

A Perfect Reunion Quilt Along

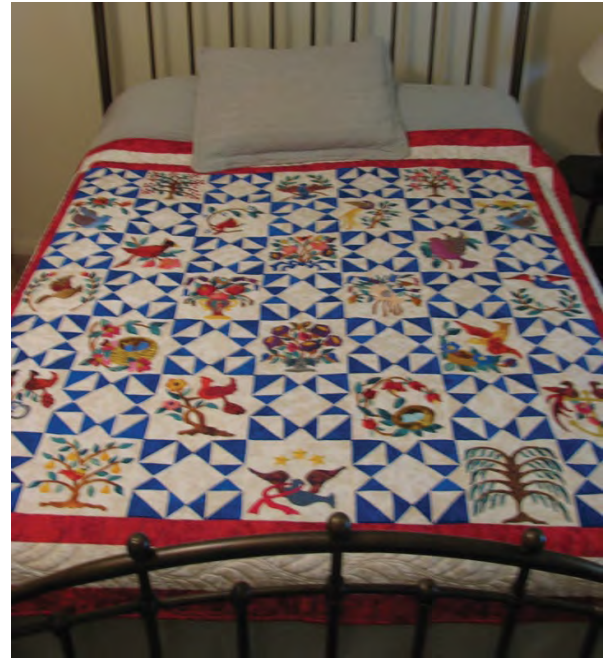
Designed by Darlene C. Christopherson

Skill Level: Intermediate

The 8" applique blocks shared in first part of this quilt along are bird themed as are the rest of the blocks shared in this series.

The patchwork block that alternates with the applique blocks in this quilt is named Aunt Aliza's Star, a commonly used traditional quilt block. Darlene chose to keep each block alike using a bright blue with cream as the background fabric.

Two new block patterns will be available for download each month. Enjoy collecting all 24!



Materials Needed:

	Quilt Size		
	70" Square	86" Square	102" Square
Medium red fabric for border & blocks	2 yds	2 1/4 yds	2 1/2 yds
Blue fabric for pieced blocks	1 1/8 yds	1 7/8 yds	2 3/4 yds
White for applique blocks & borders backing	2 3/8 yds	3 1/4 yds	4 1/4 yds
Legacy Premier™ Wool Batting	Full	Queen	King
807 Wonder Web® or 805 Wonder Under®*	1 1/2 yds for all size quilts		
For Applique blocks: 1/2 yd of each	Light Blue Dark Yellow Three Greens	Two Pinks Medium Brown Light Purple	Light Golden Yellow Dark Red Dark Purple

Tools Needed:

- General Sewing Supplies for machine work
- Additional needles & threads for hand applique

*For applique by machine

Graphic Artist Alexandra Henry
© 2011 Darlene C. Christopherson

PERMISSION IS GIVEN TO REPRODUCE FOR PERSONAL USE ©2011-PCP GROUP, LLC



Hand Needle Turn Applique Instruction

By Darlene C. Christopherson

Author of "A Perfect Union of Patchwork & Applique"

[C&T Publication, Inc.]

There are numerous methods for the preparation of hand needle turn applique. I use freezer paper as a means to transfer information from the pattern to the top of the fabric. It cuts like paper and fastens temporarily to the fabric leaving behind nothing harmful. I prepare stems, circles and pattern pieces before beginning to sew.

Tools Needed: Reynolds Wrap Freezer Paper, small sharp paper scissors, sand paper board, Clover fine patchwork pins, Richard Hemming & Sons Milliner needles #11, small sharp fabric & thread scissors, any mechanical pencil, white chalk mechanical pencil [such as Fons & Porter], iron and ironing board. Zip Loc bags, rotary cutting tools, drafting circle template.

Stems

Spray the back side of tightly woven fabric with sizing and press. Rotary cut strips on the bias, or at a 45 degree angle. The bias of fabric provides stretch and pliability. Cut 1" wide strips about 20" in length to achieve a finished 1/4" wide stem. [Four times the desired finished width.]

