



tree of life



Tree of Life Pieced by Alex Anderson, 2004. Machine quilted by Paula Reid.

Quilt top size: $37\frac{1}{2}'' \times 37\frac{1}{2}''$

Finished block size: 25''

Number of blocks: 1



Skill level: A good choice for a confident beginner.

The single large center block in this softly colored quilt offers lots of opportunities for personal touches, not just for baby but for the entire family. Add family names and dates to the "triangle" leaves with embroidery or permanent marking pens, turning the quilt into a true family tree. Trace the hands of parents and siblings for quilting in the large open areas; you can add the baby's handprints and/or footprints after the big day arrives. What a wonderful addition to baby's new world!



Quilted handprints

Materials

Fabric amounts are based on a 42'' fabric width.

Assorted light- and medium-value sage green prints (Fabric A): 1 yard total for block and binding*

White-on-white print (Fabric B): $1\frac{1}{8}$ yards for block background and inner border

Large-scale pink and sage green rose (or other theme) print (Fabric C): $\frac{2}{3}$ yard for outer border

Backing: $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards of fabric

Batting: $42'' \times 42''$ piece

*I used 6 different prints.

Cutting

All measurements include a $\frac{1}{4}''$ -wide seam allowance.

Fabric A

- Cut a total of 10 squares $5\frac{7}{8}'' \times 5\frac{7}{8}''$ for the blocks; then cut each square in half once diagonally to make 2 triangles (20 total) for the block. You will have 1 triangle left over.
- Cut 1 square $6\frac{1}{2}'' \times 6\frac{1}{2}''$ for the block.
- Cut 1 rectangle $4\frac{3}{4}'' \times 14\frac{1}{2}''$ for the block.
- Cut 4 strips $2\frac{1}{8}'' \times$ the fabric width for the binding.

Fabric B

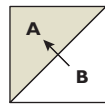
- Cut 8 squares $5\frac{7}{8}'' \times 5\frac{7}{8}''$ for the block background; then cut each square in half once diagonally to make 2 triangles (16 total) for the block. You will have 1 triangle left over.
- Cut 1 square $18\frac{1}{4}'' \times 18\frac{1}{4}''$; then cut the square in half twice diagonally to make 4 triangles for the block. You will have 2 triangles left over.
- Cut 4 strips $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times$ the fabric width for the inner border.

Fabric C

- Cut 4 strips $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times$ the fabric width for the outer border.

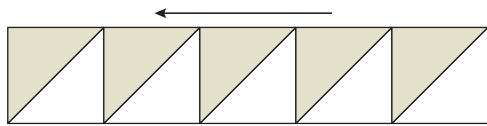
Making the Block

1. Sew a Fabric A triangle right sides together with a small Fabric B triangle (cut from a $5\frac{7}{8}$ " square), as shown. Press. Make 15.

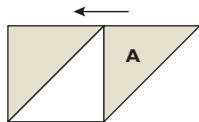
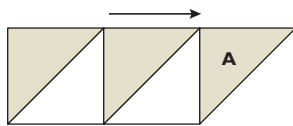
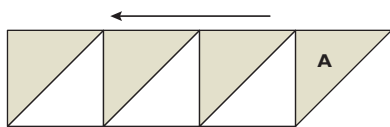
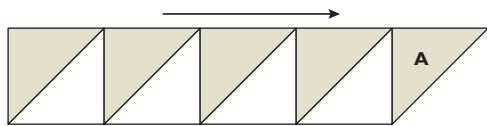


Make 15.

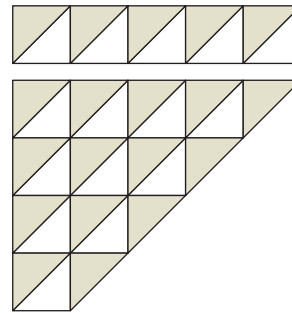
2. Arrange 5 units from Step 1 as shown. Sew the units together. Press.



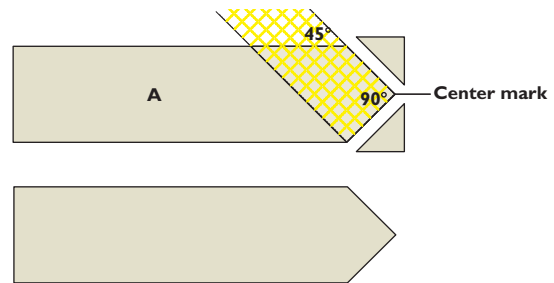
3. Arrange 4 units from Step 1 and a Fabric A triangle as shown. Sew the units and triangle together. Press. Repeat using 3 units and a triangle; 2 units and a triangle; and 1 unit and a triangle. Press.



