

Deck the Halls with Nine-patch & Holly

Class Lesson Plan

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This lesson plan is provided to help you plan a class for *Deck the Halls with Nine-patch & Holly*. Use this lesson plan as a guide for presenting the ideas and methods needed to make this quilt. This lesson plan does not have to be followed precisely. Make changes as needed. Also, your ideas and additions are important elements, so be sure to share your thoughts, methods, and advice with your students.

The Quilt Project: Deck the Halls with Nine-Patch & Holly

Deck the Halls with Nine-Patch & Holly is a great Christmas quilt for an experienced beginner. Its nine-patch columns are very easy to make. The columns of appliquéd holly leaves and yo-yo berries can build skills for the experienced beginner. (Yo-yos can also be replaced by buttons, felt or other berry material.) The quilt comes in three sizes: table runner, small wall quilt, and large wall quilt/lap quilt. Students should be able to make any of these quilts for the class projects. If you want to choose one, the small wall quilt makes a great class-project. The quilt is a great wall decoration for the home.

Sample Brochure Class Description

Create a lovely Christmas quilt for your home with *Deck the Halls with Nine-Patch & Holly*. This country-style holiday quilt offers simple piecing of nine-patch blocks while building your skills in machine appliqué with the holly leaves and vines. Three sessions. Skill level: experienced beginning.

The Class Schedule

This class has been designed to be taught in a *three-day* three-hour session. If you think it will work better for you to offer a different number of sessions or longer sessions, feel free to make this change.

Christine's Basic Sewing Basket of Tools

small scissors, seam ripper, rotary cutter, gridded ruler for rotary-cutting (e.g. 6" x 12" or 3" x 18"), cutting mat, sewing thread, extra-fine pins, sharp sewing machine needles

Learning Opportunities

Deck the Halls with Nine-patch and Holly offers the opportunity to learn or further develop the following skills and techniques:

- A. work in a vertical assembly
- B. work on basic piecing techniques
- C. learn how to make a bias vine
- D. learn how to machine appliqué leaves and bias vine
- E. learn how to make yo-yos

SESSION ONE — Piecing the Blocks ***Deck the Halls with Nine-patch & Holly***

Students should take the following items to class:

Deck the Halls with Nine-patch & Holly pattern, *Christine's basic sewing basket of tools*, sewing machine & equipment, and fabrics for the blocks (fabrics A, B, C, and D).

Step 1 Introduction to Pattern and Quilt

Introduce the quilt to the students. Have students open the pattern and become familiar with the different sections: the inside cover, the various instructional guideline offerings, and the tips.

Step 2 Fabric Selection

Discuss fabric selection and fabric placement for this quilt. Have people look at the color images on the inside pages of the cover. In the cover quilt, the nine-patch blocks are made from green, red, and white holiday prints. The strip backgrounds are made from a cream-colored fabric. Students may make their own choices or they can follow Christine's fabric use.

Step 3 Cutting Fabric for the Nine-patch Blocks

Demonstrate how to cut accurately the fabric shapes for the nine-patch blocks (Fabrics A, B, and C).

Step 4 Sewing the Nine-patch Blocks

Demonstrate how to construct the nine-patch green and red blocks. Have students make the number of nine-patch blocks needed for their projects (5, 9, or 36). Give the students enough of a work period to make at least 2 red blocks and 2 green blocks.

Step 5 Side-setting Triangles

Show how side-setting triangles are used in each quilt, using the pattern instruction illustrations for visuals. Demonstrate how to cut the side-setting triangles. Then show how to pin and sew side-setting triangles to the nine-patch blocks.

Step 6 Work Period

If there is time, have students work on the nine-patch blocks, the side-setting triangles, or the pinning and sewing of side-setting triangles to the blocks.

Step 7 Preparation for Following Week

Students will be appliquéing leaves in the following class. If you prefer to have students use a stabilizer and fusible web for appliquéing, discuss this with the students at this time. Recommend your favorite products for them to bring the following session.

Homework

Have students complete their nine-patch blocks and sew the side-setting triangles to these blocks. Students need to bring their Fabric D leaf background strips, borders, or squares, along with the vine, holly leaf, and berry fabrics.

SESSION TWO – Appliquéing Techniques

Students should take the following items to class:

Deck the Halls with Nine-patch & Holly pattern, Christine's basic sewing basket of tools, sewing machine & equipment, small piece of template material, fabrics for vine, the holly leaves, the holly berries, background Fabric D for the holly-leaf strips, border, or squares, thread for sewing, red thread for gathering holly berries, and a small piece of scrap fabric (eg. 6" x 12") for practicing appliquéing a bias vine to a background. If students wish to use stabilizer and/or fusible web, have them bring these too.

Step 1 Questions & Review

Inquire if anyone has any questions or had any problems working on her project. Review concepts from previous week.

Step 2 Cutting and Placing Appliqué Holly Leaves on Strips

Demonstrate how to make and use a template for the holly leaves. Then, cut a leaf from it. Mention differences between hand appliqué and machine appliqué fabric cutting requirements and seam allowances. Again, discuss stabilizers and fusible webbing.

Have students make their own holly-leaf templates and then cut out at least 12 holly leaves, cut from many fabrics.

