

Smoky Mountain Quilters Guild

2016 Quilt Show Boutique Challenge

September 2015

The September 2015 Challenge Project is to create a faux-quilted ornament! I have it on good authority that our fearless leader is planning to de-stash some holiday-themed fabric to use for creating boutique items. Here are some ideas that might inspire you (PDF instructions included in attachment):



Left to Right:
Almost No-Sew Quilted Ball Ornament
Pinecone Ornament
Prairie Point Ornament

For a bit more challenge, how about making a paper-pieced ornament (or ten!)
Carol Doak's Free "Santa is a Star!" Ornament PDF instructions attached.



Thanks for your help making the 2016 SMQG Quilt Show Boutique a tremendous success!

~Susan Skuda

(Almost) No-sew quilted ball ornament

I've loved making these almost-no-sew "quilted" ornaments for several years. They're easy to make, require very little sewing (or no sewing, if you decide to trim the equator with ribbon rather than fabric), and turn out beautifully every time. You can make these for Easter, birthdays, and of course, Christmas – or simply make some fun ones that match your decor or your favorite sports team! These make beautiful gifts.

What you'll need:

- * A couple of fat quarters of cotton fabric in two colors, Fabric A and Fabric B.
- * Fabric A should be cut into 26, 2 1/2in (64mm) squares.
- * Fabric B, the accent color, should be cut into 16, 2 1/2in (64mm) squares.
- * Cut one (1) strip of fabric in either color into a 2 1/4in (57mm) x 10in (25cm) rectangle -OR- cut 10in (25cm) of 7/8in (22mm) ribbon if you don't want to sew
- * 3in (76mm) foam craft ball
- * Box of flat-head dressmaker or sequin straight pins
- * 1/2yd (1/2m) of 3/8in (10mm) ribbon
- * 1/2 – 1yd (1/2 – 1m) of 3/8-5/8in (10mm-mm) ribbon
- * Button without a shank
- * Hot glue gun and glue
- * Liquid seam sealant
- * Crystals, beads, other small embellishments (optional)

To start, you'll need to find opposite centers of the ball. There are probably many methods for this, and it's not crucial that you find the absolute center...but I like to try my best. The method below works well enough so that you'll have a neat ornament.

Cut two pieces of the 3/8in (10mm) ribbon to 9 1/4in (23 1/2cm). Fold each ribbon in half and mark the center. Pin one of the ribbons around the equator of the ball, as shown in the top two photos below. Pin the second piece perpendicular to the first at the top of the ball, and wrap around, making sure the marked center of this ribbon crosses the first one. Place a pin at the bottom intersection.





Set the ball aside. Fold two (2) of the Fabric A pieces in half, wrong sides together, then in half again. Press with your iron if desired. The fold lines will help you find the center later. (I can't share pressing photos because my ironing board cover is too ugly to show you!)



Fold the remaining squares – both Fabric A and Fabric B – in half, with wrong sides together. Press (on your board that's hopefully prettier than mine). Then fold each short end toward the middle at an angle, to make a triangle. Press again. You don't have to press, but I like how it makes each triangle nice and crisp....it might get boring, so put on some music and dance a little while you're at it.



Admire all of your little fabric triangles, and get ready to start faux-quilting!



Open one of the two folded squares (not the triangles!). Place a pin in center, into the right side of the fabric. Pin onto the ball at the top center, making sure each point of the square is angled onto the ribbon guides. Pin all four corners down. Repeat on the bottom of the ball.



Place pins inside each of your pressed triangles by opening up your folds and pinning into the wrong side of the fabric at the center point. Slide the pin all the way into the fabric until it stops, and fold the triangle back up again.



Arrange four (4) of the Fabric A triangles onto the top square. Pin the points of the triangles at the center of the square (you can remove the pin you placed on the square originally). Arrange each triangle so the long sides – the bases – are aligned with the edges of the square. Once aligned, pin the triangles at each of their remaining two points.



Next, you'll pin the second layer – the accent layer – with Fabric B. Measure about $\frac{3}{4}$ in (2cm) down from the center top of the ball, and pin the point of the first Fabric B triangle in between two of the previous, Fabric A triangles. Repeat with three (3) more Fabric B triangles (top right, below), making sure they're the same distance from the center point. Pin four (4) more Fabric B triangles between the first ones (bottom right, below).



Switch back to Fabric A and prepare to pin the third layer. Measure about $\frac{3}{8}$ in (10mm) from the top of the previous points, and pin the point of the first triangle there, in line with a triangle from the previous row. Repeat with seven more triangles until the ball looks like the one in the lower right corner, below.



