

Southwest Sunrise

Block 2 Thunderbird

12" x 12" finished size

Technique: Fusible Web Machine Applique

Level: Confident Beginner



Fabric Requirement

- 13" square of background fabric
- FQ or 1/3 yard of black
- 1/4 yard or FQ aqua batik
- 1/8 or less of yellow, gold, lime green, red

Other Supplies

- 1/3 yard Steam A Seam 2 Lite
- Bent nose tweezers
- Sharp point scissors
- Applique pressing sheet
- Scotch tape

Introduction

The Thunderbird symbol is one of the most dominant icons in Native American Indian culture and art. Depictions of the thunderbird are found on totems, pottery, cave art, petroglyphs and in the ancient legends and myths of many Native American tribes.

The most powerful of all the spirits, the thunderbird is a mythological deity associated with power, protection and strength. The thunderbird is believed to be a huge beast with massive wings, a long beak, featherless head and often shown with curling horns. According to legend, when he beats his mighty wings he makes the sound of thunder and stirs the wind. It is believed that he shoots lightning from his eyes and throws thunderbolts with his claws.

In the Northwest cultures, the thunderbird is thought to have captured a whale and brought it to the People, who were starving. The thunderbird became a provider and protector, and is greatly honored for this life-saving gift.

In the Southwest the thunderbird is associated with rain and storms, and is often depicted with the symbols for clouds or rain over his head. The sound of the thunder foretells the coming of the rains and storms, so important in the arid southwest. Drawing upon the advocacy of the Thunderbird is an important element in the ritual and spiritual life of Southwestern Tribes.

The Thunderbird teaches us about our own physical and spiritual power. When we draw on our inner strength and that of our sisters, the wise women, we are strengthened and enriched. We are part of a long tradition of women helping women. In 2020 we celebrate the 100 year anniversary of women's suffrage and the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, we must never forget the power we possess when we work together.

As you make this block, look to the sky (yellow), the water (turquoise), the hills (golden), the grass lands (green), and the hearth (red) for the resources that sustain our bodies and our spirits. Watch for the visions which fill us with wonder and guide us on the path of beauty. With each breath we draw on the power of the Thunderbird, bringing us strength and sustenance to face our journey.



Instructions

1. Print out the template pages and layout guide for the pattern (if you do not already have a print edition of the pattern. (Fig. 1)
2. Tape the 4-page layout guide together on the registration lines matching the outlines of each patch. Use tape on each seam on the back of the layout guide to make it sturdy.
3. Assemble your fabrics and label each with the template it will be used for.
4. Select a fusible product to trace the templates.
5. Use a fine line Sharpee to trace the templates on the paper backing of the sticky side of your fusible web.
6. The templates are already reversed and will appear facing the opposite direction when fused in place.
7. "Window" template B, the large body of the bird, leaving 1/4" to 1/2" of fusible web inside the traced lines. Cut out the sections outlined in red on the fusible template shown in Fig. 2. You will not need to "window" any of the other templates.
8. When tracing template D, trace the three "cut-out" sections E, G, and I) with a ruler to keep the lines straight. DO NOT cut out those areas until AFTER the templates are fused to the fabric. (Fig. 3)
9. Cut out the traced templates around, not on, the traced lines.
10. Place fusible templates on the wrong side of the applique fabric and fuse. Cut out each template on the traced lines.
11. On template D, carefully cut out sections E, G and I using sharp scissors, maintaining a crisp edge and square inside corners. Discard the cut out sections. The black fabric (template B) placed behind the openings in template D should show through. (Fig. 4)



Fig. 4

Photo Credits:

1. Image from Coyote Prime blog post, 1/9/2009. [<https://coyoteprime-runningcausei-cantfly.blogspot.com/2009/01/native-american-thunderbird-and-thunder.html>]
2. Vintage Zuni Silver Inlay Thunderbird Pin Estate Jewelry, Black Arrow Gallery. [https://www.blackarrowgallery.com/products/zuni-inlay-thunderbird-pin-estate-jewelry?variant=5062697877532&utm_source=Pinterest&utm_medium=Social]
3. Image of southwestern-appearing thunderbird. [<https://americanindianshistory.blogspot.com/2014/08/cherokee-and-sioux-indian-thunder-gods.html?m=1>]

