



# PATCHWORK CHRISTMAS TREE – STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIAL

FINISHED SIZE: 40 CM (W) X 46 CM (H)



## MATERIALS

- Assorted cotton fabrics (red, green, gold, plaid, cream with prints)
- Cotton batting
- Backing fabric
- Sewing thread (black, matching colors)
- Hand sewing needle
- Fabric glue (optional)
- Scissors / Rotary cutter
- Pins / Clips
- Iron
- Fabric marker

## MAIN METHODS USED (SEWING – USA QUILT STYLE)



**Running Stitch:** Used for visible decorative stitching and attaching patches.



**Whip Stitch:** Used for applique and attaching the tree to the background.



**Applique:** Layering and sewing fabric shapes onto a background.



**Pressing:** Use an iron to flatten seams and shapes.



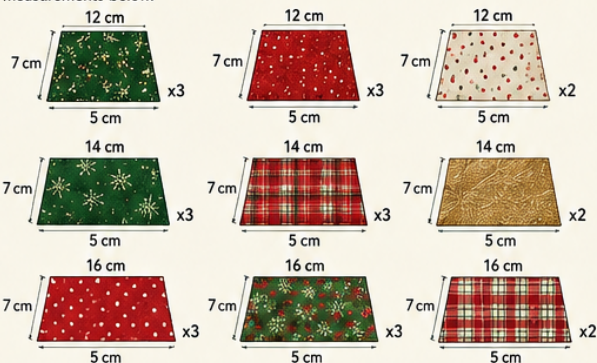
**Quilting (Optional):** Add lines or patterns for texture and durability.

**Seam Allowance:** 0.6 cm (1/4 inch) unless otherwise noted.

## STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. CUT THE PIECES

Cut the fabrics according to the measurements below.



**Trunk:** 6 cm (W at top) x 7 cm (H) cut 1 piece



**Bow:** Cut the pieces and assemble



**Holly Leaves:** Cut 2



**Berries:** Cut 6 circles of 1.5 cm diameter



### 2. ARRANGE THE TREE

Lay out the fabric pieces in rows from top to bottom.



### 3. SEW THE PATCHES

Sew the patches together into rows using a 0.6 cm seam allowance.



Then sew the rows together from top to bottom.



### 4. APPLIQUÉ TO BACKGROUND

Place the tree on the background fabric. Appliqué around the edges using a whip stitch or decorative stitch.



### 5. ADD THE TRUNK

Position the trunk at the bottom and appliqué in place.



### 6. ADD THE BOW

Attach the bow to the top of the tree with appliqué stitches.



### 7. ADD HOLLY & BERRIES

Attach the holly leaves and berries under the bow using small stitches.



### 8. OPTIONAL QUILTING

Add quilting lines around the patches or in the background for texture.



### 9. FINISHING

- Trim the background fabric leaving a 1 cm margin.
- Turn the edges under and press.
- Use a running stitch or small whip stitch around the edge for a clean finish.
- Iron the piece.



### FINISHED SIZE



### TIPS

- Use good quality 100% cotton fabrics.
- Press each piece before sewing for best results.
- Mix prints and colors for a beautiful patchwork.
- Hand stitching adds a charming, country look.

Enjoy your handmade Patchwork Christmas Tree!

### FABRIC COLOR KEY

- Red Prints
- Green Prints
- Plaid
- Gold
- Cream Prints
- Brown (Trunk)

