

KIRBY PLUSH



a free sewing pattern by



KIRBY PLUSH

This cute puffball almost doesn't need an introduction! Kirby is a long-time beloved Nintendo character who has starred in dozens of adorable games since 1992. His perfectly round body was intended as a placeholder sprite while the game was designed, but the creators decided to keep it in the end! This version is a super round and chubby guy with stumpy arms and big chunky shoes! He's got a delightful smiling face and sits nicely on his own.

DIFFICULTY:



The challenges in this pattern include the curves of the arms and attaching the shoes. The body also has a lot of darts to give Kirby his round shape, so give yourself time for that if you don't like darts.

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Curved sewing
- Darts
- Ladder stitch

MAKES:

ONE PLUSH: about 5½" tall from bottom of body to top of head, 8½" wide from tip of each arm, and 7½" long from tip of shoes to back of body.

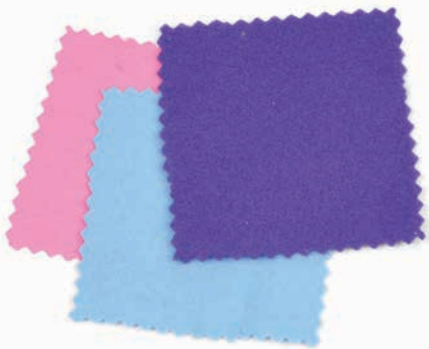


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MATERIALS & TOOLS:

- 1/3 yd. (or 19" x 12") of pink fabric for body
- 1/8 yd. of red fabric for shoes
- 3" x 3" of black applique fabric for eyes
- 2" x 2" of white applique fabric for eye shines
- 2" x 2" of blue applique fabric for eye highlights
- 3" x 3" of pink applique fabric for blush and tongue
- 2" x 2" of red applique fabric for mouth
- sewing thread to match main fabric and applique fabrics
- poly-fil stuffing
- basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)



SUGGESTED APPLIQUE FABRICS:

- Good applique fabrics include flannel, cotton, felt, minky, and fleece.
- Flannel and cotton are best for detailed applique with a lot of layers because they're thinner. Meanwhile felt, minky, and fleece are better for simpler applique because they're thicker and don't layer as well.
- Flannel is used in the example instructions (page 7).

FUSIBLE WEB:

- Fusible web adhesive is a sheet of adhesive with a paper backing. **Not to be confused with fusible interfacing**, which is adhesive attached to a fabric/fiber backing.
- Some common brands are **Pellon** & **HeatnBond**
- In countries outside the US, it may also be known as **bondaweb**
- It comes in **light** and **heavy duty** varieties. Lightweight strength is meant for applique you intend to sew later. Heavy duty versions are for a no-sew bond. If you try to sew them later your machine might have trouble penetrating the glue.



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fabric comparison:



SUGGESTED FABRICS:

MINKY OR FLEECE

Medium weight, plush fabrics with about 20%-30% stretch along the crosswise grain work best for this project. The varieties shown to the left are some good options and names to look for. Try to avoid heavyweight versions of fleece that are intended for outdoor apparel or they may cause trouble for the detailed areas.

You can also use non-stretch fabrics (such as felt), but be aware that the curves will be more difficult to sew and the result will look different. The plush will become more elongated and the edges will look pointier.

10" of minky
stretches to 13"
= 30% stretch

MINKY VS. FELT



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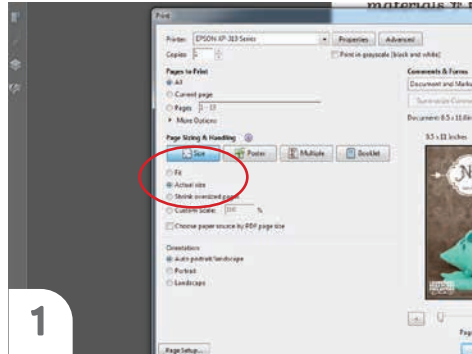
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PRINTING THE PATTERN:

Set your computer to print **PAGES 15-17**.

If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps to follow.

For the best results, use a .pdf reader like **ADOBE READER**. That's what is shown here and will give you the most control over the settings.



1

At the print dialog box, check the box that says print at "Actual Size" or 100%. Any other selection (such as "Fit to page") will distort the pattern so it's slightly larger or smaller and we don't want that.



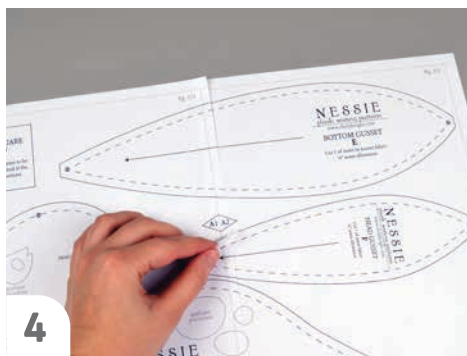
2

Print the pages needed for the file. You might have one or more. Either way, be sure you have the full collection by noting the page numbers in the corner.



3

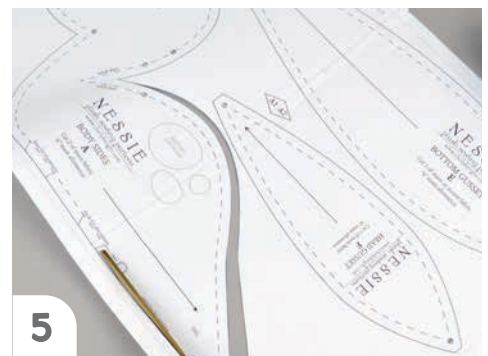
It's likely your printer will have a margin that ensures your image doesn't print to the very edge. Assembly will be easier if you trim off this blank margin edge. This will give you pages that overlap slightly during assembly. If you trim across the gray outline boxes, this will give you pages that don't overlap but rather butt against each other.



