one tree hill

A few scraps of fabric and some embroidery floss combine to form this charming scene of blue sky, white cloud, green tree and hill, and scampering brown squirrel. Take this general technique and run with it to decorate your walls with your own peaceful vistas.

WHAT YOU NEED

Basic sewing tools

Colored, patterned fabrics in aqua blue, lime green, and white

Thread in complementary colors

Embroidery floss in dark and light brown, dark and light green, light blue, dark and light coral

Embroidery needle

Embroidery hoop

8 x 8-inch (20.3 x 20.3 cm) wood canvas frame

Staple gun

SEAM ALLOWANCE

¼ inch (0.6 cm)

DESIGNER

AIMEE RAY

WHAT YOU DO

1 Cut different sizes of squares and rectangles from the aqua fabrics. Piece them together at random to make a square at least 10 x 10 inches (25.4 x 25.4 cm).

2 Using the project photo as a guide, cut squares and rectangles from the green fabrics, and sew them together in rows, enough to cover the hill section of the picture. Fold over ¼ inch (0.6 cm) of the edge of the green piece into a curve to make the hill shape and press. Use the appliqué stitch to sew the hill in place at the corner of the aqua square.

3 Cut a few more squares of green fabric, and sew them together. Cut the oval tree shape from this piece. Then cut two oval cloud shapes from the white fabric. Press the edges ¼ inch (0.6 cm) in, and stitch them in place on the aqua background.

4 Embroider the tree trunk, hill and cloud lines, flowers, and squirrel as shown in the photo.

5 Center the art piece over the frame. Fold the sides over the back, and staple them in place with a staple in both the top and bottom and one in each side. Continue pulling the fabric tightly and stapling it down along each side of the frame.

ARTISTIC LICENSE

If you decide to design your own fabric masterpiece, remember that you're creating a 10-inch-square (25.4 cm) overall piece with an 8-inch (20.3 cm) square visible from the front.