

# Sheila Landry Designs

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## *Bluebird Free Ornament Pattern*



*An original pattern with complete instructions for both natural and stained version of the ornament.*

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## *Bluebird Fretwork Painted and Stained Ornament*

### *Introduction*

*This is a sample from a new set of ornaments that I designed that includes eight different songbirds (Item #SLD364 on the site.) I wanted to give it as a sample for you to see the many ways that you can use patterns such as these.*

*This ornament will not only be a great project for the holidays, but you will be able to find a use for it at just about any time of the year. Since the bird itself is cut separately from the oval frame, you will be able to use it as an addition to your existing projects, such as an overlay for boxes, inserts in shelves and other plaques, wreaths or sun catchers, or even as a plaque all by itself. The nature of the design allows for you to enlarge it to the size of a plaque and you will still have plenty of detailing so it will great.*

*You can use natural hard wood and a clear finish, or follow the easy to understand staining instructions included and use DecoArt Staining and Antiquing medium mixed with readily available acrylic paint to give them a hint of color and accent. Either way they are sure to brighten your day and any place you put them all year long.*

### *Materials and Supplies (supplies marked with a \* are for optional staining)*

- One piece of wood (Maple was used in the example) 1/8" thick for the ornament and frame
- Scroll saw blades – Olson blades in size #2/0 regular reverse-tooth
- Spray adhesive
- Blue painter's tape (2")
- Clear packaging tape (optional – read instructions)
- Drill press and small bit for entry holes
- Hand-held orbital sander and various grits of sandpaper
- Spray shellac or varnish in the finish of your choice
- Mineral oil (optional finish)
- Clear-drying wood glue
- 1/8" thin ribbon in various colors for hanging
- \*DecoArt Americana Acrylic Paints in the following colors: Cool White (DA240), Dark Chocolate (DA065), Forest Green (DA050), Neutral Grey (DA095), Poodleskirt Pink (DA267), Spice Pink (DA030), True Blue (DA036),
- \*DecoArt Staining and Antiquing Medium
- \*Papillion Paint Brush available from The Artist's Club – Shader size 8

### *Procedure*

*-Make photocopies of the original patterns and keep them for future reference. Patterns may be reproduced for your personal use in making the project – not for resale purposes or sharing. Finished items that are made by hand may be sold for profit, but not mechanically manufactured. Credit to the designer is encouraged.*

## *Preparing the Wood & Cutting*

-Sand your wood smooth to remove planer marks. This will also make it easier to finish once the design has been cut.

-Use the soft brush attachment and vacuum all the dust from your pieces of wood.

-This type of design is ideal for stack cutting (cutting several layers of wood at one time.) If you want to read an article on how to set up your wood for stack cutting you can go to the following link: <http://www.sheilalandydesigns.com/articles/stack-cutting> and read up on how to do it.

-Place a layer of blue painter's tape over the entire surface of the wood.

-Cut out the pattern pieces and spray the backs with the spray adhesive. Apply to the wood over the blue painter's tape.

-If you feel that you are cutting a wood that is particularly hard or dense, you may place a layer of clear packaging tape over the entire surface of the design to help prevent burning. This step is optional and not always necessary with all types of wood.

-Using a small drill bit of choice, drill all the entry holes of the designs.

-After drilling the entry holes, turn over the pieces and sand the backs of it so they are flat.

-Cut out the designs, beginning with the inside holes.

-Cut out the frame piece.

-When you are finished, very carefully remove the pattern pieces. You may want to lay the pieces on a flat surface, such as a table or board when removing the patterns so that all the delicate pieces are supported properly. You can also use a small, sharp paring knife to help lift the corners of the taped areas in order to remove the tape. Do this slowly and carefully and try not to pull too hard so you will avoid breaking pieces.

-When all the patterns are removed, you will probably want to give a final sanding to the ornaments. I find that using a fine grit sand paper works best at times like this. Again, make sure the pieces are supported and place them on a flat surface in order to sand them. Use a sanding block (you can make one easily by spray-gluing sand paper to a flat block of wood) or if you are very careful, you can even use a hand-held orbital sander. Just be sure to hold it level so you don't catch any of the small protruding pieces and snap them off. This will make quick work of things and if done carefully, can save you a lot of time.

-One final vacuum is suggested before going on to finish your pieces. Remember to be careful here too, and use the soft brush attachment to gently brush the particles away.

