Embroidered Folk Art Porch Birds

Supply List

Instructor: Helene Knott 503 888-9784 helene.m.knott@gmail.com
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These colorful embellished Folk Art birds were inspired by similar cloth and beaded birds from India. People often hang long strands of these colorful creatures in doorways and windows, from porch eaves, and sometimes in a garden during nice weather. The construction pattern is so simple, it's easy to make a flock of them in various sizes on a string. Made from a modified 9-Patch block, felt wings are embroidered and added before the bird is formed and stuffed. Add a brass or Jingle bell at the end of the strand, and your birds will actually sing. These make a great project for your own home or as a gift. They would also make wonderful Christmas ornaments.



Please be courteous to others by arriving for class with the correct supplies. Contact me at 503-888-9784 or helene.m.knott@gmail.com if you have any questions.

A Note to Students: Many students do not realize that once the teacher is paid, the shop offering a class makes little if any income on the class itself. The shop is relying on product sales to continue offering quality classes to you. Therefore, I urge you to patronize this shop when buying your supplies for this class as much as possible and remind you that big chain stores do not offer the variety of classes that the smaller shops do. Keep quilt classes alive by supporting this shop.
Thank you, Helene

Tools/Materials:

- **Fabric scraps:** These can be cotton, flannel, or even silk. They will be stitched into 9-Patch blocks and can be in a consistent color scheme if you wish, or go for completely scrappy to use up colorful leftovers. Scraps ranging from a variety of 2" squares to pieces about 12" square will be enough to make a whole flock of them.
- **Felt scraps:** These will be used to make the wings. Again, scraps about 5"-6" square in a variety of colors will be sufficient for most of the birds.
- **Fusible Interfacing:** If you are using very thin felt, it helps to apply a layer of fusible interfacing to the reverse side of the felt prior to embroidering.
- **Sewing Machine:** A ¼" piecing foot is helpful (don't forget your cord and foot pedal).
- **Neutral colored sewing thread.**
- **Template plastic:** To create wing templates, one or two 8-1/2" x 11 sheets, or a 12" x 18" sheet will do.
- **Scissors:** Both utility for cutting plastic and fabric scissors, preferably ones with shorter blades to allow for precise cutting and thread snipping.
- **Marking pens/pencils:** White Chalk marking pencil, white opaque gel-pen and/or Frixion/Pigma Micron pen: In a color that will show up on your felt. You will also need a Sharpie pen to trace on the template plastic.
- **Embroidery floss:** Six strand floss in choice of colors (the more the merrier). Pearl cotton, rayon embroidery floss and metallic embroidery threads may also be desirable.
- **Beads and sequins of choice:** Optional, the embroidery is also lovely without the Bling, you will need a few beads, sequins, or tiny buttons for bird eyes.
- **Hand stitching needles:** A package of crewel embroidery needles in assorted sizes will allow you to choose a needle that best suits the floss or thread you are using. For beading, small (size #10) hand quilting needles work well for most seed beads or you can buy beading needles, You will also need a long (5" or so) doll or basting needle to string the birds, if you cannot find those, I will have some that can be borrowed in class.

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- **Beading thread:** Nymo thread is most commonly used but strong **hand** quilting thread will also work for many beads. If you intend to use bugle beads you should buy a stronger beading thread like Nymo (available at craft and bead shops) as the sharp edges of these beads can cut through regular thread.
- **Portable light and/or magnifier:** Good lighting helps for handwork. Having additional focused lighting in the form of an Ott type lamp or the LED type that hangs around your neck.
- **Fiber-fill:** A quart sized bag of it should be sufficient.
- **A tool to help with stuffing:** This can be a Purple Thang, a blunt skewer or knitting needle, some thing to help you compact the stuffing into the birds.
- **Thin cord for stringer:** #3 Perle cotton or 1/8" wide silk holiday ribbon work well.
- **Note:** Bring a jingle bell if you want your bird to sing.