



JUNE 2023

quiltmuseum.org/botm

**Block of the
Month Club**



Redwoods by Abigail Vargas

Guest Designer



Follow Abigail Online!

Website: avargasdesigns.com

Instagram: [@avargasdesigns](https://www.instagram.com/avargasdesigns)

Abigail Vargas is a modern textile artist based in Winters, CA. and has been creating quilts for the last 8 years. Her work has been juried into numerous National shows, including QuiltCon and the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles - Radical Regeneration Exhibit. Her work can also be found in various Curated Quilts magazines. Abigail's work expresses her passion for storytelling and working fragments of fabric and color into vibrant art quilts about nature, science & family history.

Abigail has a business degree from University of San Francisco. The degree allowed her to use her artistic skills to create a one-of-kind children's and women's clothing brand from repurposed fabrics with a large following through the 2000s. Now she enjoys a creative career as an Analyst digging into pieces of data and creating a story for business owners to help improve their operations. When she has time away from her career she shares her passion for discovering inner creativity, collaborating on art projects with other quilters and teaching techniques that use fabric for art.

Redwoods



Exploration/ Exploring/ Explore

I grew up on a 160 acre ranch in Northern California surrounded by valley farms and mountains with thick forests. Luckily my grandparents lived near several groves of redwood trees which allowed my sister and I to explore a child friendly ecosystem. We spent time catching banana slugs, lizards, skinks and frogs that lived under fallen branches. Fallen logs with massive holes in the center became forts and hide-and-seek was easy with massive trees to hide behind.

This block is designed after a California State Park near my home that we frequently visited. The park has beautiful pathways through the redwoods with a beautiful forest canopy and natural structures created from fallen redwoods. There are two paths to explore, one takes you to the river for exploring and a swimming hole for cooling off in the hot summer. The other path takes you on a trail to explore the ecosystem within the redwood trees. Follow the signs to the path you choose to explore!

NOTES

¼" seam allowances are used for piecing unless otherwise noted in the instructions.

Two 12" x 12" Finished Size (12 ½" x 12 ½" unfinished) blocks are created and then sewn together in either a vertical layout or a horizontal layout. The first block is the Tree Block and the second block is the River Block. When using the horizontal layout, the tree trunk fabrics in the River Block are replaced with the background fabric (yellow).

Materials

FABRIC

- Background:(1) Fat Quarter (Yellow)
- Sign Applique: (1) Fat Quarter or ½ Fat Quarter (Dk Red Brown)
- Tree Trunk:
 - Choose which directional layout you will use for your block (Dark Brown)
 - Vertical Layout
 - (1) 1 ½" x 9 ½" Strip
 - (1) 1 ½" x 9 ½" Strip
 - Horizontal Layout
 - (1) 1 ½" x 12 ½" Strip
 - Choose which directional layout you will use for your block (Light Brown)
 - Vertical Layout
 - (1) 1 ½" x 9 ½" Strip
 - (1) 1 ½" x 9 ½" Strip
 - Horizontal Layout
 - (1) 1 ½" x 12 ½" Strip
- Tree Branches: (1) Fat Quarter Darker Color (Dark Green) and (1) Fat Quarter Lighter Color (Lt. Green)
- Stones:(10) Various Shades of Chosen Color 3 ½" x 3 ½" each (Grey)
- River:(1) Fat Quarter (Blue)

SUPPLIES

- Typical sewing supplies: machine, thread, rotary cutter & mat
- Iron
- Quilting ruler: recommend a minimum of at least 12 ½" on one side
- Fabric Scissors
- Fine Point Fabric Marker or other like: chalk, disappearing fabric ink, washable ink, etc
- Optional – straight pins
- Needle and Thread for Hand Applique
- Freezer Paper
- Scissors for Cutting Paper

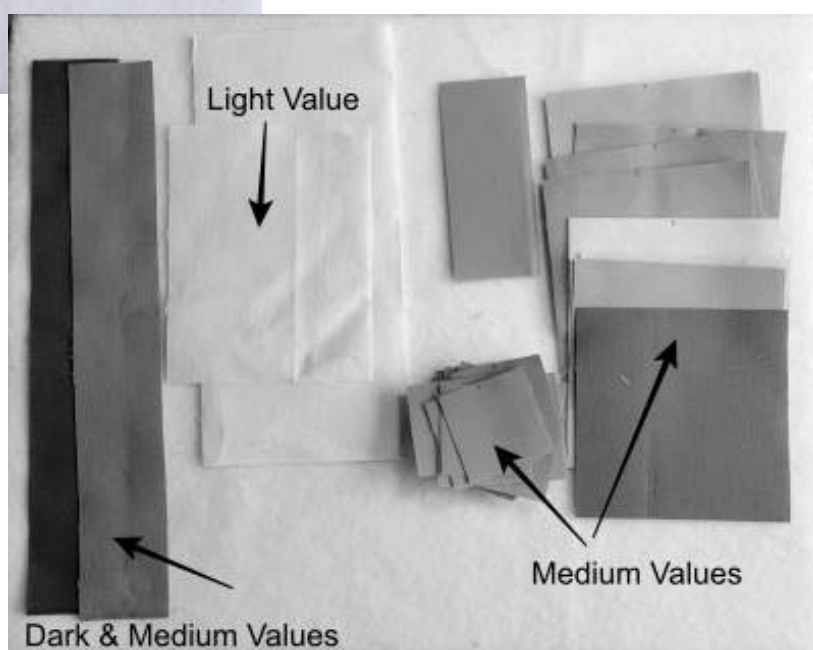
Materials

TIP – When choosing colors to use, try and pick fabrics with different color values. The best way to check the value is to take a picture with a phone camera (Pic A). Then in a photo editing software, change the picture to grey scale (Pic B). Try to use fabrics with different grey scales to make the trunk, branches and river pop out from the background. For example, the browns for the trunk should be different shades in the grey scale photo plus the background fabric should be a different value from the two brown fabrics.



