

The Three Witches

A 24" x 24" mini quilt and 16" pillow
by Shelly Pagliai



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by Shelly Pagliai
of Prairie Moon Quilts

Riley Blake has a new Halloween-themed fabric line out, and it is the cutest Halloween line ever! It's called "Witch Hazel", by October Afternoon, and the prints are all so fun -- there are spider webs, a panel with Halloween quotes and poems, stripes, polka dots, pumpkins . . . and the witch -- Witch Hazel is just the cutest little witch, you can't help but love her!

This time I've designed a mini quilt using this collection. The mini quilt has embroidery in the borders, and a center embroidered panel. But . . . I'm also including a pillow project as well, because this way, you can mix and match the elements according to what you'd like to make.

For example, if you don't want to do the embroidery, you can simply use one of the panels from the fabric line in place of it. Or, if you'd rather make a pillow instead of a mini quilt, you can substitute your embroidery piece into the pillow in place of the panel. You can also use the pieced block pattern, and just make an entire pieced quilt! I like having options, don't you?

Please read through all the instructions before beginning.

Here's a list of the materials you'll need to make the mini quilt:

Off-white background: 1/2 yard

Assorted coordinating Witch Hazel prints, the more variety, the better.

A fat eighth packet or a fat quarter packet will give you more than enough fabric.

I used several different pieces from the line, trying to use a little from each one.

It's also nice if you can fussy cut motifs from these cute prints. I've done this in some of the strips and squares and in the centers of the pieced blocks.

Green polka dot: 1/3 yard for binding

Witch Hazel print on gray background: 1 yard for backing

30" square of batting of your choice

2 yards of 3/4" black rickrack

If you like to put stabilizer behind your embroidery, you'll also need that. I recommend Pellon Shape Flex. You'll need 1 yard.

Embroidery floss

I used the following DMC colors to coordinate with the Witch Hazel fabrics:

310 Black

502 Green

648 Gray

721 Orange

722 Orange

725 Yellow

838 Brown

844 Gray

913 Green

966 Green

You should only need one skein of each color.

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Mini quilt by Shelly Pagliai



EMBROIDERY INSTRUCTIONS

You'll need to complete the embroidery before you can assemble the quilt top, and since that is the most time-consuming part, we'll cover that first.

From your background fabric, cut a piece 18" x 20" for the witches panel, and cut 2 pieces 5" x 20" for the words. These will be trimmed down once the embroidery is complete.

The embroidery patterns are found beginning on page 21. Print them out, and tape them together on the dotted lines. Trace the embroidery designs onto your background fabric, centering them on the fabric. Keep in mind that if you use a marker that irons out, you'll want to add your stabilizer before you trace. I use a permanent pigma pen with a very fine line for my tracing.

Complete the embroidery however you wish.

I used the following stitches in mine:

Backstitch	Outline stitch
Straight stitch	French Knot
Satin Stitch	

For help with embroidery stitches, I recommend the following website:
<http://www.embroidery.rocksea.org/>

I used one or two strands of floss, depending on how fine a line I wanted to make. For instance, I completed the witch's eyes and teeth with 1 strand, and almost everything else is done with 2 strands. All the lettering was done with backstitch.

In addition, I colored the letters in with a black crayon, then heat set the crayon with a hot iron before stitching. I think this makes them show up a bit better. I also lightly shaded some areas of the witch panel with a gray crayon, but I'm not sure you can tell from the picture. This is completely optional.

I've included some close-up shots of the embroidery. I hope you can tell from the pictures which colors and stitches I've used in which positions. The pictures can be found beginning on page 18.

When you are finished with the embroidery, press all the pieces from the back side. Trim the center witch panel to 12 1/2" wide x 14 1/2" tall, making sure to keep the design centered when you trim.

Trim the "By the pricking . . ." section to 3 1/2" x 13 1/2".
Trim the "Something wicked . . ." section to 3 1/2" x 14 1/2".
Set these aside while you make the blocks for the quilt.

PIECED BLOCK INSTRUCTIONS

I always suggest that you cut and piece one block by itself at first. That way you can tell if everything is going to work out all right before cutting up all your fabric. Also, in this quilt, I've made every block different, using from all the various fabrics, so cutting one at a time will help you make decisions on which fabrics you'd like to use in each block.