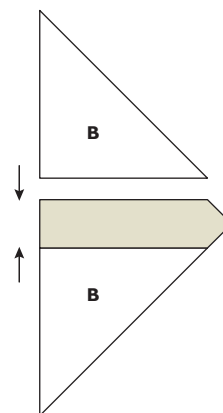
4. Arrange the rows from Steps 2 and 3 as shown. Sew the rows together. Press.



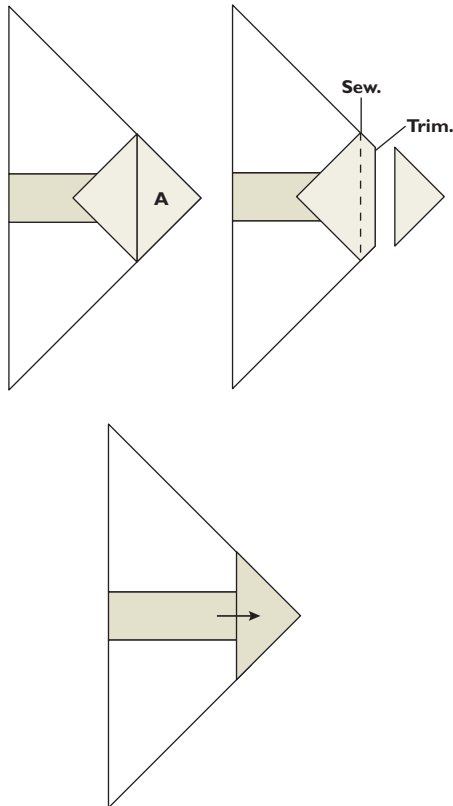
5. Measure and mark the center of one of the short sides of the $4\frac{3}{4}$ " \times $14\frac{1}{2}$ " Fabric A rectangle. Place the 45° line of your quilter's ruler along the top edge of the Fabric A rectangle. Trim twice to your center mark at a 90° angle, as shown.



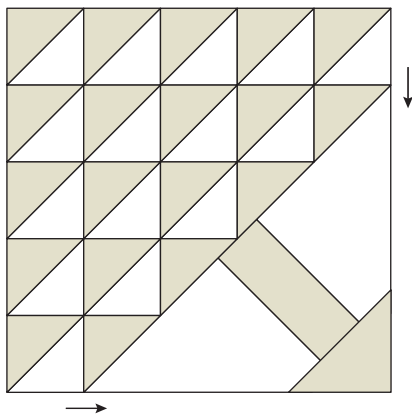
6. Sew a large Fabric B triangle (cut from an $18\frac{1}{4}$ " square) to opposite sides of the trimmed rectangle from Step 5, as shown. Press.



7. Draw a line diagonally, corner to corner, on the wrong side of the 6½" Fabric A square. Align the square with the 90° corner of the unit from Step 6, right sides together, as shown. Sew directly on the drawn line and trim, leaving a ¼" seam allowance. Press.

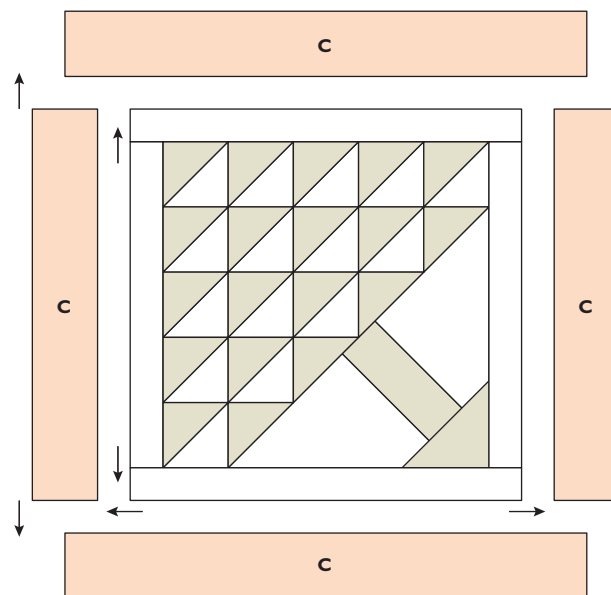


8. Sew the unit from Step 4 to the unit from Step 7, as shown. Press.



Quilt Assembly

1. Refer to Butted Borders on page 10. Measure the quilt top through the center from top to bottom. Trim two 2½"-wide Fabric B inner border strips to this measurement. Sew a trimmed border strip to opposite sides of the quilt. Press.
2. Measure the quilt top through the center from side to side, including the borders just added. Trim the remaining 2½"-wide inner border strips to this measurement. Sew a trimmed border strip to the top and bottom of the quilt. Press.
3. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 to trim and sew the 4½"-wide Fabric C outer border strips to the sides, top, and bottom of the quilt. Press.



Assembly diagram

Finishing

Follow the general instructions on pages 11–14 to layer, baste, and quilt your quilt. Sew the 2½"-wide Fabric A strips together end to end with diagonal seams and use them to bind the edges. For this quilt, I used an assortment of the Fabric A prints for the binding.