

OCTOBER 2021 ISSUE 9

make & sew toys

Christmas

PLUSHIE PENGUIN

Only three quick steps



Inside
30
HUGGABLES
FOR YOU
& YOURS

♥ BRRRR!
MAKE OUR
ICE KING!



KIDDIES'
ROBIN
PINAFORE



BONUS!
Barbie
Outfit
with guide

Exclusive Projects
FOR NEWBIE TO MAESTRO CRAFTERS



Merry Mouse
SNUGGLED
IN A WOOLLY
JUMPER



Letter to Santa
PRACTISE
YOUR
EMBROIDERY



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TO START
STRAIGHT
AWAY

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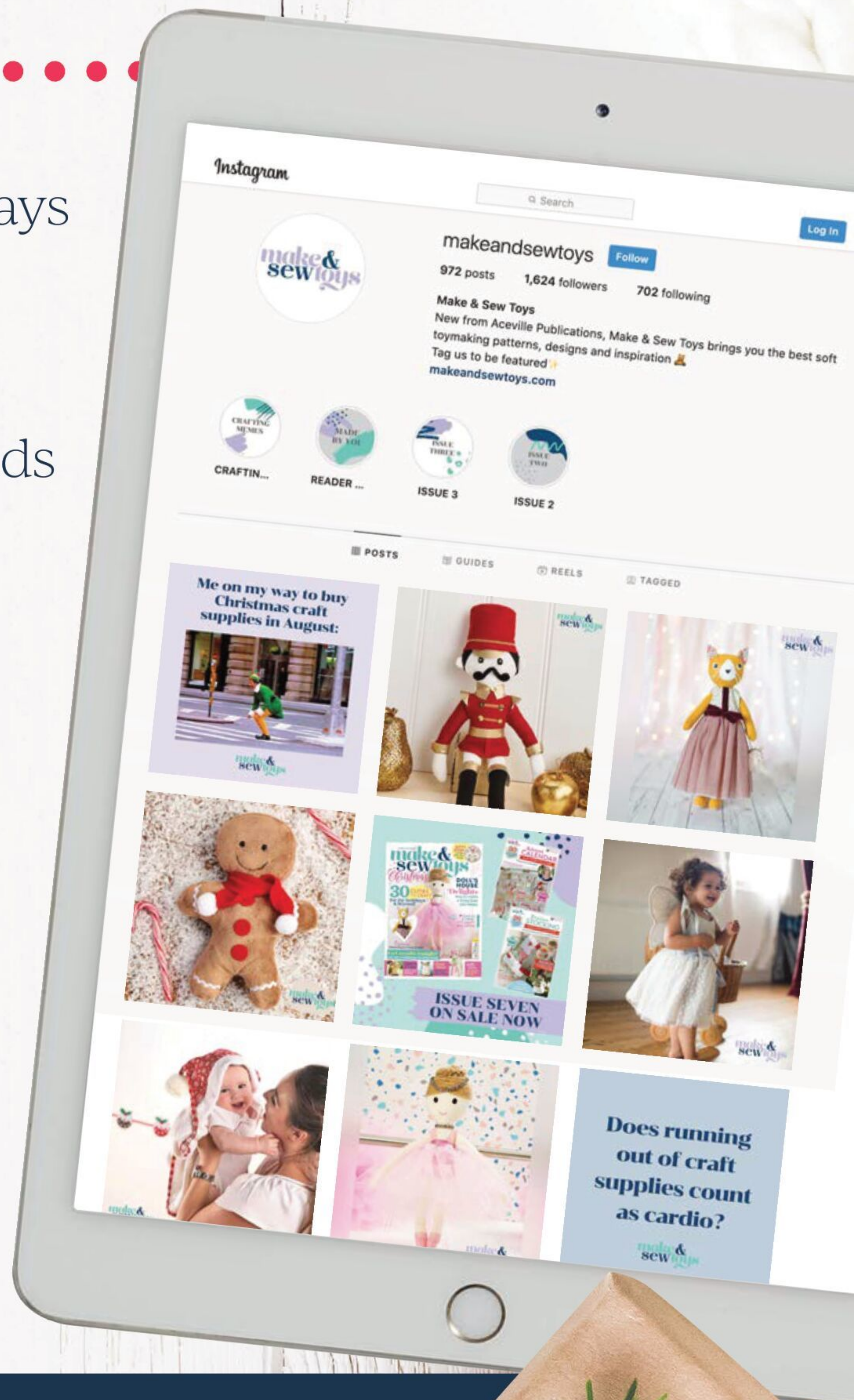
Editor-approved
craft stash picks



Exclusive
sneak peeks



Giggles and
laughs galore



GO BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE M&ST TEAM
BY FOLLOWING US ON INSTAGRAM
@MAKEANDSEWTOYS

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CHRISTMAS

Star light, star bright!
Add a vibrant motif to your
colourful quilt-along with a
stunning block, with step-by-step
instructions on **page 63**. Plus, don't
miss your chance to win a huge
bundle of Simplicity patterns – we've
got 150 to give away on **page 62**,
including this adorable owl baby
blanket. Twit twee!



Lucy

LUCY, EDITOR

MEET THE MAKER

We're in puppy love with Alice Wood, the talented creator behind The Little Toy Dog Company. On **page 98**, read about how she transforms her illustrations into lifelike pooches using traditional techniques.

We would love to hear from you...

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make & sew toys

BEAUTIFUL TOYS HANDMADE WITH LOVE



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Your bonus mini mag...

DOWNLOAD TODAY!

As if all of these amazing projects weren't enough to be getting on with, this month we've also rustled up a fabulous set of extra makes for you to enjoy, all wrapped up in an instant-download magazine. There's no shortage of inspiration inside *20 Joyful Toys to Sew*, where you'll find patterns for the whole family to enjoy. Download the mini-mag, along with all the templates for this issue, inside the online pattern pack available at makeandsewtoys.com



SPRUCE IT UP

For a modern take on the classic bauble, punch needle decs make a lovely change. We love the tactile contrast the fuzzy yarn provides on the tree. Pick one of the three contemporary designs, then head over to **hobbycraft.co.uk** to find the full step-by-step tutorial, plus handy punch needling tips and tricks if you're new to the technique.



MRS CLAUS

Recreate the joy of a Lapland grotto with this Mrs Claus costume. Inside Simplicity 2542 you'll also find patterns for Santa Claus, an elf, and a more old-fashioned Father Christmas outfit. £9, sewdirect.com

'Tis the season

The brand-new Holiday Classics collection from Rifle Paper Co. is inspired by much-loved carols and traditions, leaving you with a cosy nostalgic feeling in your heart. Filled with bright red poinsettias, charming nutcracker scenes, twinkly fairy lights and more, we're smitten with these seasonal picks. £16 per metre, thefabricfox.co.uk



SEW & TELL

SEASONAL MUST-HAVES FOR YOUR SEWING STASH

FELT CHUMS

Meet the cutest friendship group that we've seen in a long time: Hector Hare, Finley Fox and Bartholomew Badger, all kitted out in their best winter outfits. Complete with expressive hand-stitched faces and posable limbs, these darlings are all made using a pollution-free process. From £9, feltsogood.co.uk



NORDIC FAIRY

What's better than a guardian angel bringing good vibes this winter? Three guardian angels bringing good vibes! With this craft kit from Corinne Lapierre, you can whip up a trio of gorgeous Scandi-inspired characters, finished off with embroidered details. Included in the kit is everything you need to get started, from high-quality wool felt and DMC thread, to easy-to-follow instructions. £16.80, corinnelapierre.com



SCANDI CHIC

Celebrate the holidays the Scandinavian way with help from this book by designer Christiane Bellstedt Myers. Including chapters such as sewing, embroidery, baking and more, all inspired by traditional colour palettes and natural materials, you can introduce a little bit of hygge magic to the big day. *Scandi Christmas*, £12.99, rylandpeters.com

CHRISTMAS CHARACTERS

For triple the festive fun, whip up all three of the patterns in this set, which includes a gnome, nutcracker and wise king. Each doll is made up with the same basic body shape, then transformed using different hats, clothes and beards. The patterns are suited to crafters with a basic sewing knowledge, so beginners looking for a challenge needn't get their tinsel in a tangle. £4.50, selfmade.com



TAKE FIVE

It's hard work sewing all those presents, and we think you deserve to take five for yourself! Don't forget to stop for a break every now and then to enjoy a nice hot brew in a delightful mug, like this Christmas pudding design from Wilko. Obviously it means you need a sweet treat to devour at the same time! £3.50, wilko.com



Love Your...

