

homemade
holiday





catch a chickadee

intermediate

DESIGNER JACKIE ROBINSON OF
ANIMAS QUILTS
(ANIMASQUILTS.COM)

materials

- ▶ 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ yards red print (blocks, setting squares)
- ▶ 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ yards green print (blocks, inner border)
- ▶ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards cream swirl print (blocks)
- ▶ 1 yard cream chickadee print (setting squares)
- ▶ 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ yards chickadee border print (outer border)
- ▶ $\frac{3}{4}$ yard cream-and-gold print (binding)
- ▶ 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ yards backing fabric
- ▶ 76x96" batting

Finished quilt: 67 $\frac{1}{2}$ x87 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Finished blocks: 5" square

Yardages and cutting instructions are based on 42" of usable fabric width.

Measurements include $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Press seams in directions indicated by arrows on diagrams. If no direction is specified, press seam toward darker fabric.

cut fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order. Cut outer border strips lengthwise (parallel to the selvages) with garland centered in strip.

Patterns A and B are on *Pattern Sheet 4*. To make templates of patterns, see *Make and Use Templates*, page 122. Be sure to transfer dots on patterns to templates, then to fabrics. The dots serve as matching points.

To speed the cutting process, designer Jackie Robinson rotary-cut A, B, and B reversed triangles using Tri-Recs acrylic tools by *EZ Quilting* (simplicity.com). To use these tools, refer to the manufacturer's instructions for rotary-cutting triangles.

From red print, cut:

- ▶ 4— $4\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strips
- ▶ 6— $3\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strips
- ▶ 6— $2\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strips
- ▶ 10— $1\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strips
- ▶ 10— $5\frac{1}{2}$ " setting squares
- ▶ 72 of Pattern A

From green print, cut:

- ▶ 26— $1\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strips

From cream swirl print, cut:

- ▶ 72 each of patterns B and B reversed

From cream chickadee print, fussy-cut:

- ▶ 18— $5\frac{1}{2}$ " setting squares with a chickadee motif centered in each

From chickadee border print, fussy-cut:

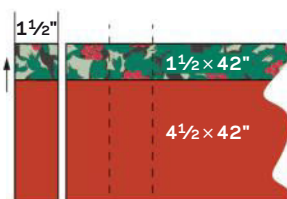
- ▶ 2— $5\frac{1}{2} \times 90$ " outer border strips (one with red stripe on right and one with red stripe on left)
- ▶ 2— $5\frac{1}{2} \times 70$ " outer border strips (one with red stripe on right and one with red stripe on left)

From cream-and-gold print, cut:

- ▶ 8— $2\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " binding strips

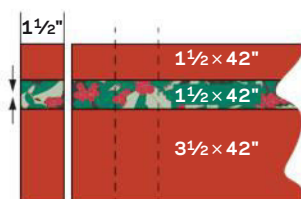
make segments A-E

1. Sew together a red print $4\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strip and a green print $1\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strip to make Strip Set A (**Diagram 1**). Repeat to make four A strip sets total. Cut strip sets into 96— $1\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide A segments.



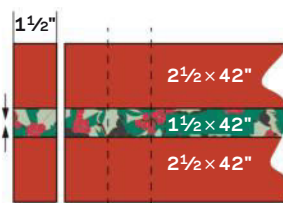
STRIP SET A
DIAGRAM 1

2. Sew together a red print $3\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strip, a green print $1\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strip, and a red print $1\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strip to make Strip Set B (**Diagram 2**). Repeat to make four B strip sets total. Cut strip sets into 96— $1\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide B segments.



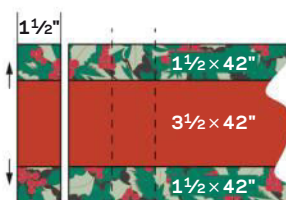
STRIP SET B
DIAGRAM 2

3. Sew together two red print $2\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strips and a green print $1\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strip to make Strip Set C (**Diagram 3**). Repeat to make three C strip sets total. Cut strip sets into 65— $1\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide C segments.



