NATIONAL NQM QUILT MUSEUM

Block of the Month Club

Wandering in the Woods by Jessica Plunkett

Guest Designer

Follow Jessica Online!

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Jessica Plunkett is a quilter, pattern designer, teacher, lecturer, and fabric collector from Des Moines, Iowa, where she lives with her husband, daughter, and cat.

Jessica's work is influenced by her life experiences. In her collection of work, you'll find quilts inspired by an orienteering compass, a kaleidoscope and spiders, mountains, an excavator, her desire to find balance, as well as a tribute to her late great-grandmother where she ponders what happens to our memories of a loved one after they pass.

Jessica is drawn to solid color fabrics and has a particular fondness for black and pink quilts. Jessica's work has been featured with the Modern Quilt Guild, including blocks of the month and quilt patterns, within the pages of *Curated Quilts* and *Make Modern* magazines, as well as on display in curated exhibits at the Iowa Quilt Museum and at the International Quilt Festival. She has designed patterns for and hosted events with Alison Glass. Her quilts have been juried into and displayed at QuiltCon, Road to California, and APQS shows.

Wandering in the Woods
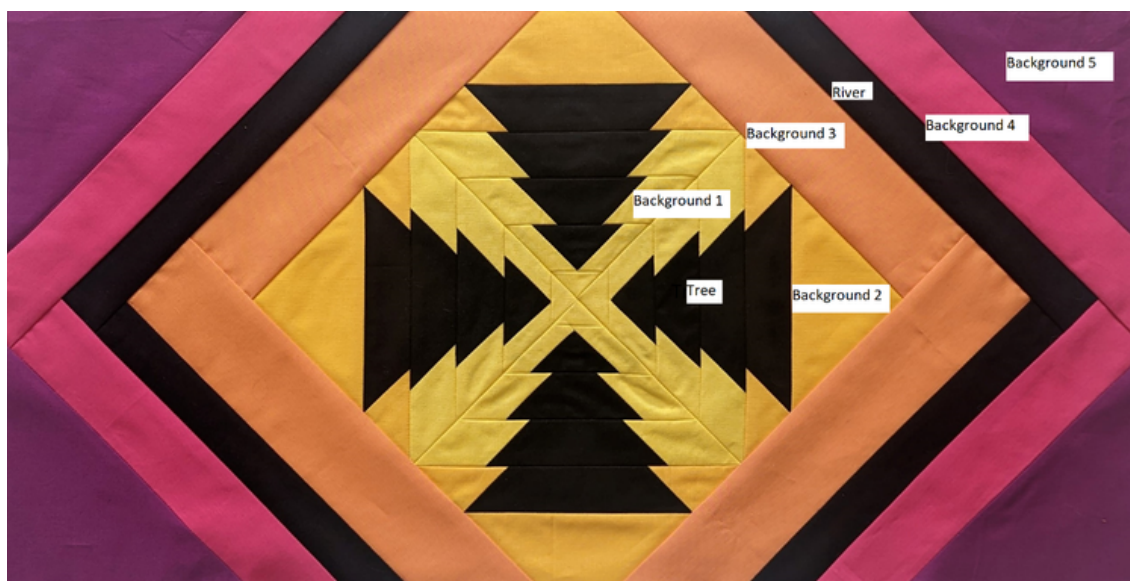
Exploration/ Exploring/ Explore

Besides being a quilter, I live for the outdoors! I've run 19 half marathons and competed in many other races for mountain biking, orienteering, and adventure racing. I lived in Colorado for several years and being able to explore the mountains are still some of my most fond memories.

When I hear the word "explore" I'm immediately drawn back to several specific hikes and bike rides my family enjoyed on the endless trails in the area. This block is designed to represent taking a moment for outdoor exploration. Whether you're winding through trees, walking along a river trail, or taking in the brilliant colors offered at dusk or dawn, there are many ways to explore the outdoors!

