

Quillie Tree Demo



What do you need?

- Styrofoam tree form
- Wool, flannel or fabric to cover your tree
- #8 cut strips of wool
- Straight pins
- Glass headed pins
- Needle and thread (milliner needles are probably the best)
- Tacky glue
- If you want a base and "tree trunk", you will need to shop around for a base. A handy gentleman could cut you a few slices of tree trunks (or at this time of year, hanging out at the trimming section of a tree seller could snag you some easy bases). The tree "trunk" is about a 1" diameter branch about 2" long with a hole drilled through to insert a wire or
- Something to serve as your tree topper

Prepare wool strips

Have a good mix of colors, hues
and values

Cut in a #8 (1/4")

About 180 strips should amply
cover a 12" tree

Try for lengths 8-10" +



Making the quillies



Start by picking two wools that have good contrast. Lay the two of them together, the "outside" wool on the bottom extending about $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the "inside" wool.

Fold the $\frac{1}{4}$ " piece to get the quillie started. Keep rolling the two together until they are about the size of a dime, then put on a hard surface and keep rolling.

Making the quillies

Hold the round firmly in one hand, turning it while the other hand is keeping the two wools together and tugging to keep the roll tight. Doing this against a hard surface helps keep the strips flush on the bottom.

Keep rolling until the desired size, or the inside wool is exhausted. Roll the outside wool another 1/2" or so beyond the inside wool and pin



Making the quillies

I make a bunch of quillies and then spend an evening sewing them



Making the quillies

STEP 1 -- Thread a needle, make a knot at the end and insert under the tail to bury the knot



STEP 2 -- Make first stitch directly through the center of the quillie (if the quillie is large, make sure to make a second stitch perpendicular to the first through the entire quillie)



STEP 3 -- Work around the quillie, catching a few rows with each pass. End up near the tail of the quillie



STEP 4 -- Come up a little in from the tail and take a few stitches to secure the tail flush with the quillie. Make and bury a knot and cut the thread



Making the quillies

Although not easy to see in these pictures, one side is often markedly better than the other. Be sure to pick what you think is the "rightside"



Arrange the quillies

Lay out at least 2 rows before gluing anything

Don't glue a row down until you have the row above it placed

When pinning the quillies in place temporarily, use different pins than your "finishing pins" so you always know which are glued and which are not



Prepare the tree form

Wrap your wool (or fabric or flannel) around the form and pin

Remove the form and sew along the pinned line, starting at the top of the tree and backstitching at the start



Note: Tree forms are available at most craft stores and come in many sizes. I find a 12" form is a pleasant "medium" size. Larger ones often come in 15" and 18" sizes.

Prepare the tree form

Trim the seam allowance and if using wool, be sure to press the seam allowance open to reduce bulk



Prepare the tree form

Turn the very top rightside out and snug it to the top by pulling hard to get the top to fit as snugly as possible

Once the top fits well, pull the rest down, smoothing as you go



Prepare the tree form

Trim the excess wool around the base to about $\frac{3}{4}$ "

Run a basting stitch and pull hard, then tie off



Prepare the tree form

Cut a circle to cover the gathering

Pin and whipstitch in place



Prepare the base

Have a "slice" of wood ready, a "trunk" and a wire, or skewer

Drill a hole in your trunk the size of your wire or skewer.

Glue the wire/skewer into the trunk and once dry, glue the trunk assembly to the wood base

Once all is dry, lower your finished tree onto the wire/skewer

