

airborne appliqu 

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



DESIGNER
KAJSA WIKMAN
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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.

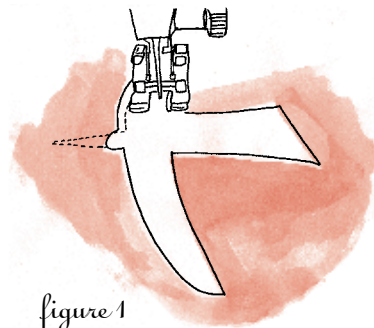


figure 1



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.

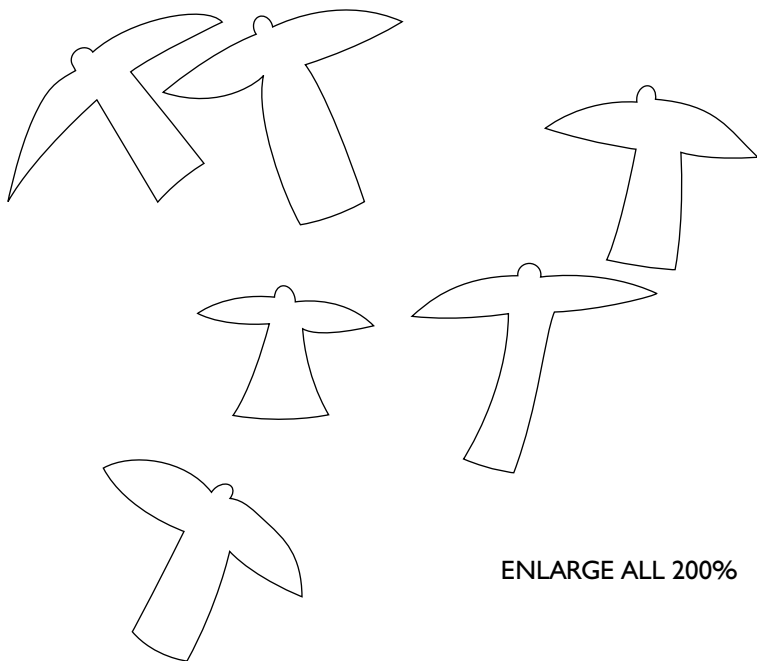
9 Make the pillow form from the muslin squares (see page 23). Insert the form into your pillow.



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.



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