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## PATCHWORK CHRISTMAS TREE

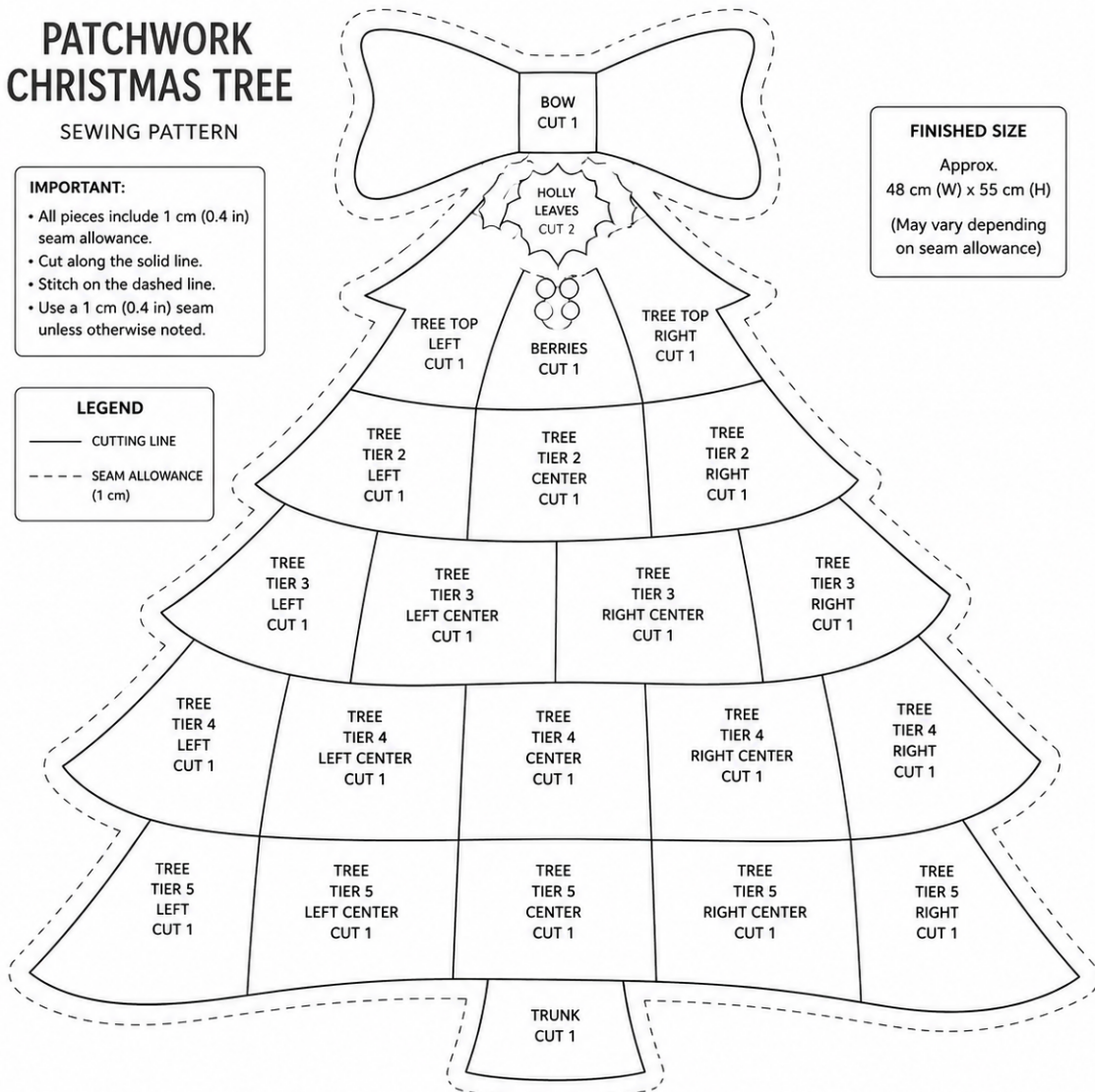
SEWING PATTERN

### IMPORTANT:

- All pieces include 1 cm (0.4 in) seam allowance.
- Cut along the solid line.
- Stitch on the dashed line.
- Use a 1 cm (0.4 in) seam unless otherwise noted.

### LEGEND

- CUTTING LINE
- - - SEAM ALLOWANCE (1 cm)



### FINISHED SIZE

Approx.  
48 cm (W) x 55 cm (H)  
(May vary depending  
on seam allowance)

★ NOTE: Arrange and stitch patchwork pieces together by tiers from bottom to top.

