

Speedy Spiral Christmas Tree Skirt



What I Used

WHAT FABRICS I USED:

Fabric A Blue Painter's Canvas
by Laura Gunn for Michael Miller

Fabric B Green Nordic Diamond
by Patty Young for Michael Miller

Fabric C Red Aboriginal Dot
by Kaffe Fassett

Fabric D Green Dazzle
by Patrick Lose for Robert Kauffman

Ruffle Tiny Guitar Picks
by Michael Miller

WHAT THREAD I USED:

Sulky Silver Metallic
in Silver 8001 and Peacock Blue 8017

Sulky Holoshimmer Metallic
in Christmas Red 6014, Peacock 6017
and Lime Green 6032

Sulky 60 Wt. PolyLite
in Christmas Red 1147 for the bobbin

Your Fabrics

A. []

B. []

C. []

D. []

Others []

Project Overview

Sulky Metallic Thread is a “must have” at Christmas for sewing everything bright and shiny! Try using them in this wonderful design by Cheryl Phillips from her book *Quilt Without Corners*®.

Supplies

- Fabric 45” Wide
 - » Color A - 3/4 yd.
 - » Color B - 3/4 yd.
 - » Color C - 3/4 yd.
 - » Color D - 3/4 yd.
 - » Ruffle - 2 yds.
 - » Batting - 46” x 46”
 - » Backing - 1 5/8 yd. x 45”, 60” or 90” wide
- Straight Stitch Sewing Machine with size 14/90 top-stitching machine needle
- [Sulky Metallic Thread](#)
- 9° OR 10° Wedge Ruler*
- 12” Square and 6” x 24” Ruler
- Rotary Cutter and Mat
- #1 Safety Pins
- Wide Transparent tape

*Special Notes

9° Wedge Ruler available from Marilyn Doheny, and marketed by Cutting Edge Quilt Designs, and should be available in most well-stocked quilt shops.

10° Wedge Ruler available from Phillips Fiber Art, phillipsfiberart.com, and should be available in most well-stocked quilt shops. Enjoy other 9° or 10° wedge ruler projects by Cheryl Phillips in her book, *Quilts Without Corners*.

Cutting

Colors A, B, C, D

Cut 8 strips each - 2-3/4” wide

Since all strips are the same width, you may layer your fabric and cut all four colors at the same time. Pin and label color groups together.

Ruffle

Cut 8 strips - 8-1/2” wide



HINT: These spaces are for you to paste swatches of the fabrics you use.

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Strip Set 1

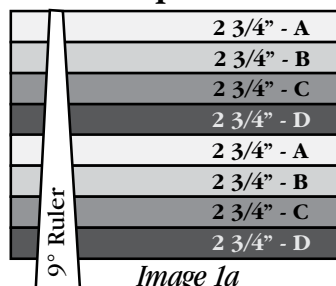


Image 1a

Strip Set 2

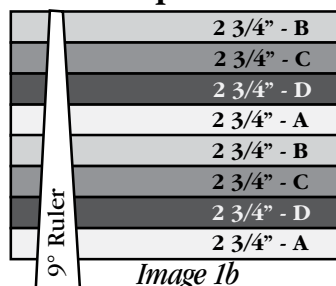


Image 1b

Strip Set 3

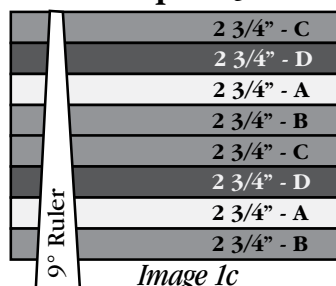


Image 1c

Strip Set 4

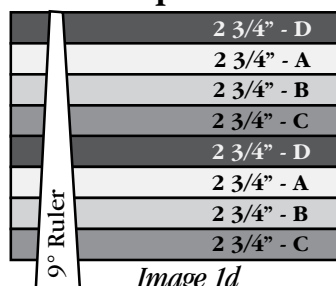


Image 1d



Image 2

Sewing the Strip Sets

Use an exact 1/4" seam allowance throughout this pattern.

1. Sew the strip sets together in the following order:

Strip Set 1 A-B-C-D-A-B-C-D (Image 1a)

Strip Set 2 B-C-D-A-B-C-D-A (Image 1b)

Strip Set 3 C-D-A-B-C-D-A-B (Image 1c)

Strip Set 4 D-A-B-C-D-A-B-C (Image 1d)

2. Label each strip set (1,2,3, or 4) and indicate on the label which side is "top". Be careful not to turn the strip sets around. (Image 2)
3. Iron strip sets 1 and 3 toward the top of the strip set and iron sets 2 and 4 toward the

bottom of the strip set.

