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PROJECT: Stuffed Bird Toy

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Sew multiples of this sweet bird, embellishing them with embroidery, for a flock of soft playthings.

INSPIRED BY: *All Atwitter* from designer Naomi Stewart

PROJECT TESTER: Jan Ragaller



**FABRICS** are from the Artisan Spirit Strokes of Brilliance collection by Deborah Edwards for Northcott ([northcott.com](http://northcott.com)).

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**STUFFED ANIMAL**

Finished size: approximately 4½×7×5"

**MATERIALS  
FOR ONE BIRD**

- ❑ 8×16" piece mottled red (body)
- ❑ 10"-square piece mottled orange (belly, beak)
- ❑ 2—½"-diameter black buttons (eyes)
- ❑ Thread: black
- ❑ Perle cotton No. 3: black
- ❑ Polyester fiberfill

**CUT FABRICS**

Cut pieces in the following order.

Patterns are on *pages 4 and 5*.

To make templates of patterns, see "Make and Use Templates" on *page 6*. Be sure to transfer dots and lines marked on patterns to fabric pieces. The dots are matching points, and the lines are placement guidelines; both are necessary when joining pieces.

**From mottled red, cut:**

- 1 of Body Pattern
- 1 of Body Pattern reversed

**From mottled orange, cut:**

- 1 of Belly Pattern
- 2 of Beak Pattern

**SAFETY FIRST**

When making a stuffed toy, consider the age of the child you are giving it to. If the child is older, use buttons or snap-on bead eyes, as seen in this bird pattern. If the child is younger, make sure to appliqué or embroider the eyes because buttons or snap-on eyes can be choking hazards.

**ASSEMBLE BIRD**

Measurements include ¼" seam allowances. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

- 1) Referring to **Eye Placement Diagram**, use black thread to sew one button in place on mottled red body piece. Repeat with mottled red reversed body piece.
- 2) Using black perle cotton, stem-stitch a wing and tail feathers (**Embroidery Diagram** and **Stem Stitch Diagram**) on mottled red body piece and mottled red reversed body piece.
- 3) Pin mottled orange belly piece to mottled red body piece, matching dots (**Diagram 1**). Sew together pieces, beginning ¼" from tail edge. Be sure to backstitch at beginning and end of seam and to stop sewing at marked dots.
- 4) Layer two mottled orange beak pieces (**Diagram 2**); sew together pairs of straight edges. Turn right side out to make beak. Remove any fibers stuck in the seam. Fill beak loosely with fiberfill.
- 5) Align beak on Step 3 unit approximately ¼" above marked dot (**Diagram 3**). Sew in place using a ⅛" seam.
- 6) Repeat Step 3 with mottled red reversed body piece and remaining edge of mottled orange belly piece.
- 7) Pin together remaining edges of body pieces, leaving tail edges open. Sew together as before (**Diagram 4**), catching beak in seam.
- 8) Turn joined pieces right side out. Stuff firmly with fiberfill through opening in tail.
- 9) Fold tail edges under ¼". Hand-sew folded tail edges together to complete bird.

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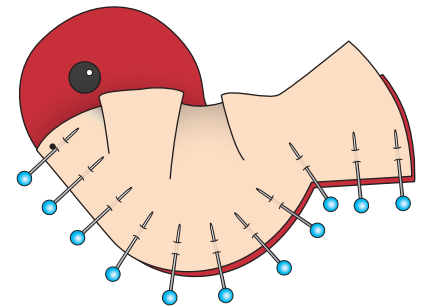
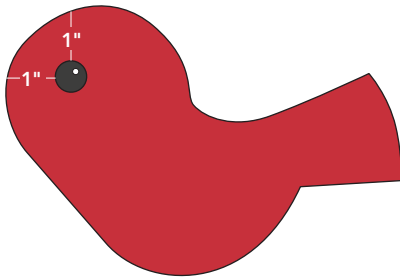
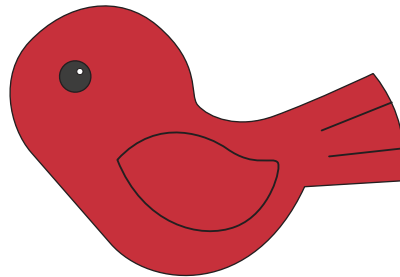


DIAGRAM 1



EYE PLACEMENT DIAGRAM



EMBROIDERY DIAGRAM

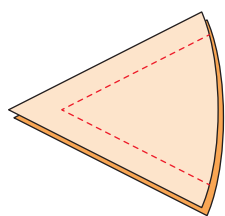
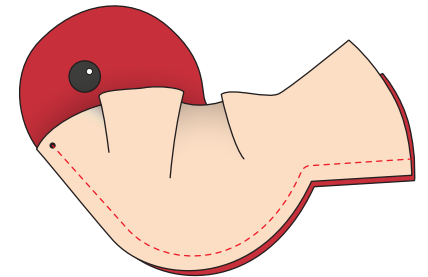