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## Patchwork Christmas Tree – Complete Step-by-Step Sewing Tutorial 🎄

The Patchwork Christmas Tree is a charming country-style holiday sewing project made from small trapezoid-shaped fabric patches in traditional Christmas colors. The finished piece measures approximately 40 cm wide × 46 cm high (15¾ ×

18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches) and can be used as a wall hanging, seasonal panel, quilt block, table decoration, or handmade Christmas gift.

This tutorial follows the measurements, construction order, fabrics, sewing methods, and finishing techniques shown in the reference chart. Although the project is measured primarily in centimeters, the sewing construction uses a 0.6 cm seam allowance, approximately ¼ inch, which is familiar to quilters in the United States.

The design is built gradually. First, you cut several groups of trapezoid patches. Those patches are arranged into horizontal sections to form the triangular Christmas tree silhouette. After the sections are sewn together, a fabric trunk, plaid bow, holly leaves, and red berries are appliquéd into position. You can then add batting and backing for optional quilting before finishing the outer edges.

## 1. Gather the Materials and Tools

Before cutting anything, prepare all of your supplies. Using 100% cotton quilting fabric is recommended because it presses easily, holds its shape well, and is comfortable to sew both by machine and by hand.

For the patchwork tree, collect an assortment of Christmas fabrics in red, green, gold, cream, and plaid prints. Mixing small floral prints, dots, snowflake patterns, tartans, and subtle holiday motifs gives the finished tree the scrappy country appearance shown in the tutorial.

You will also need cotton batting if you want the project to have a quilted, slightly padded finish. A thin or low-loft batting works especially well because the piece is relatively small.

Prepare a piece of backing fabric large enough to cover the entire project. A neutral cream, beige, Christmas print, or coordinating green or red cotton works well.

For sewing, use matching or coordinating sewing thread. Black or dark thread can be used for the visible decorative stitches around the patchwork pieces if you want to recreate the rustic hand-stitched effect in the example.

Have a hand-sewing needle, sewing machine if desired, scissors or a rotary cutter, cutting mat, quilting ruler, pins or sewing clips, iron, ironing surface, and removable fabric marker nearby.

Optional fabric glue can help hold small appliqué pieces in position before stitching, particularly the holly leaves and berries.

## **2. Understand the Main Sewing Methods**

Several basic quilting and appliqué techniques are used throughout the project. They are simple enough for beginners but provide plenty of character to the finished tree.

A running stitch is a basic straight stitch that moves the needle in and out of the fabric at regular intervals. It can be used for visible decorative stitching, edge finishing, or securing appliqué shapes.

A whip stitch is made by bringing the thread around the edge of an appliqué piece using small diagonal stitches. In this project, it is especially useful for attaching the tree, trunk, bow, holly leaves, and berries to the background.

Appliqué means placing one fabric shape on top of another fabric and sewing it into position. The assembled Christmas tree becomes one large appliqué unit when it is attached to the background fabric.

Pressing is extremely important in patchwork. Instead of sliding the iron aggressively back and forth, lower and lift the iron over the seams. This prevents the fabric pieces from stretching out of shape.

Quilting is optional for this project. If used, quilting stitches pass through the patchwork top, batting, and backing to secure the three layers together and add texture.

Unless another measurement is specifically stated, use a 0.6 cm or 1/4-inch seam allowance.

### 3. Cut the 12 cm Tree Patches

Begin with the smallest trapezoid pieces.

Each piece should measure:

12 cm across the top

5 cm across the bottom

7 cm high

Cut 3 green print pieces using these measurements.

Cut 3 red print pieces using the same measurements.

Cut 2 cream print pieces.

You should therefore have 8 small trapezoids in the 12 cm group.

Mark the shapes accurately with a quilting ruler and removable fabric marker before cutting. If you plan to make several trees, creating a cardboard or template-plastic pattern for each trapezoid size can make repeated cutting much faster.

Keep the edges clean and straight because accurate cutting will make the patchwork rows easier to assemble.

#### **4. Cut the 14 cm Tree Patches**

The second group is slightly wider but remains the same height.