Cutting the Wedges

1. Before cutting, place loops of wide transparent tape on the back of the Wedge Ruler to help keep it in place while cutting.
2. Place the 9° or 10° Wedge Ruler on the strip set so the narrow end of the wedge is at the top of the strip set.
3. Set the 12" line on the 4th or middle seam of the strip set.
4. Cut 9 wedges if using the 10° wedge ruler, or 10 wedges if using the 9° wedge ruler, from



HINT: Save your scraps for the bonus projects [like these!](#)



HINT: I chained pieced the four sections at the same time, by carefully keeping track of units. I used a highlighter and marked off each set as I sewed it on and I didn't cut my strings between the units so they would stay in order.

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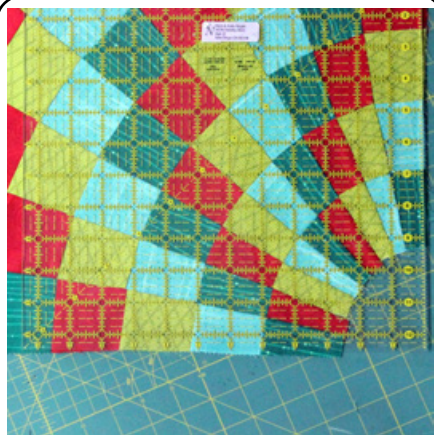


Image 3



Image 4



Image 5



Image 6

each strip set. Keep them pinned together in sets. Label these wedge cut sets.

Constructing the Circle

You will begin by sewing four quarter-circle units.

1. For 9° ruler - Sew four quarter-circle units using ten wedges.

Unit 1: 1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4-1-2

Unit 2: 3-4-1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4

Unit 3: 1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4-1-2

Unit 4: 3-4-1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4

For 10° ruler – Sew four quarter-circle units using nine wedges:

Unit 1: 1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4-1

Unit 2: 2-3-4-1-2-3-4-1-2

Unit 3: 3-4-1-2-3-4-1-2-3

Unit 4: 4-1-2-3-4-1-2-3-4

Since you ironed the seams in opposite directions, the wedges will fit together nicely.

2. Iron each unit, being careful not to stretch it.
3. Using 12" Square Ruler, check to see that each unit is square. Adjust as necessary.

(Image 3)

4. Sew the four units together, leaving one side open to slip around your tree.

Ruffle

1. Sew the ruffle strips together to form one long strip.
2. Fold this strip in half lengthwise (with wrong sides together) and iron.
3. Gather the ruffle along the raw edge.
4. Pin the ruffle to the right side of the tree skirt with the ruffle facing towards the center of the circle, matching the raw edges. Adjust the ruffle fullness so that it will ruffle evenly.

(Image 4)

5. Sew the ruffle to the tree skirt. Press seam.

Layering the Quilt

1. Layer the batting and backing under the tree skirt with the ruffle lying toward the center of the tree skirt. Trim the backing and batting to the edge of the Tree Skirt. **(Image 5)**
2. Now layer the batting, Tree Skirt (right-side up) and the backing (right-side down) in this order. **(Image 6)**

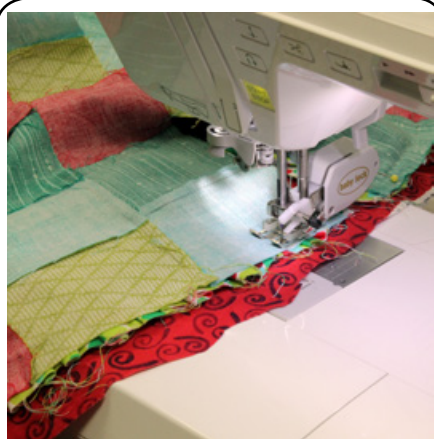


Image 7



Image 8



Image 9



Image 10

3. Pin along the Tree Skirt edge and around the center circle.
4. Sew along the outside edge, the inner circle and one side. Leave one side open for turning.
(Image 7)
5. Cut batting and backing along the opening and inner circle. **(Image 8 & 9)**
6. Turn the Tree Skirt to the outside.
7. Hand stitch the opening closed or topstitch around the entire tree skirt inside circle, outside circle and the two sides. **(Image 10)**
8. Smooth the Tree skirt on a flat surface and pin the layers together with #1 safety pins to prepare for quilting.

