

## “Tannenbaum” Quilt Pattern

Oh Tannenbaum... What better way to share the festive spirit this Christmas than with our fab and fun starry Christmas Tree quilt? It's is surprisingly quick and easy to make, and a great way to show off some seasonal coloured fabrics. We chose a traditional green and red theme for ours, but feel free to mix it up and make yours modern, bright or batik!



This quilt measures 53½ inches wide x 56½ inches high.

### You Will Need:

An assortment of red and green fabrics. We used a good selection of fat quarters and scraps left over from other projects. You would need something like 10-12 fat quarters at least, and ideally they are a range of tones and plains and prints.

1¼ metres/yards of plain or finely patterned white fabric for the background.

Small amount of yellow fabric for the top star.

Fusible web for applique

Water erasable fabric marking pen

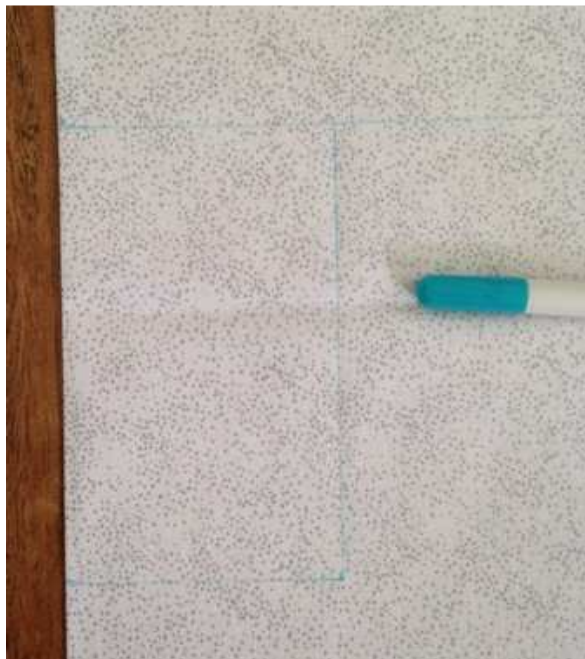
½ metre/yard fabric for binding (We had about ¾ metre/yard and used the fabric for the stars too.)

Batting measuring at least 59 x 62 inches

Backing fabric measuring at least 59 x 62 inches

## **Applique:**

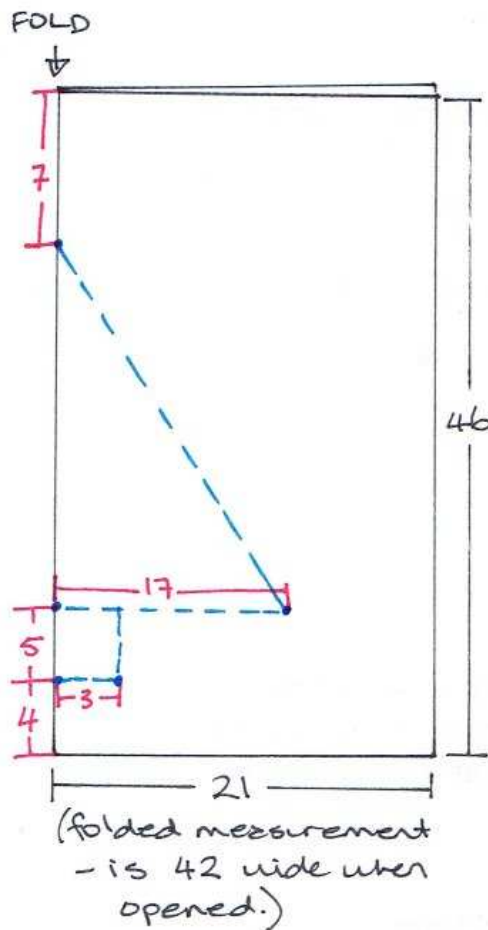
There are four sizes of stars that are appliqued onto the centre panel, with a very easy quilt-as-you-go kind of technique.



Fold your white background fabric in half lengthways and trim off the selvages, so the folded width is 21 inches. (This will give you a total width of 42 inches when the panel is opened out.)

Square up the bottom edge, then measure and trim the top so the panel is 46 inches long.

