



# Project ideas

A WHIMSICAL 10-PART WALL HANGING SERIES DEMONSTRATING LAYERED ART QUILTING AND CLEVER THREAD ILLUSTRATION.



## whacky birds block

*Create these funky 8" blocks utilizing knitted felted wool flat goods and other wool embellishments...using simple techniques! Combine all finished blocks into a wall hanging or enlarge/reduce block elements for pillows or wall-worthy framed art.*

### MATERIALS:

- HandBEHG Felts Roll or Chunks for Background Fabric (Enough Material for 1-8" Square)
- HandBEHG Felts Multi Rolls or Chunks for Bird Pieces (Various Colors and Patterns)
- 1CM HandBEHG Felts Felt Balls (Black or Dark Chocolate), 2 pieces
- Sewing Machine
- Black Extra Strong Thread (Gutermann M782 - Thicker Than Standard Thread)
- Hand Sewing Needle
- Scissors/Rotary Cutter and Mat
- Muslin
- Decorator or Heavy Quilting Fabric (Enough Material for Block Mounting/Finishing)

### GENERAL DIRECTIONS:

1. To prepare block backgrounds, piece together roll or chunks. Traditional seams may be sewn or edges may be butted together and machine stitched with a straight or zigzag stitch to a strip of scrap fabric for stability. Press well before truing the edges to an 8" square.
2. For stabilization and to minimize excessive stretching, all block background pieces are backed with a piece of muslin.
3. Freehand cut the block elements like we do, or utilize the pattern piece shapes provided in this tutorial. It is ok for each piece to be slightly different.
4. Block elements are stitched/machine quilted to background piece using black extra strong thread. Set the machine to a long stitch length. Stitch around the perimeter of the pieces several times to achieve that "illustrated" look.
5. Due to the thickness of the layered wool, it is highly recommended that you use a heavy duty jeans needle.
6. Machine quilting several layers together may distort the wool shapes slightly...run with it for a truly unique block!! Pieces can also be distorted with a steam iron and/or intentional pulling or stretching during sewing.
7. Press and/or steam all finished blocks. Use the rotary cutter to true the block edges back to an 8" square.
8. Felt balls can be reshaped if desired. Dunk balls into hot soapy water and reshape by rolling or flattening with your hands. Allow balls to thoroughly dry before incorporating into your project.
9. For finishing, stitch blocks to a square of decorator fabric. Assemble finished blocks together in a grid, with or without a backing. Finish with a binding for a crisp finished edge. Add a rod pocket for hanging if desired.

