

# Every Birdie's Home Tweet Home

## February Block by Fran T. a/k/a Lulu

*Welcome to February's Every Birdie's Home Tweet Home! Birdie lives in the Alps, hence her colorful and bright blue home. Inside her home, the decor is "scrappy", a twig here and a twig there! She just finished quilting her very first quilt that is a reflection of her "people's home" through the seasons. The quilt, which Birdie has placed in her cuddly little nest, is named, well, none other than, "Strolling the Block!" Birdie is in love! She has decorated a "Sweetheart Tree" just outside her home just for Valentine's Day. Hopes that Robin will drop by with a Valentine are in her dreams. Happy Valentine's, Lulu.*

### Fabric suggestions:

Blue fabric for sky

Med. Brown fabric for tree

Dark Brown fabric for post, base, and sign above door

Brick Fabric for chimney

Red fabric center Heart

Blue floral fabric or your favorite

Valentine fabric for house

Yellow floral fabric or your choice for roof

Heart fabric for hearts in tree

Light Yellow for mailbox

Various Valentine prints for Valentines in mailbox

### Other items : (see designer's notes)

Template material

Black embroidery floss

Optional:



Fusible webbing for hearts in tree and those falling from the mailbox  
Fabric Glue (water soluble – it washes away)



### **Designer's Notes:**

I made templates for this block from freezer paper. No seam allowance is included for needle turn appliqué, so add 1/4" or your normal turn-under allowance. To hold pieces in place while I stitch, I like to use Prym-Dritz Fabric Glue Stick – just a personal preference and certainly not necessary. I used my machine's blanket stitch, but you can do the blanket stitch by hand. There are several videos that will play on your computer to show how to do the blanket stitch by hand, **IF** your computer has that capability. Just type "blanket stitch video" into your web browser to find them.

I have never done anything but needle turn appliqué on large pieces, so if you use a technique other than needle turn, please make sure your pattern pieces work before attaching to your background! After finishing my blue birdhouse in the STB fashion, I decided to make a very simple block using Valentine fabric as I thought you were expecting something a little more "of the season" for February (plus, I needed to "test" my templates.) The Valentine block will give you an idea of what red/white fabrics will look like in this month's block. There is a picture of this block on the "Templates" page.

Fusible web should be used according to manufacturer's instructions. I like to use Lite Steam-A-Seam, as it "sticks temporarily" before being fused with your iron. Once fused, is permanent; can be machine-washed and dried, or dry-cleaned; unfinished edges will not fray or lift; and it will not gum up your needle if you choose to stitch through it. But, my preference

only, I still finish the edges of the appliqué' – just in case! I only use fusible for very small pieces; so again, I am not familiar with them being used on larger pieces.

***Design away!*** Change colors, shapes, and make additions to make this block your own creation! The pattern does not have to be precise - ***IT IS SCRAPPY!***

## **Instructions:**

1. Cut a 13" square of sky fabric.
2. Post #1: Center and attach the post on the lower edge of 13 " sky fabric. *Needle Turner's: No need to finish the top and bottom, as they will be covered by another piece or be in a seam. Not finishing these edges will lessen bulk.*
3. Birdhouse #2: Place bottom edge of the birdhouse approximately 1/2" above Base #1. *Needle Turner's: Only add turned seam allowance to the sides of the house pattern and finish only the sides of the house, as the roof and the birdhouse base will cover other raw edges.*
4. Birdhouse Base #3: Center this piece making sure it covers the top of Post #1 and the bottom of the Birdhouse #2. The dashed lines on the bottom of the birdhouse pattern indicate approximately where the finished edge should be. *Needle Turner's: Finish all edges.*
5. Chimney #4: Place slanted edge of chimney under house edge approximately 1/4". *Needle Turners: No need to finish the bottom of the chimney as it is under the house.*
6. Roof # 5 & #6: Sew the two roof pieces together at the top, using a 1/4" seam allowance that is included in the pattern. Press seam to one side. Clip the "dog ears" – if you desire.

Center the seam on the peak of the roof. Place on top of birdhouse using the dashed lines on the pattern as a guide.

*Needle Turners: Finish all edges.*

7. Attach the tree, heart front door, and Home Tweet Home sign. *Needle Turners: Finish all edges.*

8. Using two strands of black embroidery floss, embroider “Home Tweet Home” above the door in a scrappy fashion. *Birdie had a hard time flying while holding a paintbrush in her beak to paint her sign!*

9. Hearts on Sweetheart Tree: Attach the hearts to the “Sweetheart Tree.” (For these, I used *Lite Steam-A-Seam* and then finished with machine blanket stitch.) Bows on Hearts: Using 4 strands of black embroidery floss, take a small stitch in the V of each heart. Pull approximately 1” through and cut the other side of the floss to 1”. Tie the two strands together and clip to approximately ½”.

## **10. Needle Turning method for Mailbox and Valentines:**

- A. Don’t stitch anything until you get a placement you like!
- B. Cut various sizes of hearts from Valentine fabric.
- C. Cut mailbox fabric 1 ¾ ” x 2”. Do not add ¼” for needle turning!
- D. Fold the 2” length in half and press. Your piece will now measure 1 ¾ “ x 2”. The folded edge is the top of the mailbox and will not be stitched down making a pocket for the Valentines! Other edges will be turned under ¼”. When you get ready to stitch in place, leave the top open.
- E. Arrange the hearts and mailbox , stitch.

## **10. Fusible appliqué method for Mailbox and Valentines:**

- A. Cut various sizes of hearts from Valentine fabric.

- B. Cut a piece of mailbox fabric 1 ¼" x 1 inch.
- C. Arrange a few of the Valentine's under the mailbox and press in place.

11. Post a picture of your February Block to share with everyone at STB!!!!

### **Additional Ideas:**

- A. Since Birdie lives in the Alps, put a snow capped mountain in the background and she will need a set of skis on her porch!
- B. Omit the tree and put a little birdie (I named him Robin – Birdie's true love) flying through the sky pulling a banner (the string in his little beak) reading: ***Birdie, I © U!***
- C. Make Birdie's door hinge open and place behind the door, a picture of lovebirds. There are many pictures on the web. I saw a cute one at ClipsAhoy.

(To accomplish this, you will need to print on fabric. I did print this picture to use for February, but changed my mind. I used Bubble Jet Set/Rinse that I have used successfully in the past for quilt labels. Several STB members – Indycat and EastCoastGirl, recommended the product to me. For instructions and where to buy, just type "bubble jet set information" into any search engine.)

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