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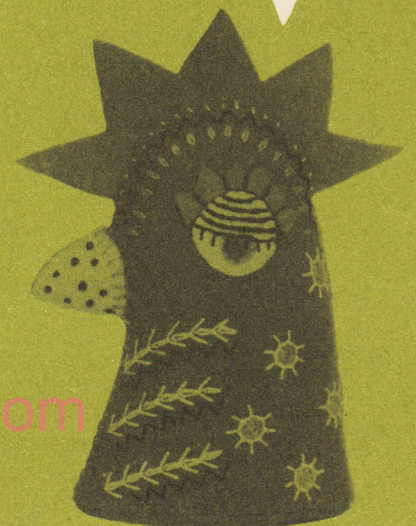


# ... AND SO TO EMBROIDER



*NDS*

BULLETIN 16B • DESIGNING TOYS (BIRD SHAPES)



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# DESIGNING TOYS · Bird Shapes

THE TOYS ILLUSTRATED can be divided into two groups—children's playthings and then decorative objects, which will make amusing and attractive additions to your room. A little sister or brother or your local Day Nursery would welcome one of the large hens and you can make smaller birds for yourself from scraps of brightly coloured fabric.

When making a toy for a child it is important to keep the shape and decoration as simple as possible and to sew very carefully taking care to see that the beginning and ending of all stitching is really secure. This warning applies also to additional pieces such as the wings and comb of the hen as these must stay firm in spite of constant handling. It is best to construct the toy in such a way that it can be washed easily and for this reason the two hens are made with separate outer covers which fit over inner pads containing the stuffing, just as a cushion cover fits over a pad. For large toys baste sections carefully together and make plain seams, leaving an opening in one seam so that the shape can be turned out to the right side. The fabric, besides being washable, should have a pleasant, comfortable texture such as flannel or soft woollen fabric cut from old dresses or coats. If you choose the latter wash it thoroughly and press it well before cutting out the shapes and use the wrong side if the fabric has faded. Take care when making such a toy to avoid materials that may cause harm; for example, it is better not to use a bead or a glass eye which might be removed and swallowed by the child—an embroidered eye can be most expressive and is much safer.

You will be able to think of many variations on the decorative theme suggested here. Ideas will present themselves as you gather together small scraps of fabric and braid as well as sequins, beads and threads of different kinds. A curious button, a speckled or curled feather, the frayed end of a silky cord may fire your imagination and suggest tail, comb or wings. Let the shape evolve naturally from these

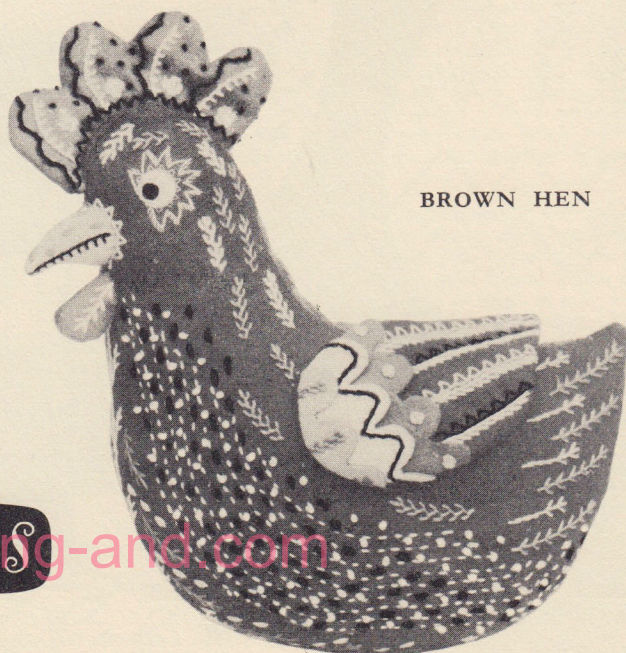
materials remembering that you are creating a bird in terms of fabric and stitch and, therefore, do not need to follow nature too slavishly. A black cockerel with red wings and a green felt hen may give the note of colour and gaiety which your room needs! Take care when choosing patterned fabric or working an embroidered decoration that the scale of the pattern, thread or stitch is suitable for the finished object. If you decide to make a very small bird select fabric which is not too thick and which will not fray easily, or you will find that joins and seams present difficulties. When making a small bird, especially one in which different fabrics are combined, it is best to make and join the separate pieces by the method described for patchwork in Bulletin 12B. In this way foundation paper shapes for each section are cut to actual size and a turning allowance of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. is left on the fabric shapes. The paper foundation shapes may be left in and these will give firmness to the shape. The turned edges can be joined together by whipping on the right side or by drawing together with Fishbone Stitch as illustrated in Bulletin 15B. The edges of felt shapes may be joined in a similar way, but with this material it is not necessary to leave turnings or to strengthen with paper.