TOY

PATTERN PACKS



REINDEER MAGIC

Introducing the North Pole's most stylish pair! We recommend picking a Christmassy fat quarter for your reindeer's outfits, so that the colours and patterns coordinate perfectly. Designer Sandra Reis has used a classic red and white combo, but you can choose any palette that suits your own seasonal decor.

template tips

Ready-to-use, full-size templates are included in your pattern envelope, however if you want to avoid cutting up the sheet, then you can make copies of the pieces. Cardboard duplicates are the most durable, as these can be stored for future use.

pen to pattern

When transferring the patterns to your fabric, remember to draw them onto the wrong side. This prevents any leftover pen or pencil marks from showing on the finished product. Plus, don't forget to pay attention to the markings on the pattern – a dashed line means you should leave that section open when sewing.

your
GIFT



“We love how much personality this reindeer pair have. Try experimenting with different facial expressions by positioning the eyes, eyebrows and nose in slightly different places on the face”

CONTENT CREATOR
GRACE LANGHAMER



get the **BOOK!**

Step into the world of Anita Catita and prepare to be charmed by the array of beautiful toy patterns to sew. Choose from gorgeous dolls, including rag dolls, ballerinas, pirates, and fairies, and adorable animals including cats, rabbits, ducks, bears and sheep. All the toys are made using easy sewing techniques and full-size pattern pieces are included. £12.99, davidandcharles.com

NON-STOP SEWING

If you'd like to sign up for regular issues of *Make & Sew Toys*, turn to page 52 where you can take advantage of our special subscription offer. If you have enjoyed making these Christmas characters, you love stitching plenty more seasonal makes throughout the year, from adorable Easter bunnies to simple-to-sew summer ideas.



FABRIC swatch

Recreate our reindeer's pretty frock with a dainty heart fabric, like this Hugs and Kisses pick, or a print from the aptly-named Buck Forest range, both from Art Gallery Fabrics. For stockists, visit hantex.co.uk



YOU'LL NEED...

Fabric: cotton, plain, black, printed, red; jersey
Cardboard
Toy stuffing
Buttons, two
Iron-on interfacing
Flower
Bells, two
Lace, scraps
Textile pens: black, white
Blusher
Glue gun



reindeer FRIENDS

SANDRA REIS' DARLING DUO ARE ON HAND
TO GUIDE YOUR SLEIGH TONIGHT

In their cosy scarves, chunky boots and stylish outfits, these little reindeer look like they're all ready for a winter walk in the country. Designer Sandra Reis has combined a traditional Christmas colour palette with charming cartoon faces, meaning these little plushies will be sure to induce smiles no matter who's stocking they are found in. Why not get started today?



Let's get started...

GIRL REINDEER

1 Using the templates from your bonus pattern pack, transfer the pattern for the reindeer's body and legs onto the reverse of plain fabric, 30cm x 32cm. Place right sides together with a second piece of plain fabric and pin. Sew along the solid line only. Cut off the excess fabric. Once the legs are filled, run a strong gathering thread, 1cm from the edge of each foot. Snip the pattern for the sole from cardboard and place them in the feet, on top of the stuffing. Pull up the thread and hold it in place with secure stitches to fix the soles in place.

2 Make the shoes by transferring the shoe pattern onto the reverse of black fabric, 6cm x 20cm. Place right sides together with a second piece of fabric and pin. Sew along the solid line only. Cut off the excess fabric. Slip the shoes onto the feet and run a strong gathering thread around the base. Pull up the thread and hold it in place with secure stitches. Sew a small piece of lace around the upper part of the shoes.

3 Cut out two more cardboard soles and cover them with fabric, 10cm x 13cm. Glue them to the shoes by putting a little hot glue in the centre of the sole. Finish by sewing invisible stitches all the way around the base of the shoe with black thread, to join it to the sole. Position the legs on the sides of the body, 2cm from the base. With a large needle and strong thread, sew on the legs, putting a button on each side. Sew on at the same time, sewing through the body and back out the other side.

4 To make the arms, sew a 12cm x 20cm rectangle of plain fabric to black fabric, 7cm x 20cm, right sides together. Press open the seams, pin the joined fabrics right sides together, matching the seams, and transfer the pattern for the arms. Make sure that the division that separates the hands from the arms coincides with the seam that joins the two fabrics. Sew without leaving an opening. Cut off the excess fabric. Make a vertical cut on one side of the fabrics as indicated on the pattern. To make the cuts on the correct side, place the arms side by side, with the thumbs facing each other. Turn them right side out, fill with stuffing and close up the opening using small stitches. Sew onto the body of the reindeer, 1cm from the neck.

5 Transfer the pattern for the antlers onto the reverse of fabric, 12cm x 16cm. Place right sides together with a second piece of fabric and pin. Sew along the solid line only. Cut the excess

fabric, snip around the edge, turn out and fill with stuffing. Attach the antlers to the head with invisible stitches. Repeat this step with the pattern and fabrics for the ears, but do not stuff. Sew the ears onto the head under the antlers with invisible stitches. Iron the interfacing onto the reverse of the nose fabric, transfer the pattern, cut out and attach to the face. Paint the eyes with textile pens and the cheeks with blusher.

6 To make the dress, sew a little hem along each edge of fabric, 23cm x 50cm. Fold in half, right sides together, and sew along the vertical seam. Turn right side out and run a gathering thread around the lower hem. Pull up the thread to make a 'puff' dress. With the seam centred and turned to the back, make two 'V' cuts 3cm deep in the area of the arms for the sleeves. Put the dress onto the reindeer and run a

gathering thread around the neck. Pull up the thread so that the gathers are above the arms. Sew a little hem around the open edges of the sleeves.

7 Fold jersey, 10cm x 50cm, lengthwise, wrong sides together. Sew and turn right side out to make a tubular scarf. Slip it onto the reindeer, wrapping it twice around the neck. Decorate the reindeer's hair with a flower and the shoes with bells, all securely stitched in place.

BOY REINDEER

1 Make the boy reindeer by following the directions for the girl reindeer, steps 1-5, decorating the tops of the shoes with jersey instead of lace. To make trousers, transfer the pattern onto the reverse of fabric, 20cm square. Place right sides together with a second piece and pin. Sew along the solid line

only. Cut off the excess fabric, sew a little hem around each leg and then at the waist. Run a gathering thread around the waist hem. Put the trousers on the reindeer, pull up the thread to adjust them to the waistline and secure in place with a few stitches.

2 For the jumper, transfer the pattern onto the reverse of fabric, 15cm x 28cm. Place right sides together with a second piece and pin. Sew along the solid line only. Cut off the excess fabric and hem the open parts (neckline, sleeves and hem). Make a cut of about 3cm in the back of the jumper, so that you can put it on the reindeer. Once on, join the cut edges together with small stitches. Tie the strip of jersey around the neck and make it look like a scarf. Hold it in place with a novelty button, then attach the bells to the shoes and stitch all securely in place. **M&ST**



Sew Clever...

Use pinking shears to trim off excess fabric so that the seam allowance doesn't fray



Love Your...

TOY

PATTERN PACKS

tight fit

Both Santa Claus and the angel decoration's heads are made using tubular gauze and stockinette – you'll need the smallest size of gauze, 01, which is often used to wrap up poorly fingers and toes and can be found in your local pharmacy. When picking a stockinette, a very thin, light option is best due to the character's small size and delicate features.



DECK THE HALLS

You'll find two bonus bauble projects inside your pattern packs this month – a heavenly angel and wintry penguin, both designed by felt pro Sachiyo Ishii. If you'd rather, you can leave off the loop of sting and perch these jolly figures on a shelf, table or mantelpiece to bring some festive cheer into any room.



get the
BOOK!

