

# From Feathers To Fabric

## Supply list (2 pages)

Instructor: Helene Knott 503-631-8806 Email: [helene.m.knott@gmail.com](mailto:helene.m.knott@gmail.com)

Website: [www.heleneknott.com](http://www.heleneknott.com)

In this class you will learn how to use commercial fabric prints to make exquisitely detailed collage birds. The project is fused and the block can be finished into a small wall quilt or make several blocks featuring fine feathered friends to assemble into a larger project, or, you could collage birds to add to a garment or bag. The pattern handout features several somewhat generic bird types that can be adapted for a particular species if you wish. This process can be fun and rewarding, seeing your birds come to life from even small bits of fabric. There is a fabric guide at the end of the list to help you find the best types of fabrics to 'feather' your bird.

**Please be courteous to others by arriving for class with the correct supplies. Contact me at 503-631-8806 or [helene.m.knott@gmail.com](mailto:helene.m.knott@gmail.com) if you have any questions.**

**A Note to Students:** Many students do not realize that once the teacher is paid, the shop offering a class makes little if any income on the class itself. The shop is relying on product sales to continue offering quality classes to you. Therefore, I urge you to patronize this shop when buying your supplies for this class as much as possible and remind you that big chain stores do not offer the variety of classes that the smaller shops do. Keep quilt classes alive by supporting this shop.  
**Thank you, Helene**

### Tools/materials:

- **Bird Fabrics:** Selection and amounts will vary according to the bird you select and the particular species you wish it to represent. You may go entirely for a fantasy bird in which case you only need to pick colors that harmonize well with the appropriate 'feathery' or linear textures or study photos of real birds if you wish to recreate a particular species. Though scraps may suffice for some feathers, the aim is to find and fussy cut the perfect choice so larger pieces such as fat eighths or fat quarters of each fabric would be preferable. The bird collage will be fused so pre-wash all your fabrics if possible for better adhesion. Depending on the bird you wish to recreate you may need about 12 fabrics in various colors and textures; don't forget the beak which can be different colors depending on the species, and the eye which is black on most birds but can sometimes be a dark rusty red. To have the widest options, it's good to bring more choices than you will actually use. See fabric selection guidelines at the end of this list. NOTE: I will bring some fabrics to share as well.
- **Other Fabrics:** You will need a fat quarter of a fabric for your background and another for the branch for the bird to perch on. Each block has the option of an applique 'lei' (a contoured fabric frame around the perimeter of the block), if you wish to add one, chose a fabric that contrasts nicely with the background. Finally, you will need fabric for borders but you can wait to get that later after your block(s) are done.
- **Sewing machine (optional):** The birds will be fused in the class and can have borders added and be quilted or embellished with additional machine stitching at a later date therefore, a sewing machine is optional for the class.
- **Rotary cutter, mat and cutting ruler**
- **Fusible web:** About 1 yard of a product that has one layer of paper is recommended however any fusible product that utilizes a paper base may be used. Avoid products that are simply the adhesive web without a paper base as they will be harder to mark, cut and position accurately. Remember to bring the instructions, fusing procedures vary between products.
- **Teflon pressing sheet:** to protect the iron and ironing board from adhesive. The bird may also be assembled and fused to the Teflon sheet then peeled up whole and fused onto the background fabric, this makes alignment on the pieces much easier

# From Feathers To Fabric

Supply list (2 pages)

Instructor: Helene Knott 503-631-8806 Email: [helene.m.knott@gmail.com](mailto:helene.m.knott@gmail.com)

Website: [www.heleneknott.com](http://www.heleneknott.com)

- **Scissors:** You will be cutting through paper and fusible webbing adhered to fabric so bring a pair of scissors you don't mind using for these products. Make sure they are sharp and fine-jawed enough to cut out fine detail. A pair of small embroidery or craft scissors would be perfect.
- **Freezer Paper:** You will need a foot or so from a roll.
- **Craft Knife (optional):** To cut 'windows' and templates in freezer paper
- **Pencil and a white plastic eraser**
- **Black Pigma Micron pen:** .05 or .08 would be best.
- **Resource books/photos:** if you wish to recreate a realistic bird, a photo of that species will help you determine the colors and textures of the fabric you will need and how to place the colors.

## Finding Perfect Bird Fabrics

Look for fabrics with 'feathery' and/or linear textures as well as scalloped and ruffly textures. Prints featuring realistic looking feathers are great but also look for botanical prints with bold showy veined leaves and blossoms. Fabrics in an Art Nouveau style, paisley prints, arabesques, wood grain, and marbled patterns are also suitable. Think of individual wing and tail feathers as well as bird body parts – the bird's head cap, the breast, and the 'cape' (the back below the head)... and remember, birds come in many colors. It helps to look at and examine photographs of birds and note what directions the feathers lie and how they overlap. Below are some examples of suitable prints, you will not find these exact prints but they will give you an idea of the types to look for.