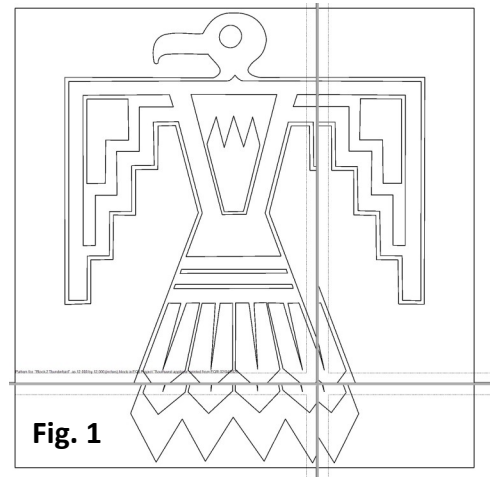


Fig. 1

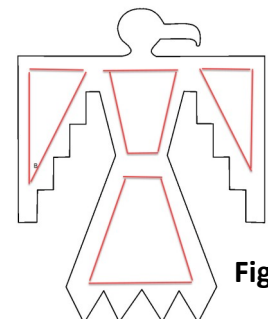


Fig. 2

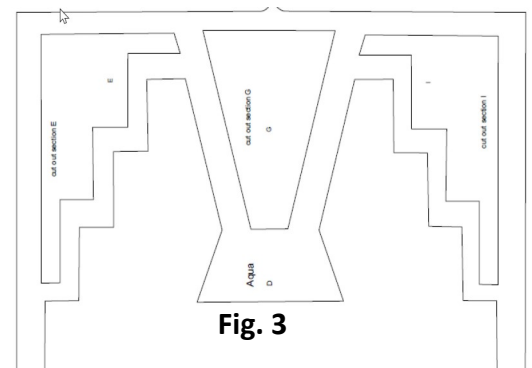


Fig. 3

12. Prepare a block overlay if you are using black fabric for the Thunderbird's body. This is necessary because you will not be able to see the applique layout guide through the black fabric of the bird's body. Using tracing paper, wax paper or parchment paper, trace the complete thunderbird block from the applique layout guide with a fine line Sharpee. Use a small ruler, if necessary, to keep the lines sharp. Be sure to trace all details of the block, including the block outline.
13. Tape the overlay sheet on top of the applique layout guide with all lines exactly aligned. (Fig. 5) Use the tape like a hinge along the top edge, so you can lift up the overlay sheet to position applique beneath it. You should be able to see through the overlay.
14. Place the applique pressing sheet of Fusamat beneath the overlay sheet and above the applique placement guide, directly over the bird body. Secure with pins or tape.
15. With the overlay sheet flipped up, away from the pressing sheet, place Template B-- the black bird body-- on the applique pressing sheet (over the bird outline on the layout guide). Fuse to the pressing sheet.
16. Flip the Overlay Sheet down over the B template and make sure the Overlay is exactly aligned with the fused template B.
17. Using the bent nose tweezers place the D template (with cut outs) on the B template, centering it so that it aligns with the overlay. Then position each of the remaining templates on Template B using the tweezers and the overlay sheet to guide you.
18. Fuse the templates to Template B right through the overlay sheet. Allow the applique to cool completely, then lift up & remove the overlay sheet and peel the applique off the pressing sheet.
19. Remove the applique pressing sheet from the applique layout guide. Draw vertical and horizontal center lines on the applique layout guide.
20. Place the fused applique motif on the layout guide. Place a pin where the centerlines intersect the applique. (See the red dots on Fig. 6.)
21. Trim your background fabric square to 13". Fold it in half vertically and press. Then fold it in half horizontally and press.
22. Open out the background square and make sure the creases are visible. Place the applique motif on the background square aligning the pins with the creases. (Fig. 6)
23. Measure the distance from the wings to the edge of the fabric in several places to make sure the applique is parallel to the background square. (Fig. 7)