DIAGRAM 2

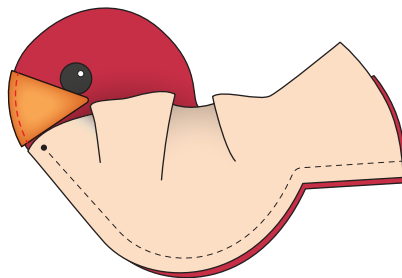


DIAGRAM 3

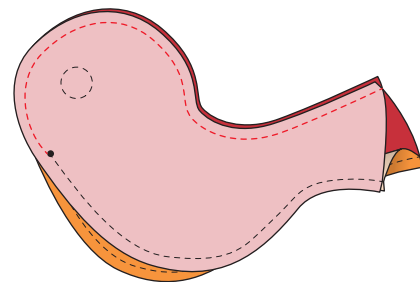
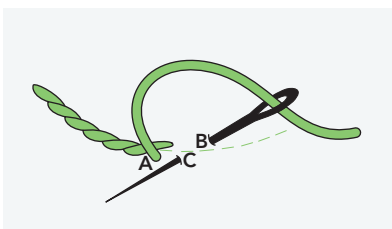


DIAGRAM 4



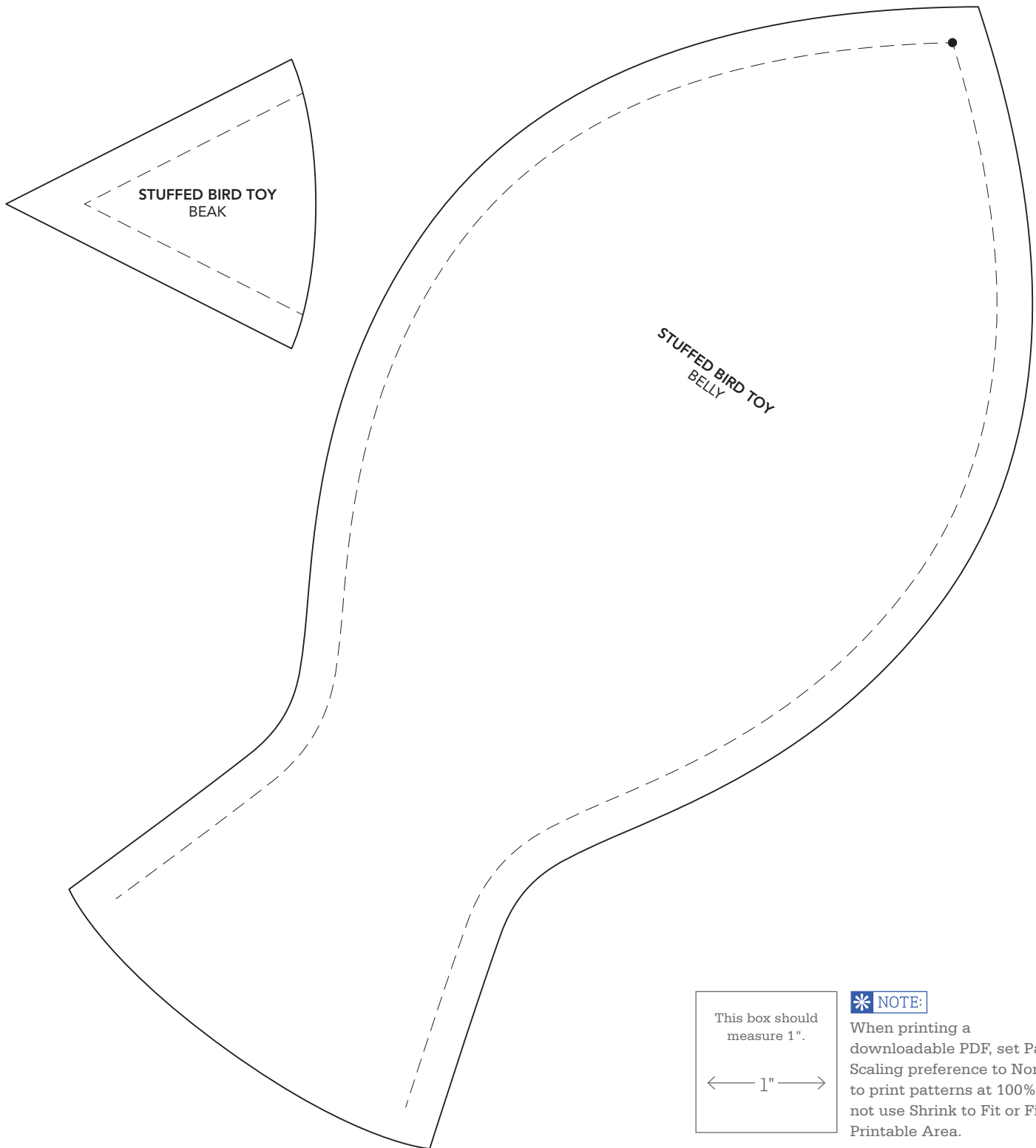
STEM STITCH DIAGRAM

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This box should  
measure 1".

