

Backyard Birds Panel – Instructions

These basic instructions should be used in conjunction with the “colour by number” colouring guide which shows numerically where each fabric is used. You can identify each fabric from this chart. Images of the finished Panel are available for download and printing from our website: This will give you a good visual image of the finished product. Visit - www.batikaustralia.com.au – click on “Panels” The Panel – Our panel is essentially a “pattern” printed directly onto the fabric. It is intended for “applique” which is where pieces of fabric are sewn or stuck on to a larger piece of fabric to form a picture or pattern”.

Fusible Web

We recommend you use a fusible web with a good bonding power – ask your local shop for advice on the best product to use. Fusible web is a tissue like product with heat sensitive adhesive, backed with paper. The sticky side of the product is ironed to the wrong side of the fabric. This then transfers the glue to the receiving fabric. When you peel off the paper you have a piece of fabric which can be cut to any shape. This can then be adhered to another piece of fabric using an iron.

Basic Instructions

You can start wherever you want on the panel – there is no order to which items you have to applique first.

When doing Applique you would normally trace from the back of the Panel with the Fusible web, the web side against the fabric, to create the shapes. With the Backyard Birds Panel it is hard to see the lines clearly from the back of the panel unless you have a light source beneath the fabric. There is another way of doing the Applique, which is the way we used, and it works perfectly well.

Reverse Applique Method

Tracing from the front of the panel - marking the image out onto the film side of the Fusible Web. So the paper side of the fusible web is against the fabric – film side is up. We use just a regular roller ball pen, and as long as you do not press too hard (which can lift the film) this method works perfectly well to trace out the image from the front of the panel. Try this method to see which you prefer.

Select an item to trace - any simple shape to start with. The most important element to remember is that you want to cover the lines marked on the panel. To do this – trace from just outside of the line – not exactly on the line. A small tolerance will ensure you cover the line, and this will not affect the finished appearance of your applique.

Once you have traced out the image onto your fusible web, cut out the piece roughly leaving about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of webbing around the tracing lines. When this is complete you will have a leaf shape on your web. The next step is to iron the web shape to your fabric. We recommend using a pressing cloth to help prevent scorching the applique and the fabric you are fusing it to.

Important – iron on with the web facing down – to the back (reverse side) of the fabric. Ironing time may vary slightly depending on the fusible web that you are using so please refer to ironing instructions when you purchase your fusible web.

Once you have ironed the web to your fabric simply cut out around the applique shape neatly along the lines. Once complete you can then remove the backing paper. You will now have a leaf shaped piece of fabric with an adhesive side. With the adhesive side facing down – place this shape over the corresponding piece on the “front” of your panel and simply iron it on. (Refer to ironing instructions for the Fusible Web)

The process of applique is simple and enjoyable. We hope you enjoy making this unique project from Batik Australia.