



## Baby Owls Advent Calendar

These baby owls have all hung up their Christmas stockings in the hope that Santa will remember them this Christmas Eve.

Deceptively easy project featuring freestyle machine embroidery - the stockings are stitched and then cut out. Then simply peg them to the calendar with those miniature clothes pegs you use for hanging cards. Finished calendar measures 19" x 26".



### You will need:

- 19 x 26 1/4" piece of medium weight navy blue fabric
- 19 x 26" piece of light-weight batting
- 19 x 7 1/4" piece of medium weight brown check fabric
- 20" x 6" piece of brown felt for tree (if you have a shorter, fatter piece this is fine, you can join it in the middle and stitch over the join).
- 1 FQ red polka dot fabric for stockings
- 24" square red felt for backing stockings
- 12" x 6" cream/blue polka dot fabric for stocking tops
- Assorted scraps of fabric in browns, creams and other natural colours for the owls' bodies
- Assorted scraps of fabric in greens for leaves
- 5" square gold fabric for star
- 6" square of beige felt for eyes
- 4" square aqua blue fabric for eyes
- Small amount yellow felt for beaks and matching floss for stitching feet.
- 7 pairs of 1/4" buttons for eyes
- 2 1/2 yards baker's twine, needle it will fit through
- 3 yards bias binding
- 1" curtain rings for hanging
- 24 (or 25 if preferred) small pegs - the sort you can purchase for hanging cards.
- 8" square white cotton fabric suitable for printing numbers on. *(Either use your printer, or write with a fabric marker, or use a stamp to mark the numbers. If you're using a printer, then I have provided the numbers I used later in the pattern.)*
- Darning/embroidery foot for your sewing machine.

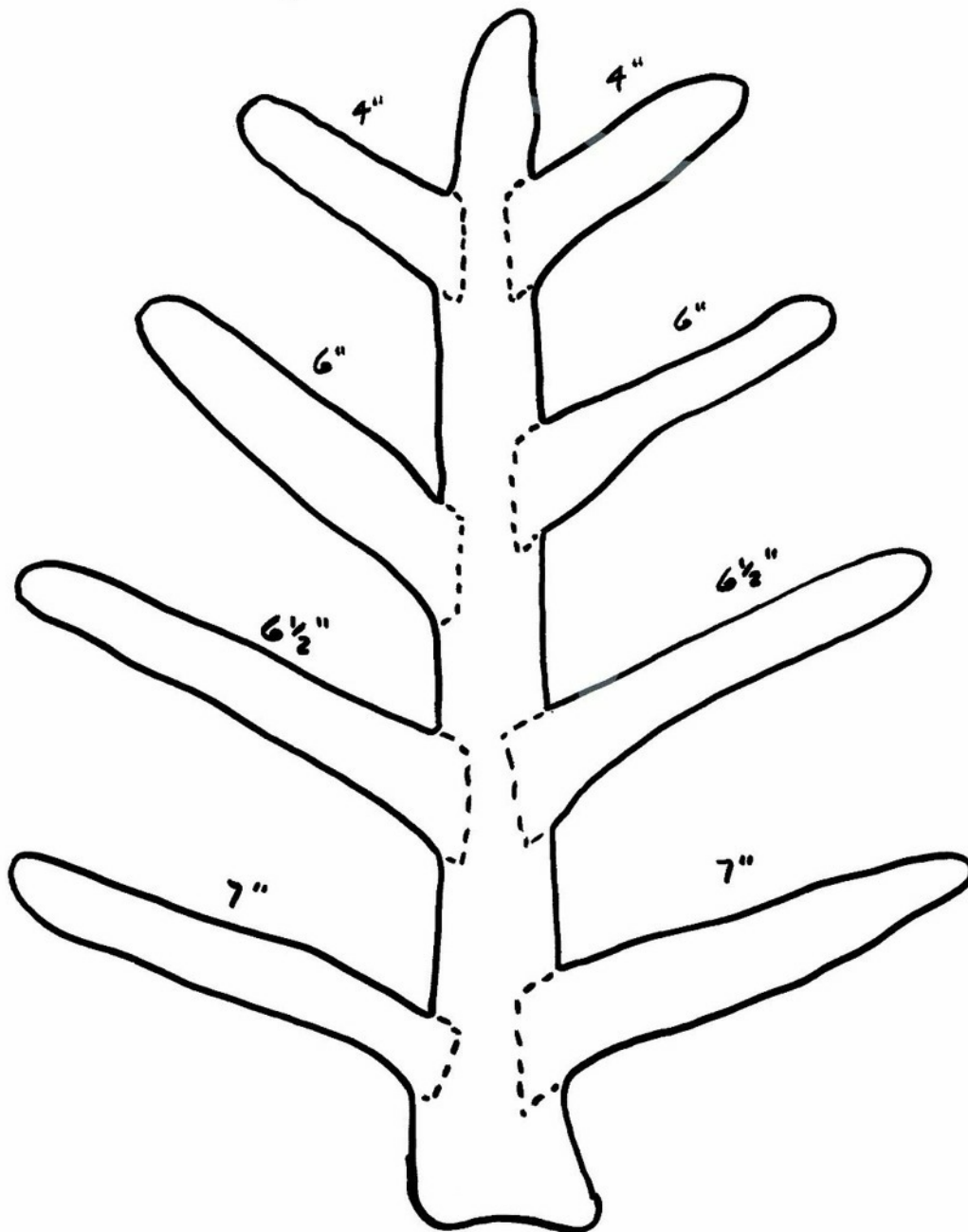
- Black, cream and navy thread for your needle
- Bondaweb or fabric adhesive
- Temporary fabric marker pen