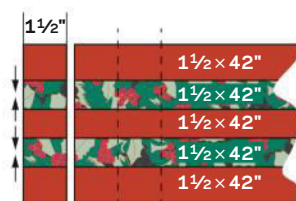
STRIP SET C
DIAGRAM 3

4. Sew together two green print $1\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strips and a red print $3\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strip to make Strip Set D (**Diagram 4**). Repeat to make a second Strip Set D. Cut strip sets into 34— $1\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide D segments.



STRIP SET D
DIAGRAM 4

5. Sew together three red print $1\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strips and two green print $1\frac{1}{2} \times 42$ " strips to make Strip Set E (**Diagram 5**). Repeat to make a second Strip Set E. Cut strip sets into 34— $1\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide E segments.



STRIP SET E
DIAGRAM 5

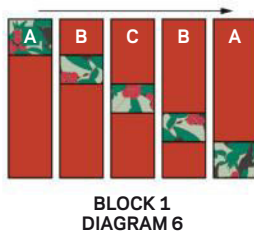
homemade holiday



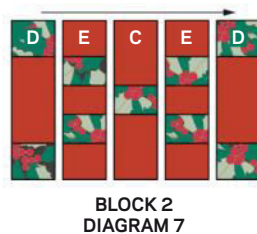
QUILT ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM

assemble blocks

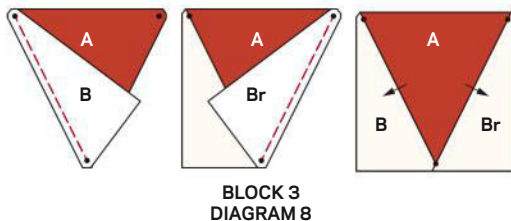
1. Sew together two A segments, two B segments, and one C segment to make Block 1 (Diagram 6). The block should be $5\frac{1}{2}$ " square including seam allowances. Repeat to make 48 total of Block 1.



2. Sew together two D segments, two E segments, and one C segment to make Block 2 (Diagram 7). The block should be $5\frac{1}{2}$ " square including seam allowances. Repeat to make 17 total of Block 2.



3. Aligning marked matching points, sew a cream swirl print B triangle to left-hand long edge of a red print A triangle (Diagram 8). Add a cream swirl print B reversed triangle to remaining long edge to make Block 3. The block should be $5\frac{1}{2}$ " square including seam allowances. Repeat to make 72 total of Block 3.



assemble quilt center

1. Referring to Quilt Assembly Diagram, lay out blocks 1-3, red print setting squares, and cream chickadee print setting squares in horizontal rows, orienting blocks as shown.

2. Sew together pieces in each row. Press seams in one direction, alternating direction with each row. Join rows to make quilt center. Press seams in one direction. The quilt center should be $55\frac{1}{2}\times 75\frac{1}{2}$ " including seam allowances.

add borders

1. Cut and piece remaining green print $1\frac{1}{2}\times 42$ " strips to make:
 ▶ 2— $1\frac{1}{2}\times 75\frac{1}{2}$ " inner border strips
 ▶ 2— $1\frac{1}{2}\times 57\frac{1}{2}$ " inner border strips

2. Sew long inner border strips to long edges of quilt center. Add short inner border strips to remaining edges. Press all seams toward inner border.

3. Aligning midpoints, pin chickadee border print $5\frac{1}{2}\times 70$ " outer border strips to short edges of quilt center (Quilt Assembly Diagram; note

orientation of red stripe). Sew together, beginning and ending seams $\frac{1}{4}$ " from quilt center corners.