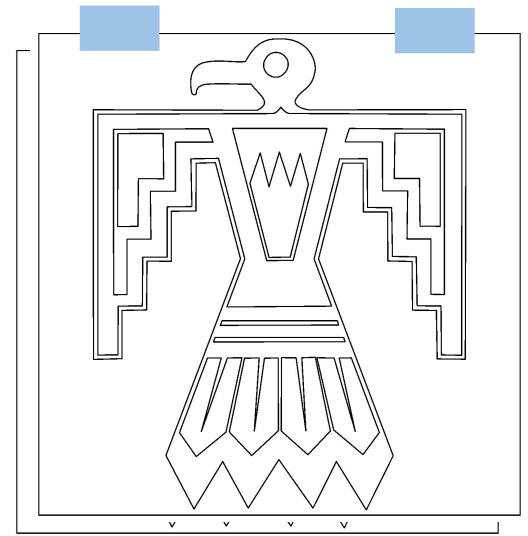


Fig. 5 Overlay Sheet

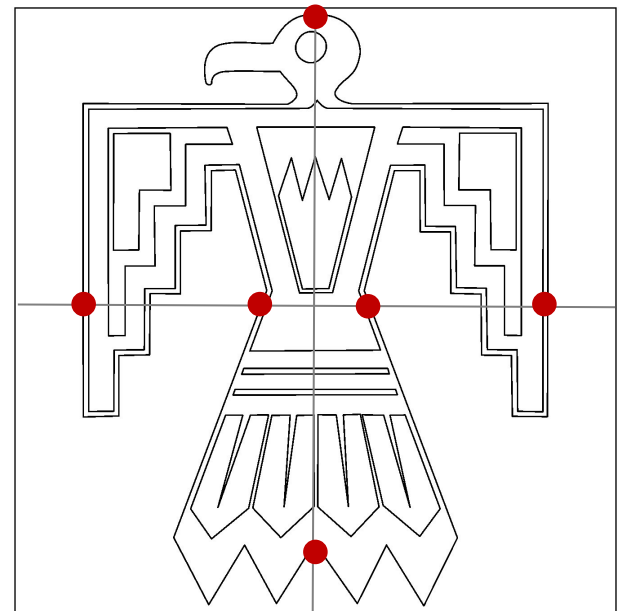


Fig. 6

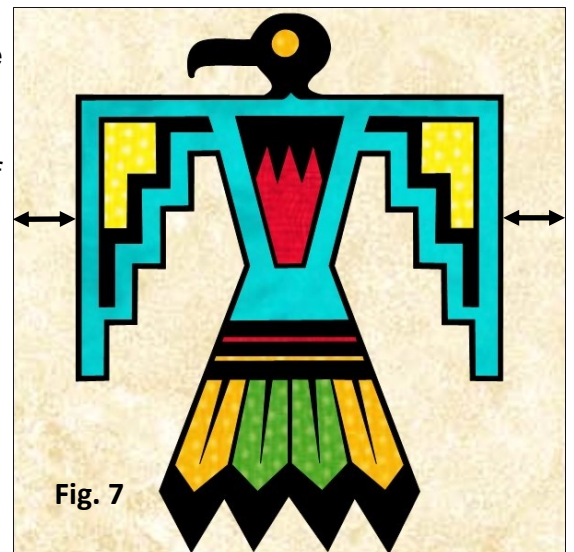


Fig. 7

24. Measure both sides to be sure the applique is centered.
25. Fuse the applique motif to the background square using a slightly damp pressing cloth.
26. Press the square from the back to remove the creases and make the fusible bond permanent.
27. Refer to Block 1 instructions for suggestions on edge stitching the applique to the background fabric. Be sure to use a light stabilizer on the back of the block. It is recommended to edge stitch all of the blocks in the same manner to create a unified look for the quilt.
28. You may wish to embellish your blocks with additional decorative stitching in matching or contrasting thread colors. Be sure to remove the stabilizer after completing the stitching.
29. When complete, lightly press the block using a light sizing and trim the block to 12-1/2" square.



