

Block of the Month "Trees Please"

This year's BOM takes its inspiration from all the trees around us. Each month we will introduce you to new trees, leaves or an animal that makes a tree its home. You can use the same coordinating fabrics each month to create your block or use up some scraps and give your trees a folk art flavor. Each month we will give some ideas to embellish your block so it becomes uniquely your own. By next June you will have a completed quilt.

We are making a lap sized quilt, 50x60. The blocks will vary in size between 4 inches square to 18 inches. We will use a variety of techniques like traditional piecing, paper piecing, and fused appliqué.

We hope you enjoy the experience.

Mary Gorelick old2020@gmail.com 949-481-1131

Kathy Stewart kathystewart@aol.com 949-489-2207

Phyllis Parente filusara@yahoo.com 949-388-9666



2 inch
yo yo
pattern

Bloomin' Yo-Yos Block size: 9 ½ x 12 ½

The Bloomin' Yo-Yos tree is a Spring tree in bloom. Its trunk is raw edged appliqué. Its yo-yo flowers are randomly scattered.

Materials:

10 x 13 inch square of background This will be trimmed down to 9½ x12 ½ inches at the end.

9 x 12 inch for the tree trunk

9 x 12 inch Fusible web

20-24 2 inch circles for the flowers. These can be from the same print or a scrappy mixture.

Directions for the tree trunk:

1. Trace the tree pattern onto the paper side of a piece of fusible webbing.
2. Iron onto the backside of the tree trunk material, paper side up. Cut out the tree.
3. Peel the backing paper from the fusible webbing and position the appliqué shape in place, right sides up. Press in place.
4. You can choose to sew around the edges of the tree trunk to secure it in place. This can be done either by hand or by machine.

Directions for the yo-yo flowers:

1. Using the 2 inch pattern provided, cut out 20-24 circles.
2. Fold the edge about ¼ inch to the wrong side of the fabric. With a knotted heavy duty thread, work short even running stitches all around the circle, securing the folded edges. [Editors note: Short stitches will give you a peak in the middle of your yo-yo, longer stitches will make the yo-yo flatten out. Del]
3. Overlap first and last stitches, then pull thread to gather the fabric tightly. Secure the end of the thread with a knot. Clip excess thread.
4. Flatten fabric circle so that gathered edges are centered on one side. The right side of the Yo-Yo is the side with the gathers. Yo-Yos are also known as rosettes.

Directions for completing the block:

Arrange the Yo-Yo flowers randomly on the branches of the tree. One could have fallen and be lying on the ground. Pin the flowers in place.

Attach the Yo-Yos to the background with by slipstitching around the rosettes.

Square up the block to 9 ½ x12 ½ inches.

Ideas to embellish your block:

To create a "flowery" appearance on the Yo-Yos, embroider star stitches over the gathered middle using a contrasting embroidery thread.

Embroider some woodland flowers underneath the tree.

Find a bird button and place it on one of the branches.

Add a few spring leaves, using raw edge appliqué or a 3-D look by attaching the leaf with a running stitch down the middle.