

QUETZALCOATL PLUSH



a free sewing pattern by



QUEZTALCOATL PLUSH

For those not familiar with this name, Quetzalcoatl is a creator deity from Aztec culture. The name translates to feathered serpent, which is what this pattern will show you how to make. The finished plush is a curled snake with big smile and lots of feather details. The extra ornaments also have Aztec inspired motifs. So if you are a fan of ancient civilizations you might enjoy this take on the deity, but you can also use it for a classic snake as well!

DIFFICULTY:



The basic head and body are quick to put together, though the body takes a good bit of time to stuff. The forehead also requires some careful curved sewing. Meanwhile the added head and tail accents plus the wings require some extra time to attach.

SKILLS USED:

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

MAKES:

ONE PLUSH: about 12" long and 8" wide when coiled up. Or about 40" long along the entire body from tip of nose to tip of tail feathers.

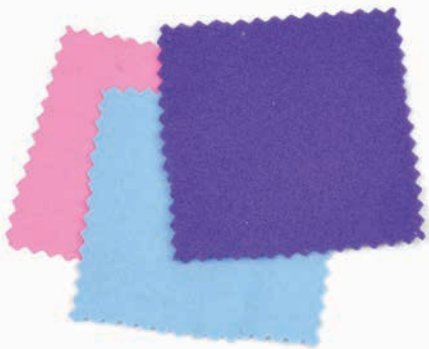


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MATERIALS & TOOLS:

- ½ yd. (or 15" x 18") of green fabric for body
- ½ yd. (or 12" x 18") of light green fabric for belly
- ¼ yd. (or 22" x 9") of red fabric for feathers
- ¼ yd. (or 22" x 9") of dark green fabric for wings
- 1/8 yd. of gold fabric for ornaments
- 3" x 3" of yellow applique fabric for eyes
- 2" x 2" of red applique fabric for eyelids
- 4" x 6" of black applique fabric for pupils, mouth, and ornaments
- 4" x 4" of brown applique fabric for gold ornaments
- 7" x 7" of light or heavy duty fusible web
- 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:



fleece

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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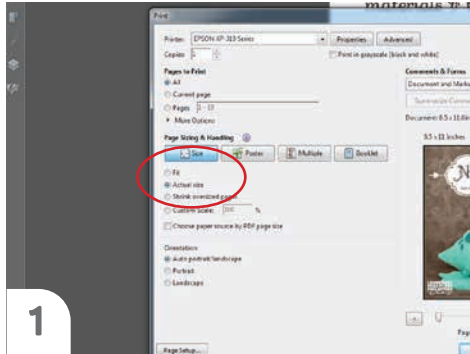
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PRINTING THE PATTERN:

Set your computer to print **PAGES 22-27**.

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.



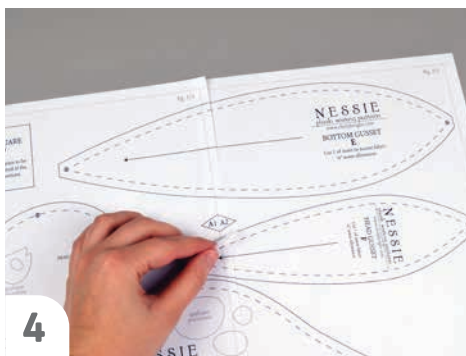
2

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

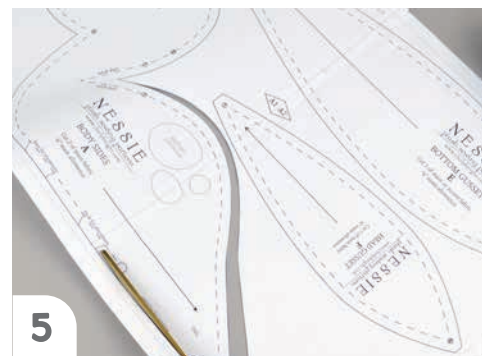
It's likely your printer will have a margin that ensures your image doesn't print to the very edge. Assembly will be easier if you trim off this blank margin edge. This will give you pages that overlap slightly during assembly. If you trim across the gray outline boxes, this will give you pages that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



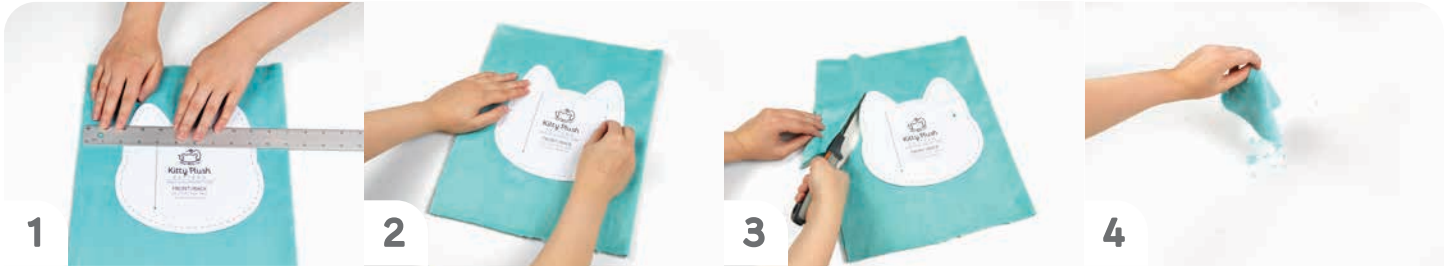
5

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:



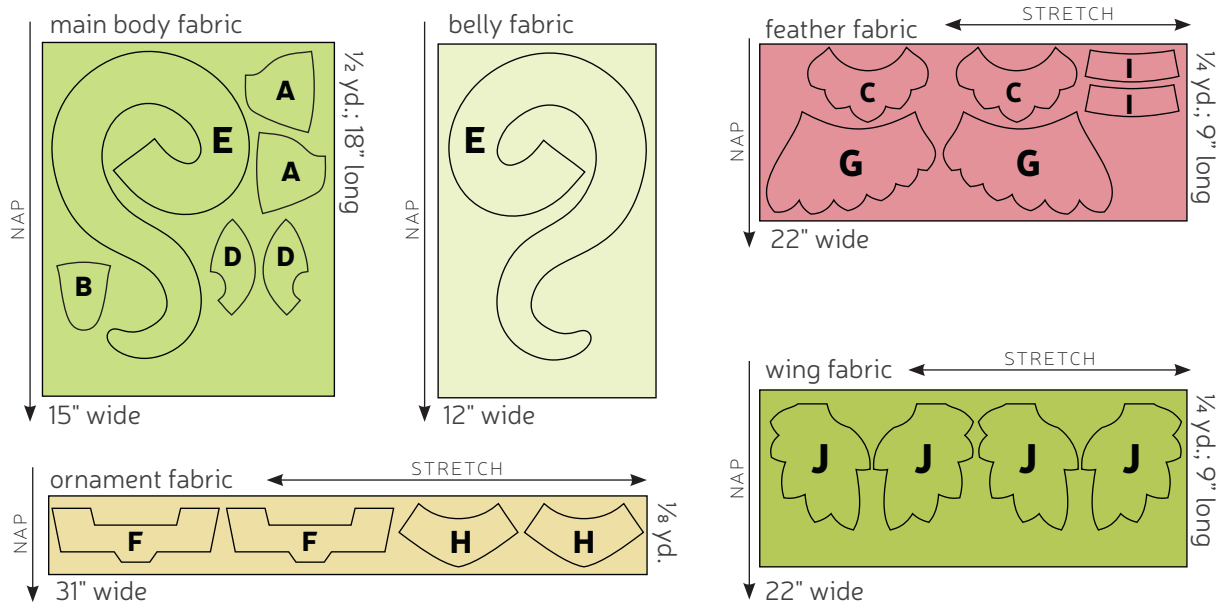
1 Place pattern on the fabric, and make sure the stretch line matches the stretch of the fabric. The nap line should go in the direction of the fur.