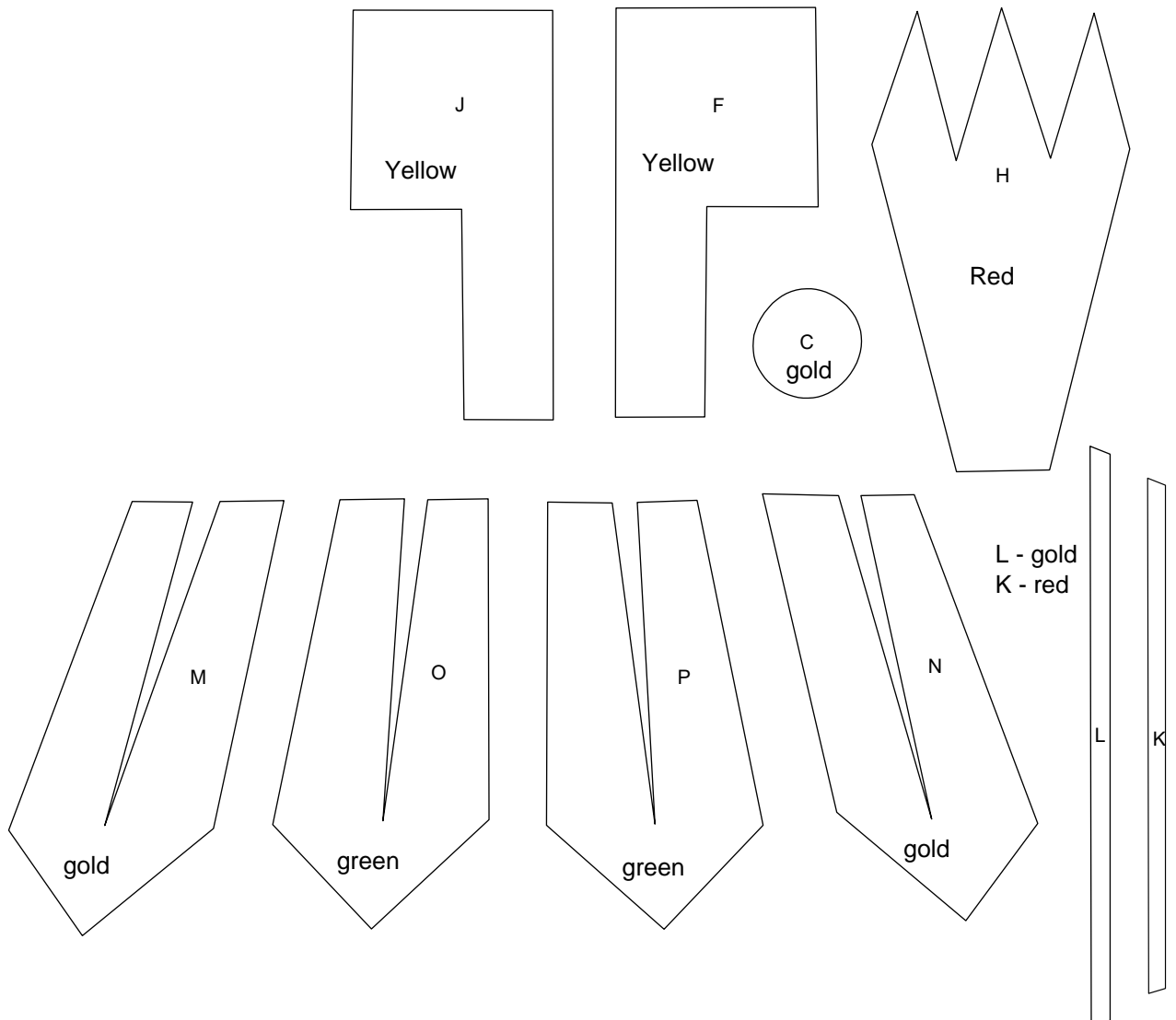
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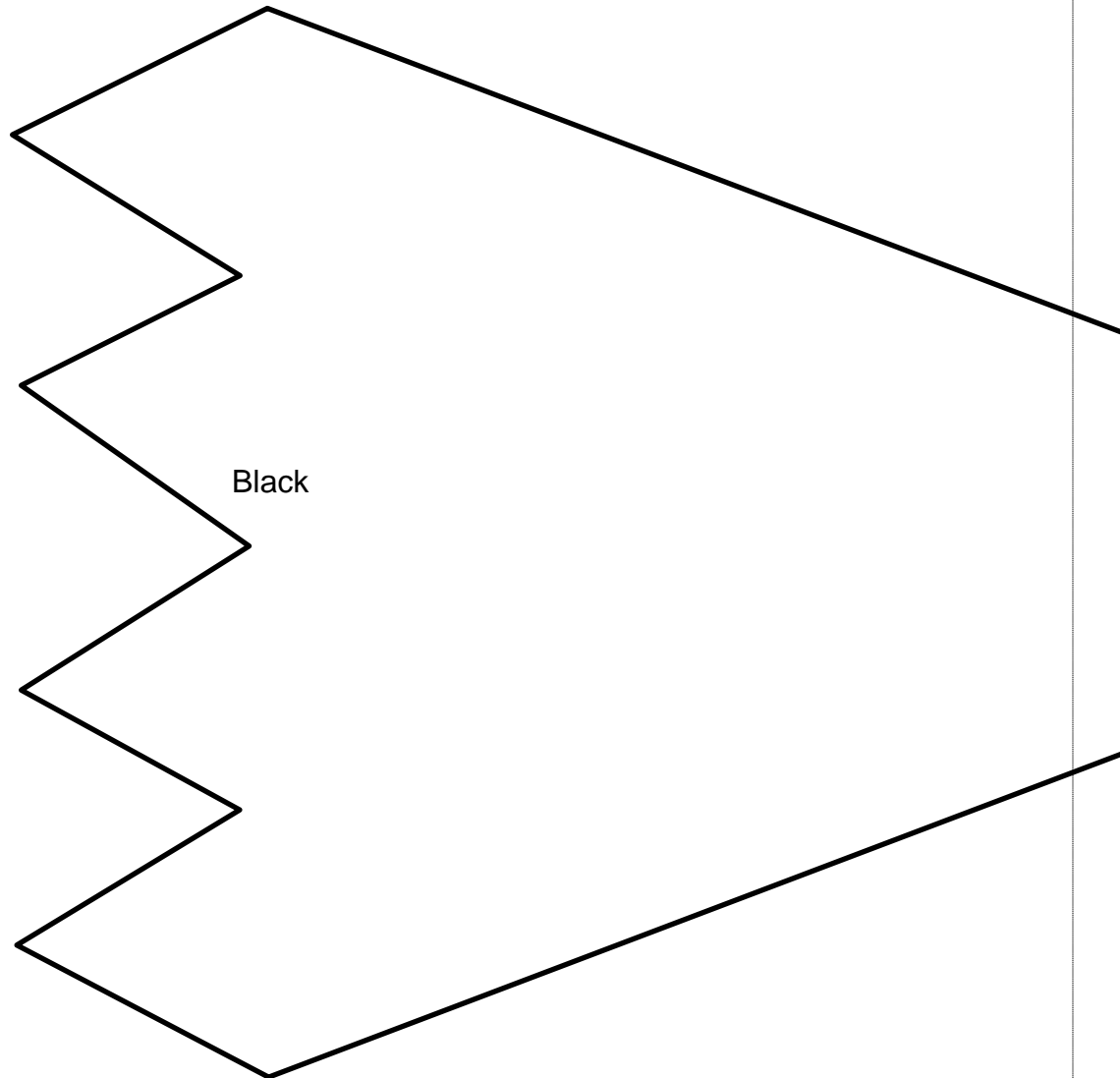


