Rags-n-Tags™

Prim Birdies

PrimBirdies

You can use this bird pattern in a number of ways! You can add a hanger to create an ornament, you can glue into a fake bird nest or jar lid with raffia, you can glue it to a wooden spool, and more! Measures approximately 6" wide.

Supplies Needed:

fabric of your choice
polyester stuffing
fabric scraps
turning tool
air erasable fabric marker
needle
thread
matching floss (6 ply)
paint brush
instant coffee
imitation vanilla
glass pan

Prim Birdies

Rags-n-Tags Pattern #76

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Note: If you purchased this pattern as an e-pattern, please visit our website at:
http://www.rags-n-tags.com/patterninfo.html for printing tips to be sure you print the pattern pieces to size.

Abbreviated Words:
RST = right sides together
RSO = right side out
AEM = air erasable marker
SA = seam allowance

Begin by making a template of the pattern piece(s). Trace the pattern directly onto card stock or plastic template sheets; or glue the pattern down onto a manila folder. This way, your patterns will last longer.

*"Trace Lines" are also the sewing lines, unless otherwise noted on the pattern pieces.

*Read all directions before beginning your project.

Sew and Stuff:
Using an AEM; trace body pattern piece onto doubled fabric (with RST) of your choice. Sew directly on the line you traced leaving an opening where indicated. Trim ¼" away from your sew line. Next, trace and cut out the breast piece from one layer of the same fabric (or different if you prefer!). Pin to the bird, with the wider area toward the front of the bird. Be sure to match up the points of breast piece to the openings of the bird by matching the two large dots, and the two smaller dots (as shown on pattern). Start at the large dot, and sew ¼" from edge down to the small dot (make sure you take a few backstitches at the beginning and end, so that your stitches don't unravel). Flip the bird over, and begin to sew the other side of breast, but this time make sure you leave an opening half way down (leave an opening of about 1.25"). Clip all curves right up to (but not through) the sew line. This will help the body curve more easily when stuffed. Turn RSO, and then stuff the head, body, and the tip of the tail. Fill the rest of the tail, and the backend of the bird with scraps of fabric. This will help distribute the weight so that the bird will sit properly. Whip stitch opening closed.

Using an AEM; trace 2 of the wing pattern onto doubled fabric with RST. Sew completely around wings, directly on the line you traced. Trim ¼" away from your sew line; and clip the curves right up to (but not through) the sew line. Make a slit in one layer of each wing; turn RSO through slit. Loosely whipstitch slits closed. Thread a long needle with matching 6 ply floss, and knot the end. Insert needle through one of the wings going from back to front. Position the wings on your bird; then bring the needle though the first wing, body, and then the other wing. Pass the needle back and forth

through body and wings three more times, so each wing has an "x" in the center as shown on the pattern. If you wish, you can hot glue the wings on instead.

For eyes, sew beads or small buttons on each side of head, passing needle back and forth through head. Keep tension on the thread so a slight indent forms on each side of head. Or, use French knots as the eyes: Thread your needle with three to six strands of white floss. Tie a knot at the end, and then insert your needle through one eye placement, then out the other. Pull gently to pull the knot through so that it is hidden inside the bird's head. Create a French knot for the eye, and exit your needle at the other eye placement. Create another French knot for the second eye. Exit your needle right next to the first eye again. Make a knot close to the head, and then insert your needle next to the knot, and exit at anywhere. Cut the strand close to the head so it disappears inside of the bird's head. (Visit my website at: http://www.rags-n-tags.com/tutorials.html for a tutorial on how to create a French knot.)