Materials

Typical sewing supplies – machine, thread, rotary cutter, mat, rulers
You will need either a 12 ½" x 24 ½" ruler (or larger) or a tape measure and a smaller ruler to assist with trimming this block.
Marking tool (e.g. pencil)

Fabric *(see above diagram for color placement)*

Trees
(4) 1 ½" x 2 ½"
(4) 1 ½" x 3 ½"
(4) 1 ½" x 4 ½"
(4) 1 ½" x 5 ½"

River
(2) 1 ½" x 12 ½"
(2) 1 ½" x 14"

Background 1
(8) 1 ½" x 3 ½"
(8) 1 ½" x 4"
(8) 1 ½" x 4 ½"
(4) 1 ½" x 8 ½"

Background 2
(8) 1 ½" x 3"
(4) 3" x 8 ½"

Background 3
(2) 2 ½" x 10 ½"
(2) 2 ½" x 12 ½"

Background 4
(2) 2" x 13 ½"
(2) 2" x 15"

Background 5
(2) 6" squares, cut in half on the diagonal to create 4 triangles

Directions - Trees

Pattern Notes:

Use a ¼" seam allowance unless otherwise noted.

You may press seams to your preference, either to the dark side or open.

RST = right sides together

1. Draw a line on the diagonal of (2) 1 ½" x 4 ½" Background 1 rectangles with one line starting in the upper left corner and one starting in the upper right corner.

2. Place (1) 1 ½" x 4 ½" Background 1 rectangle RST on (1) 1 ½" x 2 ½" Tree rectangle.

3. Sew on the drawn line.

4. Trim a ¼" away from the drawn line. Press.

5. Place (1) 1 ½" x 4 ½" Background 1 rectangle on the other side of the unit. Sew on the drawn line.

6. Trim a ¼" away from the drawn line. Press.

Directions - Trees

7. Repeat steps (1-6) to create remaining tree pieces. Use the following pairings:
(2) 1 ½" x 4" Background 1 rectangles + (1) 1 ½" x 3 ½" Tree rectangle

(2) 1 ½" x 3 ½" Background 1 rectangles + (1) 1 ½" x 4 ½" Tree rectangle

(2) 1 ½" x 3" Background 2 rectangles + (1) 1 ½" x 5 ½" Tree rectangle

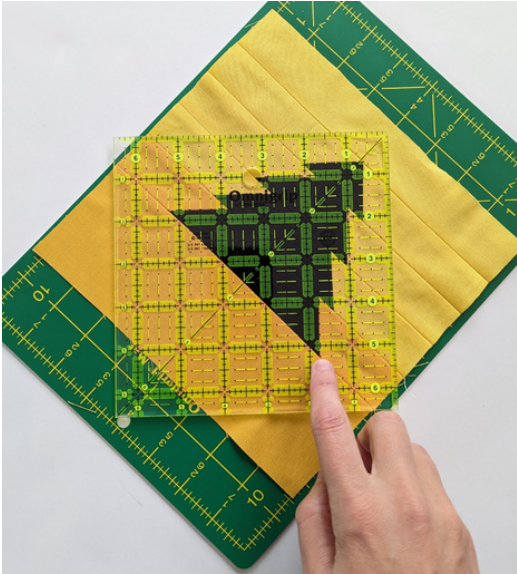8. Layout a Tree block according to the image.

The top row is (1) 1 ½" x 8 ½" Background 1 rectangle and the bottom row is (1) 3" x 8 ½" Background 2 rectangle.

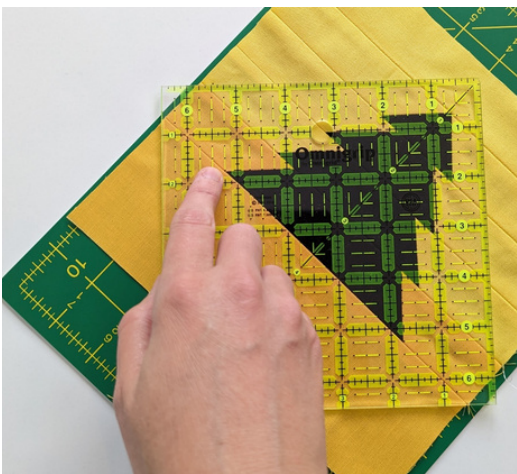9. With RST, sew each row together to make (1) Tree block.

