

Spiderwebs for Halloween Table Runner

By Sarah Ann Smith

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Supplies:

Fabric:

- 1/3 yard solid (I used a cotton-linen green) for spiderweb squares
- 5/8 yard Halloween print (I used a gray directional print—you may wish to buy 3/4+ yard if you want the direction of the print to go the same way in all the setting triangles)
- 1/2 yard dark print for sashing and binding (single fold cut on straight grain)
- Backing 15 1/2 x 44 inches. You can add leftover fabric from the top to the ends of a piece of fabric cut 15 1/2" by width of fabric to make it long enough rather than buying 1 1/4 yards of fabric and having a ton of leftover (unless you want the leftover!)

Alert: If you find you need to trim and square up often, add 1/8 to 1/4 yard to the above requirements for each fabric. There is **very** little extra fabric using the yardage given.

Notions:

- Stabilizer: a mid-weight embroidery stabilizer works best, but you can use one or two layers of freezer paper instead
- Marking tool to transfer the spiderweb design to your green squares. I prefer TransDoodle, a transfer paper (think of old-fashioned dressmakers paper but not waxy and better) to transfer designs.
- Ruler with 45 degree angle or large square ruler
- Thread for piecing to match / blend with fabrics
- Quilting thread

I used a charcoal 40-wt trilobal polyester (shiny) from Superior Threads for the spiderwebs.

For quilting, I used a pearl grey for quilting the setting squares, Superior Threads Glitter in Pearl (a holographic thread) for quilting the spiderwebs, and a soft, pale grey Bottom Line (60-wt, fine polyester thread) for the background quilting in the spiderweb, and smoke colored "clear" thread in the ditch quilting around the sashing. I used Superior Threads Bottom Line thread in the bobbin for all decorative stitching and quilting.

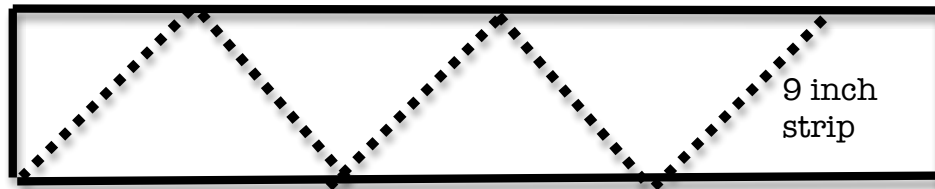
Cutting:

- Cut 3 10-inch squares of green / solid fabric.
- Cut 12 strips of dark accent/sashing fabric 1" by 12".
- Cut 9" strips of Halloween print to cut the setting triangles. See the cutting diagram (next page).

Triangles are cut so that the straight of grain will be on the outside of the runner. That means the two short sides of the triangles are on the bias. Handle them carefully so they do not stretch during construction. You may wish to starch your fabric to help minimize stretching.

If your fabric does not have a directional print, you can get four large side triangles and two corner triangles from one 8" strip. If you have a directional print, as I did with trees on my fabric, I got two large and one small corner triangle from each 8 inch strip, with leftovers for another project.

Using the markings on your ruler cut a small triangle from the corner; this is the size you will use in the corners of the table runner. Using a large square ruler (15 inches) or your 6x24" ruler, cut the two sides of each large triangle. Make sure to keep the corner 90 degrees. The dashed lines measure approximately 10 1/2 inches.



- Cut 3 green skinny strips (accent inside binding) 3/4" wide by width of fabric for accent next to binding.
- Reserve remaining dark fabric for cutting your binding fabric. For 3/8" wide binding, you will want to cut three or four strips 2" wide (or a bit wider depending on the thickness of your quilt sandwich) by width of fabric.