Staining:
Mix up a solution of 3/4c hot water, 1tsp ground instant coffee, and a bit of vanilla (for scent, if desired). You can make it darker or lighter depending on how much coffee you add. Mix well, and use a paint brush or sponge brush to brush the coffee onto your bird. Cover it with coffee, but don't drench it. Place the bird in a glass pan, and put into a preheated oven at 225 degrees. DO NOT LEAVE THE KITCHEN while it is baking!! Turn it over every few minutes; keep checking on it... you don't want to start a fire. If you're not comfortable baking your bird, you can let it air dry, or throw it in the dryer.
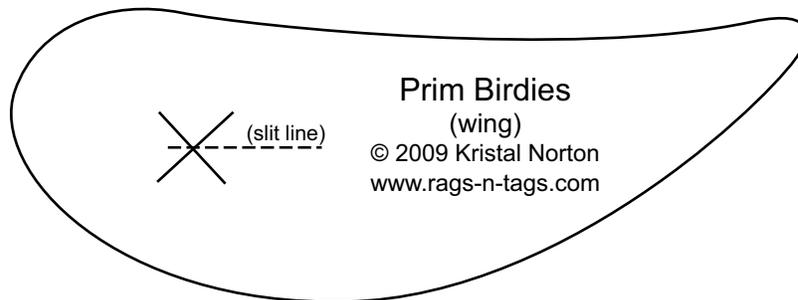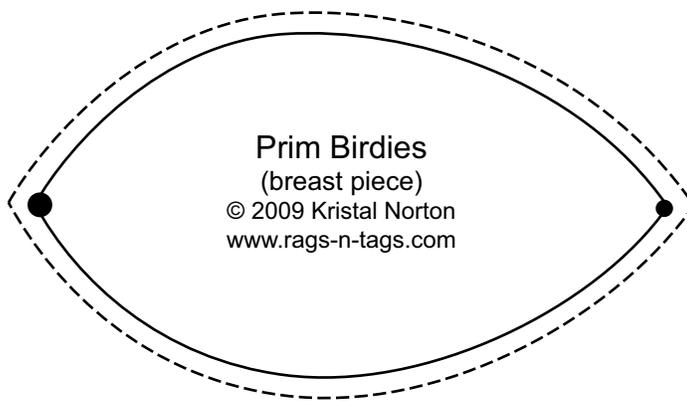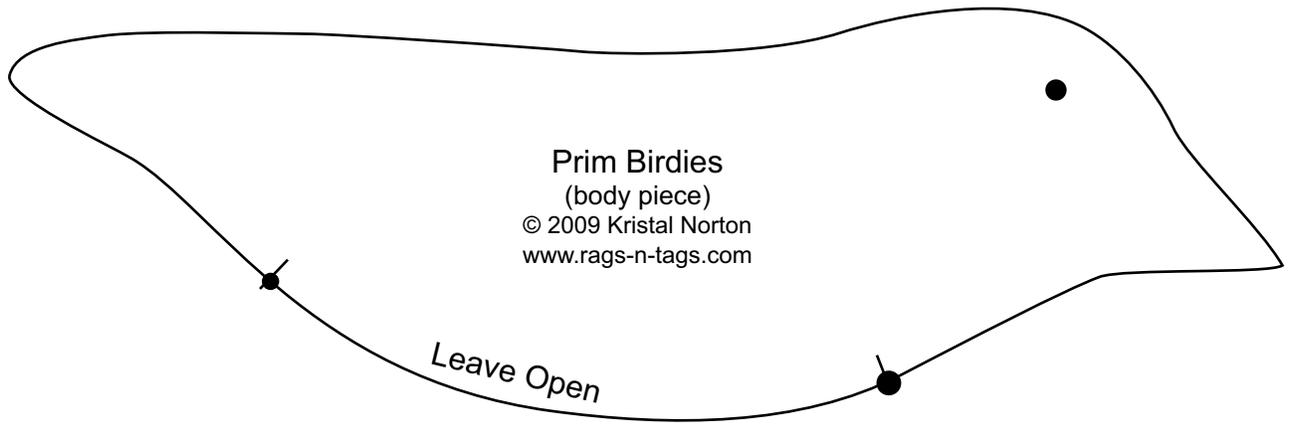
Optional Finishing:
You can use this bird pattern in a number of ways. You can add a hanger to create an ornament, you can glue into a fake bird nest or jar lid with raffia, you can glue it to a wooden spool (like in the pattern photo), and more! (To make the wood spool look older, I painted it with walnut ink.)

I hope you enjoy making my products! If you have any questions, feel free to email me at: kristal@rags-n-tags.com

Prim Birdies
(body piece)
© 2009 Kristal Norton
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Leave Open

Prim Birdies
(breast piece)
© 2009 Kristal Norton
www.rags-n-tags.com

(slit line)

Prim Birdies
(wing)
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———— Sew Line

- - - - Cut Line