So . . . for ONE BLOCK, you'll need to cut as follows:

For the center square, fussy cut:

One square 2 1/2"

From a print fabric, cut:

Four rectangles 1 1/2" x 2 1/2"

From another print fabric, cut:

Eight squares 1 1/2"

From a third print fabric, cut:

Four rectangles 1 1/2" x 4 1/2"

Now for the sewing . . .

Sew a small rectangle to two opposite sides of the fussy cut center square, as shown. Press seams toward the center square.



Sew a square to each end of the 2 remaining small rectangles. Press seams toward the squares.



Add these two units to the top and bottom of the center square. Press seams to one side, or open, if you prefer.



Sew a large rectangle to two opposite sides of the center unit. Press seams toward the rectangles.



Sew a square to each end of the 2 remaining large rectangles. Press seams toward the rectangles.



Add these two units to the top and bottom to complete the block. Press seams to one side, or open, if you prefer. The block should measure 6 1/2" square. Now you need to make 5 more blocks!



QUILT ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

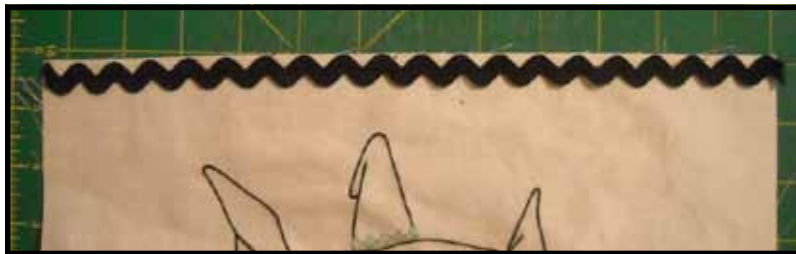
We'll start in the center and work our way out. You'll need to choose a print and cut, for the top of the center panel, a strip 2 1/2" x 12 1/2". I fussy cut mine from one of the prints.



From a different print, cut another strip the same size to go on the bottom of the center panel.

Cut 2 lengths of rickrack 12 1/2".

Lay a piece of rickrack on the right side of the top edge of the embroidery panel.



Lay the strip right side down on top of the rickrack, aligning the raw edges, and pin in place. Stitch through all the layers, and press the strip open, letting the rickrack frame the center panel as shown.



Repeat with the bottom strip and the other piece of rickrack.



Arrange your blocks on the sides of the center panel, three on each side, in an arrangement that you like. Join the three blocks into a vertical strip, as shown at right. Press seams however you wish. Repeat for both sets of blocks.



Cut 2 more pieces of rickrack 18 1/2" in length.

Line a piece of rickrack up along the side edge of the center panel.



Lay the section of 3 blocks on top of the rickrack, right side down, and pin in place. Stitch through all the layers as before, and press the blocks back and out of the way, letting the rickrack frame the center panel.

Repeat with the other piece of rickrack and the other strip of 3 blocks on the other side.

Make sure while you're sewing that you have everything right side up and turned correctly, if you are using directional motifs.



For the top of the quilt, you will need your embroidered piece that says “By the pricking of my thumbs”. You will also need to cut the following pieces from various prints, fussy cutting if you wish, to showcase motifs from your fabrics.

3 squares 3 1/2"

1 rectangle 2 1/2" x 3 1/2"

Sew these together into a strip, in any order you like.



Sew this strip to the right-hand end of the embroidered strip.
Add this strip to the top of the quilt.

For the bottom of the quilt, you'll need the embroidered piece that says “Something wicked this way comes.” You'll also need to cut the following pieces from various prints, as before.

2 squares 3 1/2"

1 rectangle 4 1/2" x 3 1/2"

Sew these together into a strip, in any order you like.



Sew this strip to the left-hand end of the embroidered strip. Add this strip to the bottom of the quilt. And with that, you're all done with the quilt top.

Quilt your mini quilt as you wish, then use the green polka dot strips to bind it.

Pillow Instructions

Here's the list of materials you'll need for a pillow:

One orange panel, cut 12 1/2" x 12 1/2"

One black panel, cut 12 1/2" x 12 1/2"

1/2 yard of black star print

1/2 yard of orange star print

1/4 yard of green and black polka dot print

14" black zipper

16" pillow form

From the black and orange star prints, cut from each:

2 strips 2 1/2" x 12 1/2"

2 strips 2 1/2" x 16 1/2"

3 strips 2 1/2" x width of fabric (~40")

From the orange star print, cut one extra strip 2 1/2" x 12 1/2"

From the green/black polka dot print, cut:

3 strips 2 1/2" x width of fabric

It's time to sew . . .