PIC A

PIC B



Cutting

Background: (Yellow)

(The first measurement is the height of the block)

SIZE and NO OF PIECES

3 ½" x 7 ½"(1)

3 ½" x 4 ½"(1)

5 ½" x 7 ½"(1)

5 ½" x 1 ½"(5)

4 ½" x 1 ½"(3)

3 ½" X 1 ½"(5)

2 ½" X 1 ½"(2)

1 ½" X 1 ½"(4)

Optional Horizontal Layout: Cut additional single background piece at 2 ½" x 9 ½" (Replaces the two trunk pieces.)

Stones: Various Shades (Grey)

3 ½" x 3 ½" (10)

River: (Blue)

1 ½" x 1 ½"(40)

1 ½" x 3 ½" (1)

Cutting instructions for the sign fabric (Dk Red Brown) are in the Sign Applique Assembly Instructions.

Cutting

Tree Trunk

Darker Color (Dk. Brown)

Choose which directional layout you will use for your block.

- Vertical Layout
 - (1) 1 ½” x 12 ½” Strip
 - (1) 1 ½” x 9 ½” Strip

- Horizontal Layout
 - (1) 1 ½” x 12 ½” Strip

Lighter Color (Light Brown)

Choose which directional layout you will use for your block.

- Vertical Layout
 - (1) 1 ½” x 12 ½” Strip
 - (1) 1 ½” x 9 ½” Strip

- Horizontal Layout
 - (1) 1 ½” x 12 ½” Strip

Tree Branches:

Darker Color (Dk. Green)

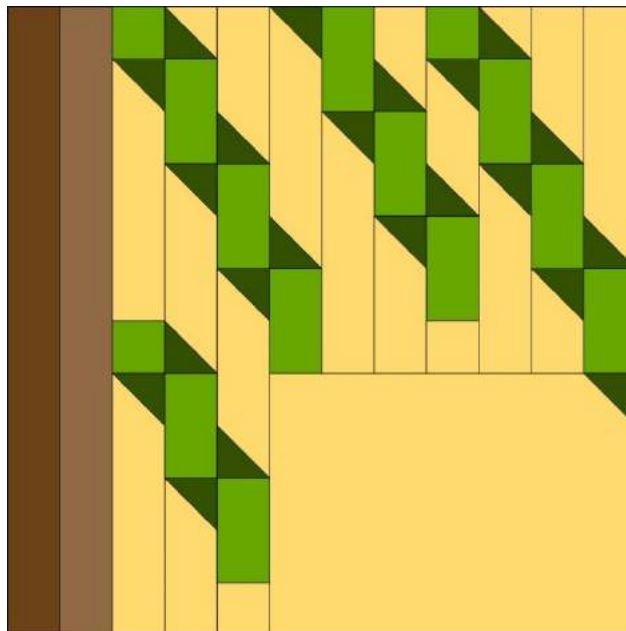
1 ½” x 1 ½”(22)

Lighter Color (Lt. Green)

2 ½” x 1 ½”(11)

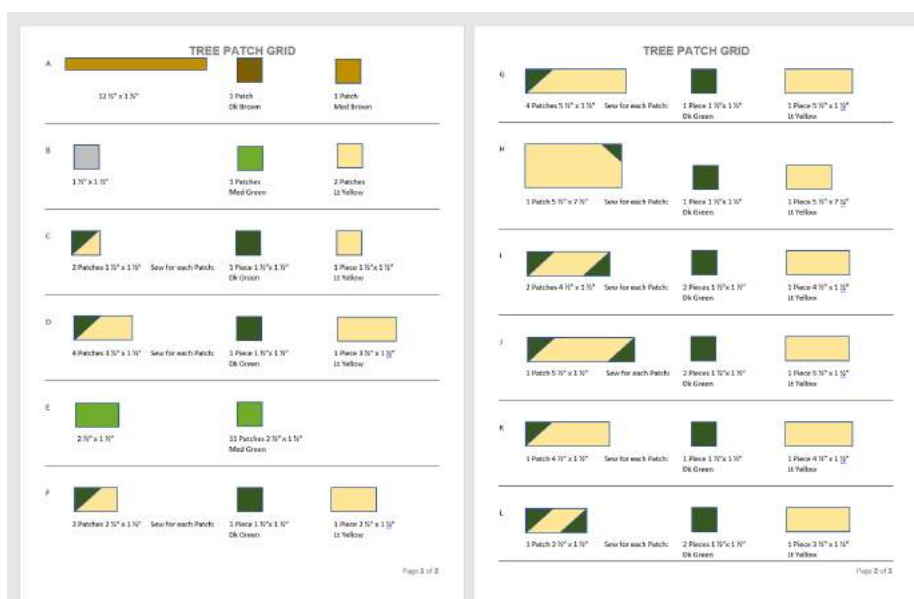
1 ½ x 1 ½”(3)

Directions



ASSEMBLY – TREE BLOCK

1. Print out the 2-page Patch Grid (Pic C) on Pages 22-23 for assembling the tree patches. Each row on the Patch Grid has room to place the cut pieces of fabric for easy organization.

