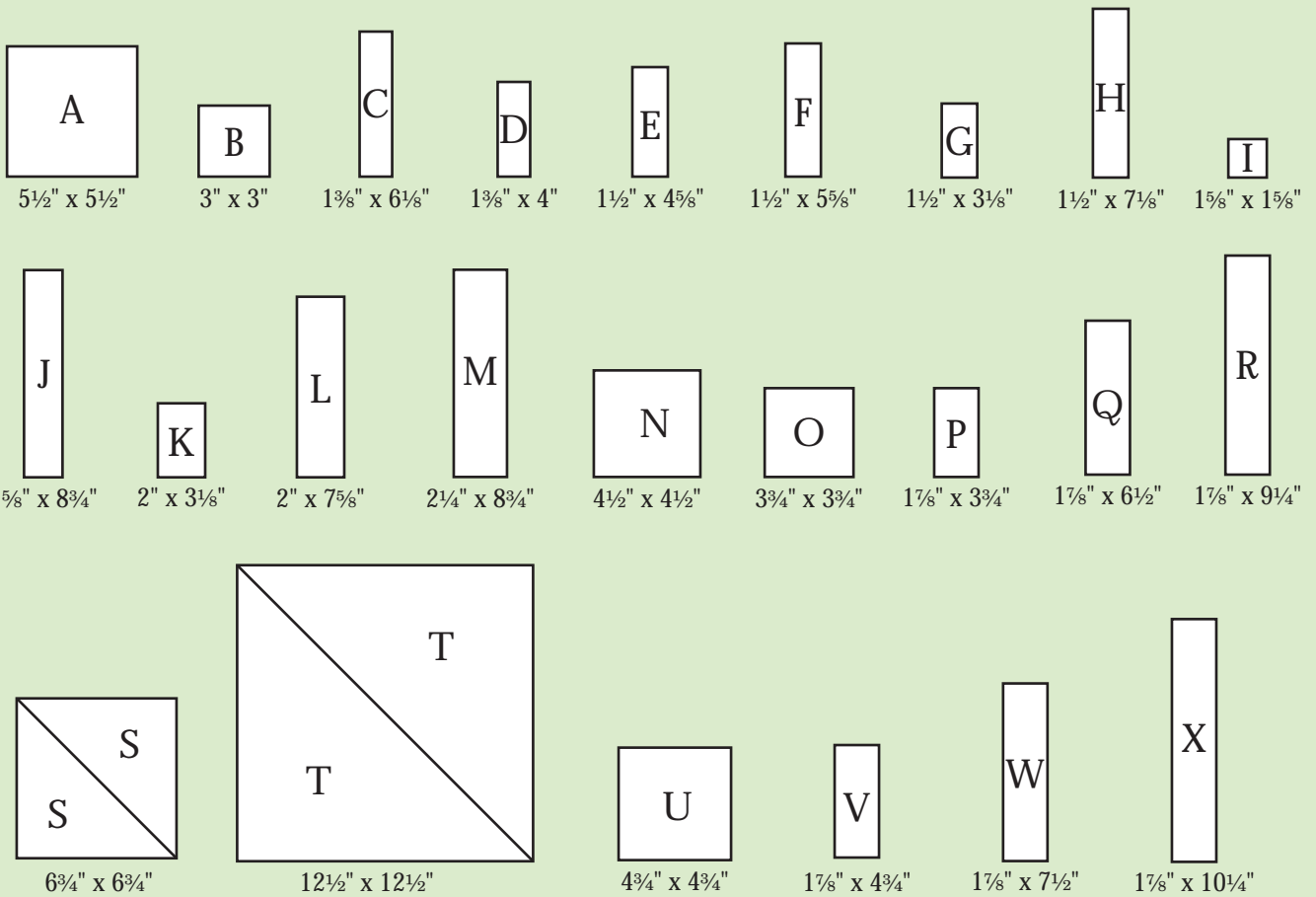


Fig. 11 Strip-set – Make 1
Cut 4

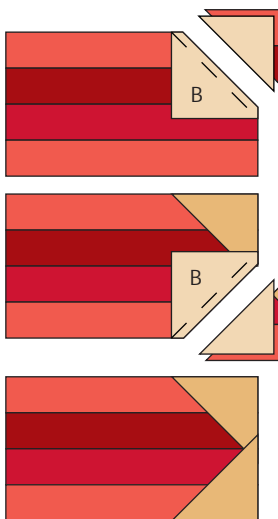
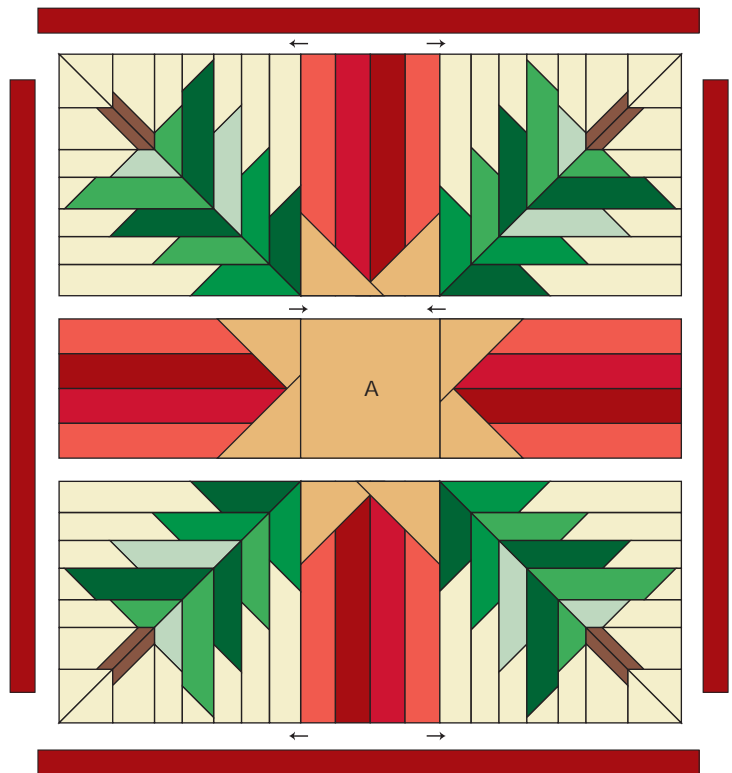


Fig. 12 Star point units
Make 4



Center assembly

Making the center section

Referring to figure 11 for the color order, join the 1¼" red strips to make 1 strip-set. Cut the strip-set into 4 units 8¾" long.

With right sides together, align a gold B on the corner of a unit (fig. 12). Sew from corner to corner. Trim the seam allowances to ¼". Open the B patch and press the seam allowances toward the gold fabric. Repeat to add another B, noting that the corner patches will overlap ¼" in the center seam allowance. Repeat to make 4 star point units.

Referring to the center section assembly diagram, join Tree blocks, star point units and the gold A patch in horizontal rows. Sew the rows