The basic pattern for the large hen illustrates the way in which a simple shape can be given three dimensional form. In planning such a pattern bear in mind that the side section represents the silhouette of the toy and this should be kept as simple as possible. Form is given by means of shaped gussets and these can be planned to fit into any seam where width is desired. This applies to the making of any creature, animal or bird, as will be seen in a later bulletin in which decorative toy horses will be illustrated.

Always cut the whole toy out in newspaper and pin sections together before cutting out in fabric. In this way you will get a clear picture of the size and shape of the finished toy and any adjustments can easily be made in the initial stages.



WHITE HEN



BROWN HEN



### THREE BIRDS



FAMILY GROUP



Black Head



Green Head



Yellow Head



Striped and Plain Head

### WHITE HEN

**Materials:** You will require for the outer cover:—One piece of white flannel 30 in. x 22 in. One piece of red fabric 12 in. x 7½ in. One piece of yellow fabric 6½ in. x 4 in. Two skeins each of thick soft embroidery cotton in red, black and grey. One reel of white 6 cord sewing cotton No. 40. Machine Needle No. 16. Chenille Needle No. 19.

For the pad you will require:—One piece of calico or closely woven cotton 27 in. x 22 in. One lb. of kapok for stuffing. Make pattern from diagram. One square equals one inch.

Cut from white flannel two side sections, four wing sections, one upper gusset and one lower gusset. Cut two comb sections from red fabric and two beak sections from yellow fabric.

Leave ½ in. turnings right round each section.

For the pad cut from calico two side sections, one upper and one lower gusset, leaving ½ in. turnings.

On flannel side sections and gussets work embroidery in thick embroidery thread. The tail feathers are worked in Fly Stitch in black and grey. The breast is speckled with red Detached Chain Stitches worked close together at the neck and more widely spaced on the lower part of the body. A closely worked spiral in Coral Knot Stitch forms the centre of the eye and this is surrounded by circles of Buttonhole Stitch in black. The comb is decorated with black Fly Stitch and Threaded Running Stitch in white. When the embroidery is complete press on wrong side and join side sections and gussets. Baste. Stitch ½ in. from the edge leaving one side of the lower gusset open for about 12 in. Snip turnings at intervals on all curved edges. Turn to right side. Make wings and comb in a similar way and press. Pin wings and comb in position and slip stitch firmly. Stitch beak sections. Turn. Press. Stuff with kapok. Baste in position. Slip stitch.

Join side sections and gussets of pad. Baste. Stitch slightly less than ½ in. from edges so that the finished pad will be a shade larger than the outer cover. Leave an opening in one of the lower gusset seams. Snip curved edges of turnings. Turn to right side. Stuff with kapok. Slip stitch opening. Insert pad into outer cover and slip stitch opening.

