

ROCKIN' ROBIN

Brighten up your walls with this festive banner – mix and match your new Christmas templates to make it your own!

BY KATE WEBBER

USE THE APPLIQUÉ
TEMPLATE SET TO MAKE
THIS PROJECT!



YOU WILL NEED

- Green fabric: 10in square
- Red fabric: 3in square
- Yellow fabric: 3in square
- Bird fabric: two (2) 4in squares
- Background fabric: ½yd
- Batting: 14in x 16in
- Appliqué templates provided with the magazine
- Sandpaper (optional)

FINISHED SIZE

- 10½ x 12½in



NOTES

- Seam allowances are ¼in throughout, unless otherwise noted.
- Press seams open throughout, unless otherwise instructed.
- Appliqué templates do not include seam allowances.
- RST = right sides together.
- WOF = width of fabric.

FABRICS USED

- Background fabric is Natural from the Essex Linen range by Robert Kaufman.
- Print fabrics are by Ruby Star Society, from Kate's stash.

CUTTING OUT

- 1 From the background fabric cut:
 - Two (2) 11in x 13in.
 - One (1) 4½in x 7½in.

PREPARING THE APPLIQUÉ PIECES

2 If you are using sandpaper, place it rough side up on your work surface. Secure in place with a few pieces of washi tape, or pattern weights. Place your green fabric on top, right side up, and trace around one of the holly leaf templates (Fig A). The sandpaper will help keep your fabric from shifting while you trace shapes.

TOP TIP

You can use any combination of the 50 festive appliqué templates that came with this issue for the appliqué details of this banner, not just the ones that Kate used!

PRACTISE YOUR HAND APPLIQUÉ AND EMBROIDERY SKILLS WITH THIS SWEET SOFA PROJECT



PREPARING THE APPLIQUÉ PIECES



3 Draw a total of four small holly leaves and two large holly leaves on the green fabric, leaving a gap between each for seam allowances. Cut each leaf out, adding a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ in seam around the outer edge of each shape.

4 Repeat the process in steps 2–3 to make a large red heart, a small yellow star, one bird and one bird wing shape.

APPLIQUÉING THE WREATH

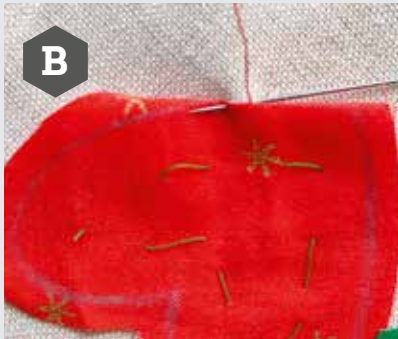
5 Take one background rectangle, and arrange right side up with the long edges at the sides. Mark the vertical and horizontal centres using a hera marker or erasable fabric pen. Mark a vertical line $\frac{1}{4}$ in from each side of the centre line. Mark a horizontal line $\frac{3}{4}$ in above and below the centre line. Kate chose to go over her marked lines with basting stitches to make them more visible while she worked.

6 Arrange your appliqué pieces on your background piece, using the marked lines and photography as a guide. Once you're happy, pin, then thread baste in place using a contrasting thread. Note, the seam allowances may overlap each other at this point, as they will be turned under later.

7 Appliqué the pieces securely, using a matching thread to blindstitch in place, as outlined in steps 8–10.

8 Use your needle to turn under the seam allowance of a small portion of the shape to be appliquéd. Bring your needle up through the folded edge of the shape. Push the needle back down in the background fabric, directly opposite

APPLIQUÉING THE WREATH





Don't forget to hand-embroider the robin's red breast to make this a truly festive banner!

where it came up. Let the needle travel a short way along the background fabric before coming up in the folded edge of the appliqué shape (Fig B). Continue stitching along the edge of the shape, neatly turning the seam allowance underneath as you go.

9 When stitching inner corners, clip the seam allowance to the point, leaving one or two threads outside the line (Fig C). To stitch a sharp point, stitch along one side to the point. Then use your needle to push the dog ear under before stitching down the other side (Fig D).

10 For inward curves, clip along the seam allowance to ease the curve and allow it to lie flat when turned under (Fig E).

11 Once all of the shapes are stitched in place, remove any remaining basting stitches, including your vertical and horizontal marked lines.

FINISHING THE BANNER

12 Add any embroidery details. Kate used French knots for the bird's eye and wing decorations, and straight stitches to create the nest and surrounding stars.

13 Baste the appliqué panel onto the batting and quilt as desired. Kate used embroidery thread to quilt around the outer edge and centre of each leaf.

She also quilted around the heart and star. Trim away excess batting.

14 Mark the centre of the banner along the bottom edge. Also mark 3in from the bottom along each side edge. Cut away the two bottom corners, aligning your ruler with the marks (Fig F).

15 Cut the remaining background fabric piece to the same shape as the banner in step 14.

16 Take the 4½in x 7½in rectangle. Fold in half lengthwise, RST and press. Sew along the long edge, turn right side out and press so the seam runs along the centre back of the tube.

17 Cut the tube into three 2½in long pieces for the tabs (Fig G). Fold each tab in half, bringing the raw edges together. Baste to the top edge of the panel at equal intervals (Fig H).

18 Place the two banner pieces RST (Fig I). Sew around the outer edge, leaving a gap for turning along one straight side. Trim the corners, turn right side out and press.

19 Push the raw edges in at the turning gap and ladder stitch closed. Topstitch around the outer edge of the banner to finish.

FINISHING THE BANNER



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Kate is a colourful and technically-minded quilter with a passion for trying new techniques!

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