Next discuss the positioning of the leaves on the leaf strip, the leaf-border strip, or the leaf squares, depending on the quilt being made. Have students pin the leaves in groups of two and three leaves, as shown in the quilt diagrams. Again, discuss sewing stitches that may be used to appliqué the leaves to the strip. Mention any tips you might have.

Step 3 Work Period

Give students a work period to make leaves for one leaf strip (large wall/lap quilt), four leaf blocks (small wall quilt), or one leaf border (table runner). Have students place their leaves on the strip, border, or square.

Step 4 Making the Holly Berries

Demonstrate how to make the holly berries. First, show how to make a template for the holly berry shape. Then show how to draw the shape onto assorted red fabrics (Fabric B). Next show how to cut out the shape and then use a gathering stitch to turn under the raw edge of the holly berry. Show how to pull the thread, so as to gather the circle; then finger press the circle flat and tie off the thread. Have each student make at least three holly berries. Next have students place and sew the berries to the background.

Hint: Although it is a great idea for everyone to have the experience of making yo-yo-berries, let students know that they can use other berry options for their quilts, such as a variety of red buttons.

Step 5 Making and sewing the Bias Vine

Using the pattern instructions and illustrations, demonstrate how to make the bias vines. Be certain to give your own personal tips, if you have any. Also, if you have an alternative way of making a bias strip, please demonstrate that too.

(Note: Those quilters making the small quilt can make the bias vine at this time, but they will position the vine on the quilt's border after the quilt top is finished and the borders have been sewn in place.)

Show how to place the bias vine on the large wall/lap quilt's Fabric D strip or the table-runner's border by first folding the fabric strip in half, vertically. Then, show how to place the vine on the strip in a visually pleasing manner around the leaves and berries. Show how to pin and baste the vine in place.

Step 6 Work Period

Give students a work period to make their bias vine.

Step 7 Appliquing the Vine in Place

Demonstrate the different stitches that may be used to appliqué the vine in place. Have students practice appliquéing a small section of vine on a small piece of scrap fabric.

Step 8 Work Period

Give students a work period. They can use this time to work on the vine, the holly leaves, or the berries. Students making the small wall quilt can pin, baste, and sew the leaves to the squares, make the berries, and sew them in place.

Homework

Have students complete their vine strips and nine-patch-block strips if they are making the largest quilt. Students making the table runner should complete their center section and the vine borders. Students making the small wall quilt should complete their four leaf blocks and piece all of the blocks together to complete the top (without borders). They should have their bias vine ready, along with the holly leaves cut, and the berries made. These items should be brought to class.

SESSION THREE — Assembling, Borders & Finishing

Students should bring to class the following items:

Deck the Hall with Nine-Patch & Holly pattern, Christine's basic sewing basket of tools, sewing machine & equipment, all fabric pieces for the quilt's top, such as nine-patch nine-patch block strips and the holly-berry and vine strips (large wall/lap quilt), cut border-fabric strips, (small quilt: also bring cut holly leaves, berries, and vine for borders); or table runner center and borders. Students may also bring fabrics for backing and binding, batting, quilt-marking tools, basting equipment, if they think they will be using them in class, or if they have questions about any of these items.

Step 1 Questions & Review

Inquire if anyone has any questions or had any problems working on her project. Review concepts from previous week.

Step 2 Demonstration of Techniques

For the large quilt, demonstrate how to pin and sew the nine-patch strips to the vine and leaf strips, so that the quilt top is finished. For the table runner, show how to pin the border units to the center-block top.

For the small wall quilt, show how to pin and sew the inner side borders to the top, and then sewing the top and bottom borders to the top. Then show how you repeat the same for the second border.

Step 3 Extended Work Period with Individual Instruction

Give students a work period, in order to either assemble nine-patch-block strips with the holly leaf strips to complete the quilt top or to pin and sew the borders to the quilt top.

Extra Step:

After students making the small wall quilt have finished putting borders on their quilts, then help them position the leaves and berries onto the borders (pin and baste). Then have them position the bias vine around the quilt's border. Suggest they make a fold in the center of their border strips to help them position the vine.

Step 6 Discussing the Finishing Techniques

Discuss the quilting design possibilities for *Deck the Halls*..... Ask each student to play with one or two different designs at home, using tracing paper and the appropriate *Quilt Assembly* diagram for her quilt. Also discuss quilt marking tools, marking techniques, and quilting techniques. Demonstrate techniques. Discuss thread, needles, recommended feet, foot plate, etc.

Next discuss how to prepare the backing fabric. Give any tips you may wish to share. Discuss the different tools and methods for basting: spoon basting, safety-pin basting, basting on a frame, etc. You may wish to discuss pros and cons of the various basting methods and tools. Demonstrate your favorite method.

Demonstrate how to make the binding. Show your favorite binding method. Demonstrate how to hand stitch the binding to the back of the quilt.

Step 7 Work Period

If there is time to do so, have students work on their quilts. At this time, you can answer any questions students have.

Homework:

Have students finish their quilts.

Extra Credit

If there is interest, set a date for a cheerful holiday *Deck the Halls with Nine-Patch and Holly* party and Show & Tell. This should be an informal gathering where the students bring their quilts to share— finished or not.