### Background and Tree:

- Join your navy and blue fabrics along one 19" edge using a 1/4" seam allowance. Press seam open.
- Trace tree shapes onto Bondaweb using the template on the next page. You will need to resize this template - the tree measures 19" tall from top to bottom, or simply cut the shapes freehand using the template image as a guide. Do not cut straight lines - the tree limbs should be gently curving and organic with rounded ends.
- Position your tree on the background, centering it horizontally. The base of the trunk should be 1 1/2" up from the bottom of the background panel.
- Underlap the branches with the trunk as shown by the dotted lines on the template so there are no gaps.
- When you're happy with the positioning iron into place.
- With black thread in your machine needle and a lighter colour in your bobbin (this will give a less harsh effect) stitch twice around the edges of the tree trunk and branches. You are aiming for a scribbled effect - don't be too neat. If you like, you could also include a few knots and twirls as you stitch as shown in the image below:



Tree template. Cut branches separately and overlap with trunk as shown by dotted lines. Tree measures 19" from bottom of trunk to its tip.



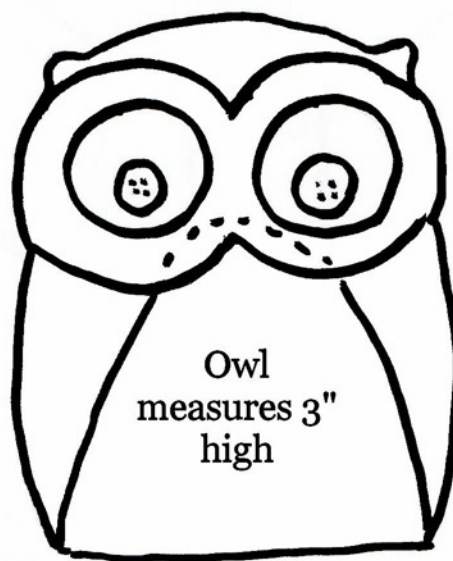
- Now trace onto Bondaweb, fuse to your green fabrics, and cut out 24 simple leaf shapes (see photograph for guidance).
- Position these leaves at the end of the branches, again using the photograph as guidance for positioning (there is no right and wrong!).
- When you're happy with the positioning iron into place, then machine stitch as shown below, going twice around the edge and then up into the middle and back to look like the centre vein of the leaf.



- Press lightly on the back then place to one side for the time being.

### Make your owls:

- Using the template, trace the shapes onto Bondaweb. You may need to re-size the template - each owl should measure 3" tall.
- Then cut 7 owl bodies from your brown fabrics, 7 chests from cream, 7 beige felt spectacles and 14 aqua eyes.
- Position owls on branches using the photograph at the beginning of this pattern as a guide. Start with the bodies, then chests, spectacles and eyes. The spectacles overlap the chests as shown by the dotted line on the template.
- When you're happy with the positioning of your owls fuse them into place by ironing.

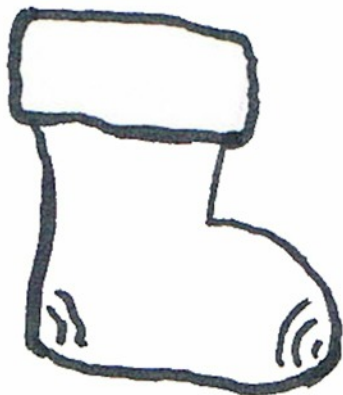


- Add small triangles of yellow felt for beaks, then machine stitch your owls to the background panel.
- Stitch buttons to eyes with black floss, and indicate feet with a few straight stitches in yellow floss.

### Make your stockings:

- Make a sandwich from red felt, Bondaweb and red polka dot fabric, ironing them together.
- Then draw around your stocking template (see next page) 24 or 25 times using your temporary fabric marker pen





Your stockings ..... Reverse some of the stockings so they will hang in opposite directions.