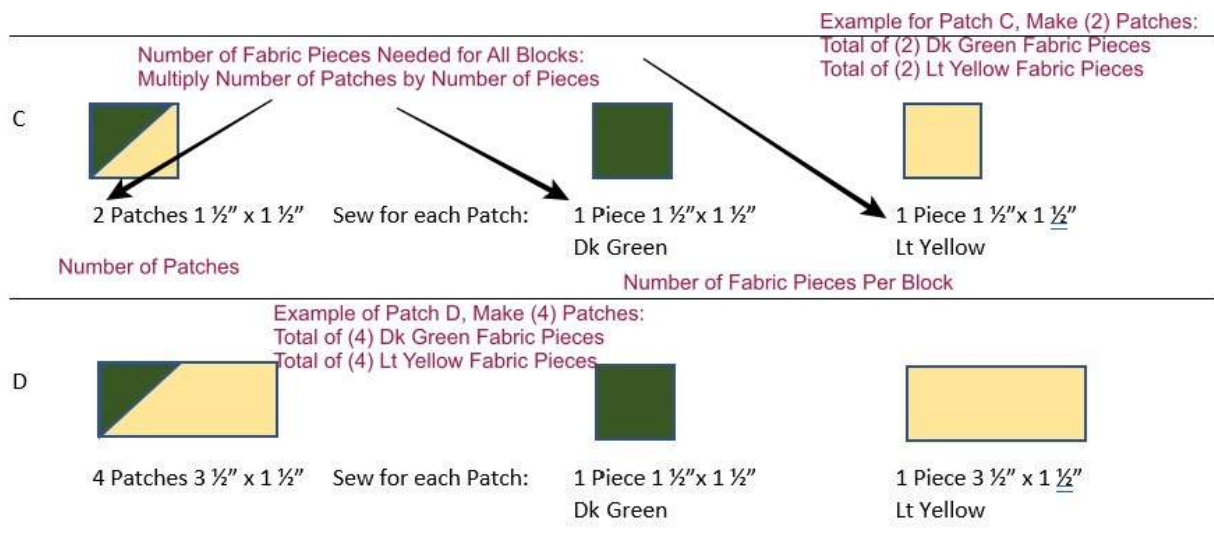


Pic C

Directions

For example:

- Patch D lists the dk green and yellow pieces needed to assemble the D patch.
- Patch D needs (1) 1 ½" x 1 ½" dk green piece and (1) 3 ½" x 1 ½" yellow piece for each patch
- (4) Patch Ds are needed to complete the overall block
- As you cut each piece, place them in the row on the grid.
- Now all the pieces for Patch D are assembled to start sewing the (4) patches.

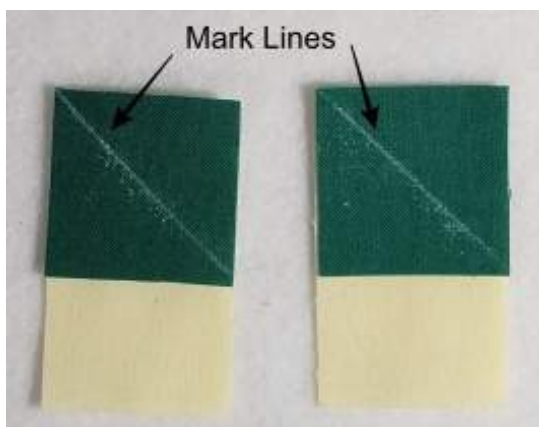


Pic C1

Directions



Pic D



Pic E



Pic F

2. Place enough of each piece of fabric in each row to complete the patch show in each row.

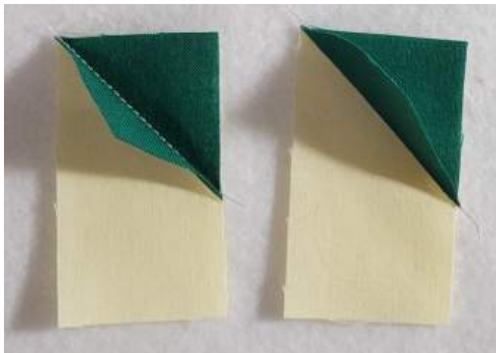
3. After placing all the fabric pieces for the tree block on the Patch Grid, (Pic D) begin sewing Patches D through L, as instructed below.

4. Take the Dk green 1 ½” x 1 ½” blocks and mark a diagonal line with a fabric marker and quilter’s ruler on the backside of each block. This line will be the sewing guide (Pic E).

5. Place the green piece on the yellow corner with the start of the marker line at the top left of the yellow corner. Sew diagonally from the top left corner to the bottom right corner, following the marker line.

