

Birds Nest Tutorial

by Christen Brown



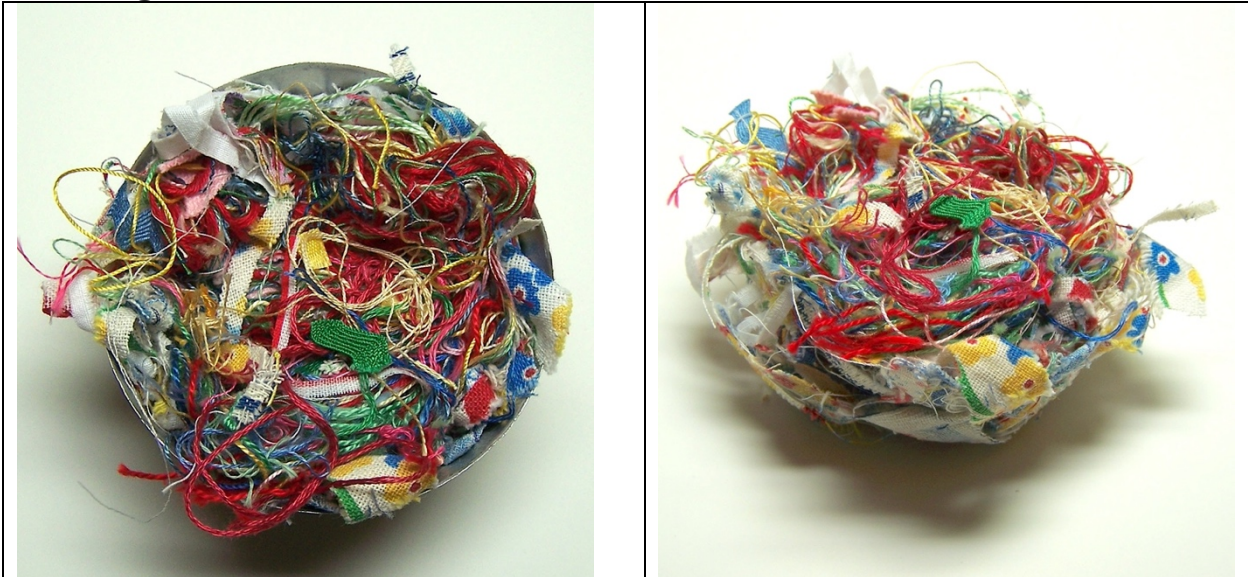
Collect your scraps, strips, small bits of fabric and left-over bits of perle cotton threads, gather them all together, and create this delightful little bird nest. Then select a few scraps of felt, a bit of stuffing, to fill the nest with a mommy bird, and her little baby eggs.

Materials and Tools

What you will need:

- Scraps of fabric: strips, bits, unraveled ends
- Scraps of thread: cut ends, left-over bits
- Scraps of felt
- Small amount of light weight iron-on interfacing
- Small amount of stuffing
- 1 skein of perle cotton #5
- 3 skeins of perle cotton #8
- Sewing thread
- Crewel and small sharps needle
- Scissors
- Stuffing tool

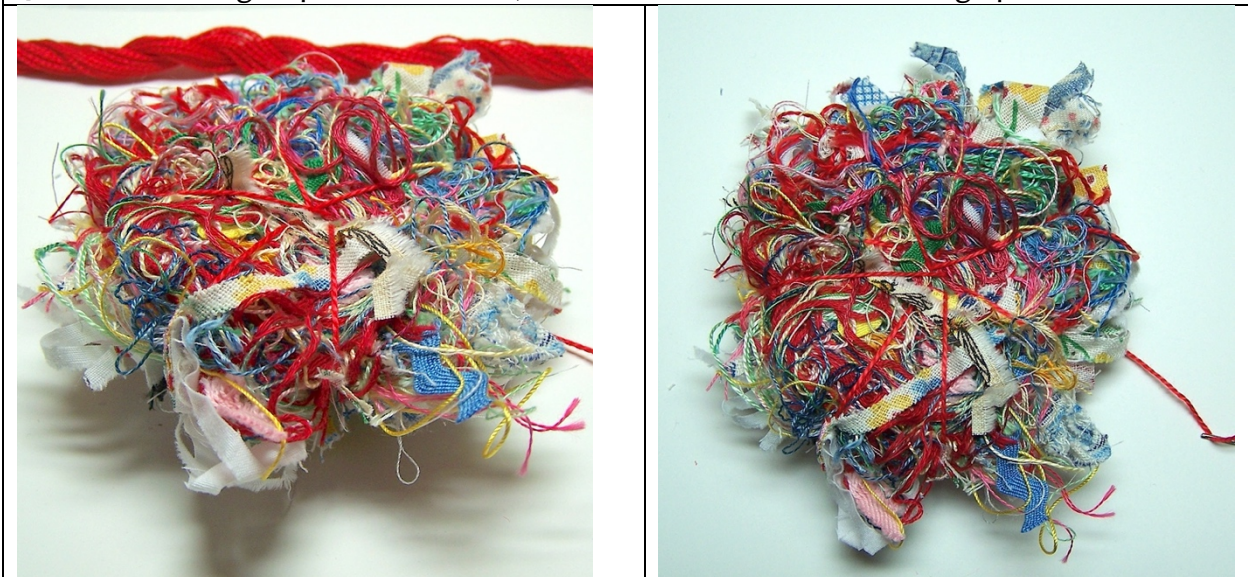
Creating the Nest



1. Collect a group of scraps, such as fabrics and threads. You could also include bits of ribbons or trims.
2. Layer the group of scraps into a slightly curved form, such as a small bowl, or other vessel, starting with the larger bits such of fabric or ribbons, layering longer pieces of thread, working down to the smallest bits and scraps of fabrics and thread.