Construction:

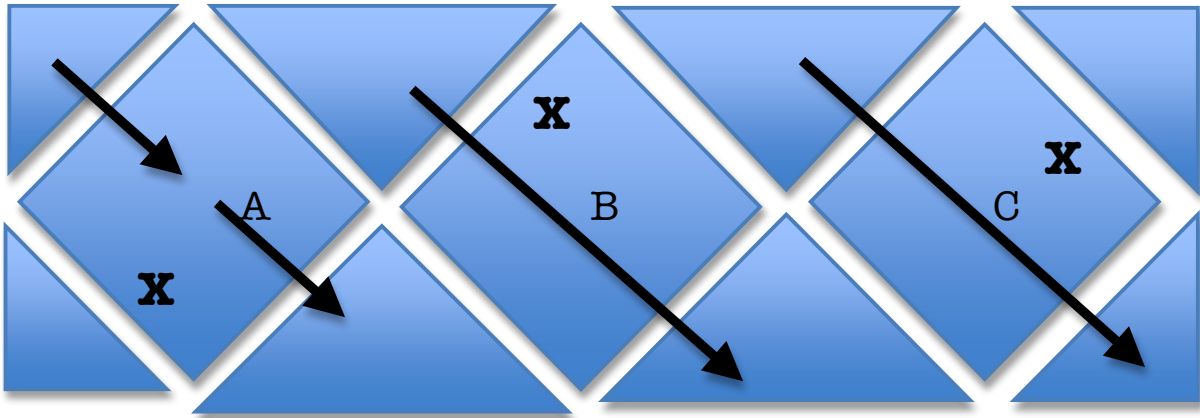
Sew the Spiderwebs:

- Cut 3 10-inch-squares green; after stitching the spiderwebs, these will be trimmed to 9 1/4 inches.
- Transfer the spiderweb design to your solid (green) squares using your preferred method (light box, transfer paper, etc.)
- Place stabilizer under your blocks and sew along the spiderweb lines using a triple-straight stitch, a basic utility stitch found on almost all sewing machines. I used a charcoal thread. Because I did not want to backtrack and make some portions of the design visually heavier, I figured out a way to minimize starts and stops. Refer to the stitching diagram to see the order I used to sew the web. You can use the built-in scissors on your machine to cut the thread tails.

- When you have completed the sewing, remove the tear-away stabilizer. Press your blocks if needed; be sure to make sure your iron temperature is set appropriately for the fiber content of your thread. Since I used polyester, I have to remember to turn the iron down from the cotton setting, or I risk melting the thread!
- Trim blocks to 9 1/4" square.

Assemble the table runner:

- Sew 1 x 12" strips to the outside edges of your 9 1/4" spiderweb squares.
- Press strips away from the square.
- Assemble blocks and setting triangles according to the diagram. Rotate the spiderweb blocks one quarter turn for each row so that they are oriented differently (see the X).



Row A: Sew smallcorner triangle to block A to large side triangle
Row B: Sew large side triangle to block B to large side triangle
Row C: Sew large side triangle to block B to small corner triangle
Sew Row A to Row B, Row B to Row C, then sew on the small corners.

- Trim and square up, if needed. In my life, that is always needed. Sigh.
- Sew skinny green accent strips with a 1/4" seam allowance. Press open.
- Layer top, batting and backing.

Quilt:

Here's what I did:

- Begin by stabilizing the table runner by quilting in the ditch next to the black sashing and 1/8" from the outside edge.
- Use a walking foot/AcuFeed foot to quilt straight lines in the setting triangles using 40-wt pearl grey polyester thread.

- Free-motion quilt with Pearl Glitter thread in the needle and Bottom Line in the bobbin on top of the spiderweb, but you could also do this stitching with the walking foot.
- Finally, echo quilt around the spiderweb using the clear-disc echo-quilting foot and a fine thread that blends with the fabric.
- Trim away excess batting/backing.

Apply binding.

Because I didn't have enough fabric to do my preferred bias double-fold binding, I cut binding 2 inches wide on the straight grain, using seams cut on the bias (this disguises the seam line).

- Pin the binding to the front.
- Flip the table runner over and sew from the back with a 3/8" seam. This leaves a 1/8" strip of green showing.

Place the edge of your walking foot/AcuFeed foot on the edge of the quilt sandwich. Move your needle right/left so that your stitching falls 1/8" away from the seamline that attached the green skinny strip. Be extra careful here—any slight wobbles are more noticeable when you have super skinny strips!

- Press binding away from the front.
- Turn to the back and press, turning under seam allowance. Folded edge on the back should just cover the stitching line of the skinny green strip. This means the binding will be about 5/8" on the back and 3/8" on the front. Hand sew in place.

Set out a bowl of Halloween ghastly ghoulies (or sweet treats!) and enjoy the season!