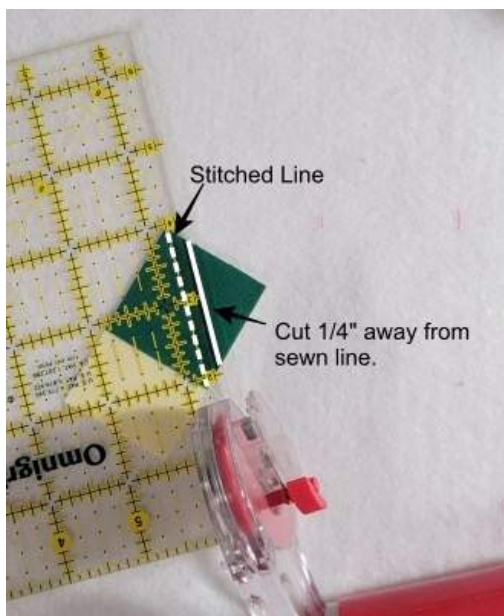
- For patches with two Dk green pieces, the sewing direction will be the same as above. Sew from top left to bottom right at both ends.

Directions



Pic G

6. With an iron, fold the green piece over the stitched line where bottom left corner meets the top right corner. Now the patch should have a yellow with a green HST that matches the patch on your Patch Grid (Pic G).



Pic H

7. To remove most of the bulk under the HST, fold the green back to a square shape. Place the $\frac{1}{4}$ " mark of your quilter's ruler along the stitch line and trim the bulk leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Fold the green HST back over the area you just trimmed (Pic H).

- Discard the extra triangles cut from the corners.

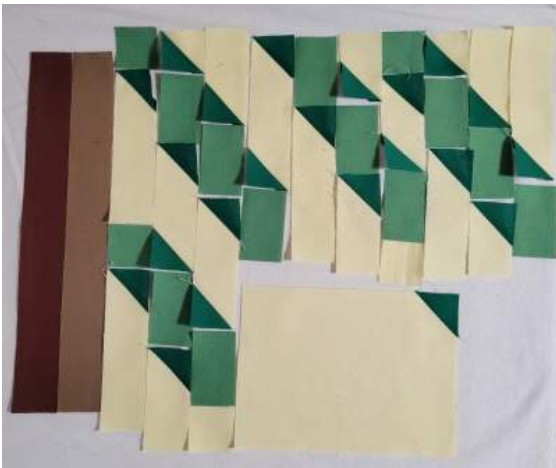


Pic I

8. Place the finished patches back on the Patch Grid in the row with the correct patch (Pic I).

- Repeat above for Patches D through L on the patch Grid.

Directions



Pic J



Pic K



Pic L

Final Assembly of Tree Block

9. For reference, use the Tree Block Key on Page 24 to layout the patches for final assembly. The key will show where to place each patch by referencing the Letter on the Key and the Letter on the Patch Grid.

10. Layout the patches from the Patch Grid (Pic J).

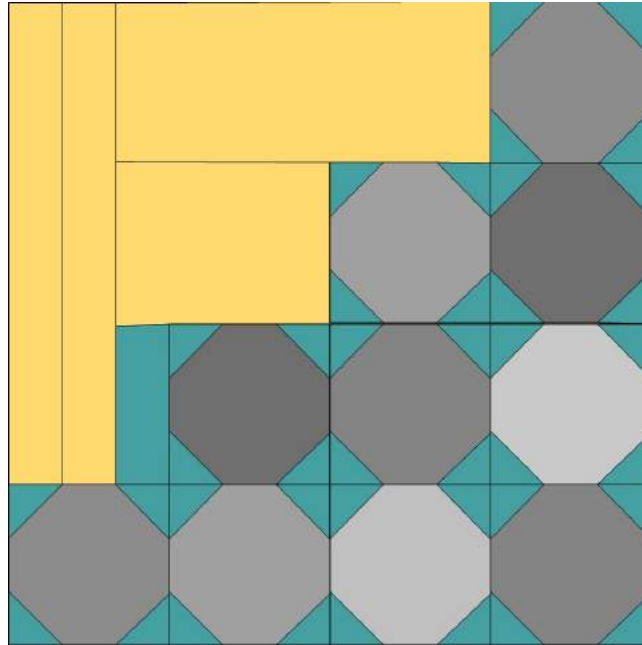
11. Sew patches together to create columns. Sew together the two trunk pieces along the longest sides.

12. Sew all the columns of green and yellow together with the trunk and large background patch. Make two sections of the block for final assembly (Pic K).

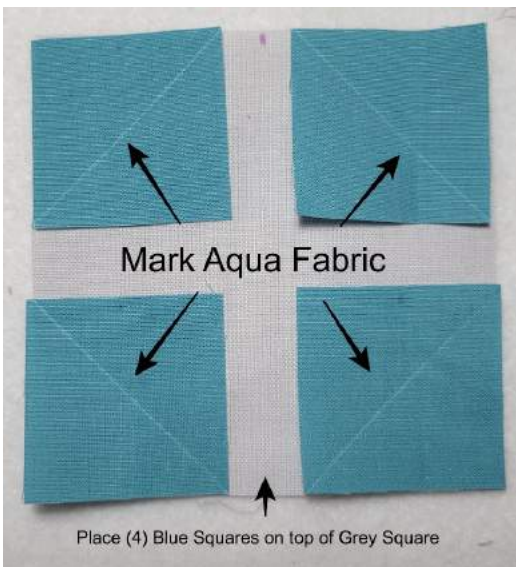
13. Sew the 2 sections together and the tree block is finished (Pic L). It should measure $12\frac{1}{2}''$ x $12\frac{1}{2}''$.

