

# Ash Leaf Pillow

Skill level: Intermediate

Featuring: Dual Duty XP® Paper Piecing thread

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| <b>Technique:</b>     | Paper Piecing, Appliqué, Quilting, Sewing |
| <b>Designed By:</b>   | Doris Rushing                             |
| <b>Brand:</b>         | Coats                                     |
| <b>Crafting Time:</b> | Weekend                                   |

The veins of the Ash leaf were the inspiration for this clever paper-pieced pillow design. The quilting lines in the negative spaces beautifully echo the leaf pattern.

**Finished Size of Project:** 20" x 20" (50.8 cm x 50.8 cm)

### Supplies\*:

Coats Dual Duty XP® Paper Piecing Thread, white  
Coats Dual duty XP® All-purpose thread, Nugrey

### Cotton Fabrics\*:

- (A) Dark gray 1⅛ yards (1.03 m)
- (B) Light gray ¼ yard (.23 m)
- (C) Chartreuse ⅓ yard (.31 m)
- (D) Tangerine ¼ yard (.23 m)

Lightweight single-sided fusible interfacing, 1 yard (.92 m)  
18" - 20" wide (45.7 cm - 51 cm)

Double-sided fusible fleece, 22½" x 22½" (57.15 cm x 57.15 cm)

Muslin, 22½" x 22½" (57.15 cm x 57.15 cm), for lining  
Pillow form, 20" x 20" (50.8 cm x 50.8 cm)

\*We used Manatee, Nugrey, Chartreuse, and Tango cotton fabrics from FreeSpirit Designer Essential Solids collection.

## Additional Requirements:

Sewing machine  
Foundation paper  
Point turner  
Basic sewing and pressing supplies

## Cutting:

### Fabric A, cut:

- (1) 20½" x 20½" (52.07 cm x 52.07cm), for pillow front
- (2) 13¾" x 20½" (34.93 cm x 52.07 cm), for pillow back

### Fabric B, cut:

- (4) 1½" (3.81 cm) x WOF; subcut from each strip
  - (4) 1½" x 5½" (3.81 cm x 14 cm), for sections 1 and 4
  - (2) 1½" x 4¾" (3.81 cm x 12 cm), for section 7
  - (2) 1½" x 3½" (3.81 cm x 9 cm), for section 10
  - (2) 1½" x 2½" (3.81 cm x 6.35 cm), for section 13

### Fabric C, cut:

- (1) 2½" x WOF; subcut
  - (8) 2½" x 2½" (6.35 cm x 6.35 cm), for section 14
- (4) 1½" (3.81 cm) x WOF; subcut from each strip
  - (4) 1½" x 5½" (3.81 cm x 14 cm), for sections 2 and 5
  - (2) 1½" x 4¾" (3.81 cm x 12 cm), for section 8
  - (2) 1½" x 3½" (3.81 cm x 9 cm), for section 11

### Fabric D, cut:

- (4) 1½" (3.81 cm) x WOF; subcut from each strip
  - (2) 1½" x 5½" (3.81 cm x 14 cm), for section 3
  - (4) 1½" x 4¾" (3.81 cm x 12 cm), for sections 6 and 9
  - (2) 1½" x 2½" (3.81cm x 6.35cm), for section 12

## Instructions:

**Note:** Use a ¼" (.64 cm) seam allowance throughout unless otherwise indicated. When piecing, sew all pieces with right sides together. Watch a paper piecing tutorial on MakeItCoats.com. (link: <http://www.makeitcoats.com/en-us/learn/tutorials/paper-piecing>)

### Paper Pieced Leaf Assembly

Thread machine with Paper Piecing thread.