Find 30 cute and quirky felt ornaments to sew inside *Mini Felt Christmas* by Sachiyo Ishii. £10.99, searchpress.com



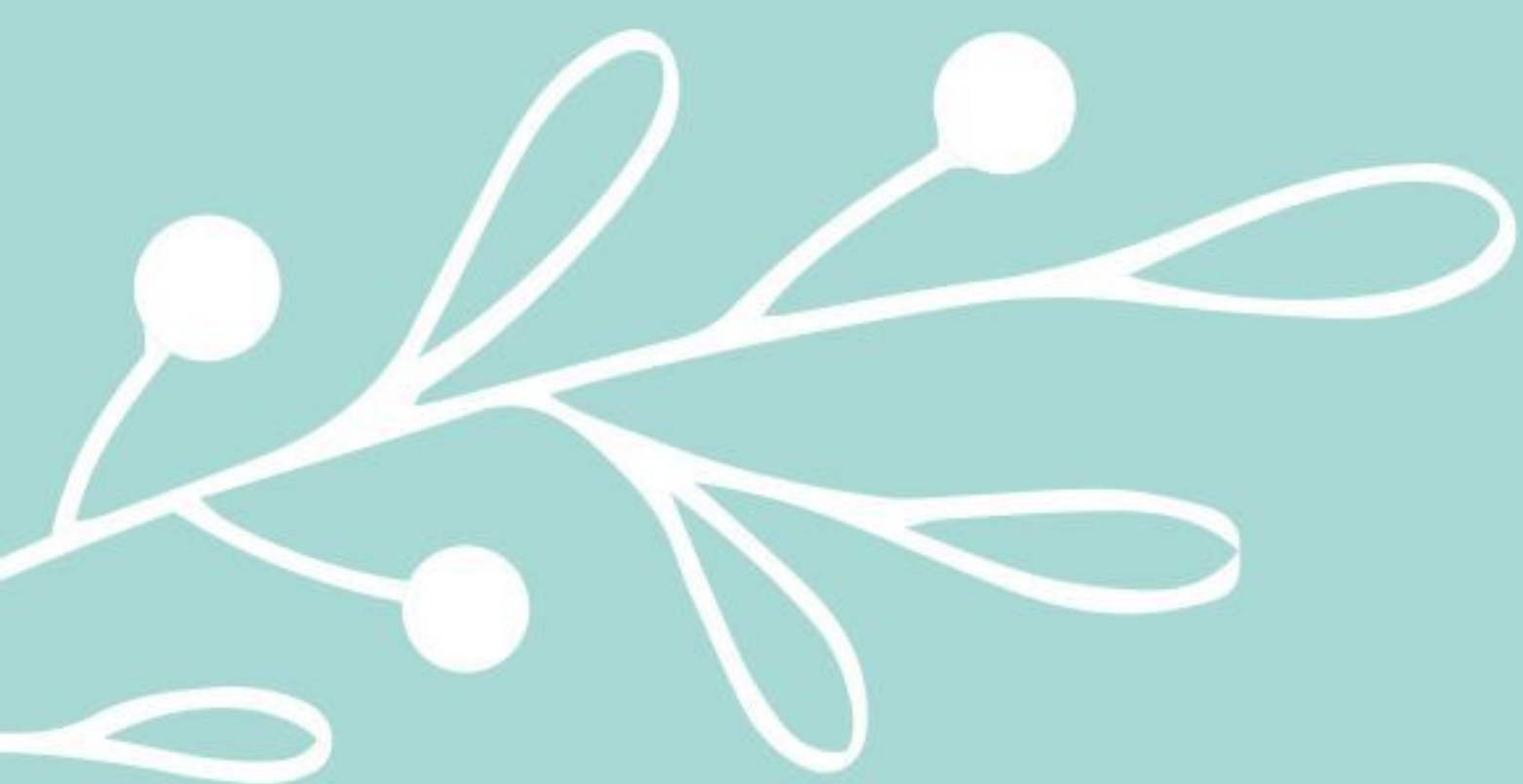
SANTA'S JOURNEY

We've no doubt that you'll be eager to sew your very own sleigh set, but here are a couple of top tips for working with felt, just in case you need an extra helping hand. Make sure to cut out the pieces with extra-sharp scissors to avoid uneven, jagged edges. When sewing teeny tiny softies like these, we like to use whipstitch – the stitches are so small that they won't be visible on the outside, and it allows for nice flat seams.



“You’re spoilt for choice this month with so many adorable festive makes to stitch! Don’t forget that the full-size templates for each project are inside your bonus pattern packs”

CONTENT CREATOR
GRACE LANGHAMER



FABRIC swatch

Recreate Father Christmas' iconic suit with this bright crimson and rich sable felt, £1.20 per 22cm square, corinnelapierre.co.uk



YOU'LL NEED...

Tubular gauze, size 01, 13.5cm
Cotton stockinette, skin-toned
Felt: red, white, dark brown, burgundy, cream, khaki, yellow
Embroidery thread, yellow
Yarn, four-ply: yellow, dark brown, skin-colour, red
Fabric, cotton, off-white
Toy stuffing
Card
Wrapping paper, oddments
Ribbons
Bells, 6mm
Jump rings, 5mm, two



Beginner Friendly

santa claus' SCENE

GET STARTED ON **SACHIYO ISHII'S** FROSTY NORTH POLE SET RIGHT AWAY

This mini Father Christmas has a big journey ahead of him, travelling all around the world in just one night. To help him complete this impressive mission, sew up everything he needs to deliver the presents successfully, including his sleigh, sack and all nine reindeer – as a nod to Rudolph, don't forget to give one a bright red nose to guide the way!



Let's get started...

SANTA CLAUS

1 Work a gathering thread along one end of the tubular gauze and pull tightly. Turn inside out. Stuff the tube. Tie a strong cotton thread 2cm from the top. Tie another thread halfway up the head to create the eyeline dent. Stretch the stockinette over the head to make the face – the fabric grain should

run vertically as shown. Tie the neck with skin-colour cotton thread. Gather excess fabric at the back of the head to avoid wrinkles under the chin. Draw tightly. Thread the cotton thread used to tie the neck onto a needle and stitch excess fabric at the back of the head with overcast stitches, finishing with a French knot.

2 Use the template to make Santa's body in red felt. Sew up the seam, leaving the top and bottom open.

Turn inside out. Insert the stockinette body and secure the red felt body at the neck, making small stitches all round. Work a gathering thread along the bottom edge and stuff. Make the base from red felt and attach with overcast stitches. Make the sleeves from red felt and the cuffs from white felt.

3 Fold a 2cm square piece of stockinette in half and stitch one end as shown to make the hand. Turn the piece inside out and stitch the side

seam with ladder stitch, folding the seam allowance inwards. Make a red felt sleeve from the sleeve template and add a white trim from that template. Hold the hand in the centre of the sleeve end, fold the sleeve in half lengthwise and sew on the hand. Sew the sleeve seam. Make a second arm and sew both arms onto the body.

4 Make the belt from dark brown felt and attach it to the body. Embroider the buckle with back stitches in yellow yarn. Cut two shoe circles from dark brown felt. Run a gathering thread around the edge, stuff and draw tightly. Attach to the body. Cut the hat from red felt, sew up the seam and turn inside out. Make a hat trim band from white felt, sandwich the edge of the hat and sew on. With skin-colour four-ply yarn, French knot the nose. With dark brown yarn, French knot the eyes. Attach a little toy stuffing to the chin with cotton thread..

SLEIGH

1 Use the template to cut out the sleigh twice in burgundy felt and once in strong heavyweight card. Sew around it, leaving the base open. Turn inside out. Insert the heavyweight card sleigh. Close the bottom with ladder stitch. Cut out two base panels in cream felt and one in heavyweight card. Sew around the edge, leaving the back edge open. Turn inside out. Insert the heavyweight card and close the back seam.

2 Bend the back of the base panel upwards 1cm from the rear end and sew the side panels onto the base

panel. Cut out the sack in cotton fabric. Sew the side seam and place this in the centre. Sew the bottom seam. Fold in the top twice and stitch the edge with overcast stitches. Turn right sides out. Loosely tie brown yarn a third of the way down the bag. Make up some small presents with card and wrap them with wrapping paper. Tie ribbons and place them in Santa's sack.

Sew Clever...

To tie thread around Santa's head without losing tension, wrap the thread twice round the neck, thread one end underneath both wraps and pull firmly. This technique should be used to make the eyeline dent as well

REINDEER

1 Use the templates to cut out two bodies in dark brown felt. Sew the chest, head and back seam (A to B). There is no head gusset. Cut out the tummy gusset piece in dark brown felt. Open out the legs of the body piece and place over the tummy gusset piece, matching points A and B. Sew round, leaving one side of the tummy open. Turn the piece inside out. Stuff and close the tummy.

2 Cut four antlers in khaki felt. Place them together in twos, sew round them, leaving the base open and turn inside out. Stuff and close the opening. Cut two ears in dark brown felt. Fold each one in half vertically, stitch the base corners together and attach the ears to the head. Make two tail pieces: one in dark brown, one in white felt, and sew them together, leaving the base open. Turn inside out, fold in the base seam allowance and close the opening with ladder stitch. Fold in half lengthwise with the white on the inner

side and stitch the base corners together. Attach the tail to the body with the white side up.

3 Use the outer rectangle of the blanket template to make a yellow piece and the inner one to make a red piece. Place red on top of yellow and embroider using golden yellow embroidery thread. Attach the blanket to the body using blanket stitches in yellow embroidery thread.

