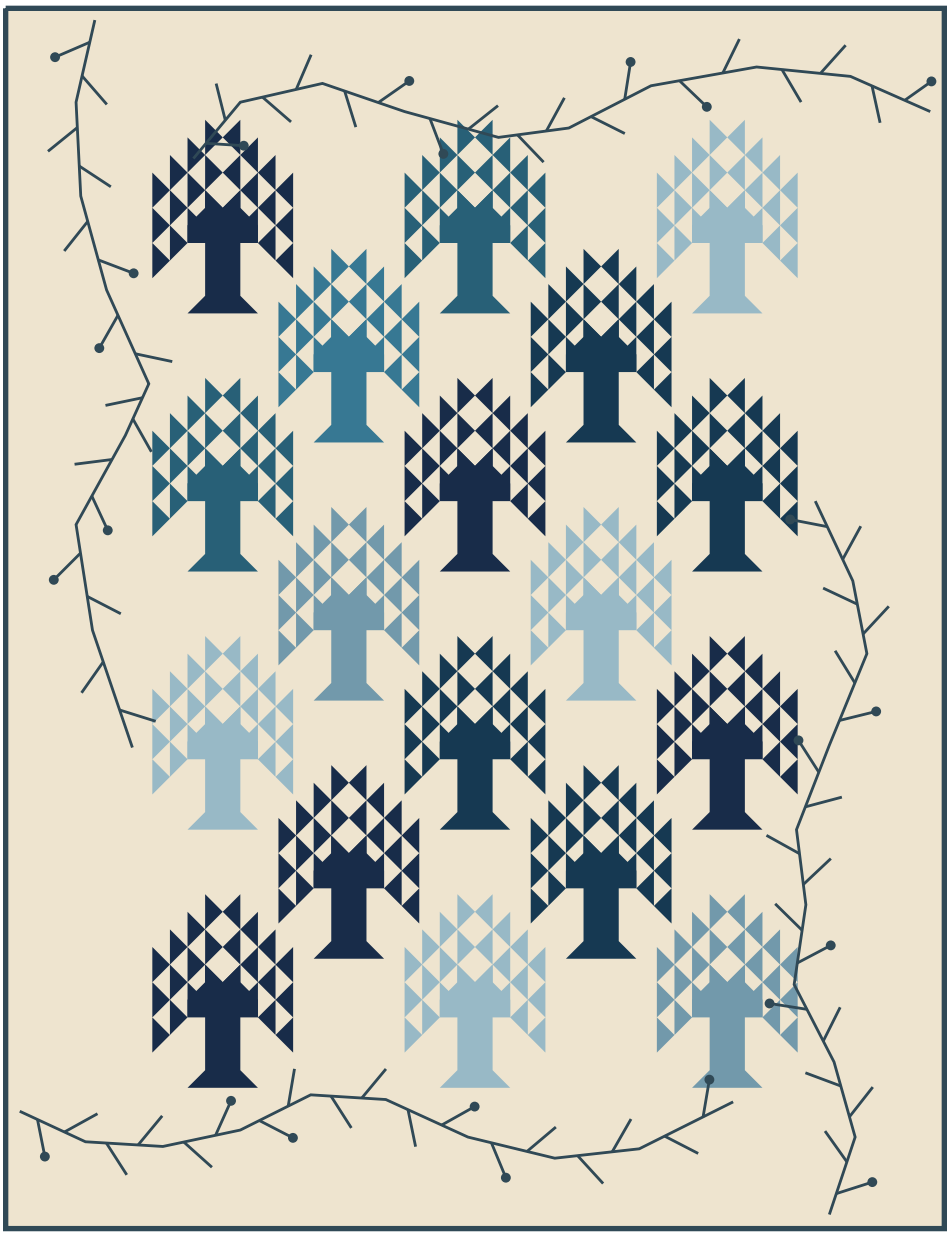
Indigo Grove

40 x 52 inches / 18 appliquéd trees / full-size templates



A grove in seven staggered rows

Dark indigo, teal and mist blue give the trees different weights against a warm cream ground. Each crown repeats one triangle; a shaped trunk joins the two sides. Thin stitched branches follow the edges of the grove.

This photo-based interpretation uses independently chosen dimensions and a fusible appliqué method. The illustrations show the planned layout.

Fabric & cutting plan

Cut sizes are in inches. Use quilting cotton and a fine permanent appliqué stitch.

Material	Amount	Prepare
Cream background	1 5/8 yd, 43 in usable	Cut one 42 x 54 panel.
Tree fabrics	6 fat quarters, 18 x 21 each	Cut by shade using the counts below.
Branch cord	25 yd, 1/8 in wide	Dark, washable cotton cord or narrow flat braid.
Berry circles	Dark scraps, 5 x 8	Cut 24 circles, 3/8 in diameter; use spares as needed.
Paper-backed fusible web	4 yd x 17 in wide	Allow for tracing and spacing.
Batting and backing	One 48 x 60 of each	Use wide backing or piece as described below.
Binding	1/2 yd, 40 in usable	Cut six strips 2 1/2 x width of fabric.