4

To line up the pattern pages, match up the corresponding diamond shapes. Each diamond will have a letter, so it's simply a matter of matching A1 to A2, B3 to B4 and so on. The faint gray lines indicate the border of every page, you should be able to line those up as well. When the diamond goes together, tape it in place.

If you have many pages, it's easier to tape up the pages into rows first. Then tape the rows together into a full block.



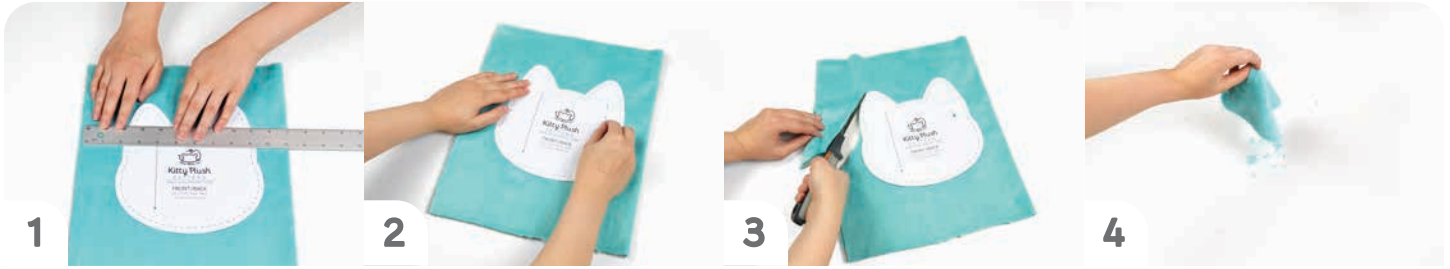
5

You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper -- be sure that each piece is fully taped together along the joins so they don't fall apart when you cut them.

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CUTTING THE FABRIC:



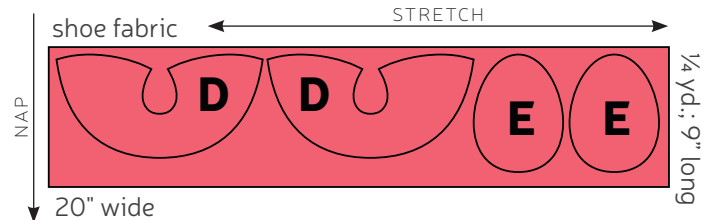
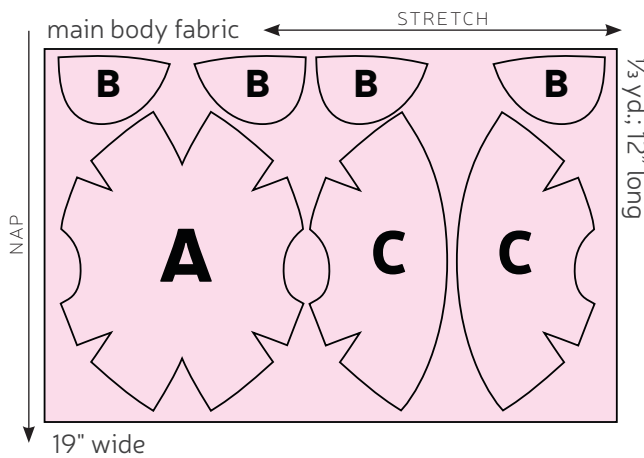
1 Place pattern on the fabric, and make sure the stretch line matches the stretch of the fabric. The nap line should go in the direction of the fur.

2 Pin the pattern in place, use pattern weights, or trace the outline of the pattern with a washable marker.

3 Using the paper as a template, cut out the fabric. Cut the required amount according to the pattern.

4 For all fur fabrics, shake the excess fuzz away.

CUTTING LAYOUT:



BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Briefly read the project instructions so you know what to expect.
- If desired, mark the cut fabric pieces with the markings and symbols from the pattern. Or wait until the applicable step before transferring.
- Note that a 1/4" seam allowance is used throughout the project, which is included in the pattern templates.

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1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

