

O'CHRISTMAS TREE

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STASH SISTERS CHAPTER



One of the many reasons one should go to a hook-in, is to see what others are working on. There are new ideas, patterns, wool, new techniques, and of course, making new friends and seeing old friends.

I met Janet many years back at a teacher/trainee workshop. She has progressed so much further than I. She has beautifully dyed wool and has a fabulous hooking style.

At a Stash Sister's hook-in, Janet was working on her own design. It was a huge Christmas Tree. The body of the tree was all circles. All sizes of circles. She mixed all shades of greens, reds, and other shades. I was fascinated.

The next Stash Sister's hook-in she had a smaller pattern of her tree. I had to have it.

If I was to get the pattern, I must get the wool!

Green, more green! Several shades of green. Yummy!

The first motif I started on was the stars. I thought that Janet did not have the stars on the picture that was provided with the pattern. But, upon looking at Janet's provided picture, I realized she did have stars

hooked in her rug. She hooked

them with the background color, so you had to look hard to see them. To me, stars are shades of gold – bright, soft, dark. I used a yellow/gold velvet, a bright gold wool, and some darker gold to hook my stars.

The next item I chose to hook was the "box" the tree is standing in. I outlined the box with a peppermint red/white-ish wool, then inserted a white-ish wool. I hooked the gift boxes with a light green velvet, gold wool and used sari strip to use as a ribbon. Now, all is set around the tree.



I am ready to hook the tree. Look at all the circles! Where to start? Do I start on the big circles or the smaller ones? I just jumped in on a big circle with some spot green from Janet. Then on to a sparkle red wool circle. From there it was just grab some colors and move around. That is my MOO, (Method of Operation.) To move colors around. Green, red, gold, a pink piece; gold velvet, light spots, peppermint wool, and on and on. Or should I say, round and round.

I knew I had to fill in the deep recesses of the tree. I found some



through. I used the “echo” style of hooking for the background. With the different spots, the background shows a lot of movement. The background is supposed to represent snow. Snow is not pure white.

I also hooked my initials and year in each corner.

When all the hooking was done, I whipped the edges with white Burly Spun wool from W. CUSHING. I did not use cording. This piece will be a wall hanging.

After whipping, I sewed white rug tape to cover the edges on the back. I also sewed my label on.

Now that the hand work is done, it is time to sew the quillies on and all the other mixed media.

Using the picture I previously took of where the quillies were to go, I sewed them on. There are a couple of pipe cleaner circles, too. Did you find them?

I must admit the quillies and other media were very hard for me to sew on. How do you sew them on? Do you put your rug back on the frame? Do you sew them on while fighting the rug on your lap? I did not want to put the rug back on the frame for fear of pulling out the binding yarn and tape. So, do you sew the quillies on before all

really dark green wool to work into the crevices.

I feel like I am decorating my own tree! What color ball should I hang next; where should I hang it?

When it is time for the large background, I plan on using a light spot shade of white-ish wool.

I also made some quillies from selvages. I placed them in the circles where I thought they would look good, wrote a “q” in the circle so I would remember where they would go when it was time to sew them down, and I also took a picture.

I used sari silk for some circles, velvet for others; I even put in two pipe cleaners. Can you find them?

After all the circles were filled I started with the background and hooked right up next to the outside of the tree. I wanted to make sure the edges would stay set.

After all the background is hooked, I will sew the quillies on and then touch up with the dark wool where the linen shows



the finishing work or do you do it after? Too many variables. The quillies are now sewn on. How secure, I don't know. One stupid (not pre-planning) thing was not using matching thread to sew the quillies together. Well, durn, maybe no one will notice.

After the quillies were sewn on, some manipulation was needed to massage the other loops around the quillies. The 3-D quillies do stand out and up. Should you have them even with the loops or should they be higher? I wonder if there is a class available on making and sewing quillies?

Ok, they are done. What else? Oh, more mixed media, what else? Silk flowers! I found some tiny little flowers and thought they would look sweet on the tree. More spots of color and texture.

Another fun addition was some gold glittered stars. I wanted to add them to the tree and especially on top of the tree. I tried punching a hole in one and was going to use the hole to sew it on. Well, that did not work. The stars were peel and stick. The stick part was not going to go through the puncher. But I decided to use the stick part and just stick the stars on. Slap! Done! Got one on top of the tree and two on the tree and one inside a hooked star. You can't really see the sparkle in photos, - but up close they are apparent.

I had hooked the three gift boxes early on. For the two boxes on the sides of the tree I used strips of wool and tied bows with long ends



for decoration. The one in the middle just has a yellow velvet top.

The piece de resistance is the angel pin at the top of the tree! I had this little pin on a hooking apron. It got broken; I glued it back together and tied it on the top of the tree.

I must say I was so happy to be done with the hand work. But I love my *O'Christmas Tree* by Janet.

O' Christmas Tree

*Hooked by Amzi Collins
Pattern designed by Janet Griffith
Pattern on white primitive linen
Quillies from selvages, sari silk loose and
corded, pipe cleaners, velvet, silk flowers,
sparkle self-stick stars, angel pin.*





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