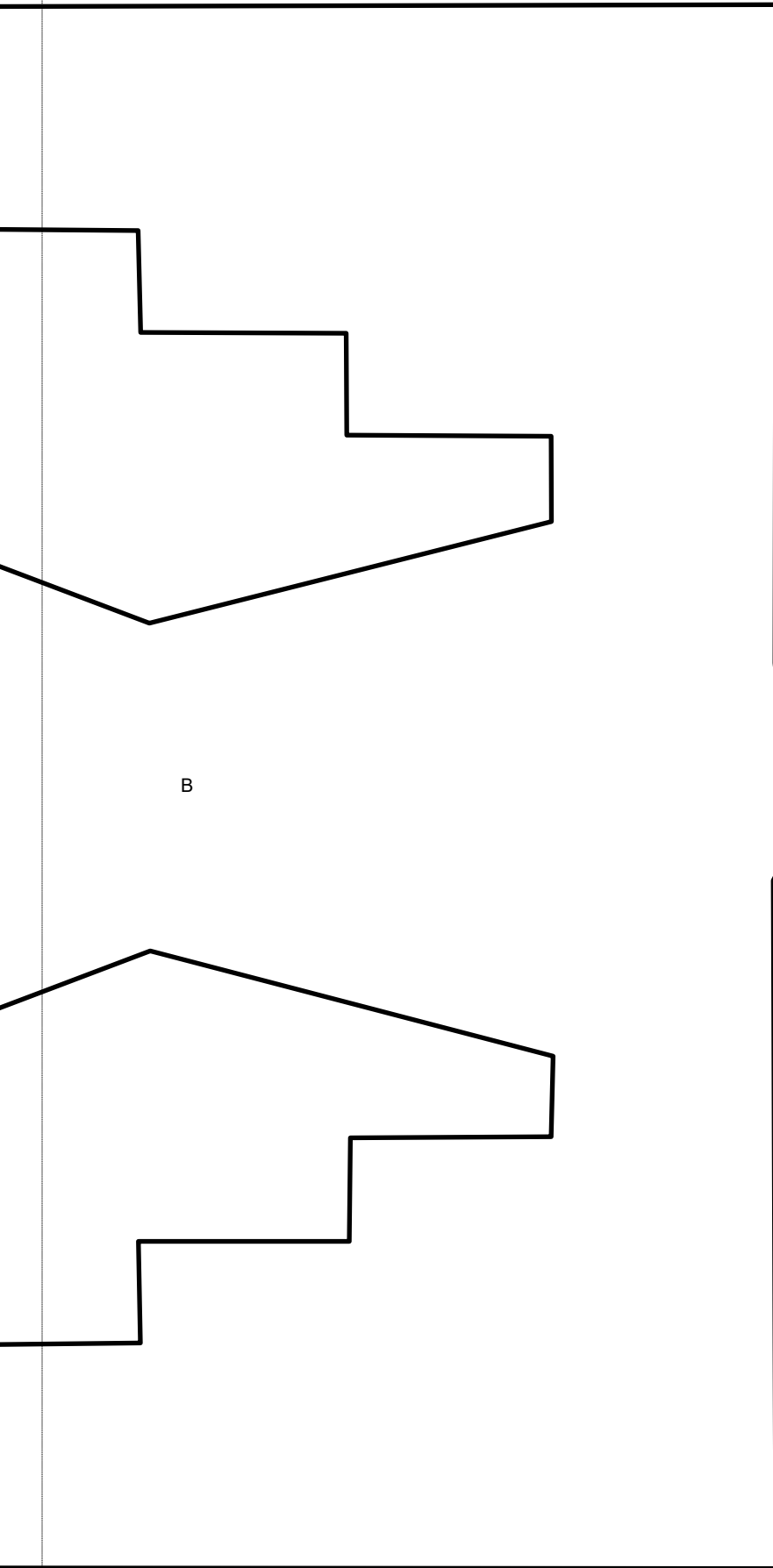
Templates are reversed for use with fusible web and machine applique.