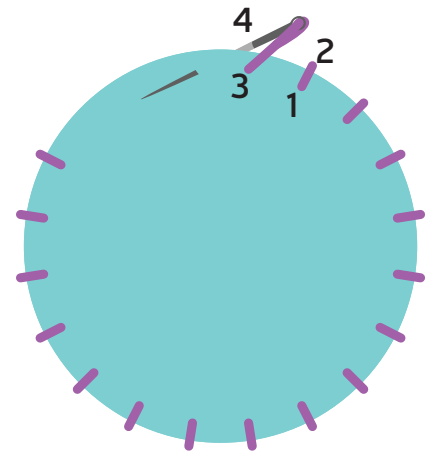
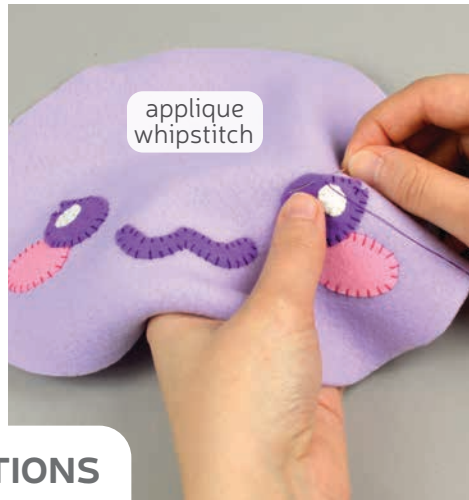
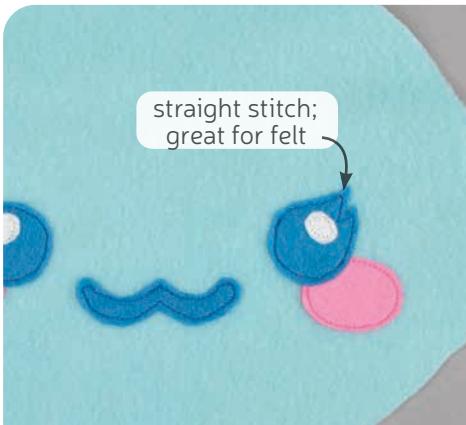
- Grab your fusible web and applique templates. Trace the eye and mouth templates. You'll need:
 - **eyes** (2)
 - **blush** (2)
 - **eye highlights** (2)
 - **mouth** (1)
 - **eye shines** (2)
 - **tongue** (1)
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side of the fusible web onto the applique fabrics, following the color guides on the paper templates:
 - **eyes** on black
 - **blush & tongue** on pink
 - **eye highlights** blue
 - **mouth** on red
 - **eye shines** on white
- Cut out your applique pieces and grab your **FRONT** piece (A). Grab your first applique layer, the **eyes**. Set your paper pattern on top of the head front piece. Align the applique piece on top where the placement markings are. Next, carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.



- Fuse the first layer, the **eyes**, with your iron. Use a press cloth, such as a scrap piece of cotton. This will help protect any polyester or fuzzy fabrics from melting or scorching.
- Continue building up the face with the next pieces, the **blush and mouth**. Arrange and fuse them the same as the **eyes** using the paper pattern (and the photo) as a guide.
- Lastly add the final small pieces, the **tongue, eye shines, & eye highlights**.

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2. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

- Other good options for applique include a straight stitch, which involves sewing around the edge of the applique pieces with a straight stitch using matching thread -- about 1/8" in from the edge.
- You can also applique by hand; I prefer a whipstitch. Thread a hand-sewing needle with some matching thread and knot it. Bring the thread up from the back of the project; about 1/8" in from the edge of the applique shape. Bring it down perpendicular from the curve, just outside of the applique shape. This completes one stitch.
- For the next stitch, bring the needle back up about 1/8" away from the previous stitch and 1/8" in from the edge just as in the first stitch. Once again, bring it down just outside the applique shape. Continue this way until you've sewn around the shape.

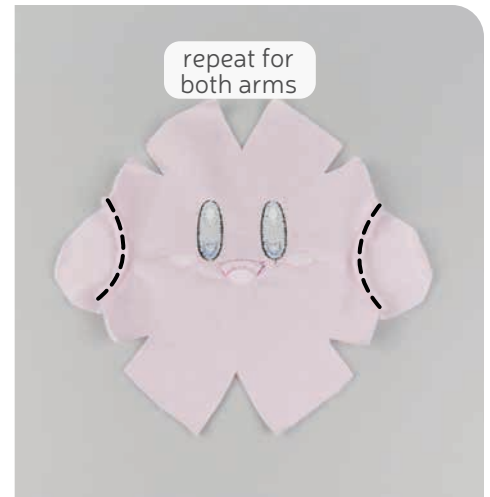
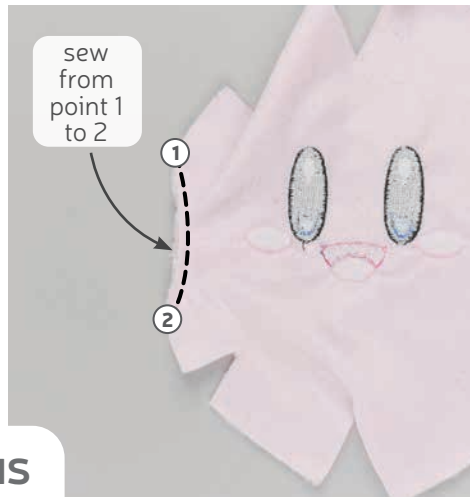
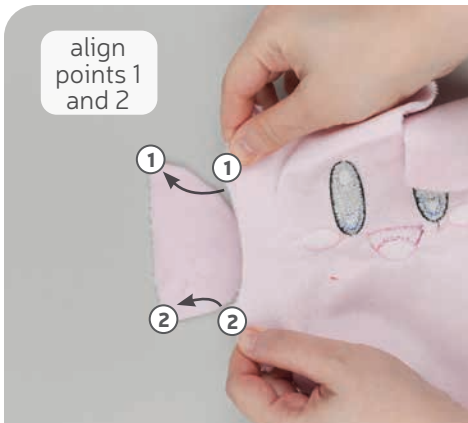


3. ALIGN THE ARMS

- Grab your **FRONT** piece (A) as well as two of your **ARMS** (B). These pieces will be joined next along the sides. You'll see the inner curves of the front piece; this will join to the arms. They also have **numbered points** for help with alignment, **points 1 and 2**.

