



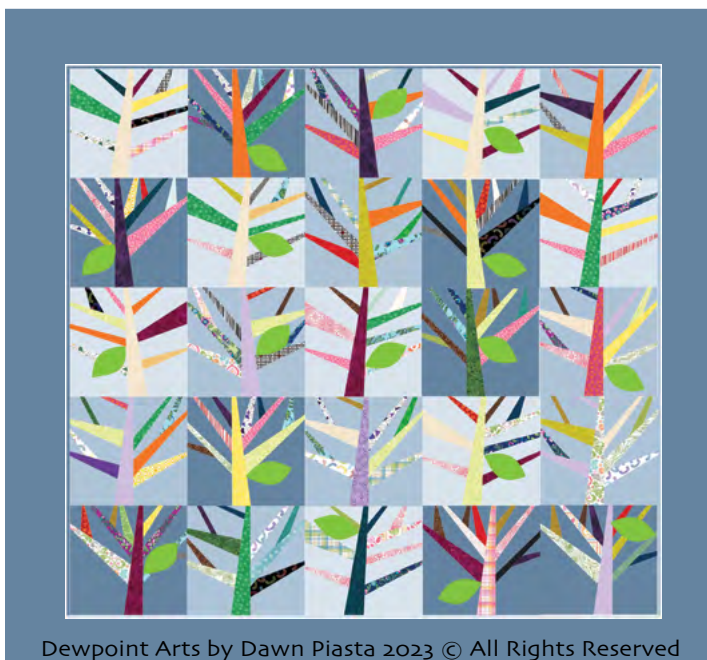
What is IMPROV quilting? The Improv quilting approach lets your imagination play. Intuition will be the guide to choose random pieces of fabric, sew them together and just keep going. There are no boundaries with this approach to piecing. A variety of fabric types can be pieced or appliqued together. The quilt will develop as it is stitched together. Each individual block will be pieced in whatever way sings to the creator. The blocks will be put together in a way that is pleasing to those doing the construction.

Why IMPROV: Improvisation, often shortened to improv, is the activity of making or doing something not planned beforehand, using whatever can be found. Improvisation is a spontaneous action without specific or scripted preparation.

On June 15, 2023, 26 people were directly involved in an unexpected, unplanned series of life changing events. They set out on a fun journey to play, to work, to win. The day was sunny and clear, +23°C. No one expected this tragic accident.

The passenger van was filled with unique individuals each with memories, lived experiences, loved ones they treasured, and dreams to fulfill.

Memory Quilt Vision: To randomly piece together fragments, snippets and scraps of unrelated pieces of fabric. The background fabric and subject matter will be the shared element of the design to bring coherence to the memory. The background is a blue ombre symbolising the day. The subject matter is a Tree. The Tree is a timeless symbol of our connections to everything around us, and a powerful reminder that we are inextricably intertwined with the happiness and health of all living things. This marks only one moment in time; it will not be updated or changed once completed. The names of the individuals involved can be embroidered in to the trunks of the trees. Many leaves can be appliqued onto the tree blocks. A label will be placed on the back and will include the names of those who helped create the quilt and an Artists Statement to explain the What, Where, When & How the piece developed and was created.



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Expected Results: At this time, the visual results are predictably beautiful but actual results are unknown. Basically, we do not know what the finished piece will look like. We have a plan, with willingness to adapt, hope, trust and faith in the process and many capable hands; we will fill the blocks with different trunks and different branches and leaves. The memory for this moment in time will be a tribute to the individuals and communities that were forever changed on that fateful day.

This memory quilt is a shared expression of hope for a tomorrow filled with respect, peace and community. ♥

Improv Tree Memory Quilt Block

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

- Fabric Scraps
- Background Fabric (min. 15" square)
- Thread: Neutral Colour
- Sewing Machine
- Rotary Cutter
- Quilting Ruler (12" X 24")
- Iron & Ironing Board



BLOCK DIRECTIONS:

1. Read all instructions before beginning.
2. Iron the provided piece(s) of background fabric.
3. Using a pencil or marking pen; draw your design directly onto the front of the background fabric piece.
4. Tree Trunk: Using a rotary cutter and ruler make a vertical cut (from top to bottom). You will now have two pieces of fabric.
5. (Optional) If you are making two trunks, make an additional vertical cut. You will now have at least three pieces.
6. Branches: Make a cut that starts from the trunk and extends to one of the edges. Continue cutting branches from each unit. Do not go too crazy; three branches for each section are sufficient. (If you are making ~two trunks, be sure to carefully consider where the branches will overlap into design.)
7. Carefully lay your background sections out on a flat surface so that you will recreate the original square.
8. Starting with the lower branch on each section, create the branches by placing a scrap into the gap. Use your ruler to measure $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Cut seam allowance THEN stitch the scrap to the background. Iron unit flat; then add the next background piece. Stitch THEN cut again. I like to have the branches taper from bottom to top. Making the smallest end touch the outside edge.
9. Carefully iron each seam as you go.
10. Continue making all branch sections.
11. Once either unit is constructed. Trim the pieced branch units by making a straight vertical seam line. For the left side section of the tree, trim the right side. For the right-side section of the tree, trim the left-side to allow for the trunk piece.
12. To create the tree trunk: you will fill the trunk gap with a suitable fabric scrap. Use your ruler to measure $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Cut allowance THEN stitch the scrap to the left section. Iron the joined piece flat, laying the seam away from the trunk. Add the right branch section to the tree trunk. Stitch THEN cut. I like to have the trunk taper from bottom to top. Making the largest end touch the bottom edge.
13. Cut to desired size. For this project cut each block into a $10 \frac{1}{2}$ " square.



**Plan your tree carefully.
Cutting options are endless; start with the tree trunk(s).
Then, divide each side into branches.**

