

The Happy Christmas Tree Album Cover ~ by Terry White A Free Quilt Pattern in 12 Parts



For the next twelve days, we will present a part of this project. Each part will include the patterns, fun and simple techniques and photo steps that take just a little time. So, have fun with the Twelve Days of Havel's!

This free quilt pattern finishes at approximately 13" square. So, my album cover has finished measurements to fit an album 14" to 16". The size of the border can be measured to fit your album.

The bookmark is a very simple project with lots of pizzazz!

You Will Need:

A photo album at least 14" square in size

The Happy Christmas Tree Album Cover ~ by Terry White

A Free Quilt Pattern in 12 Parts

Fabric:

- Scraps of cotton in Orange (about five different prints for the background, spine label, back label and bookmark), Green (for the presents and bookmark stars), Purple (for the tree trunk), Bright blue (for the tree) ****Please note that you should use any colors of fabric that you choose!**
- 13” square of fabric for the back of cover
- ½ yard of bright blue batik fabric for borders
- ½ yard of lining fabric- I used a polyester taffeta- it is light weight and doesn't add bulk to the finished album cover
- A 10” square of yellow felt
- A 10” square of fancy novelty tulle

Adhesives:

- Two pieces of medium weight fusible interfacing
- A yard of fusible web (one of your choosing and be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions)
- Fabric or Craft glue
- Spray adhesive

Threads:

- Decorative cotton and rayon threads for the decorative stitching on the orange background in Orange, Pink, Warm Yellow and multi-colors and Dual Duty thread for bobbin in warm yellow
- Blue variegated cotton thread for buttonhole stitches on the tree
- Purple variegated cotton thread for buttonhole stitches on the tree trunk
- Purple rayon thread to stitch the garland onto the tree
- Two yards of purple metallic ribbon yarn for the tree garland and the bookmark strings
- Multi-color pearl cotton yarn for the ornament hangers

Embellishments:

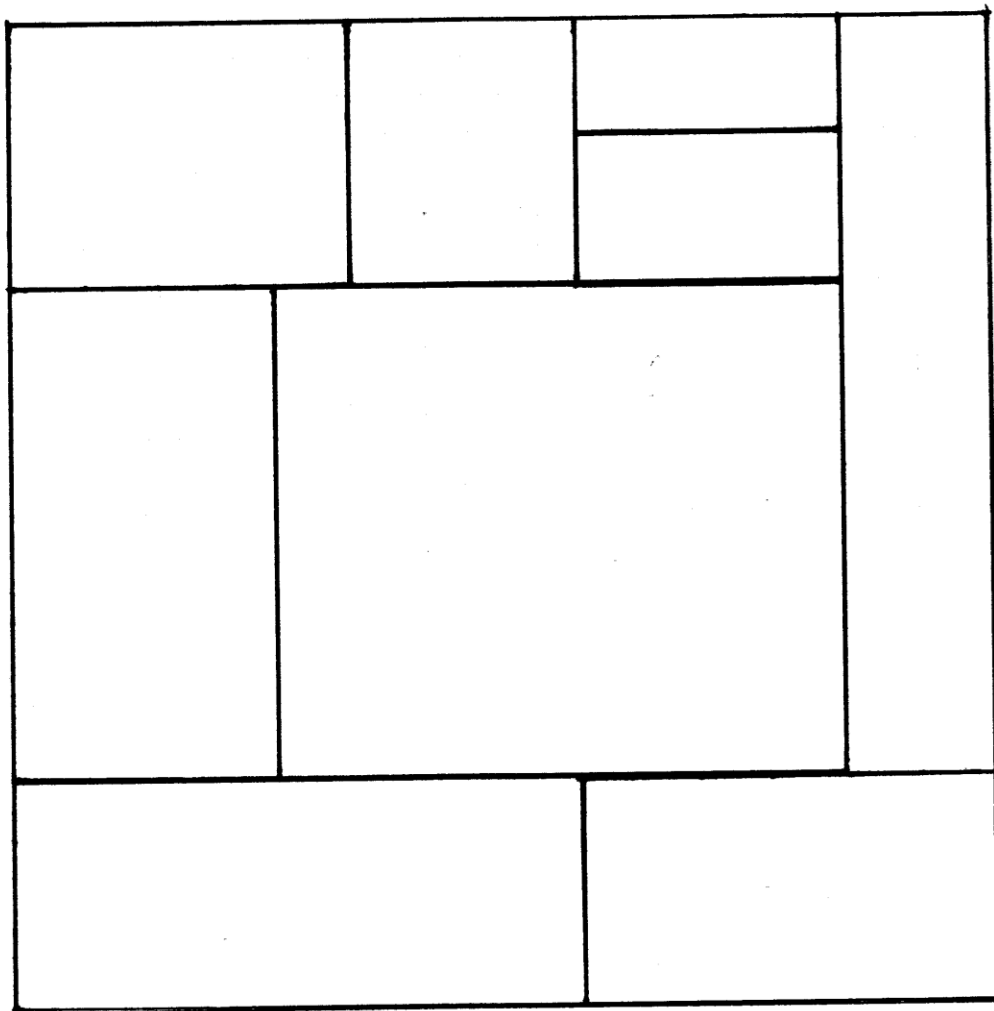
- 12 inches of red rick rack
- Four flower sequins
- Eight red buttons
- Deep pink fine point marker
- Black fine point marker

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On The First Day Of Havel's, My True Love Is The Jumbo Rotary Cutter