Repeat the previous steps with the remaining triangles on the bottom of the ball. The triangles won't meet perfectly at the center, but this is okay! The bare section will be covered in the next steps.



If you're sewing the center wrap, fold the rectangle in half width-wise with right sides together, so it's still 10in (25cm) long but half as wide. Sew the long seam with a 1/4in (6mm) seam allowance, back stitching at each end. Turn right side out, press, and seal ends with seam sealant. Taking care to line up the top of this strip to one of the fold lines in your ball (making it the top of your ornament), hot glue the fabric all the way around the equator of the ball. If you don't sew, cut a piece of 7/8in (22mm) ribbon instead and glue it over the equator.



If desired, [make a pretty bow](#) for the top of the quilted ornament. Glue it to the top, then make a loop of ribbon for hanging the ornament and glue it in place. Glue a flat button to hide the seams.



I enjoy adding crystals and beads to my ornaments (my affiliate [Fire Mountain Gems and Beads](#) is a great resource) for extra sparkle and bling! Try this ornament in several different colors and designs; you can alter the widths, number of triangles used in the accent layer, or mixing up even more colors to personalize your beautiful no sew quilted ball ornament!

Reprinted from www.AuntReensPlace.blogspot.com September 9, 2015

Pinecone Ornament Pattern



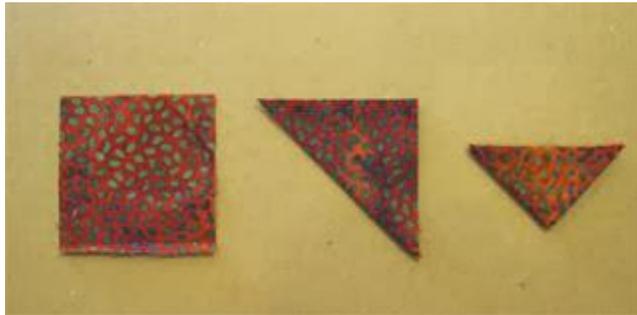
Here is the Pinecone ornament pattern that I promised to share with my blog followers and friends. The pattern is being provided to you for personal use only and is copyright protected.



Materials needed: (48) 2-1/4" squares of assorted fabrics, size 8 – 1/2" appliqué/sequin pins, 1 medium styrofoam egg approximately 2 and 1/2" x 3", 1 piece of 1/4" wide ribbon – 28" long. Your choice of adornments to fill the small opening on top such as buttons, fabric Yo-yo's, wool felt cut-outs or silk evergreens.

Basic Construction/Assembly:
Set aside (2) fabric squares.

You will take each of your remaining 2-1/4" fabric squares and fold them in half diagonally (right side of fabric facing out) Then fold them in half again to create a folded Quarter triangle.



The pinecone is constructed of 7 rows of folded triangles. Before you begin pinning your triangle rows you will cover the very bottom tip of the egg and the very top center of the egg. To do this – center a fabric square on the top of the egg and secure by placing a pin thru all 4 corners of the fabric. (push the pins thru the Styrofoam until only the pin head is visible) Repeat this process with a fabric square stretched across the bottom tip of the egg.



Row One: is made up of 4 folded quarter triangles. Attach your triangles to the egg approximately 3/4" up from the center (or close to the edges of the square you just pinned onto egg) You will secure each folded triangle by placing a pin near the 2 corner points along the raw edge approximately 1/8" away from the tips. Overlap the triangles slightly so they fit neatly around the egg.



Rows #1 and #7 are made from 4 triangles.





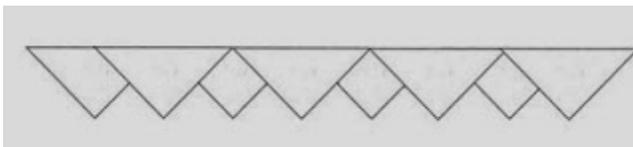
Once you've completed row 1 you will assemble row 2 using 8 triangles. Pin the triangles to the egg as shown in the 2 diagrams below – begin by pinning 4 triangles lined up with the triangles of the first row approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " up from the tips of the first row.