1. Photocopy (4) leaf patterns, then cut along the center vein. Trim around the curved outside edges of each half-leaf piece, leaving about 1" (2.54 cm) beyond the pattern lines.
2. Place a 5½" (14 cm) long **Fabric B** piece, right side up, on the unmarked side of a half-leaf pattern, so that the piece completely covers section 1. Make sure that there is at least ⅜" - ½" (.95 cm - 1.27 cm) of fabric beyond all lines surrounding the section. If necessary, hold the pattern up to a bright light or window to determine proper fabric placement. Pin.
3. Place a same size **Fabric C** piece right side down on the **Fabric B** piece. Flip the **Fabric C** piece back to make sure that all section 2 lines will be covered, plus at least an additional ⅜" - ½" (.95 cm - 1.27 cm) on all sides for seam allowances.

4. Pin the **Fabric B** and C pieces right sides together, then turn the paper pattern over and stitch on the line between sections 1 and 2.
5. Flip back the **Fabric C** piece, making sure all lines are covered. Trim the seam allowance between sections 1 and 2 to ¼" (.64 cm). Press.
6. Pin a same size **Fabric D** piece right side down on **Fabric C**. Stitch and flip the piece back in the same manner, making sure that it covers section 3. Trim the seam allowance to ¼" (.64 cm).
7. Continue to alternate **Fabrics B, C, and D** in the same order up to section 13.
8. Pin the **Fabric C** 2½" (6.35 cm) square in place to cover section 14, again checking to make sure the section is completely covered and that there is enough seam allowance beyond the stitching lines. Press.
9. Repeat steps 2 through 8 to make another half leaf.
10. Baste around the outside edges of each leaf half on the printed side of the pattern. Trim seam allowances to ⅜" (.95 cm). Trim the vein seam allowances to ¼" (.64 cm).
11. Place the half-leaf pieces right sides together, matching all seams, as well as the top and bottom edges. Sew the pieces together along the center vein, then press open.
12. Remove the paper from all sections except sections 1 and 14.
13. Place the pieced leaf right side down on the fusible side of the lightweight interfacing. Sew around the entire leaf using small stitches.

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14. Pull off the last paper pieces from the leaf. Trim seam allowances to  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (.64 cm).
15. Cut a slit in the center of the interfacing, and then carefully turn the pieced leaf right side out. Smooth the points and seams with a point turner. Stitch close to the edge, around the outside of each leaf. If desired, trim the center part of the interfacing from the back of the leaf.
16. Repeat steps 2 through 15 to make three additional paper-pieced leaves.

