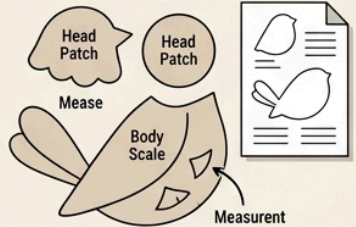


# STEP-BY-STEP APPLIQUÉ BIRD AND BRANCH TUTORIAL

## 1 PREPARE YOUR PATTERNS



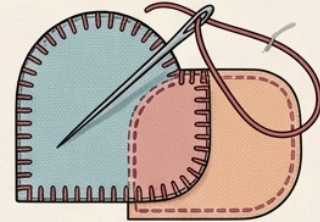
Finished Bird: approx. 18cm wide x 16cm high

## 2 TRACE AND CUT FABRIC



Trace pattern, add 1.2cm seam allowance

## 3 EDGE AND JOIN PATCHES



Overcast and form blanket stitch to prevent fraying and create texture

## 4 LAYER AND SECURE



Pin or baste each layer. Work from head down to tail. Ensure even scalloping.

## 5 BRANCH, FLOWERS, AND LEAVES



Embroidery stem stitch for branch. Attach leaf and flower patches using simple whipstitch

## 6 FINAL ASSEMBLY AND FINISHING



**FINAL ASSEMBLY AND FINISHING**  
Stitch entire piece to garment. Use decorative stitches for border. Sew on decorative buttons (e.g., small 6mm and 8mm buttons).

## FINAL FINISHED PROJECT



## FINAL FINISHED PROJECT



### KEY SEWING & QUILT METHODS (USA)



**BLANKET STITCH (EDGE FINISH):**  
To prevent raw edges and create a hand-stitched look. (Show a needle and clear stitch pattern).



**FREE-MOTION QUILTING (US QUID):**  
For creating quilted texture. (Show a quilting foot on a machine with stippling stitching pattern).



**HAND-TURNED APPLIQUÉ (USA):**  
Tucking raw edges under before stitching down. (Show edges being turned under).



**DECORATIVE EDGE STITCHING:**  
Specific US quilting stitches like feather or star stitches (Show examples).



**FUSIBLE WEB APPLIQUÉ (OPT.):**  
An alternative method using iron-on adhesive. (Show a pre-fused patch).



Measurements are provided in CM for precision.

Here is a **complete and very detailed tutorial in English** based strictly on the graphic you shared. I expanded every step so that **any beginner in the United States can follow it from start to finish**. I also kept the methods mentioned in the diagram such as **blanket stitch**, **appliqué techniques**, and **quilting methods**. 🧵🐦

## Step 1: Prepare Your Patterns

Before you begin sewing, the first thing you need to do is prepare the pattern pieces that will form the appliqué bird.

Start by printing or drawing the pattern shapes on paper. According to the diagram, the bird is made from several individual parts:

- Head patch
- Body scale layers
- Tail pieces
- Wing pieces
- Beak
- Branch
- Leaves and flowers

Each piece should be drawn clearly so you can cut them out accurately. The finished bird size in the tutorial is approximately **18 cm wide and 16 cm high**, which is a great size for quilt blocks, clothing decoration, pillows, or wall art.

Once the shapes are printed or drawn, carefully cut them out using paper scissors. These will now act as **templates**.

Next, label each template so you don't confuse them later. For example:

Head  
Body layer 1  
Body layer 2  
Tail  
Wing  
Branch  
Leaf  
Flower

If you want to make the process easier, you can transfer these templates onto **cardstock or template plastic**, which makes them reusable and easier to trace.

At this stage, also decide on your fabric colors. The example bird uses **pastel patchwork fabrics**, but you can choose any palette you like.

Good fabric choices include:

- Cotton quilting fabric
- Lightweight linen
- Fabric scraps from other projects

Having everything prepared now will make the rest of the project much easier.

## Step 2: Trace and Cut the Fabric

Now that your templates are ready, it is time to transfer them onto your fabric.

Place each paper template onto the **wrong side of your fabric**. Use a pencil, washable fabric marker, or tailor's chalk to trace around the shape.

The tutorial indicates that you must **add a seam allowance of about 1.2 cm** around each piece. This extra fabric allows you to turn edges under or stitch pieces securely.

