

# Wonky Christmas Trees ~ Quilt Pattern Created by Leah Day

Slice and stitch dozens of festive blocks for the holidays. This improvisational pattern is more of a guideline – your blocks and resulting quilts will vary greatly depending on how you cut and piece your trees. The best part – there's very little math and almost no precision so you have permission to relax and let loose!

**Finished block size: Random. These blocks can finish any size or shape depending on how they are pieced.**

## Materials

Note: This pattern contains affiliate links to help support our business.

10 Fat Quarters – **Fabric A** - Various linear prints for trees  
1/2 yard – **Fabric B** - Tree trunks - [Craftsy Boundless Expresso](#)  
3-5 yards – **Fabric C** - Background - [Craftsy Boundless Nickle](#)  
Thread to match background fabric

## Fabric Preparation and Quilt Piecing Tips

For best results, prewash, starch, and press all fabrics before cutting. Remember to lower your stitch length to 1.5 mm to create a tight stitch. Unless otherwise noted, press all seam allowances OPEN to reduce bulk and make quilting easier.

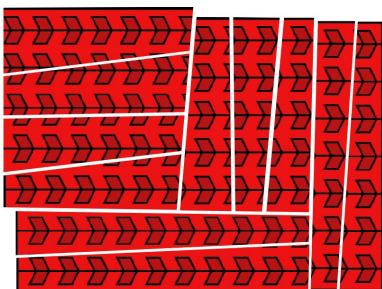
## Piecing Instructions for Tree Trunks

Cut 1 – 2 x 40-inch strip of Fabric B and cut 2 – 4 x 40-inch strips of Fabric C. Piece together lengthwise with the Fabric B strip between the two Fabric C strips. Slice this strip set up to create the tree trunks. Angle your ruler as desired to create different angles so your trees will tilt over in unique ways.

**Suggestion for cutting** – Cut the tree trunk units at least 2 inches wide to ensure plenty of room if they need to be trimmed down later. Repeat this process as many times as necessary to make enough tree trunks for your blocks.

## Cutting Instructions for Fabric A Fat Quarters

Separate the fat quarters of Fabric A into two stacks of 5 fabrics. Trim off the fuzzy edges and selvages so you only have workable fabric in the stack. Align your ruler with the narrow side of the fat quarters and cut 2-3 strips no less than 1 1/2 inches wide. You can vary the angle of the strips to make them more interesting.



**Example:** Align the 1 1/2 inch mark on the ruler with one corner of the fabric stack and the 3 inch mark with the opposite corner to create a diagonally cut strip.

Rotate the fabric stack 90 degrees and cut 2-3 wonky strips in the opposite direction. If the fabrics have a linear pattern, this will create the opposite pattern in these strips.

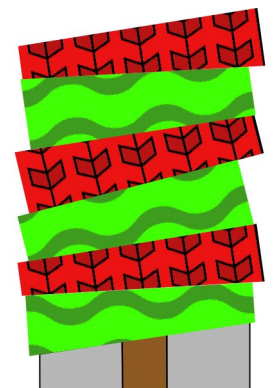
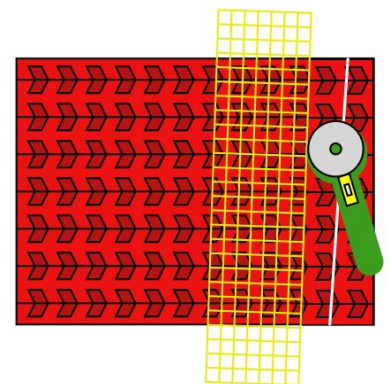
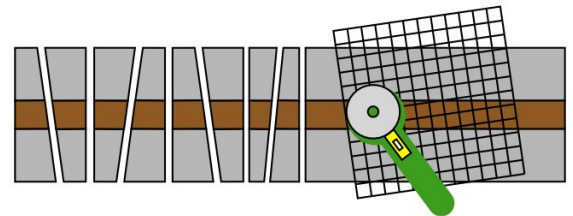
Rotate again and slice more strips in the first direction. Continue rotating and slicing until all the fabric has been sliced into wonky strips. Slice all long strips in half so they are roughly the same length as your tree trunk shapes.

Separate the strips by print and by the direction of the linear design on the print. Example: a stack of all red chevrons run horizontally through the strip and a second stack of red chevrons that run vertically through the strip. If the fabrics don't have a linear design, place them all in one stack.