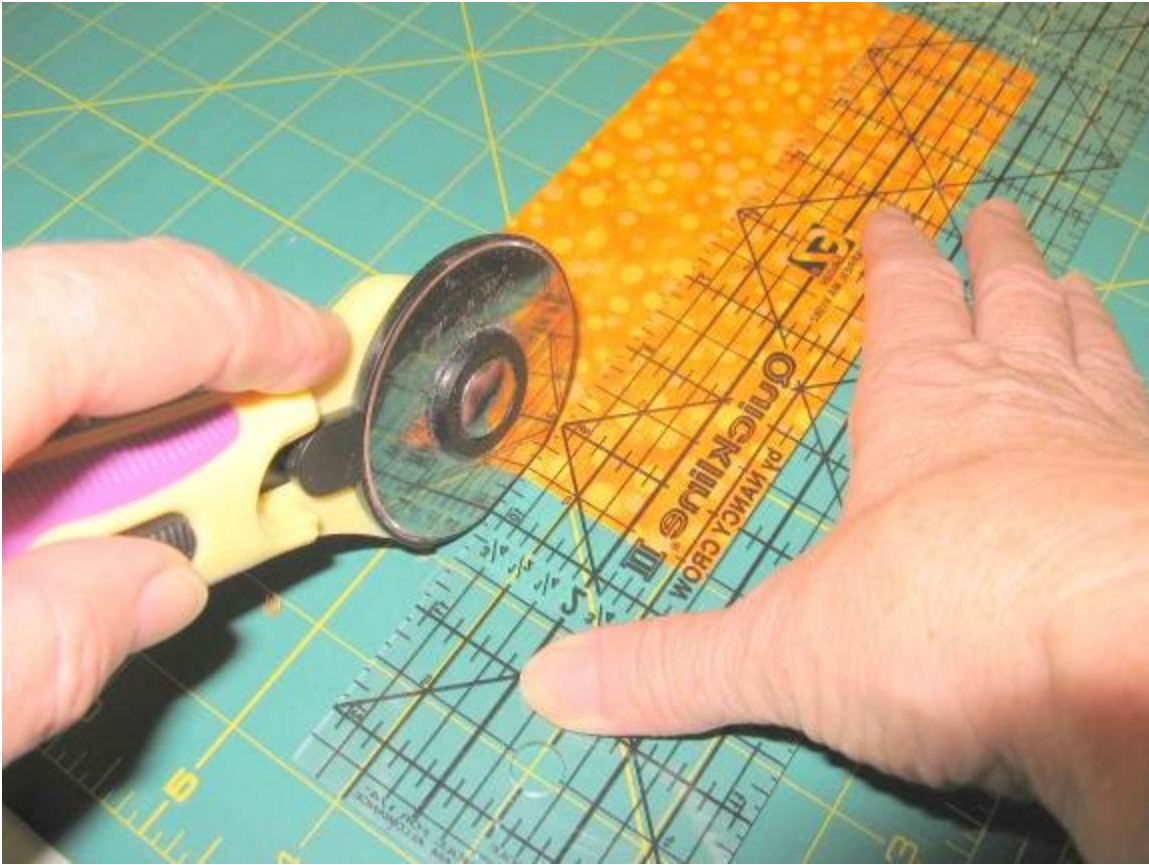
Prepare Background

1. Trace a 13" square onto the two pieces of medium weight fusible interfacing. Set one aside.
2. Place one right side up (fusible side) onto your ironing surface.
3. Enlarge the grid to a 13" square and use it as a guide to measure and cut your pieces. Use it also as a placement guide for your pieces.



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On The First Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The Jumbo Rotary Cutter



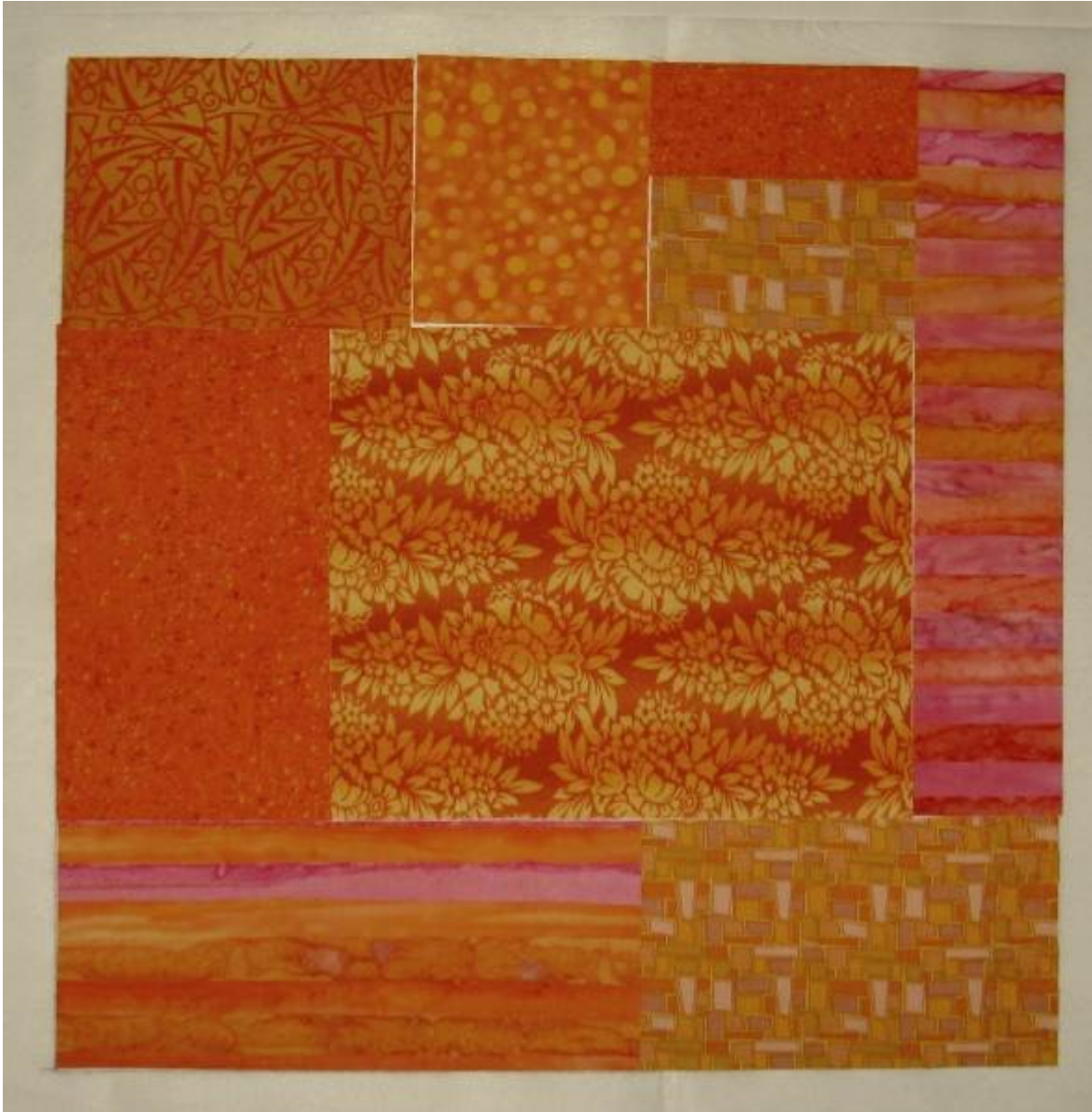
4. Use **Havel's Jumbo Rotary Cutter** to cut out rectangles and squares for the background of our design. I used warm orange fabric scraps.