← 1" →

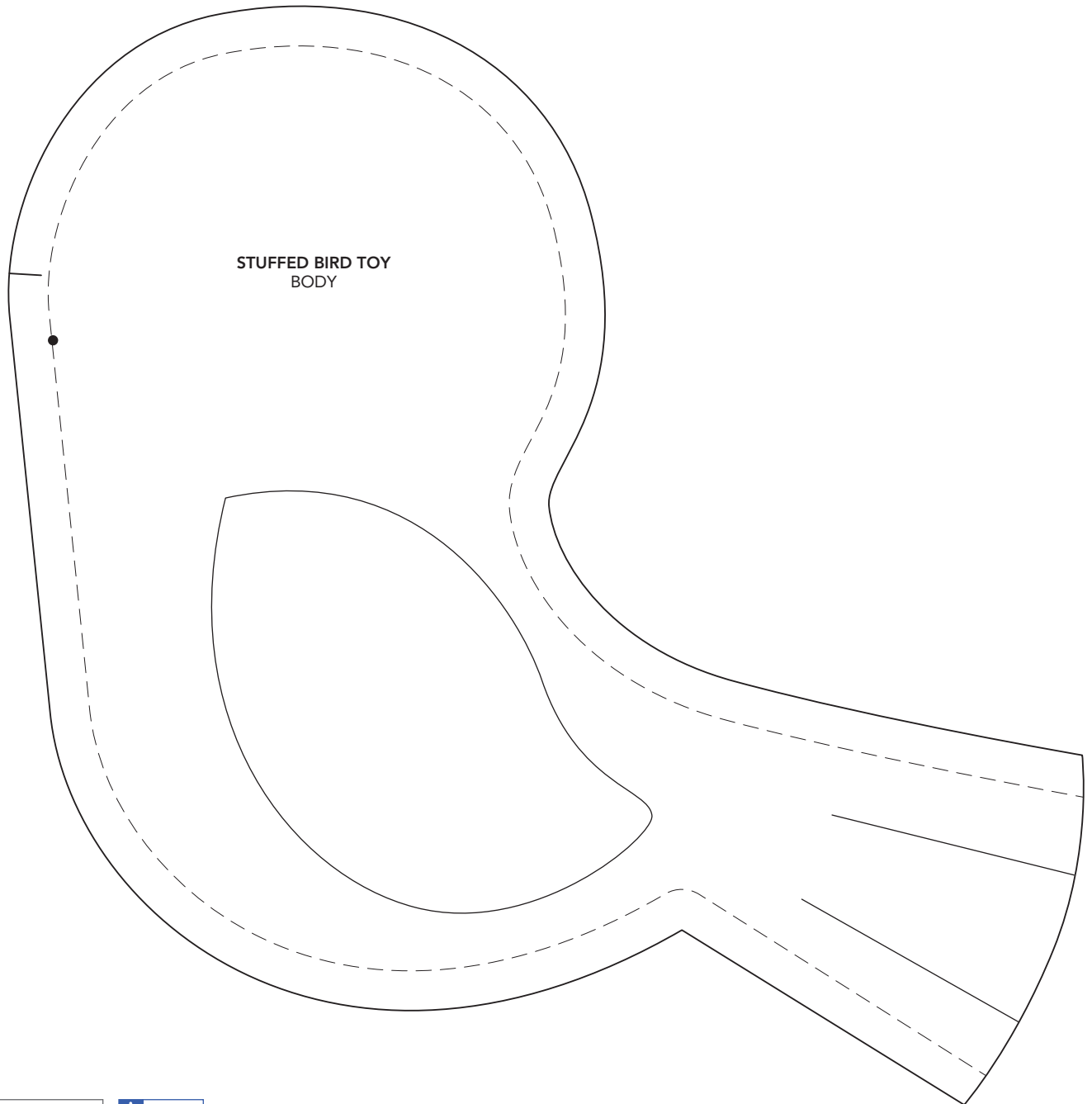
**\* NOTE:**  
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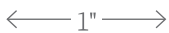
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STUFFED BIRD TOY  
BODY

This box should  
measure 1".



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## MAKE AND USE TEMPLATES

### MAKE TEMPLATES

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material that allows you to trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. You can make your own templates by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted on the pattern), and block name. Cut out the traced shapes on their outside lines. Verify each template's shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern. Templates must be accurate; errors, however small, will compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check templates' accuracy, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

### USE TEMPLATES

To mark on fabric, use a pencil, white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; it may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them.

To make pieces for hand piecing or appliqué, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the previous tracing (**Diagram 1**), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting (dashed) lines  $\frac{1}{4}$ " inside the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a  $\frac{3}{16}$ " seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template without a space between it and the previous tracing (**Diagram 2**); trace again and repeat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut pieces out, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.

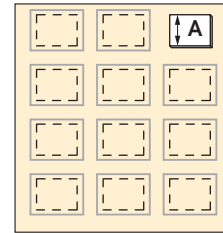


DIAGRAM 1

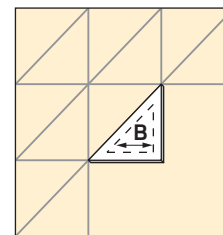


DIAGRAM 2