4 Attach the antlers. With dark brown yarn, French knot the eyes. French knot the nose, using red for one reindeer and brown for the rest. Make the neck band in red felt and stitch to the body, crossing at the front. Attach a bell as shown. Attach a jump ring to the centre base edge of the blanket on either side. Wrap the leader's neck with the red string once, and thread through the jump rings to harness all the animals. Tie the end of the string and attach it to Santa's hand. Repeat for the other set. **M&ST**





YOU'LL NEED...

Tubular gauze, size 01, 10cm
Cotton stockinette, skin-toned
Felt: white, black, red, yellow,
Fabric: silk organza, white
Toy stuffing
Yarn, four-ply: dark brown, yellow
fingering; eight-ply, skin-toned
Card
Cord, metallic gold
Fabric glue
Ribbon
Bell



“Fancy taking your Christmas wrapping to the next level? These mini felt characters would also make amazing present toppers!”

CONTENT CREATOR
GRACE LANGHAMER



Beginner
Friendly

bonus BAUBLES!

THE FESTIVE FUN DOESN'T STOP THERE! TRY TWO MORE
OF **SACHIYO ISHII'S** FANTASTIC FELT CHARACTERS

Since you'll definitely be at the top of the nice list this year, we've decided to treat you to a couple of bonus projects, in the form of these charming tree decorations. Start off by stitching a magical Christmas angel, then try your hand at making a cheery penguin pal complete with a woolly hat and scarf. You can also leave off the hanging loops and display these miniature models in pride of place on a shelf or mantelpiece.



Let's get started...

ANGEL

1 Work a gathering thread along one end of the tubular gauze and pull tightly. Turn inside out. Stuff the tube. Tie a strong cotton thread 2cm from the top. Tie another thread halfway up the head to create the eyeline dent. Stretch the stockinette over the head to make the face. The fabric grain should run vertically as shown.

2 Tie the neck with skin-colour cotton thread. Gather excess fabric at the back of the head to avoid wrinkles under the chin. Draw tightly. Thread the cotton thread used to tie the neck onto a needle and stitch excess fabric at the back of the head with overcast stitches, finishing with a French knot.

3 Make the body piece from white felt using the templates, wrap it round the neck and sew the back seam. Leave the bottom edge open. Make the skirt piece in white felt. Sew the side seam and turn inside out. Work a gathering thread along the top edge, insert the body and secure the skirt to the body with a few stitches. Stuff lightly and sew the front and back edges of the hem together with blanket stitch. Wrap a

Sew Clever...

You can use either synthetic or pure wool felt for these projects, but make sure to pick one that isn't loosely woven so the seams don't easily come apart



white felt belt round the body, tie it at the back and secure with a few stitches. Cut any excess.

4 Fold a 2cm square piece of stockinette in half and stitch one end as shown to make the hand. Turn the piece inside out and stitch the side seam with ladder stitch, folding the seam allowance inwards. Make a red felt sleeve from the sleeve template and add a white trim from that template. Hold the hand in the centre of the sleeve end, fold the sleeve in half

lengthwise and sew on the hand. Sew the sleeve seam. Make a second arm and sew both arms onto the body.

5 Wind yellow yarn around the card 15 times and take the card out. Secure the yarn on the top and sides of the head with a few stitches. With skin-colour yarn, French knot the nose. With dark brown yarn, French knot the eyes. Attach metallic gold thread cord or ribbon to the head for the halo. Use the templates to make organza wings. Work a gathering thread in the centre lengthwise and attach to the back of the body. Attach a hanging loop.

PENGUIN

1 Use the templates to make the front and back body pieces in black and white felt respectively. Make the head front piece in black felt and glue it to the white body piece. With right sides

facing, sew the body together, leaving the bottom edge open. Turn inside out and stuff the body. Close the opening.

2 Cut the beak from yellow felt. Attach it to the face as shown, sewing the middle horizontally. Make four wing pieces from black felt. Place them together in twos and blanket stitch round the edges. Sew onto the body. With dark brown four-ply yarn, French knot the eyes.

3 Make the hat piece from red felt. Make it into a tube, sew the seam and turn inside out. Blanket stitch round the edge. Attach a gold bell at the tip. Place the hat on the head and turn up the brim. Attach with a few stitches. Fold the patterned fabric or ribbon in three lengthwise and tie it round the neck as a scarf. Attach a hanging loop using green string. **M&ST**

Some
Skill

darling DACHSHUND

CORINNE BRADD HAS CREATED A PRETTY
PAWSOME TREAT FOR YOU AND YOURS

Just when we thought Corinne and her fabulous designs couldn't get any better, she goes and creates a seasonal sausage dog – a festive combo we didn't see coming, but can't get enough of! With help from the gorgeous prints from the Little Town fabric range, your cuddly companion will be dachshund through the snow, with a jolly holly coat on, in no time.

FABRIC swatch

Hot diggity dog! The Little Town collection by Art Gallery Fabrics goes hand in hand with this pooch project. Visit hantex.co.uk for your local stockist.



YOU'LL NEED...

- Fabric, assorted cotton prints
- Lightweight quilt wadding
- Fibre stuffing
- Buttons
- Ricrac braid
- Coloured felt
- Snap fasteners, red





Sew Clever...

Omit the button eyes and holly detail on the coat if you're making for a young child

Let's get started...

DACHSHUND

- 1 Download the templates at **makeandsewtoys.com**, print and cut out. Trace the template pieces onto the back of printed fabric and snip out, adding a 5mm seam allowance. Snip the body pieces and one pair of ears from one pattern, then snip the gusset pieces and a second pair of ears from a darker pattern
- 2 Sew the gussets right sides together along the curved centre line, leaving a 5cm wide gap in the middle of the seam for turning. Pin the body pieces to each side of the gusset, matching up the legs, and stitch from point A to point B on each side. Match up the top section of the body pieces, then sew all the way round from point A to point B.

Clip the curves and turn out through the gap in the gusset. Stuff the dog firmly with fibre filling, working it into the tail and nose with a large knitting needle. Fold in the edges of the turning gap and slip-stitch closed.

- 3 Carefully match up the two pairs of ears and pin them onto lightweight wadding. Sew all around, leaving a small 3cm gap in the flat back part of each ear. Trim the excess wadding from the seam allowance and turn out through the gap. Fold in the raw edges of the gap and slip-stitch closed before firmly pressing the ears. Gently pin and oversew the ears to the top of the head only around the top curve so they can flap freely. Stitch two brown buttons to the head as eyes, then add a small black button to the tip of the nose to complete the face.

HOLLY COAT

- 1 Using the template, snip two pieces of fabric and one piece of lightweight quilt wadding, adding a 5mm seam allowance to the pieces. Place the fabric right sides together and pin onto the wadding. Sew around the edge leaving a 3cm gap in a straight part. Turn out the coat so the wadding is sandwiched between the two fabrics, fold in the raw edges of the gap and slip-stitch closed.
- 2 Hand-stitch the coordinating ricrac braid around the edge of the coat, joining it neatly at the top centre. Cut a strip of fabric, 6cm x 16cm, fold it in half right sides together and stitch down the length leaving a 3cm gap in the

centre of the seam. Flatten the tube so the seam is in the centre and stitch across the ends. Turn out through the gap, fold in the raw edges and slip-stitch closed before pressing.

- 3 Wrap the strip around the underbelly of the dachshund and pin. Place the coat over the back and use a large needle to pierce through the coat to the strap underneath to make visible holes. Remove the coat and strap, then mark the holes with a pencil. Fit a snap fastener to each end of the strap. Cut four holly leaves from felt and fix these under the head of the snap fasteners before pushing them through the holes in the coat. Snap the fasteners together to hold the coat in place around the dog. **M&ST**

Meet the Toy Team!



KIRSTY HARTLEY

Childrenswear designer and author Kirsty is the founder of Wild Things Dresses, creating bold, playful clothes for kids around the world. wildthingsdresses.com

LAURA MINTER & TIA WILLIAMS

This pair of creative mums run award-winning craft blog *Little Button Diaries*. They've also written many books for GMC Publications, including their newest title, *Christmas Craft Book*. littlebuttondiaries.com



CORINNE BRADD



Corinne is one of our wonderful *Make & Sew Toys* designers. She also creates fun follow-along video tutorials over at [youtube.com/TheCraftsChannel](https://www.youtube.com/TheCraftsChannel)

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Do you have any advice for repurposing old items of clothing into fun dressing-up costumes?