5. Lay each piece onto the fusible interfacing. The pieces should be placed side by side with no overlap.



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6. Cover the 13" square with your patches. Press with a hot iron.

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On The Second Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The 5 ¼" Ultimate Embroidery Scissors

Decorative Stitching

1.



Choose yellow, orange and pink threads in cotton and rayon for decorative stitches.

2. Use the decorative stitches on your sewing machine to join the patches and to stitch them to the interfacing. The interfacing is a good stabilizer for machine embroidery. The brand doesn't matter, the weight matters.

3. Lower the top tension on your machine so that the decorative stitches are fuller and are raised up on the surface of the fabric. I like to use two threads through the eye of the needle (a rayon and a cotton) to add thickness to the stitch and to create a more interesting colorful stitch. Use a 90/14 machine embroidery needle. Thread your machine as if you are using a twin needle, but thread both threads through the eye of the needle. Your sewing machine manual will tell you how to thread your machine for a twin needle.

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On The Second Day Of Havel's, My True Love Is The 5 ¼" Ultimate Embroidery Scissors

TIP: I like to make samples of my stitches before I work on my project, this way I can test the threads and stitches and adjust the tension on my machine.

4. Use [Havel's bent embroidery scissors](#) to cut the small threads. The bent form is easy to use and avoids cutting your fabric.



5. Stitch over the raw edges of adjoining fabrics. Cover every edge with stitching.

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My True Love Is The 5 ¼" Ultimate Embroidery Scissors



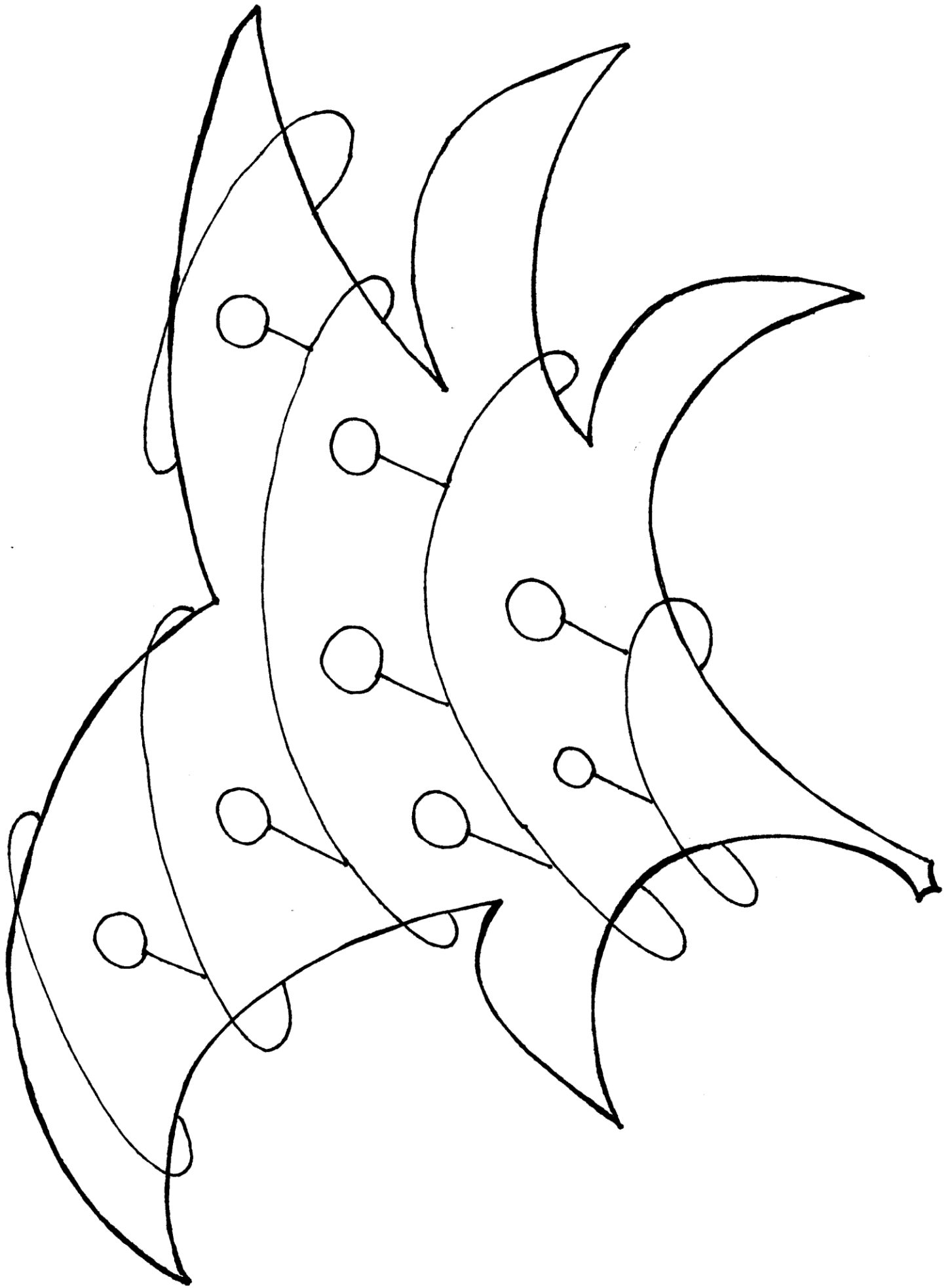
6. Press when finished.