## Appliqué and Finishing

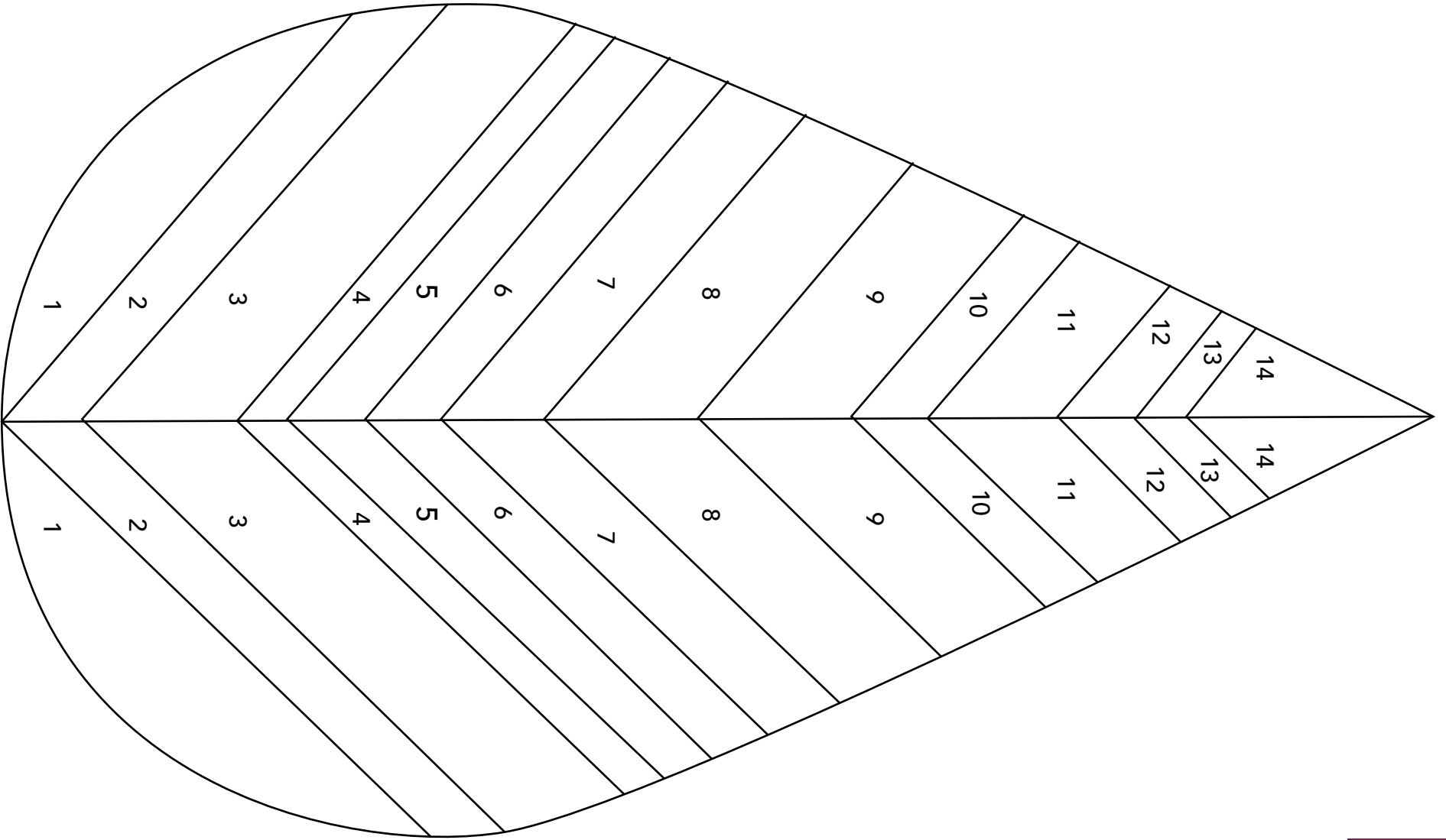
Thread machine with all-purpose thread.

17. Press the **Fabric A**  $20\frac{1}{2}$ " (52.07 cm) background square into quarters. Using the photo as a guide, place each leaf right side up on a quarter section of the square, making sure there is enough space between the appliqués and the edges of the pillow front so that they will not get caught in the seam allowance. Using a warm iron and pressing cloth, fuse the leaf appliqués to the background following manufacturer's directions.
18. Layer the pillow front right side up, fusible fleece, and muslin lining together. Fuse using a pressing cloth and warm iron.
19. Echo quilt around each leaf appliqué or quilt as desired. Trim the batting and muslin even with the pillow front.

20. Turn under the  $20\frac{1}{2}$ " (52.07 cm) edge of each  $13\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $20\frac{1}{2}$ " (34.93 cm x 52.07 cm) pillow back piece  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (.64 cm), then turn under  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (.64 cm) again and press. Stitch along the folded edges. Overlap the two back pieces so that the stitched edges are oriented horizontally and together measure  $20\frac{1}{2}$ " (52.07 cm) square. Pin together.
21. Press. Baste the two back pieces across the outside edges of the overlapped pieces.
22. Place the pillow front and back right sides together with raw edges aligned and stitch  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.27 cm) away from the outside edge all around the perimeter. Trim corners and turn right side out through the overlapped opening. Push out corners and smooth seams, using a point turner.  
**Note:** Pillowcase measures  $\frac{1}{2}$ " shorter than the pillow form for a snug fit.
23. Insert pillow form.







Leaf diagram pattern designed by Cheryl A. Adam