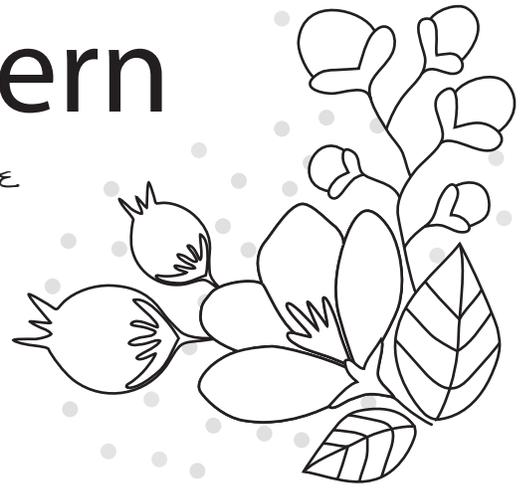


Bird Pattern

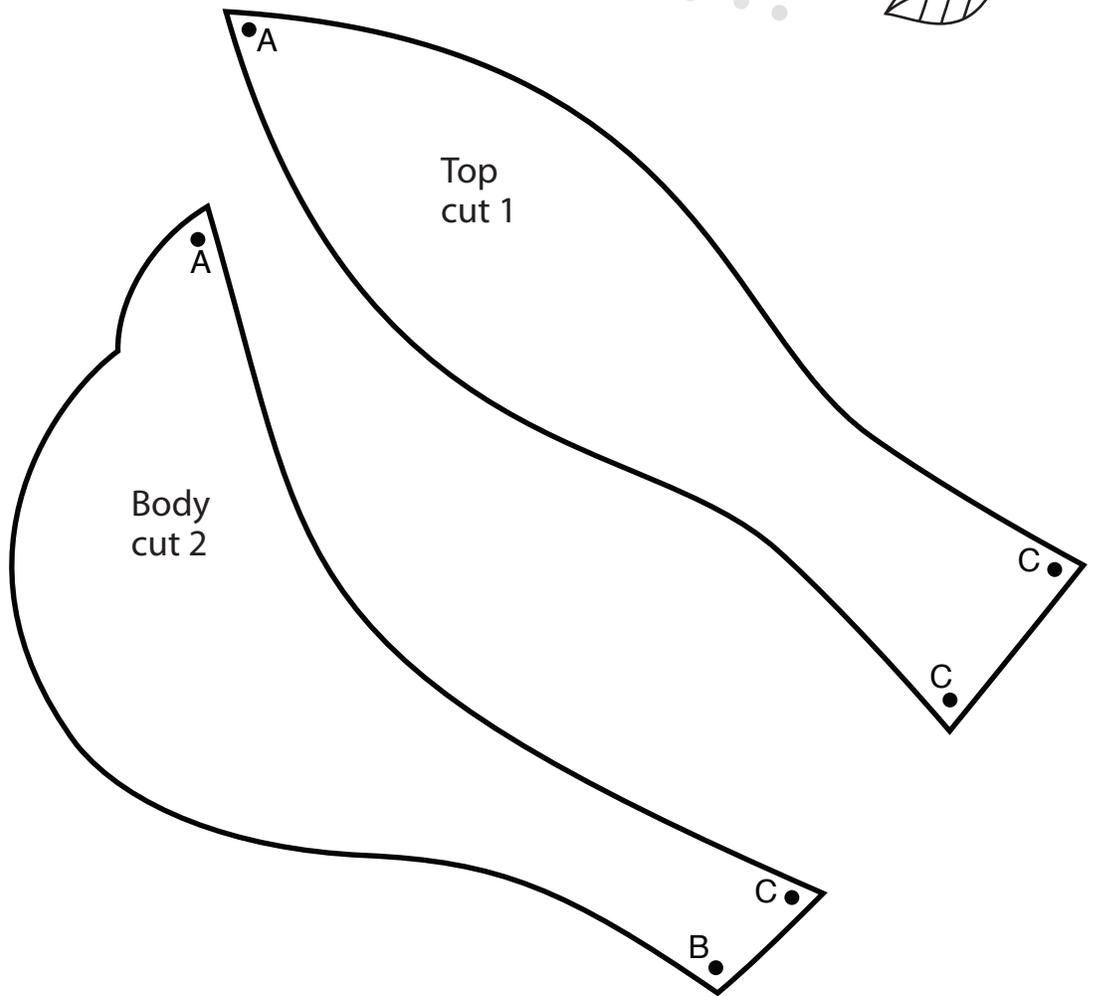
by Hilary Cosgrove



1 Inch
test square

Supplies List

- Fabric
- Felt
- Polyfil
- 34" wire
- Wire snips
- Needle nose pliers
- Embroidery thread
- Needle
- Scissors



Print and cut out the above pattern. It is good practice to print patterns without scaling to size. Measure the test square to check it is 1", although you can make the bird bigger or smaller as desired.