Fabric information from Sarah's table runner:

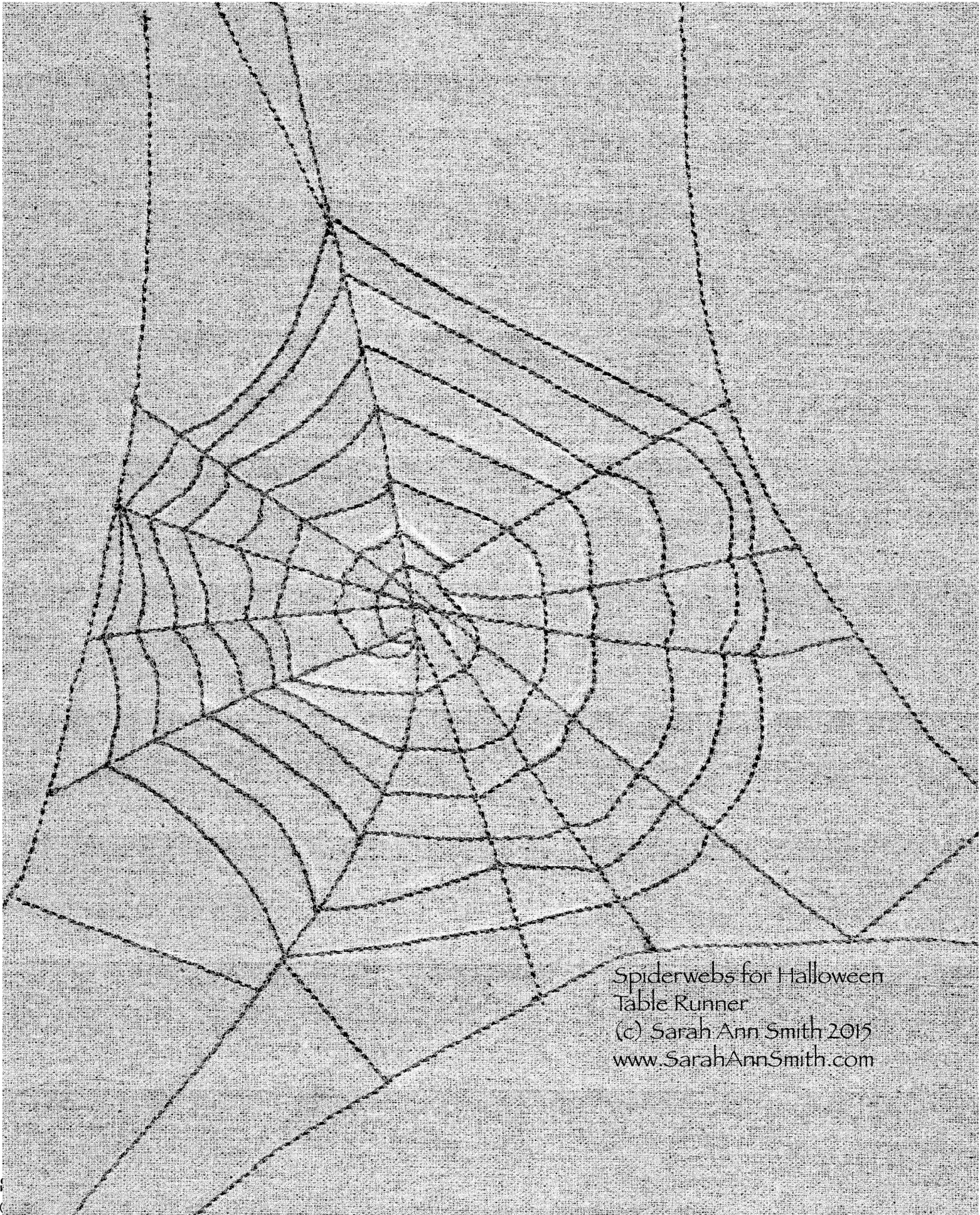
- The green is a cotton-linen blend
- The main print is from the Spellbound Holiday 2015 collection by Sarah Watts/Wattsalot, made by RJR Fabrics
- The black accent print is from the same collection: those little dots are really little bitty skulls from various angles! In both holiday prints, there is a subtle sparkle to the white ghosts and some of the skulls.
<http://www.cottonandsteelfabrics.com/catalog/fabric/collection/19/>