10. Repeat steps 1-9 to make a total of (4) Tree blocks.
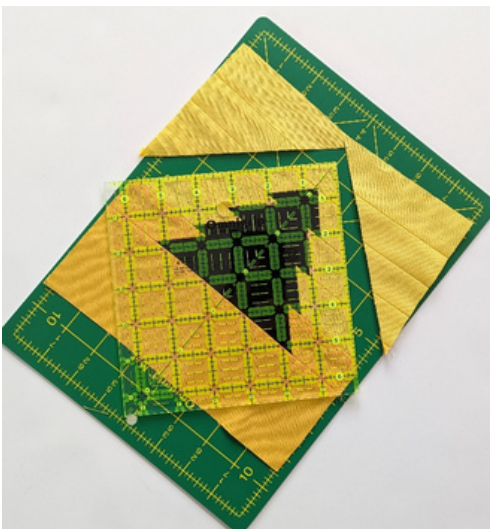
Directions - Trees

11. To trim the Tree blocks, place (1) Tree block on a cutting mat. You will need a rotary cutter and a ruler that is at least 5 ½" square.

12. Position the ruler so that the 5 ¼" lines intersect at the bottom corner of row 5 of the tree block. I am pointing to the 5 ¼" line on both sides in the images.
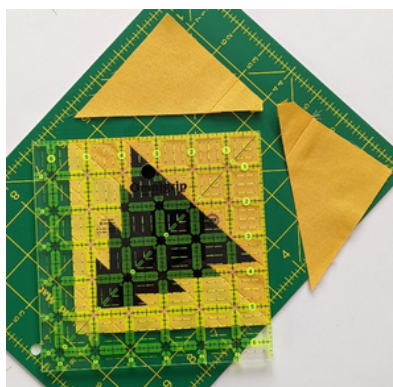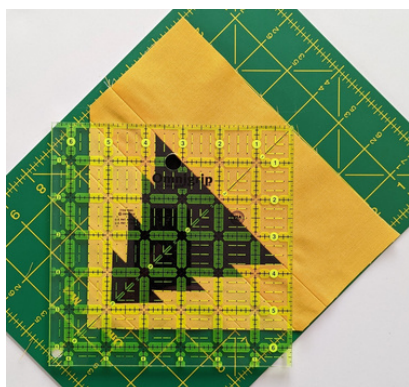
13. Trim the right and top sides.

Directions - Trees

14. Rotate block and align the ruler to trim to 5 ½" square.

15. Trim the remaining Tree blocks.

16. Place the (4) Tree blocks so that the tops face each other and sew together in a 2 x 2 grid.

Directions - Build the Block

17. Turn the tree block on-point. Sew a 2" x 10 ½" Background 3 strip RST to the top left and right side of the tree block. Press.

Note: that all strips added to the tree block have gaps at the top (and bottom, when adding the bottom set). This is correct and we'll trim down the entire block later to the correct size.

18. Sew a 2" x 12 ½" Background 3 strip RST to the bottom left and right side of the tree block. Press.

19. Sew a 1 ½" x 12 ½" River strip RST to the top left and right side of the tree block. Press.

20. Sew a 1 ½" x 14" River strip RST to the bottom left and right side of the tree block. Press.

Directions - Build the Block

21. Sew a 2" x 13 ½" Background 4 strip RST to the top left and right side of the tree block. Press.

22. Sew a 2" x 15" Background 4 strip RST to the bottom left and right side of the tree block. Press.
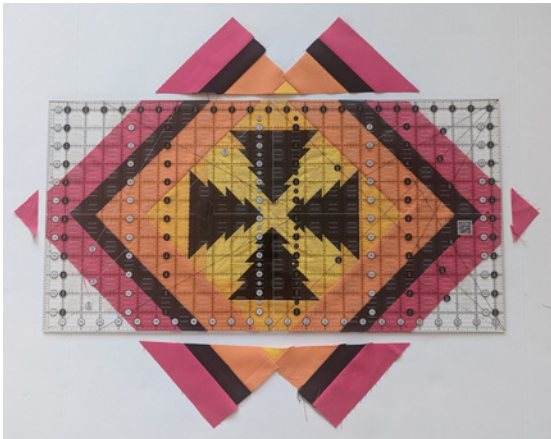

TRIM THE BLOCK
There are two ways to trim the block. If you have a 12 ½" x 24 ½" ruler or larger, you can use the ruler to trim the block following these directions.
If you don't have a large enough ruler, skip to Step 25 for how to trim.

