

2026 DECEMBER BLOCKS – Tiny House & Trees



The pattern for this year's blocks will be "Tiny Houses and Trees". This is going to be a real scrap buster because you can use various sizes of strips in your scrap bin – 1-1/2", 2", and 2-1/2"! It's a fun block, and once you have cut all the pieces for one house, you can sew these up in 5 minutes! And better yet, if you decide to sew one more seam on the stitch 'n' flip Flying Geese roof, you can get bonus HST's that you can use in the border, or another project in the future. **The blocks measure 4-1/2" x 6" unfinished.**



And for each four houses that you make, please make a tree of your choice. I will provide you with instructions for the houses and two different kinds of trees, but feel free to make your own tree block designs, as long as they have the off-white background, and measure **4-1/2" x 6" unfinished.**



In review of the December Blocks program, participants are all making several of the same blocks as shown above. **Deb Chilcote will collect your blocks during the year, mix them all up with other blocks turned in by others, and at the end of the year, will return the same number of blocks to you as you turned in.** The sample quilt at left was made with 117 blocks with added borders and sashing, measuring approximately 60" x 65.5" (a lap size quilt). **It is recommended to turn in at least 50 by the end of the year if you are making a lap size quilt.** But no matter what size quilt/project you want to make, **the number of blocks you turn in will be the number of mixed blocks you will get back.**

Please keep in mind that once you get your December Blocks back in December, it's up to you to come up with a project that you like. You can choose if you want to add sashing, or just sew the blocks in rows. Be creative!

Here is a great YouTube video that explains how to make the tiny houses:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=7LR4n0nlbEU&pp=ygUedGlueSBob3VzZSBxdWlscCBibG9jayBwYXR0ZXJu0gcJCRsBo7VqN5tD>

I will also include diagrams on piecing the houses and trees on the next pages with instructions. The houses for our December Blocks should be made with whatever scraps you have that you can use, with **the only stipulation is that the background for the houses and the trees should be an off-white color.** It can be a solid or a subtle print that reads as a solid, but it must be the lightest value without being stark white. Light cream, light gray, and light ivory are all good. Squint your eyes when you look at these fabrics, and if you don't see the print on the fabric, it should be OK to use. Remember that if for example, you have a fabric that has a print that is too dominant to use, check the backside of that fabric. **If it looks good, you can use the back side in your block.** Otherwise, use something else.

As a side note, most prints are welcomed, but **large bold prints are generally not suitable** for these blocks, so use your judgement on those type of prints.

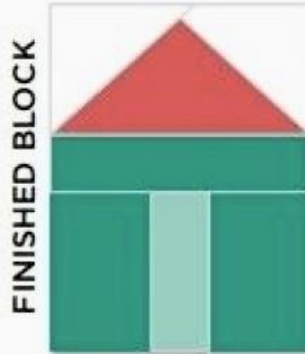
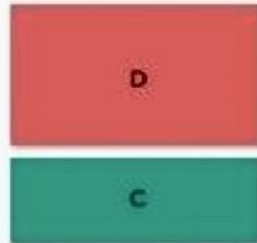
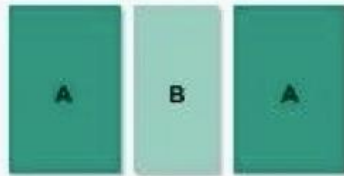
The instructions for these tiny houses shown below are from the Missouri Star Quilt Co., and is a free pattern.

The blocks measure 4-1/2" x 6" unfinished.

THE TINY HOUSE BLOCK

WHAT'S NEEDED

- A - Sides: (2) 2"x3" strips
- B - Door: 1½"x3" strip
- C - Top: 1½"x4½" strip (same color/fabric as sides)
- D - Roof: 2½"x4½" strip
- E - Corners of roof: (2) 2½"x2½" squares (mini charm squares can be used)



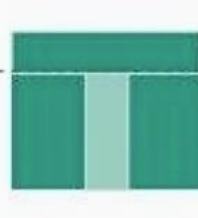
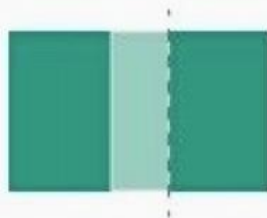
1.

Crease the 2½" white squares diagonally. Sew on line onto roof fabric. Repeat on right side of roof. Cut off outer fabric and press open.



2.