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4. SEW THE FRONT ARMS

- Grab your **FRONT** piece (A) and align it with the **ARM** (B) so right sides are facing and the raw edges match up. Make **points 1 and 2** align and pin the fabrics together.
- Sew the front piece to the arm from **point 1 to 2**.
- Repeat this step with both sides of your front piece so you have both arms attached. You should have 2 arms leftover for the back (coming up in step 6).



5. SEW THE FRONT DARTS

- The **FRONT** piece (A) also has several **darts** all around the plush. These are the wedge shapes cut out of the fabric that are also labeled on the paper pattern. Sew them starting by folding the fabric along the point of the **dart** so you match up the slanted edges in each wedge shape.
- Sew from the opening of the wedge down into the fold of the fabric. For the best results, try to blend your stitching into the fold as close as you can. This will result in a nice round finish for your Kirby's body.
- Repeat this with all the **darts** all around the front piece. There should be six total; 3 along the top and bottom.

DARTS:

Darts are a v-shaped wedge sewn into a pattern piece that create a 3D shape in the fabric.

The two lines of the darts are sometimes called the **LEGS**. These lead up to the **POINT**.

You can think of darts like a partial seam. One that only goes part-way through the fabric.

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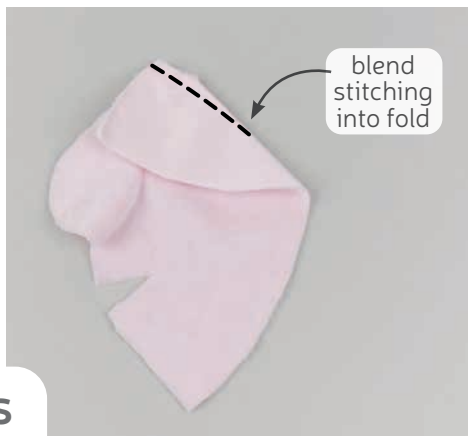
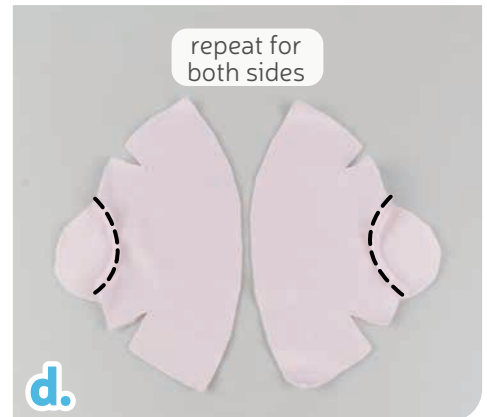
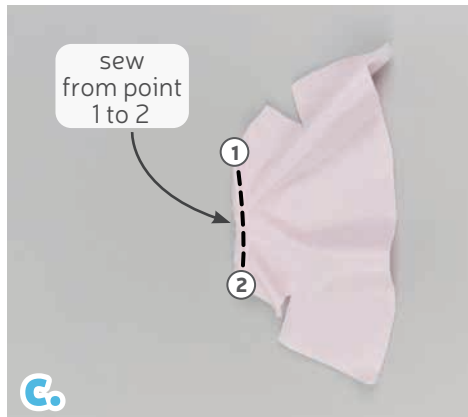
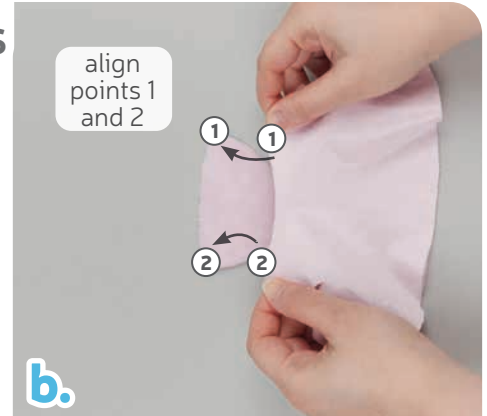
a. Grab your **BACK** pieces (C) as well as your final two **ARMS** (B). These pieces will be joined next along the sides. You'll see the inner curve of the back piece; this will join to the arms. It also has **numbered points** for help with alignment, **points 1 and 2**.

b. Grab your back piece and align it with the arm so right sides are facing and the raw edges match up. Make **points 1 and 2** align and pin the fabrics together.

c. Sew the back piece to the arm from **point 1 to 2**.

d. Repeat this step with both sides of your front piece so you have both arms attached.

6. SEW THE BACK ARMS



7. SEW THE BACK DARTS

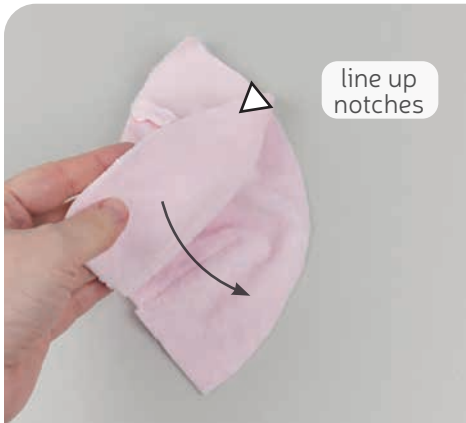
a. The **BACK** pieces (C) also have several **darts** all around the outside. These are the wedge shapes cut out of the fabric that are also labeled on the paper pattern. Sew them starting by folding the fabric along the point of the **dart** so you match up the slanted edges in each wedge shape.

b. Sew from the opening of the wedge down into the fold of the fabric. For the best results, try to blend your stitching into the fold as close as you can. This will result in a nice round finish for your Kirby's body.

c. Repeat this with all the **darts** all around the back piece. There should be two for each back piece; four total.