### BROWN HEN

This hen is made from brown flannel and is more elaborate in detail than the white hen. The body is embroidered in Running Stitch, Fly Stitch, Detached Chain Stitch, Coral Knot Stitch, French Knots and Feather Stitch using thick soft embroidery cotton in natural, black, red and salmon pink. The eye is an applied circle of white felt embroidered in black, red and yellow stranded cotton. Three layers of flannel with scalloped edges in red, natural and salmon pink enrich the wings which are embroidered in grey, white, pink and black using Stem Stitch, Fly Stitch, Coral Knot Stitch, Feather Stitch and Vandyke Buttonhole Stitch. The comb is embroidered in Coral Knot Stitch, French Knots and Buttonhole Stitch in white and black on red flannel and the beak in Buttonhole Stitch and Detached Chain Stitch on natural flannel.

### THREE BIRDS

Each of these birds is made from two side sections and one lower gusset section which extends from neck to tail. As fabrics of various kinds, cotton, silk and fine woollen are used the edges of each shape must be considered carefully and it is best when constructing the birds to use the patchwork method described in Bulletin 12B. The legs are made from lengths of bent wire covered with embroidery thread. To make a leg take a length of millinery wire twice the



combined length of one leg and foot plus 2 in. Bend wire at centre to form a loop so that the two sides lie closely together. You will find if you make some experiments with the wire that the foot can be shaped in many different ways. Cover by winding embroidery thread in a figure of eight motion round the two wires leaving 1 in. at top uncovered. Insert the legs in position after the sections of the bird are sewn together and before stuffing is commenced. Secure the legs by bending and twisting together the spare wire at the top of each.

The large bird is made from red cotton fabric with a gusset in red and white spotted fabric. The comb and tail are made from green and white feathers. The embroidery is carried out in two strands of stranded cotton in black, white, green and pale yellow. The stitches used are, Chevron Stitch, Chain Stitch, Whipped Chain Stitch, Detached Chain Stitch, Fly Stitch, Buttonhole Stitch, Vandyke Buttonhole Stitch, French Knots and Rosette Chain Stitch. The middle-sized bird is made from mauve taffeta with a white feather tail and yellow legs. The embroidery is carried out in white, yellow, deep mauve and brown. The stitches used are Herringbone Stitch, Chain Stitch, Detached Chain Stitch, Buttonhole Stitch, Vandyke Buttonhole Stitch, Fly Stitch, Coral Knot Stitch and French Knots. The small bird is made from green woollen fabric with a white feather tail and red legs. The wings are embroidered in Chain Stitch and Fly Stitch. The head, neck and gussets are decorated with Chain Stitch, Fly Stitch, Buttonhole Stitch and Coral Knot Stitch.

#### FAMILY GROUP

A cock, hen, three chicks and two eggs make up this family group complete with a raffia nest. The cockerel is made from black felt with a red comb and wings. The legs are suggested by a rectangular base which is an extension of the side body and lower gusset sections. Two gussets, one of which tapers to a point at the tail and the other at the beak, broaden out towards the base which is stiffened with a piece of cardboard. Wings and comb are added separately and they are enriched with colourful embroidery worked in two strands of stranded cotton in red, jade green, white, yellow, royal blue and gold. The stitches used are Chain Stitch, Detached Chain Stitch, Fly Stitch, Buttonhole Stitch, Vandyke Buttonhole Stitch,

Coral Knot and French Knots.

The hen is made from lime green felt embroidered with two strands of stranded cotton in white, royal blue, red, gold, tan and jade green. The shape is a simple one with one lower gusset which runs from the neck to the base of the tail and the wings are an addition to the basic shape. The stitches used are Herringbone Stitch, Chain Stitch, Detached Chain Stitch, Fly Stitch, Buttonhole Stitch, Vandyke Buttonhole Stitch, Coral Knot Stitch and French Knots. The three chicks are made from lime green, black and red felt respectively. The shape and pattern is very simple having a lower gusset which runs from neck to tail. The wings are suggested by the embroidery and a variety of stitches form a decorative pattern on each. The two eggs are made from blue felt embroidered in red, yellow and white and the nest is made from coiled and stitched raffia.