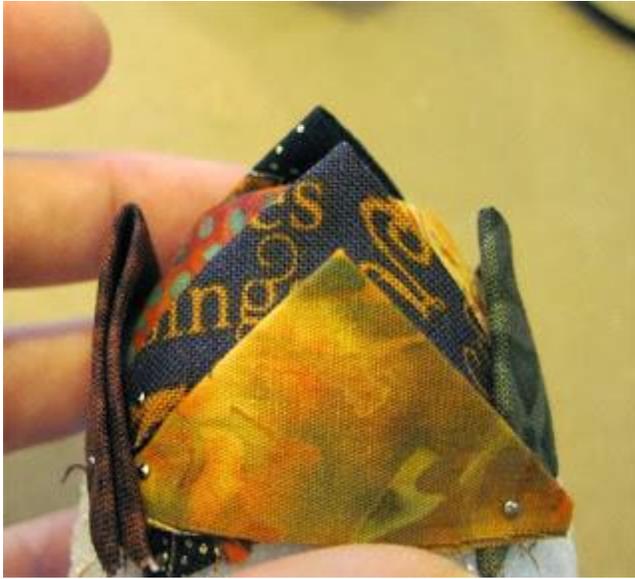
Then pin the remaining 4 triangles in place alternated between the first 4 triangles.



(this is an illustration of what rows 2 thru 6 should look like with 8 quarter triangles in each row)



And here is how row 2 actually looks as you pin the folded quarter triangles onto the egg. (first 4 triangles are directly over the ones in row #1)

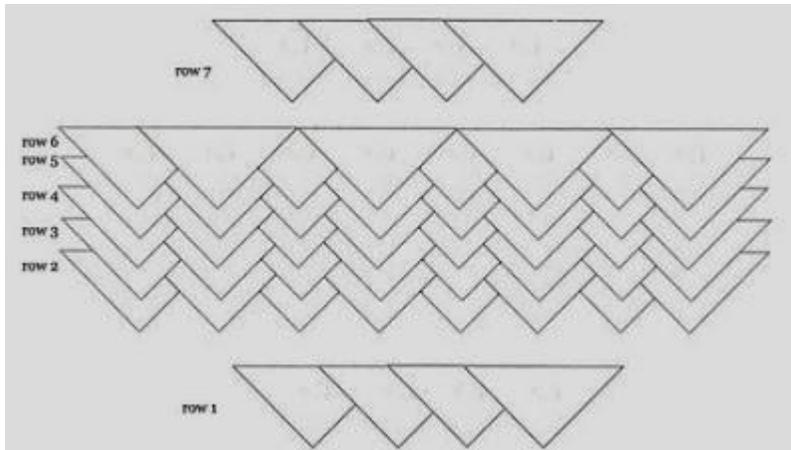


And pieces 5,6,7 and 8 pinned in the alternate spaces:



Rows 3,4,5 and 6 are also constructed using 8 folded quarter triangles pinned in the same order as Row 2. Row 7 is the last row – it is made from 4 folded quarter triangles – just like row #1.

Here is an illustration of the row assembly:



Here is what the pinecone will look like after pinning all 7 rows:



There will be an open space on top about the size of a U.S. quarter.



You can finish the top of your Pinecone by embellishing it with additional quarter triangles or buttons, fabric Yo-yo's, felt cut-outs, silk evergreen stems, etc.

Add a ribbon loop on top to finish your ornament by creating several smaller loops and one large loop of ribbon. Attach to the ornament using a fancy "ball" or bead head pin. I recommend dipping the pin head into tacky glue first to insure it stays securely in the egg.

I created 3 Yo-yo's (approximately 1" finished size) and glued them to the top of my Pinecone ornament - covering the open space. Then I attached my ribbon in the center to finish.





These ornaments take about 30 minutes each to complete and would look darling placed on your dinner table or hanging from your Tree or door knobs this holiday season!

Wishing you and your families the Happiest of Holiday Seasons!

Prairie Point Pinecone Ornament

Supplies

2 ½" diameter Styrofoam ball
fabric scraps (about 1/8 yard total)
glue, hot glue, or straight pins
decorative cord for hanging

Cut 1 ¼" squares from the fabric scraps. We used 93 for our sample ornament, but you may need more or less. Set 1 square aside.

Fold a square in half on the diagonal, wrong sides together. Press. Fold the resulting triangle in half again and press (like making a prairie point). Repeat for all the squares (photo 1)



Start by attaching the unfolded square to the ball. This is the center bottom. (photo 2)



Refer to photo 3 and begin attaching the prairie points, pointing toward the center bottom, overlapping the raw edges of the first square.



Continue to add rows of prairie points as shown in photos 4-7. As you approach the "horizon" the points will spread out and automatically flare as you reach the top of the ball.



When you reach the top of the ball, cut a scrap of fabric that will cover the raw edges of the uppermost prairie points. Glue it in place.

Tie the ends of the decorative cord in a bow to make a hanging loop. Attach the bow to the ornament with a pin or glue.



