



Birdhouse Quilt

with Alex Anderson

(AKA - Applique ALL WAYS!)

In this project-based class you will make a pieced quilt background with a pinwheel border and use this background to showcase an applique design that can be completed with the provided shapes or your own motifs.

While doing this, you will learn various applique techniques to fill your quilter's tool belt and discover which is the most successful for you personally.

My wish is that you DO NOT rush through the project – but rather relax, explore and enjoy the process of learning.

Some of the techniques and topics we will cover are,

- Various approaches to **finished edge applique** of shapes like circles and stems
- Which product to use when to get your desired results with **raw edge appliqué**
- Using **machine and hand stitches** in your applique
- Which **threads** to choose
- And more!

I will provide various applique shapes to play with, but I want you to get creative!! I love googling images and get great ideas that way; for example, search on *birdhouse line drawing cartoon images*. You will be AMAZED at the image inspiration you get from the search results! I look forward to seeing what applique shapes YOU come up with.

CLASS PRE-WORK- Let's build the background so we can get right into the applique part in class!

INNER GREEN BACKGROUND

Step 1 – Cut various sized strips for the inner green area of the background. I cut mine to be 2", 2 ½" and 3" and of varying length.

Step 2 – Randomly piece the strips together in any pattern you desire! The inside green area should measure 32½ X 40 ½” raw (finished 32” x 40”).

PINWHEEL BORDER

Now let's talk about how to make the 40 pinwheels for the outside border.

The outside pinwheels measure 4” finished.

Step 1– Make half square triangles.

For each 4” pinwheel, cut two white and two dark 2 7/8” squares to make 4 HST's. Mark a diagonal line from corner to corner on the wrong side of the white squares. Place a white and dark square right-sides together and stitch ¼ inch away on each side of the marked line. Cut each square on the diagonal marked line and press open.

Step 2– Assemble Pinwheels.

Sew 2 half-square triangle units into 2-unit sets. Sew two-unit sets together to make pinwheel block.

OR- I also recommend the option of [Star Singles Half Square Triangle Papers](#)– get the 2” size. We do carry it in the [TheQuiltShow.com store](#).

Stitch your pinwheels together into 4 strips of 10. Attach two of the strips to the sides of the quilt top and then attach the other strips to the top and bottom of the quilt top to complete your border.

That's it until we start meeting and learning various applique techniques. Please remember to upload your progress in the TQS Forum (under the Connect tab) for us all to enjoy.

P.S. – The quilt in the picture is in progress...