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**On The Third Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The 5 ½" Curved Embroidery Scissors**

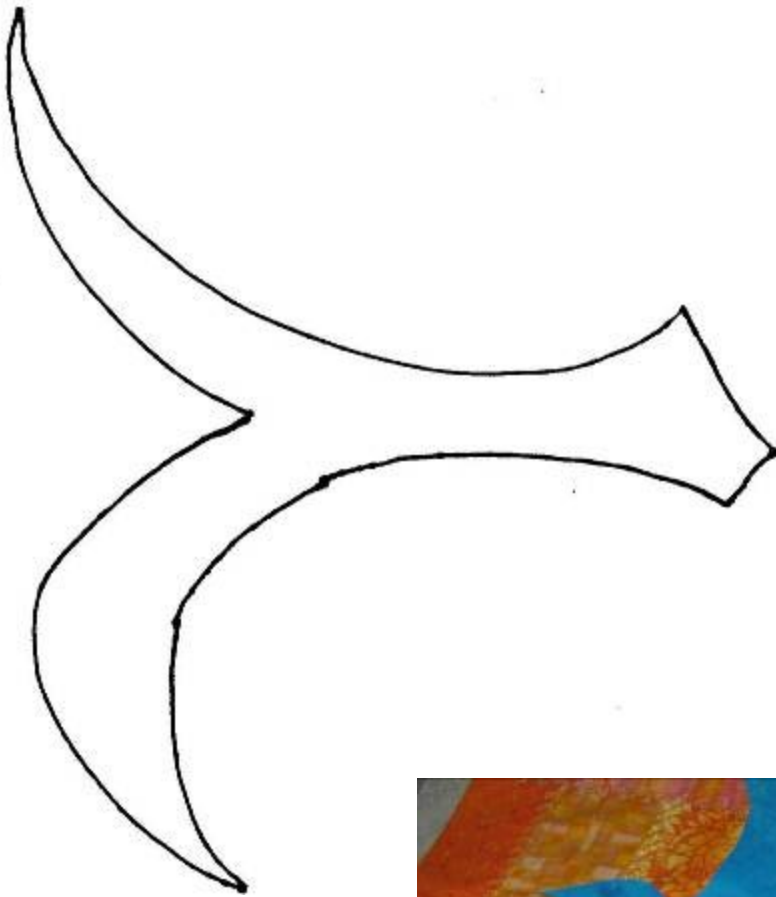
Make the Christmas tree





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On The Third Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The 5 ½" Curved Embroidery Scissors



1. Trace tree and tree trunk shapes onto fusible web. Follow manufacturer's directions to fuse fabrics to make appliqués.

2. Use **Havel's 5 ½" curved embroidery scissors** to cut out the shapes.



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On The Third Day Of Havel's, My True Love Is The 5 ½" Curved Embroidery Scissors

3. Use a small buttonhole stitch to appliqué the shapes onto the background.

Here is a test sample I made so that I was sure the thread and stitch were right.



I also can determine where the fabric should be positioned under the needle so that the buttonhole stitch is right on the edge of the appliqué. Then I can just keep the appliqué lined up with the inside right toe of the presser foot.



My [Havel's 5 ½" curved embroidery scissors](#) are also great for cutting threads on the surface of my quilt top. The curve prevents cutting into the fabric.

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On The Fourth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The 8" Sewing/Quilting Scissors

Make the Christmas Presents

1. Choose fabric scraps that liven up the design. I chose four green prints. Green will show up very well against the orange background.



2. Apply fusible web to the back of the fabric scraps. Take the paper off the fusible, so that it is just the fabric with the iron on web.

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On The Fourth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The 8" Sewing/Quilting Scissors



3. Use **Havel's 8" Sewing/Quilting Scissors** and free-hand cut the present boxes. This will add whimsy to the design because the boxes won't be perfectly square with straight lines.

4. Fuse in place.



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5. Cut sections of ½" red rick rack and glue in place as the package ribbons.

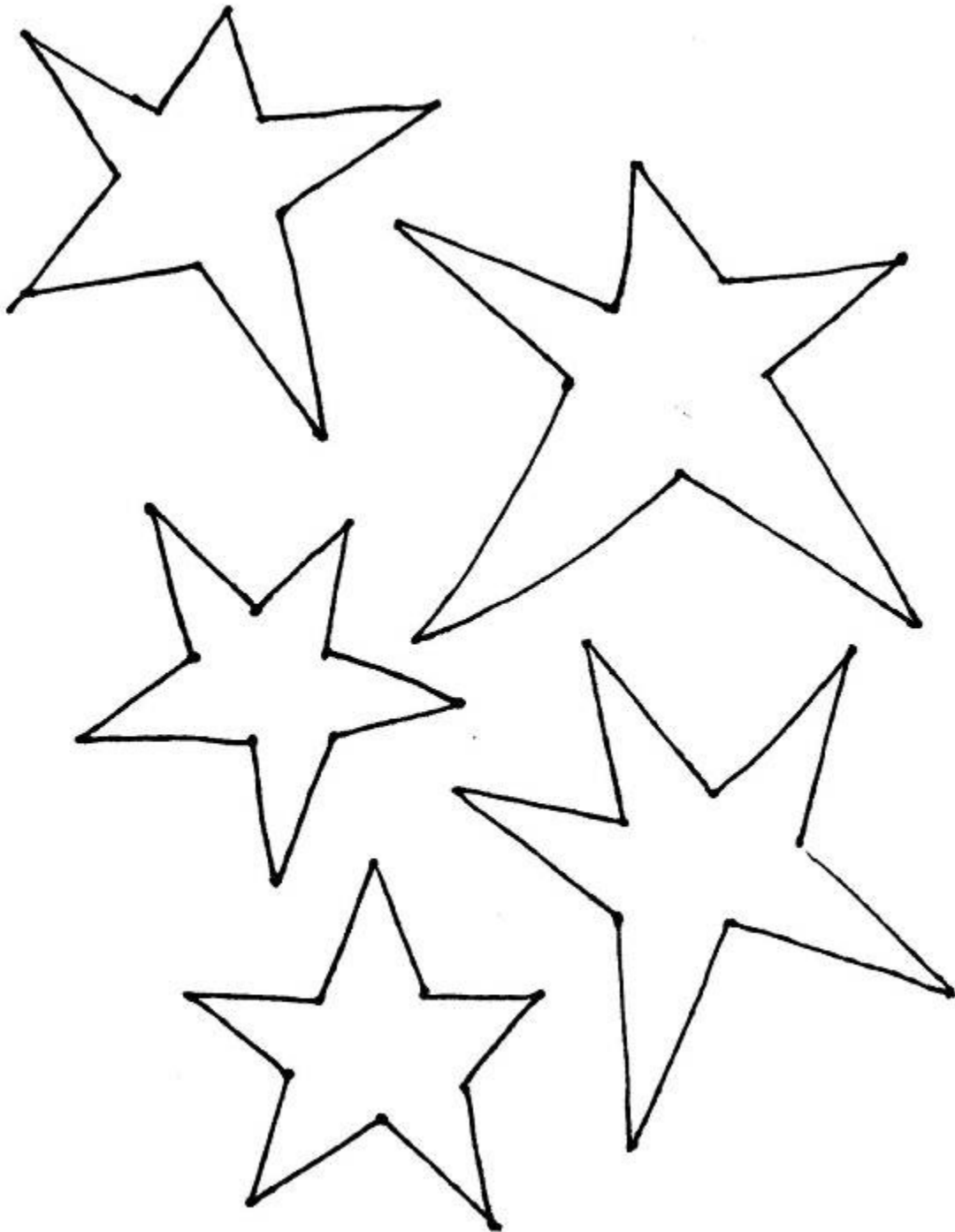
6. Glue a flower sequin to the top of each present.



