

Pie Lady Quilts

Home Improv Bird Tutorial

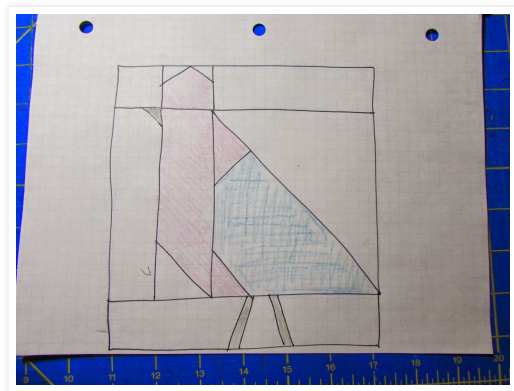
Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Improv Bird Tutorial

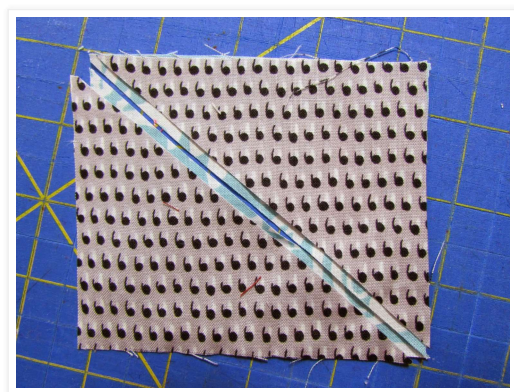
First off, I want to thank Lynne from [The Patchery Menagerie](#) for the inspiration. Reading her "Bird How-To" was the first step in making my own little flock.

You will need two fabrics for the wing/body of the bird, a scrap of orange, two brown scraps and a background fabric. I chose to make the background scrappy.

Here is a road map for the birds:



Choose a background piece of fabric and a "wing" fabric and cut them into a square or a rectangle of the same size (this decision will impact the shape of your bird). Stack them with right sides facing up and eyeball a diagonal cut.



You will end up with fabric for two birds.

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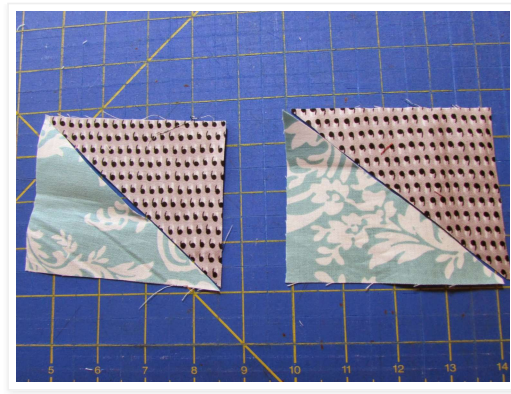
Pie Lady aka Jill



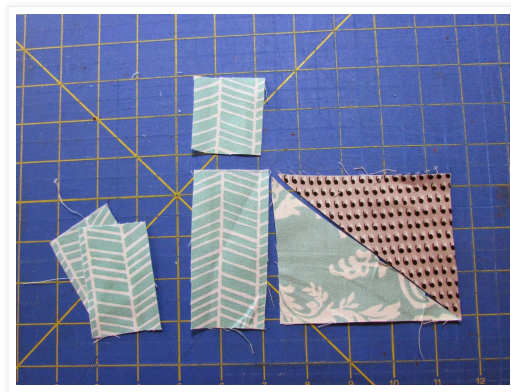
I am a former teacher, mother of four and an avid MAKER. I also own way too many pairs of Birkenstocks that are featured way too often in my quilt photography.

Blog Archive

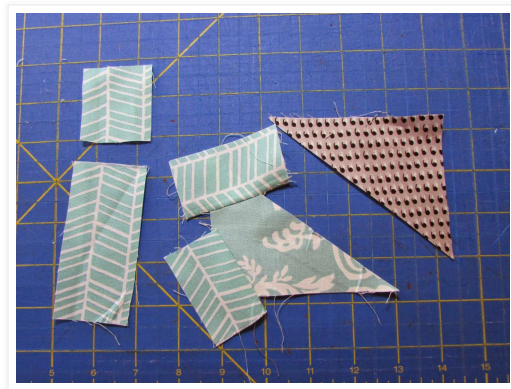
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Choose a coordinating strip of fabric for the bird head and body. Snip off a section for the head, for the body and two pieces to notch the wings.