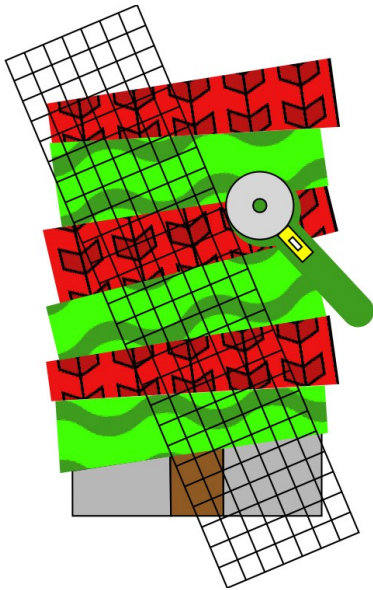
## Piecing the Christmas Block

Arrange your block by placing the Tree Trunk Unit on the bottom and several wonky cut strips above. I chose to stick with 2 different fabrics per tree and alternated them in an A / B pattern, but you're welcome to change this up as much as you like. The more strips of fabric you stack, the taller and skinnier your tree will become.

When you're happy with the arrangement, piece the strips and tree trunk unit together to form a rectangular-ish shape. The sides and edges will be very irregular as shown in the image on the right. Don't worry - we'll fix that in the next step.



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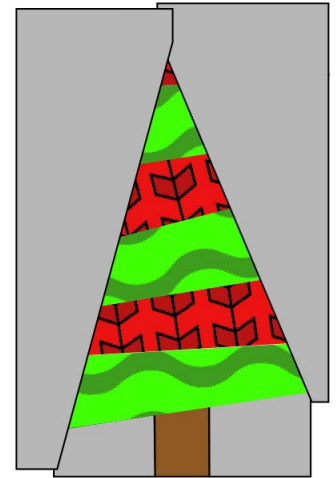
## Adding Background Fabric

To create the triangular tree shape, place a long ruler over the block and align it with the top / middle of the block and angle it down so it will also slice the corner of the bottom Fabric A strip as shown in the diagram on the left. Slice along the ruler to create half of the triangular tree shape. Set the scrap from this cut aside so you can use it later.

Next cut a 6 x 40-inch strip of Fabric C background and place it right side up underneath the tree block so the edges extend at least 1/2-inch on the top and right side. Align the edge of your ruler with the edge of the tree shape and slice again to cut a background triangle.

Flip over this triangle and piece it right sides together with the Christmas tree block.

Return the block to your cutting mat and cut the opposite angle to finish the triangle tree shape. Be sure to save this triangle scrap of fabric for later too.



Place the background fabric underneath the block and cut another triangle of background fabric. Flip over the background triangle and piece it to the left side of the Christmas tree block. Give the block a nice press with a hot, dry iron and double check that you have at least 1/4 inch of background fabric surrounding the points of the Christmas tree.

## Piecing Extra Blocks from Scraps

For every Christmas tree block you piece, you will be left with two triangular shaped scraps which you can use to make extra blocks! Trim the long edge of the scraps to form a straight line and piece them right sides together. Arrange this scrappy triangle shape with a Tree Trunk Unit and piece right sides together.

Add background to this block following the same steps above, then square up the edges as indicated below.

## Squaring up the Blocks

To square off the edges of your blocks, first align your ruler with the bottom edge and trim it perfectly straight.

Next rotate the block and align a thin line on your ruler with the edge you just cut and double check that any points in the block measure at least 1/4-inch from the edge of the ruler. Trim off both sides square with the bottom edge of the block.

Rotate the block again and align the lines of the ruler with the cut sides of the block and trim off the top edge leaving at least 1/4-inch between the top point and the edge of the block.

Notice that there is no specific size or shape recommended here - your blocks will finish in a variety of sizes and shapes so don't feel pressure to cut them all down to the same size.

## Don't Cut off Points

If you don't have enough background fabric surrounding the points of the Christmas tree shape, cut a 3 x 40-inch strip of Fabric C background fabric and piece it to the edge to extend the sides or top of the block. Press the seams flat and follow the steps above to square up the block again.

As you build more blocks, save all your scraps of background fabric as they can come in handy for adding little pieces around the trees so they can be squared up easily.

