

Joy of Friendship Christmas Tree Skirt



Materials Required

1.25 metres tree skirt fabric

1.25 metres backing fabric

1.25 metres by 90 cms iron on pellon or equivalent

4 six inch scrap squares for stars

8 five inch scrap squares for hearts

Approximately half a metre of Vliesofix

DMC Perle 8 thread colour 319 - for writing

Stranded cotton or machine cotton to match hearts and stars

Sheet of template plastic or heavy card

General sewing requirements such as scissors, pencil, needle, sewing machine and thread.

Light box is optional but very handy.

Use scraps of velvet, Lutradur, wool fabric, silk paper, Angelina etc for your hearts and stars.

Preparation

1. Test fabric for colour-fastness and pre-wash the fabric if desired.
2. Trace the tree skirt panel, including the seam allowance, onto the Template plastic or heavy card to make a template.
3. Cut out eight tree skirt panels from the main fabric, eight panels from the backing and eight panels from the wadding or pellon.

Appliqué

4. Trace eight hearts and eight stars onto the paper side of the Vliesofix or double sided web.
5. Cut out roughly.
6. Iron cut out shapes to the back of the appliqué fabric.
7. Cut out on the drawn lines.
8. Working with one panel at a time, use the pattern sheet to roughly position the hearts on the right side of the tree skirt material.
9. Place the stars so that they slightly overlap the hearts.
10. Iron both the hearts and the stars into place.

Stitching

11. Use the pattern sheet to lightly mark the position of the words on the tree skirt panels.
12. Use the sample words or the alphabet provided to form words. Centre the words on the mark and lightly trace the letters onto the tree skirt panel.
13. Iron fusible pellon or tack wadding to the wrong side of the tree skirt panels.
14. Stitch the words using back or stem stitch with the DMC Perle Thread.
15. Using a stranded cotton that matches the colour of the hearts and stars, stitch around the outsides using a blanket stitch. You can machine stitch this if you prefer.

Constructing the Tree Skirt

16. Sew the eight panels together using a quarter inch seam allowance. Place the panels right sides together and stitch along each long side until they are all joined in a long row. Do not stitch the final seam to form the panels into a circle.
17. Repeat this step with the eight background panels.
18. Cut six strips approximately 12 inches by 2 inches.
19. Fold each of these in half long ways with right sides together. Stitch one short side and the long side using a quarter inch seam allowance.
20. Turn the six strips right sides out.

Putting it all together

21. Pin or baste the six strips (ties) to the edges of the front of the tree skirt. Refer to the tie marks on the pattern piece. Place the ties so that there are three pairs on opposite outside edges of the skirt. Match the raw edges of the ties to the raw edge of the tree skirt, making sure that the ties are not caught in the stitching.
22. Lay the backing panels on the front panels, right sides together. Pin to hold in place.
23. Starting about half way down on one side with ties, stitch all the way around the edges of the tree skirt. Leave about a ten centimetre gap.
24. Clip the seam allowance if necessary around the bottom edge of the tree skirt.
25. Turn inside out and press firmly.
26. Slip stitch the opening closed
27. Stitch "in the ditch" between each panel of the tree skirt to secure. Additional quilting is optional.

Enjoy using your Christmas Tree Skirt.

Joy Love

Friendship

Sharing

Family

Giving

Peace

Charity

AaBbCcDdEe

FfGgHhIiJjK

kLlMmNnOoP

pQqRrSsTtU

uVvWwXxyy

Zz