



Two Turtle Doves Papercut Hearts

by *Susan Penny*

Papercraft has long been used by storytellers around the world, to turn their words of mystery, magic and far off lands into an art form, using just paper and scissors. For this project I have taken the spirit of papercraft, and created two different stitched heart decorations for your Christmas tree. The theme of my project is not borrowed from Hans Christian Anderson (see blog post), but inspired by 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. The verse starts - On the second day of Christmas my true love sent to me: Two Turtle Doves.

From the Handmade Blog

When I visited Odense in Denmark a few years ago, I was inspired by the wonderful papercuts by the writer Hans Christian Anderson. It seems he was an addict to paper. He wrote on it, he drew on it - and he cut it. Just like a potter uses clay or a sculptor uses stone, so he used paper as an expression of his storytelling.

There is no direct connection between his papercuts and his penned stories, but each papercut was accompanied by a fantastic tale, cut using his monstrous scissors and paper taken from a bag that went everywhere with him. At the end of the cutting session, he would unfold the paper and show his amazed audience what he had created.

Hans Christian Andersen wrote 169 fairy tales in his lifetime. My favourites are: *The Little Mermaid, The Princess and the Pea, The Snow Queen, The Fir Tree, The Little Match Girl, The Emperor's New Clothes and Thumbelina.*

Although Hans Christian Anderson died in 1875, his stories are still read by parents and children everywhere. His little house in Odense is a wonderful place to visit, and his papercuts, which are truly amazing, can be viewed on the Odense Museum website if you can't make the journey to Denmark.

Hans Christian Andersen was born on April 2, 1805 in Odense, Denmark. He died August 4th 1875 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

You will need:

Felt Heart

Cream felt or blanketing for the heart front 15cm x 15cm (6in x 6in)

Red felt for the heart back 15cm x 15cm (6in x 6in)

Red felt for the papercut detail 15cm x 15cm (6in x 6in)

Red machine thread

Two large buttons

Braid or ribbon for hanger

Small amount of stuffing – cut up material, old tights or similar

Pinking shears

Embroidered Heart

Satin fabric for the heart front 15cm x 15cm (6in x 6in)

Fabric for the heart back 15cm x 15cm (6in x 6in)

DMC red Cotton Perle 5

White sewing thread

Garden string

Large beads, jewels or pearls

Felt Heart

This is what you do:

1 To make the felt heart, cut two rectangles of felt fabric for the front and the back of the heart – do not cut out the heart shape at this stage of the project. You do not have a pattern for the actual finished heart shape as the decorative heart shape A, will give you the final stitching line.

2 Carefully cut out the two pattern pieces with scissors – the outer heart shape A and the inner decoration B.

3 Pin then tack these two paper pattern pieces A & B onto red felt, and then using small, sharp scissors cut around the edges. On the heart outline A you will need to use pinking shears on the outer edge – you now have the two papercut designs cut from red felt.

4 Pin then tack the red felt designs onto the cream felt rectangle to be used for the front of the heart – you may need to move the felt around to get the shape symmetrical. Carefully machine stitch the red felt shapes onto the white felt – for most areas you will only need a single row of stitching in the centre of the felt, but where the felt is wider you will need to stitch around the edge of the shape.

5 Cut a short length of braid or ribbon for the hanger and fold it in half. Place the decorated felt rectangle (to be used for the heart front) and the felt back, right sides facing outermost. Push the cut ends of the hanger down between the two layers of felt at the top of the heart. Carefully



machine stitch around the edge of the heart, just outside the line of the outer pinked decorative heart, and leaving a small gap at the side of the heart for stuffing. Stuff the heart and then machine stitch the gap closed.

6 Cut around the heart shape using pinking shears, just outside the outer stitched line. Stitch a button onto either side of the hanger at the top of the heart.

Embroidered Heart

1 To make the embroidered heart, using a pencil and pattern C, transfer the papercut outlines on to your silk fabric. For projects where I am using silk or satin fabric, I prefer to transfer the lines with a pencil. To do this, lay the fabric over the pattern, and holding both layers together, place carefully against a window. The light shining through the fabric will allow you to draw over the lines carefully with a pencil. There are lots of ways of transferring pattern lines, but I find this is the best method for fine fabric as the pencil will not bleed into the fabric, and the lines will be hidden by the stitching. Do not cut out the fabric at this stage of the project.

2 Using red Cotton Perle 5 stitch along the transferred outlines in small neat backstitches. I prefer to handhold the fabric while I am stitching, but you may prefer to fix the fabric onto an embroidery frame. Press the completed stitching lightly on the reverse side.

3 Pin and then tack the embroidered heart front and the heart back fabric, right sides together, and then machine stitch 1cm (3/8in) outside of the backstitched heart outline, leaving a gap on one side for turning. Turn the heart to the right side and then stuff before sewing up the gap.

4 Cut a length of string to fit around the outer edge of the heart, adding extra for the hanger at the top. Find the midway point on the string and starting at the point of the heart, stitch over the string, attaching it to the heart using cream sewing thread. When you get to the top of the heart, go back to the point and repeat for the other side.

5 Knot the string ends together to make a hanger. Make a bow using another short length of string and attach this to the top of the heart. Stitch a pearl to the string bow.

