

Magnolia Centre Block

15 inches by 33 inches finished,
15 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches unfinished



of the branch.

The centre of the garden quilt is made up of four pieced magnolia blossom blocks, plus some applique of flowers from pictures of a couple of trees that I took while walking in New West last spring.

The branches are pieced using a technique Brigitte and I learned at a Judy Morningstar workshop some years ago combined with free form cutting.

I put in three branches, the first one starts about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches up from the bottom on the left and finishes 12 inches up the right hand side. It is about 1 inch wide.

Place your centre (larger than needed so you can trim it down after the applique) right side up on top of the branch fabric, so that it overlays the branch fabric where you intend to place the branch. Both pieces are right side up! Now be brave and cut through both pieces in a gentle curve. When you sew the curve, it will lie flat since the curve is the same, although you won't think so when you sew it. You might want to put some registration lines on it using a Frixion pen, or you can just gently move the top of the background up and bring the branch so it is right sides together with the lower background.

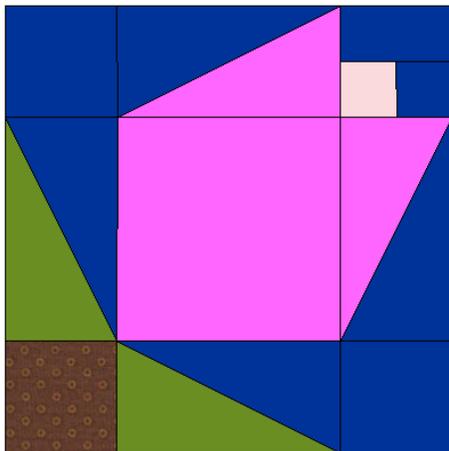
Once this seam is sewn and pressed, lay it out and lay the rest of the background piece about 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch 'up' from the seam. Make sure that the sides are straight. Place it where the branch looks good. Since it is the same curve as the branch, just follow the cut line to create the top

My next branch started about 2 inches up on the left and ended about 3 inches up on the right, and is 2 inches thick. The final branch was about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches up on the left, and ended in the middle of the top and it is also about 2 inches thick.

If you want to applique the branches just sketch them out on the background and add the applique.

I have included the drawings for the two small flowers - these are done with some plain pinks that were left over from the main blocks. The larger flower was a neat pale stripey fabric, and I have included the petals for the larger flower. The shading was done with crayon and ink plus some thread painting. Lastly I added the beads for the flower centre.

Once the centre was complete, I added four Magnolia Bud blocks from the Kansas City Star in 1932 and 1949. These are 6 inches finished.



Background

- 2 - 2 inch squares for the corners
- 1 - 2 inch by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch
- 1 - $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch square
- 2 - $4\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inch rectangles cut diagonally or
4 half rectangles from a $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip with
with a half rectangle ruler

Pale pink

- 1 - $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch square for the upper right corner

Pink

- 1 - $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch square
- 1 - $4\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inch rectangles cut diagonally or
2 half rectangles from a $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip with with half rectangle ruler

Green

- 1 - $4\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inch rectangles cut diagonally or
2 half rectangles from a $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch strip with with half rectangle ruler

Brown

- 1 - 2 inch square

To sew, sew the pink half rectangles to the background. These should measure 2 inches by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Do the same for the green and background.

For the corner, sew the pink square to the small background square and add the rectangle to one side. This should measure 2 inches square.

Now lay the pieces out as shown and sew the nine-patch.

Between the two magnolias you should need a $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $6\frac{1}{2}$ rectangle of background.