together. Matching centers and ends, sew the dark red 1⅜" x 22" inner border strips to opposite sides of the center, pressing the seam allowances away from the center. Add the dark red 1⅜" x 23¾" strips to the remaining sides and press. The center section should now measure 23¾" x 23¾" from raw edge to raw edge.

With right sides together, align a medium red N on one corner of the center (fig. 13). Sew from corner to

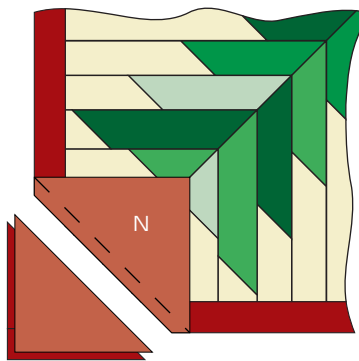


Fig. 13

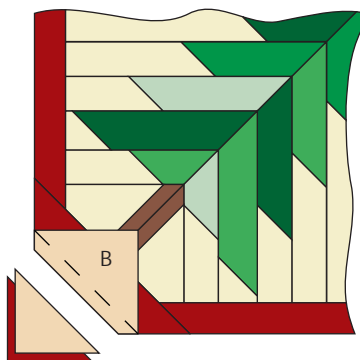


Fig. 14

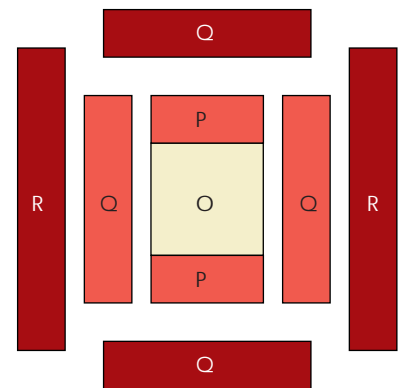
corner. Trim the seam allowances to ¼", open the N patch and press. Now align a gold B on the corner of a unit (fig. 14). Sew from corner to corner. Trim the seam allowances to ¼", open the B patch and press. Repeat to add a dark red N and a gold B to the remaining 3 corners of the center.