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.

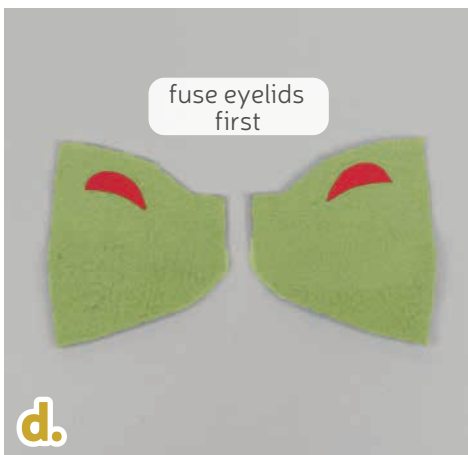
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1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- a. Grab your fusible web and applique templates. Trace the eye and mouth templates. You'll need:
 - **eyelids** (2)
 - **eyes** (2)
 - **eye shines** (2)
 - **irises** (2)
 - **nostrils** (2)
 - **mouth** (2)
 - **teeth** (2)
- b. Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side of the fusible web onto the applique fabrics, following the color guides on the paper templates:
 - **eyelids** on red
 - **eyes** on yellow
 - **irises, mouth, & nostrils** on black
 - **eye shines & teeth** on white
- c. Cut out your applique pieces and grab your **HEAD FRONT** piece (A). Grab your first applique layer, the **eyelids**. 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.



- d. Fuse the first layer, the **eyelids**, 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.
- e. Continue building up the face with the next pieces, the **eyes, pupils, and eye shines**. Arrange and fuse them the same as the **eyelids** using the paper pattern (and the photo) as a guide.
- f. Lastly add the final small pieces, the **teeth, mouth, and nostrils**.

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HEAD ORNAMENT (F):



TAIL ORNAMENT (H):



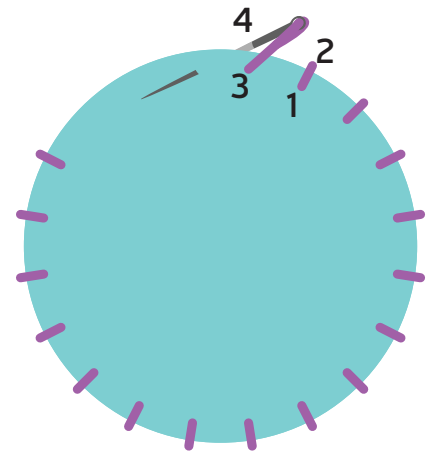
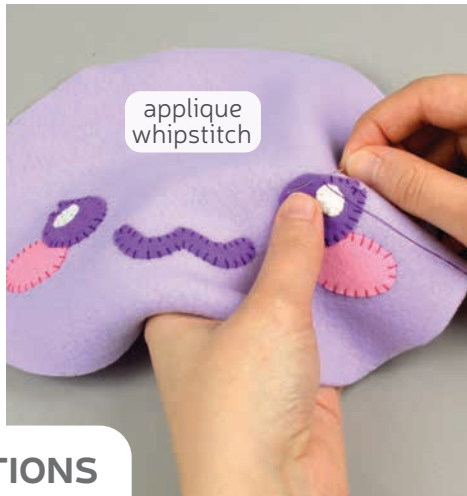
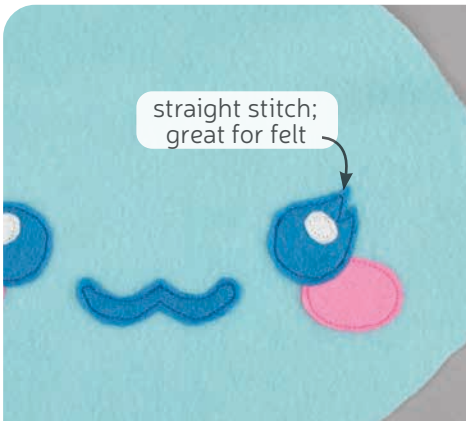
WINGS (J):



2. APPLIQUE THE OTHER ORNAMENTS

→ If desired, take this time to also applique the ornaments on your other pieces, including the **HEAD ORNAMENT (F)**, **TAIL ORNAMENT (H)**, and **WINGS (J)**. Trace the templates, fuse them to your applique fabric, and fuse them to your main fabric like you did with the face pieces.

- a. For the head ornament, you'll be cutting:
 - **head ornament details** (2, on brown)
- b. For the tail ornament, you'll be cutting:
 - **tail ornament details** (2, on brown)
- c. For the wings, you'll be cutting:
 - **wing ornament details** (4, on black)
 - **wing accents** (4, on green)



3. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.

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- a. Grab your **HEAD FRONT** pieces (A). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up. Also be sure to line up the lines of the mouth as best as you can.
- b. Sew the two head front pieces together along the chin area only. If you make note of the **numbered points** on the paper pattern, it's from **point 2 to 3**.



5. ATTACH THE FOREHEAD

- a. Open up your **HEAD FRONT** pieces (A). Also grab your **FOREHEAD** piece (B). Next we're going to join the forehead to the head front along the center point. This is labeled as **point 2** for extra help.
- b. Align the forehead with the head front along the center only at **point 2**. Pin the fabrics together.
- c. Sew the forehead to the head front along **point 2** only. This will keep the forehead piece centered while we sew the rest of the forehead.

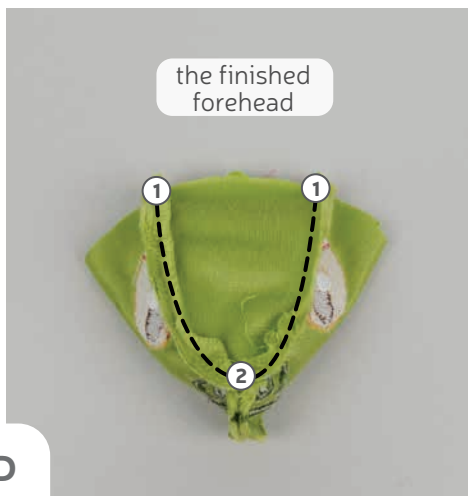
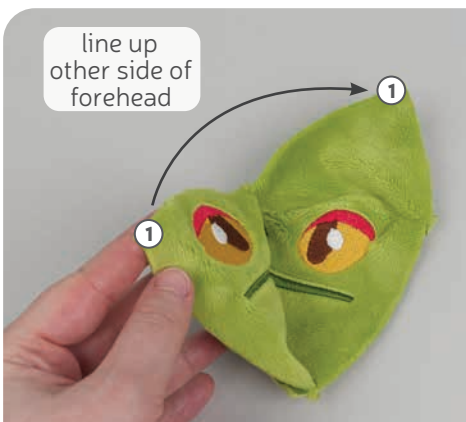
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6. SEW THE FOREHEAD SIDE

- Open up the **FOREHEAD** (B) and **HEAD FRONT** (A) pieces when complete.
- Take one of your head front pieces and align it with the forehead so right sides are facing. This should also line up **point 1** at the upper corner. Pin the fabrics together from **point 1 to 2**.
- Sew the head front to the forehead from **point 1 to 2**.