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8. SEW THE BACK

- Grab your two **BACK** pieces (C). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up. You'll also be matching up the **notch** along the center back. This is to help ensure the pieces don't get flipped.
If you haven't already, note the **opening for turning markings** found on the paper pattern for the back. Transfer these markings onto the wrong side of your fabric.
- Sew along the back edge of these pieces, but leave the **opening for turning** that you marked.
- Open up the pieces when complete.



9. SEW THE FRONT TO THE BACK

- Grab your back piece so far as well as your front piece. Align the back piece with the front so right sides are facing and the raw edges match up. The arms should also match up at the seams, at **points 1 and 2**. Pin the layers together.
- Sew the front to the back all the way around the piece. Make sure the seams line up at the **ARMS, points 1 and 2**.
- Clip the seam allowance at the corners to increase flexibility when the piece is turned later.

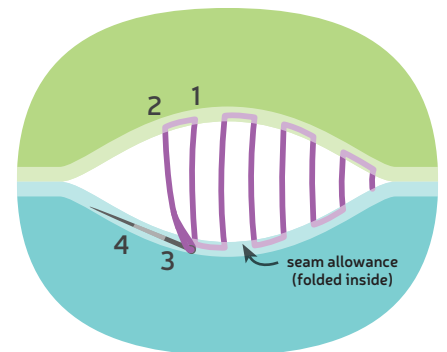
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10. STUFF THE BODY

- Turn the body right side out through the opening in the back.
- Begin stuffing the plush. Start by getting plenty of stuffing in the arms so they don't deflate later.
- Next fill up the rest of the body. Be sure to get lots near the seams so Kirby looks nice and round and there are no wrinkles in the fabric.



11. SEW THE BODY CLOSED

- Once the plush is stuffed, make sure the seam allowances in the opening are tucked inside and prepare to ladder stitch it closed. Thread a hand-sewing needle and knot it at the end. Insert the needle from the inside of the opening and out of the plush near one edge of the opening. This will leave the knot inside the plush.
- Continue from here doing a ladder stitch. Take a $\frac{1}{8}$ " stitch into the fold of one side of the opening, then go across and take another. Keep going down the opening until you reach the end.

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12. CLIP THE THREADS



- When you're finished, stitch a knot into the end of the seam. Then insert the needle near the finished knot and out of the plush about 1-2" away.
- Pull the thread through and hold it taut while snipping the thread. The excess thread should sink back inside the plush -- all hidden!

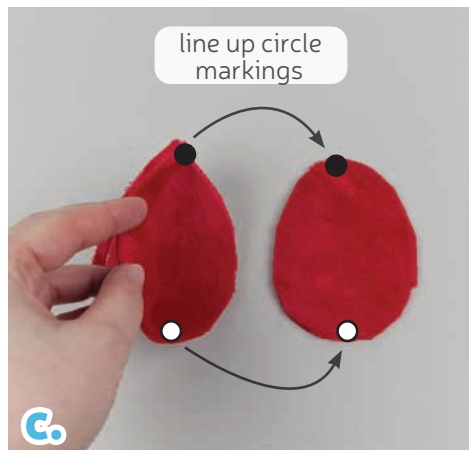
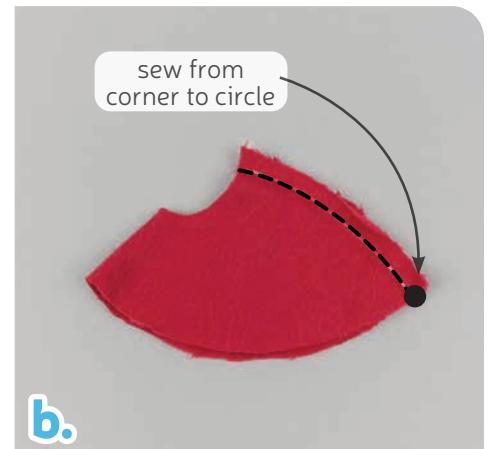
- Grab your **SHOE** pieces (D). Take one and fold it in half with right sides facing so the shorter curved edges match up. This is also the edge with the **filled circle marking** at the corner.

- Sew this top edge of the shoe, starting at the corner and working down to the **filled circle marking**. You'll be left with an opening at the top and bottom of the shoe.

- Open up the larger opening at the bottom of the shoe and align with this with one of your **SOLE** pieces (E). Make sure right sides are facing. The **filled circle marking** will align with the shoe seam, and the **open circle marking** will align at the bottom with the heel.

- Sew the shoe to the sole all the way around the shape.

13. SEW THE SHOES



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- a. Turn the shoe right side out and repeat step 13 with your other shoe pieces for two completed shoes total.
- b. Stuff the shoes semi-firmly with stuffing so they take shape and there are no wrinkles in the seams.