Tree counts by shade

Use one fat quarter per shade. Make 5 midnight, 2 teal, 4 ice blue, 1 medium blue, 4 deep blue and 2 slate trees. For each tree cut 1 trunk and 24 triangles from the same fabric.

Cut the background and backing

If your cream is narrower than 42 inches, buy 2 1/2 yards. Cut two 27 1/4 x 42 panels (42 along the yardage), join their 42-inch edges with a 1/4-inch seam, and press open for a 42 x 54 panel. For backing from 40-inch usable fabric, buy 3 yards. Cut two 48 x 31 panels with 48 along the yardage. Join their 48-inch edges with a 1/2-inch seam and trim to 48 x 60.

Mark the working rectangle

Center a 40 x 52 rectangle on the 42 x 54 cream panel, leaving 1 inch beyond every marked edge. Mark corners and centerlines with a removable fabric marker tested on a scrap. All coordinates in this guide start at the upper-left corner of this marked rectangle.

You will also need matching thread, a pressing sheet, small sharp scissors, a ruler and thread for quilting.

Build a sample tree

One finished motif measures 6 inches wide x 8 1/4 inches tall.



A One trunk



B Twenty-four triangles



C Assembled tree

Trace and cut

Print pages 4 and 5 at actual size (100%). Measure the 1-inch test square before tracing. From page 5 trace one trunk and 24 triangles per tree onto the paper side of the fusible. The triangle flips by turning it half a turn; the trunk is symmetrical. Leave a small gap between outlines. Rough-cut, fuse to the wrong side of the fabric following the web instructions, then cut exactly on each line. No seam allowance is added.

Assemble on a pressing sheet

Lay the page 4 placement drawing beneath a transparent, heat-safe appliqué pressing sheet. Remove the papers. Position the trunk first, then build the crown from its center outward. Each outer column begins one level lower than the column beside it. Match the points and preserve the cream diamond-shaped gaps. Lightly tack according to the web instructions, cool and lift the pieces carefully. Transfer any loose pieces individually.

Secure the sample

Place the tree on the cream ground at a position from page 6. Fuse and secure every exposed edge with a narrow zigzag or small blanket stitch. Use the sample as the first tree if its width and height match the placement drawing. Repeat for 18 trees.

Full-size placement drawing

View from the front / 6 x 8 1/4 inches / print at 100%

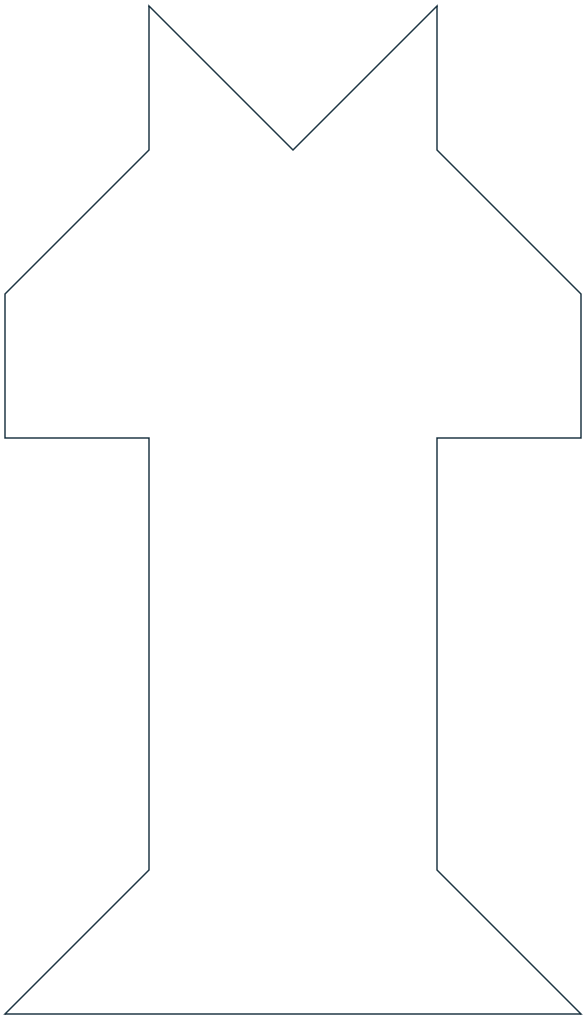


1 inch

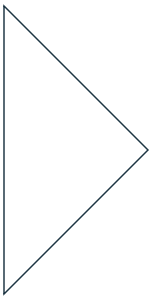
Alignment aid only. Trace the separate cutting shapes on page 5.

Full-size cutting templates

Solid outlines are cutting lines. Add no seam allowance.



TRUNK / Cut 1 per tree, 18 total.

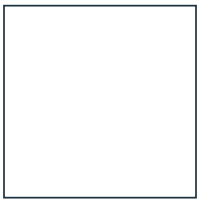


CROWN / Cut 24 per tree.