Look out for clothes with themed patterns in the fabric, or solid bright colours that can be used as a background for decoration. Old cotton or polycotton clothes are probably the easiest to cut up and restyle, as they won't stretch out of shape with wear and won't pucker when restitching them. Think of something iconic that will make your homemade costume instantly recognisable – a little green dress for Tinkerbell, red and black stripes for a pirate, blue and yellow for Snow White. Check Pinterest for more unusual ideas that might spark an idea around something you already have, or scour the charity shops for accessories that might help lift a plain outfit into the world of fantasy.

CORINNE

TOY CLINIC

TRY YOUR HAND AT SEWING FANCY DRESS WITH THESE TIPS FROM OUR COSTUME-MAKING EXPERTS



TIP!

Use offcuts to make matching accessories like masks, gloves and tails

Q

WHAT FEATURES CAN I INCLUDE TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR MY CHILD TO GET THEIR COSTUME ON AND OFF BY THEMSELVES?

A

It's always a good idea to sew clothes for children where they can learn to dress

themselves. I think shapes which allow for layering depending on the weather, and which aren't too fitted, work best. Pinafore dresses and dungarees with button fastenings can be adjusted as your child grows. If you're making costumes, then hook and loop fastenings are perfect for a simple quick release. Easy-sew shapes which wrap around, such as capes, make an instant outfit converter too. **KIRSTY**

Q

WHAT ARE YOUR COSTUME-
MAKING MUST-HAVES?

A

For us, embellishments are key. We love pom poms – everything looks better with pom poms! We always have lots of wool in stock, as well as ribbons for finishing and embroidery thread for hand-stitched details. We have heaps of fabrics from old clothes that are great for chopping up to make something new. Adult T-shirts are particularly good for this, as the basic shape is already there and you don't have to finish the seams. We also love anything that makes crafting quicker, like self-adhesive hook and loop and fusible webbing, which allows us to quickly stick fabrics together.

LAURA & TIA



**We would love to
hear from you...**

Got a toymaking question for our experts? Email them in to social.mstoy@aceville.co.uk



or post on [facebook.com/makeandsewtoys](https://www.facebook.com/makeandsewtoys)



Q

A

**WHAT FABRICS
WOULD YOU
RECOMMEND FOR A
BEGINNER FANCY
DRESS COSTUME-
MAKER?**

If you're making costumes for children, making a good fabric choice is essential – both so that they are comfortable to wear, but also more importantly safe. Commercial costumes are tested to high standards of safety for function, toxicity, and flammability. Consider fastenings which don't include ties, and hoods which might hinder a child's vision. A perfect fabric to start with is polyester

felt or polyester fleece, as they are soft, don't require complex finishing, have low flammability, and come in a rainbow of shades. They're easy to cut, glue, appliqué and sew for beginners, giving stunning results.

KIRSTY

**Turn to page 34 to sew
a gorgeous robin dress
designed by Kirsty Hartley**

**My child needs a last-minute
costume! Are there any corners
I can cut to get it finished sooner?**

Try glue or coloured duct tape. Not everything needs to be perfectly sewn into place, especially if the costume will only be worn for a few hours at most. Make motifs from coloured card or felt and glue onto a base layer for speed; avoiding areas with the greatest wear such as the bottom or sleeves. Concentrate your efforts on the front of the costume if you're really short of time, as the back will rarely be seen. Be realistic about what you can achieve and don't be afraid to incorporate branded motifs such as well-known logos to embellish your outfit. **CORINNE**



TIP!

**To increase
your costume's
durability, back
stitch at the start
and end of any
seams to secure
the threads**





**WORTH
OVER £50!**

This issue, our Star Letter winner will receive four festive needle felting kits, including a gingerbread man, a Christmas pudding, a trio of Scandi gnomes and a baby Rudolph the reindeer, all courtesy of The Crafty Kit Company. thecraftykitcompany.co.uk

GOING SOCIAL

DISCOVER WHAT YOUR FELLOW M&ST READERS HAVE BEEN MAKING AND LOVING!

I made Alexander the caterpillar, from issue six.



Amanda Dumpleton, via FB



Sheila Caris, via Facebook

I decided to change things up and finished this little hedgehog cross stitch.



STAR LETTER!

I MADE RUFUS ROBOT FROM ISSUE FIVE – HE'S SO CUTE!

Sallyann Wren, via Facebook

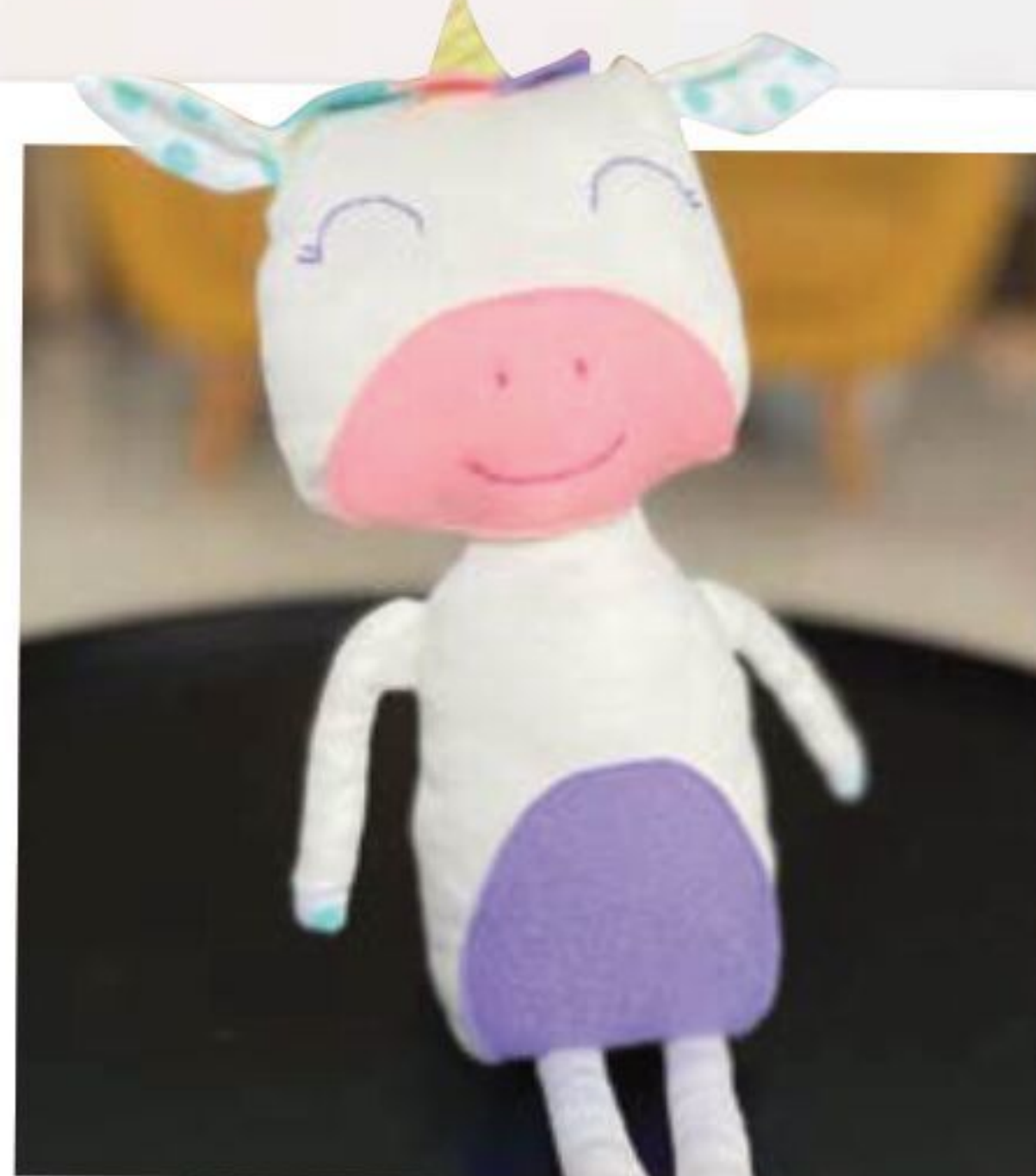
"He looks simply adorable, Sallyann!"

CONTENT CREATOR, GRACE LANGHAMER

My daughters had a dinosaur-themed toddler class this week and wore my handmade dinosaur tails!



