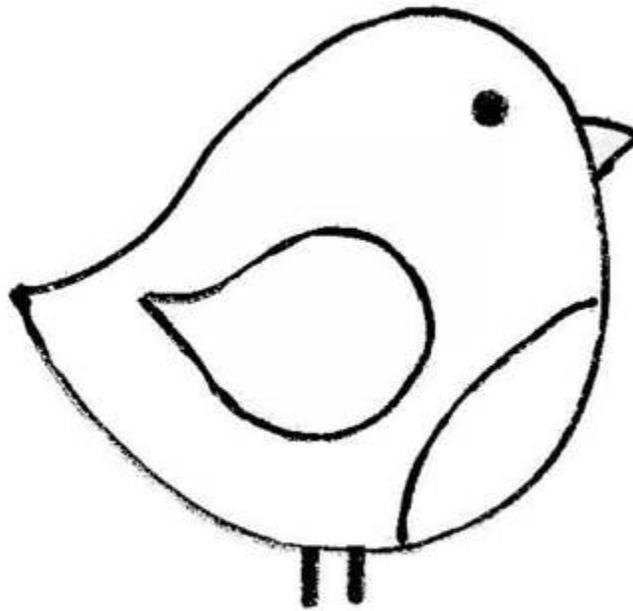




Robins in Love at Christmas

Use easy applique techniques to create a colourful festive cushion this Christmas time.

The crocheted mistletoe was taken from one of my favourite books – “100 flowers to knit & crochet” by Lesley Stanfield, substituting a pearl bead for the crochet bobble. But you could always cut mistletoe shaped leaves from felt if you’d prefer not to crochet.



This robin is a really simple applique shape - so would make a great project for beginners or children.

You will need:

- 16 ½” square of fabric for the front panel (and extra for the backs)
- lots of fabric scraps for the robins
- Just under 2 yards of red ric-rac braid
- Stranded cotton floss or thick thread in black, red and brown (to work with your fabric scraps and thread)
- Green felt and white pearly bead for mistletoe
- Bondaweb to fuse your shapes before stitching.

Method:

- Trace all the shapes onto the paper side of your Bondaweb - remember the shapes will be reversed when you iron onto the reverse of your fabric. So although you want 8 robins facing left, you need to trace 8 facing right (template above) and 1 facing left (hope this makes sense!)
- Fold your front panel into three equal parts vertically and horizontally, pressing the folds lightly - you want to be able to see them.

- Trace the robin shapes onto the paper side of your bondaweb and fuse to the reverse of your fabrics.
- Peel off backing paper and position within the 9 squares formed by your folds. When you’re happy with the positioning fuse into place with a hot iron (using a cloth to protect your fabrics if necessary).
- Stitch to background fabric using 3 strands of floss and small straight stitches at right angles to the applique shapes. Add black eyes and brown legs
- Position and pin ric-rac braid along fold lines and machine into place.
- Cut and add mistletoe sprig or crochet if preferred.
- Press panel on reverse.
- Then make into a simple cushion cover with an envelope style back by cutting, hemming and overlapping two 12” x 16 ½” rectangles for the back of the cushion. Insert pad and admire!





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Helen xxx

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