

Holiday Lights

Class Lesson Plan

Alex Anderson Classics

© JWD Publishing 2005

Informational Guide

The Quilt Project: Holiday Lights

Most quilters will prefer to make the *Holiday Lights* cover quilt in your class, which is designed for a wall. However, any student who prefers to make a bed quilt rather than the wall quilt should be able to do so quite easily, since the color ideas and techniques are the same. The differences are easy to handle. Simply, the block sizes and outer border for the two bed quilts are larger than for the wall quilt.

Sample Class Description for Your Store's Class Brochure

Brighten up your home this holiday season by creating this delightful tree quilt—complete with sparkling tree lights and a whimsical personality! An *Alex Anderson original design*, you will love this charming quilt with its pieced trees and appliquéd tree lights. Create *Holiday Lights* for your home or as a gift for a very special person. Sizes: wall quilt, twin-bed quilt, or double/queen bed quilt.

The Class Schedule

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

SESSION ONE —PIECING THE TREES

Students should bring to class the following items:

Holiday Lights pattern, sewing machine & equipment, sewing basket of tools (including pins, scissors, seam ripper, etc.), rotary cutter & cutting board, ruler, pencil, thread, template plastic, tool for cutting template material, and fabrics for trees, trunks, and tree backgrounds.

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 color section, the various instructional guideline offerings, and the tips.

Step 2 Fabric Selection

Have students sort their fabrics into three piles: tree, trunk, and background fabrics. Check each person's fabric selection, making certain there is enough value and color contrast between the trees and the background. Discuss any fabric hints you think are important, as well as the importance of washing fabrics and pressing with a dry iron.

Step 2 Familiarizing Students with the Blocks

Introduce students to the wall quilt's **tree block**, the **half-tree block A**, and the **half-tree block B**. Then introduce the bed quilts' blocks, which are larger. Have students decide which quilt they are making (wall, twin, or double/queen).

Step 3 Making the Templates

Demonstrate how to make the tree-block templates. Have students make their own templates.

Step 4 Cutting the Fabric

Demonstrate how to cut shapes from fabric strips using the templates. Have students cut shapes for several trees and their matching backgrounds.

Step 5 Cutting Shapes from Strips

Demonstrate how to cut the trunk shape and its adjacent matching background pieces from strips. Have students cut the amount of trunks and backgrounds needed for their tree blocks.

Step 6 Sewing the Blocks

Demonstrate how to sew the shapes into units; then show how to put the units together into blocks and half-blocks. Have students make one sample of each of the three blocks. If time permits, give students a work period to make more blocks.

Step 7 Sewing Blocks into Rows

Show students how to sew blocks into rows. Show the two different rows: full-block rows and rows beginning and ending with half-blocks. If there is time, have students begin to sew blocks into rows.

Homework

Have students finish sewing the blocks; sew the blocks into rows; and then sew the rows together.

SESSION TWO —PIECING THE BORDERS

Students bring to class:

Holiday Lights pattern, sewing machine & equipment, sewing basket of tools (including pins, scissors, seam ripper, etc.), rotary cutter & cutting board, ruler, pencil, thread, and fabrics for red and green inner border, the background outer border fabrics trees, the green cord fabric, and the tree blocks (individually, in rows, or as a top).

Step 1 Review Concepts and Techniques Learned Previously

Ask if there are any questions or if anyone had any problems with the homework. Resolve any problems prior to beginning new concepts.

Step 2 Cutting Fabric for the Inner Border

Demonstrate the cutting procedure for the red and green inner border. Have students cut these fabric strips, half-square triangles, and then sew the triangles into half-square triangle units. Have students sew the units together to make the four strips of inner borders. As time permits, give students a work period for sewing these units together.

Step 3 Cutting Fabric for the Outer Border

Demonstrate how to cut fabric for the outer border background. As time permits, let students sew strips together to make the outer border.

Step 4 Sewing Borders to Quilt Top

Demonstrate how to sew the border strips to the quilt top.

Step 5 Prepare the Bias Cord

Demonstrate how to cut, piece together, and make the bias cord. If you can, show more than one technique for making the bias cord. Have students cut at least two bias pieces, piece them together, and make into bias cord.

Homework

Have students complete the two borders and sew them to the completed tree top. Have students make the bias strip for the light cord. If they have time, they can pin the bias cord around the outer border, using the pattern photos as a guide.

SESSION THREE APPLIQUÉING THE BORDER

Students bring to class:

Holiday Lights pattern, sewing machine & equipment, sewing basket of tools (including pins, scissors, seam ripper, etc.), rotary cutter & cutting board, ruler, pencil, thread, template plastic, tool for cutting template material, the quilt top with borders, bias cord, and fabrics for the appliquéd lights, sockets, plug, and prongs.

Step 1 Review Concepts and Techniques Learned Previously

Quickly review the techniques presented in the previous class. Ask if anyone had problems with these techniques. Resolve any questions or problems prior to beginning this session's concepts.

Step 2 Making Templates; Cutting the Sockets and Light Bulbs

Have students make the templates for the light bulbs, sockets, plug, and prongs. Then have students cut shapes from the fabrics. Have students pin all in place. They can use the quilt photos as a reference or they can make their own placement of objects.

Step 3 Appliquéing the Light Bulbs and Sockets to the Border

Demonstrate how to appliqué by hand and by machine. Then have students choose which technique they wish to use. Have students select one technique and appliqué one tree light.

Step 4 Work Period

Have students work on the appliqué border during the work period.

Homework

Have students complete the appliqué around the quilt's outer border.

SESSION FOUR FINISHING STEPS

Students bring to class:

Holiday Lights pattern, sewing machine & equipment, sewing basket of tools (including pins, scissors, seam ripper, etc.), rotary cutter & cutting board, ruler, pencil, thread, the completed quilt top, backing fabric, batting, binding fabric, quilting tools (marking implement, thread, needles, etc.)

Step 1 Review Concepts and Techniques Learned Previously

Review techniques presented in last session. Ask if there are any questions or if anyone had any problems with the homework. Resolve any problems prior to beginning new concepts.

Step 2 Making the Sandwich

Demonstrate how to baste the backing, batting, and quilt top together. If possible, show or describe two or more basting techniques, including spoon-baste (using thread, needle, and teaspoon). Demonstrate your favorite method. Give any of your own favorite tips.

Step 3 Quilting

Discuss quilting techniques and design ideas. Show how to mark the quilting design.

Step 4 Putting on a Sleeve

Discuss and demonstrate how to prepare a sleeve for a wall quilt.

Step 5 Making the Binding

Demonstrate how to make the binding and sew the binding to the quilt. Give any extra tips you may have.

Step 6 Work Period

Give students a work period to work on their quilts.

Homework

Have students finish the quilt.

Extra Credit—A Holiday Lights Celebration

If there is interest, set a date for a *Holiday Lights* celebration and *Show & Tell* within a few weeks at the store. This should be an informal gathering where the students bring their quilts to share—finished or not. However, a deadline is helpful and a celebration of a finished quilt is fun. Holiday cookies and punch will be a nice addition.