Making the side sections

To make a block Y, join O–R patches (fig. 15), pressing the seam allowances away from the O as each patch is added. The Y block should measure 9¼" x 9¼" from raw edge to raw edge. Repeat to make 2 Y blocks. Cut the Y blocks in half diagonally to yield 4 triangles (fig. 16)

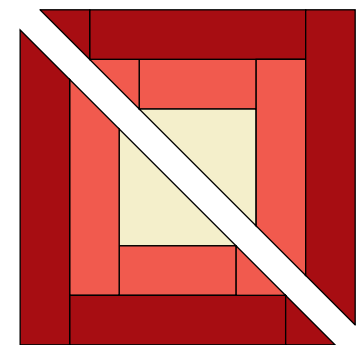
Center S patches on 2 Tree blocks as shown in figure 17. The points of the S triangles will extend ¼" beyond the edges of the Tree blocks. Sew these seams. Now add the ½ Y block, matching its squared corner with the corner of the Tree block, and noting that the triangle point will extend beyond the edge of the Tree block. Add the third Tree block as shown, then sew the tree sections together. Finally, add the 2 T patches to complete a side

section. When completed, the side section should measure 17½" x 23¾" from raw edge to raw edge. Repeat to make 4 side sections.



Block Y – Make 2

Fig. 15



Cut in half diagonally to yield 4 triangles

Fig. 16

Making the corner sections

To make a block Z, join the U–X patches as shown (fig. 18), pressing the seam allowances away from the U as each patch is added. The Z block should measure 10¼" x 10¼" from raw edge to raw edge. Repeat to make 4 Z blocks. Cut the Z blocks in half diagonally to yield 8 triangles (fig. 19).

Sew a ½ Z block to a Tree block (fig. 20), matching its squared corner with the corner of the Tree block, and noting that the triangle point will extend 1½" beyond the edge of the Tree block. Now add another ½ Z block (fig. 21) in the same way. Make 4.

Finishing the tree skirt

Referring to the quilt assembly diagram, join the corner sections, side sections, and the center section as shown.

Layer the backing, batting, and the quilt top. Baste the layers together. Quilt as desired.