14. STUFF THE SHOES



15. ATTACH THE SHOES

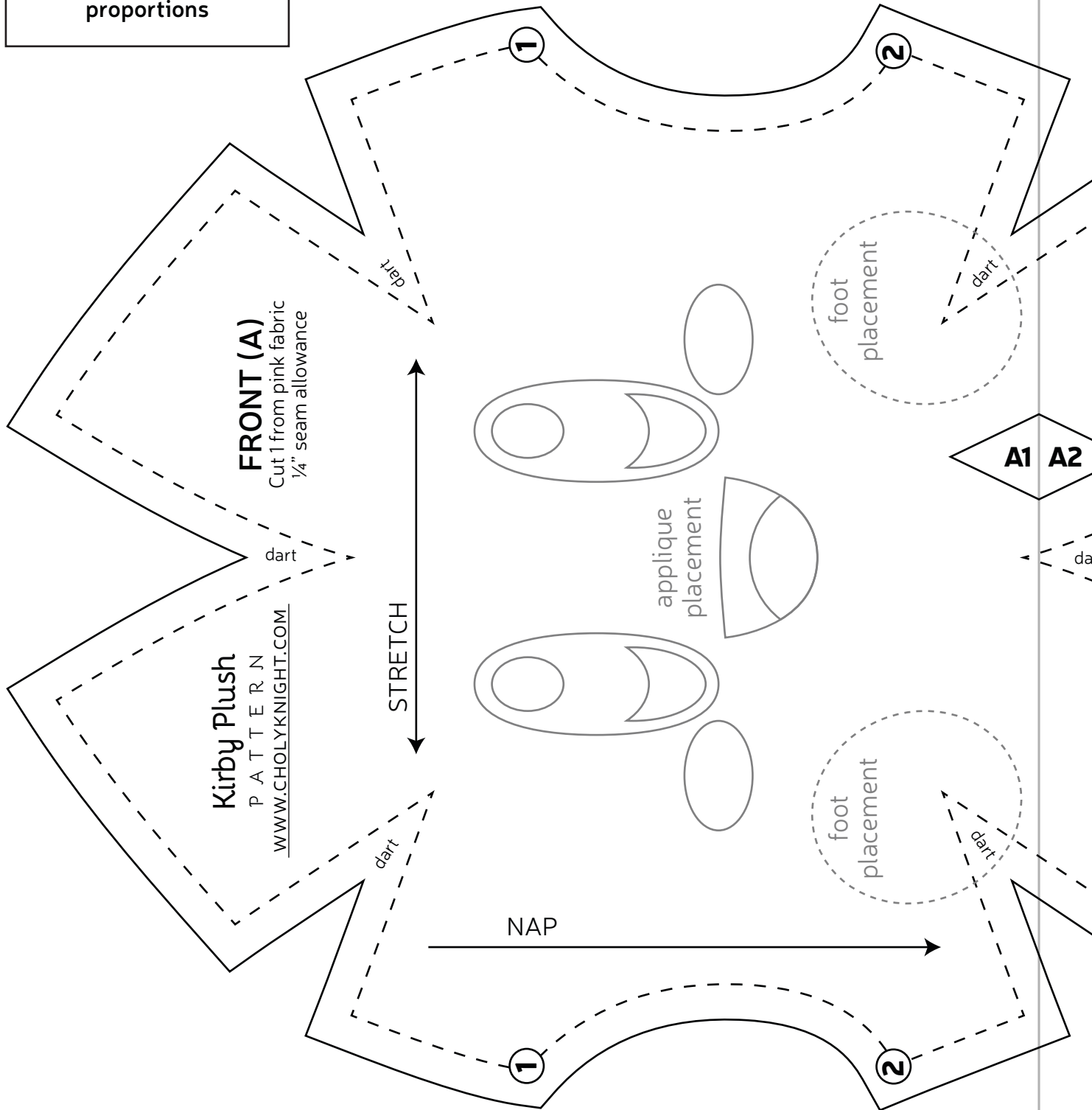
- a. Now you can attach the shoes to your body. This is a lot easier if you transfer the **stitching guides** from the paper pattern. Cut out the guides from the paper template, then lay the template onto your plush so far. The seams from the template should align with the seams you've made on your plush. Trace inside the cut guides to transfer the markings.
- b. Grab one of your stuffed shoes and align the open edge with the **markings** you've just traced. Make sure the tips of the shoes are pointing up.
- c. Ladder stitch the shoes to Kirby's body. Start with large basting stitches to get the placement right. Then check that you like how it looks. If you like the result, stitch around the area again with tinier, neater stitches to secure the shoe in place.