Lay the strips right side down on the ironing board. Using both hands roll the cut edge that is toward you away, folding the strip in half lengthwise. [Step 1]

Place the leading point of the iron toward yourself and nudge it over the newly folded edge of the strip. [Step 2]

The crease holds nicely due to the sizing used to prepare the fabric. Continue to press along the length of the strip. Then, fold this in the same manner in half lengthwise again. Roll the folded edge that is toward you away until it covers the two raw edges. Press in the same manner the full length of the strips.

This provides finished edges along both sides of the stem.



Page 2

Stems Continued

Once the stems are pressed, roll them smoothly around a pin cushion of leftover batting and secure at the end with a pin to hold nicely until ready for use.

To place stems onto background fabric in a block, lay smoothly in place and pin perpendicular to the stem using long fin pins. This holds them securely to the surface as if they had been tapped.

Remove the pins after the stems are basted. Basting provides neater more comfortable hand work and gives back every minute that is spent in the preparation.

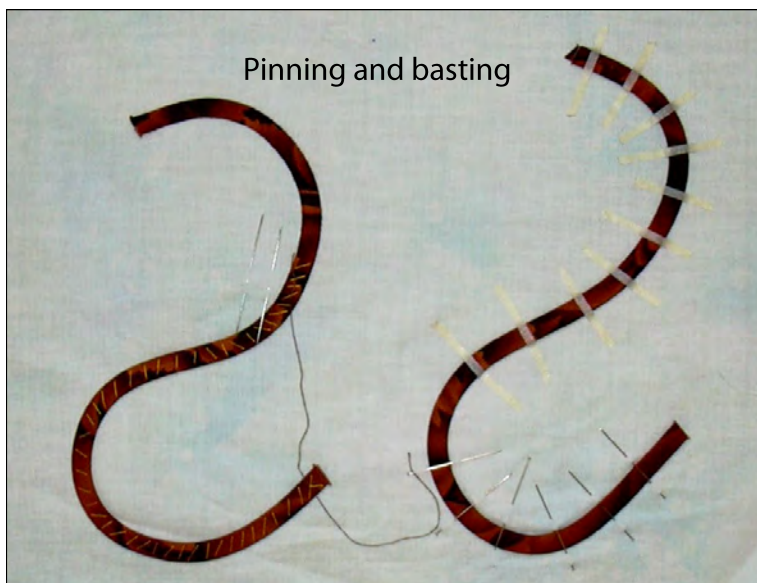
To baste place a stitch along one side of the stem, move backward slightly and place the next stitch along the opposite side of the stem. Move forward and repeat this the length of the stem.

Circles

There are literally 100 ways to prepare and sew applied circles. This is the hand needle turn approach. Spray the back side of the fabric with sizing prior to use. Place the fabric right side up onto a sandpaper board. Mark clearly using either a mechanical pencil or silver [hard lead] art pencil or white mechanical pencil—depending upon the value/tone of the fabric.

Trim a scant & consistent 1/8th " seam allowance.

To baste a circle in place prior to stitching, use an 'X' bar tack staying far enough away from the seam lines to turn under the seam allowance. Use the seam line as your guide and take one stitch at a time to make smooth circles.



The back side of the basting will appear like ladder stitches and displays the manner in which the stitches are holding the stem smoothly and securely.

Stitch the stems using matching color thread and a hidden whip stitch, then remove the basting stitches.

To make very narrow stems: Open a prepared strip so that it is folded once and place onto the background fabric. Stitch securely, close to the folded edge using matching colored thread. Trim away excess seam allowance, close to the stitch line. Roll the folded edge over until it covers the raw edges and whip stitch that to finish.



Plastic circle and oval templates are available where drafting supplies are found.

Page 3 Template/Pieces

Place pattern right side up. Lay freezer paper [paper side up-waxy side down] over the pattern. Trace one individual piece at a time using a Sharpie™ ultra fine permanent marker or mechanical pencil. Use a solid line for a finished seam line and a dashed line to note a raw edge that will be placed under a finished edge. Trace right on the line, just switch to a dashed line. [A]

Transfer numbers from the pattern pieces to the freezer paper templates.

