

Block of the Month: February 2020

* Bird House *



This a paper piecing block. It's easy for a first time paper piecer as the pieces are large and there is really no matching required. Find fabric with a bird or multiple birds for the center piece (or fussy cut and add fabric to all four sides to get required size). Then add colors that coordinate and say: Sky and Roof.

Materials Needed

- Bird (#1): 7.5 x 7.5" square (this can be pieced or embroidered)
- Sky (#2, #3): each 5"x3.5" rectangle
- (#6, #7): 6" square cut on diagonal
- Roof (#4): 6.5"x2" strip;
- (#5): 7.5"x2" strip
- Bottom (#8): 9"x3" strip

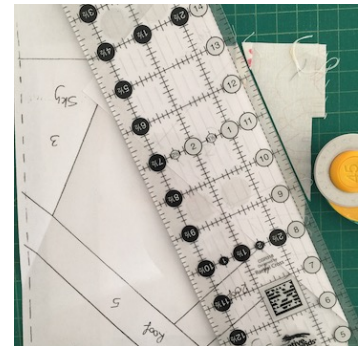
Tips for Paper Piecing:

Set stitch length to 1.8 or less to perforate paper and easier removal. Starch fabric as some edges might be cut on the bias. Fabric is placed on the backside of the pattern. Sew on the marked lines. Fabric pieces are added in the numerical order given on the block pattern, 1 through 8. More tips here: <https://weallsew.com/paper-piecing-for-beginners/>

Instructions

Paper Piecing is done in numerical order as given on pattern.

1. Place the bird fabric - right side up - on the back side of the pattern making sure it covers the entire #1 area. Use a bit of temporary glue at the top and bottom to secure the fabric on the paper. With the bird fabric secured on the back side, turn pattern side up. Using a postcard/index card, fold over just the paper on line between #1 and #2, creating a nice crease on that first sew line. With the paper still bent back, using a ruler and rotary cutter, trim fabric 1/4" beyond paper fold. Repeat on the line between #1 and #3.
2. Take a 3.5" x 5" sky rectangle and lay it right sides together on the just trimmed 1/4", raw edges on top of each other. To check that the new piece will cover that area, fold back the paper on the line. (pic 3). Hold pieces, turn paper over and sew on that line only. Press fabric. Repeat with #3 sky rectangle on the other side.
3. Roof. *Again, with fabric side up, fold paper back on the line of #4 and trim fabric 1/4" away from paper (pic 2). Place roof piece #4 on top of the trimmed line extending at least 1/4" on both ends. Press.* Repeat from * to * for roof piece #5 (2" x 7.5").
4. Top sky pieces: same procedure: fold back paper; trim fabric to 1/4" beyond paper fold; place triangle with long side on top of roof piece; sew on reverse side on the paper line; press.
5. Bottom piece - also same procedure: fold back paper; trim fabric with 1/4" extra; place fabric right sides together; sew on other side on the paper line; press.
6. **Trim block to 8.5" wide and 10.5" tall** - ensuring you keep at least 1/4" from the roof intersection. Remove paper.



Our many thanks to the Monterey Peninsula MQG for sharing this block!

sky # 6

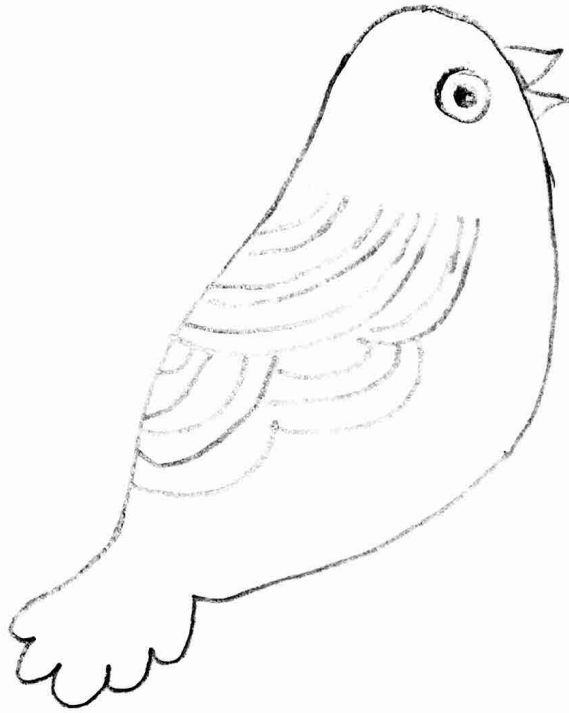
sky # 7

Roof

5

Roof # 4

Bird # 1



sky # 2

sky

3

Bottom # 8

1" Square