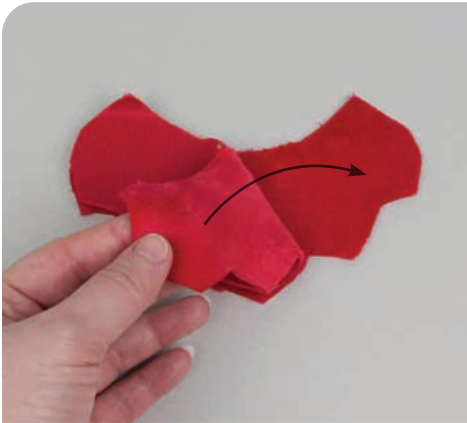


7. FINISH THE FOREHEAD

- Repeat step 6 for the other **HEAD FRONT** piece (A) and the other side of the **FOREHEAD** (B). Line up both edges with right sides facing and **points 1 and 2** matching up.
- Sew the other side of the forehead from **point 1 to 2**.
- Turn right side out for the complete head front.

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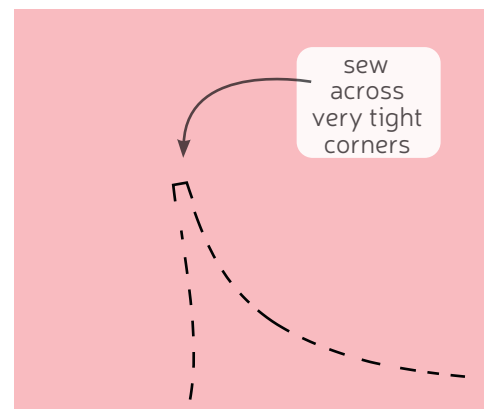
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8. SEW THE HEAD FEATHERS

- Grab your **HEAD FEATHER** pieces (C). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- The feathers themselves are a bit detailed, so for help with sewing them you may want to trace the seam line from the paper pattern. Trim away the seam allowance from the template, then use it to trace onto the wrong side of the fabrics you've stacked.
- Sew the feather pieces along the line you traced. Leave the curved edge free for turning the piece right side out later.

→ **Tip: for very tight corners like these feathers, you may want to try sewing each corner with a blunt end. Sew into the corner, then pivot and sew across 1-2 stitches. Then pivot again and sew around the next feather as usual. It should make a shape with a blunt end rather than a V shape.**



- Trim the excess seam allowance around the feathers to reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned later. Try to trim as close as you can into the corners without actually cutting your threads.
- Turn the feathers right side out through the opening. Define each feather with a chopstick or similar turning tool.



9. CLIP & TURN THE HEAD FEATHERS

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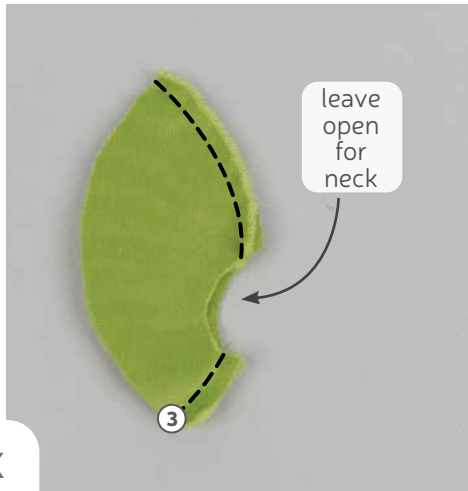


10. BASTE THE HEAD FEATHERS

- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** so far (A/B) as well as your sewn **FEATHERS** (C). The feathers will be joined to the center top of the head. If you haven't already, note the **feather placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the head front. There's also an **alignment notch** along the center of both the **FOREHEAD** and the feathers for extra help.
- Align the feathers along the top of the head front so the raw edges match up. The feathers should be within the **placement lines** and the **center notches** should also align.
- Baste the feathers to the head front within the seam allowance. This will hold them in place for future steps.

BASTING:

A form of temporary sewing meant to hold pieces in place. A long stitch length is often used for this reason. The finished result is not meant to be seen and sometimes is even removed later (depending on your project).

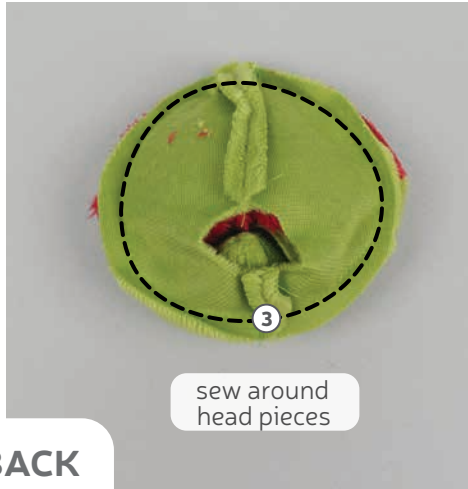
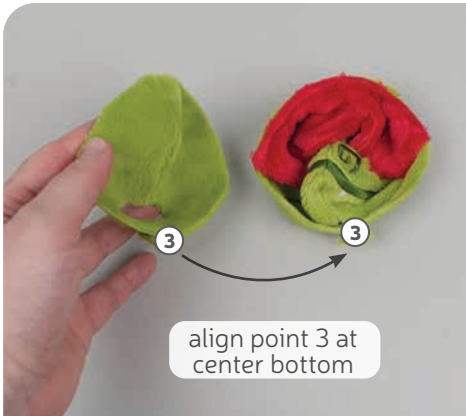


11. SEW THE HEAD BACK

- Grab your **HEAD BACK** pieces (D). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- Sew the pieces together along the center back edge. This is the edge with the **neck opening**. If you're keeping track, you'll be sewing from the upper corner down to **point 3**. Leave the neck opening open for later.
- Open up the head back pieces when complete.

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12. ATTACH THE HEAD BACK

- Grab your head back as well as your head front so far. Align the head back over the front so the outer raw edges line up and the right sides are facing. Make sure the feathers are tucked inside. For help with alignment, match up **point 3** at the center bottom.
- Sew the head back to the front all the way around the outer edge.
- Turn the head right side out through the **neck opening** in the head back. This completes the head. Set it aside for the next few steps while we create the body.

- Grab your two **BODY** pieces (E). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- Sew the pieces together along the long curved edge. Leave the short straight edge open for the neck opening later.



13. SEW THE BODY

→ **TIP:** with long pieces like this, it's easy to accidentally stretch the fabric. This will cause the finished plush to twist. Using lots of pins helps, but another good technique is to sew from the neck down to the tail on one side, stop, then sew from the neck to the tail on the other side.

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- a. Trim the excess seam allowance around the inner curves and tip of the tail. This will increase flexibility in those areas so the piece turns better.
- b. Turn the body right side out through the opening in the neck.
- c. Stuff the body semi-firmly with stuffing. Start by getting small bits in the tail tip. If you have hemostats it makes the process much easier. This may take some time since the body is so long. For best results, use small pieces to avoid a lumpy body.
- d. Continue stuffing until the whole body is full and you've worked up to the neck. You don't have to stuff very firmly since that can distort the shape of the snake.