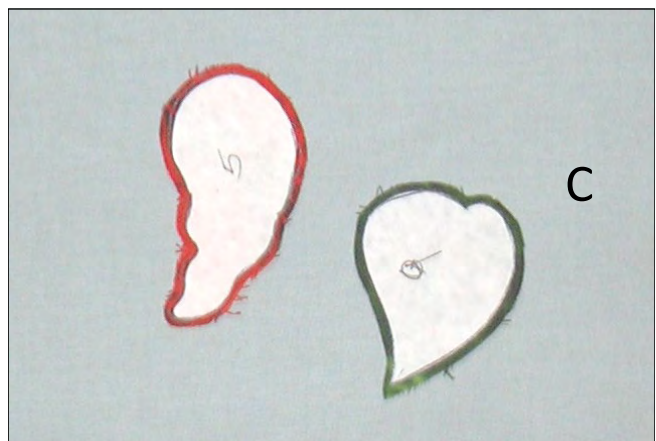
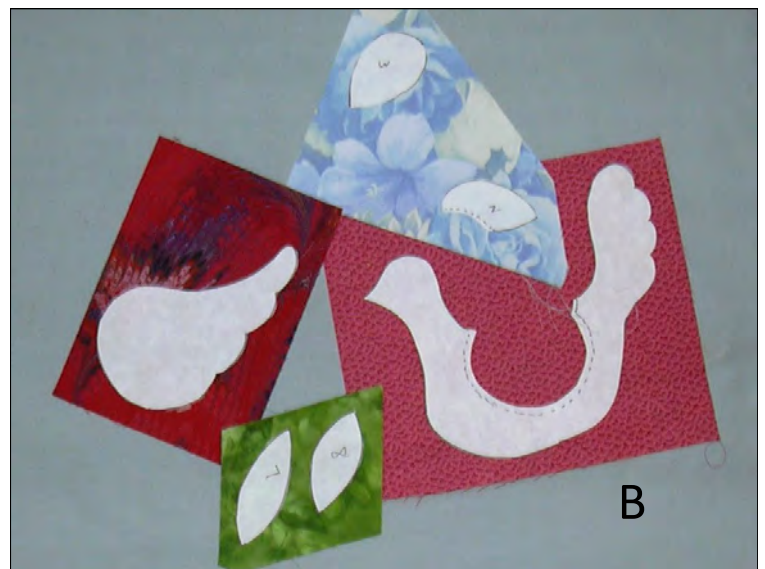
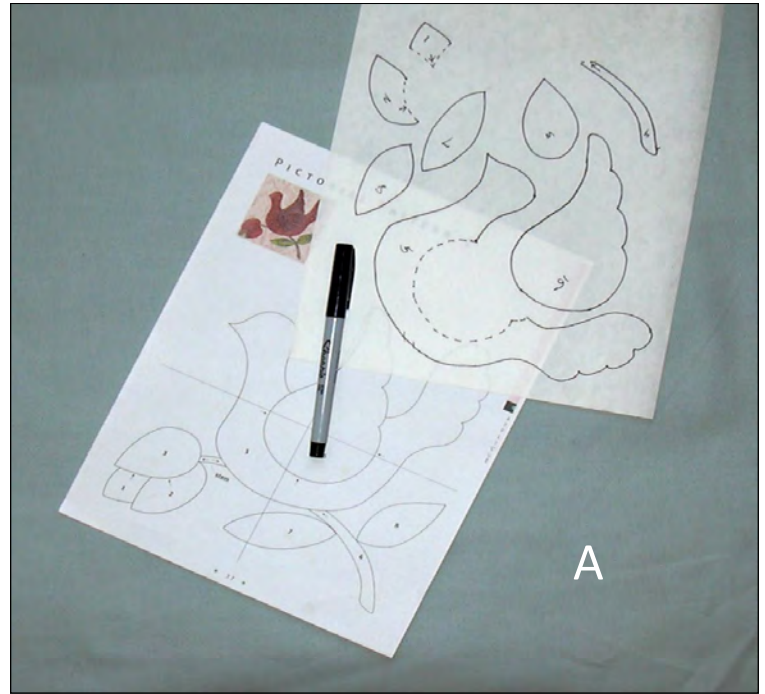
Cut out each pattern piece on the solid lines. Where there is a dashed line, trim a hefty 1/8" away from the line - outward as if it were paper seam allowance.