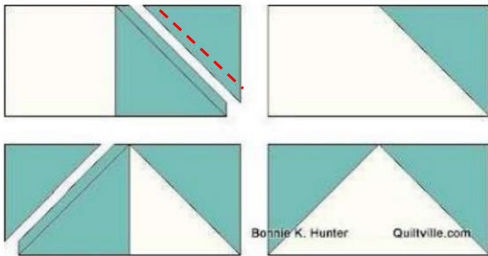
Sew one side of the house to the side of the door. Sew on the other side. Sew on the top of the house. Finally, sew on the roof.



Bonus HST's for Stitch 'n' Flip Method for Flying Geese (the roofs on the houses)

You will need a 2-1/2" x 4-1/2" dark fabric for the roof, and two off-white 2-1/2" squares of the same fabric for the background. Mark the back side of each square from corner to corner. Place one square right side down onto the right side of the rectangle, right sides together, and sew just a hair to the right side of the marked line, closer to the outer corner.

Before you do anything else, fold open the square you just sewed to see if the corner matches the corner on the dark fabric rectangle. If it does, then that position of the seam is what you want to strive for each time. If the opened square does not meet the corner, then your seam is too close to the marked line. And if the opened square goes beyond the dark fabric rectangle, you can just trim the small excess to match the dark corner. If not sewing for a bonus HST, then trim 1/4" away from the seam, fold open, then sew the other side the same way.

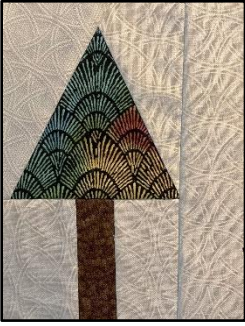


NOTE: To get bonus HST's, make a second seam 1/2" away from the corner seams (depicted by red dotted line on diagram), then cut between the seams to get a bonus Half Square Triangle unit to use in another project later. **Tip:** Cut off the first bonus HST, fold corner open, then sew the seams on the other side.

Pressing – For our purpose of sewing the December Blocks, there is no particular way to press the house blocks – just press the way the fabric wants to go. When assembling them in your finished project, you may then have to press some seams a different way to eliminate bulk, and nest the seams.

For every 4 houses you make, please make 1 tree with the same block dimensions of 4-1/2" x 6" with an off-white background.

Two examples are described on the next two pages, but feel free to create your own.



Tree #1 (This type allows a little space next to a house).

You will need:

- cardboard templates for tree top and side triangles (copy these templates below, and using your printer, make them the size that keeps the scale shown at 1", then trace onto cardboard and cut out)
- 4" x 4" green fabric for tree top (use larger template to cut triangle shape)

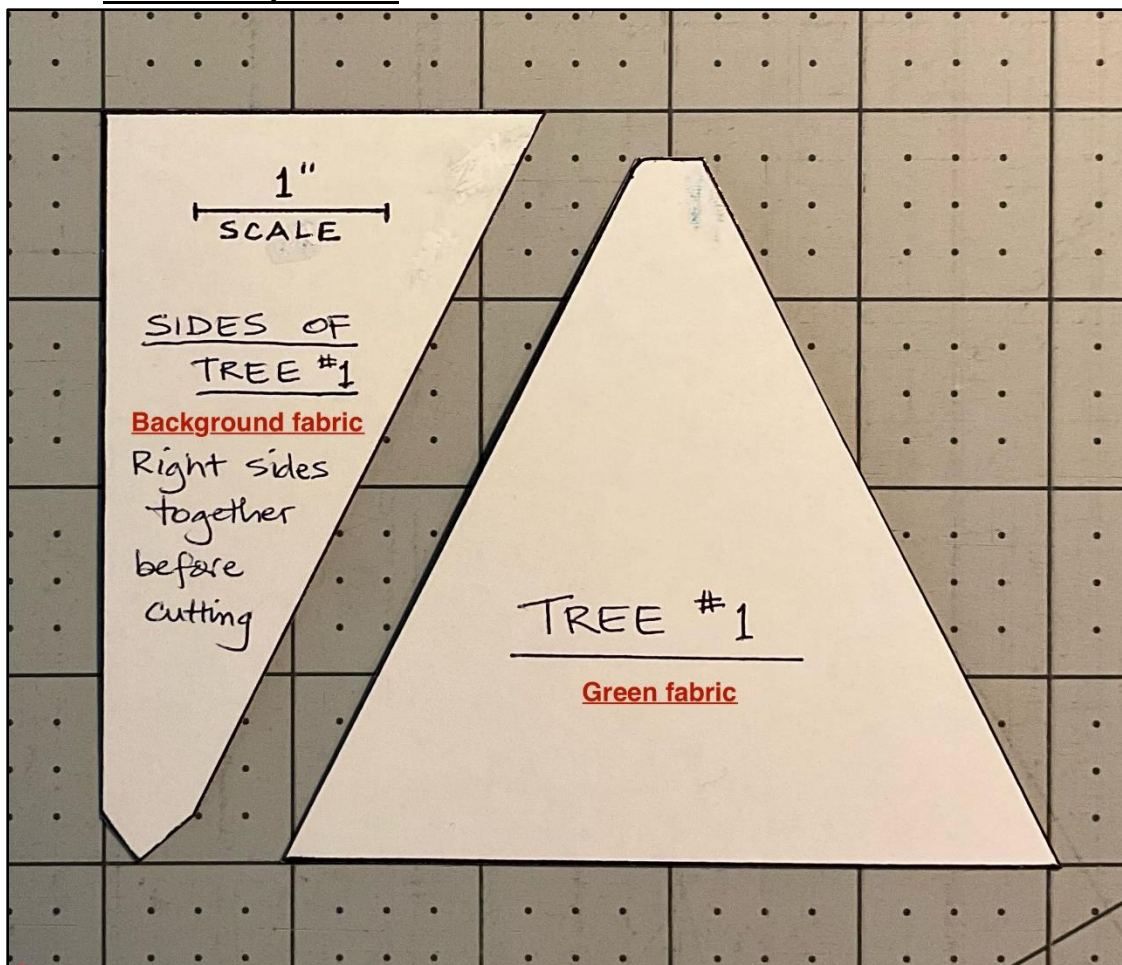
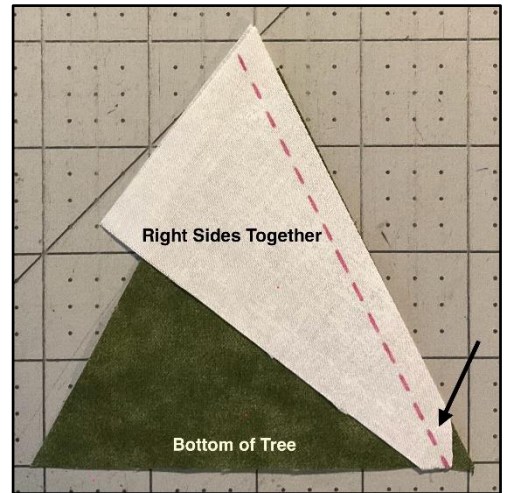
larger template to cut triangle shape)