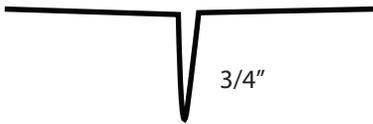
Cut out the bird pieces: two body and one top. If your fabric has an obvious right side, make sure you flip the body pattern piece for the second cut. Divide a few lengths of the embroidery thread in half, so the the thread is 3 strands.

1. Make the Legs

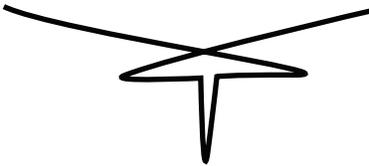
Cut two 17" lengths of wire. Bend wire in half just off center, one side being about 1" longer.



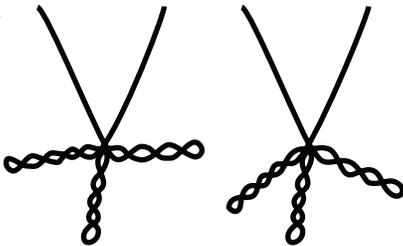
Now we create the toes. Using pliers bend each wire at 3/4" to create a 90° angle, with the wires opposite each other.



Bend each of the wires again at 3/4", you should now have 3 bends/toes.



Pinch the wire with your fingers where the wires cross, use the pliers to twist the toe wires a few times. You now have 3 twisted toes.

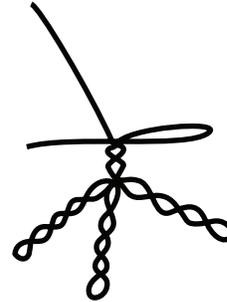


Bend the toes slightly so they are pointing roughly the same direction.

Twist the two wires twice as tightly as you can to the toes.



Take the longer wire and make a 3/4" bend in it for the heel.



Starting as tight as you can to the foot, twist the two leg wires together for about 2.5" - 3".



Twist the heel like you twisted the toes. Use the pliers to align the toes and give them a slight bend.



Set aside.

2. Sew the bird together

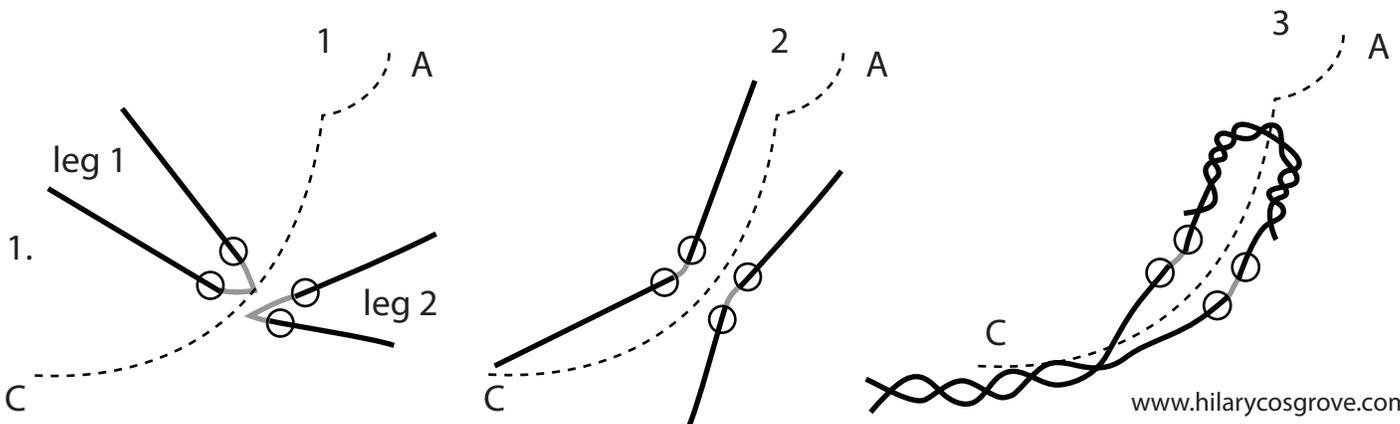
With wrong sides together, sew the two body pieces together along the belly, starting at A, ending at B.