Each trapezoid measures:

14 cm across the top

5 cm across the bottom

7 cm high

Cut 3 green print pieces.

Cut 3 plaid pieces.

Cut 2 gold pieces.

You will have 8 medium trapezoid pieces in this group.

The plaid fabric adds an especially traditional American Christmas quilt appearance, while the gold fabric gives the tree warmth and contrast.

Try to alternate the direction of strong plaid lines or printed motifs while cutting so the finished tree has a relaxed patchwork effect rather than looking overly uniform.

#### **5. Cut the 16 cm Tree Patches**

The largest trapezoids form the wider portions near the base of the Christmas tree.

Each piece measures:

16 cm across the top

5 cm across the bottom

7 cm high

**Cut 3 red print pieces.**

**Cut 3 green Christmas or floral print pieces.**

**Cut 2 plaid pieces.**

**You will have 8 large trapezoid pieces.**

**At this point, you should have a varied collection of red, green, plaid, gold, and cream shapes ready for arranging.**

**Do not sew them immediately. The layout stage is important because the colors should appear balanced throughout the tree.**

## **6. Cut the Tree Trunk**

**Cut 1 brown fabric trunk.**

**According to the tutorial, the trunk is approximately:**

**6 cm wide across the top**

**7 cm high**

**The illustrated trunk widens slightly toward the bottom, so you can give it a gentle trapezoid shape instead of making it completely rectangular.**

**Choose a brown fabric with wood grain, small stripes, or a textured print if you want the trunk to resemble natural wood.**

**Press the fabric before positioning it.**

## **7. Prepare the Plaid Bow**

**The decorative bow sits at the top of the Christmas tree.**

**The finished bow area shown in the tutorial measures approximately:**

**15 cm wide × 8 cm high**

**Use red-and-green plaid fabric for the classic appearance shown in the design.**

**You can create the bow as a simple flat appliqué by drawing a symmetrical bow shape onto the fabric and cutting it out with the required seam allowance.**

**For a more dimensional bow, sew two matching bow shapes right sides together, leave a small opening, turn them right side out, and press. A narrow center strip can then be wrapped around the middle.**

**Keep the completed bow approximately within the 15 × 8 cm measurement so it remains proportional to the 40 × 46 cm finished panel.**

**Set the bow aside until the tree has been attached to the background.**

## **8. Cut the Holly Leaves and Berries**

**Cut 2 green holly leaves.**

**Each leaf is approximately 5 cm long according to the tutorial illustration.**

**Draw the familiar pointed holly-leaf outline before cutting. If the shapes will be turned under for appliqué, leave a small allowance around the outside. If you are using raw-edge appliqué, cut directly on the final outline.**

**Next, cut 6 red circles, each approximately 1.5 cm in diameter.**

**These will become the red berries placed between and around the two holly leaves beneath the bow.**

Because these shapes are small, fabric glue or a tiny amount of fusible web can make them much easier to hold in position while sewing.

## 9. Arrange the Patchwork Christmas Tree

Place all the cut trapezoids on a large table or flat work surface.

Arrange them from smallest at the top to widest at the bottom, gradually creating the triangular Christmas tree silhouette.

Alternate the colors and prints instead of grouping identical fabrics together. Try to place green, red, plaid, cream, and gold pieces throughout the design.

The tutorial shows the pieces organized into horizontal rows, with each successive section becoming wider as it moves downward.

Before sewing, step back and look at the entire arrangement. Make sure one color does not dominate a single area.

Move individual pieces until you are happy with the distribution.

Taking a quick photo of the final arrangement can be helpful. If the pieces become mixed while sewing, you will have a reference showing exactly where each patch belongs.

## 10. Sew the Patches Into Rows

Begin with one horizontal row.

Place two neighboring fabric pieces right sides together, matching the side edges carefully.

Pin or clip them in place.

