

Trees Please: Block of the Month

October 2010

Birds on a Branch

Unfinished block size: 12 1/2" x 5 1/2"

Finished block size: 12" x 5"

Materials:

Background: Cut 1-13 1/2" x 6 1/2". This will be trimmed to 12 1/2" x 5 1/2" upon completion.

Branch: Cut 1- 2 1/2" bias strip of fabric approximately 16" long. (exact 45 degree not necessary)

Bird: 2 -5" scrap for each bird body.

Small scraps for beaks and wings

Fusible web

Directions for assembly:

1. Fold the bias branch strip lengthwise, wrong sides together, to slightly overlap in the middle. Press.
2. Position bias strip, raw edge down, as a tree branch onto background fabric. Using the photo as a guide, steam press into the desired curve using pins to hold shape if necessary. When cool, topstitch in place with small top stitches in matching or contrasting thread. Re-press before stitching the other edge.
3. Trace a bird pattern on the wrong side of one of the 5" scrap. Secure with pins or a dot of glue to the other 5" scrap, right sides together. Cut around pattern allowing a 1/4" seam allowance. Stitch a scant 1/8" from the edge with short straight stitches. Leave the tail of the bird at flat end open. Turn right sides out with the aid of round tip tweezers. Press. Sew the tail closed. Use the same procedure for the other two birds. Make 1 large and 2 small birds.
4. With fusible web, prepare wing and beak appliques.
5. Place birds onto branch. **Place a beak in position under each bird.** Press. Stitch birds and beaks in place using invisible thread or satin stitch.
6. Fuse wings in place. Stitch with invisible thread or satin stitch.
7. Trim the block to 12 1/2" x 5 1/2".

Embellishment:

1. Using a small bead or a French knot, give your birds an eye.
2. Add leaves to the branch.
3. Make a nest.

