

Homespun Stars Tree Skirt



By: Roxanna Kruse, Baby Lock Education Consultant

Skill Level: Intermediate

This very attractive tree skirt delivers an elegant look with a homespun feel for the holiday season. Touches of gold thread used in the meandering and the edge of the ruffle give it that special festive appearance. When constructing the tree skirt, you will experience several techniques to enhance your sewing skills. Perfect for the gift giving season, you will enjoy this tree skirt for many years to come.

Supplies:

Fast, Fun, & Fabulous Quilts
Rodale Press Inc. "Homespun Stars Tree Skirt" by Lynette Jensen

Baby Lock Sewing Machine
Baby Lock Serger
Free motion embroidery or darning foot
2 yds. 44" wide fabric for skirt background
5 yds. 44" wide fabric for stars, binding, ruffle, and skirt backing
Lightweight fusible interfacing for appliqué
1" bias tape marker
Madeira thread for quilting
Rotary cutter, ruler, and mat
Pattern tracing paper

Directions:

1. Follow directions in the book for making the Gore Pattern. Do not add Half Pattern B. Instead, using a pencil and string for circle drawing, draw the outside from one of the $35\frac{5}{8}$ " marks to the other. Cut the skirt according to instructions. See illustration.

2. Trace star pattern piece. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Cut out 24 stars from the print fabric and the fusible interfacing. Place fusible side of interfacing to the right side of each star, but do not fuse. Sew around the outside. Carefully cut a slit in the center of the fusible interfacing then turn the star right side out through this opening. Fuse the stars on the skirt, following the directions for skirt assembly.

3. Use an appliqué stitch to attach each star to the top of the skirt. Continue with Step 2 for assembling the skirt.

4. Piece the backing fabric so that it measures at least 58" square. Continue with Steps 2 and 3 in quilting section of pattern.

5. Quilt the skirt using a stippling stitch. Lowering feed dogs, stitch in a free motion pattern forming curved lines that do not intersect. Continue with Step 4 quilting directions.

6. In the Binding section in Step 1, cut the strips 4" by 20". Use a bias tape maker to fold the tape. Continuing with Step 2, attach the binding.

Optional Finishing Tip: The Baby Lock Blind Hemmer can be used to attach the binding to the back.

7. Following ruffle instructions, cut the strips from the fabric used for the stars. Cut one set that is 5" wide. To form one strip for ruffle, use a balanced four-thread stitch on the serger and sew the short edges of the strip right sides together. Finish one end of the strip.

Fold the serged edge on the end to the wrong side and topstitch in place. Using a three-thread balance stitch with decorative thread (metallic gold) in the upper looper, finish one long edge of the ruffle strip.

8. Attach the ruffling foot to the serger. Set the differential feed to 2 and stitch length to 4. With right sides together, place the serged and topstitched end of the ruffle at the bound edge of the bottom. Place the strip of fabric for the ruffle under the foot, and the quilted skirt in the slot of the foot. Using a $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam allowance, sew around the bottom, attaching the strip and gathering at the same time. Sew off the edge of the skirt, leaving $\frac{5}{8}$ " beyond the edge of the tree skirt, trim the excess ruffle off. Finish the raw edge of the ruffle, turn under to the wrong side and topstitch into place. Press the seam toward the skirt. Topstitch in place from the right side.

9. Do not follow the instructions for the sash, instead cut fabric strips on the crosswise grain, 2" wide and totalling 60" in length, piecing as needed. Using a bias tape maker, press the folds and then fold in half, right sides together, centering the strip on the top opening of the skirt. With raw edges even, attach binding to the edge. Fold over, turn $\frac{1}{4}$ " under on each end of the strip and press. Topstitch binding in place.