**Sew using the project's standard 0.6 cm or ¼-inch seam allowance.**

**Continue adding pieces until the entire row has been assembled.**

**Repeat the process for every horizontal tree section.**

**After completing each row, take it to the ironing board.**

**Press the seams carefully. You may press the seam allowances to one side or open them, depending on the thickness of your fabrics and your preferred quilting method.**

**Consistent pressing is essential because it keeps the patchwork sections flat.**

## **11. Join the Tree Rows**

**Once all individual rows are complete, return them to the layout surface.**

**Arrange them again from top to bottom.**

**Check that the tree keeps its stepped, triangular silhouette.**

**Place the first two rows right sides together and align the joining edges.**

**Pin or clip carefully.**

**Sew with a 0.6 cm seam allowance.**

**Press the seam.**

**Add the next row and repeat.**

**Continue until all of the horizontal sections form one complete patchwork Christmas tree.**

Give the entire tree a final pressing, being careful not to distort the shape.

## **12. Prepare the Background Fabric**

Cut a piece of background fabric large enough for the completed 40 cm × 46 cm project.

The background should extend beyond the tree on all sides so you have enough fabric for positioning and final edge finishing.

A cream or light neutral fabric works particularly well because it allows the strong Christmas colors to stand out.

Press the background thoroughly before adding the appliqué.

Fold the background gently in half vertically and horizontally and finger-press the folds if you need guidelines for locating the center.

Position the tree so it is centered from side to side while leaving enough room above it for the bow and holly decoration.

## **13. Appliqué the Tree to the Background**

Place the assembled patchwork tree onto the prepared background.

Check the position carefully before stitching.

Pin the tree securely or use a small amount of temporary fabric adhesive.

Using a whip stitch or decorative running stitch, sew around the entire outside edge of the tree.

The example uses visible dark stitching, which gives the project its distinctive rustic handmade appearance.

Keep the stitches reasonably even, but they do not have to look machine-perfect. Slight variation can enhance the country-style character of the project.

If you prefer machine appliqué, a narrow zigzag, blanket stitch, or appliqué stitch can also be used.

## 14. Add the Brown Tree Trunk

Position the brown trunk at the bottom center of the tree.

The upper section of the trunk should sit slightly underneath the lower edge of the tree so there is no visible gap.

Make sure it is centered.

Pin, glue-baste, or hold the trunk securely.

Sew around its outside edge using a small whip stitch, running stitch, blanket stitch, or your preferred appliqué stitch.

The wood-like brown fabric creates contrast against the colorful Christmas patches.

Press carefully after stitching.

## 15. Attach the Plaid Bow

Place the completed plaid bow at the top center of the tree.

Its approximate finished size should remain close to 15 cm wide × 8 cm high.

The bow should overlap the very top portion of the tree slightly.

Center it before sewing.

Secure the bow using appliqué stitches around the necessary edges. If you made a three-dimensional version, you may want to stitch mainly around the center and selected outer areas so the loops remain slightly raised.

The combination of red and green plaid creates the traditional Christmas focal point shown in the original project.

## **16. Add the Holly Leaves and Red Berries**

Place the two green holly leaves directly below the bow.

Angle the leaves outward in opposite directions.

Position the six 1.5 cm red berries between and around the leaves.

Experiment with the placement before sewing because these small decorative pieces should look like one unified cluster.

Attach the holly leaves using small appliqué stitches.

Then sew the berries individually.

Very small stitches work particularly well around circles because they allow you to follow the curved edges accurately.

The finished holly cluster should appear to emerge from underneath the plaid bow.

## **17. Add Optional Quilting**

If you would like the project to have the appearance and durability of a miniature quilt, add batting and backing.

Lay the backing fabric wrong side up on a flat surface.

Place the cotton batting on top.