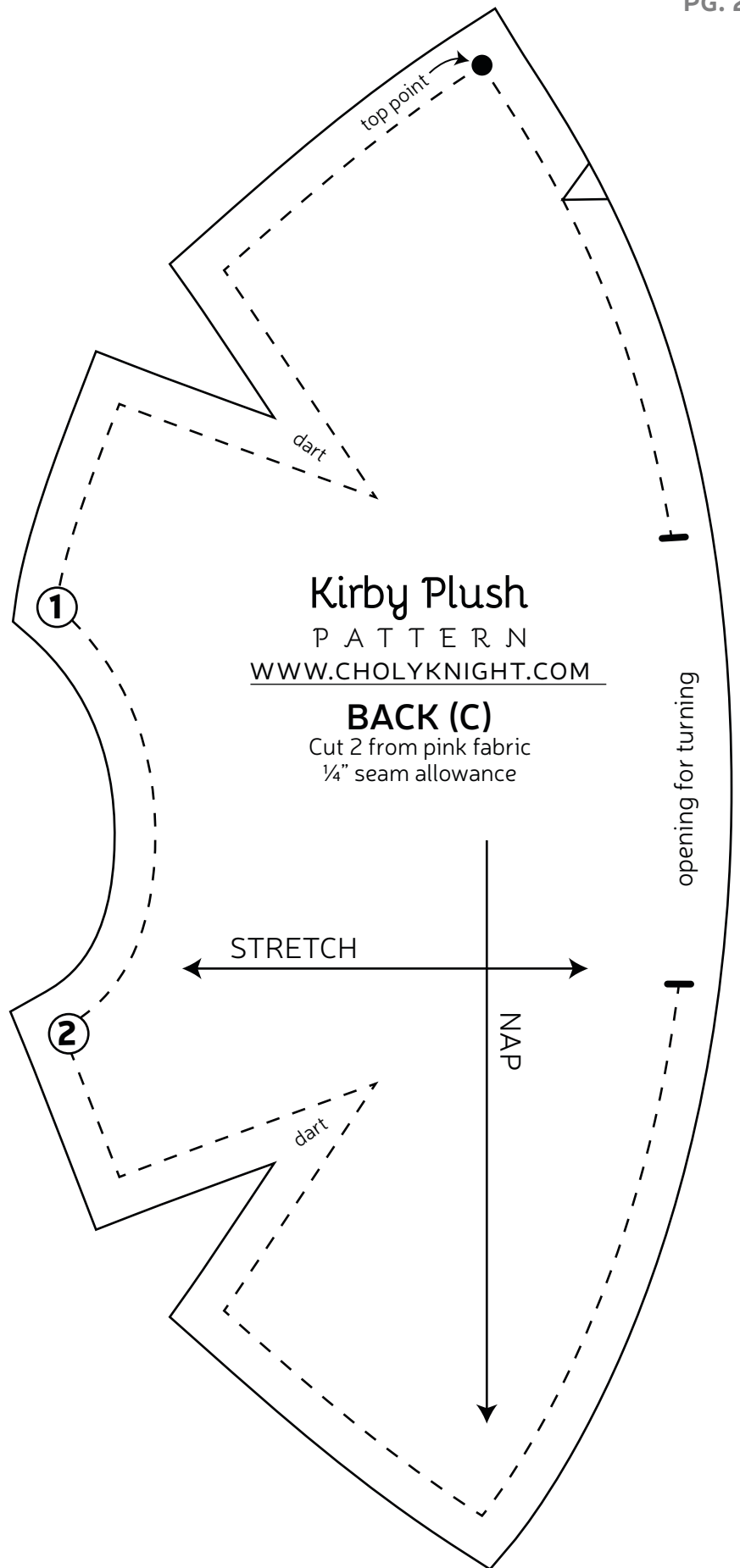
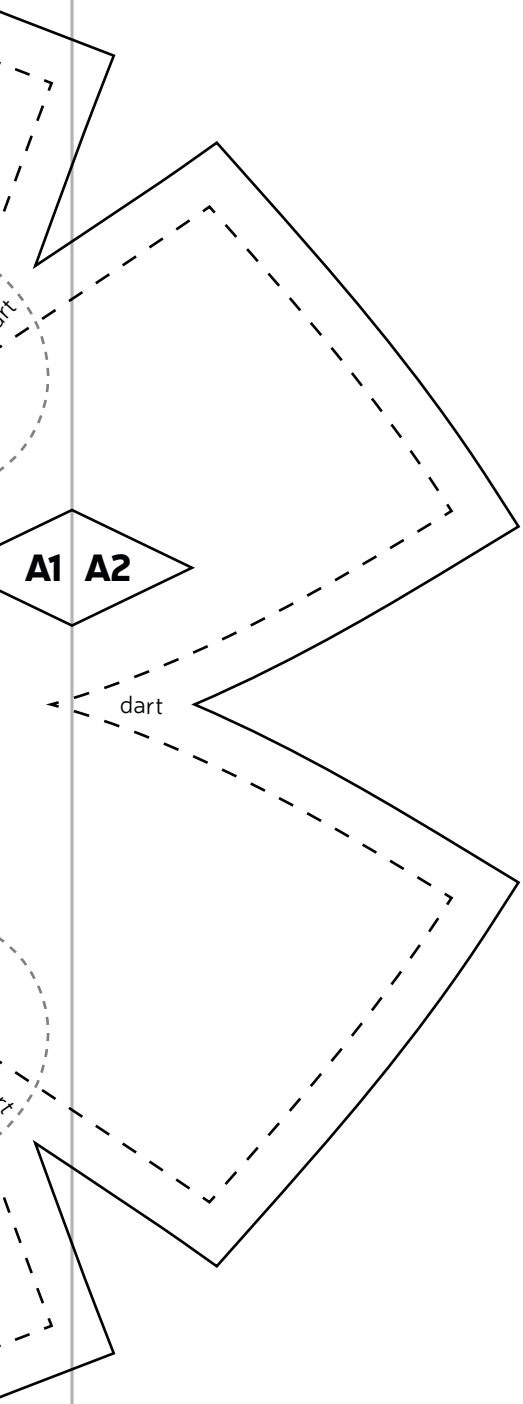
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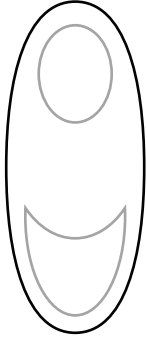
TEST SQUARE 2"

measure this square to
be sure you've printed
at the proper
proportions

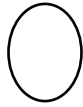




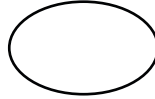
EYES
applique
trace & cut 2
from black



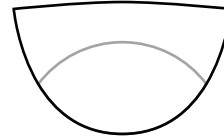
EYE SHINES
applique
trace & cut 2
from white