Trace 1 of each template.

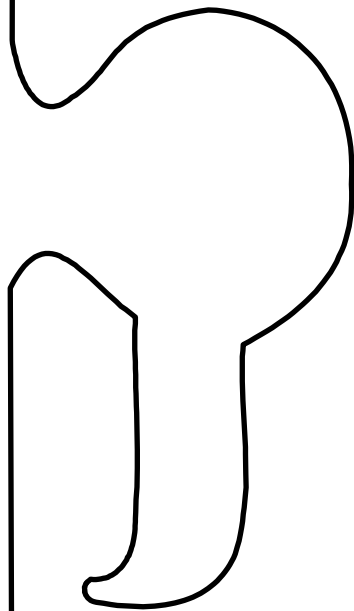


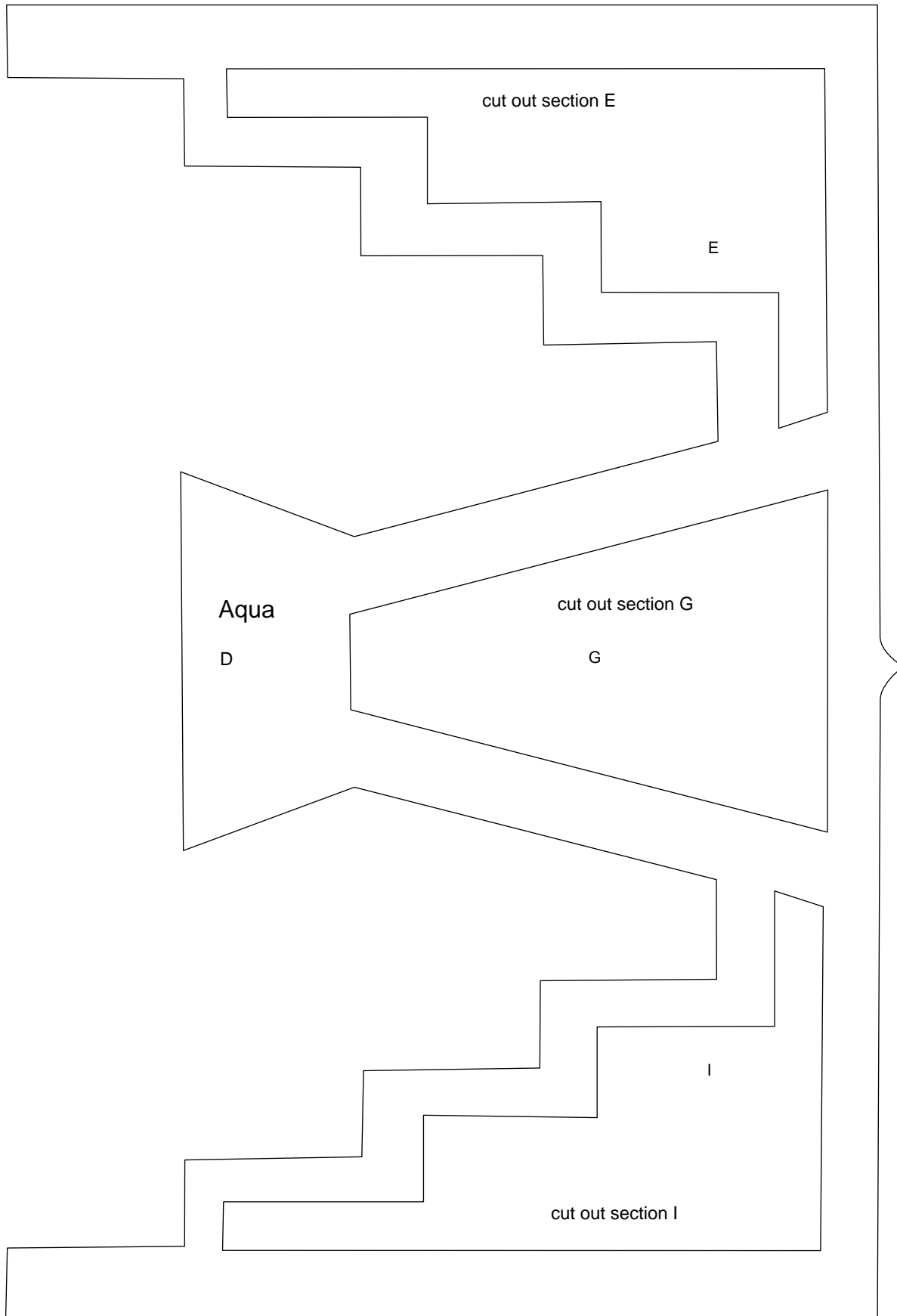
Tape the two B template pieces together
on the registration lines.