14. TURN & STUFF THE BODY

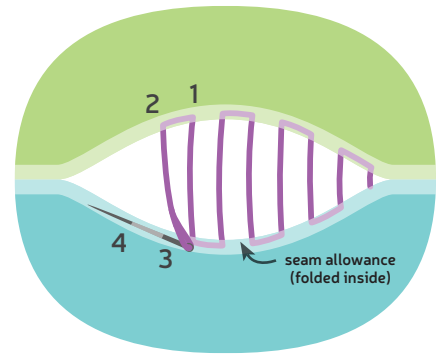


- a. Grab your head from before and begin stuffing it as well. Start by getting plenty of stuffing into the nose area so it takes shape and there are no wrinkles in the fabric.
- b. Then fill up the rest of the head, working towards the neck.

15. STUFF THE HEAD

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16. ATTACH THE HEAD

- Grab both your head and body pieces. We'll be attaching them at the neck next. Start by aligning the neck opening of the head onto the body. The center bottom seam on the head should match up with the belly of the body.
- Stitch the head to the body using a ladder stitch. Use long basting stitches just to hold it in place. Take a $\frac{1}{4}$ "- $\frac{1}{2}$ " stitch on the head, then go across and take another onto the body. Keep going around until you reach where you started.

→ ***You can use this chance to sneak in any extra stuffing into the neck before it's closed up. This will help prevent the head from being wobbly.***

Sew all the way around the neck, then check that you like the placement and it isn't twisted or lopsided. If you like the result, stitch around the neck once again with tinier, neater stitches (about $\frac{1}{8}$ ") to secure the head in place.

- 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!

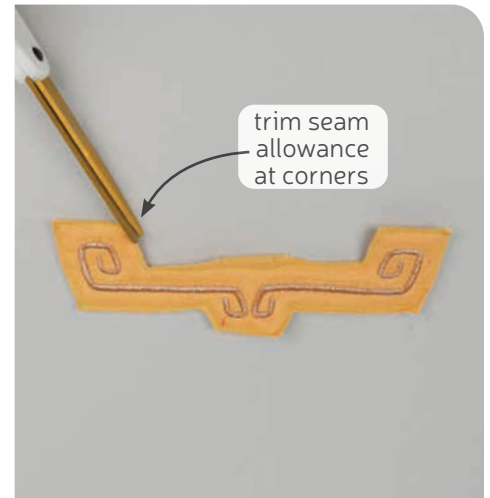
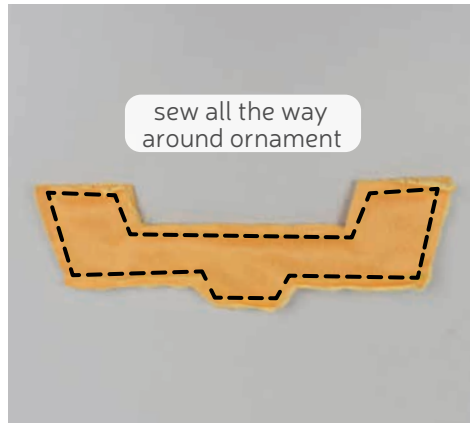
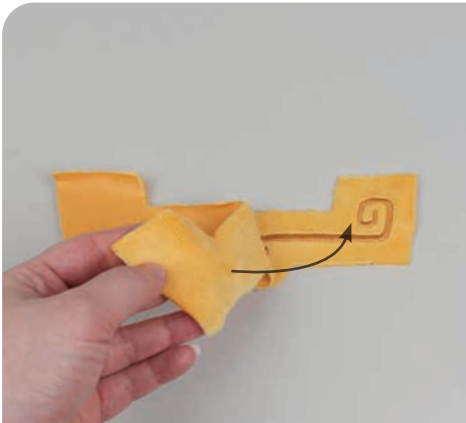


17. CLIP THE THREADS



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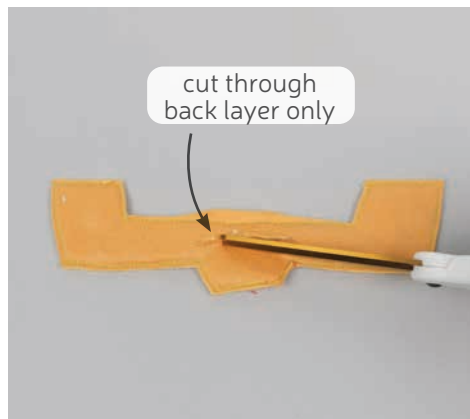
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18. SEW THE HEAD ORNAMENT

- Grab your **HEAD ORNAMENT** pieces (F). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- Sew the pieces together all around the shape. Be sure to pivot at the corners.
- Trim the excess seam allowance at the inner and outer corners. This will help reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned later.

- To turn the piece right side out, cut a slit into the back of the **HEAD ORNAMENT** (F). Make sure this is the side without any applique. About a 1½" area near the middle is good, but there is also a **cutting guide** on the paper pattern for extra help.
- Turn the piece right side out through the opening you've cut. Define the corners with a chopstick or similar turning tool.



19. FLIP THE HEAD ORNAMENT

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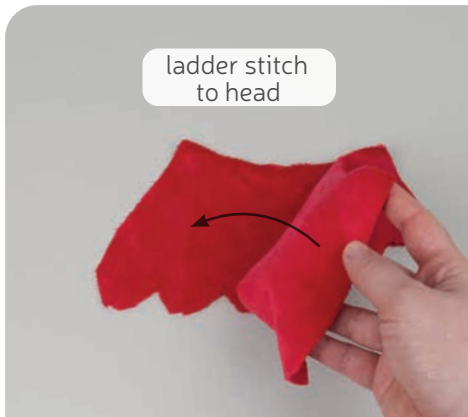
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- a. Grab your serpent so far. Brush the **HEAD FEATHERS** (C) toward the back of the head if you haven't already. Align the **HEAD ORNAMENT** over the head of your plush so far. It should cover the top seam where the feathers are secured inside. Make sure the cut edge is facing down. The center bit that sticks out should point toward the nose. Hold the ornament in place by sticking pins through it and down into the head.



20. ATTACH THE HEAD ORNAMENT

- b. Ladder stitch the ornament to the head around the outer edge. For best results, stitch slightly beneath the seam of the head ornament. This will help the shape pop more.



21. SEW THE TAIL FEATHERS

- a. Grab your **TAIL FEATHER** pieces (G). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching.
- b. The feathers themselves are a bit detailed, so for help with sewing them you may want to trace the seam line from the paper pattern. Trim away the seam allowance from the template, then use it to trace onto the wrong side of the fabrics you've stacked.
- c. If you haven't already, note the **opening for turning guide** marked on the paper pattern for the tail feathers. Sew the feather pieces along the line you traced, and leave an opening along the center top for turning. You may want to follow the tip on step 8 concerning stitching across every corner for the feathers so the piece turns easier.

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22. TURN THE TAIL FEATHERS

- Trim the excess seam allowance around the feathers to reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned later. Try to trim as close as you can into the corners without actually cutting your threads.
- Turn the feathers right side out through the opening. Define each feather with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- Tuck in the seam allowances along the opening you left, then ladder stitch the opening closed. It won't be seen later, so your stitches don't have to be perfect.

- Grab your plush so far. Take your **TAIL FEATHERS** (G) and wrap them around the tail tip of your plush. Take the wide end of the feathers and overlap the tail tip by about 1".

- Take the feathers and start wrapping them around the tail, gradually working up. Grab a hand sewing needle and thread it. Start attaching this top edge of your feathers to the serpent tail. You can use a ladder stitch or a whip stitch. It won't be seen so it doesn't have to be perfect.