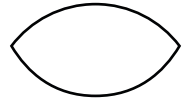
BLUSH
applique
trace & cut 2
from pink



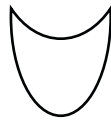
MOUTH
applique
trace & cut 1
from red



TONGUE
applique
trace & cut 1
from pink

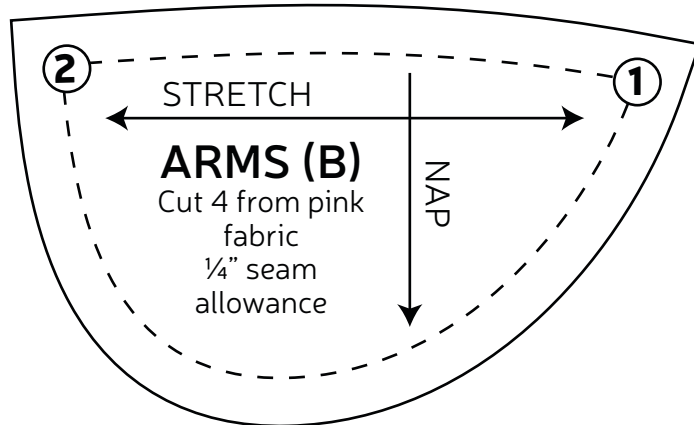
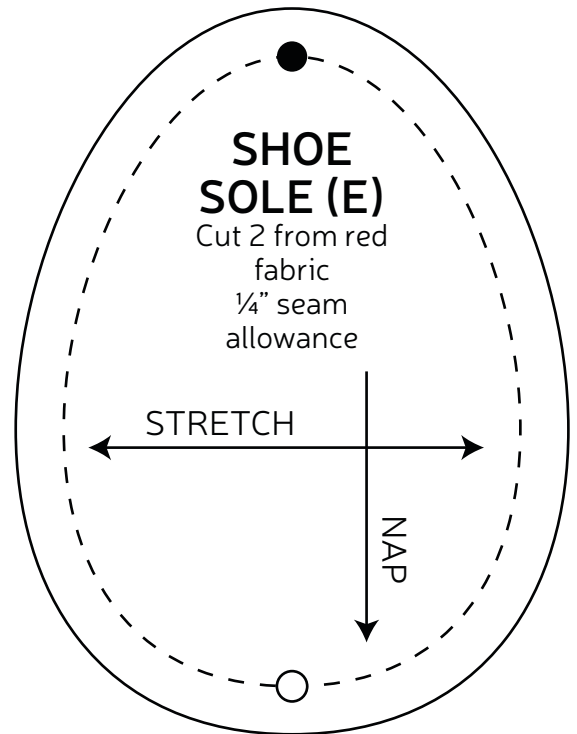


EYE HIGHLIGHTS
applique
trace & cut 2
from blue



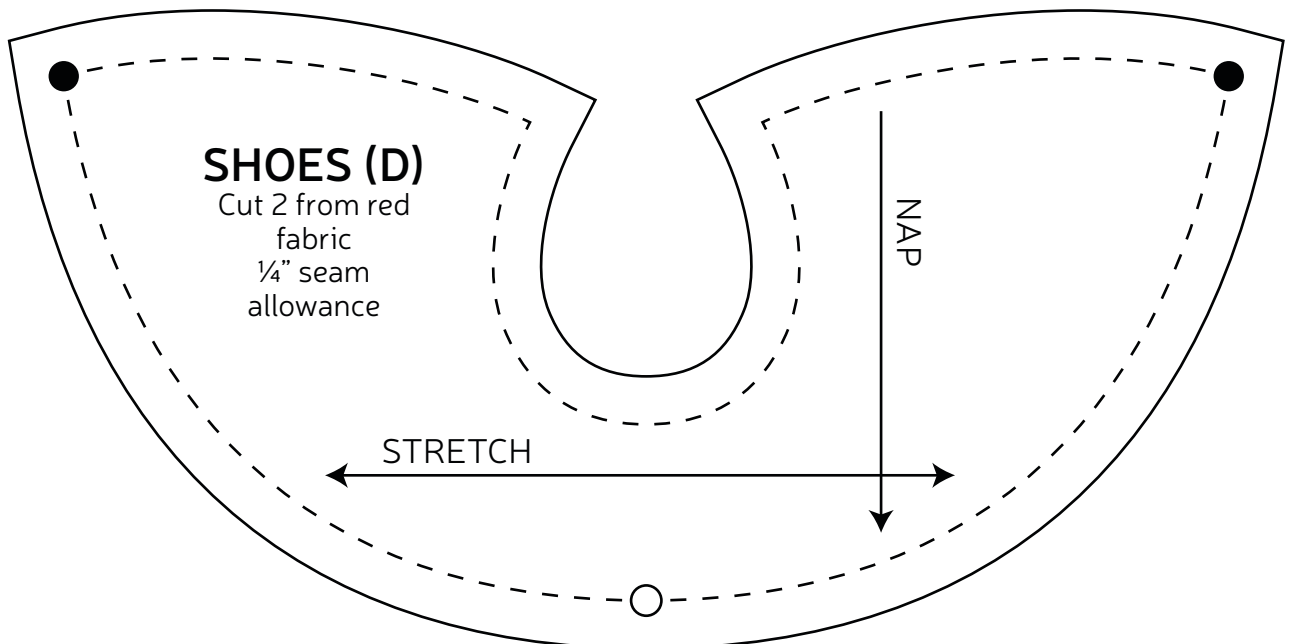
SHOE SOLE (E)

Cut 2 from red
fabric
1/4" seam
allowance



ARMS (B)

Cut 4 from pink
fabric
1/4" seam
allowance



SHOES (D)

Cut 2 from red
fabric
1/4" seam
allowance