To make the pillow front, sew a black 12 1/2" strip to each side of the orange panel. Press seams toward the strips.



Sew the 16 1/2" strips to the top and bottom of the panel. Press seams toward the strips. Make sure this now measures 16 1/2" square.



To make the pillow back, sew an orange 12 1/2" strip to each side of the black panel, as you did for the front panel. Press seams toward the strips.

Sew a 16 1/2" strip to the top of the panel, but don't sew anything to the bottom just yet.



We'll fix up a zipper opening for the bottom of the back, so that's next . . . read on.

On one of the orange 16 1/2" strips press under 3/8".
On the other one, press under 1", as shown.



On the strip with the 3/8" pressed under, lay the zipper face down, lining up the edge of the zipper with the raw edge of the strip, as shown.



Using a zipper foot on your machine, if you have one, stitch the zipper to the strip. I usually unzip the zipper a little, sew part of it, then zip the zipper back up to continue. This keeps the bulk of the zipper pull out of the way while you're stitching. Stich all the way to the ends of the strip on both ends.



Next, line the strips up as shown, with the top end of the zipper to the left and the other strip turned as pictured.



Align the unstitched edge of the zipper along the raw edge of the unsewn strip, pin in place, and stitch as you did the other side. Line up the ends of the strips and stitch across them to hold them in place. Trim them to be even, if necessary.



Now measure this strip containing the zipper. It should measure 2 1/2" wide. If it is wider than that, trim it down to measure 2 1/2" wide.

Now sew this strip to the bottom edge of the center panel, with the top end of the zipper pointing left. Press the seam to one side. This back panel should now measure 16 1/2" square, just like the front.

Now it's time to make a ruffle.

Remove the selvages from all the width-of-fabric strips (orange, black, and green).

Join the three orange strips together to make one longer strip. Join them as you would for quilt binding, at an angle. Line them up as shown . . .



Stitch across the angle . . .



Trim 1/4" outside the stitched line. Press the seams open. Repeat for the 3 black strips, and again for the 3 green strips.



Now sew these 3 longer strips together along the long edges, as shown, putting the green strip in the middle. Press the seams either direction.



Trim the ends even.

Join the ends together to form a big loop, making sure you don't have the strip twisted when you do this. Press the seam open.



Now fold this looped strip in half, wrong sides together, and press, as shown.



You can use a ruffler attachment on your machine if you have one, but if not, here's how to make the gathers in the ruffle . . .

Divide the length of the ruffle strip into 4 equal sections and mark each section with a pin or by pressing a tiny crease in the raw edges.

Using a needle with strong thread, sew a running stitch by hand along the raw edges of the folded strip, through both layers, in between each set of marks, doing only one section at a time. Tie knots at the ends of each section.

You can see my knots where I've stopped and started each section of running stitch here. These will be your pull strings for making the gathers.



Lay your pillow front out flat on your work surface, and position the ends of each of the sections in the center of each side of the pillow.

You want the orange side of the ruffle to be against the black frame, so make sure you have the ruffle strip turned correctly. This will make the black side be against the orange frame on the back side.

Working with one section at a time, use the pull strings to gather the ruffle to fit each section. You'll want extra gathers directly in the corners to keep the ruffle from buckling when the pillow is done. Otherwise, distribute the gathers evenly along the sides. Pin the ruffle in place as you go. Pin the ruffle in the corners up and out of the way for now.



Once you have the ruffle all gathered and pinned in place, sew the ruffle to the pillow front all the way around the edge with a 1/4" seam. Remove the pins.



Keep the ruffles in the corners pinned up and out of the way to keep them from getting caught when you sew the pillow back panel on.

Now take the pillow back piece, open the zipper up halfway, and place it right side down on the pillow front. Pin it in position all the way around, lining up the raw edges. Make sure you have them turned correctly, and not upside down to each other!



Stitch through all the layers, gently rounding the corners as you stitch, as shown here. Trim the rounded corners.



Turn the pillow right side out through the zipper opening and remove the pins from the corners of the ruffle. Open the zipper all the way, and insert the pillow form. Zip the zipper up and fluff your finished pillow!



I hope you've enjoyed these tutorials, and thanks so much for visiting me at Riley Blake's Cutting Corners College.

For more information about the Three Witches, the inspiration behind the project, and an additional related quilt pattern featuring the Three Witches, please visit my web site and search for "Three Witches".