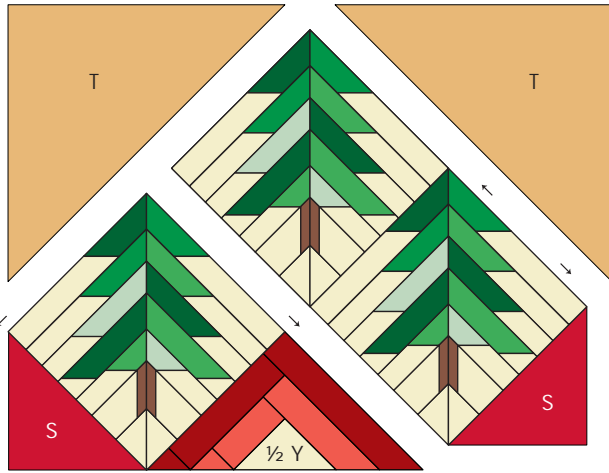


Fig. 17

Side Section – Make 4

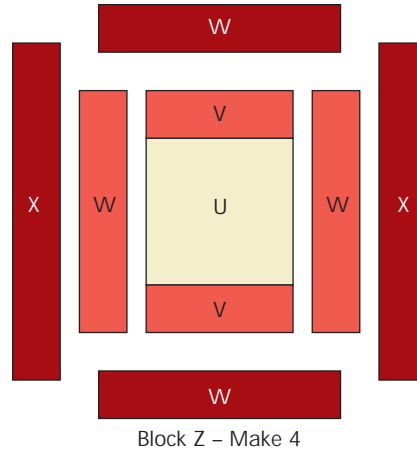


Fig. 18

Block Z – Make 4

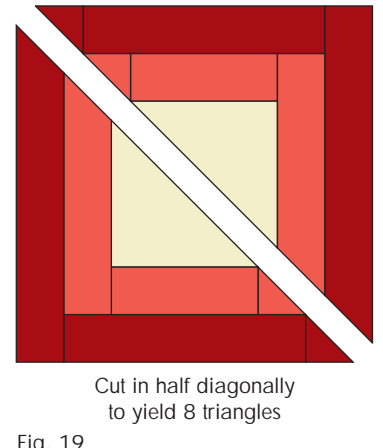


Fig. 19

Cut in half diagonally to yield 8 triangles

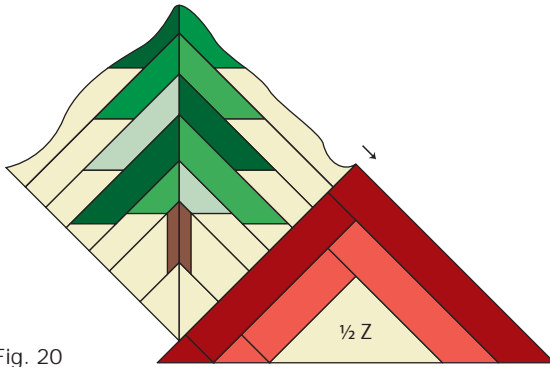


Fig. 20

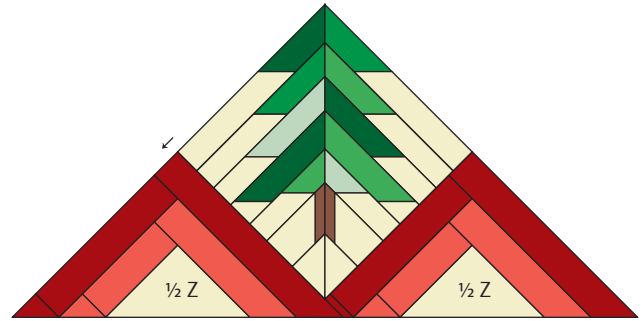


Fig. 21

Corner Section – Make 4

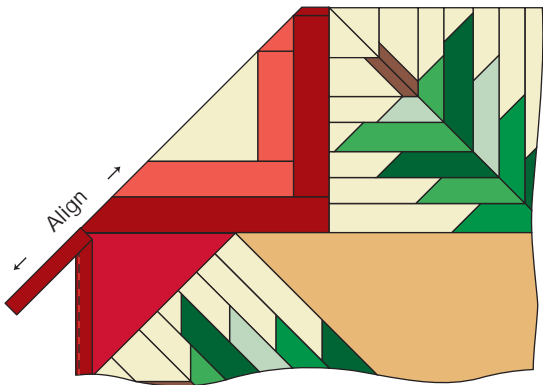


Fig. 22

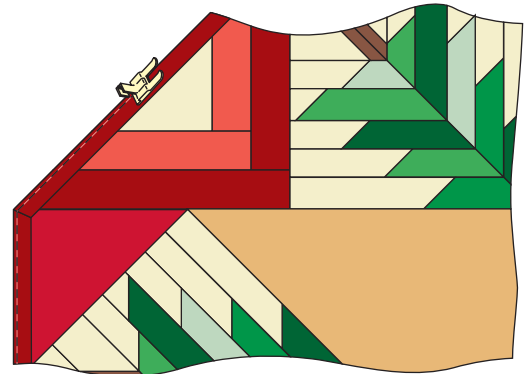
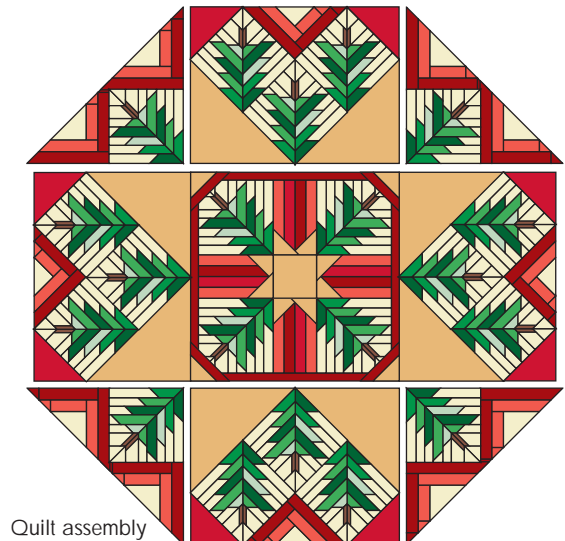


Fig. 23

Cut a 5" hole in the center of your tree skirt. If you wish, also cut from the edge of the skirt to the center hole, cutting through the center of a side section or a corner section. From the 27-inch piece of dark red, cut bias binding strips 1¼" wide to make single-fold binding. Join strips to make a strip 225" long (or 276" if you made the extra cut). Sew the binding to the edge of the front of the tree skirt. As you approach each corner, fold as shown (fig. 22) and continue stitching (fig. 23). Fold the binding to the back, turn under the long raw edge, miter the corners, and blindstitch the binding in place. Also finish the edge of the hole with bias binding. ❄️



Quilt assembly