

Every Birdie's Home Tweet Home

August Block by Reba a/k/a WildRoseWV

Fabric suggestions:

Blue fabric for sky

Green fabric for grassy field

Dark red and black crackle print for barn

Brown fabric for barn door

Black fabric for loft/birdy door

Brown wood like fabric for post

Dark green fabric for leaves

Green 1/2" bias tape-or fabric cut to size

Beige 1/2" bias tape-or fabric cut to size

Brown or beige felt for flower centers

1 stem of small sunflowers or yellow fabric to cut blossoms

Other items :

Bird appliqué (I cut mine from fabric with various birds)

Fusible webbing

Glue stick

Template material

Various colors of thread if you use decorative machine stitching



Designer's Notes:

No seam allowances are included with templates. Add 1/4 inch all around if you wish to use needle turn appliqué. I used various decorative stitches on my sewing machine that seemed

to fit with each piece to finish the edges. While I did use fusible to attach the main barn piece, I used stick glue for most of the rest to hold the pieces temporarily while I edge stitched them.

Feel free to copy this design exactly or change anything you want to make it your own. For example, I intended the bird to be a crow. But not finding one in fabric and lacking the skill to make a satisfactory one, I choose another bird and added some stitching to make it less of a cookie cutter bird.

The most important thing I discovered is to let yourself go and have fun. Do what feels right to you. Be free and let it happen. I think I enjoyed making this block more than any other I have ever done. It seemed to take on a life of its own and I was able to let go of my desire to make it exactly like another I might have seen.

Instructions:

1. Cut a 14" x 9 ½ inch piece of sky fabric.
2. Cut a 14" x 5 ½" piece of green field fabric.
3. Sew these 2 pieces together with a ½" seam allowance. Trim seam to desired size and press seam open.
4. Cut barn using template. Fuse in position with fusible web or your own preferred method of holding the piece in place.
5. Cut barn door using door template. Position door on front of barn and secure until edge stitched.
6. Blanket stitch around barn, skipping the bottom of door. This edge will be covered when you finish the edges of the door.

7. Cut loft opening/birdie door from black fabric, set on point and blanket stitch in place.
8. For the barn 'boards', I used a decorative stitch that simulated wood. Follow the markings on the picture of the block for positioning. The left door boards are in a Z shape and the right door boards are in a reverse Z shape. Or cut strips of fabric for the 'boards' and stitch down in your favorite method.
9. For the roof of the barn, I used bias tape. Butt one raw edge of the tape along the sides of the roof, turning under the ends to eliminate raw edges. Next, fold bias tape over on seam line and stitch around all edges with a blanket stitch. Add the top roof piece in the same manner but remember to turn in both ends of the bias tape to eliminate raw edges. Blanket stitch the top roof piece in a like manner.
10. Place post fabric centered below the barn door. Stitch raw edges with your choice of finishing technique.
11. Pull the flower heads off several flower stems. (Note: I purchased one stem of very small sunflowers from the 88 cent rack. This gives you a choice of 3 sizes of petals) Select the single layer blossoms that best fit your idea of a sunflower. Make a small dot where you want each bloom to be. Draw a line straight down to use as a guide for placing stems. Center bias tape on drawn line placing the short side of the tape to the right. side. After stitching, fold bias tape along the stitched line to form a finished left edge. The right edge will fold back inside easily along the pre pressed line. I used a decorative leaf stitch that is approximately the width of the folded bias tape to attach the whole stem in one pass with the sewing machine.
12. Cut leaves from templates and place them as you choose along the stem. You can put some under the stem and

some on top for a more realistic look. Again, use your favorite method (personally love plain old stick glue) to hold them while stitching them to the stem.

13. Attach a blossom at the top of each stem.

14. Cut a center round piece (I used a nickel and a dime to draw a small and large circle) from brown or beige felt and stitch it in place with a contrasting thread in a decorative manner to make it more 3 dimensional.

15. Press completed block and trim to 12 ½" square.

16. Pour yourself a cool drink, put your feet up and relax until September first.

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