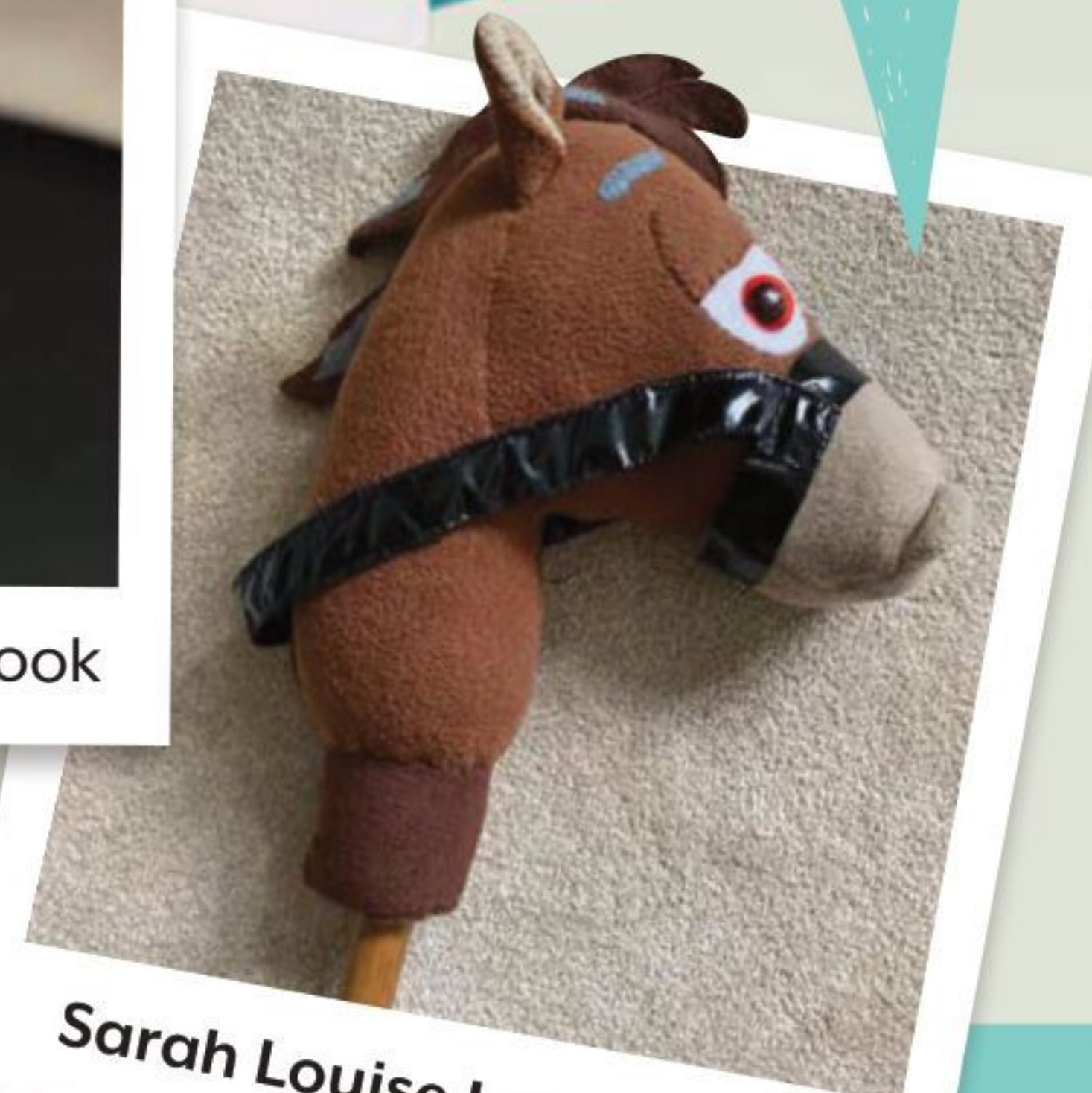
Melissa Clewer, via Facebook



Euying Chong, via Facebook

I made my own version of a unicorn – I got my daughter to help with the colour choices.

A hand-stitched hobby horse for a wee boy who loves a certain cartoon cowboy!



Sarah Louise Lamb, via FB

WHAT YOU SAID...

ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA, WE ASKED: WHAT ARE SOME SIGNS THAT YOU'RE A TRUE CRAFTER?



You can't wait for a day off work to get busy!

Dawn Ellen Koskela



There are bits of thread or yarn in random places... such as on the bath mat!

Hjay Jay



You can't throw anything away, just in case you need it!

Janie Kenrick



When you are on a cruise and start crocheting while sitting on the deck!

Sheila Caris



You can't open a cupboard without craft goodies falling out.

Gwen Kite

Meet
Harvey
the owl!



Brenda Temple, via Facebook

I only started sewing last November, so everything is still quite new to me. I made this little cutie pie and gave her a dummy. I also made Holly the winter fairy from issue eight.



Elizabeth Dorris Baber, via FB

I adapted the pattern of this cute seal from issue six – it turned out so well!



Helen Illesley, via Facebook



My grandma and I made 22 of the elephants from *Make and Sew Toys* issue two.