Press each template onto the right side of the fabric [paper side up-waxy side down]. Leave enough fabric around all sides for seam allowances. [B]

Lay each piece right side up onto a sand paper board. Trace closely onto the fabric, around all sides, where there is a solid line only. Where there is a dashed line leave unmarked or place a few hash marks.

Trim an 1/8" neatly and consistently around all sides of the templates. [C]

Cut fabric background blocks with an ample seam allowance. Mark seam lines if that is your normal practice. Fold the block into quarters and lightly crease. This provides placement information on the background fabric blocks that will coincide with the placement lines on the pattern.



Page 4 Template/Pieces Continued

Align the fabric background block to the pattern, both are right side up. Pin them together.

Make a light box from a clear plastic storage box with a flat bottom, 5" deep and approximately 18" x 24".

Turn the box upside down over a light stick or OTT™ light or any light that will lay flat and not over heat.

Place the background block and pattern - right side up - on the light box. Remove the freezer paper template as the pieces are applied to the block. Apply the pieces in the order in which they will be sewn. [D] The example shows all pieces being applied, however you may want to apply only pieces that are easily sewn and then return to the light box to apply the remaining pieces - and sew.

Remove the block from the pattern and begin to baste each piece. Remove the pins as you baste.

To baste, use contrasting color threads and about 1/4" long stitches. Consistently follow the shape edge, echoing the marked seam line, remaining an ample 1/8th" away at all times.

To stitch. I recommend 100 % cotton Mettler 60 wt. 2 ply thread and #11 Richard Hemming & Sons Milliner needles.

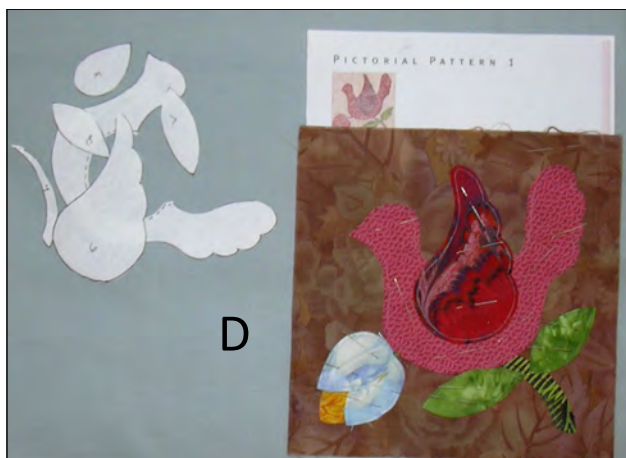
Stitch underlying pieces first watching for raw edges that are covered by finished edges. Remove basting threads once a piece is sewn.



To stitch use a single strand of thread. Bury the knots on the back side just underneath the pieces so that thread tails do not show through.

