

Tree Skirt

STEP-BY-STEP

WITH PATE-MEADOWS DESIGNS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY John O'Hagan

Supplies

- 4 yards fabric for face of tree skirt (additional fabric may be required for centering a design)
- 4 yards fabric for tree skirt back (lining)
 - 1 yard fabric for piping (must be cut on the bias)
 - 26 yards cover-your-own cotton Piping Cord*
- Steam-A-Seam 2 fusible web, ½ inch*
 - 1-inch Bias Tape Maker*
 - 3 yards 2-inch sheer ribbon
- Crewel needle for threading ribbon through closure on burlap tree skirt

*Available at patemeadows.com



Step-by-Step

(Repeat steps 6-11 for each of the eight panels of the tree skirt.)

Step 1. Print out all 14 sheets of pattern on 8.5 x11 paper.

Step 2. Arrange sheets in order according to figure 1. Tape the sheets together, matching the lines; cut out the entire pattern.

Step 3. Place pattern on top of face fabric, with arrows following the direction of the fabric. Be sure to center any design your fabric may have; cut out the fabric following the outer lines of the pattern. Repeat until you have eight panels.

Step 4. Repeat Step 3 for lining fabric.

Step 5. To make your own piping:

Piece two bias strips together by placing them with right sides together, stitching along one short end. Continue piecing strips until you have enough fabric to go around all eight panels of the tree skirt (about 26 yards). It is important to cut your strips as long as possible so that seams in the piping can be avoided. Insert piping cord.

Note: If you prefer, you can use purchased cording rather than making your own piping.

Step 6. Take one panel of the tree skirt face fabric, and place the covered piping on the right side, matching raw edges. Pin

in place around the entire panel. Stitch, using a zipper foot.

Note: Please see the Tips & Techniques section of our website (patemeadows.com) for tips on applying piping, including step-by-step instructions for finishing the raw edges.

Step 7. On a flat surface, place one panel of lining right side up. Top with one face fabric panel right side down. Align all edges. Do not tug or pull on points and sides, which can stretch them out of shape. Instead, lift and fan the fabric into place. Pin together.

Step 8. Stitch all the layers together. Following your previous piping stitch line as a guide, carefully stitch slightly closer to the piping. Leave a space of about 6 to 8 inches open for turning.

Step 9. Trim seams except for the area that was left open for turning. Turn each panel right side out.

Step 10. Tuck in the fabric in the open section, and either hand stitch or press a small piece of Steam-A-Seam 2 in the seam to close.

Step 11. Take the original paper pattern, and place over one sewn panel. Mark the fold lines with a pin at the top and bottom. Fold along the lines, and press with a steam iron.

Step 12. Take two panels and lay them with the backs together. Pin and stitch down the fold lines on one side. Continue connecting all the panels together, leaving one section open so that skirt can be placed around the tree. Press all flaps open.

Step 13. Many options can be used for the closure on your tree skirt. Here are two: For the burlap, we used a crewel needle to thread sheer ribbon through the layers, and tied pretty bows.

For the silk and tapestry tree skirt, we used the 1-inch Bias Tape Maker (available at patemeadows.com) to make ties from the leftover piping fabric. Follow the instructions "Using Bias Tape Makers" in our Tips & Techniques section at patemeadows.com to make the bias banding. Omit the steps after ironing the Steam-A-Seam 2 to both sides. Instead, fold the bias banding in half lengthwise so that the folded edges are even. Peel the papers and steam the two sides together to make a ½-inch tie. Stitch ties on the backside of the tree skirt. Place your tree skirt around your tree; tie bows to close. Tie a knot at the end of the tails at the desired length to conceal the raw edges.