- Continue wrapping the feathers up the tail gradually.

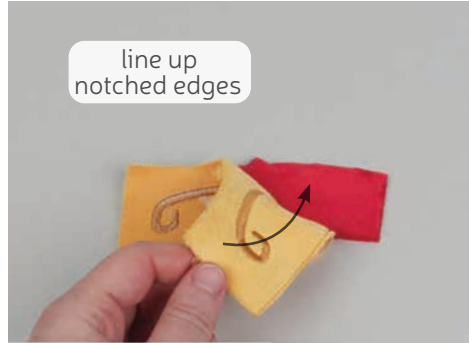
- As you wrap, continue to stitch the feathers to the tail until you reach the end. The tail feathers should now be completely secure.

23. ATTACH THE TAIL FEATHERS



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24. SEW THE TAIL ORNAMENT STRIPE

- Grab your **TAIL ORNAMENT** (H) and **STRIPE** pieces (I). These two pieces will join next along the middle edge. But they're also labeled with a **center notch** for easy alignment.
- Align the ornament piece with the stripe so right sides are facing, the raw edges match up, and the **notches** align.
- Sew the ornament to the stripe along this edge. Repeat with your remaining ornament and stripe pieces so you have two total.

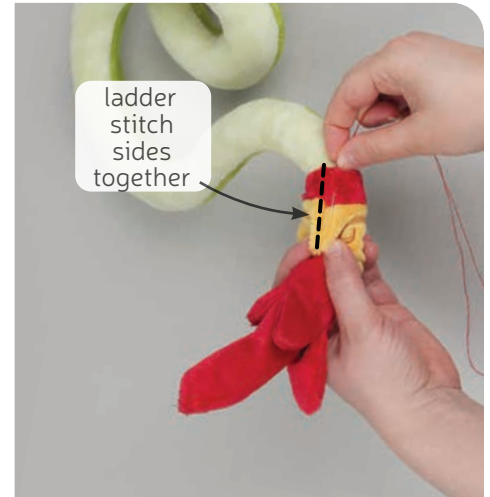
- Take your sewn ornament pieces and align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- If you haven't already, note the **opening for turning markings** found on the paper pattern for the **STRIPE** piece (I). Sew the ornament pieces together all around the shape, but leave the **opening for turning** along the top.
- Trim the excess seam allowance around the corners to reduce bulk
- Turn the ornament right side out through the opening along the top. Define the points with a chopstick or similar turning tool.

25. SEW THE TAIL ORNAMENT HALVES



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26. ATTACH THE TAIL ORNAMENT

- Wrap the **TAIL ORNAMENT** (H/I) around the tail end of your serpent. The center should be along the top of the snake, and it should wrap around the upper edge of the feathers. Bring together the side edges on the belly side of the plush.
- Ladder stitch the top edge of the ornament to the serpent tail. Go all the way around the top edge.
- Then flip the plush over and stitch the side edges together as well, also using a ladder stitch. This should secure the tail ornament over the feathers.

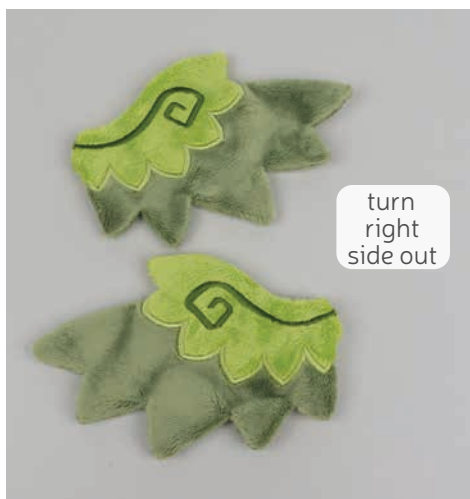
- Grab your **WING** pieces (J). Take two and align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- Sew the pieces together along the feathered edge, but leave the straight edge free for turning the piece right side out later. Repeat this once more with your remaining wing pieces so you have two total.



27. SEW THE WINGS

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28. TURN THE WINGS

- Trim the excess seam allowance around the tight corners of the **WING** (J). This will help reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned later.
- Turn the wings right side out through the opening you left before. Define the points with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- Take the opening of the wings and tuck in the seam allowance by $\frac{1}{4}$ ". This should leave a folded edge all around the wing opening.

- Take your sewn **WING** (J) and align the folded edge onto the body of your serpent. It should be about 1" behind the head. For the samples, the folded edge is parallel to the neck seam so the wings can easily be seen from the front, but you may want to position them differently depending on your taste. The paper pattern also has a **wing stitching guide line** for extra help.



29. ATTACH THE WINGS

- Ladder stitch the folded edge of the wing to the body of the plush. Stitch all the way around the opening, then repeat on the other side with the other wing.

CONGRATS!
This completes your plush!
Now give it a big hug!

sew desu ne?

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TEST SQUARE 2"

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

Quetzalcoatli Plush

P A T T E R N

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BODY (E)

Cut 1 from green fabric (right side up)
Cut 1 from light green fabric (reversed; right side down)
1/4" seam allowance

