

Apple Tree Block

Calvert County Quilt Guild
Block of the Month
September 2017

Light background, brown trunk, green leaves and red for apples.

Block seams are ¼".
Directions by Anita Konzak Turley with inspiration from
www.mirkwooddesigns.com

This makes a 12 ½" unfinished block.

Color 1 – Red (shown as light green in picture)
Two – 2" squares
Sixteen – 2" squares (paired with green for leaves)

Color 2 – Green (can be various colors of green)
Fourteen – 2" squares (paired with background)
Sixteen – 2" squares (paired with red for apples)

Color 3 – Brown (choose your tree trunk color)
One – 5" square (paired with background)
One – 3 ½" square
Four – 2" squares (paired with background)

Color 4 – Off white/beige background
Seven – 2" x 2" squares
Two – 3 ½" squares
One – 5" square (paired with brown for tree trunk)
Four – 2" squares (paired with brown for tree trunk)
Fourteen – 2" squares (paired with green for leaves)

It is almost time for apple harvest, and this block will have you thinking that. This block looks difficult and takes a few hours total; however, the sewing is simple as it is made of half square triangles (HSTs), and be sure to have your blocks the correct size. You will get enough practice with HSTs that you will love them. Maybe not love them, but you will want an apple and ponder the thought. Use chain piecing to build your HSTs. Press to the dark. When building the rows press to opposite sides to lock the blocks.

1) Cut pieces carefully to size. Sort the blocks that will be used for HSTs according to the color guide, and then with the pairing to make the HSTs. Mark a diagonal line on the back side or press on the diagonal across each set of blocks. Sew across the diagonal line, and then trim ¼" **on one side**. Open the block and press to the dark (green or brown). Your block should still be 2" square (or extremely close).

   Alternate Cutting Instructions: If you don't want to cut as much as in the above instructions, refer to step 7 of instructions that start with a larger block to make two (2) HSTs by stitching on both sides of center, and then trimming the block to size. This instruction is for all of the 2" square blocks.

2) Using the figure in Step 2, assemble each row, and then sew rows together. Be careful of placement!

3) Using the figure in Step 3, assemble each row, and then sew rows together. The first figure shows the placement in the block. The second figure shows the pieces and row placement for easier building.

4) Using the HSTs for the tree and background, sew a total of 4 HSTs using instructions in Step 1. Press to the brown. Sew together two sets with the background making a point. Attach each set to one of the 3 ½" background squares (shown in Step 4 and Step 5 – for placement).

5) Using the 5" squares, create a HST using instructions in Step 1. Open the block and press to the brown.

6) Use the figure in Step 1 for final placement of blocks. Trim to 12 ½". Stitch about 1/8" around the block to secure the many seams.

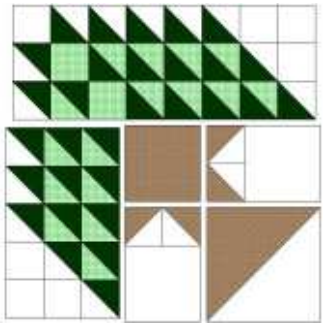
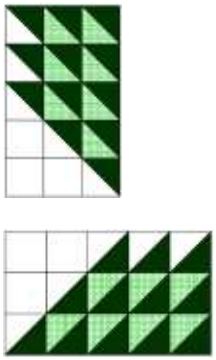
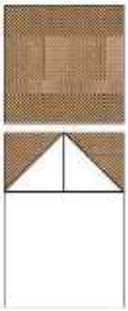
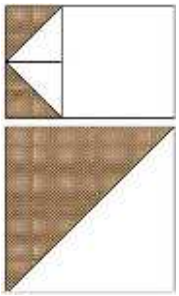
7) *Alternate cutting and sewing* for leaves/apples, leaves/background, and tree/background HSTs.

Apples and Leaves HST – Cut eight 2 ¾" squares of **each** green and red. Mark a diagonal line on the back side or press on the diagonal across each set of blocks. With right sides together, stitch ¼" on **each** side of the diagonal line. Press to the green. Cut apart on the draw/press line to make a total of make 16 pieces. Trim to 2" block.

Leaves and Background HST – Cut seven 2 ¾" squares of **each** green and off white/beige. Mark a diagonal line on the back side or press on the diagonal across each set of blocks. With right sides together, stitch ¼" on **each** side of the diagonal line. Press to the green. Cut apart on the draw/press line to make a total of make 14 pieces. Trim to 2" block.

Tree Trunk and Background HST – Cut two 2 ¾" squares of **each** brown and off white/beige. Mark a diagonal line on the back side or press on the diagonal across each set of blocks. With right sides together, stitch ¼" on each side of the diagonal line. Press to the brown. Cut apart on the draw/press line to make a total of make 4 pieces. Trim to 2" block.

NOTE: Unless you have a few hours set aside, I recommend this block be done in logical steps in one-hour periods of time. Complete all of the cutting; piece all of the blocks; and last, piece the whole block. It took me about 3 hours total from cutting to final piecing. And I used a seam ripper!!!

Step 1 - Placement	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
				

Inspirational layouts from Google Images