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**On The Fifth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is 6 ½" Teflon Coated Serrated Scissors**

Make the Stars



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On The Fifth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is 6 ½" Teflon Coated Serrated Scissors

1. Make templates of the stars from cardstock or template plastic. I like to use the plastic from empty milk containers for templates.



Cut flat sections from the carton with **Havel's 6 ½" Teflon Coated Serrated Scissors**. Use a fine point Sharpie to trace the star shapes on the plastic. Cut the stars out of the plastic.



2. Trace star shapes onto yellow felt with an orange marker.

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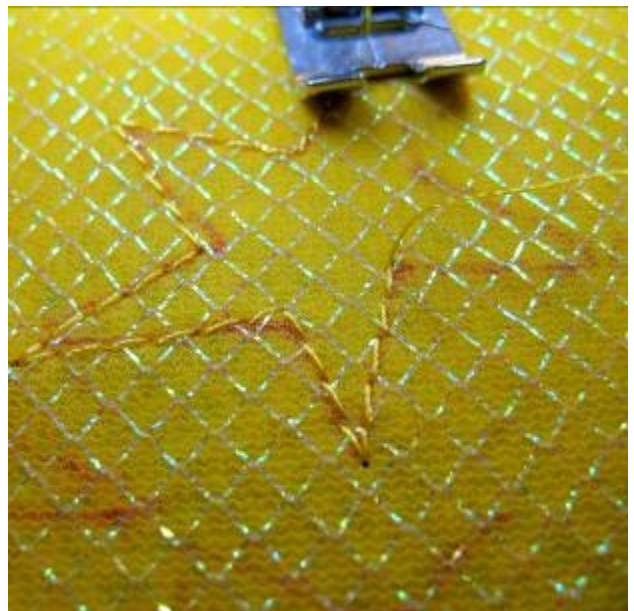
On The Fifth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is 6 ½" Teflon Coated Serrated Scissors

This yellow tulle has a rainbow metallic thread woven in a diamond pattern. This will add extra shiny color to this project.



3. Use a light spray of spray adhesive on the felt and adhere some glittery tulle to the felt. Use newspaper to protect surfaces from the sticky spray.

4. Stitch the tulle to the felt. Use a marigold rayon thread to outline the shape three times. You can use a long straight stitch or you can do free-motion stitching.



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On The Fifth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is 6 ½" Teflon Coated Serrated Scissors

5. Cut out star shapes a scant 1/8" outside of the stitched lines with **Havel's Teflon Scissors**. Teflon scissors are great when working with sticky glues or paints. There are several sizes of these scissors which are great tools for the mixed media artist.



6. Glue the stars in position on the design. Put a book on the stars to press them flat as they dry. Outline the stars with a deep pink fine point marker.

I didn't glue the treetop star onto the design until after putting the border on...because I made it a little too big for the space.

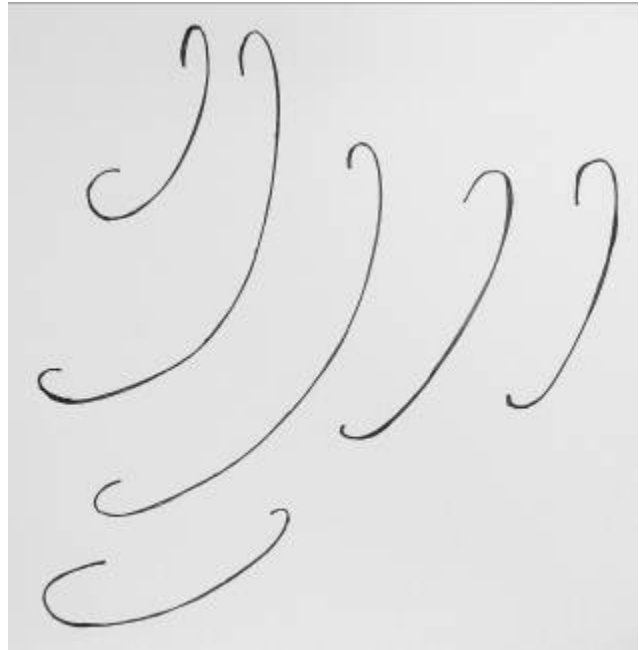
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On The Sixth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is Snip-Eze Blunt Tips

Make the Garland

1. Trace the design of the garland onto the tree.

When I want to trace a line from a pattern, I trace the lines onto a piece of paper.



I cut away along the line I want. Trace the line, and then cut the next outline and so on.

I use **Havel's Teflon Coated Scissors** to cut out the paper pattern.



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On The Sixth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is Snip-Eze Blunt Tips



2. Use **Havel's Snip-Eze** to cut purple metallic ribbon pieces. Each ribbon section should be cut 4" longer than the design.



3. Use the bar-tack on your sewing machine to stitch the garland down. I used a purple rayon thread.

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On The Sixth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is Snip-Eze Blunt Tips



4. Use the closed Snip-Eze to pull up a little ribbon between each bar-tack to make it look loopy.



Use a tapestry needle to secure the ribbons to the back of the work.