Visit Sarah at: SarahAnnSmith.com

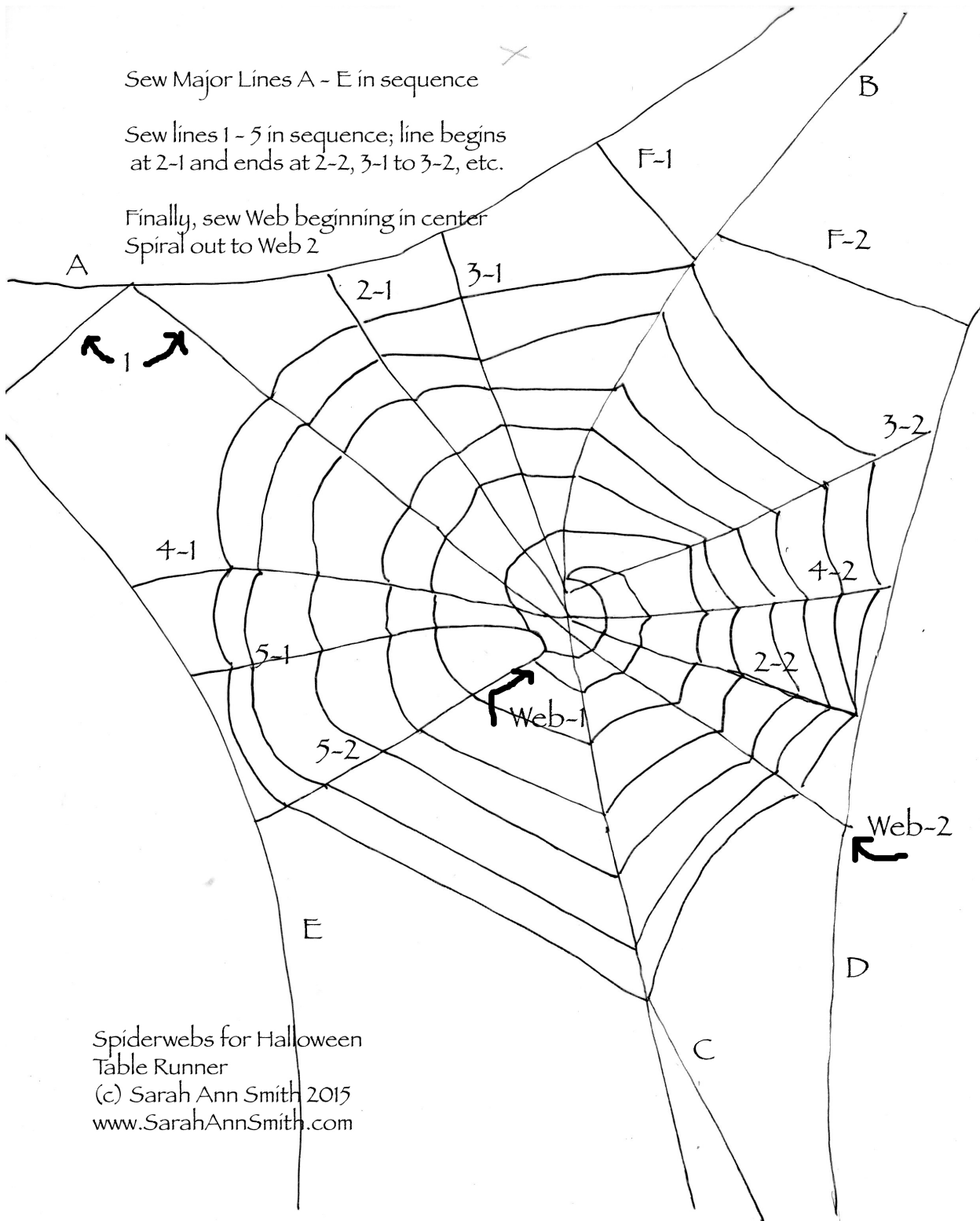
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Sew Major Lines A - E in sequence

Sew lines 1 - 5 in sequence; line begins at 2-1 and ends at 2-2, 3-1 to 3-2, etc.

Finally, sew Web beginning in center
Spiral out to Web 2

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