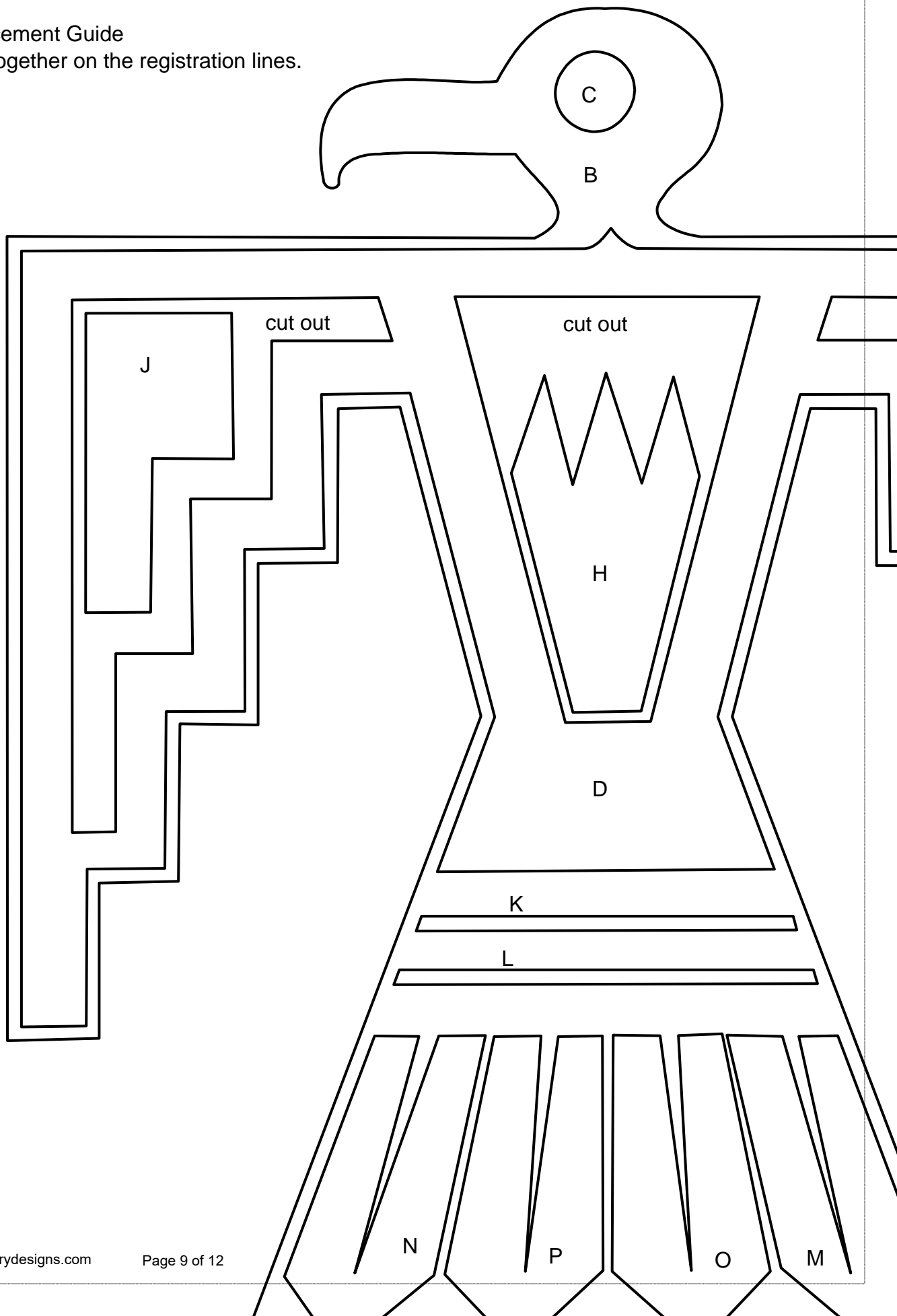


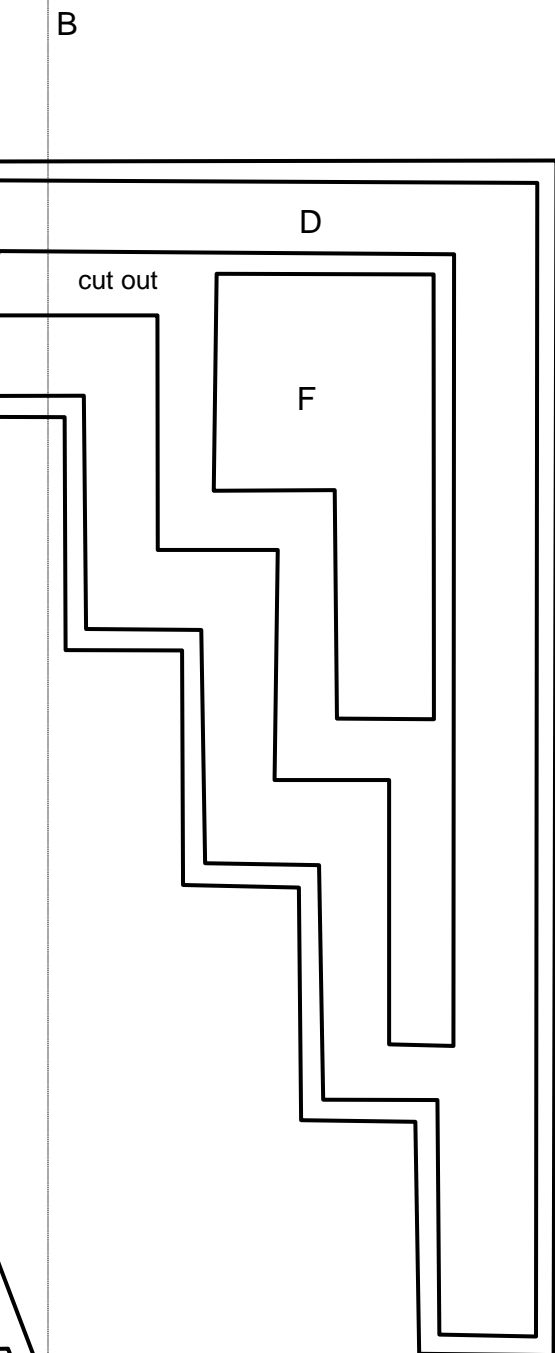
B

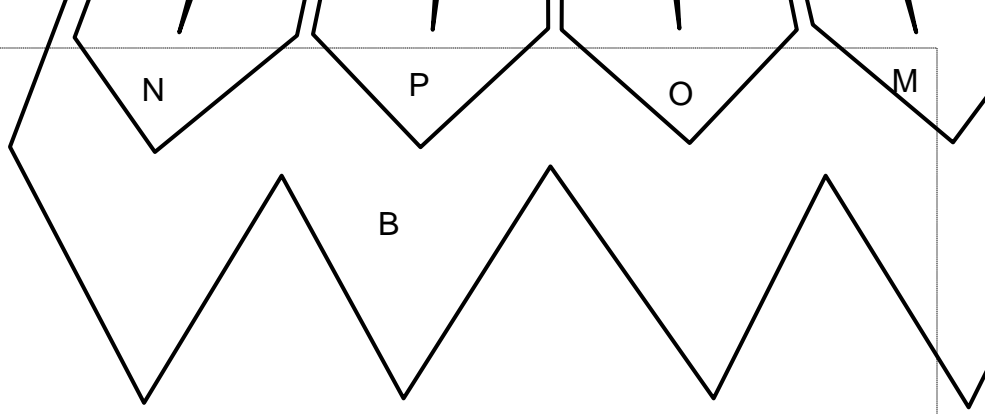