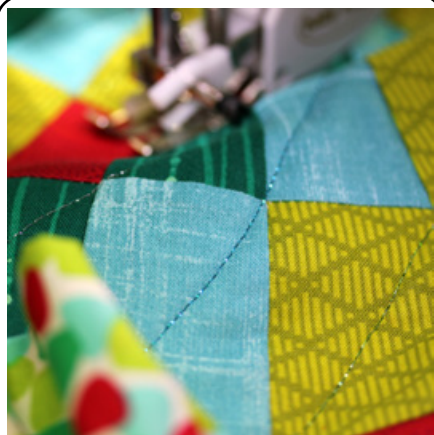


Image 11

Quilting

1. Set up machine for quilting:

For quilting with metallics, put the thread on the vertical spool pin and use Sulky 60 wt. PolyLite in the bobbin in a color that matches the backing fabric.

Top Stitch Needle size 14/90.

Reduce tension slightly.

Use Sewer's Aid or Tri-Flo

Method I - Machine Feed

Attach a Walking Foot if available.

Set machine for normal straight stitch (12 stitches per inch).

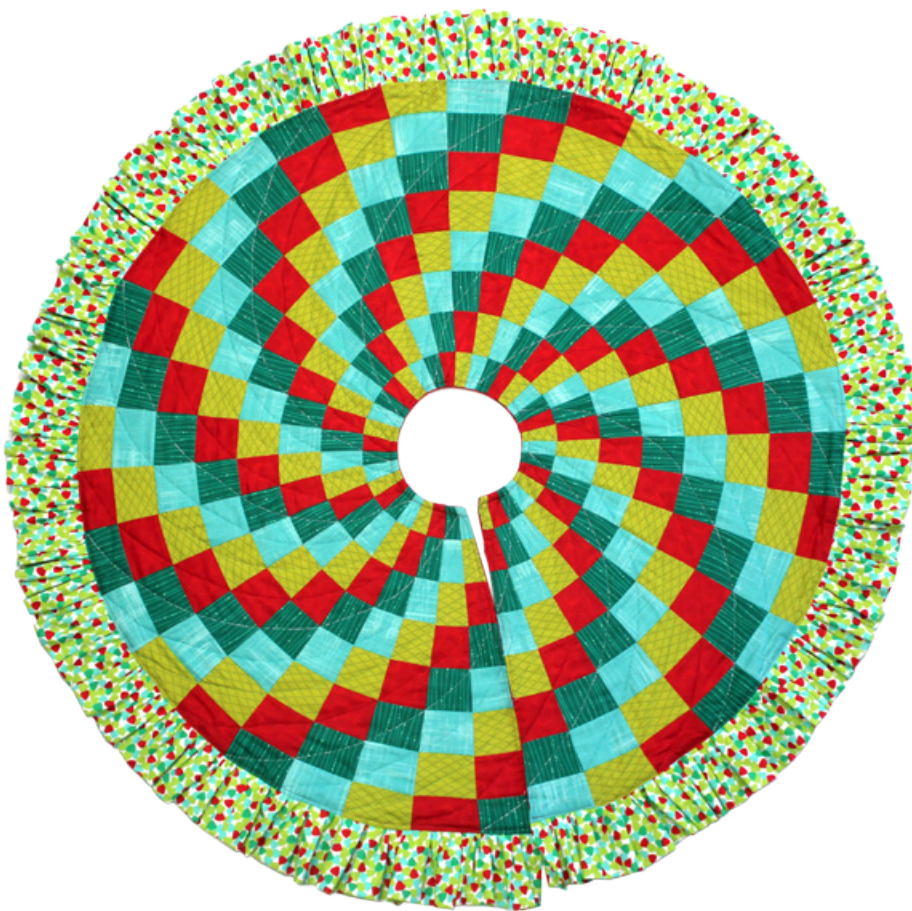
Method II - Free Motion feeding

Attach a Darning Foot and reduce foot pressure

Set machine for zero width

Cover or lower feed dogs

2. To emphasize a swirling design, quilt from connecting corner to corner of squares of the same color. **(Image 11)**
3. For even more pizzazz, add a straight stitch starburst design in some blocks.
4. Enjoy your Tree Skirt! You did a great job.



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