

Every Birdie's Home Tweet Home
March Block by Nancy W. a/k/a Nan

It's March and we are all impatiently waiting the arrival of Spring. These pretty little Bluebirds are some of the first signs that Spring is near. Nan

Fabric suggestions:

Blue for sky (13" square)
Black/gray for Shepherd's Crook
Black for birdhouse door
Greens for vine and leaves
Bright blue for bird
Peach for bird's tummy
Gray wood look for birdhouse
Dark red for birdhouse roof
Gray for birdhouse hanger
A variety of colors for flowers

Other items : (see designer's notes)

Template material
Fusible webbing if desired
Black embroidery floss
Black seed beads (optional)



Designer's Notes:

I stitched the yoyo flowers on backwards (the gathered part to the back) just stitching near the center, then I stitched three black iridescent seed beads to the center of the small flowers and five beads to the large flowers. I liked the way the yoyos puffed around the beads. I used a black seed bead for the eye of the birds

There are no seam allowances included in the templates. Hand stitchers will need to add the seam allowance they like to

use. The dashed lines on the patterns indicate where one piece goes under another.

Templates for fusible appliqué will need to be reversed. Add a tuck under seam allowance at edges indicated by the dashed lines. When making templates for the bluebirds, one will be made as given, one reversed so the birds face each other.

Vine: I cut two 3/4" x 18" bias strips of green for the vines, Press over 1/4" on both long edges to make a 1/4" wide bias strip. If you are using fusible web, you will need to use the template for the long vine and just fuse a 6" x 6" square of green and freehand cut the other shorter vines. (See example on template page.)

Instructions:

1. Cut a 13" sky/background fabric. Position the shepherd's crook to the left of center and pin in place. Make sure there is room to hang the birdhouse. Weave one of the vine strips around the crook. It will be longer than needed, trim and save the leftover piece for the shorter vines at the bottom of the block. When you are pleased with the look, pin in place and stitch the two pieces down. For fusing the vine and crook you will need to weave the vine in place and fuse the two pieces at one time. The shaded places on the template go under the shepherd's crook.
2. Position the birdhouse, birdhouse side, and the two roof pieces, being sure the hanger fits between the crook and the roof. Pin and stitch or fuse. Add the birdhouse door.
3. Cut the remaining vine pieces into 5 segments of varying lengths. Position them along the bottom of the block bending them so they appear to be swaying in the breeze. Pin in

place. For fusible appliqué, cut the swaying 1/4" wide vines from the 6" x 6" piece of green. (See example on template page.) Do not fuse the vines until you are happy with the arrangement of vines, leaves and flowers.

I used 13 leaves, 3 large yoyo flowers, and 11 small yoyo flowers. These numbers are only suggestions. Cut out your flowers and leaves and play with the arrangement until you are pleased with it. Attach the vines, leaves and flowers. I have included a template for an alternate flower for fusible appliqué if you choose not to do yoyos.

To make a yoyo: Cut a circle from the template. Make a running stitch around the outside edge, turning under 1/8" as you sew. Pull the thread up tightly, gathering the outer edge of the circle. Knot the thread.

Note: Use a double thread for the gathering and cut the thread at the needle. Then rethread the needle and use the same thread to tack the yoyo in place when you know where you want the flowers to be.

4. Position the bluebirds where you want them and stitch or fuse in place.

5. Square your block to 12 1/2".

6. Sew the beads to the centers of the flowers. If you don't want to use beads, embroider french knots for the flower centers. Sew on a bead or french knot for the birds' eyes.

7. Admire your work and post a picture.

Remember: This is your block. Change whatever you want. Hang the birdhouse from a tree branch, set it on a post, make a double shepherd's crook and hang something else from the

other side. Add more flowers, or use less flowers. Make the leaves dimensional. You can use buttons or charms for the flowers and leaves, purchase a ready-made bird appliqué or omit the birds. Most of all -- have fun!

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