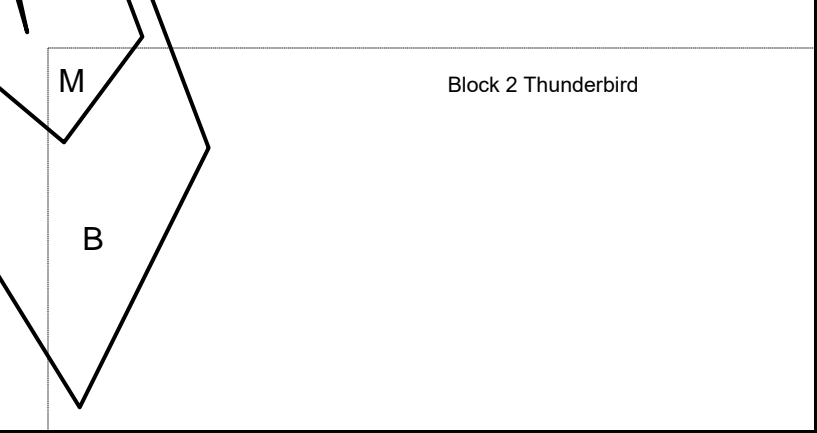


Applique Placement Guide
Tape pages together on the registration lines.









Block 2 Thunderbird

MGD 500-02