#### BIRDS ON A TREE

This charming decoration can be varied, enlarged or developed in many ways and it would make a splendid centre-piece for a party table. The five small birds are very simple in shape and are made without gussets from scraps of brightly coloured fabric. From top to bottom of the tree the birds are as follows:—

A red bird made from taffeta embroidered in royal blue, lime green, white and black. The tail is cut in one with the body and the comb is made from a scrap of narrow lace.

A bright green bird of cotton fabric embroidered in red, yellow, black and white with tail and comb made from frayed out cord.

Fine textured magenta wool is used for a bird embroidered in white, green, black and blue with a white feather tail.

A bird made from lime green crêpe with a red comb and tail embroidered in white, black, red and royal blue.

A sapphire blue velvet bird embroidered in yellow, pink and turquoise with a white feather tail.

The stand for the tree is made from a circle of wood with a hole in the centre and trunk and branches are made from wooden rods. These are all covered with fine grey woollen fabric embroidered in black and white using many simple stitches. The embroidery is carried out in two strands of stranded embroidery cotton so that the scale of the stitching is in keeping



with the small shapes.

These four birds' heads illustrate the way in which a basic shape can be adapted and varied in detail to use to full advantage the selected fabrics and trimmings.

#### Black Head:

This is made from black velvet embroidered in red stranded cotton and metallic gold thread. The outer rim of the eye is a brass curtain ring and the comb is made from white corded silk stiffened with paper. A band of gold rick-rack braid trims the neck. The embroidery is worked in two strands of stranded cotton and the stitches used are Fly Stitch, Couching, Chain Stitch, Detached Chain Stitch and Buttonhole Stitch.

#### Green Head:

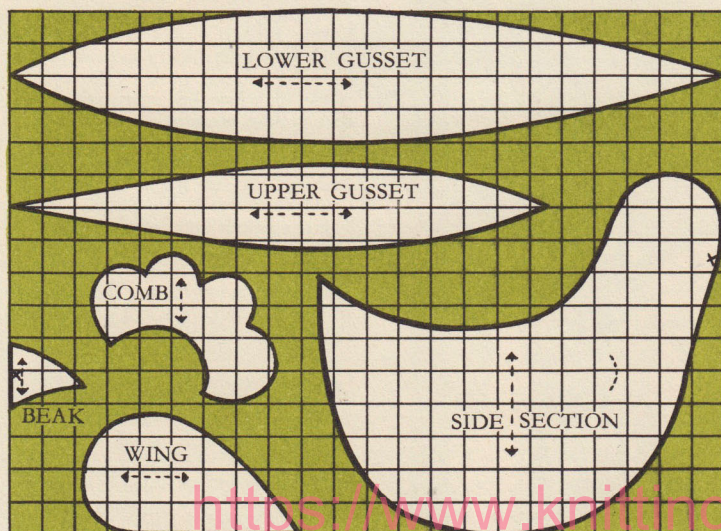
The main part of the head is made from pale green felt. The beak is added in white felt, the comb in red felt and the eye is applied in red and white felt. The embroidered decoration is carried out in coton-à-broder and in two strands of stranded embroidery cotton in red, white, black and pale yellow. The stitches used are Chain Stitch, Detached Chain Stitch, Buttonhole Stitch, Coral Knot Stitch and French Knots.

#### Yellow Head:

Bright yellow silk embroidered in two strands of stranded cotton in mauve, olive green and tan. A flower shaped sequin forms the eye and a hairpin covered with gold thread makes the beak. The comb consists of loops of grey seam binding. The stitches used are Fly Stitch, Chain Stitch, Stem Stitch, Detached Chain Stitch, Feather Stitch and Buttonhole Stitch.

#### Striped and Plain Head:

The head is made from yellow linen and the neck from blue and white striped cotton fabric. Jade green feathers are used for the comb and the beak is made from bent wire covered with red embroidery thread. The embroidery is worked in coton-à-broder in black, white, red and jade green. The stitches used are Fly Stitch, Chain Stitch, Buttonhole Stitch, Feather Stitch, Coral Knot Stitch and French Knots.



The basic pattern for the large hen

Bulletin 17B will show you how to make decorative designs with machine stitching.