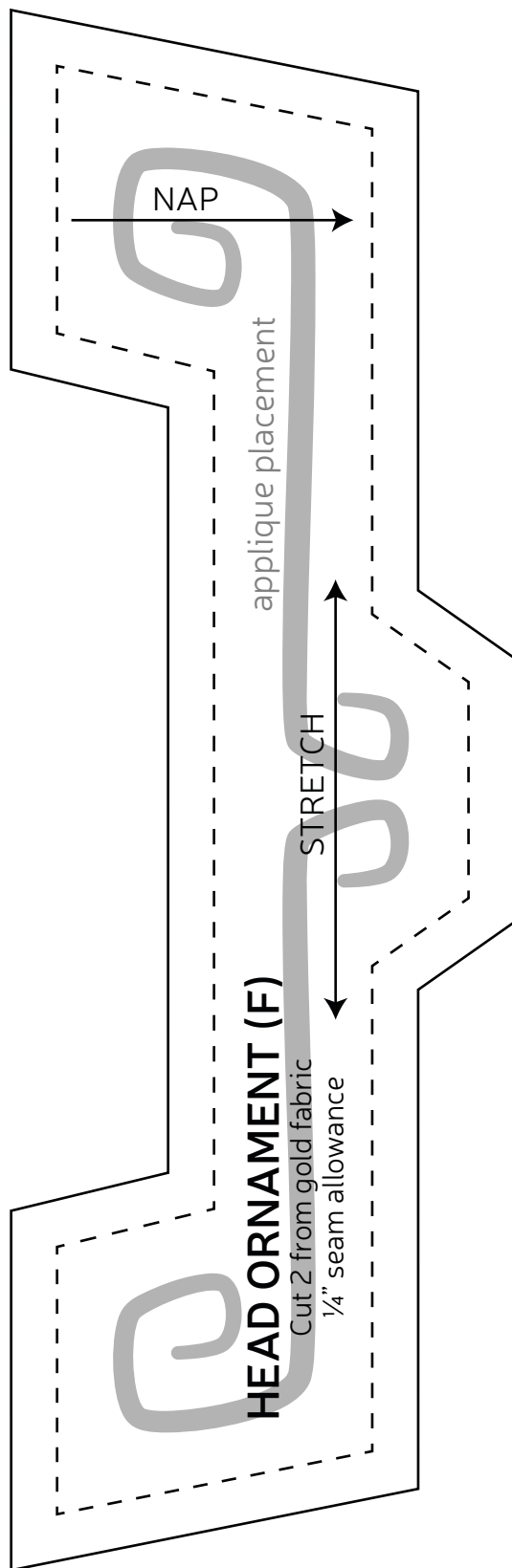
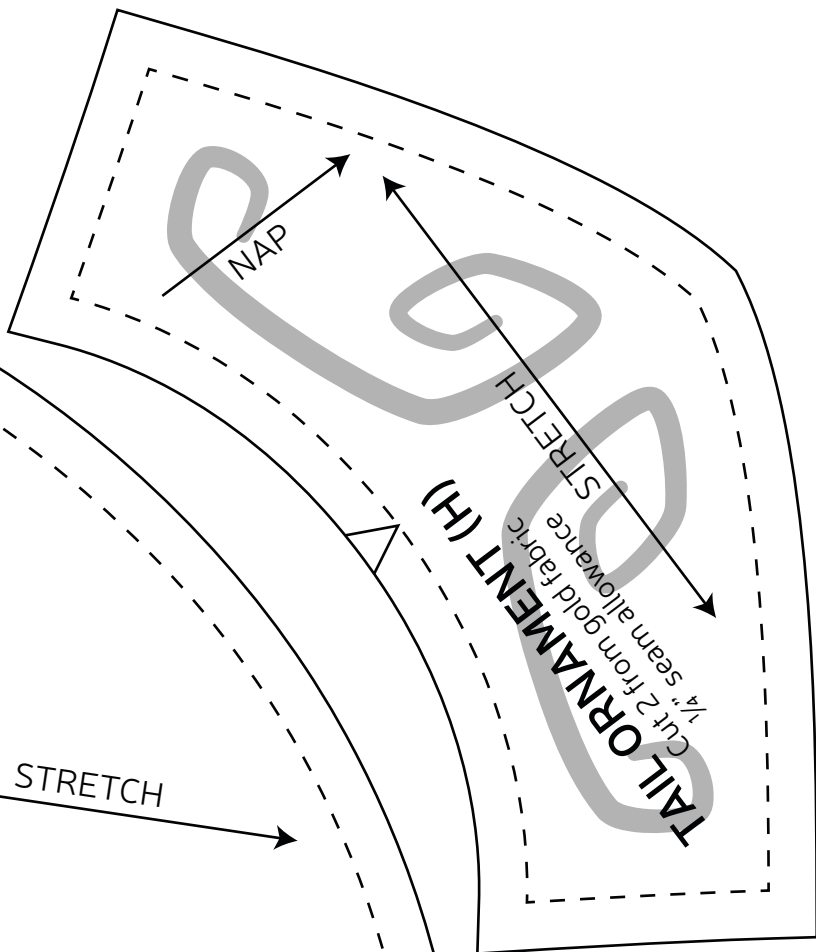
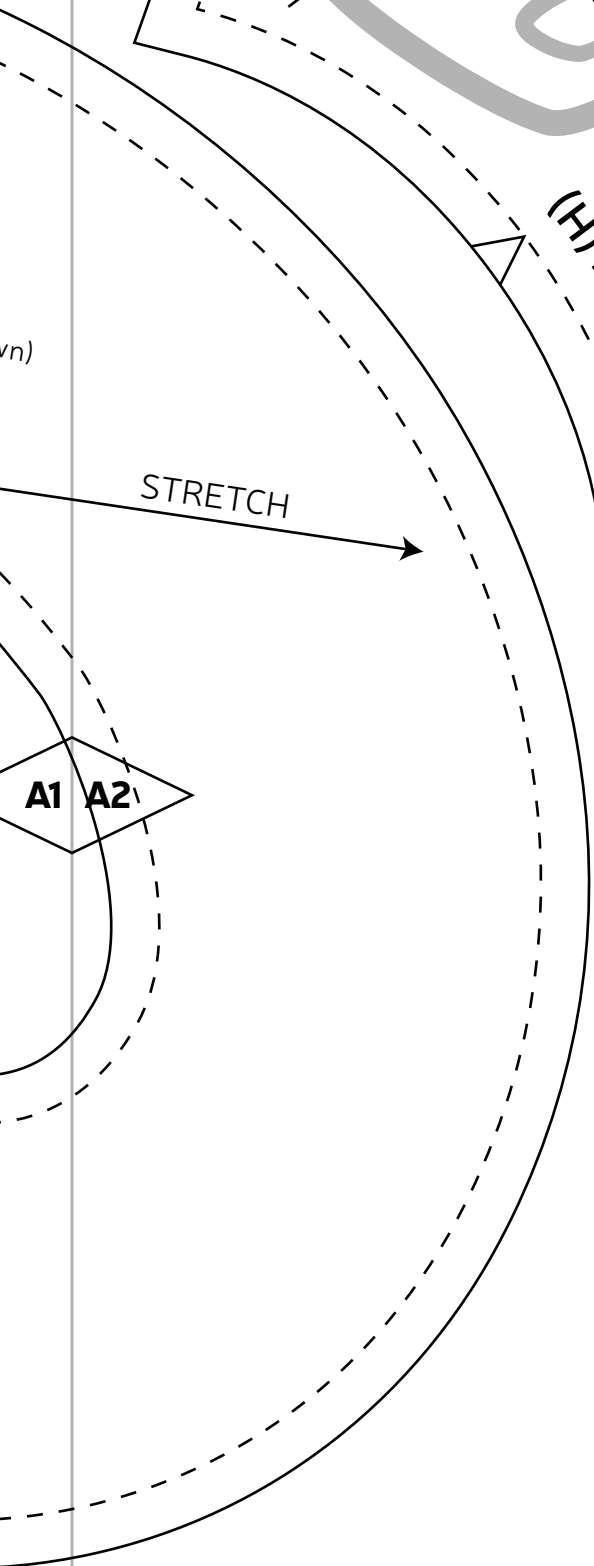
NAP