23. Find the center of the tree block - this is where all four seams come together.

Directions - Trim the Block

24. Align the ruler so that the 6 ½" tall and 12 ½" wide intersection lands on the center of the tree block. Trim all four sides, with the block at 12 ½" x 24 ½" at its widest points.
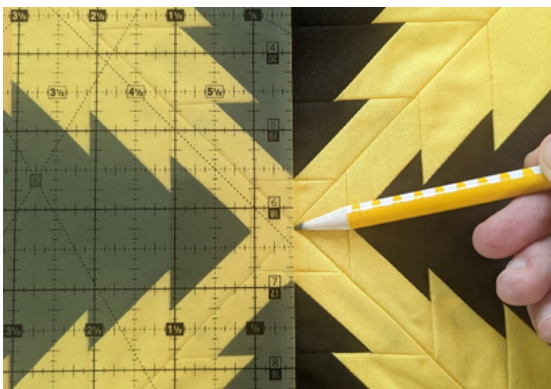*Skip to Step 31.*
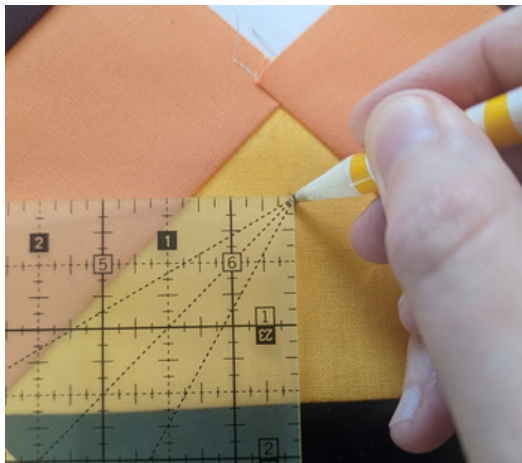

Alternate Trimming Method
If you do not have a large enough ruler, follow these directions to trim the block.

25. Find the center of the tree block - this is where all four seams come together.

26. Using a smaller ruler or a tape measure, place the 6 ½" mark on the center of the tree block.
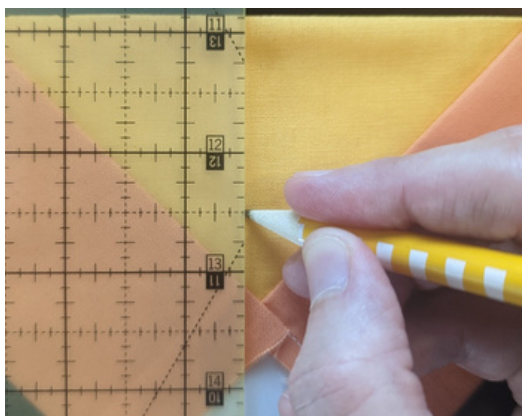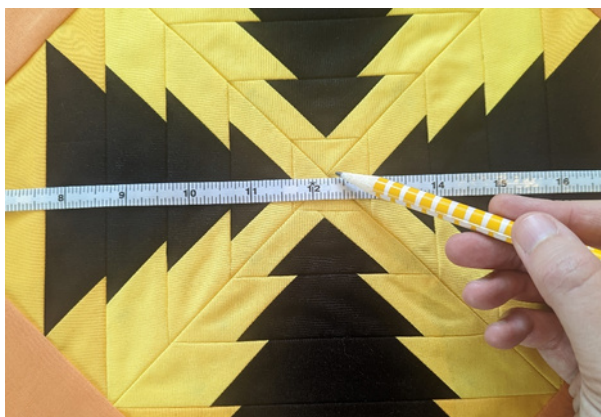
Directions - Trim the Block

27. At 0" (above) and 12 ½" (below), make a small mark with a writing tool.

28. Next, using a smaller ruler or a tape measure, place the 12 ½" mark on the center of the tree block.

29. At 0" (to the left) and 24 ½" (to the right), make a small mark with a writing tool.

30. Using those marks as a guide, use a ruler to trim the block to 12 ½" x 24 ½" at its widest points.

Directions - Adding Corners

31. Sew a Background 5 triangle RST to each corner of the block. Press. Trim if needed.

32. The block is complete! You can use the block horizontally or vertically.

Finished?

Fantastic!

#NQMblockofthemonth