

Branching Out Supply List

PRIOR TO CLASS:

- CUT your batting and backing to no larger than 22" by 26"
- It is not required but, PRE-WASHing all fabrics with no fabric softener and no ironing spray will help the appliqué pieces to adhere.
- GET TO KNOW some features on your machine. Take a look at your machine's presser feet and practice changing them. Find out if your machine has a "Foot Pressure" adjustment.
- SET UP your machine (bobbin and top thread) for the beginning of class with a cotton piecing thread (#50 weight) in a neutral color. The first sewing you will do is curved piecing so you can attach a basic, general sewing foot. (not the 1/4" foot)
- CLEAN lint from the bobbin case area.
- Insert a fresh needle.

General Supplies

- Sewing machine and manual and all your machine feet. General Sewing supplies (extra bobbins, pins, **basting pins**, rotary cutter, removable fabric marker or chalk, and scissors for cutting appliqué shapes.
- A cutting mat about the size of a FQ or larger.
- A small (approx. 12" by 12") quilt sandwich for testing couching stitches.
- For the couching you will need a basic zigzag foot ("A" on a Janome). OPTIONAL: You may wish to try a cording foot ("H" on Janome), a Walking Foot, OR a specialized couching foot.
- A long ruler at least 18"
- Misty Fuse — Fusible web for your tree appliqué. (To cover about half of a Fat Quarter of fabric.)
- Teflon pressing sheet. The large Goddess Sheet works really well.
- The last step in this project is to sew the edges of the tree appliqué. It can be done with a Free Motion Quilting foot, a walking foot, or a standard zigzag foot. If you intend to do Free Motion, bring any additional supplies you would use for that process. You may also wish to do this step at home.
- Optional: A digital camera or your cell phone camera can help you to make design decisions.

Materials

- Fabrics for your branching out landscape:
 - Choose 2 - 5 fabrics for the background and at least 1 for your tree. (Approximately a Fat 1/4 yard or a WOF 1/4 yard of each)
 - See the note at the end of the supply list about fabrics. Diane will help you to select fabrics that work and there will be some tree fabrics available for purchase.
 - Thin cotton batting, a piece of light / med. stabilizer and a piece of backing each cut no larger than 22" by 26" (see "prior to class" above)
- Some of your favorite threads:
 - a neutral cotton #50 weight piecing thread (You will start with this thread in your machine.)
 - a bobbin wound with #50 weight cotton (same as above is fine)
 - an empty bobbin or a bobbin filled with #60 weight polyester thread.
 - a few cotton, polyester, or metallic threads in colors & values that reflect your fabric colors. Variegated is nice.
 - Optional: Instructor will bring topstitch needles and some threads for purchase including Bottom Line #60 polyester (\$8.49) and Fantastico #40 variegated polyester (\$7.99.)

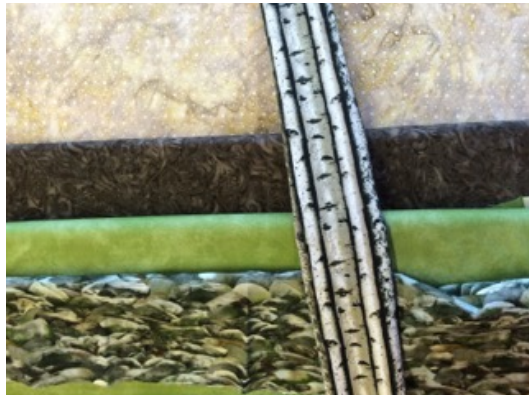
INSTRUCTOR WILL PROVIDE parchment paper and all the couching yarns that you will need — no charge.

INSTRUCTOR WILL also PROVIDE lots of photos of trees for inspiration. If you have a specific tree or scene that you love, bring a photo enlarged so that you can trace elements as needed.

Tips for fabric Selection

- Look for fabrics with variations in value or color but not specific patterns.
- Start with one fabric that you really like. It can be a fabric with tree bark that you think would work well. It could be a fabric that suggests land, sky or water. It can be a hand-dyed fabric. It can be a motif that you want to fussy cut from a fabric and use as an appliqué. (Sometimes people want to use a portion of a panel or a fabric with a scene. These are a lot harder to use and are not recommended.)
- Next, look for complementary fabrics that do not compete or fight for attention. The colors, tones, and values should all work with that first fabric.
- Pay attention to the scale of any motif. You want to give the illusion of depth in your landscape. Depth is created by placement of layers, size of motifs, value, and lines.
- Pick a backing fabric with a little bit of a pattern in tones that are similar to the ones used in the landscape. This will allow you to use one bobbin thread for all your couching, appliqué and quilting.

Lay out your selected fabrics for the background in horizontal layers. Then place your tree fabric vertically. (See illustrations and/or look at the Branching Out quilts on the instructor's website gallery.) Take a photo, make substitutions, and see which combination you like best. We can take some time at the beginning of class to confirm your choices but you will get off to a faster start if you have narrowed your selections.



email for questions: dbeaman@metrocast.net

website gallery: <https://sewmanythreads.wordpress.com/home/gallery/>