

Spring Chickens

To welcome Spring to the Northwest (finally!) we will be creating sassy and colorful Spring Chickens using a Faux Trapunto method. You will need a 10" square of BLACK for the background, your sassy chicken fabric, some iron-on fusible, a piece of paper, a 6" scrap of batting and some of those fancy stitches you perfected last time with the hearts.

Trace the Spring Chicken pattern onto the fusible material (keeping in mind that your chicken will face in the opposite direction when completed and that's okay.) Be sure to trace the outline of the entire chicken as one unit--this is a silhouette, so no separate beak or comb--leaving some space around your outline. Trace onto paper the dotted area for your faux trapunto batting piece. Trace onto paper the wing design so that you can place it on the completed chicken and stitch around it.

Trim out the center of the chicken fusible so that you have a 1/2" outline of fusible material. Fuse the chicken outline pattern onto back of your fabrics of choice and trim to pattern size. Trace the dotted line U-shape onto a scrap of batting; it should be about 1/2" smaller than the chicken. Pin batting to the back of the chicken fabric, making sure that the pins are on the right side of the fabric. Center and fuse this unit onto a 10" square of black background fabric.

Use one of your favorite stitches to stitch around the chicken outline and hold the batting in place. I used a "herky jerky" style stitch (really a sloppy, ragged free-motion needling around the edges that is meant to fall onto the background fabric and still look good, so it is very forgiving) but any stitch would work. You might choose matching or contrasting threads.

Use the paper wing pattern to mark the wing placement and stitch around it, through all layers, holding the trapunto batting in place. Add the stitched curvy tail feathers—you can free hand them. Feel free to add any thread embellishments your chicken asks for; perhaps an eye, beak, more feathers. Make your Spring Chicken the envy of the coop!!

Can't wait to see the results!

Any questions? Call Lynda Burns at 927-0848.

The pattern is on the back