- Print onto fabric and cut out the numbers for your stockings (or cut circles of white fabric and stamp or write the numbers on to them). Fuse numbers to stockings.
- Fuse Bondaweb onto the reverse of your cream and blue dotty fabric, then trace and cut out 24 or 25 stocking tops.
- Fuse stocking tops to stockings



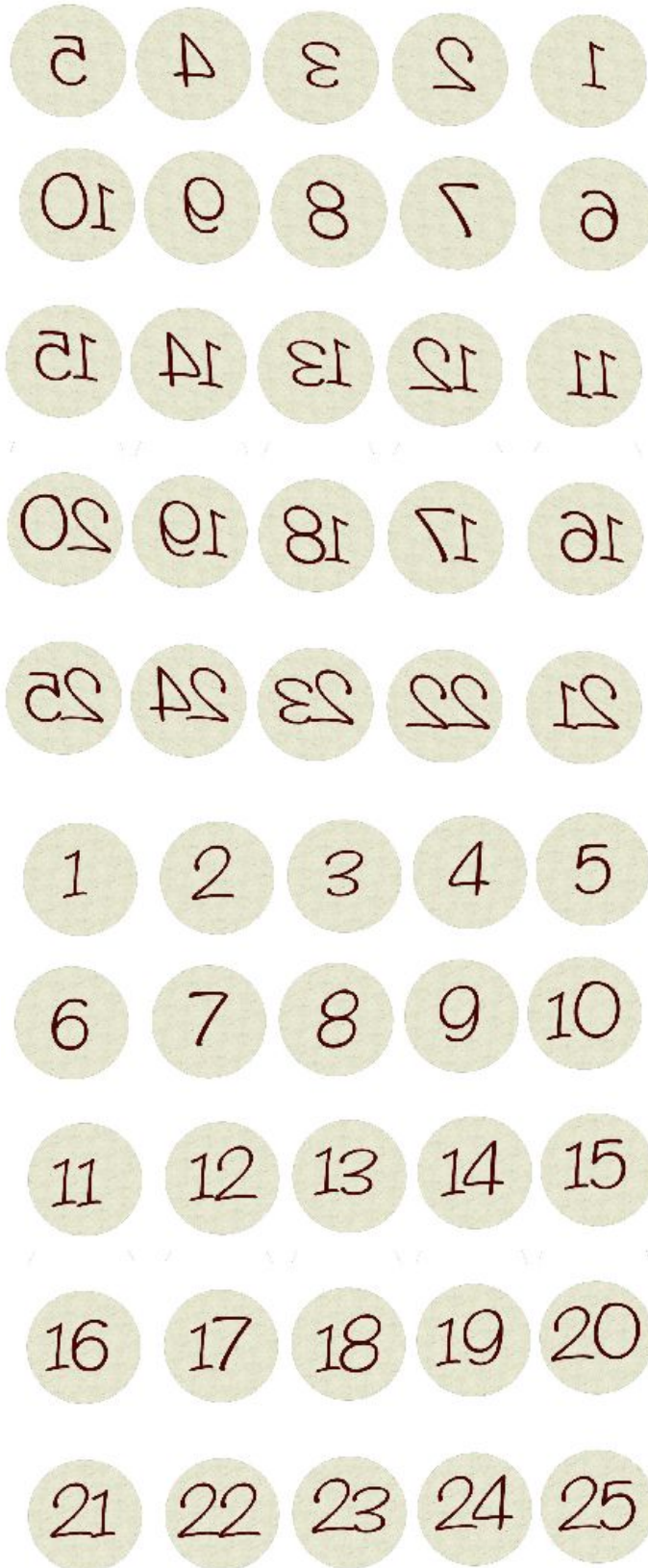
- Now, with your darning foot and black thread in your needle machine stitch twice around edge of stocking just inside the lines you drew around the template. Make a few extra lines to indicate toe and heel of stocking and go around cream and blue dotty stocking top twice as well. Go around the numbers once. It's much easier to stitch such small pieces before you cut them out!



- Cut your stockings out. If any of the lines you drew can be seen then remove them with water or wait for them to fade (depending on the type of marker pen you used).
- Press lightly on reverse.
- Place to one side for the moment.

#### Assemble your calendar:

- Make a sandwich from your backing fabric (right side down), batting and calendar front (right side up) and pin or tack together.
- With navy thread in your needle and your darning foot, quilt around the edge of the tree, leaves and owl, changing the thread in your needle to brown when you quilt around the base of the tree.
- Bind the edges of your calendar with your bias binding.
- Now you're going to add your baker's twine to the branches to hang the stockings from.
- Cut a 15" length of twine and thread it into your needle and push it through the front of your quilted calendar right to the back, leaving most of it at the front.
- Unthread your needle and make a knot in the twine.
- Thread your needle again and push through at the other end of the branch again securing with a knot at the back.



- Repeat for all the branches.
- Trim the tails of twine as shown in the image below.



- Stitch the two curtain rings to the back for hanging (or you could use a quilt hanger if preferred,)
- Peg your stockings to the twine with the miniature pegs - one each day until Christmas!



FINISHED!!



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Helen xx



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