BY LISA BERENTSEN FOR QUILTER'S THREAD

FINISHED SIZE:

53 1/2" x 58 1/2"

FABRIC REQUIREMENTS:

(Figured for 42" wide fabric.)

- (27) 1 3/4" strips of coordinating fabrics
- 1 1/4 yds. For light background. Cut into (9) 4
 1/2" by width of fabric strips.
- 1/4 yd. for green inside border. Cut into (5) 1
 1/4" x width of fabric strips.
- 1 1/4 yds. For red outside border. Cut into (6)
 6 1/2" x width of fabric strips.
- 3 1/2 yds. (each) for backing and batting
- 5/8 yd. for binding. Cut into (6) 2 1/2" x width of fabric strips.

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Christmas Stripes

The Amish largely use dark solid fabrics for their quilts, but we have done their traditional pattern "Roman Stripes" in red and green plaid flannels. You may think differently, but, I think that putting them in this layout hints "Christmas Tree." Regardless of the fabrics you use, this quilt is fun and easy to put together.

Using a 1/4" seam, sew (3) coordinating fabrics along the long edge for form a strip that looks like this:



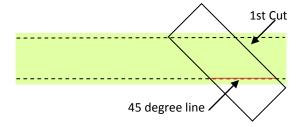
(Press the seams in one direction)

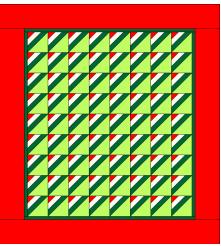
Repeat for a total of (9) strips. Your strips should measure 4 1/2" x 42".

Using a 1/4" seam, sew each pieced strip to a 4 1/2" strip of background fabric along each of the long sides. (Yes, you're sewing the strips closed for now. Line up the edges, they are shown offset here only so you know both pieces are there.)

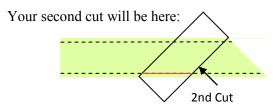


Cut triangles from each pieced section by lining up the 45 degree line on the rule with the stitched lines. Your first cut will be here:

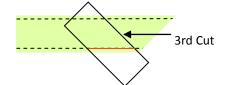




I know they're not trees, but I start humming "Oh, Christmas Tree" every time I see this quilt.



Your third cut will be here:



Etc. Cut (72) triangles, (8) from each pieced strip. Remove the stitches at the small point of each triangle to reveal blocks that look like this:



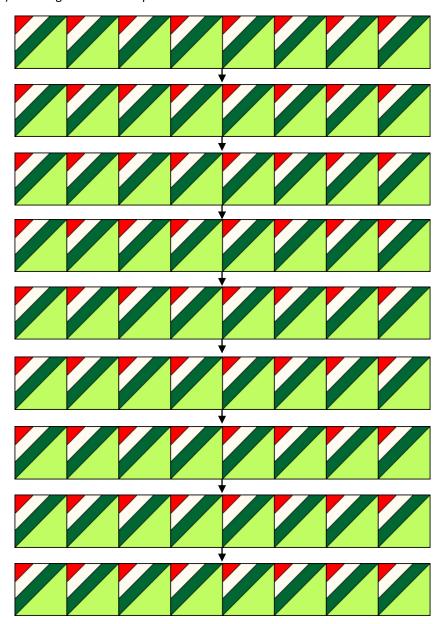
Press the seams in one direction, being careful not to stretch, as the sides of these blocks are bias edges. Your blocks should be 5 1/2" squares, trim if necessary (lining up the 45 degree line of the ruler with the center seam to keep the blocks square.)

Assemble the Quilt Center

Sew (8) blocks together to form (9) rows as shown:



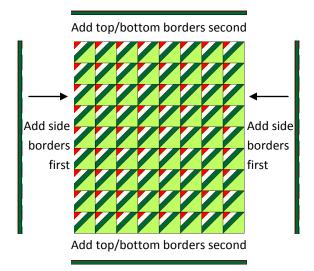
Press seams on half the rows one direction and half the rows the other direction so matching the points will be easier. Sew (9) Rows together to form quilt center as shown:



Add Borders and Finish

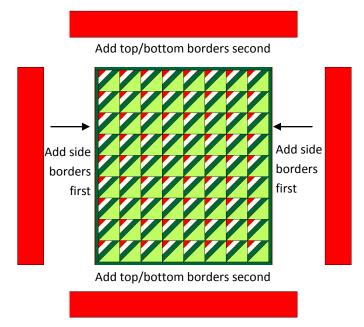
Piece 1 1/4" green strips as needed to construct (2) side borders measuring 45 1/2" x 1 1/4", and (2) top/bottom borders measuring 42" x 1 1/4."

Add side green borders, then top and bottom green borders. Press seams.



Piece 6 1/2" red strips as needed to construct (2) side borders measuring 47" x 6 1/2", and (2) top/bottom borders measuring 54" x 6 1/2."

Add side red borders, then top and bottom red borders. Press seams.



Layer, quilt and bind as desired.