14. Set aside and begin making the River Block.

Directions



ASSEMBLY – RIVER BLOCK



Pic M

15. Take the (40) river 1 ½” x 1 ½” blocks (blue) and mark with the fabric marker and quilter’s ruler one line on the diagonal of each block. This line will be the sewing guide.

16. Gather the 3 ½” x 3 ½” stone blocks. Align (4) river squares on the corners of each stone square, with the sewing guide line creating a triangle in the corner (Pic M).

Directions

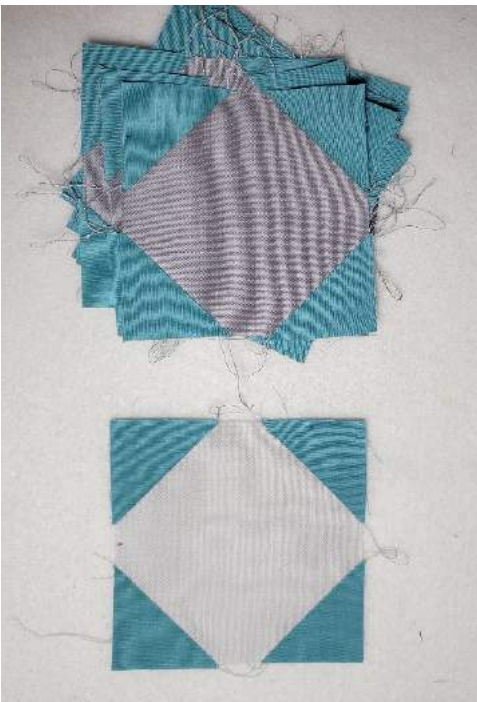


Pic N

17. Sew all four corners along the drawn lines (Pic N).

18. Repeat for all (10) stone and river blocks.

19. With an iron, fold the (4) river pieces over the stitched line where bottom corner meets the top corner.



Pic O

20. Similar to Pic H above, remove the bulk from all (4) corners by trimming the fabric underneath the triangle.

21. Repeat this step on all (10) stone patches.

22. When complete, there are (10) stone patches with (4) aqua blue HST in all four corners of each stone fabric piece. Final block size measures 3 ½" x 3 ½" (Pic P).

Directions



Pic P

Vertical Assembly Option of River Block

If creating the vertical assembly of the blocks, where the Tree Block is Sewn on the top of the River Block, follow the steps in this section.

23. Gather the two trunk pieces, both 1 1/2" x 9 1/2", place right sides together and sew both fabric pieces together in a straight line along the 9 1/2" side (Pic P).



Pic Q

Final Assembly of River Block

24. Layout in rows the first, second, and third row of the background and rock/river blocks (Pic Q). Sew the rows together.

25. Sew the first, second and third rows of blocks together (Pic R).



Pic R

26. For Vertical Assembly, sew the tree trunk patch to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd patch, with the Lt brown attached to the patch.

Directions



Pic S

27. Sew the bottom row of rocks to the rest of the block (Pic S). Final block size is 12 ½” x 12 ½”.

28. For the **Horizontal Assembly**, sew the yellow background piece, 2 ½” x 9 ½”, to the patch instead of tree trunks, as shown (Pic T).



Pic T

Directions



Pic U

Assembly of Tree and River Block

29. Depending on your chosen orientation, Vertical or Horizontal, sew the Tree Block to the River Block (Pic U & V).

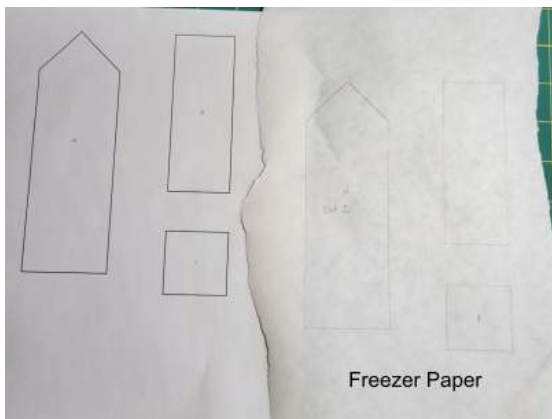
The Block is complete!

Keep going to add the optional **Sign Post Applique** on the next page.

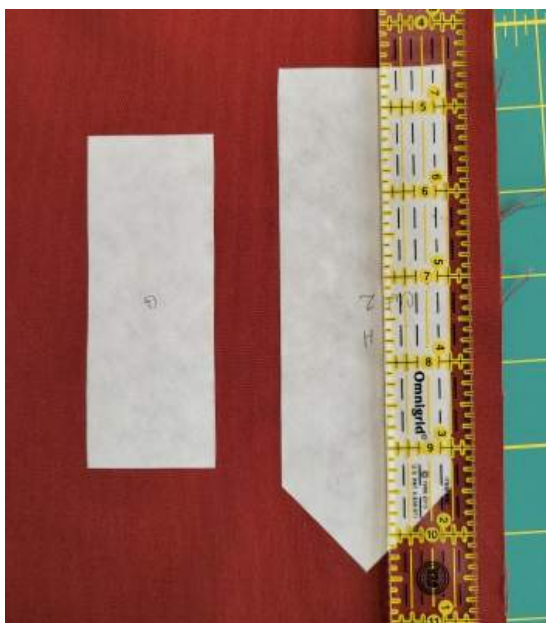


Pic V

Directions



Pic A1



Pic B1

Sign Applique - Optional

I typically use freezer paper and hand applique for my applique projects. If you prefer to use a different method, feel free to use your own method.