So when tracing:

1. Trace the template shape.
2. Draw another line around it about **1.2 cm larger**.

This outer line is where you will cut.

After tracing all the pieces, cut them carefully with sharp fabric scissors. Try to make smooth cuts because uneven edges can make appliqué more difficult later.

Organize your pieces into small piles:

Head pieces  
Body scale layers  
Tail pieces  
Branch  
Leaves  
Flowers

Keeping them organized prevents confusion during assembly.

## Step 3: Edge and Join the Fabric Patches

Now we prepare the edges so the fabric does not fray.

The graphic recommends using a **blanket stitch** for the edges. This stitch both secures the fabric and adds a decorative handmade appearance.

To do a blanket stitch:

1. Thread a hand sewing needle with embroidery thread or strong sewing thread.
2. Knot the end of the thread.
3. Insert the needle from the back of the fabric near the edge.
4. Pull the thread through.
5. Insert the needle again slightly to the side and pass the needle through the loop before tightening.

This creates a neat edge stitch that runs along the border.

Continue stitching around the entire edge of the fabric patch.

This technique:

- Prevents fraying
- Strengthens the edges
- Creates decorative texture

You may repeat this for important pieces like wings or body layers if desired.

## Step 4: Layer and Secure the Bird Pieces

Now you will begin assembling the bird.

Lay out all the pieces on your work surface exactly as the bird appears in the diagram.

Start with the **base body piece**. Then layer the other pieces on top in the following order:

1. Body base
2. Body scale layers
3. Wing pieces
4. Head patch
5. Tail pieces
6. Beak

Take time to arrange everything until the bird looks balanced and symmetrical.

Once you are happy with the arrangement, secure the pieces.

You can do this by:

- Pinning the pieces with sewing pins
- Basting them with temporary stitches
- Using fabric glue (optional)

The diagram suggests working **from the head down to the tail** to maintain even scalloped layers.

When pinning, make sure:

- Each layer overlaps correctly
- The edges are smooth
- Nothing shifts while sewing

This stage determines the final look of your appliqué, so take your time.

## Step 5: Create the Branch, Flowers, and Leaves

Now we add the decorative elements that the bird sits on.

First place the **branch piece** underneath the bird's feet. Position it slightly angled to give a natural appearance.

Use **stem stitch embroidery** to attach the branch.

To make a stem stitch:

1. Bring the needle up through the fabric.
2. Insert it a short distance ahead.
3. Bring the needle up halfway back through the previous stitch.
4. Repeat along the branch.

This creates a smooth rope-like embroidered line.

Next attach the **leaf and flower patches** around the branch.

Position them naturally around the bird. Then secure them using a **simple whipstitch**.

Whipstitch method:

1. Insert the needle from the back.
2. Pass it over the edge of the patch.
3. Pull tight.
4. Repeat along the edge.

This stitch is quick and works well for small decorative pieces.

You may also add small embroidery details to the flower centers if desired.

## Step 6: Final Assembly and Finishing

Now it's time to attach the completed appliqué to your final project.

This bird design can be sewn onto many items such as:

- T-shirts
- Quilt blocks
- Tote bags
- Pillows
- Wall hangings

Place the finished appliqué on your chosen fabric or garment.

Pin it carefully in position.

Sew around the edges using either:

- Blanket stitch
- Decorative embroidery stitch
- Sewing machine zigzag stitch

The diagram also suggests using **decorative border stitches** to give the piece a quilted handmade look.

Once the bird is securely attached, you can add extra decorative touches.

For example:

Small decorative buttons for flower centers

Embroidery highlights

Quilting stitches around the bird

The tutorial example suggests **small 6 mm and 8 mm buttons** as cute accents.

Make sure all threads are tied off securely and trim any excess thread.

## Finished Project

Once everything is stitched and secured, your appliqué bird is complete.

You should now have a charming **layered fabric bird sitting on a branch with flowers and leaves**.

This project combines several classic American quilting and appliqué techniques, including:

- Blanket stitch edge finishing
- Hand-turned appliqué
- Free-motion quilting (optional)
- Decorative embroidery stitches

The finished piece is colorful, textured, and perfect for adding personality to quilts or clothing.



With practice, you can also experiment by:

- Changing fabric patterns
- Adding more flowers or leaves
- Making larger quilt blocks
- Creating a whole series of birds