



Birch Trees is a fast and fun project that is for all level of quilters. My *Quick Little Landscapes* make quick and easy gifts for family and friends without a huge commitment of time. If you need more detailed instructions for creating these matted and framed mini-landscapes, refer to my book *Quick Little Landscapes*, published by C&T Publishing or e-mail me at JBecker3@hotmail.com. You can also find me on Facebook or on my blog at Joycebecker.blogspot.com

Fondly,
Joyce R. Becker

Supplies:

Rectangular photo mat 11" x 14" outside measurement, 8" x 10" inside measurement in a complimentary color

Fast2fuse or heavy-duty fusible interfacing 11" x 14"

Photo copy of *Birch Trees* enlarged to 11" x 14"

Invisible thread * *I recommend YLI's Wonder Thread*

Matching variegated or blendable type threads for trees and foliage

Lightweight matching gray thread for tree limbs

Heavy-duty starch

505 Spray and Fix adhesive, Elmer's spray adhesive, or a fabric glue stick

Sewing machine with the ability to lower feed dogs

Free-motion foot

Sharp embroidery scissors

Schmetz 75/11 machine embroidery or Microtex 70 sewing machine needle

Rotary cutter, rotary mat, and ruler

Teflon pressing sheet (Applique presser sheet)

Rustic frame with an inside measurement of 11" x 14"

Elmer's clear school glue

Fabrics

Fat quarter of green batik for background **Tip: Look for a batik that resembles the look of forest in the distance that includes several values* 3

Fat quarter of a commercial birch tree fabric

Fat quarter of a commercial fabric with pre-printed foliage with several values for foliage

13" x 4" strip of light green bridal illusion tulle for overlay

Fat quarter of a commercial small scale green fabric with several values for trees

Directions:

1. Mark and cut an 11" x 14" piece of fast2fuse or other heavy-duty fusible interfacing

2. Starch fabrics until almost stiff

3. Position background batik on interfacing

4. Place a Teflon sheet under and over the design and fuse the background batik fabric into place

5. Cut out birch trees. **If necessary, cut birch tree fabric to a smaller size, using the enlarged photo copy as your guide for scale*

6. Using the copy as your guide, glue and position birch trees in place ** occasionally place photo mat over your design to make sure you like what shows through the window*

7. Stack two layers of the small scale green fabric for trees on a cutting mat

8. "Slice and dice" into small pieces with a rotary cutter. Cut additional as needed

9. Place a thin layer of spray adhesive on the top 1/3rd of the design or where the green tree tops are positioned on photo copy

10. Quickly sprinkle the sliced and diced pieces of the green tree top fabric on top of the glue and press pieces in place with your hand

11. Place the strip of green tulle over the tree tops and glue or pin into place

12. Cut foliage fabrics into natural looking foliage, incorporating several values and heights **position photo mat over foliage area to make sure foliage is positioned correctly*

Basting:

After all of the design elements are glued into place, it's time to anchor them securely to the interfacing with invisible thread

Sewing Machine Set-up

1. Place the feed-dogs down on your sewing machine
2. Fill a bobbin with invisible thread
3. Adjust the top tension on your machine to a lower setting * on my Bernina, I normally set my top tension between one and zero
4. Adjust the bottom tension on your sewing machine, if necessary
5. Place a darning or free-motion foot on your machine
6. Position your presser foot on the machine in the down position in order to test your tension
7. Test the machine's tensions on a scrap of fabric, making adjustments as necessary

Stitching:

1. Position project under the foot of your machine
2. Make sure the feed dogs are down and put the needle in "needle-down" position
3. Take a few anchoring stitches when you begin and trim threads immediately
4. Stitch around outside perimeter of design
5. Stitch around each element's edge as close to the edge as possible * *The tulle overlay holds the small sliced and diced pieces in place, so stitch over the tulle in a figure eight or circular fashion.*
6. Stitch tulle to bottom of tree top edge in a serendipitous fashion, so there is no straight line. Trim away excess tulle
7. Take several anchoring stitches when done basting and trim threads

Machine Quilting:

It is not necessary to add batting or another fabric on the back of the design as it will be slipped into place in a frame. For this design, it is not necessary to do much thread embellishment or quilting

1. Thread the machine with lightweight light gray. Use invisible thread in the bobbin
2. Create tree limbs as pictured in figure one, using the photo copy as your guide
3. Thread the machine with the variegated or blendable green thread. Use invisible thread in the bobbin
4. Quilt figure eight stitches in the tree tops using the photo copy as your guide
5. Using matching thread, quilt long straight stitching in the foliage

**Optional – add additional markings on the birch trees with a fine-tip black Sharpie pen*

Matting and Framing

1. After your design is complete, take it with you when you shop for a mat and find a color that is complimentary **Shop at craft stores like Michael's or Hobby Lobby for mats and frames!*
2. Select a frame that enhances the design
3. Place the mat over the project and position it in the desired location
4. Once in place, make a small mark with a pencil in each corner for placement
5. On the wrong side of the mat, place a squiggly line of the clear glue down the center of all sides **Be careful not to get the glue too close to the edges of your mat as it spoils the design if it runs out the sides!*
6. Place the glued mat onto the design, using the registration lines for placement, and press down. Place design face down and place several heavy books on top of it overnight.
7. Once the glue is dry, remove the glass from the frame, and insert the mat into the frame with the landscape design face out.

8. Place the back cover of the frame in place and secure it. **If the design shifts, add additional cardboard padding as necessary. Make sure the design is going the right direction in relationship to the hanger on the back side of the frame.*

9. Snip any loose threads and remove fuzz with a lint roller on the design

10. Write your name, the date, and the title of your design on the back of the frame

Congratulations!!!!