1. Print sign template on Page 26.

Trace the sign template pieces onto the paper side of the freezer paper. Include the notes from the pattern: “Cut 2”, “No Iron Turn” (Pic A1).

2. Iron the freezer paper templates, paper side up, to the wrong side of the Dk. Brown fabric, leaving at least $\frac{1}{4}$ ” seam allowance around each template.

3. With a ruler and rotary cutter, cut out the templates about $\frac{1}{4}$ ” away from the freezer paper templates (Pic B1).

Directions

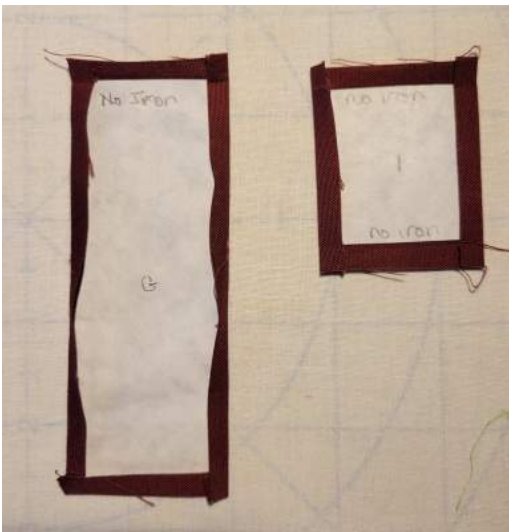


Pic C1

4. At the ironing board, place the paper side up. With the iron in one hand, use the other hand to turn the ¼" fabric allowance over the freezer paper and iron in place.

5. Move your iron along the edge while turning the fabric to hold the turn in place. (Pic C1)

- At the points, manipulate the extra fabric so the flaps are hidden when flipped to the right side.



Pic D1

6. For the small sign post piece, only two sides need to be turned under with the iron.

7. For the larger sign post piece, only iron 3 sides. One side is not turned under with the iron. The sides not turned under will be placed under the signs (Pic D1).



Pic E1

8. Iron all 4 sides for both sign pieces (Pic E1). Once cool, remove the freezer paper and touch up the edges with the iron if needed.

Directions



Pic F1



Pic G1

The sign can be placed anywhere on the block. I chose to place it with the bottom of the sign on a river patch.

9. Place the sign post pieces first, with the smaller piece on top. Using a ruler, be sure the posts align in a straight line. Pin in place (Pic F1).

10. Place the two sign pieces over the post. Be sure the raw edges of the signposts are covered by the sign pieces.

11. The posts may need to be unpinned, adjusted and realigned until the raw edges are covered.

12. Once the signs are positioned, use a pin in the center of each piece to hold each piece in place. (Pic G1)

13. With a needle and thread that matches close to the sign fabric, whipstitch the pieces in place. Be sure to tuck in any pieces of fabric sticking out at corners while stitching.



TREE PATCH GRID

A



12 1/2" x 1 1/2"



1 Patch
Dk Brown



1 Patch
Med Brown

B



1 1/2" x 1 1/2"



3 Patches
Med Green



2 Patches
Lt Yellow

C



2 Patches 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"

Sew for each Patch:



1 Piece 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Dk Green



1 Piece 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Lt Yellow

D



4 Patches 3 1/2" x 1 1/2"

Sew for each Patch:



1 Piece 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Dk Green



1 Piece 3 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Lt Yellow

E



2 1/2" x 1 1/2"



11 Patches 2 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Med Green

F



2 Patches 2 1/2" x 1 1/2"

Sew for each Patch:



1 Piece 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Dk Green



1 Piece 2 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Lt Yellow

TREE PATCH GRID

G



4 Patches 5 1/2" x 1 1/2"

Sew for each Patch:



1 Piece 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Dk Green



1 Piece 5 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Lt Yellow

H



1 Patch 5 1/2" x 7 1/2"

Sew for each Patch:



1 Piece 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Dk Green



1 Piece 5 1/2" x 7 1/2"
Lt Yellow

I



2 Patches 4 1/2" x 1 1/2"

Sew for each Patch:



2 Pieces 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Dk Green



1 Piece 4 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Lt Yellow

J



1 Patch 5 1/2" x 1 1/2"

Sew for each Patch:



2 Pieces 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Dk Green



1 Piece 5 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Lt Yellow

K



1 Patch 4 1/2" x 1 1/2"

Sew for each Patch:



1 Piece 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Dk Green



1 Piece 4 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Lt Yellow

L



1 Patch 3 1/2" x 1 1/2"

Sew for each Patch:

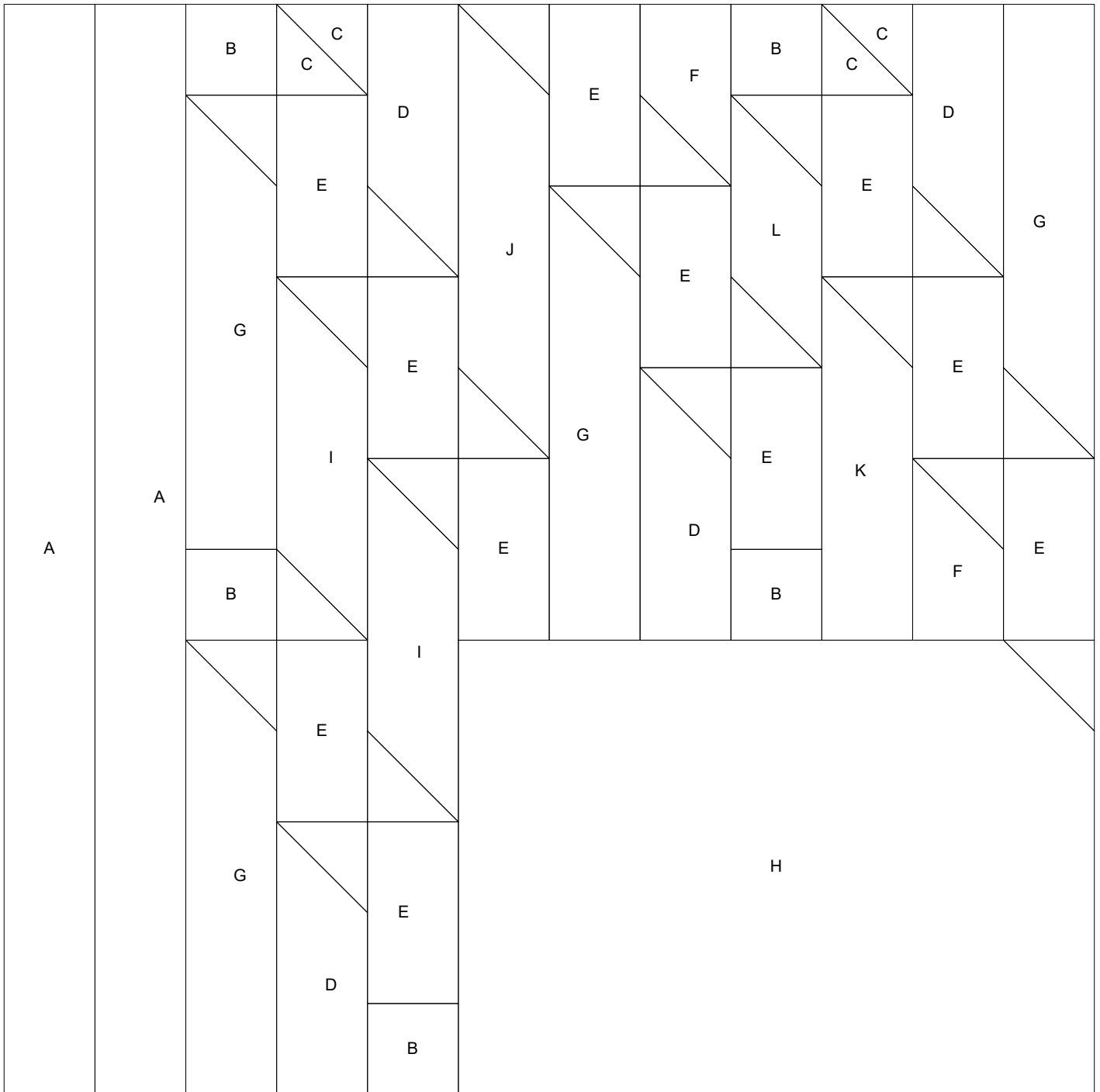


2 Pieces 1 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Dk Green

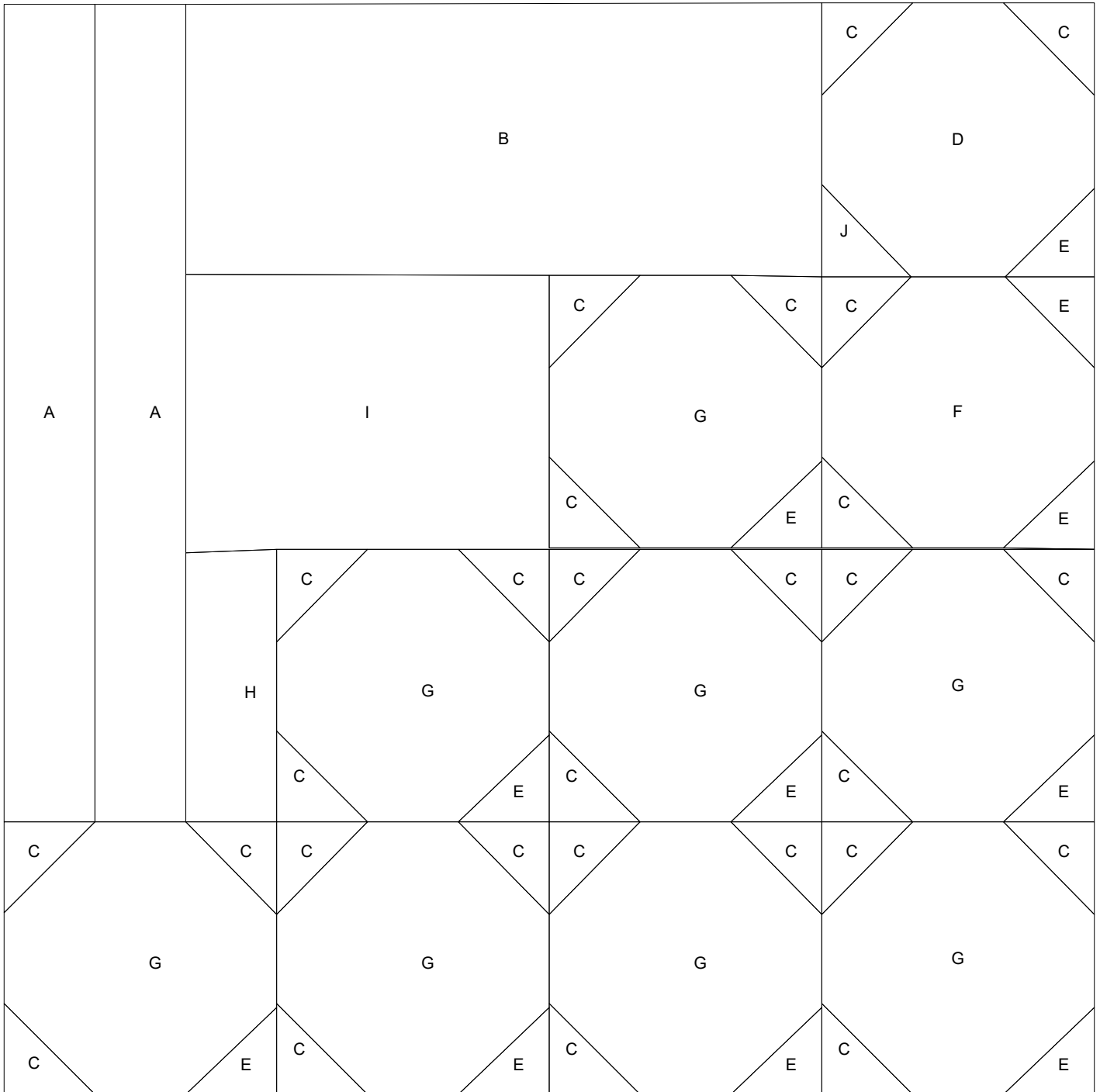


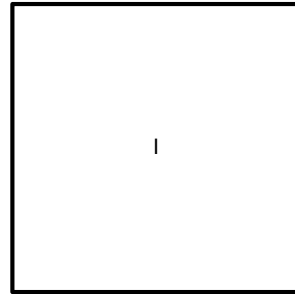