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On The Seventh Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is 4 ¾" Dura-Snips On A Neck Strap

Make the Ornaments



1. Use a fine line marker and draw the ornaments' hang wires onto the tree.

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On The Seventh Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is 4 ¾" Dura-Snips On A Neck Strap

2. Position buttons on the tree to see how you want the different sizes and shapes to look. Place them on top of your tree pattern to maintain your idea as you stitch the buttons on.

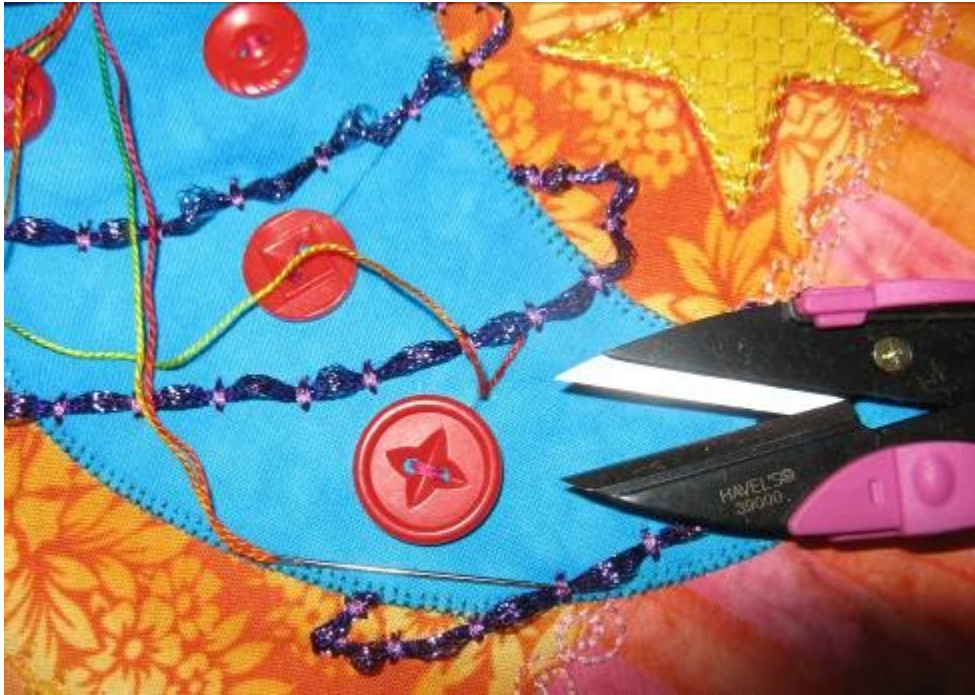


3. Hand stitch each button into place with red thread.

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On The Seventh Day Of Havel's, My True Love Is 4 ¾" Dura-Snips On A Neck Strap

4. Use a multi-colored pearl cotton thread to simply stitch a straight line for each hang wire. I used three or four stitches for each one.



Dura-Snips fit perfectly with your portable hand work tools. You can use them to snip all types of yarn and threads.



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On The Eighth Day Of Havel's, My True Love Is 7" Serrated Sewing/Quilting Scissors

Make the Lining

1. I used polyester taffeta lining fabric for the lining. I traced the correct size of the lining onto the fabric with a fine line marker and then cut it out with serrated scissors.



Havel's serrated scissors are wonderful for cutting slippery fabrics because the teeth bite and hold the fabric as they cut.

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On The Eighth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is 7" Serrated Sewing/Quilting Scissors

2. Cut the fabric for the back of the album 14 inch square.



Back of Album

3. Layout the front and the back of the album onto the lining.

Front of Album



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On The Ninth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The Rotary Wave Blade

Make the Border



1. Choose your Border fabric. The color you choose will frame the project, so it can be subdued or (as I chose) something that would be bright!
2. Measure the size of your borders and add ½” for overlap. The wavy edge will overlap your design area.

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On The Ninth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The Rotary Wave Blade



3. Apply fusible web to your border fabric and tear off the backing paper before cutting. This way you will avoid fraying.



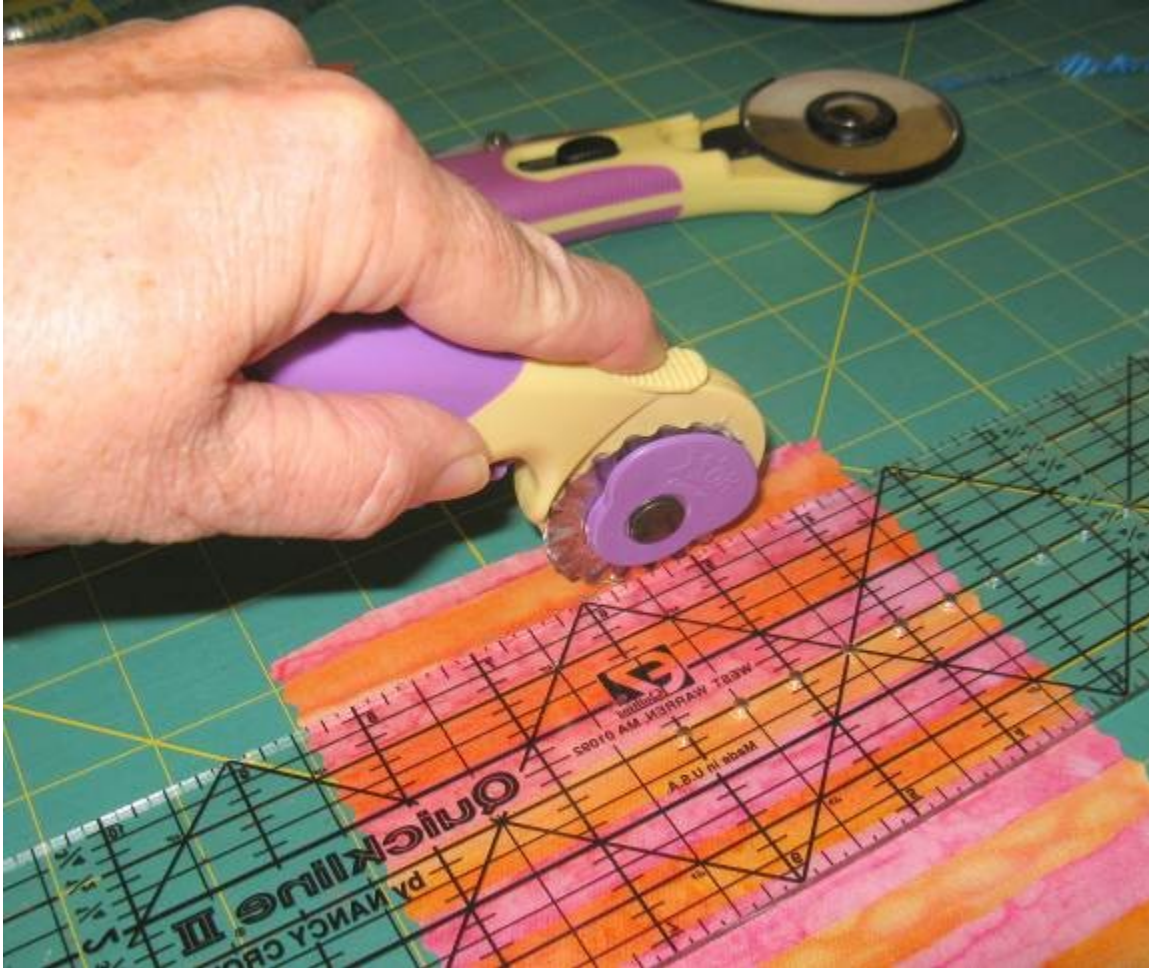
4. You only need the wave design on the inside of each border. Cut the outside edge with **Havel's Jumbo Rotary Cutter** for a straight finish. For the center area, cut both edges out with the **Wave Blade**. Press the borders to the lining and the overlap of the design areas.