## *Oiling and Staining*

-You can use mineral oil even if you are planning on adding color by using the acrylic paint and the Staining and Antiquing medium (I did!) Apply the mineral oil first, and just make sure to let it soak in completely (at least a day or so) before proceeding with staining. I found that it doesn't interfere with the stain at all, and leaves a nice finish on the sides and the backs of your pieces.

-If you don't wish to use mineral oil and/or stain, simply spray several coats of clear lacquer or varnish over the ornament pieces, allowing them to dry thoroughly in between coats.

### ***Applying Mineral Oil (optional)***

-If using mineral oil, use a brush to apply oil liberally and allow it to soak in for a couple hours before reapplying. After two or three coats, allow the oil to soak in for a few more hours before wiping off any excess with a rag or paper towel. Place the pieces on a metal rack to allow them to absorb the oil overnight.

-It is at this point that you can stain the ornaments to add color. (See instructions below.)

-After allowing the oil to dry for a full day or more. You can apply several coats of spray *shellac* over it to seal the oil if you desire. You can sand very lightly with 400 grit or finer paper between coats of shellac if desired.

## ***Staining with DecoArt Staining and Antiquing Medium and Acrylic Paint (optional)***

I am very pleased with the results of using the Staining and Antiquing Medium. It is a water-based gel that mixes with any acrylic paint and produces a semi-transparent stain. You can control the amount of opacity of the color by adjusting the ratio of gel to paint, so you can customize just how much color and grain you want to show. The gel stain medium is inexpensive and readily available at most places that sell DecoArt products. You can also now purchase DecoArt products directly from them at their website at [www.decoart.com](http://www.decoart.com). Since both the paints and the Staining and Antiquing Medium are very inexpensive, you don't have to invest a lot of money to achieve many different looks.

-In mixing the stains and acrylic paint, I start by placing a small puddle of Staining and Antiquing medium (about the size of a dime) on the pallet. I then place a few drops of acrylic paint in the color of my choice on the pallet next to it and dip the end of the flat paint brush into the color and begin mixing it with the medium. When everything is mixed to my satisfaction, I test the mixture on a scrap piece of wood until the desired opacity is achieved. If there isn't enough color, I simply add more by dipping my brush again into the puddle of acrylic paint and mixing it in. If the color is too strong, I add more medium. It is very easy to fine tune this to your own preference.

-Simply brush the surface of your pieces with an even coat of this mixture. Keep your brush moist and apply the stain sparingly so that you don't fill in all the veining detail lines with stain. You can add a small amount of water to your brush if necessary, but you shouldn't have the need to add much. I don't bring the color over the sides, and for this piece prefer to color just the tops of the ornaments. However, you could do so if you choose.

-Use the color picture for reference and apply the stains in the following manner:

### ***Bluebird***

- Stain the underside of his breast with Cool White.
- Stain the flowers with Poodleskirt Pink.
- Stain the upper part of his breast with Spice Pink.
- Stain the branch with Dark Chocolate.
- Stain his head, back and tail feathers with True Blue.
- Stain the leaves with Forest Green.
- Stain his beak and feet with Neutral Grey.



### ***Finishing and Assembly***

-When everything is dry, apply one or two light coats of spray shellac or varnish in the finish of your choice. I find that spraying is important after you use mineral oil so that the oil is sealed in and it does not interfere with the gluing process. Since the ornaments are light and delicate, I don't feel that there should be a problem with adhesion, as long as you allow these coats of shellac or varnish to dry completely before continuing to assemble the ornaments with glue.

-Apply a good clear-drying wood glue to the branch areas where they touch the frames on the ornaments and press them into place. I don't feel the need to clamp the ornaments again because of the delicacy of them. Allow the glue to dry completely.

-If using spray, simply apply several light coats on all the pieces and allow them to dry. You can sand very lightly with 400 grit or finer paper between coats if desired.

-Attach ribbons or cording to them and they are ready to display.



Bluebird



To purchase Papillon paint brushes online, and also to see a wide array of decorative painting supplies at very reasonable prices, be sure to visit The Artist's Club at [www.artistsclub.com](http://www.artistsclub.com).

You can buy DecoArt products at most craft and hobby stores, or stores that carry decorative painting supplies. You can also order them directly from DecoArt online at [www.decoart.com](http://www.decoart.com), as well as see new products and download free painting patterns.

*If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact us at 902-482-7174 or by email at [sheilalandrydesigns@gmail.com](mailto:sheilalandrydesigns@gmail.com). Visit our website at [www.sheilalandrydesigns.com](http://www.sheilalandrydesigns.com) to browse our selection of patterns. Pattern catalog also available by mail or digital download.*