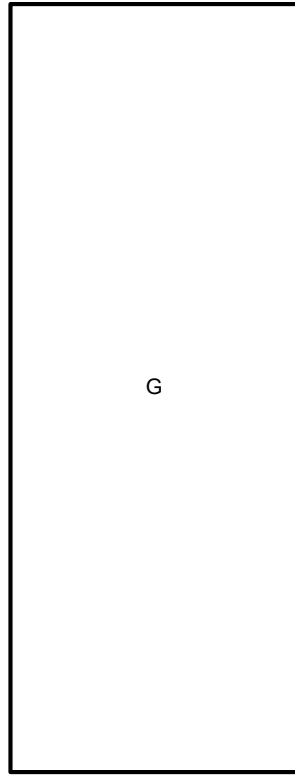
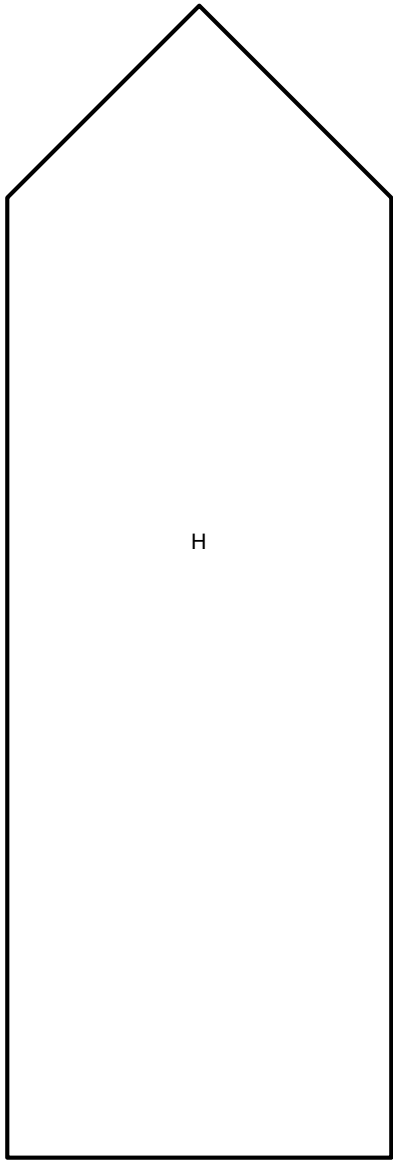
1 Piece 3 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Lt Yellow

Tree Block



River Block





SIGN TEMPLATE