

# Solitary Tree



## *Supply List*

1. Background fabric—(1) 9”x12” piece of landscape batik
2. Moon—Scrap of yellow batik
3. Stabilizer—(1) 9”x12” piece of clear water soluble stabilizer film such as 4X by Superior
4. (2) 9”x12” pieces of water soluble stabilizer backing such as Aqua Mesh by OESD
5. Scrap of fusible web for the moon
6. 6” wooden or plastic embroidery hoop
7. Thread—40 weight polyester or rayon—
  - A. Dark and light brown
8. (1) bobbin filled with 60 weight gray bobbin thread
9. Basic sewing supplies—80 Microtex sharp machine needle, tweezers, pins, etc
10. Sewing machine
11. Open toe free motion foot

## *Tracing the design onto the clear stabilizer*

1. Center the clear water soluble stabilizer on top of the master pattern. Tape in place. Trace the tree.
2. Trace the moon onto a piece of paper backed fusible web.
3. Fuse the moon to the backside of the moon fabric and cut out.
4. Fuse in place on the background fabric. **Tip:** use the clear stabilizer on which the tree was drawn to locate the best position for the moon.

## *Hooping the design*

1. On a flat surface lay the 2 pieces of white stabilizer backing, then the background fabric and the drawing on top. Pin in place.
2. Unscrew the screw on the hoop and slide the outer ring of the hoop under the 4 layers with the screw assembly at 6 o’clock. This will assist in locating the screw.
3. Push the inner ring on top of the drawn on stabilizer until it is secure inside the outer ring. Push down on the inner ring keeping your fingertips on the inner ring. Gently pull the top stabilizer to remove any ripples inside the hoop. Grip the top stabilizer close to the edge of the hoop to keep from stretching it.
4. Work your way around the hoop pulling the top stabilizer until the wrinkles are gone keeping pressure with your fingertips on the inside hoop.
5. Keeping your finger tips on the inner hoop slide the hoop to the edge of the table and tighten the screw about 90 percent.
6. Evaluate and if necessary adjust the top stabilizer until no more ripples are apparent. Tighten the screw all the way down.
7. Pick up the hoop and with your thumbs press down on the inner hoop until about 1/8” of the inner hoop shows on the back side of the hoop. This adds extra tension on the stabilizer. The bottom of the stabilizer sits slightly below the outer hoop.
8. Pin any excess fabric and stabilizer toward the hoop. This prevents any excess fabric from getting caught underneath the hoop.
9. Pull the bobbin thread to the surface, secure a few stitches and cut the thread tails.

## *General Notes*

1. For better control reduce the machine speed if possible.
2. Thread paint the design the way it grows.
3. Keep the line you are thread painting parallel to the table edge.
4. Cut the connecting threads when you are done or when they are in the way.

# Video Workshop—Solitary Tree

Thread #	Design	Thread color	Stitch type	Stitch width	Figure #
#1	1st trunk color	Dark brown	Straight Zigzag	1.5 –1.0 mm	Figure 1 Figure 1



**Figure 1**

Please view **Thread Painting—Stitches with Attitude** for explanation of the differences between the straight and zigzag stitch.

1. *Tree trunk*—See Thread #1 and Figure 1. Pull the thread to the top of the stabilizer. To underlay the trunk rotate the hoop so the design is facing you. Move the hoop right to left up the trunk to the middle V in the tree. Keep the horizontal lines about 1/8” apart.

## Tree trunk

Rotate the hoop so it is lying on its side.



1. Switch to a 1.5 mm zigzag. Rotate the hoop so the trunk is on its side and move the hoop right to left to begin filling in the left side of the trunk, Figure 2. Reduce the width of the zigzag stitch if you feel out of control. Repeat filling the right side.
2. Notice in Figure 3 that the thread arcs to the left on the left roots and to the right on the right roots but comes straight down at the center.
3. To blend the straight line at the center to the curve on the right root rock the hoop back and forth blending the threads from the curve into the straight. Repeat for the left root, Figure 4. Fill in the bottom of the trunk
4. Thread paint up to the 1st right branch, Figure 5.
5. At the small branches switch to a straight stitch and rotate the hoop so it is easy to see. To thread paint the small branches follow the line of the design out and back to the main branch. Should you thread paint a crooked line out, follow the same crooked line back. When the stabilizer is washed away, the black line of the drawing will disappear.
6. Thread paint all branches.
7. Rotate the hoop so the trunk is facing you and locate any holes in the main trunk. With a straight stitch move the hoop north to south filling any holes as you go.

Figure 2

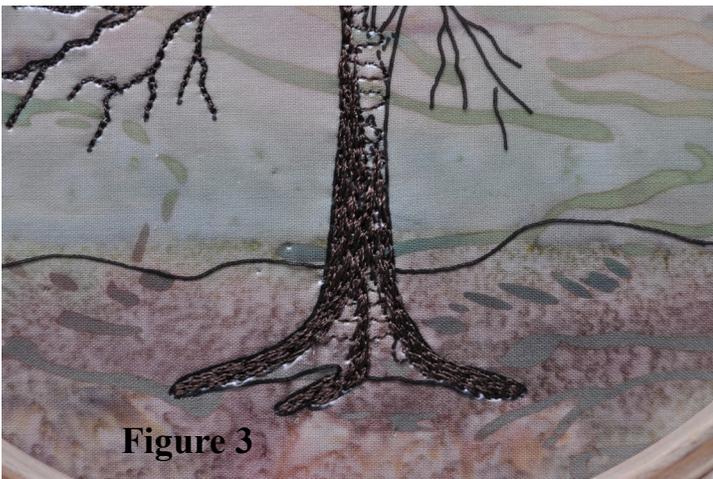


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

## Highlight on the trunk & Contour Lines

Thread #	Design	Thread color	Stitch type	Figure #
#2	Highlight	Medium light brown	Straight	Figure 6
#3	Contour lines	Color to match background fabric		



**Figure 6**

1. *Highlight on trunk*—See Thread #2 and Figure 6. With the hoop still facing you move the hoop north to south to highlight the tree building the thread where you wish. Highlight more in one area than other. The amount of coverage will depend on the difference in value between your choice of brown threads.
2. Rehoop and thread paint the top branches of the tree.
3. Remove the hoop and thread paint the contour lines as shown on the drawing or follow the natural contour lines in your fabric. I choose to follow the contour lines in my batik rather than the ones I had drawn on the stabilizer.
4. Should you choose to use the lines on your fabric for the contour lines cut away the excess stabilizer from around the tree and free motion the terrain lines on the fabric.

### *Removing the Stabilizer from the Fabric*

1. Remove the project from the hoop.
2. Cut away the top and bottom stabilizers to within 1/2" of the design. Be cautious—don't cut into the fabric.
3. Run water over the design. As the water breaks the stabilizer down, it turns the stabilizer into "goo".
4. Continue rinsing the design under running water until all the "goo" is gone from the front and back.
5. Take some soap (bar or hand) and rub it into the design on the front and back. The soap will help to break down the stabilizer trapped inside the stitches.
6. Place the project into a sink of cold water and fabric softener (1 part fabric softener to 3 parts water) and let soak for about an hour.
7. Rub the top and back of the design between your thumb and forefinger. If your fingers are tacky, the project needs to soak longer. Change the water and continue soaking until there is no more tackiness and the stabilizer is out.
8. Leaving any residue in the design will leave it stiff so try and get all of the stabilizer out.
9. Blot and allow to air dry. Press the design from the back to remove any wrinkles.
10. Use a pressing cloth over the thread if you want to press from the top. Don't press right on the thread.