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On The Tenth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The Rotary Pinking Blade

Make the Back Label and the Spine Label

1. Apply fusible web to fabric before cutting. This will keep the back label and spine label from fraying.



2. When using this blade, be sure to hold it upright so that both sides of the blade cut through.

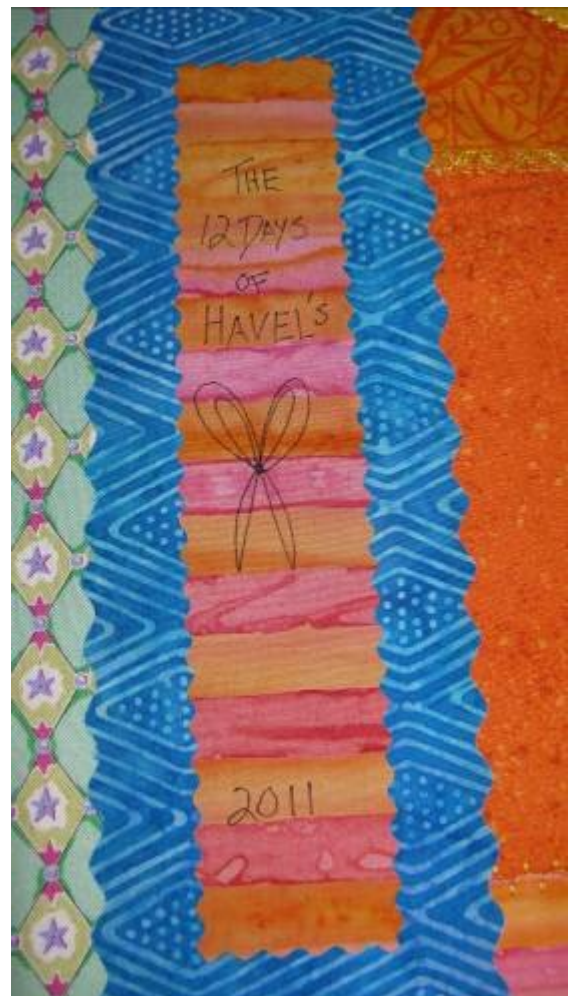
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My True Love Is The Rotary Pinking Blade



I used an archival permanent drawing pen to write on the labels.

Then, positioned and fused them in place.



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On The Eleventh Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The Snip-A-Stitch

Finish the Edge

1. Use the same thread in the top and the bobbin of your sewing machine. Choose a nice edge finish stitch. I use an edge foot because the stitch seems to look so much better with it.



Snip-A-Stitch is a great tool for any kind of work on the sewing machine. You can see the little notch in the blade...this notch gets you very close to the fabric to cut the end threads without cutting the fabric.

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On The Eleventh Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The Snip-A-Stitch

This is what the edge of the album cover looks like.



2. Position your album on the cover and mark where the folds should be. This cover is just like the book covers we made as kids to cover our school books. Press the folds with an iron.



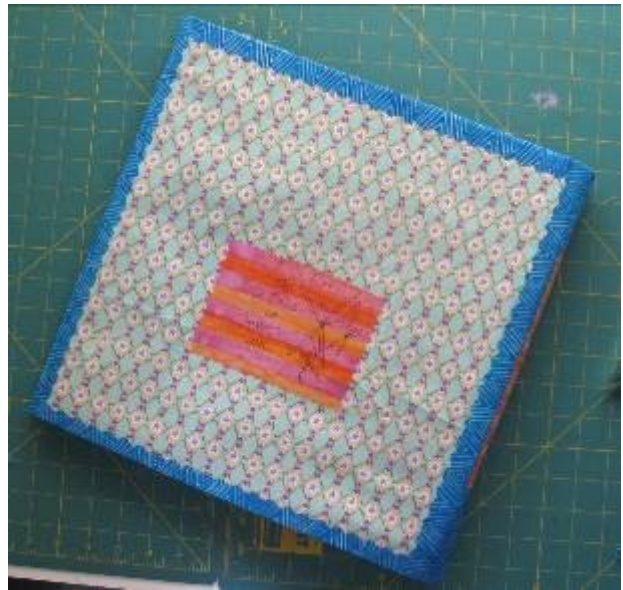
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My True Love Is The Snip-A-Stitch



Here is the album inserted in the fold of the cover.

Here is the back of the album cover.



Here is the side view of the album cover.



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On The Twelfth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The Rotary Skip Blade

Make the Bookmark

1. Start with a piece of fabric with fusible web applied and the paper backing torn off. In this case, I used the leftovers from the labels.



2. Fold the fabric onto itself with fused sides together. This creates a two-sided fabric with lots of body. The double fusing adds strength to the piece.