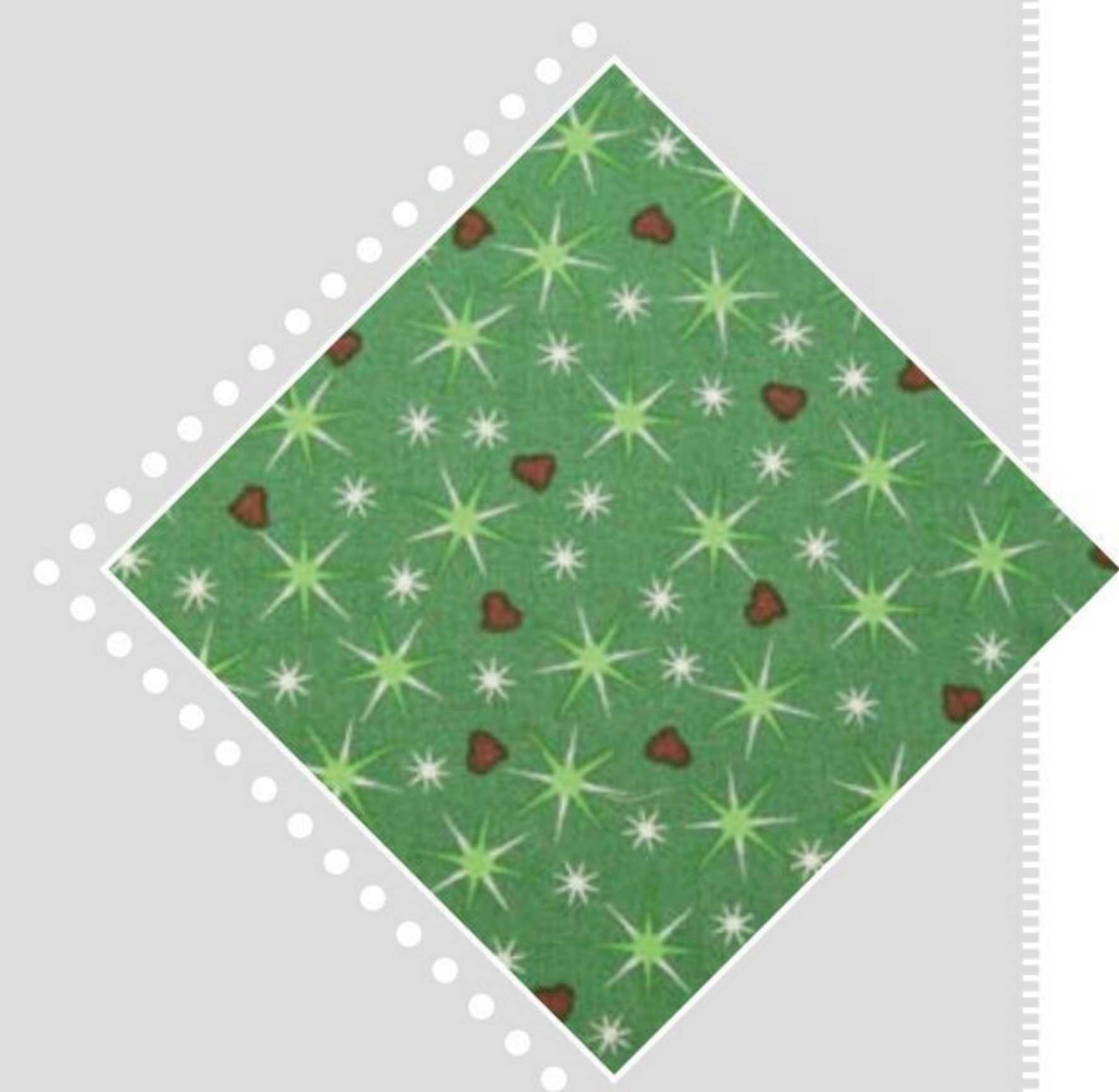
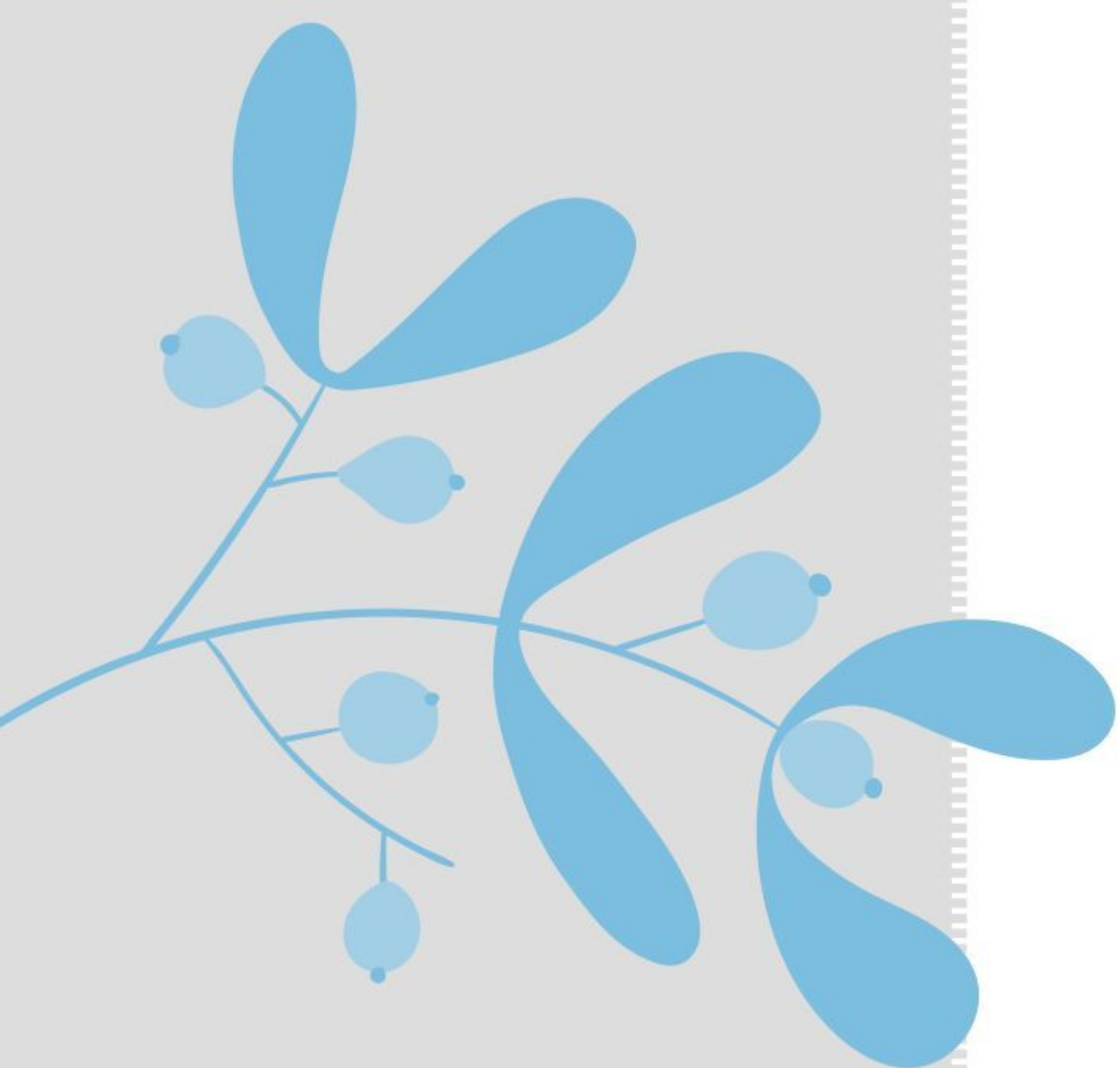


@craftbutton, via Instagram

Share with the craft community via...

f facebook.com/makeandsewtoys @ instagram makeandsewtoys t twitter @makeandsewtoys p pinterest.com/makeandsewtoys

Write to: Make & Sew Toys, 1 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY Email: social.mstoy@aceville.co.uk



merry MOUSE

USE UP SCRAPS OF FABRIC AND YARN TO MAKE
HELEN PHILIPPS' CHEESE-LOVING CRITTER

Love sewing, knitting, crochet and cross-stitch? We've got just the project for you! This cute mouse is the perfect choice for crafty multi-taskers, thanks to her woolly scarf and pullover, complete with a stitched star decoration. Merry mouse would make a lovely gift for any child – why not give her a variety of outfits for spring, summer and autumn too?

FABRIC swatch

For a really festive look, try this star print cotton poplin in emerald green for your mouse's skirt. £3.99 per metre, minerva.com



YOU'LL NEED...

Fabric: cotton, beige, starry red, starry aqua, white; 28 count linen, white
DK yarn: turquoise, red
Embroidery thread: black, red, blue
Toy stuffing
Elastic 6mm, 9cm length
Beads: black, red
Buttons, 5mm, purple
Crochet hook, 3.5mm
Knitting needle, 3.75mm
Tapestry needle
Blusher

Let's get started...

MOUSE TOY

- 1 Download the templates at makeandsewtoys.com, draw around the body, two ears, two arms and two legs on a fat quarter of beige cotton, folded in half, right sides together. Pin through the layers of fabric and sew a running stitch around each piece, leaving the flat seams open for stuffing.
- 2 Cut each piece, then two additional ear shapes from starry aqua cotton, all with a 6mm seam allowance. Pin aqua and beige ears, right sides facing, sew around, then leaving the bottom open for turning. Turn the ears, arms, legs and body right side out, then press.
- 3 Stuff the body and legs, pin the legs inside the seam at the bottom of the body, then stitch across. Stuff and stitch the arms, then sew each one to the body at the shoulders. Apply a little blusher to the cheeks.
- 4 Gather the bottom of the ears in an accordion fold, stitch through to secure, then sew one to each side of the head. Use black embroidery thread to add a mouth, then stitch on two black beads for eyes, and a red bead for a nose.

SKIRT

Take starry red cotton, 18cm x 30cm, and stitch a 6mm hem on one long side, then a 2.5cm double hem on the other. Line up the short edges, right sides facing, and sew a running stitch 6mm from the edge. Thread elastic through the double hem, tie in a knot, then stitch the casing closed by hand.

CROCHET PULLOVER

BODY MAKE TWO

Using turquoise DK yarn and 3.5mm hook, ch 22 sts. **Row 1:** DC into every ch to end, ch 1 and turn. Repeat Row 1 until work reaches 6cm. Fasten off.

SLEEVES MAKE TWO

Using turquoise DK yarn and 3.5mm hook, ch 18 sts. **Row 1:** dc into every ch to end, ch 1 and turn. Repeat Row 1 until work reaches 6cm. Fasten off.

CROSS-STITCH STAR

Consult the chart in the download pack for the pattern. Separate two strands of embroidery thread in red and blue, then stitch each cross over two threads of linen. Lay over white

Sew Clever...

If you prefer, use 14 count Aida instead of linen to cross-stitch the star motif

cotton with a layer of fusible interfacing between, press, then trim to 2.5cm square. Sew to the front of the jumper, using large stitches in red.

TO MAKE UP

Fold the sleeves in half and use a tapestry needle and turquoise yarn to sew along the long edge. Place the two body pieces together and sew 1cm along each side of the top edge for the shoulders, then 2.5cm up the side seams. Place the sleeves into the armholes, right sides together, then sew in place. Embellish with 5mm purple buttons on the shoulder seams.

SCARF

Using red DK yarn and 3.75mm needles, cast on 8 sts. Work in garter stitch until work measures 42cm. Cast off, then sew in ends. **M&ST**



"If you're gifting this mouse to a very young child, sew French knots for eyes and nose in place of beads"

DESIGNER HELEN PHILIPPS





nordic PIXIE

STITCH **CORINNE BRADD'S** DOWNRIGHT DAPPER
CHAP FOR YOUR LITTLE HELPER



If you have a youngster with a lovable sense of mischief, here is the perfect stocking filler that will keep them company during the holidays – and beyond! This jolly fellow is surprisingly easy to make, even with the smaller shapes, and the Nordic style adds heaps of traditional character, so much so we wouldn't blame you if you'd rather keep your elf as a decoration.



FABRIC swatch

Create a vibrant contrast with this polka dot fabric, perfect for your elf's hat, scarf and legs. £6.99 per metre, homescapesonline.com



YOU'LL NEED...

