

Confetti Trees

Supply List (2 pages)

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With any landscape, rendering the trees and foliage can be both challenging and rewarding and provides an opportunity to be creative with shape and texture. This technique creates a slightly textured surface and is perfect for foliage and other 'frothy' natural elements like crashing waves or the burbling foam at the bottom of a waterfall. The 'confetti' technique makes particularly lovely trees that are more complex, lacy and delicate than ordinary quilting techniques are capable of. The method is remarkably easy and needs only rudimentary free motion stitching skills.

Please be courteous to others by arriving for class with the correct supplies. Contact me at 503-888-9784 or helene.m.knott@gmail.com if you have any questions.

A Note to Students: Many students do not realize that once the teacher is paid, the shop offering a class makes little if any income on the class itself. The shop is relying on product sales to continue offering quality classes to you. Therefore, I urge you to patronize this shop when buying your supplies for this class as much as possible and remind you that big chain stores do not offer the variety of classes that the smaller shops do. Keep quilt classes alive by supporting this shop.

Thank you, Helene

Pattern: Students will receive three patterns in a handout with several choices of scenery – A Mountain Bonsai Tree, a Lakeside Fir Tree, and Coast Pines. You may bring your own pattern if you wish; keep it simple and small – no larger than 11” x 17”. Cutting an adequate amount of confetti for a large project is time consuming and you will want to leave the class with a finished project. You can apply what you learn to a larger project at a later date.

Fabrics: You will need a variety of fabrics for the landscape features; the backdrop for the tree consists of only a few fabrics but careful selection of colors and textures will enhance your finished quilt. Visit <http://heleneknott.com/pdf/01.pdf> for a free downloadable landscape fabric selection guide. **Prewash your fabric; adhesives do not adhere well to sizing.**

Fabrics: Fat quarters of each fabric will be sufficient for each feature Scraps will suffice for some as noted.

- **Sky (10” x 14” will cover any of the three patterns)**
- **Background hills (10” x 12” piece will cover any of the three patterns)**
- **Water: (10” x 14”)**
 - Lake Scene: 1-3 fabrics in linear texture that coordinate well with each other**
 - Coast Pines: 1 fabric in linear texture**
- **Clouds – for the Mountain Bonsai Tree scene only (7” x 12”)**
- **Foreground: 1-2 prints reminiscent of a meadow and/or rocky shoreline (6” x 12” of each)**
- **Tree Trunks (10” x 10”)**
- **Foliage for Tree:** For the confetti technique, batiks or solids are better choices than prints. Not only will a print lose any decorative advantage once it is shredded but prints also often have a faded backside. Because there is no way of controlling which side is up in the confetti technique, you get better results from sticking to fabric where the backside is more consistent with the front. NOTE: having more than one color for the foliage allows for a more dimensional realistic looking tree. 8” squares of each color will be adequate OR a 12” square for only 1 color.
- **Borders/background:** Optional but you can add a narrow border to the rectangular scenes or a background panel for the circular scene (a fat quarter will be needed for the circle design)
- **A 14” square of muslin:** for the Coast Pines scene only

Bo-Nash Fuse-it Powder or Quilters’ Select Fusing Powder: Only these brands and type of adhesive will work for this technique. You can try it without the adhesive but it will be harder to keep the confetti from shifting and sifting out from under the netting. The adhesive is available at some quilt and sewing shops, if you can’t find it, you might have order it online. The ‘starting kit’ size will be enough for quite a few projects. If you cannot find any of these, I will have some available for you to use for a nominal fee.

Tweezers and/or a small stiff bristle artist brush (optional): These can be helpful for nudging and adjusting the confetti to the desired areas.

‘Bridal’ Tulle: This is the very fine soft tulle, not the stiff, coarse netting version. Black or dark green is preferred unless you are making Autumn foliage in which case a dark red or orange will work, For best results the tulle should be slightly darker than your foliage fabrics. A 12” x 18” piece will be adequate.

Sewing Pins: The longer ones are best for this.

Teflon pressing sheet: to protect Tulle from hot iron as well as protect iron from the adhesive, **this is absolutely necessary.**

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Fusible Webbing: You will need about $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of fusible webbing for the background landscape features. Choose a paper backed one like Soft Fuse or Heat & Bond Lite. **NOTE: this is for the landscape elements and is in addition to the powdered adhesive, not instead of it.**

Sewing Machine with a free motion quilting foot: a free motion foot is necessary for this technique. Don't balk if you are not an expert at free motion, the method is very forgiving and even a novice can do it.

Thread: 100% cotton thread is preferable in colors similar to your landscape and tree fabrics; a small spool of each will do. For the confetti foliage, having a matching or darker color for shadowed areas along with a higher contrasting thread for highlights will add to the realism of your tree.

Scissors: good fabric shears with sharp blades. NOTE the spring loaded type made by Fiskars will be easier on the hand for the repetitive cutting.

Seam ripper

$8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" sheet of scratch paper

Quart or sandwich sized Zip Loc® bags: you will need one for each color of confetti you plan to make

Backing & batting: a fat quarter of each will do.

