

WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL

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Classic Project

In this plan you'll find:

- Step-by-step construction instruction.
- A complete bill of materials.
- Construction drawings and related photos.
- Tips to help you complete the project and become a better woodworker.



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Feathered Friends Mobile



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
Feathered Friends Mobile

SCROLL SAW PATTERN PROJECT

Looking for a just-for-fun project? This fanciful bird mobile, by Trumansburg, New York woodworker Gunther Keil, may be just the ticket. The birds in the mobile shown are all cut from $\frac{1}{8}$ in. thick solid wood stock. Keil uses a different wood for each bird, adding a red aniline dye to the cutout of the cardinal. Quartersawn stock is best for scroll saw cutouts in thin stock like this, because it's less likely to cup or warp. You can also make the cutouts in $\frac{1}{8}$ in. plywood, and then paint or dye each bird to approximate its natural color. All holes are drilled with a $\frac{1}{16}$ in. diameter bit.

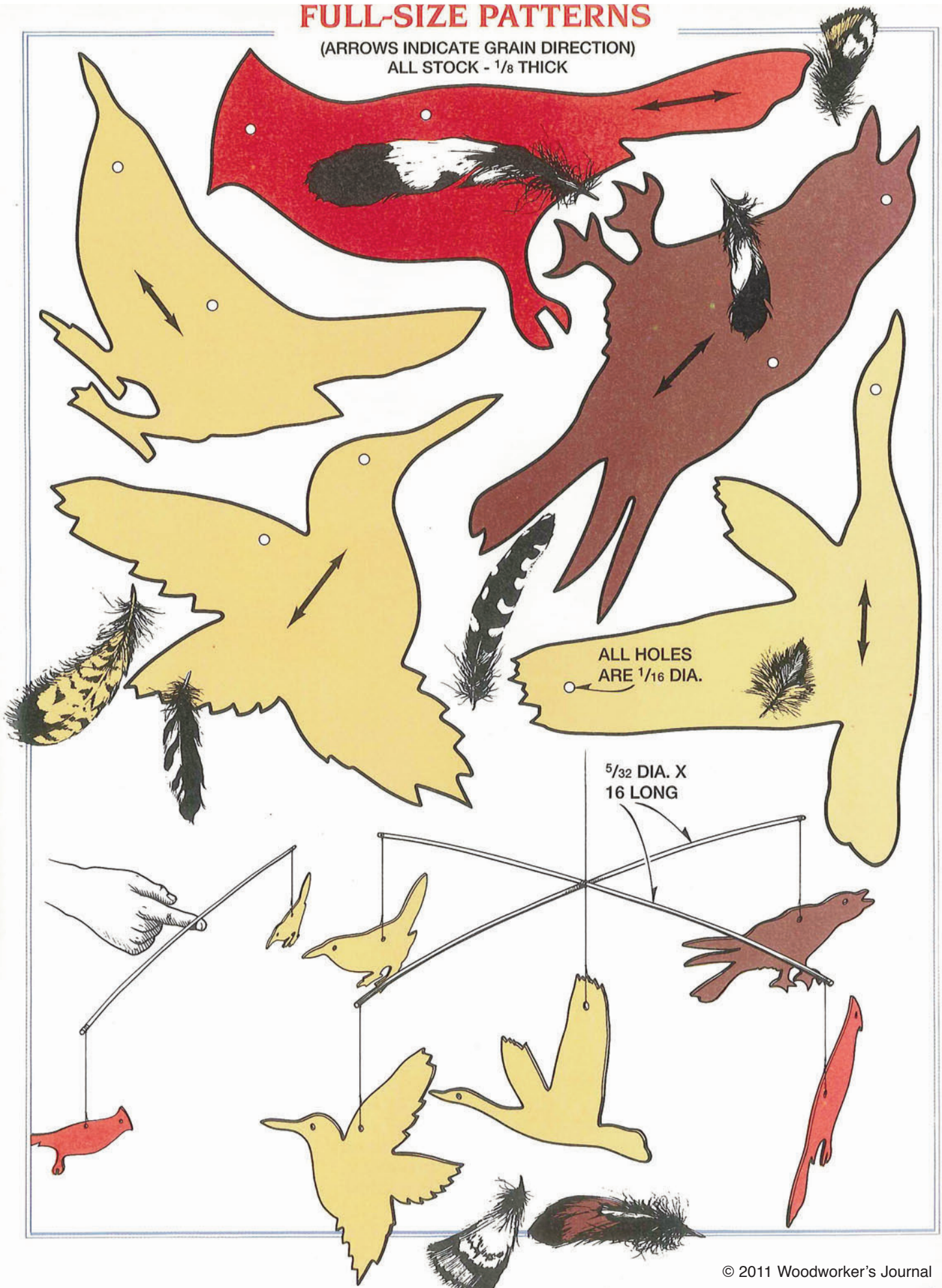
The easiest way to make cutouts like this is with templates. Make a photocopy of the pattern page, paste it onto a page-sized section of $\frac{1}{8}$ in. or $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick plywood, then cut each pattern out with the scroll saw. To transfer the pattern of each bird to your stock, all you need do is orient each bird template properly on your stock with respect to the indicated grain direction, trace around the template with a sharp pencil, then carefully cut the profile out. Save your templates and you'll be able to easily reproduce the mobile any time you like.

Two lengths of $\frac{5}{32}$ in. diameter by 16 in. long dowel rod serve as crosspieces. Hold the center section of each rod length over the spout of a vigorously boiling kettle and steam-bend a gentle arc in each. Hang the birds from the rod ends, find the center balance point of each rod by using your finger (as shown in the illustration), then tie the rods together at their balance points with a string, allowing sufficient length at the bottom of the string for the fifth bird and at the top to fasten the mobile to whatever you plan on hanging it from. A dab of glue at the point where the two rods cross will keep them—and the string—from sliding out of alignment. Make final adjustments to balance the mobile *after* it has been hung, then use a dab of glue on each of the string-to-rod attachment points to final anchor the bird positions.

Mobiles like this are a great way to get the family involved with a project. The scroll saw is one of the safest tools to use, and even if the littlest ones may not be old enough to use it, they can always have fun painting the birds, or tying the strings. 

FULL-SIZE PATTERNS

(ARROWS INDICATE GRAIN DIRECTION)
ALL STOCK - 1/8" THICK



WOODWORKER'S JOURNAL

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Thank you again for your purchase, and happy woodworking!

Matt Becker
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