6 Finish the heart by securely sewing a pearl and a jewel to the bottom of the heart.



Tip

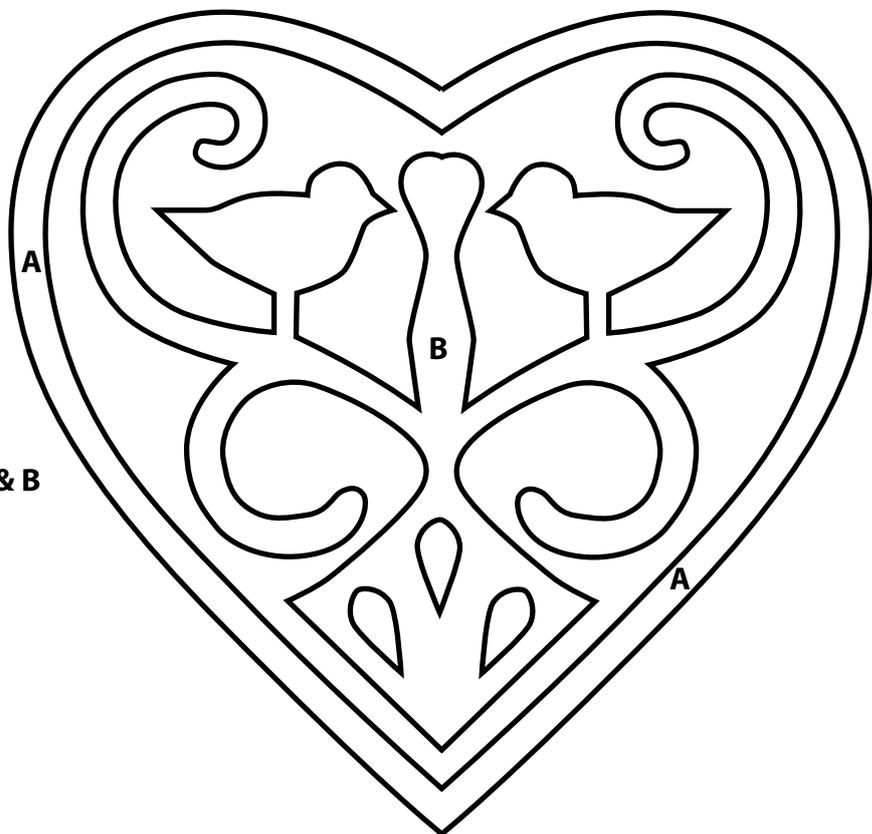
I used a small scrap of cream satin that I got from my local bride shop for this project – if you ask they usually have offcuts from altered wedding dresses they will be happy to give you.

To make the candle holder

This quick & easy glass candle holder is easy to make using a few scraps of felt. Cut three dove designs from white felt, using pattern B from the felt heart project as a guide.

Glue the felt decorations to the outside of a glass vase or large wine glass bought cheaply from a charity shop.

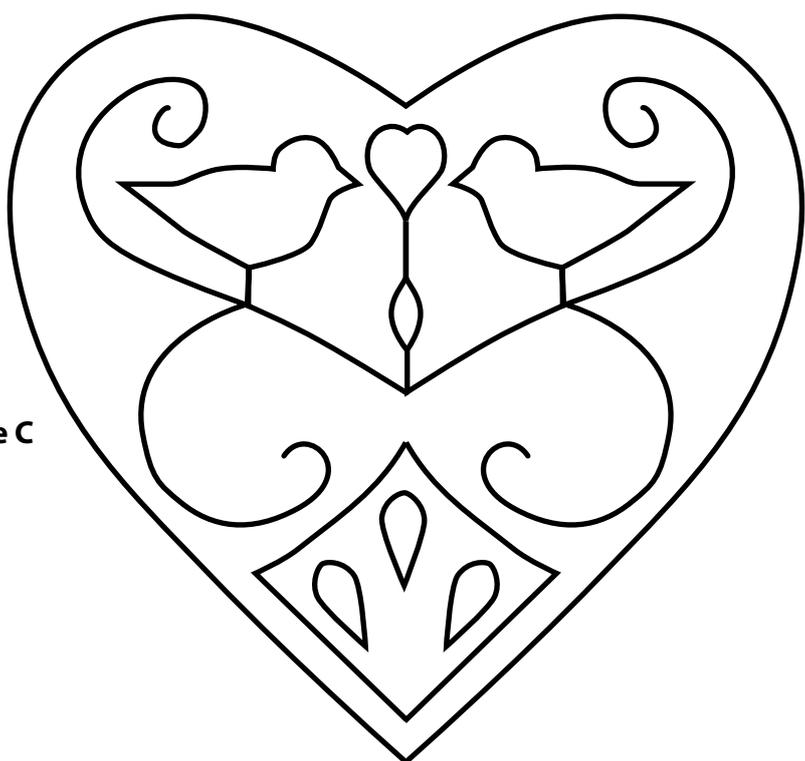
Felt Heart



Felt heart outline A & B

USE THESE TRACES TO CUT OR EMBROIDER YOUR HEARTS

Embroidered Heart



Embroidered heart outline C