A1 A2

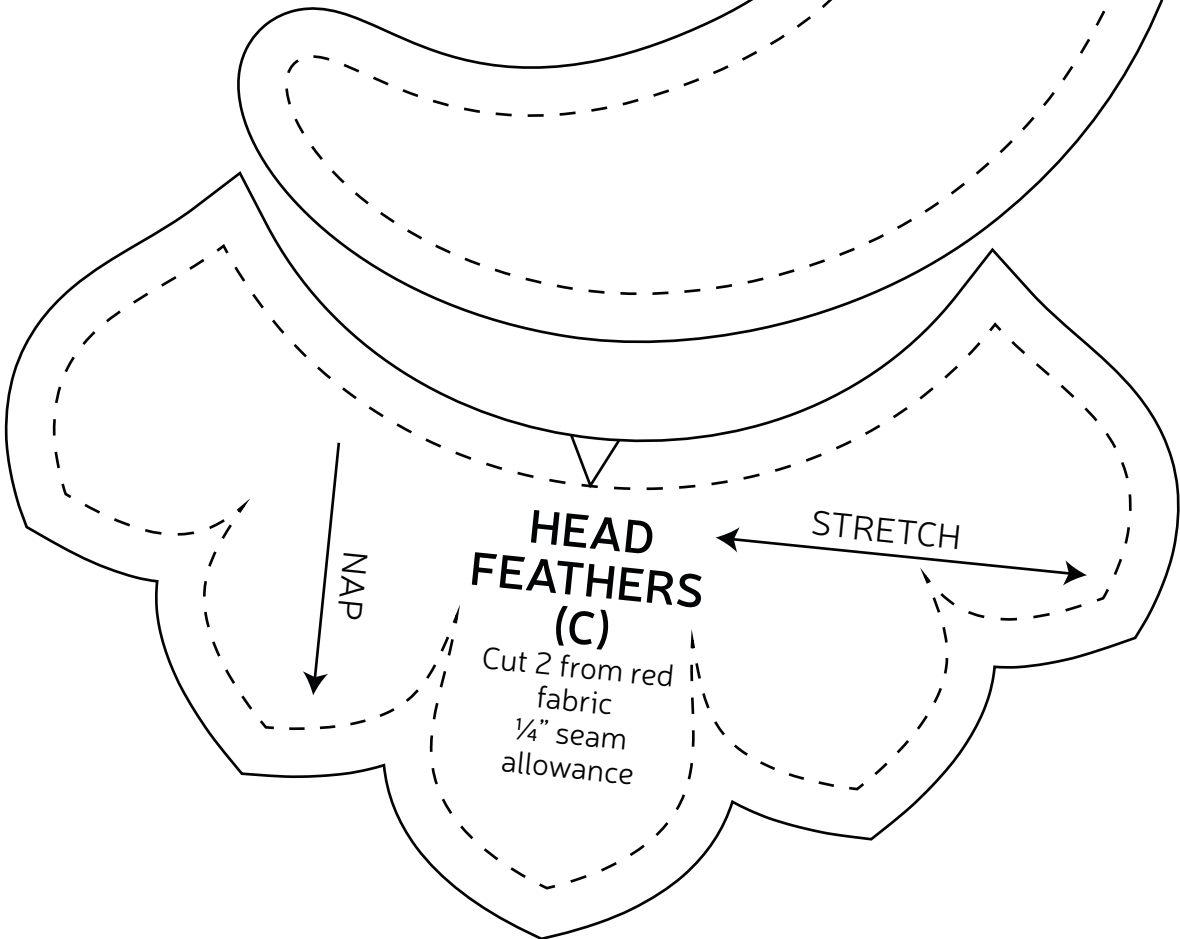
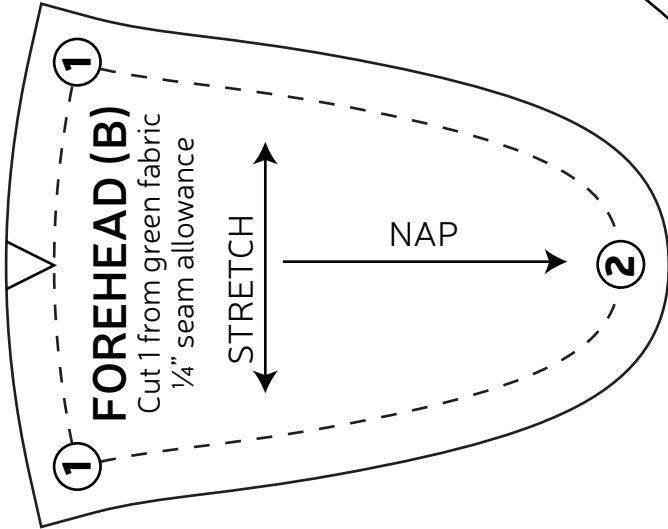
wing
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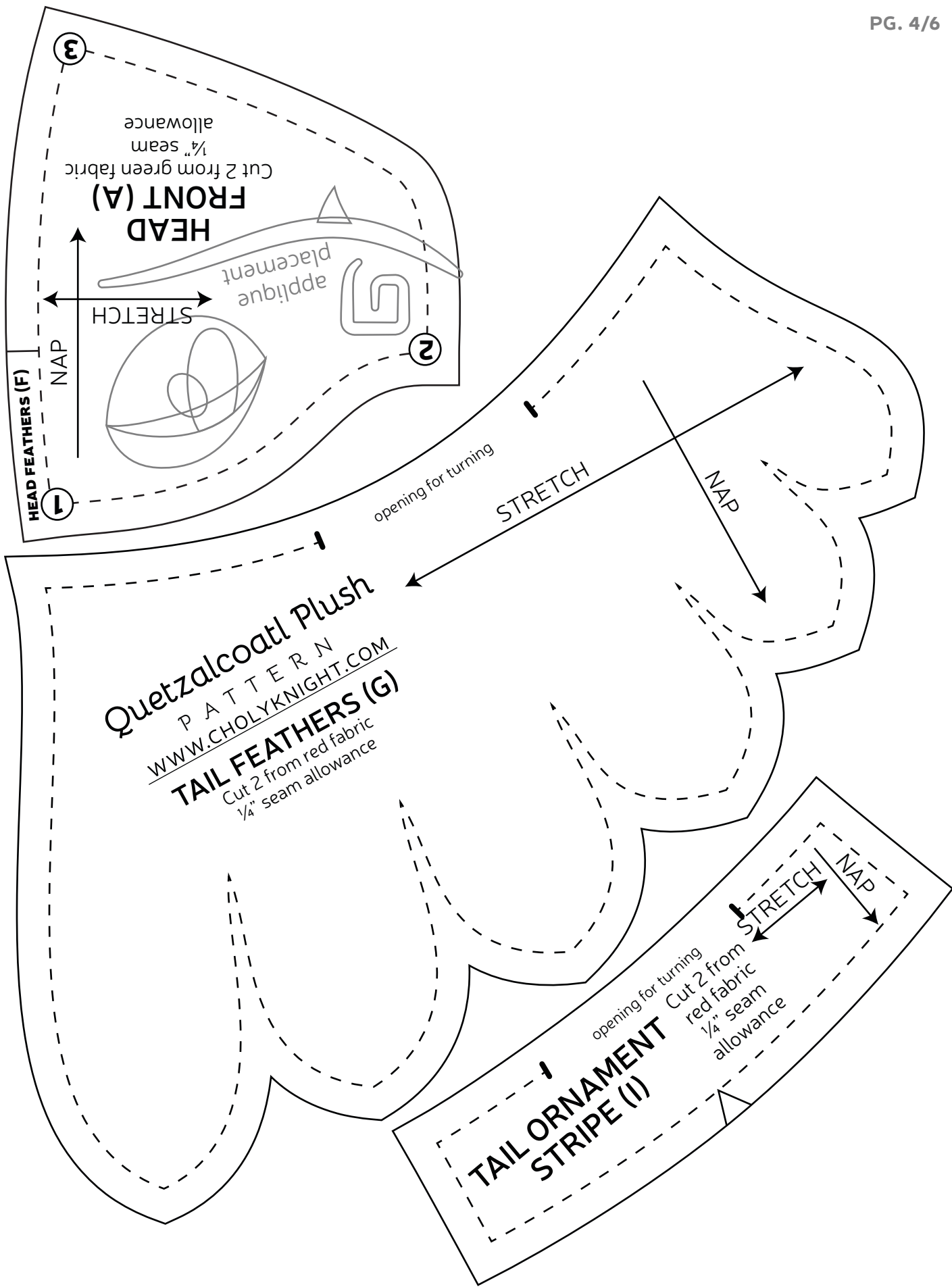
wing
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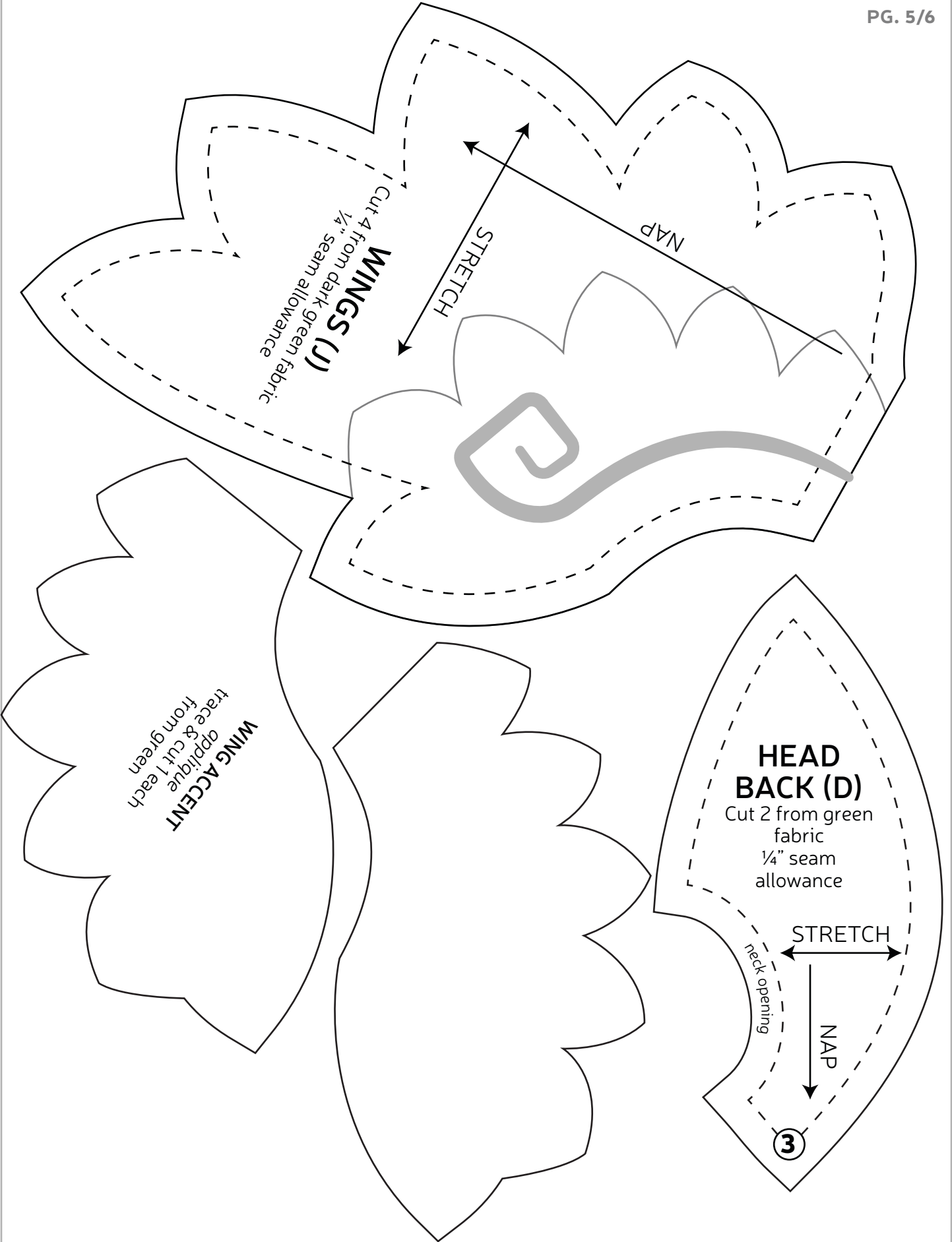
B1 B2



