

QUILT ART ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR

by Beth Schillig



Looking for a great gift for a special someone? Show off your creative talents by making this lovely book cover, sized to fit the *AQS Quilt Art 2012 Engagement Calendar*, available at www.AmericanQuilter.com. (AQS members receive a discount on all book purchases.) I used three fat quarters of Cherrywood fabrics, embellished with Shiva Paintstiks. Choose your favorite fabrics and techniques to make this gift unique!

Tools & supplies

- Fabric – 1 piece 9½" x 21" for the cover, 1 piece 12" x 22½" for the lining, 1 piece 6½" x 13" for the pocket, 2 pieces 10" x 14" for the flaps
- Heavyweight, double-sided, fusible

interfacing (such as Peltex II by Pellon or Fast to Fuse Heavyweight) – 2 pieces 7½" x 9½" for the cover front and back, 1 piece 5" x 9½" for the front cover flap

- Freezer paper
- X-acto knife or paper scissors
- Shiva Artist's Paintstiks
- Stencil brushes
- Glue stick (optional)
- *Quilt Art 2012 Engagement Calendar*, published by AQS
- 1" piece of Velcro
- Decorative threads for quilting and edge finishes

- Ribbon (optional) – 14" piece for bookmark

Getting started

Trace the leaf stencil (page 4) onto the dull side of freezer paper. Cut out the shapes using an X-acto knife or paper scissors. Make 3. Iron these stencils, shiny-side down, on the right side of the 9½" x 21" cover fabric (fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Place freezer-paper stencils

Using the Paintstiks and stencil brushes, color in the leaf shapes. Allow to dry a few days, then heat set the paint. *Tip: You can also add a painted motif to the pocket.*

Lay the painted cover right-side down on the ironing board. Following fig. 2, position the 5" x 9½" interfacing at the right end of the fabric. Place a 7½" x 9½" piece at the other end. Center the remaining piece between these two. The top and bottom raw edges should all be even. You will have about ½" space between the pieces. This allows an easy fold over the calendar. If desired, you can hold the interfacing in place by lightly glue sticking it to the fabric.



Fig. 2. Position fusible interfacing

Preparing the cover

Center the 12" x 22½" lining fabric right-side up over the interfacing. It is cut a little larger on all

sides to give you something to hold onto while doing the freehand quilting of the piece. It will be trimmed later.

With a hot iron, fuse the layers together. Press from both sides of the piece.

Machine quilt as desired. I used Superior Rainbows thread to freehand echo quilt around the leaf design. Feel free to use a standard sewing foot and straight lines or whatever motifs you like.

Trim all edges even with the cover front. Cut the right flap edge into an interesting curve or angle as I have done. Figure 3 shows the trimmed cover with the inside facing up. Position the soft side of the Velcro on the wrong side of the cut front flap, at least ½" away from the raw edges. Stitch. Fold the cover over to find the correct position for the hook on the right side of the cover. Stitch.

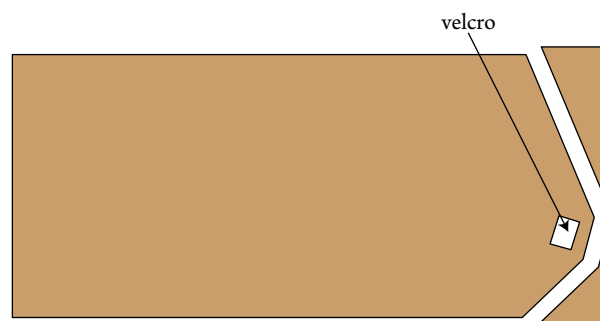


Fig. 3. Trim right edge of cover and add Velcro

Adding pocket and flaps

Fold the 6½" x 13" pocket in half, right-sides together, to form a square. Using a ¼" seam, sew the 2 edges adjacent to the fold. Turn right-side out and press. Leave the remaining bottom edge of the pocket open.

Fold a 10" x 14" flap piece in half, wrong-sides together, to form a 7" x 10" rectangle. Press. Following figure 4, lay the flap with the folded edge on the right. Place the pocket on the flap, right-side up, ½" from the flap fold and with raw edges aligned along the bottom. Pin. Topstitch close to the side edges.

Following figure 5, position the pocket flap at the left of the inside of the cover. The flap is a little larger than the cover for ease of construction. It



Fig. 4. Topstitch pocket to flap

will be trimmed later. From the right side of the cover, stitch through all layers $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the raw edges.

Fold the remaining 14" x 10" flap in half, right sides together, to form a 7" x 10" rectangle. Stitch along the long (10") side $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the raw edge. Turn right-side out. Press.

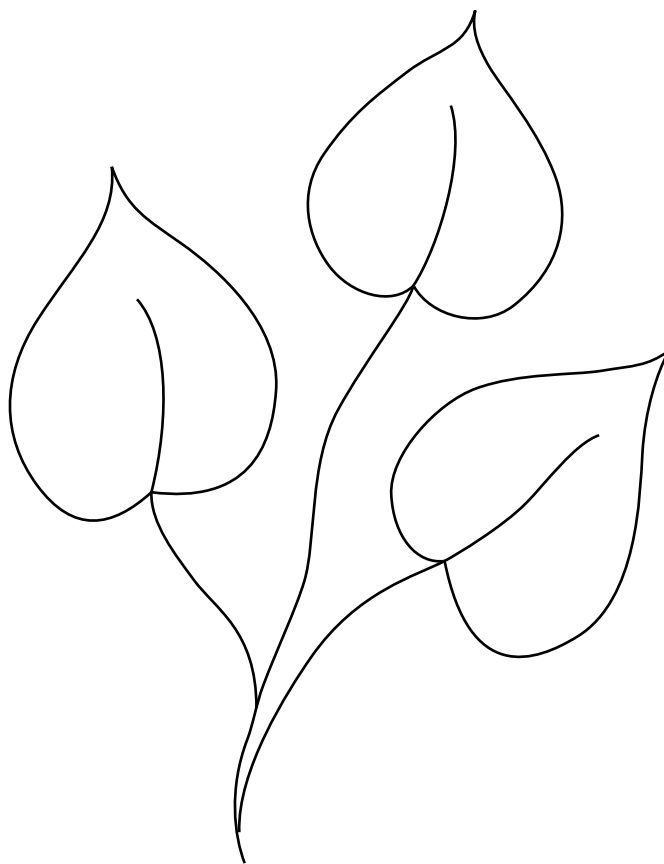
Following figure 5, place the flap on the inside of the cover so the folded edge lies on the right edge of the center piece of interfacing in the cover. The flap raw edges will hang over the top and bottom edges of the cover. Topstitch along the flap fold through all layers. To secure the flap at the top and bottom, turn the cover over and stitch $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the cover edge.



Fig. 5. Position flaps & topstitch all around

Finishing

Trim all excess fabric around the cover's outer edge even with the front cover piece. *Tip: This must be a very clean, neat, and accurate trim! You*



cannot get a good finished edge if there are ravel, loose threads, or uneven edges.

Finish the raw edges with a medium-width satin stitch. I prefer to use an open-toe embroidery/appliqué foot and allow one leg of the zigzag to go completely off the edge. Stitch around the edges twice. On the second pass use a slightly wider zigzag. *Tip: For a bookmark, add a 14" piece of ribbon at the upper right corner of the left inside panel as you are doing the final round of satin stitching.*