Keep folded and use your blue fabric marking pen to draw in the tree shape according to the following diagram.



With the fold to the left side, use this diagram to mark out your tree shape. You will mark half of the shape first, then open it out and fill in the second half.

To start, measure up the fold (from the bottom edge) 4 inches and make a mark. Measure up another 5 inches from that mark and make a second mark.

From the first mark, use your ruler to keep the line straight and parallel with the lower edge of the fabric and measure out to the right 3 inches. Draw that line.

From the second mark (9 inches up from the bottom fabric edge), again use your ruler to draw a line parallel to the bottom edge that extends for 17 inches. This is the bottom of the tree.

Connect the short lower line up at right angles to meet the long line. This is the tree trunk.

From the top edge, measure down 7 inches on the fold, and mark that point. Finally join that top point with the end of the 17 inch line to give the shape of your tree.

When you have marked half of the tree shape, open out your fabric and extend the lines in a mirror image to draw in the second half of your tree. The trunk will be 6 inches wide and 5 inches high, and the tree will extend another 17 inches to the left. When you have drawn those lines, again, extend a straight line from the end of the 17 inch line to meet the point at the top 7 inches down from the top fabric edge.



You will need a whole lot of stars to fill in this shape. Using the four different star templates, draw a variety of shapes onto the paper side of your fusible webbing.

Fuse the shapes to the wrong side of your fabrics, mixing up the sizes and colours as you go.

Cut out the star shapes and start arranging them to fill in your tree.

Use the blue drawn lines as a guide to keeping your tree nice and even.

Start at the top and work your way down, arranging several stars then fusing them into place with your iron.



Arrange the stars in a random design, mixing the reds and greens together.

You may find it easier to place a couple of big stars first, then add the smaller ones around them, juggling to fit. Try and keep a fairly even spacing between the stars, for the best effect.

When you are happy with the placement, fuse them in place, and work on the next section.



We made a yellow large star for the top of our tree.

Place a smaller star at the top of your tree – inside the drawn blue lines, then arrange the yellow star above that.

We made the trunk of our tree all in smaller stars, and all from the same darker green fabric.

Press all stars in place well on the panel. They will be sewn when you quilt this quilt.

#### Border:

The border for this quilt is made from piano key style pieced strips, with pieced cornerstones.

Make the cornerstones first.



You will need to make 4 of these log cabin style cornerstone blocks.

For EACH block, cut the following:

1 red square measuring  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches

1 green square measuring  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches

1 green strip measuring  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches

1 red strip measuring  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches

1 red strip measuring  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches



To start, join the green square to the red square as shown.

Press seam.



Next join the green strip to the left hand side and press seam.



Add the smaller red strip across the top and press.



And finally, sew the long red strip to the left hand side and press block well.

Make 4 in total.



The borders are made from pieced  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch strips, cut  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches long.

You will need 21 strips for each of the top and bottom borders, and 23 strips each for the two side borders. This is a total of 88 strips measuring  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$  inches that you will need to cut from your red and green fabrics.

We used slightly more green than red, and do make sure that you start and finish each border strip with a green stripe, so they contrast with the red of the cornerstones.



Sew the longer border strips to either side of the centre panel and press seams.

Sew a cornerstone block to each end of the top and bottom borders, making sure the red square is at the outermost corner as pictured.

Join the strips to top and bottom to finish your quilt top.

### Quilting:

Place your backing fabric face down on a flat surface, then smooth the batting on top. Put your quilt top on top of that, centred and smoothed flat. Pin the layers together in preparation for quilting.



As pictured, free motion quilt around the inside of each star. This secures the applique in place, and quilts your top at the same time!

We filled in around our tree with a simple stippled filler design, and quilted in the ditch of all the border strips.

### Finishing:

From the green binding fabric, cut sufficient 2¼ inch strips. Join your binding strips together with 45 degree seams. Press the ¼ inch seams open, then fold the strip in half, right sides out and press.

Join the binding to the right side of the quilt edge with a quarter inch seam, mitring each corner as you go. Turn the folded edge of the binding to the back and slip stitch it in place with thread that matches the binding to finish.



Tannenbaum Quilt  
Star Applique Templates