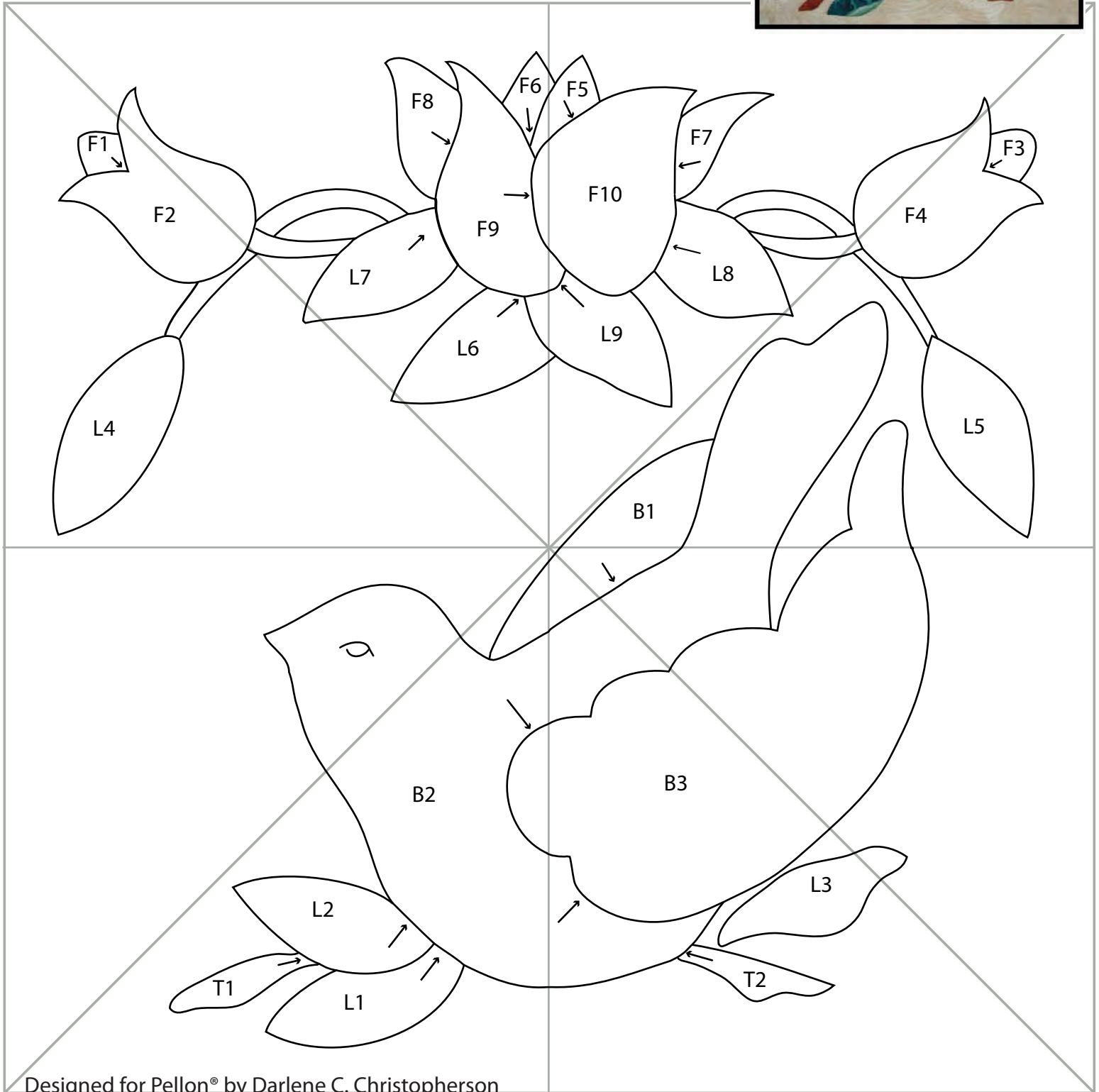
Use a hidden whip stitch while turning under the edges at the marked seam line. Work only about 1" at a time. Allow the basting threads to assist in rolling under the seam allowance. If placed correctly, it will be a great help to your results.

Prepare blocks for stitching and save them in Zip Loc bags so they are ready for portable sewing projects.