432 total, in matching shades.



BERRY / 3/8-inch circle.



Test square: 1 x 1 inch.

The triangle is 3/4 inch wide and 1 1/2 inches tall. Rotate it 180 degrees for the opposite side of the crown. For efficient cutting, trace alternating tips into the spaces between triangles.

Place the trees

Use the upper-left corner of each 6 x 8 1/4-inch motif as the measuring point.

Row	Top edge (Y)	Left edges (X)	Shades, left to right
1	4.75	6 1/4, 17, 27 3/4	midnight, teal, ice
2	10.25	11 5/8, 22 3/8	medium, deep
3	15.75	6 1/4, 17, 27 3/4	teal, midnight, deep
4	21.25	11 5/8, 22 3/8	slate, ice
5	26.75	6 1/4, 17, 27 3/4	ice, deep, midnight
6	32.25	11 5/8, 22 3/8	midnight, deep
7	37.75	6 1/4, 17, 27 3/4	midnight, ice, slate

Place a whole row before fusing

Measure right for X and down for Y. Use the upper-left corner of the entire placement drawing as the anchor, even though the first fabric you see in that corner sits lower. Trace its 6 x 8 1/4 outline on clear plastic or paper to make a reusable positioning window.

Rows overlap vertically by 2 3/4 inches. The offset places the narrow trunks of one row between the crowns below. Pin or tack motifs temporarily and look at the complete arrangement before fusing.

Prepare the branch map

Page 7 gives coordinates for four main branches, in inches from the same origin. Start at the first point of each sequence and connect the points in order. Use a shallow curve between points. Sketch the twigs lightly first and vary their angle, following the overview on page 1.

Sew down the tree edges before adding the branches. Where a twig crosses a tree, the branch lies on top.

Stitch the branches

The four branch paths follow the quilt perimeter. Each coordinate pair is (X, Y), in inches.

Left

(3.8, 0.5) / (3, 4) / (3.2, 8) / (4.3, 12) / (6.1, 16) / (5.1, 18.2) / (3, 22) / (3.7, 26.5) / (5.4, 31.5)

Top

(8, 6.4) / (10, 4) / (13.5, 3.2) / (17, 4.4) / (21, 5.5) / (24, 5.1) / (27.5, 3.3) / (32, 2.5) / (36, 2.9) / (39.4, 4.4)

Bottom

(0.6, 47) / (3.4, 48.3) / (6.7, 48.5) / (10, 47.8) / (13, 46.3) / (16.2, 46.5) / (19.7, 48.1) / (23.4, 49) / (27, 48.6) / (31, 46.6)

Right

(35.1, 51.4) / (36.2, 48.1) / (35.3, 44.9) / (33.6, 41.6) / (34.1, 38.2) / (33.7, 35) / (35.1, 31.4) / (36.7, 27.5) / (36.1, 24.4) / (34.5, 21)

Shape and couch the cord

Work with a continuous length for each main stem. Pin the cord over the penciled path and couch it with matching thread. Use a narrow zigzag just wide enough to catch both sides. At exposed ends, taper the cord under a few dense stitches or bury the end in the backing of the top.

Add two short twigs per segment between coordinates. Place one about a quarter of the way along and the other about two thirds along. Angle each toward the next coordinate, on opposite sides of the main stem. Cut most twigs about 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 inches long and shorten them near the edge. Keep tips at least 1/2 inch inside the marked rectangle.

Fuse a berry at the tip of roughly every third twig and secure the edge with matching thread. Scatter a few in small groups where you want a heavier branch. The placement is intentionally irregular, as in the reference.

Quilt & bind

Use a fine thread close to the cream ground for quiet texture around the trees.

1 Prepare the top

Remove temporary marks according to the marker instructions, retaining or re-marking the intended four corners. Press from the wrong side on a padded surface. Inspect the tips of the triangles and the ends of the branches, adding a few stitches wherever an edge lifts.

2 Layer and quilt

Center the top on the 48 x 60 batting and backing, with the backing wrong side up. Baste from the center outward. Outline the tree silhouettes, then fill the open cream spaces with a small meander or a loose leaf motif. Add quilting within each tree as required by the batting manufacturer’s maximum spacing.

3 Square up

Measure from the quilt center. Mark and trim the quilted sandwich to 40 x 52 inches, keeping opposite sides equal. Check that the tree bases and branch tips remain inside the binding seam. Dense quilting may draw the top in slightly; center the trim lines to preserve the composition.

4 Bind

Join the six binding strips end to end with diagonal seams. Trim the seams to 1/4 inch and press open. Fold the binding lengthwise, wrong sides together. Align raw edges to the quilt front and attach with a 1/4-inch seam, mitering each corner. Join the tails, wrap the folded edge to the back, and stitch it down.

For a finish like the photograph, use a dark navy binding and keep the corners crisp. The narrow dark edge repeats the color of the outer branches.