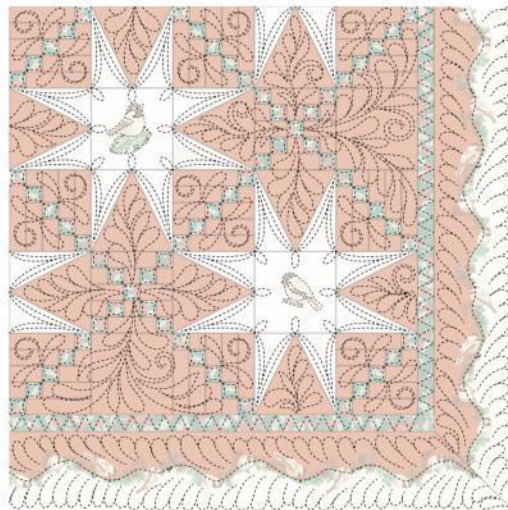
4. In same manner, sew chickadee border print $5\frac{1}{2}\times 90$ " outer border strips to long edges of quilt center, mitering corners, to complete quilt top. (For details, see Miter Borders, page 124.)

finish quilt

1. Layer quilt top, batting, and backing; baste. (For details, see Complete Quilt, page 126.)

2. Quilt as desired. Aimee Mahan machine-quilted arc, scroll, and feather designs in the quilt center (Quilting Diagram). She machine-quilted around the motifs in the cream chickadee print setting squares, stitched zigzags in the inner border, and stitched a feather pattern in the outer border using the garland design as the spine.

3. Bind with cream-and-gold print binding strips. (For details, see Complete Quilt.) **APQ**



QUILTING DIAGRAM



Project instructions: Bird Ornament, page 119; Bird on Branches Pillow, page 120; *Catch a Chickadee* quilt, page 60.

Opposite: Bring a bit of nature indoors with multiple woodland-inspired decorations. In the *Catch a Chickadee* quilt, fussy-cut birds form the center of star blocks. A green single Irish chain provides the accent. Thanks to a stunning holiday garland stripe, the borders are easier than they look.

Many renditions of the small flannel Bird Ornament keep the theme going. Stitch a tiny clip to the base of each bird to make it easier to decorate small trees and to allow the birds to appear perched in place. You can re-create the birds in nature's hues or in colors to match your decor.

A touch of embroidery and appliqué transforms a plain pillow into something special. Stitch several branches, appliqué the bird among the branches, and add berries for a pillow that celebrates the spirit of wide open spaces. **APQ**

embrace a holiday theme

What drives us toward one Christmas decorating style?

NOSTALGIA We like to surround ourselves with items that remind us of the days when we firmly believed in Christmas magic.

MEMORY-MAKING We want to make lasting memories for our family and friends and our decor reflects who we are.

FUN We enjoy freshening our decor, whether it's just one room or the whole house.



village wreath

DESIGNER **KATIE LEPORTE**

materials

- ▶ 14"-diameter extruded-foam wreath
- ▶ Reindeer moss: bright green, medium green
- ▶ Hot-glue gun, glue sticks
- ▶ 9x12" sheets stiffened crafts felt: red, white, light blue (houses)
- ▶ White wool roving
- ▶ 2—1½"-tall brush trees
- ▶ 1—2"-tall brush tree
- ▶ Glitter paints in fine-tip tubes: red, white, light blue

Finished wreath:

15" diameter

cut felt

Patterns for houses are on *Pattern Sheet 2*. To make templates of patterns, trace them onto a sheet of paper and cut out.

From white felt, cut:

- ▶ 1 large house
- ▶ 2 large roofs
- ▶ 1 small roof
- ▶ 1 door
- ▶ 1 large trim
- ▶ 1 small trim

From red felt, cut:

- ▶ 1 small house
- ▶ 1 door

From light blue felt, cut:

- ▶ 1 medium house

make wreath

- 1.** Use hot-glue gun to cover front and sides of foam wreath with an even mix of bright green and medium green reindeer moss.
- 2.** Fold house and roof pieces on dashed lines. Glue house side tab ends to back walls. Glue roofs to houses. (Medium house uses large roof.) Add small trim to medium house front and large trim to large house front. Glue red door to front of white house, aligning bottom edges; repeat with white door on light blue house.
- 3.** Referring to photo, *above*, use glitter paint to add details to houses.
- 4.** Glue houses to wreath. Pull apart small sections of white wool roving; glue around house foundations to resemble snow. Glue a short brush tree next to the white house. Glue remaining brush trees next to the blue house to complete the wreath.