A Perfect Reunion - Pattern One - 8" Block

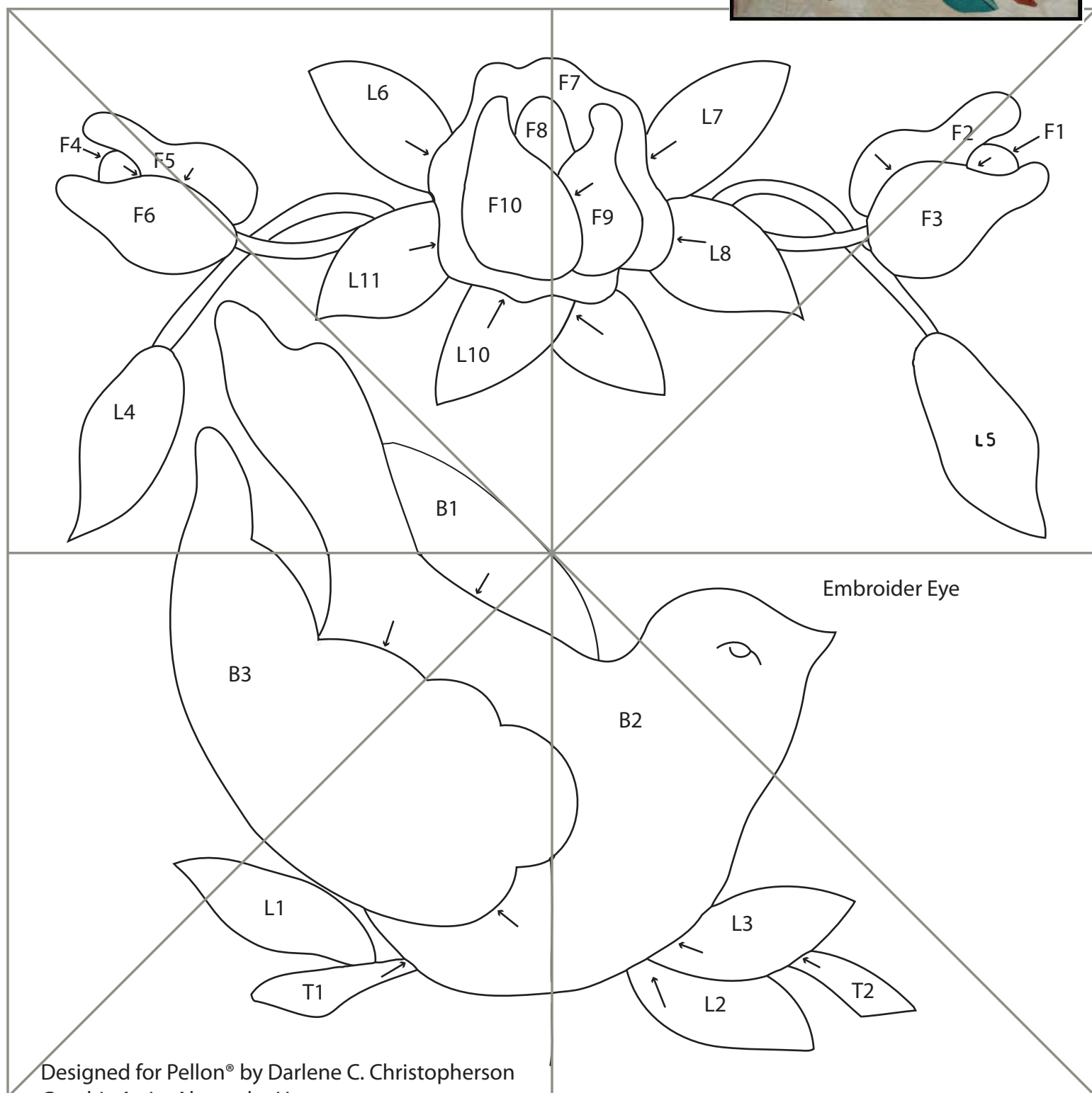


Designed for Pellon® by Darlene C. Christopherson

Graphic Artist Alexandra Henry

© 2011 Darlene C. Christopherson

A Perfect Reunion Quilt - Block Two - 8"



Designed for Pellon® by Darlene C. Christopherson

Graphic Artist Alexandra Henry

© 2011 Darlene C. Christopherson