

**Every Birdie's Home Tweet Home
We're Proud to be Americans
July Block by Norma R. a/k/a Crafty Norma**

It's a warm summer evening. The 4th of July. A breeze is gently blowing. The American flag is waving to the sounds of the Star Spangled Banner. Fireworks are lighting up the sky. Sparky and Uncle Sam, our two adorable blackbirds, are looking out at the wonder of the sight from the hole in their birdhouse. Uncle Sam looks at Sparky and says, "aren't you proud to be an American?" Have a wonderful 4th of July holiday.

Fabric suggestions:

Green - grass (7 1/2"h x 12"w)

Blue - sky/4th of July (5 1/2"h x 12"w)

Wood grain – birdhouse (13 1/2" x 13 1/2")

White – fence, gate & arch (fence - 9"h x 13"w)

Black – birds

4th of July print – embellishments

Floral print – flowers

Kitty print

Yellow for beaks



Other items :

Template material for birds

Fusible webbing

Embroidery floss for flowers (optional)

Black floss to outline hole of birdhouse



Designer's Notes:

No seam allowances are included on the template patterns. ¼" should be added for needle turn appliqué. Fusible web may be used. Blanket stitching will be needed on all raw edges.

This block may be altered in any way to personalize it for you. Change to your heart's content.

Instructions:

1. Sew grass and sky prints together. Press seam open.
2. Trace fence, gate and arch onto the iron-on webbing. (Note: make sure you are ironing to the backside of the fabric.) Measurements of the pickets are 3"h x ½"w. Gate is 3/14"h x 2 ½"w. Top horizontal fence rail is to be placed directly over seam line separating sky and grass.
3. Iron fusible webbing to the 13" square of woodgrain fabric and then cut an 11" hole in center form the hole in the birdhouse. Blanket stitch with black floss around hole. "Iron again". It's very important that you keep everything flat for a nice finished look.
4. Embellish lawn area with 4th of July items and frisky kitties.
5. To further enhance your block, you could add embroidered flowers and vines to the fence and arch. Then blanket stitch everything down in matching thread.
6. Square up block to unfinished size of 12 ½" x 12 ½". **This must be done before adding blackbirds.**

7. Now it's time to add Sparky and Uncle Sam. Iron fusible webbing to back of black fabric. Trace pattern and then cut out. With chalk pencil, mark $\frac{1}{4}$ " seamline across the bottom of the block. This is for bird placement. **Do not remove paper from Sparky and Uncle Sam's tails!** It is to be removed after sashing between blocks has been added. By doing this, it will extend outside of the block for more dimension.

8. Put hats on our fine feathered friends, press one final time, and say, "Thank you Lord..... I'm finished!!!!!"

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