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On the next 3 pages are a few pictures of the embroidery panel, in which I'm hoping you can tell what stitches I used in which positions, and what colors I used. The traceable patterns begin on page 20.



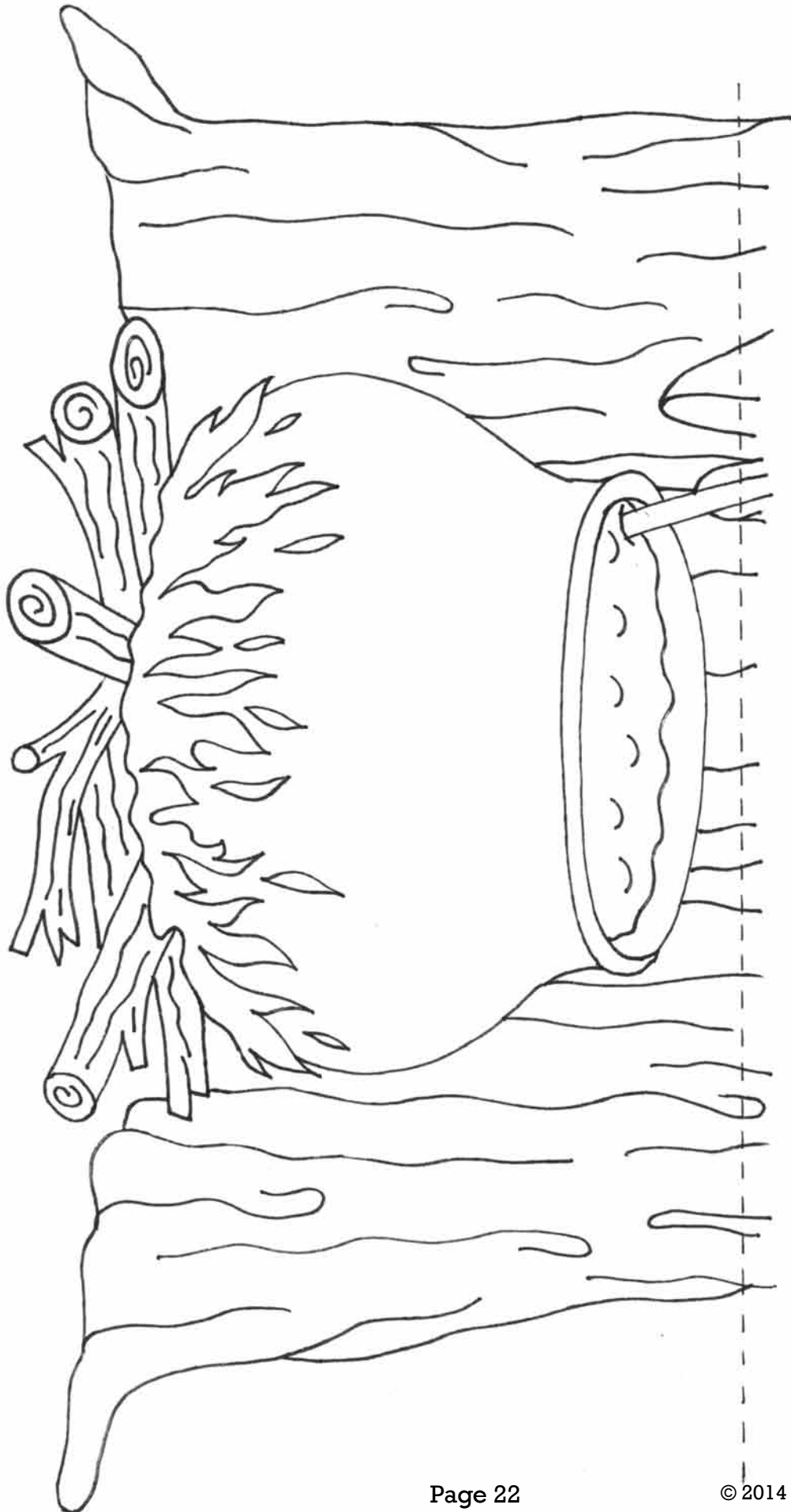


By the pricking of my thumbs,



Something wicked this way comes.





By the pricking

of my thumbs,

Use this letter as a placement
guide to help line up the next
row of letters

Something wicked



Use this partial letter as a placement guide to help line up the next row of letters

This way comes.