B1
B2

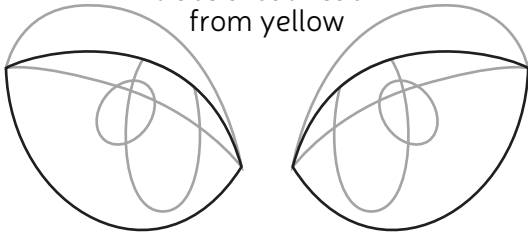






EYES

applique
trace & cut 1 each
from yellow



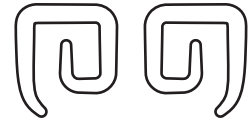
EYE WHITE

applique
trace & cut 2
from white



NOSTRILS

applique
trace & cut 1 each
from black



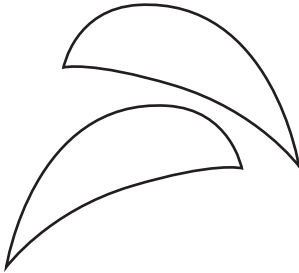
TEETH

applique
trace & cut 1 each
from white



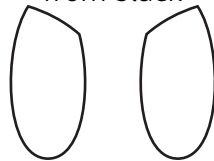
EYELIDS

applique
trace & cut 1 each
from red



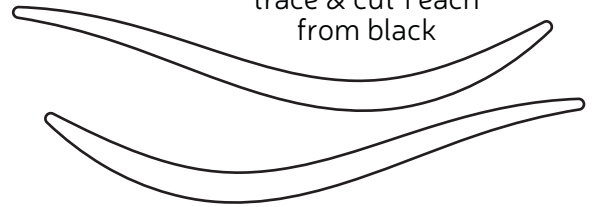
PUPILS

applique
trace & cut 1 each
from black



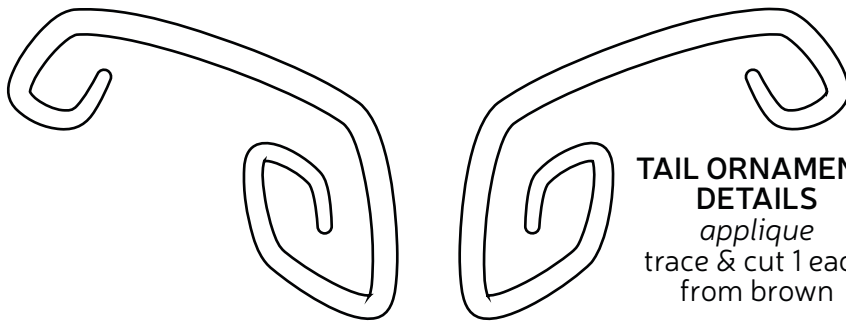
MOUTH

applique
trace & cut 1 each
from black



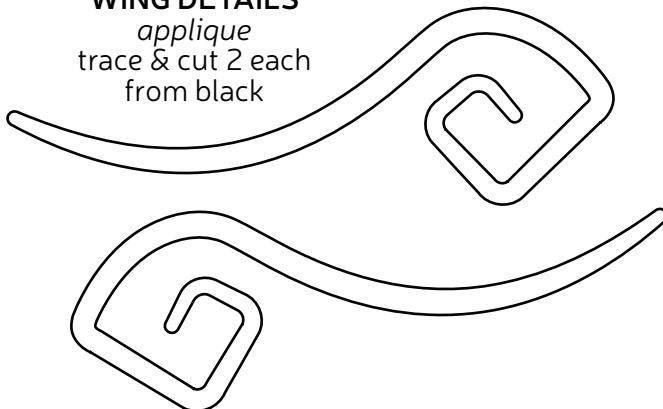
TAIL ORNAMENT DETAILS

applique
trace & cut 1 each
from brown



WING DETAILS

applique
trace & cut 2 each
from black



HEAD ORNAMENT DETAILS

applique
trace & cut 1 each
from brown