**Position the completed patchwork top over the batting with the right side facing upward.**

**Smooth all three layers from the center toward the edges.**

**Pin, baste, or clip the quilt sandwich so the layers cannot shift.**

**Quilt around individual patchwork pieces, along the horizontal rows, around the outside of the tree, or across the background.**

**You can also add simple diagonal quilting lines to create additional texture.**

**Do not feel that the quilting must be dense. The reference design uses the stitching mainly to enhance the handmade texture and secure the project.**

## **18. Finish the Outer Edges**

**After all appliqué and optional quilting are complete, inspect the entire panel.**

**Trim the background neatly while leaving approximately a 1 cm margin around the desired finished edge, as indicated in the tutorial.**

**Turn the raw edges toward the back.**

**Press them carefully with the iron.**

**Secure the folded edges with a running stitch or small whip stitch.**

**Take extra care around the corners so they remain neat rather than bulky.**

**If you used batting, trim excess batting carefully before turning the fabric edge.**

Continue sewing around the entire perimeter until all raw edges are enclosed.

For another finishing option, experienced quilters may substitute traditional quilt binding, but the turned-under method is the one represented in the original tutorial.

## 19. Final Pressing and Finished Size

Give the entire project one last gentle pressing.

Use an appropriate iron temperature for cotton and avoid pressing directly over dimensional decorations for too long.

Check the patchwork seams and appliqué pieces to make sure everything lies neatly.

The final project should measure approximately:

40 cm wide × 46 cm high

or approximately

15<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches wide × 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches high.

Small differences are perfectly normal because hand appliqué, pressing, seam widths, and edge finishing can slightly change the final dimensions.

## Tips for a Professional-Looking Patchwork Christmas Tree 🌲 ✨

Use good-quality 100% cotton quilting fabrics whenever possible. Similar fabric weights will make your seams easier to match and help the finished tree lie flat.

Press every piece before sewing and press again after joining each seam. Good pressing is one of the biggest differences

between patchwork that looks uneven and patchwork that looks polished.

Mix several prints rather than using large areas of identical fabric. The project is designed to have a colorful scrappy patchwork appearance.

Traditional combinations of red prints, green prints, plaid, gold, cream prints, and brown will stay closest to the original design.

Maintain the 0.6 cm or ¼-inch seam allowance consistently. Even small seam variations can change the size and alignment of patchwork pieces.

When appliquéing curves such as the berries, use very small stitches. Short stitches naturally follow curves better than long stitches.

If you are hand stitching, do not pull the thread excessively tight. The appliqué should remain flat without causing the background to pucker.

For the rustic country look shown in the project, decorative visible stitching can be part of the design rather than something you need to hide.

## **Fabric Color Key**

The original design uses red prints throughout several sections of the tree for strong Christmas contrast.

Green prints create the dominant evergreen appearance.

Red-and-green plaid fabric adds traditional holiday character and is also used for the large decorative bow.

Gold fabric provides warm accent patches among the stronger red and green colors.

Cream prints break up the darker fabrics and make the patchwork pattern easier to see.

Brown fabric is reserved for the tree trunk and works especially well when it has a subtle wood-grain or textured pattern.

## Enjoy Your Handmade Patchwork Christmas Tree 🎄

Your Patchwork Christmas Tree is now complete. What begins as a collection of simple trapezoid-shaped cotton pieces becomes a layered Christmas decoration filled with color, texture, appliqué, and traditional quilting details.

The combination of red, green, plaid, cream, and gold fabrics, the brown appliqué trunk, the oversized plaid bow, and the holly-and-berry decoration gives the finished piece a warm handmade look that works beautifully with farmhouse, country, traditional, or vintage Christmas décor.

Once you understand the construction, this pattern is also easy to personalize. You can change the fabric prints, use scraps from previous quilts, embroider a family name or year onto the background, or make several trees using different Christmas color palettes.

For the closest result to the tutorial, keep the 40 × 46 cm finished size, follow the three trapezoid cutting groups, maintain the 0.6 cm (¼-inch) seam allowance, and assemble the tree from the smaller sections at the top toward the wider sections at the bottom.

A useful next step is to make full-size printable templates for the 12 cm, 14 cm, and 16 cm trapezoids, the trunk, bow, holly leaves, and 1.5 cm berries, including the seam allowance, so every piece can be cut directly from the pattern.

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