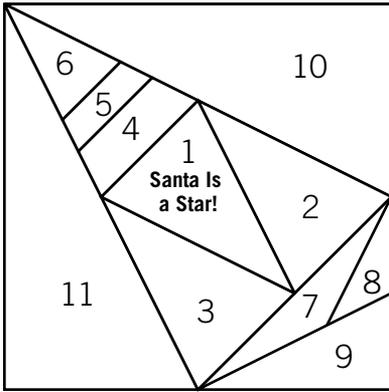
Carol Doak's

Santa Is a Star!

and Snowflake Star Ornament

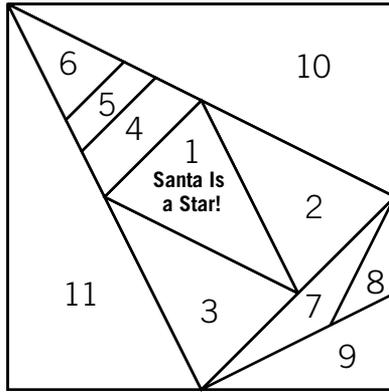


Pattern is reversed for foundation piecing.



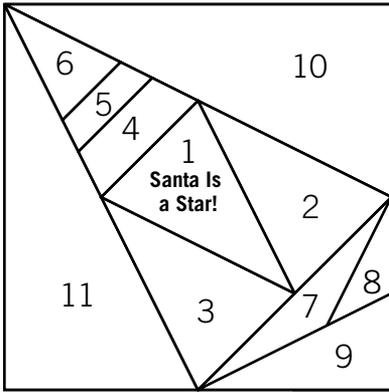
1/4" seam allowance

Pattern is reversed for foundation piecing.



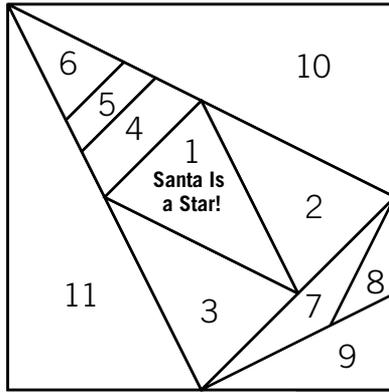
1/4" seam allowance

Pattern is reversed for foundation piecing.



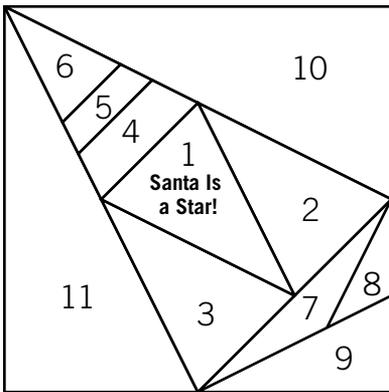
1/4" seam allowance

Pattern is reversed for foundation piecing.



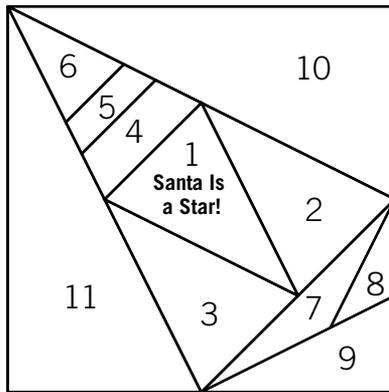
1/4" seam allowance

Pattern is reversed for foundation piecing.



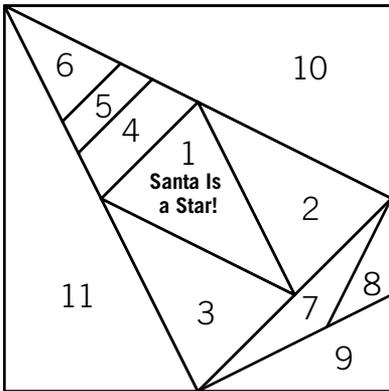
1/4" seam allowance

Pattern is reversed for foundation piecing.



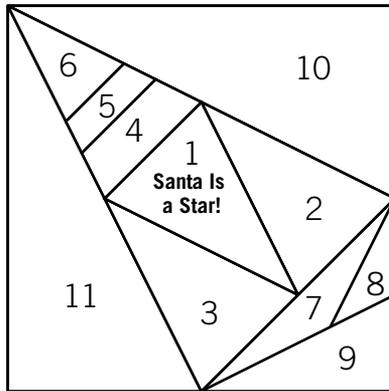
1/4" seam allowance

Pattern is reversed for foundation piecing.



1/4" seam allowance

Pattern is reversed for foundation piecing.



