

Sheila Landry Designs

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SLD238 Cardinal and Robin Mini-Plaques



An Original Pattern With Complete Instructions

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SLD238 Cardinal and Robin Mini-Plaques

These two mini-plaques are the second set in my series of four songbird plaques. Once again, I have added some light painting to the plaques, which generally follow the scroll saw lines, in order to show you how simple it is to achieve a beautiful look using minimal effort, colors and skill. These two plaques only use four colors besides Black and White and like the previous set, look pretty and professional.

As with the first two plaques, I have not singled out a particular brand of paint that you need to accomplish the design. I have included a simple color chart for your reference and labeled my colors in simple terms such as 'orange' or 'dark brown'. The color swatches are for you to get an idea of what I mean by those terms and it may be helpful for you to take them to the craft store with you so you can pick similar colors. Remember – in nature, there is a great variance in color and shades, even within the same species so don't get hung up on matching the colors exactly. Close is good enough and won't affect the outcome of the final project at all.

As I do many times, I designed these plaques to be versatile and there is the possibility to use the patterns several different ways. If you wish, you can even eliminate the frames completely and have some lovely sun catchers to hang on your window with a suction cup. You can even use them as ornaments by adding small hole to the top and hanging them with a bright ribbon.

Whether you decide to paint them or not, they are simple, yet attractive projects that can be used year-round to add a bit of nature to any area.

Bill of Materials

- One piece of wood (Curly Maple was used in the example) 6.5" wide x 10.5" long planed to .25 of an inch thick
- One Piece of wood veneer (Mahogany was used in the example) 4" wide x 8" long for the background
- Two light duty picture hangers

Supplies Needed

- Scroll saw blades -- size 2 reverse tooth and size 2/0 reverse tooth
- Temporary adhesive spray glue
- Clear packaging tape (2")
- Drill press and a 1/16" bit
- Hand-held orbital sander and various grits (120-400) of sandpaper
- Clear drying wood glue
- Acrylic paints in White, Black, Dark Brown, Orange, Red and Yellow
- 2 part epoxy glue to glue on hangers
- Spray varnish in the finish of your choice (Satin was used in the example)

Procedure

- Make photocopies of the original pattern and keep them for future reference.

Preparing the Wood

- Plane your Curly Maple board one quarter of an inch thick.
- Beginning with 120 grit sandpaper, sand both sides of your wood with your hand-held orbital sander to remove the planer marks and smooth out the wood.
- Graduate to 220 grit sandpaper and finally 400 grit paper to make the surface of your wood satin smooth. This will make it much easier to finish your project after you are done cutting out the design.
- Use the soft brush attachment of your vacuum and vacuum all the dust and debris from your piece of wood.
- Apply the pattern pieces to the wood by lightly spraying the back of your pattern pieces with a misting of temporary spray adhesive. Allow the spray to tack up for a couple of seconds until it feels as tacky as masking tape and apply the pattern to your wood pieces, being aware of the direction of the grain.
- Place a layer of clear packaging tape over the entire surface of the design to help prevent burning of the wood.

Cutting

- Use a 1/16" drill bit to drill an entry hole at the 'x' indicated on the pattern to cut the inner design from the frame.
- Drill all the small entry holes in the waste areas of the design using the same bit.
- Use the #2 reverse tooth blade and cut the outer perimeter plaque.
- Tilt the table of your scroll saw ten degrees to the left (left side lower and right side higher) and lock it into place.
- Use the #2 reverse tooth blade and cut the inner design of the plaques in a clockwise direction.
- Lightly sand the back of the inside pieces so that the drill holes are flush with the bottom and the piece sits flat on the scroll saw table.
- Use the #2/0 reverse tooth blade to cut the details of the design out of both of the plaques.



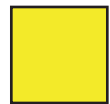
Dark Brown



Orange



Red



Yellow

- Use your hand held orbital sander and 400 grit paper to finish sand the plaques and frames.
- At this point, if you do not wish to paint the birds, you can proceed to assemble the plaques.

Painting

- For the Cardinal, paint the beak with Yellow.
- Paint the mask and eye with Black and the rest of the bird in Red. (Fig 1)
- When all the base coats are dry, use a bit of Orange on the tip of the brush to paint in shading in the beak and highlights following the feather lines. (Fig 2)
- Use a very thin brush and paint in a fine line of White highlight around the eye. Add a tiny dot of White to further highlight the eye.



Fig 1



Fig 2

- For the Sparrow, begin by painting the beak Yellow.
- Use a wash of Dark Brown on the head and back area. Paint the breast Orange and the eye in Black. (Fig 3)
- Again, using the tip of the brush, paint brown shading lines on the beak and breast using a wash of Dark Brown, and highlight the dark brown areas and around the eye with White.

Again paint a tiny White highlight dot on the eye.
(Fig 4)

- Allow the plaques to dry thoroughly.



Fig 3



Fig 4

Assembly and Finishing

- With the grain going horizontal, trace the inner frame onto the Mahogany veneer.
- Carefully cut out the Mahogany backing using a pair of scissors.
- Apply a generous amount of glue to the back of the birds and glue each piece to its corresponding backer. Add some weight so that good contact is made with the pieces. Allow this to dry thoroughly.
- When dry, use the hand held orbital sander and sand the back edges of the insert until the Mahogany is flush with the edge, being careful not to compromise the angle of the edges.
- Apply a thin bead of glue to the inside of the frame piece.
- Insert the inner piece into the frame and seat into place. Use a damp paper towel or Q-tip to blot away any excess glue that may ooze out.
- When dry, spray with several coats of varnish, allowing each coat to dry thoroughly before applying the next one.
- Glue the hanger onto the back of each plaque using the two part epoxy. Since the plaques are small and lightweight, this glue should work fine to hold the hangers in place.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Sheila at 902-482-7174 or you can email me at sheilalandrydesigns@gmail.com . You may also see and purchase other patterns by Sheila Bergner-Landry at www.sheilalandrydesigns.com and download free brochures of my designs, as well as patterns and informational articles.

