

# airborne appliqu 

**F**lying dreams are the sweetest. Let this little work of avian-inspired art send you soaring to slumberland with wings outstretched.



DESIGNER  
**KAJSA WIKMAN**  
*er*

## WHAT YOU NEED

Basic Pillows Tool Kit (page 11)

1/2 yard (45.7 cm) of linen for the pillow front

1/2 yard (45.7 cm) of checkered cotton for the pillow back

1/2 yard (45.7 cm) of a solid cotton for the pillow back

1/2 yard (45.7 cm) of muslin for the pillow form

Paper-backed fusible web

Fabric scraps for the bird appliqu s

Black cotton machine-embroidery thread

Appliqu  foot (optional)

Water-soluble fabric marker

Darning foot

Orange embroidery floss

Embroidery needle

Thread to match

Button

Polyester fiberfill

## SEAM ALLOWANCE

1/4 inch (6 mm) unless otherwise noted

## FINISHED SIZE

12 x 12 inches (30.5 x 30.5 cm)

## What You Cut

### Linen

- 1 square, 12½ inches (31.8 cm) square for the pillow front

### Checked Cotton

- 1 rectangle, 9½ x 12½ inches (24.1 x 31.8 cm) for the pillow back

### Solid Cotton

- 1 rectangle, 9½ x 12½ inches (24.1 x 31.8 cm) for the pillow back

### Muslin

- 2 squares, each 12½ inches (31.8 cm) square for the pillow form



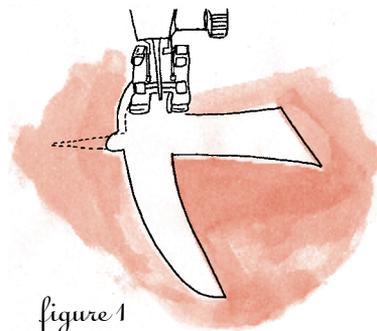
## WHAT YOU DO

**1** Trace the templates on the last page. Cut the fabric as described in the box, left. Transfer a reverse image of the traced templates to the paper-backed fusible web. Cut the birds out of the fusible web, leaving a ¼-inch (6 mm) allowance around each shape.

**2** Select the fabric scraps you want to use for the birds. Fuse each piece of cut webbing to the wrong side of a fabric scrap. Trim the ¼-inch (6 mm) allowance away.

**3** Decide where you want to place the bird appliques on the linen square. Peel the paper backing off and press to fuse them to the front.

**4** Thread your sewing machine with the machine-embroidery thread, and change to an appliqué foot if you have one. Set the machine for a short, straight stitch. Topstitch around the edges of the appliques. Sew the beaks and feet of the birds at the same time (figure 1). **Note:** You may find it helpful to draw the beaks and feet first using a water-soluble marker.



## LIGHTEN UP

You can easily change the look of the pillow by using a white fabric for the front and bright fabric scraps for the bird appliques.

**5** Set your machine for free-motion stitching by dropping the feed dogs and changing to the darning foot. Write your text on the pillow front with the soluble marker. Stitch the text in free motion.

**6** Thread the embroidery needle with two strands of the orange floss. Fill in just one of the bird's beaks using seed stitches (page 25).

**7** Follow the instructions for making an envelope back (page 22). Hem one of the long sides on each of the rectangles cut for the pillow back. Turn the edges under  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (1.3 cm) and press. Turn under again 1 inch (2.5 cm) and press. Make a buttonhole, centering it on the hem of the checkered fabric.

**8** Pin the back piece with the buttonhole to the front first—when you turn the pillow you want the buttonhole on top—and sew. Use a zigzag stitch to overcast the seams. Sew on the button.

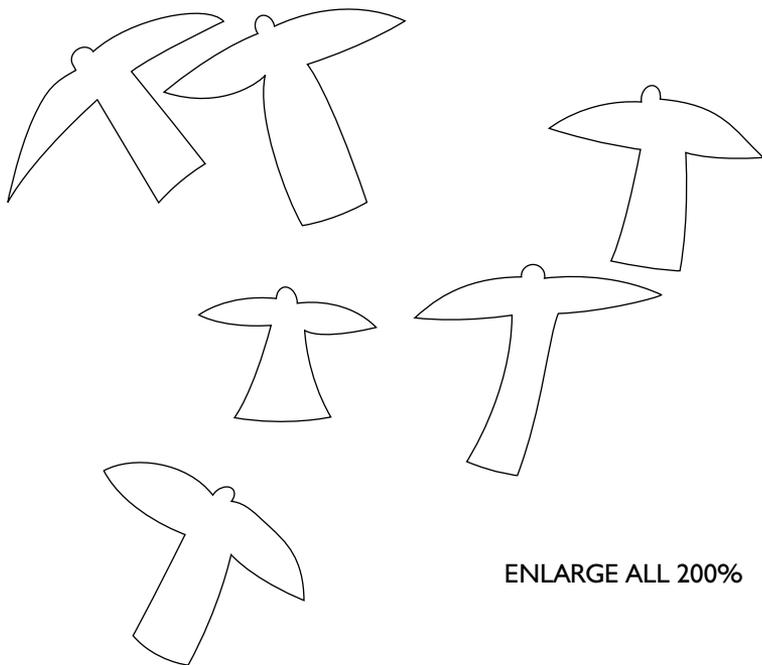
**9** Make the pillow form from the muslin squares (see page 23). Insert the form into your pillow.



#### MORE THAN YOU KNOW

Recycle men's shirts for the pillow back. You'll be surprised how much fabric you can get out of just one. Thrift stores are a great source for old shirts in vintage fabrics.

## Airborne Appliqué



ENLARGE ALL 200%

## About the Designer

Born in Finland, **KAJSA WIKMAN** is very fortunate to be able to work full-time and whole-heartedly as a crafter. Her company, Syko Design, has come to represent playful art textiles characterized by her childlike drawn doodles translated into fabric and thread. Her work can also be found in *Quilts, Baby!* (2009). Find out more at [www.syko.fi](http://www.syko.fi).



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