1/4" seam allowance

For each ornament, you will need 4 paper foundations. Print this page to get enough foundations to make one ornament of each design. Complete pattern instructions appear in the December 2011 issue of *The Quilt Life*.

The QuiltLife

Santa Is a Star!

Fabric & Cutting Requirements

Navy, white, beige, red, gold, and yellow solids for paper piecing	scraps	See cutting chart below for the block you are making.
Navy solid	5" x 6" scrap	2 strips 1" x 4½" for frame sides, 2 strips 1" x 5½" for frame top and bottom
Backing	6" x 9" scrap	2 at 4" x 5½"
Also needed: 8" of navy ribbon ⅜" wide		

Santa Is a Star! Cutting Per Block

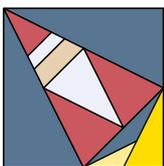
Fabric	Cut	Size	Patch #
Navy	8	1½" x 3¼"	10, 11
	4	1" x 2½"	7
White	4	1½" x 1¾"	1
	4	1" x 1½"	5
Beige	4	1" x 1½"	4
Red	8	1½" x 2"	2, 3
	4	1¼" x 1¼"	6
Gold	4	1" x 2"	9
Yellow	4	1" x 1½"	8

Snowflake Star Cutting Per Block

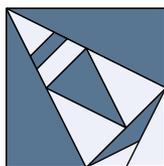
Fabric	Cut	Size	Patch #
Navy	8	1½" x 3¼"	10, 11
	4	1½" x 1¾"	1
	4	1" x 2½"	7
White	4	1" x 1½"	5
	8	1½" x 2"	2, 3
	4	1¼" x 1¼"	6
	4	1" x 2"	9
8	1" x 1½"	4, 8	

Piecing the blocks

Pin the fabric for patch 1 to the foundation, wrong side of fabric to blank side of foundation. Trim the patch ⅛" from the seam line between patches 1 and 2. Align patch 2 to patch 1 along the just-trimmed edge, right sides together. Turn the foundation over and stitch on the line between patches 1 and 2. Open the fabric patch and press. In the same way, add the remaining patches in numerical order. Trim the outside edge of the block on the outer line. Piece 4 foundation units.



Santa Is a Star! Unit
Make 4



Snowflake Star Unit
Make 4

Making the ornament

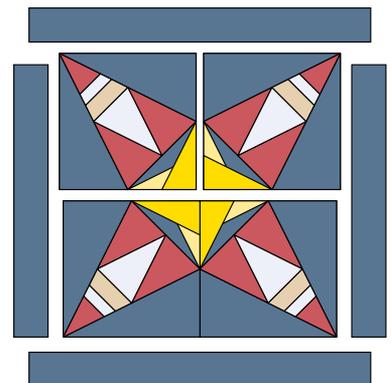
Join the 4 block units in rotation so that patch 6's point to the outside corners.

Sew a side frame strip to each side of the ornament. Press. Add the strips for the frame top and bottom and press. Carefully remove the paper.

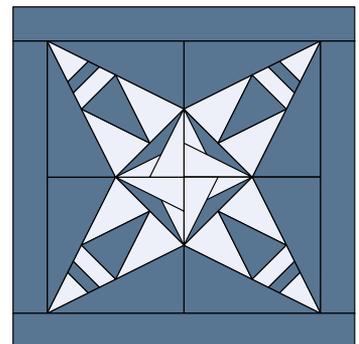
For the backing, fold under ¼" along one long edge of one of the backing patches. Fold under ¼" again. Stitch the fold to make a hem. Repeat for the other backing patch.

Fold the ribbon into a loop. With raw edges aligned, pin the ribbon to the right side at the middle of one edge of the ornament (right). Stitch ⅛" from the edges to secure the ribbon. Remove the pin.

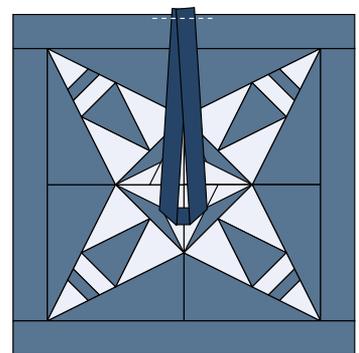
Lay the ornament right side up. Pin the 2 backing patches, right sides down, on top of the ornament so that the hemmed edges are parallel to the edge where the ribbon was pinned. Stitch around the ornament ¼" from the raw edges. Clip the corners, turn the block right side out, and press. It's ready to hang on your tree. **TQL**



Santa Is a Star! Piecing



Snowflake Star



Ribbon Placement for Stitching