Tip: I use an old aluminum aspic mold to form the nest.

3. Gently need and mold the group of scraps into a shape that resembles a nest.
4. Remove the group from the form, with the inside of the nest facing up.



5. Thread the crewel needle with a 1-yard length of perle cotton #5.
6. Bring the thread up through the center of the nest, leaving a short tail, that can be caught up while stitching.
7. Wrap the thread over the edge of the nest, and bring the needle up through the center, and wrap the thread over the opposite side of the nest.



8. Repeat **Step 7**, continuing to stitch around the nest, working from side to opposite side, around the edges, to catch the loose ends, and to prevent any bits from falling out.

Note: To end a thread, bury the thread by weaving it through the scraps of the nest. Follow the directions in **Step 5**, cutting another 1 yard-length of perle cotton #5 when needed.

9. Additional stitches can be taken, to hold the group of scraps in place. Starting from the center, stitch through the sides of the nest from front to back, catching all the bits to keep them in place.

Tip: This is not a science, the goal is to keep the group of scraps together, so just keep on stitching as you see fit!



Back of finished nest.



Front of finished nest.

The Bird



Cutting

1. Cut two pieces of felt from the **Bird Pattern** on *page 6*.
2. Cut two pieces of felt using the **Wing Pattern**.
3. Iron a small amount of interfacing to the wrong side of each bird pattern, making sure that you have a front and back for the body, and not extending the interfacing to the edge of the felt.

Follow these Steps for each half of the bird body.

1. Place one felt wing onto each felt bird shape.
- Note:** You could use a fabric glue stick to temporarily secure the wings in place.
2. Thread the small sharps needle with sewing thread.
 3. Hand-stitch the wings in place with a whip-stitch.
 4. Thread the crewel needle with perle cotton #8, knot the tail.
 5. **Wing details:** Stitch the fly stitch over each felt wing or use straight stitches.
 6. **Tail Wing:** Repeat **Step 5**. Repeat **Step 4** when necessary.
 7. **Eyes:** Stitch a 5-wrap French knot stitch for the eye, using a darker color such as black.

Assembly

1. Place the wrong sides of the felt bird bodies together.
2. Thread the small sharps needle with sewing thread.
3. Starting at the top edge of the body, whip-stitch around the body, stopping at the bottom edge, leaving the tail wing section open. Knot, but do not cut the thread.
4. Place a small amount of stuffing into the body through the opening at the tail wing with the stuffing tool.
5. Whip-stitch the tail wing closed. Bury the tail of thread through the body, cut off the excess.
6. Thread the crewel needle with 2 yards of perle cotton #8, with the same or different color than the wings. Thread the needle through the body, burying the end of the thread into the stuffing.
7. Work the blanket stitch around the body, starting at the top edge and working around the body.
8. Bury the tail of thread through the body, cut off the excess thread. Repeat **Step 6** if needed.

The Eggs



Cutting Directions for each egg.

Follow these steps for as many eggs as you want to fill the nest.

1. Cut two pieces of felt from the **Egg Pattern** on page 6.
2. Iron a small amount of interfacing to the wrong side of each egg pattern, making sure that you have a front and back for the egg, and not extending the interfacing to the edge of the felt.

Follow these Steps for each half of the egg.

1. Thread the crewel needle with perle cotton #8, knot the tail.
2. Randomly stitch 3-wrap French knots throughout the egg shape.

Assembly

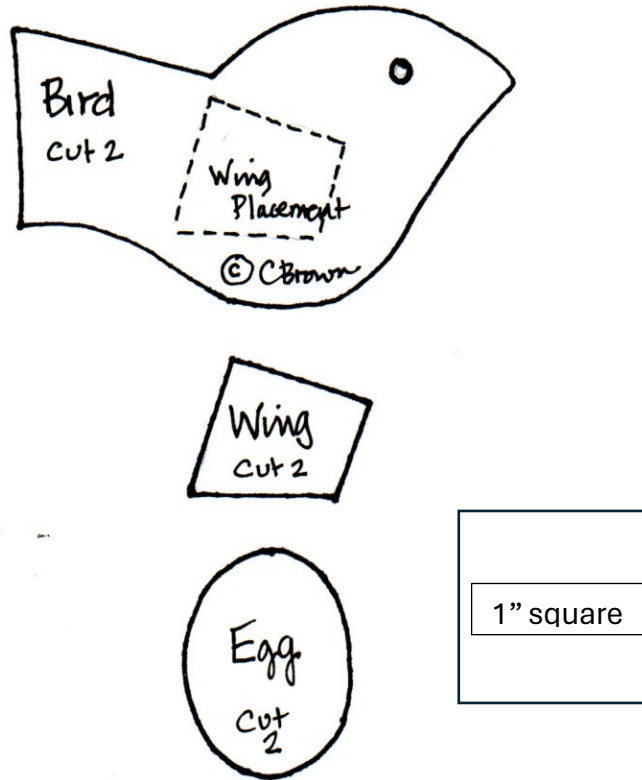
1. Thread the small sharps needle with sewing thread.
2. Starting at the bottom edge of the egg, whip-stitch around the shape, stopping $3/4$ " before the starting point. Knot, but do not cut the thread.
3. Place a small amount of stuffing into the egg through the opening with the stuffing tool.
4. Whip-stitch the opening closed. Bury the tail of thread through the egg, cut off the excess.
5. Thread the crewel needle with 1 yard of perle cotton, work the whip-stitch around the egg, starting at the bottom edge, working around the shape.
6. Bury the tail of thread through the egg, cut off the excess thread.

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Patterns

1. Print out 1 copy of the pattern.
2. Use the 1" square to determine if the pattern was printed to scale.



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