bird ornament

DESIGNER **BECKY LAU EKSTRAND**

MAKER **NANCY WILES**

materials for one bird

- ▶ 3x7" piece of flannel
- ▶ Embroidery floss: black
- ▶ Embroidery needle
- ▶ Fiberfill
- ▶ 35-mm alligator clip

Finished ornament:

3" from beak to tail

cut fabric

Bird Ornament pattern is on *Pattern Sheet 3*. To make templates, trace pattern onto a sheet of paper and cut out. Mark eye and seam opening on templates.

From flannel, cut:

- ▶ 1 each of Bird Ornament and Bird Ornament reversed

make ornament

- 1.** Use three strands of black embroidery floss to make one French knot for eye on each ornament piece.

To make a French knot, pull threaded needle through at A, the point

where knot is desired (*French Knot Diagram*).

Wrap floss around needle two or three times. Insert tip of needle into fabric at B, ¼" away from A. Gently push wraps down needle to meet fabric. Pull needle and trailing floss through fabric slowly and smoothly.



FRENCH KNOT DIAGRAM

- 2.** Layer ornament pieces with right sides together. Using a short stitch length, sew pieces together, leaving an opening for turning as marked on the pattern. Trim seam allowance to ¼" so you can turn the piece right side out without clipping into the seam allowance. (When small items need to be firmly stuffed, strong seam allowances are important.)
- 3.** Firmly stuff ornament with fiberfill. Hand-stitch opening closed.
- 4.** Stitch long flat edge of alligator clip to bottom to complete ornament.



bird on branches pillow

DESIGNER **BECKY LAU EKSTRAND**

MAKER **ELIZABETH TISINGER BEESE**



materials

- ▶ 1 yard 42"-wide green stripe (pillow)
- ▶ 3½x5" piece brown flannel (bird appliqué)
- ▶ 16—⅜"-diameter buttons: red
- ▶ Perle cotton, size 8: variegated green
- ▶ 14"-square pillow form
- ▶ Tracing paper and marking wheel

Finished pillow:

14" square

cut fabrics

Bird Pattern is *opposite*.

To use fusible web for appliquéing, complete the following steps.

1. Lay fusible web, paper side up, over pattern. Use a pencil to trace pattern once. Cut out fusible-web shape roughly ¼" outside traced lines.
2. Following manufacturer's instructions, press fusible-web shape onto wrong side of flannel; let cool. Cut out bird shape on drawn lines. Peel off paper backing.

From green stripe, cut:

- ▶ 2—14½x18½" rectangles
- ▶ 1—14½" square

From brown flannel, cut:

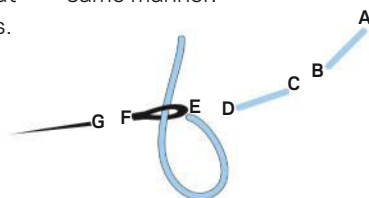
- ▶ 1 of Bird Pattern

make pillow front

1. Photocopy Embroidery Pattern, *opposite*. Position the lowest right branch end of embroidery design about 1¼" from the right edge and 1¾" from bottom edge of the green stripe 14½" square. Place tracing paper, marking side down, between the fabric and the copied pattern. Trace branch lines and button positions.

2. Using variegated green perle cotton, work a running stitch along marked branch lines.

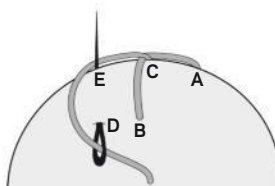
To make running stitches, pull your needle up at A and insert it back into fabric at B (**Running Stitch Diagram**). Pull your needle up again at C and insert it back into fabric at D. Continue in same manner.