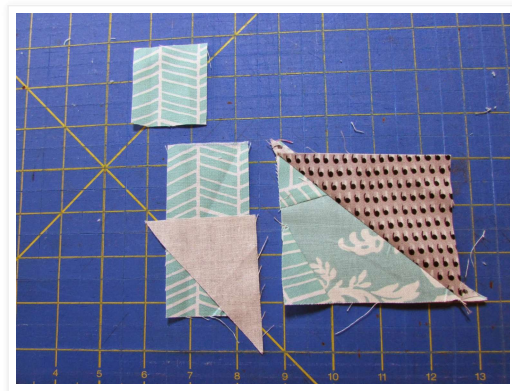


Position the two pieces of fabric on the wing for a stitch and flip. Sew, then press open. After pressing, trim the shape back to a triangle and then snip off the excess wing fabric from the back. Doing it that way means you can just use your scissors while you sit at the sewing machine!



Sew the wing piece to the background piece. Next, use a scrap of background fabric to make a notch on the

bird's body.



Stitch, press open and then trim using the method described above.



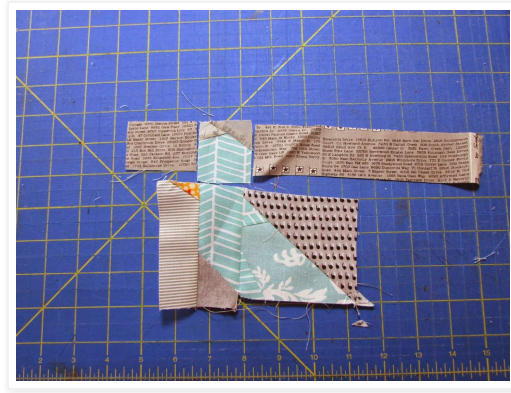
Choose a strip of background fabric and a small orange scrap for the beak.



Stitch, press open and trim. Attach the strip to the body section and choose two background scraps to add to the corners of the head. (NOTE: when I made a cardinal, I just used one background scrap and made the angle more severe.)



Stitch, press open and trim. Repeat for the other corner.



Choose another background strip to sew around the head.



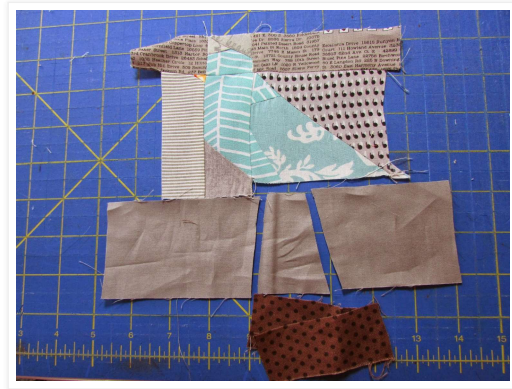
I lined the background strip up with the top of the head when I sewed it on because I knew that the head was looking a little large and that I would end up trimming it down.



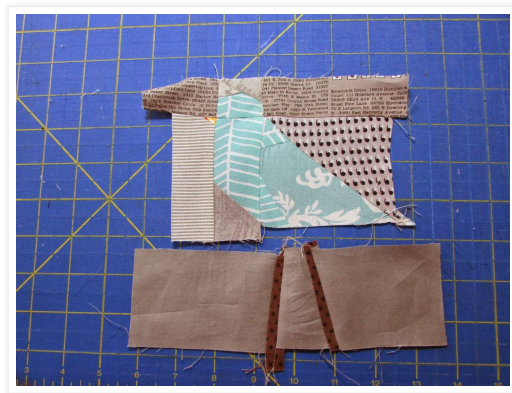
Better. Match the seams to the body, pin and sew.



Choose a background strip and two brown scraps for the legs. Eyeball the placement of the legs and make two cuts into the background strip. I like the way it looks when the legs are angled.



I pressed all the seams one direction so I could get a narrow leg without a lot of bulk.



Straighten the edge of the leg section and body section and sew together.



Trim the edges, and you have a finished block!



I turned my little bird into a new pincushion.



I've used these birds in two projects: [The Lovely Woods](#) and [Red Letter Day](#). I'd love to see how you use them! Have fun making your own little flock.

Posted by [Jill Fisher](#) at 1:28 PM

15 comments:



[Yvonne from Quilting Jetgirl](#) February 25, 2015 at 2:12 PM

Great tutorial and I love that it has a paper pieced look but is strictly an improv block.

[Reply](#)



[Katharine Yates](#) February 25, 2015 at 6:35 PM

Thank you for sharing this! I've been admiring your birds :) I love getting new ideas for fun improv piecing, I will definitely have to try this out!

[Reply](#)



[Late Night Quilter](#) February 25, 2015 at 9:04 PM

Thank you for writing this as a tutorial Jill!! I love those little birds. I want to put one on every quilt! Thanks for linking up on Toos and Tutorials Tuesday!

[Reply](#)



[Quilting Pat](#) March 10, 2015 at 1:45 PM

So enjoyed your red birds at guild. Thanks for sharing with us Jill. It's about time for the birds to return.

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