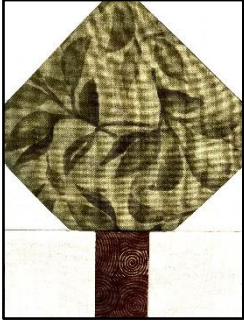
- 1-1/4" x 2-3/4" brown fabric for trunk

Off-white fabric pieces:

- one 1-1/4" x 6" for side panel
- two 1-3/4" x 2-3/4" rectangles for both sides of trunk
- a 4" x 5" piece for the side triangles for the treetop background. This piece is to be cut in half to make two 4" x 2-1/2" pieces. Place the cut pieces RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER before cutting with the smaller template to create mirrored images.

Assemble by first cutting the side triangles and green triangle fabric using the templates, then sewing them together as shown in picture above. Press seams outward. Sew the trunk to the bottom rectangles, then sew to the tree top. Trim to 3-3/4" x 6", being careful to leave 1/4" beyond all points. (If it is not the full width, then sew the side panel with a narrower seam). Sew on the long side panel. **Trim to 4-1/2" x 6".**





Tree #2

You will need:

- one 4-1/2" green square
- four 2" off-white squares* (two for the top corners, two for the bottom squares)
- two 1-1/2" off-white squares for the bottom corners of the tree
- one 1-1/2" x 2" brown rectangle for the trunk

* All off-white fabric needs to be the same within the block.

Assemble by sewing the 2" off-white squares onto the green square for the top of the tree, corner to corner, and trim seam. (If your green fabric has a directional print, make sure the 2" squares are used on the top). Then sew the smaller squares onto the other corners of the green square, diagonally corner to corner, and trim seam. Sew the remaining 2" off-white squares to either side of the trunk. Next, sew the trunk piece onto the bottom of the green piece you just made, making sure that the top corners of the tree are bigger than the corners on the bottom. The block should measure 4-1/2" x 6". **Press** however you want.

Another option when you go to make your finished project is to applique a tree onto a 4-1/2" x 6" piece of off-white fabric.

These house blocks can be easily chain-pieced, 2-3 at a time, and you can make 9-10 in one hour. You have until November to make the December Blocks, and it takes about 120-130 blocks to make a lap-sized quilt, so if you make one hour's worth each month, you can make enough for a lap quilt!

WARNING: They may be addictive!



Thanks for participating! – Deb Chilcote