Sew the top of the bird to one side of the body, starting at A and working your way back to C. The top piece may be a little long, this is okay as it will be trimmed later.

3. Attach the legs

The legs will be placed in the center of the belly and just above the stitch line. One leg in each side of the bird. Divide the wires and poke them through the fabric. You do not want both wires in the same hole, they should be just slightly apart. Push the legs all way in until they stop at the first twist of the leg.

Pull the body back so you are looking at the inside of the bird. You will have 4 wires poking up. (fig. 1) Press two wires (one from each leg) towards the beak (A) and two wires towards the tail (C). (fig. 2)



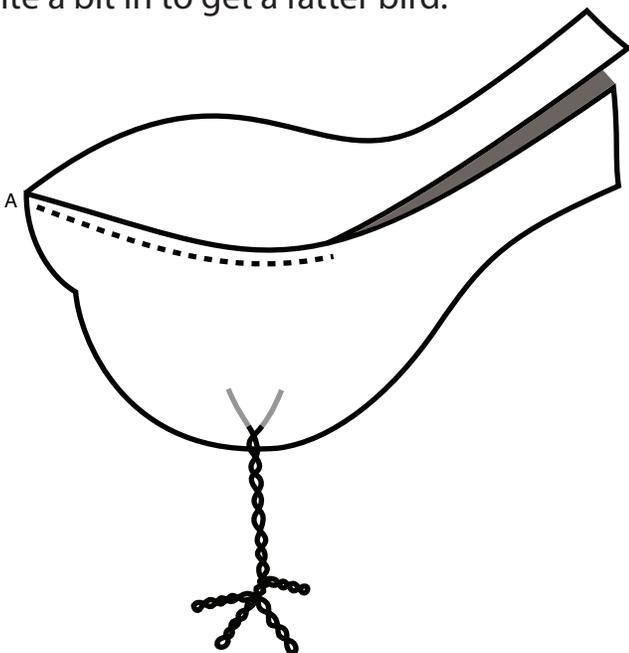
Bend the two nose wires at a 90° angle, about an inch from where they poked through the body. Twist the wires together a couple times and trail the end back down the wire, creating a twisted “U”. You may need to trim the wire a bit to make this easier. Twist the tail wires straight together. (fig. 3)

The “U” shape is important to keep the legs sturdy, two straight twists and the legs will unravel. Use the pliers to tightly twist all the ends so they do not poke out.

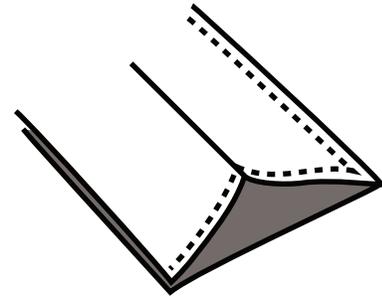
Bend the interior wires to mimic the shape of the belly and flip the body back up.

4. Stuff the bird

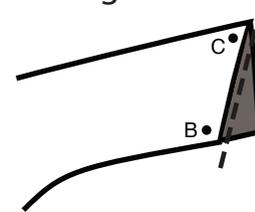
To close the open side match the body piece to the top starting at A. Stitch about half way and stop, this is when you will stuff the bird. Push the polyfil in until you get the level of stuffiness you like. I usually press quite a bit in to get a fatter bird.



Finish stitching to the tail. Flatten the top of the tail to the two sides and sew along following the “V” the flattened sides make.

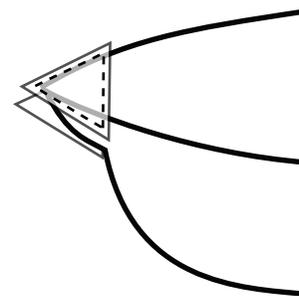


Press the two sides up, folding the top piece in half. Cut the top piece from B to C to match the side angles creating a “V”.



5. Sew the Beak

Cut two triangles of felt, slightly larger than the shape of the beak. Pinch the triangles over the beak, one on top, one on the bottom and stitch all around the edges, making sure you are sewing through all layers of fabric. Trim the felt to match the shape of the beak.



Use the pliers to shape the legs and toes. Hold both feet against the table. Keep them straight or add a bit of a curve. Press down and wiggle the feet around until the bird stands on it's own. Trim any threads and rough edges.

You are done!