

Songbird Collage (30 x 30)



Description:

Do you admire (and collect) fabric featuring beautiful motifs such as florals, leaves or feathers? Now is the time to put them to good use. Learn about fabric collage techniques as you look at fabrics according to design, color and value. We will use a Laura Heine pattern called, *Songbird*, and notions that make it easier to create a one-of-a-kind, artful collage.

Required Pattern for Both Sessions: [Songbird by Laura Heine](#)

Supplies (Put your name on tools and supplies):

- Non-stick pressing sheet (ex: [Goddess Applique Pressing Sheet](#))
- Sharp (6") fussy cutting scissors (ex: [Karen K. Buckley, blue-handled "Perfect Scissors"](#))
- Large cutting scissors
- Pencil
- 3 medium-large ziplocks (for storing & transporting left-over cut-outs)

Feel free to bring a bottle of water and small snack.

Helpful:

- 3 small trays (ex: Stackable, take-out bowls will help to arrange small cutouts at your table.)
- Handful of [fabric clips](#) or [magnetic sewing pins](#)
- Acrylic ruler, cutting mat, rotary trimmer (PQW will have a rotary mat available, but you may want to have your own that is handy at your side.)
- [Travel pressing mat and iron](#) (There will be 2 ironing stations set up. But, rather than moving small pieces to an ironing station, it would be beneficial to iron near where you are placing your pieces.)

Materials:

You can come to class with some of the fabrics, and choose others as your collage progresses. This may be easier than choosing the fabrics all at once. The fabrics to choose before class are marked with ">>" below.

| Bring to class #1: | Qty | Measurements* | Part of Collage | Notes |
|--------------------|-------|---------------|--|---|
| | 1 | 11" x 11" | Bird cage wire | Could be colorful fabric or stripes of flowers. |
| | 1 | 6" x 11" | Top and bottom of birdcage | Suggestion: Green blender fabric |
| | 1 | 6" square | Bird legs | Suggestion: Blue blender fabric (I used pink.) |
| >> | 3 | 6" x 11" | Bird background ("underlay") | Suggestion: 3 different pink blender fabrics |
| >> | 15+/- | 6" x 18" | Bird body collage and borders | Choose cuttable fabrics for the body of the bird, with motifs such as florals, feathers, circles, etc. |
| | 15+/- | 6" x 18" | Background of the whole collage ("blender" fabrics) | Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Background: Look for white, cream and light tan fabrics; or • Black Background: Look for dark gray to black fabrics |
| >> | 6 | yards | Steam a Seam 2 (12" wide); Regular product (not "Lite") | Laura recommends 6 yards of 24" wide. However, 12" wide is much more manageable. Plus, you can also get more later if needed. |
| >> | 1 | 30" x 30" | Pattern Ease foundation | |
| | 1 | yard | Fabric for backing | |
| | 1/4 | yard | Fabric for binding | |

Let your imagination go wild and have fun with choosing fabrics.

* See notes regarding measurements on the following page.

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Please do the following before class #1 (April 20, 2024, 12:00 pm):

- Cut *Pattern Ease* foundation to 30" x 30"
- Bring fabrics marked with ">" on previous page (Fabrics may be sized to rectangular measurements stated above — ex: 6" x 11" or 6" x 18" — but, do not pre-cut motifs prior to our application of Steam a Seam.)

Before class #2 (May 4, 2024, 12:00 pm):

- To be announced during class #1.

Helpful Notes on Collage Fabric:

- Measurements of fabrics below are approximate, and can be slightly larger or smaller than listed.
- Since we will be using 12" length Steam a Seam 2, ***it can be helpful to keep a length of 12"*** for individual fabric pieces. (This might be a place to use those fat quarters that you've been collecting or admiring.)
- If you have a smaller or larger piece, but are not sure that a piece of fabric will work, bring it anyway.
- "Blender" fabrics are mostly monochromatic, tone-on-tone, small, subtle pattern that "blends" other fabrics together.
- Choose fabrics that include small, medium and large flowers and motifs.
- When choosing bird collage fabric, stick to motifs that are colorful and contrasting to your background.
- Think about fabrics that may be thematically related to birds or gardens (butterflies, bees, etc).
- Also, find motifs important to you (ex: riding a bike in the spring), or words (ex: "love" "courage") that you may want to add to the bird or the border.
- Fussy cutting fabric is relaxing and meditative when you have the right tool. For best results, bring a sharp scissor with comfortable handles. Using small (kid) scissors or dress shears will likely deprive you from finding your zen. 😊 (The **Karen K. Buckley, blue-handled "Perfect Scissors"** really are a perfect choice.)

Additionally:

- Of Interest (completely optional): Laura's Little Book of Collage.



I look forward to creating with you.

- *Luci*

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