### BLOCK DIRECTIONS:

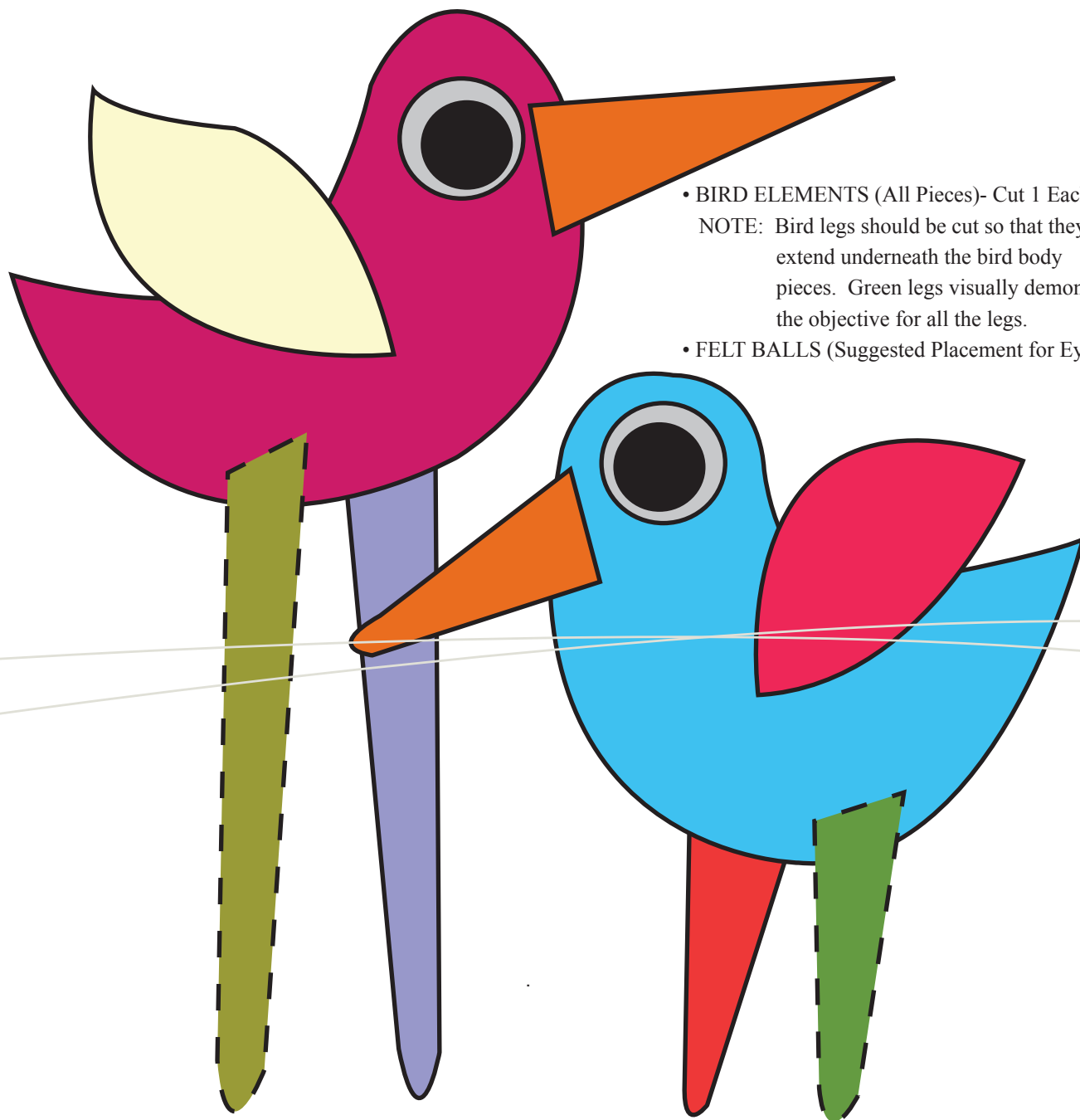
1. Prepare 8" block background and cut out all of the bird pieces. Arrange the bird elements on the block until desired placement is achieved. If needed, place a pin in each piece to hold in place.
2. Beginning first with the bird legs, machine quilt to the background, "illustrating" with thread around the perimeter edges. Next, place and quilt each bird body, then the wings and finally the beak pieces. Illustrate perimeter edges of each layer.
3. For the eyes, layer a round ball on top of the small circles. Use a sewing needle and thread to secure in place.
4. Press and/or steam finished block and true any uneven block edges.



This wall hanging project was created for the taping of **The Quilt Show** with Alex Anderson & Ricky Tims. View episode #1107 online beginning September 24, 2012

[www.thequiltshow.com](http://www.thequiltshow.com)

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- BIRD ELEMENTS (All Pieces)- Cut 1 Each
- NOTE: Bird legs should be cut so that they extend underneath the bird body pieces. Green legs visually demonstrate the objective for all the legs.
- FELT BALLS (Suggested Placement for Eyes)

PRINT BLOCK AT 100%



Want a kit for this wool block? Visit our website to order. Due to the nature of salvaged wool, available materials vary. Wool components will be selected to resemble the pictured block.

Visit our website for other blocks in this series and for other **FREE Project Ideas** - [www.handbehgfelts.com](http://www.handbehgfelts.com)

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