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On The Twelfth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The Rotary Skip Blade

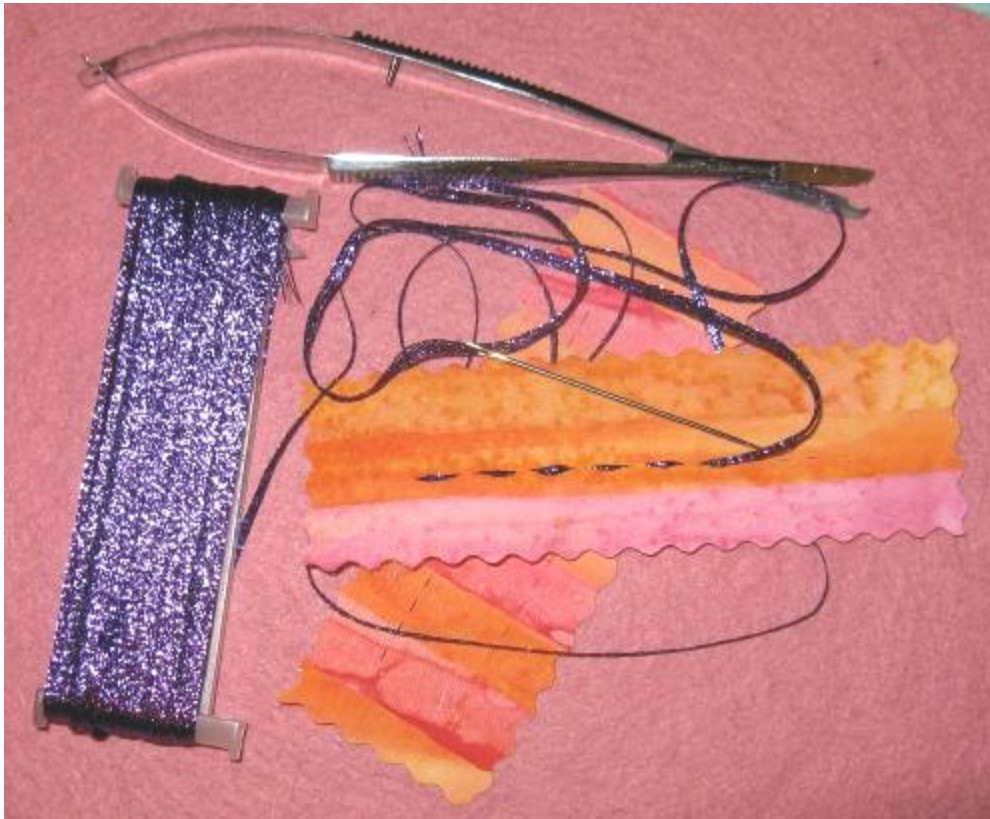
3. After cutting the piece into a rectangle using the **Rotary Pinking Blade**, I used the **Rotary Skip Blade** to perforate two lines down the center of the bookmark.



You can see the perforations when I pull the fabric a little. This won't fray; the double fusing strengthens the fabric. So, this technique has all kinds of applications!

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On The Twelfth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The Rotary Skip Blade



4. Use a big tapestry needle to thread purple metallic ribbon through the perforations.

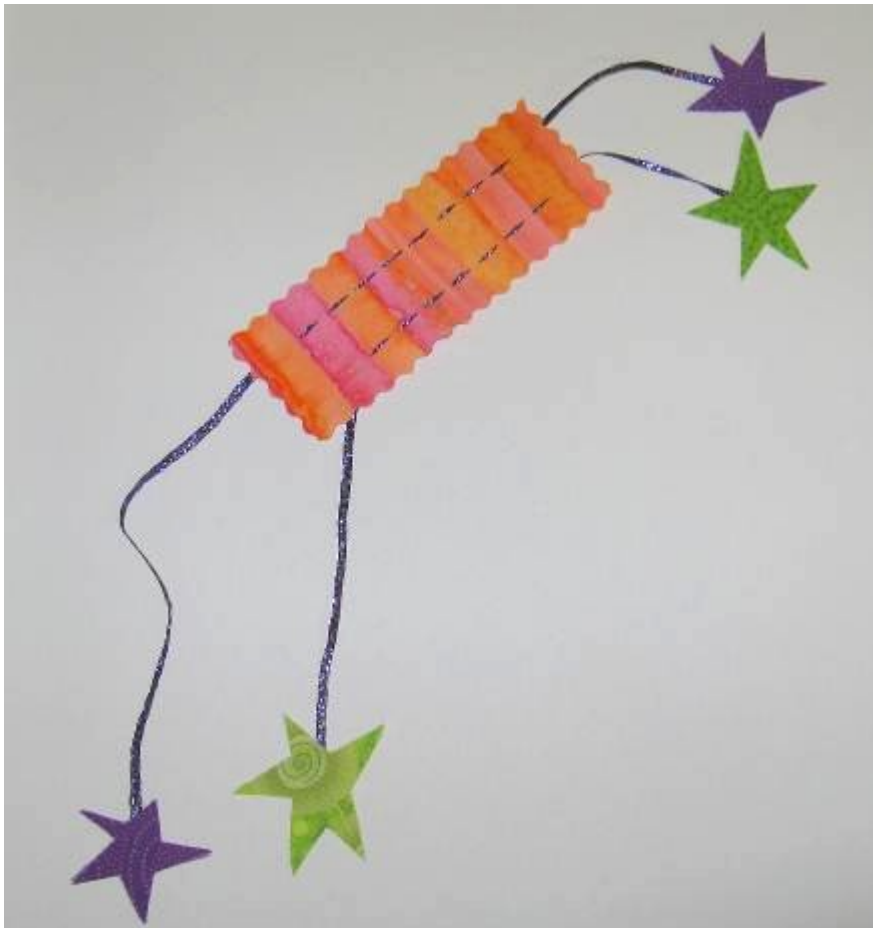


5. Cut two stars from fabric with fusible web on it. Don't fuse them before cutting them out.

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On The Twelfth Day Of Havel's,
My True Love Is The Rotary Skip Blade

6. Place purple ribbon on top of a green star (fusible side up). Place the other star on top, then iron, fusing the purple ribbon between the green star shapes.



7. Do the same for the purple stars.

