

Nov 2018 - Winter Birds – Cardinals (and maybe a few Blue Jays)

I don't know about you, but I love the look of cardinals and blue jays in winter scenes! This month's block is NOT paper-pieced, just regular piecing. It's a bit more detailed, but you have two months to complete it. Your kit contains the green, black, and gold. You supply reds (or blues for the jays! Just substitute shades of blue for the reds in the directions). You will also need to supply the white for the background. Use 1 or 2 (or more) shades of red or blue – *the sample and the instructions are done with 2*. If you choose to use only 1 color, cut 2 extra 2½" dark red squares, and skip the 1 – 3" light red square – you would also skip the instructions for block 4.

Be adventurous – make your bird in reverse (facing left instead of right) – there is no wrong way. Your completed block will be a 12½" square (for a 12" finished blocks). Precise cutting and accurate, scant ¼" seams are the key to producing the best results.

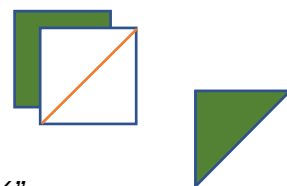
For each 12" block cut:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 8 – 3" squares white (or white-on-white) | 1 – 3¼" square white (or white-on-white) |
| 15 – 2 ½" squares white (or white-on-white) | 3 – 3" squares dark red (or dark blue) |
| 1 – 3¼" square dark red (or dark blue) | 3 – 2½" square dark red (or dark blue) |
| 2 – 3" square light red (or light blue) | 2 – 2½" squares light red (or light blue) |
| 3 – 3" squares green (<i>provided in your kit</i>) | 1 – 2¼" square yellow (<i>provided in your kit</i>) |
| 1 – 2¼" square black (<i>provided in your kit</i>) | |

Making the Blocks –

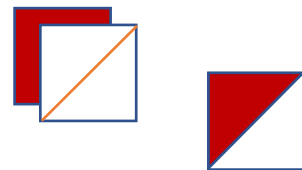
1. Corner pinwheels – makes 6

Draw a line on the back of 3 of the 3" white squares. With right sides together, match one of these white squares and a green 3" square together, stitch ¼" on either side of the drawn line, cut on the drawn line and press open, pressing to the darker fabric. Trim to finished size of 2½"



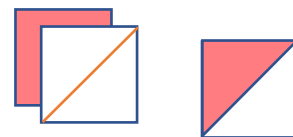
2. Head and tail – makes 6

Draw a line in the back of 3 of the 3" white squares. With right sides together, match one of these white squares and a dark red 3" square together, stitch ¼" on either side of the drawn line, cut on the drawn line and press open, pressing to the darker fabric. Trim to finished size of 2½"



3. Upper Wings – makes 2

Draw a line in the back of 1 of the 3" white squares. With right sides together, match this white square and a light red 3" square together, stitch ¼" on either side of the drawn line, cut on the drawn line and press open, pressing to the darker fabric. Trim to finished size of 2½"

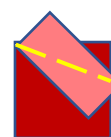


4. Lower Wing – makes 2 (opposites)

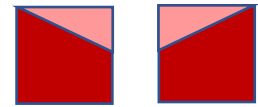
Draw a line on the back of 2 the 2½" dark red squares, on the first, from the top left point to the center of the opposite side. Repeat on the other dark red square in the other direction, as shown.



Cut the 3" light red square in half cross-wise (resulting in 2 – 3" x 1½"

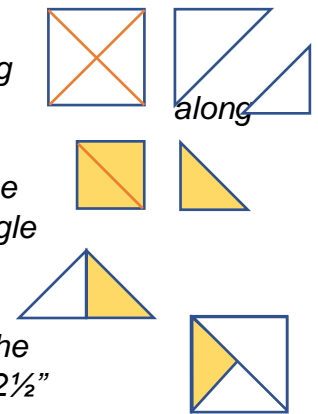


rectangles). With right sides together, align the lower corner of the light red square to the top corner of dark red square, and the upper right corner of the light red square to the center mark on the dark red square, following the drawn line. Stitch **on** the drawn line, trim $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the line, and press the light fabric up. Trim to finished size of $2\frac{1}{2}$ ".



5. **Beak – makes 1**

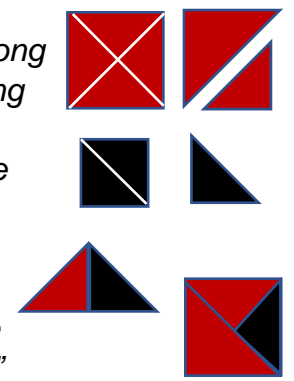
Draw a line in the back of the $3\frac{1}{4}$ " white square, in both directions. Cut along only **one** of the lines, and then cut only **one** of the triangles in half again the other line - discard one of the small triangles. Cut the provided yellow square in half, discard one half. With right sides together, matching along the straight, non-biased edge, stitch the small white triangle and the yellow triangle together, and press the seam open.



Being careful to not stretch the edge, attach the remaining white triangle to the yellow/white $\frac{1}{4}$ triangle piece. Press to one side, and trim to finished size of $2\frac{1}{2}$ ".

6. **Cheek – makes 1**

Draw a line in the back of the $3\frac{1}{4}$ " dark red square, in both directions. Cut along only **one** of the lines, and then cut only **one** of the triangles in half again along the other line – discard one of the small triangles. Cut the provided black square in half, discard one half. With right sides together, matching along the straight, non-biased edge, stitch the small red triangle and the black triangle together, and press the seam open.



Being careful to not stretch the edge, attach the remaining red triangle to the black/red $\frac{1}{4}$ triangle piece. Press to one side, and trim to finished size of $2\frac{1}{2}$ ".

7. Sew blocks into rows as per the layout below. Press each row in opposite directions. Sew rows together to complete block, pressing row seams open to reduce bulk. Square up finished block to $12\frac{1}{2}$ "