RUNNING STITCH DIAGRAM

3. Referring to Embroidery Pattern for placement, fuse brown flannel bird to green stripe square following manufacturer's instructions. Using variegated green perle cotton, blanket-stitch edges of appliqué.

To blanket-stitch, pull threaded needle up at A (**Blanket Stitch Diagram**), form a reverse L shape with thread, and hold angle in place with your thumb. Push needle down at B and come up at C to secure the stitch. Continue in same manner.



BLANKET STITCH DIAGRAM

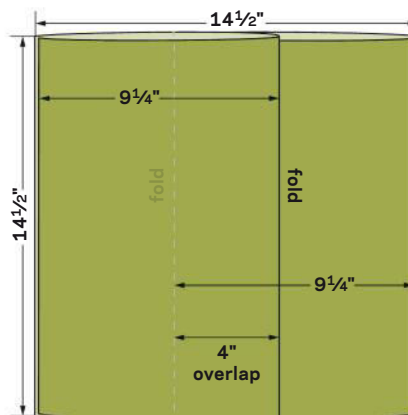
4. Referring to Embroidery Pattern for placement, sew red buttons to tree branches to complete pillow front.

make pillow

1. With wrong sides inside, fold each green stripe 14½x18½" rectangle in half to form two double-thick 9¼x14½" backing rectangles.

2. Referring to Pillow Back Assembly Diagram, overlap folded edges of backing rectangles by about 4" to make a 14½" square. Baste around entire square to make pillow back.

3. With right sides together, layer pillow front and pillow back; pin. Sew together around outer edges to make pillow cover. Turn right side out. Insert pillow form in cover to complete pillow. **APC**



PILLOW BACK ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM



Bird on Branches Pillow
Embroidery Pattern

Bird on Branches Pillow
Full-Size Bird Pattern

back to basics

Refer to these tips and techniques whenever you need information for your projects.

make and use templates

MAKE TEMPLATES

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material so you can trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. Or you can make your own by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted by an arrow on the pattern), and block or quilt name. Also mark the matching point of each corner on the seam line (these may be indicated with dots on the printed pattern). Cut out traced shapes on the outside lines. Using a pushpin, make a hole in the template at each corner matching point. The hole must be large enough to accommodate the point of a pencil or marking pen.

Verify each template shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern.

Templates must be accurate because errors, however small, compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check the accuracy of your templates, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

USE TEMPLATES

To trace a template on fabric, use a pencil, a white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; the lines may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them on pieces for a quilt.

To make pieces for hand piecing, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. If desired, mark the matching points on the corners of the seam lines. Reposition the template at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the previous tracing, trace again, and repeat (**Diagram 1**).

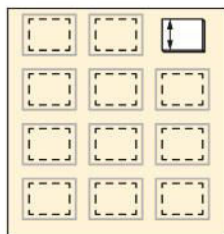


DIAGRAM 1

To make pieces for hand appliqué, place a template faceup on the right side of the fabric and trace. The lines you trace on the fabric are the sewing lines. Mark cutting lines $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a $\frac{3}{16}$ " seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Mark the corner matching points through the holes in the template; they should be right on the seam lines. Reposition the template without leaving a space between it and the previous tracing, trace again, and repeat (**Diagram 2**). Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut out pieces, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.

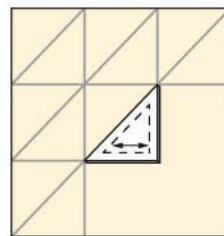


DIAGRAM 2

foundation piecing

To make precisely pieced intricate blocks or units, you can sew together fabric pieces on a paper pattern or foundation. Some quilters find this technique (also called paper piecing) to be freeing because precise cutting isn't required and grain line direction doesn't matter. However, it requires you to think about piecing in a different way.

To foundation-piece, you stitch fabric pieces to a foundation paper with the marked side of the paper facing up and the fabric pieces layered underneath. The resulting pieced unit will be a mirror image of the foundation paper. To illustrate the process, **diagrams 3-7**, on page 124, show the right and wrong sides of a unit as it is being constructed.