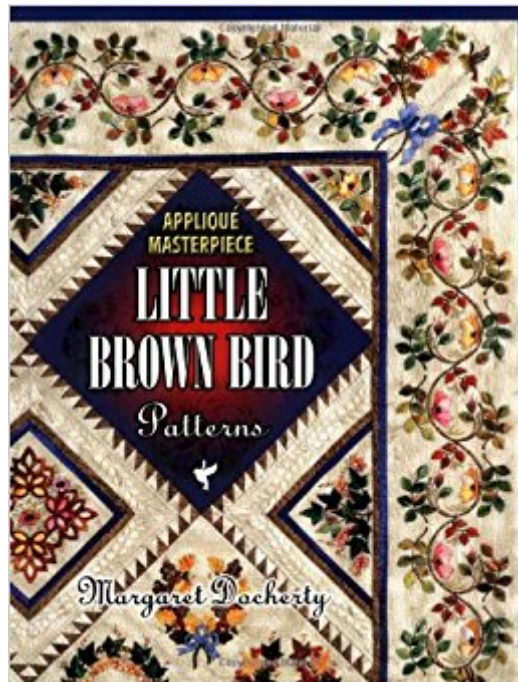




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Applique Masterpiece: Little Brown Bird Patterns



Synopsis

Based on a favorite song from the author's childhood, the little brown wren who is the star of this quilt is accompanied by an impressive array of feathered friends, wreaths, baskets, fruits, flowers, leaves, and patterns and helps others avoid the 'pitfalls' of quilting while offering helpful hints and suggestions for beginners and advanced quilters alike. She shares with you her insights on hand applique, fabric selections, special techniques, design possibilities, border applique designs, and quilt assembly. Full-size patterns accompany this impressive work.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (25 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I found this book to be an absolute delight. The illustrations are exquisite and Margaret Doherty's conversational style is easy to read and understand. I learned a lot of new techniques, for instance, using parts of a large scale fabric to piece a very small bird. In one instance, she used a cobblestone fabric for the bird's breast. I am interested in developing small projects and feel that any one of the 40 squares would make a masterpiece item. A quote from the author's preface: "I work as a pediatrician and each night after dinner, I do a crossword puzzle and sew for about six hours." sums up the author's approach to this form of fabric work. The challenge in looking at fabrics, colors, and techniques in a new way is worth the price of the book.

I am participating in an applique class in which most of the class members are using the patterns in this book to complete their quilts. Margaret's quilt is a masterpiece and an inspiration due to both her beautiful color choices and attention to detail. Many quilt books lack appeal as the finished

projects pictured in the books are unattractive due to poor color combinations. The individual block pictures are fabulous. This book provides detailed information to assist the sewer in selecting appropriate fabrics and in techniques to complete a beautiful quilt. I have observed as the class members bring in their completed blocks and although many have substituted their personal favorite color choices, they are producing beautiful blocks. I believe that the examples in the book have helped the class members look at fabric differently. The completed applique pieces look like they are hand painted.

A delightful book which has been thoughtfully written and beautifully illustrated. My knowledge of applique has been significantly increased - my practical skills will surely follow.

Ideal for both beginners and those well versed in quilting traditions, Margaret Docherty's Little Brown Bird Patterns is packed with applique patterns: full-page patterns accompanied by a facing page with a small color photo and survey of techniques, fabrics and embellishments.

The book is a wonderfully designed pattern for hand applique. The entire book is devoted to the creation of one design masterpiece featuring many squares of wreaths, flowers, half square borders and birds. The overall border is exquisite and intricate. The author's patterns and directions are excellent and easy to follow. She includes a chapter on how to select fabrics to create the shadings of flowers and birds without ever being a bird or flower fabric. She teaches what to look for. The only changes I contemplate making are redesigning some of the birds.

Plan on taking this book off of the shelf whenever you want a little inspiration for another quilt. This quilt is truly an heirloom - not one you're going to sleep under. The quilt itself will take your breath away and, hopefully, you'll be inspired to try some of the techniques, even if you aren't as ambitious as Docherty is. I went right out and bought some new fat quarters of fabric that I thought might do for some of the squares, using her approach to choosing fabric, and will start small, with only one block. Her innovative techniques and exquisite results make her both an artist and a skilled artisan. Her writing style make her an excellent teacher. Don't pass this one by.

If you want to take embellishment over the top, this is for you. Excellent source of inspiration for applique that is so special. Highly recommend.

LOVE this little book. Lots of pictures, lots of directions. I have still a "plan to use" instead of actual use and so far just enjoy perusing it, milling through it. More than a "coffee table" book but if you have company often it would be nice as that too. I plan to use it to embellish an apron ive been meaning to finish.

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