

Southwest Landscape

By Beth Wheeler

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The serendipitous quality of rust-dyed fabric creates an interesting background for the photographic silhouettes in this small wall hanging. Texture and dimension are added with free-motion stitching.

Size: Approximately 8" x 10"

Materials:

- Altered Photo Artistry
- Rust-dyed cotton fabric
- Backing fabric
- Freezer paper
- Computer
- Inkjet printer
- Sewing machine with free-motion foot
- Tree photo
- Thread: monofilament, black all-purpose, variegated black-and-gray, variegated tan-and-terra cotta
- Fast2Fuse Heavyweight
- Rotary cutter
- Self-healing mat
- Acrylic ruler

Directions:

1. Secure rust-dyed cotton (instructions below) on freezer paper with dry, hot iron. Cut into 8 ½" x 11" pieces with a rotary cutter. Decide whether the piece will be vertical or horizontal.
2. Open the tree photo on the computer. If desired, change the tree photo of black and white in Photoshop Elements, or your favorite photo-editing application. The photo is vertical; rotate it if your piece will be oriented horizontally. Refer to Altered Photo Artistry to re-size, repeat, and alter the photo as desired.
3. Print the tree on paper to test placement and orientation. When it is in the desired position, insert the backed rust-dyed fabric in the printer and print.
4. Allow the ink to dry completely. Remove the paper backing.
5. Fuse a piece of Fast2Fuse on the wrong side of the printed fabric.



7. Thread the upper machine with black thread. Stitch each branch, leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " thread tails at the tips of each branch. Fill most of the tree branches and trunk.



8. Thread the upper machine with variegated black thread. Stitch a few branches and randomly along the trunk.
9. Fuse a piece of backing fabric on the wrong side of the stitched panel.
10. Finish the edges with a satin stitch, as described in *Altered Photo Artistry*.





Rust-Dyed Fabric

Materials:

- White cotton fabric or muslin
- White vinegar
- Table salt
- Flat piece of something rusty (such as a piece of non-anodized sheet metal) or a steel-wool pad
- Plastic garbage bag
- Rubber gloves

Instructions:

1. Wash and dry the fabric, using no fabric softener.
2. Protect the work surface with a plastic garbage bag. Place the flat rusty thing on the garbage bag. Smooth the fabric on the sheet metal.
3. Wearing rubber gloves, spread white vinegar on the fabric until it is wet. Sprinkle with table salt, as though salting mashed potatoes.
4. Or, if using a steel-wool pad, shred the pad and distribute unevenly over the surface of the fabric. Roll the fabric up with the steel wool inside.
5. Place the sheet metal or rolled fabric inside the garbage bag and place in the sun to cook for 48 hours.
6. Wearing rubber gloves, remove the fabric from the garbage bag. Pick bits of rusted steel wool from the fabric, if necessary.
7. Rinse the fabric using the garden hose, to prevent rusty bits from clogging the house drains.
8. Spread the fabric in the sun to dry.
9. Wash in the washing machine using hot water and detergent with no bleach. Wash and dry the fabric, using no fabric softener.
10. If your inkjet printer uses pigment-base ink, you may skip this step. If your inkjet printer uses dye-base ink, the rusted fabric needs to be treated with Bubble Jet Set to bond the ink molecules with the fibers. Follow directions on the bottle.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Beth at muttonhead@mchsi.com or by phone (260) 348-4077.