Little Bird Ornament

by Valori Wells
Finished size: 3 1/2" x 6"

The little Bird ornament is created from Kantha Cloth. (Kantha Cloth is made with two pieces of fabric that are hand stitched together with a running stitch in India. Our cloth was designed by Valori Wells for Free Spirit.) The color choices are multi, blue, magenta, and black and white. Each of the cloths is pieced with Valori Wells Designs prints. The wonderful thing about the Kantha cloth is that it is already pieced and decoratively stitched. You could always create your own cloth, too.
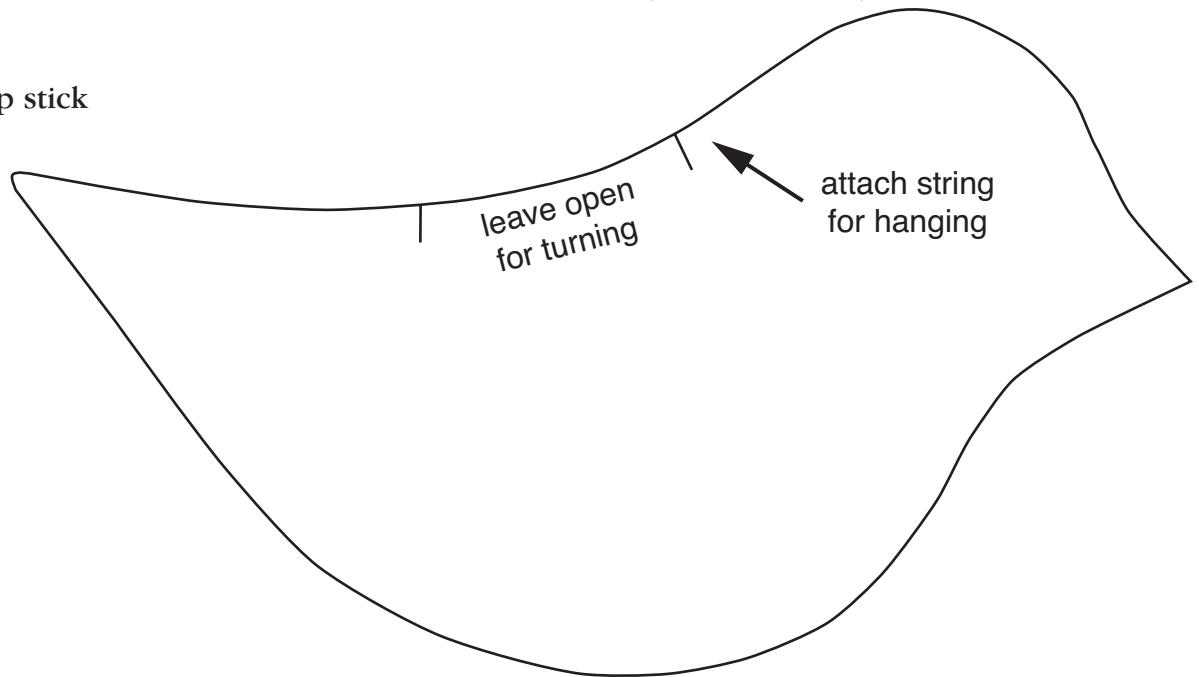
Materials:
1/4 yd fabric for birds (makes 5 birds)
5 - 8" pieces of string or narrow ribbon, to create a hanging loop (1 for each bird)
Poly-fil stuffing
Marking pencil
Turning tool or chop stick

leave open
for turning

attach string
for hanging

Instructions:
- Trace the bird pattern onto heavy paper or template material and it cut out.
- Fold the fabric right sides together lengthwise and secure with a couple of pins.
  Lay the pattern on the fabric and trace around the birds, adding the markings for the opening.
  Be sure to leave at least 1/2" between the birds for seam allowance.
  Place a pin in the center of each of the birds, to hold the front and back fabrics together.
- Using a tight stitch (at least 16 stitches to the inch), stitch from one of the opening marks on the pencil outline of the bird to the other, back tacking at each end. Trim around the bird shape, leaving a scant 1/4". Trim as much as you can off the end of the beak and the tail.
- Turn the bird shape to the outside, being careful with the turning tool at the beak and tail.
- Cut an 8" length of string. Fold in half and knot the two ends together, set aside.
- Fill bird with stuffing to desired fullness.
- Thread a needle and tie a knot in one end.
  Fold under the seam allowances in the open area and pin together.
- Insert the knotted string in the opening near the end closest to the head.
  Whip stitch the edges together, making sure you catch the string.
  The knot in the end of the strings will keep it in place.