Fabric: polka dot, patterned red and white, plain, cream
Embroidery thread, red
Toy filling

SIZE
15cm x 55cm

Let's get started...

PIXIE TOY

- 1 Download the templates from makeandsewtoys.com. Giving a 6mm seam allowance at all times, cut two bodies, four ears and two hands from cream fabric. Trim one hat from polka dot print, and two feet from red print fabric. Transfer the facial features to the right side of one body piece and the ear positions to the wrong side.
- 2 Pin the ears together in pairs and stitch together, leaving the short side edges open. Tack to one body piece, following the guide marks and matching the raw edges. Pin the other body piece on top, right sides facing, and machine stitch all the way around the top edges, leaving the bottom open. Trim back the seam allowance to 3mm and press back a 1cm seam allowance along the bottom edge. Turn out and stuff.
- 3 Cut two 6cm x 20cm rectangles from polka dot fabric for the legs. With right sides facing, pin a foot to the bottom of each leg. Sew together and topstitch the seam. Fold in half lengthways, pin and stitch the foot and leg seams, leaving the top open. Trim the

- seam allowance to 3mm, turn out and stuff, leaving the top 2cm unfilled. Pin the raw edges of the legs inside the body opening so the feet point forwards. Tack the front and back body pieces together, enclosing the legs, then machine stitch through all the layers.
- 4 Cut 8.5cm x 20cm from red print fabric for the pants. Fold in half widthways, wrong sides facing, and stitch across the long side to make a tube. Create a narrow double hem along the top and bottom edges. Work a few stitches in the middle of the bottom edge to create two legs. Turn out and slip over the body.
 - 5 Trim 3cm x 25cm from polka dot print to make binding and 25cm x 30cm from red print fabric for the tunic. Fold back and press 6mm along one long edge of the binding material. Pin the raw edge, with right sides facing, to the bottom edge of the tunic. Machine stitch 1cm from the edge, then fold the neatened edge of the binding to the back. Slip-stitch in place and sew down.
 - 6 Fold the tunic in half lengthways, right sides together, and join the long edges to make a tube. Press back a 5cm turning along the top edge and stitch. Turn right side out, and press back a 4cm turning around the neck to make a frilled

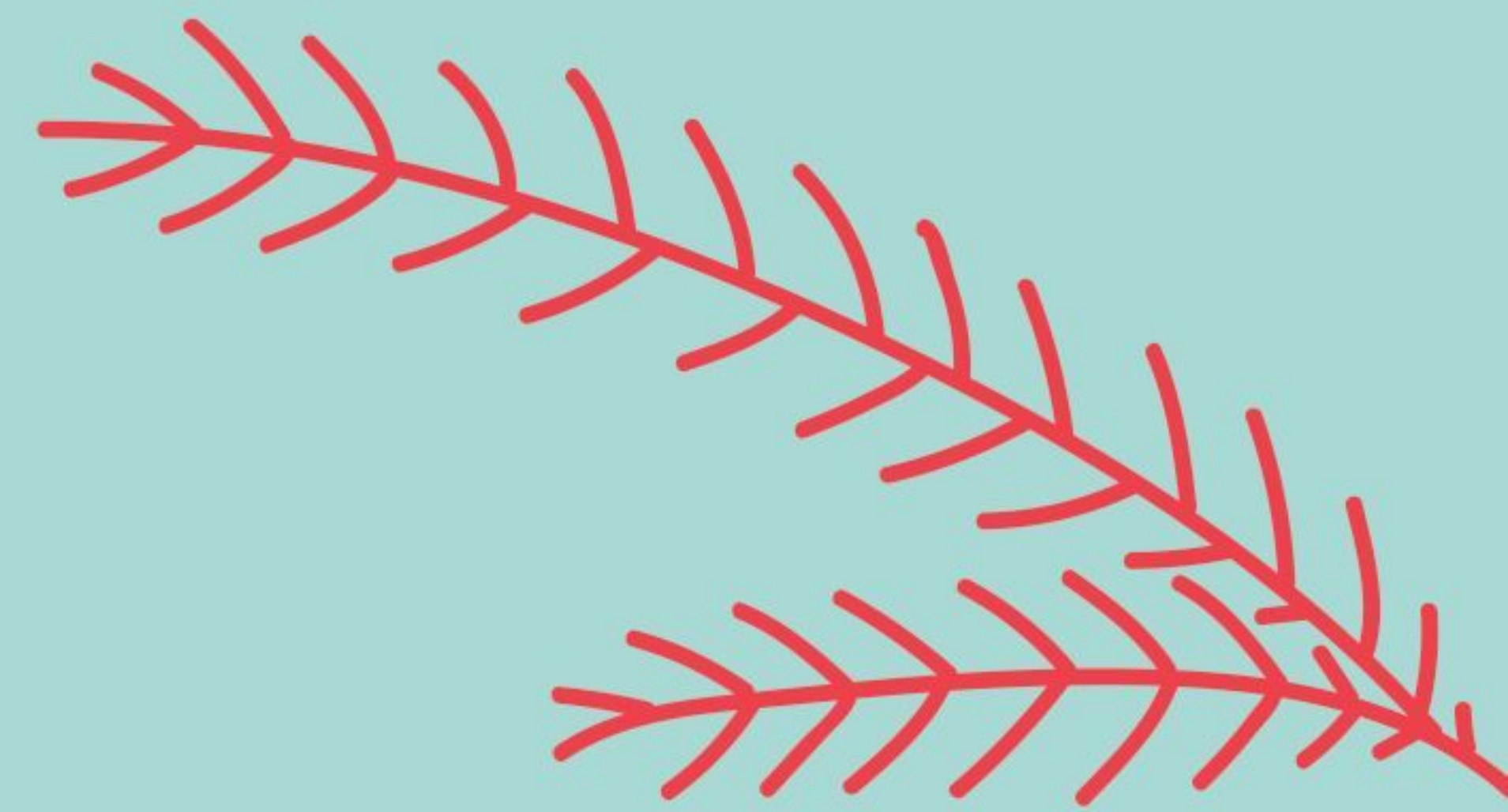
- collar. Sew gathering stitches along the crease line, then slip the dress over the pixie. Pull up the thread around the neck, adjust the gathers evenly and fasten off securely.
- 7 Trim two 6cm x 10cm pieces from red print for arms. Sew the hands to the arms and make up in the same way as the legs. Gather up the top edges, push in the seam allowance and fasten securely. Cut two 6cm x 12cm rectangles from polka dot fabric for the sleeves. Fold in half widthways, right sides facing, and join the short edges. Hem the bottom edges, then gather the top edge and push the seam allowance inwards to make a bell shape. Securely stitch to the top of the arms, then sew the arms firmly through the tunic and to the body, under the frilled collar.
 - 8 Sew the side edges of the hat together, right sides facing, and press back a 1cm turning along the bottom edge. Turn out and stuff lightly. Sew in place on top of the head. Embroider the facial features using single strands of black and red thread. Trim 5cm x 29cm from polka dot print for the scarf. Fold in half lengthways and stitch the long edges. Turn out and press, then knot and trim the ends. Tie in place around the neck. **M&ST**



Sew Clever...

When stitching intricate small shapes, it helps to mark the stitch line first using an air erasable pen

santa STOP HERE



Beginner
Friendly



YOU'LL NEED...

Fabric, red cotton
Fusible interfacing
Embroidery thread, green, white
String, 35cm
12mm wooden dowel rod, 23cm

Let's get started...

STOP SIGN

- 1 Download and print the templates from **makeandsewtoys.com**. Press medium-weight interfacing to the back of red cotton. Use the pennant template and cut out two flag shapes. Copy the embroidery design to the front of the interfaced flag, positioned towards the bottom of the flag, leave space to fold the top down later for the dowel to go through.
- 2 Separate three strands of embroidery thread and stitch the patterns. Use laced chain stitch for 'Santa' and back stitch for the rest of the lettering. Split stitch, stem stitch and couching could also be used as alternatives.
- 3 Pick up the other flag, and with right sides facing, place directly on top of the embroidered piece. Stitch all round, leaving a 10cm gap along the centre of the top edge for turning through. Trim the seam allowance at the corners and turn through to the right side, carefully pushing out the corners.
- 4 Fold the top edge down, 3-4cm to the reverse, and hand stitch all along to make a channel for the dowel. Take care to bring the needle and stitches only through the back layer of fabric so there are no stitches showing on the front. Thread through the dowel and attach a 35cm length of string to each end for hanging. **M&ST**

CREATE **CHLOE HAILWOOD'S** EMBROIDERED HANGING

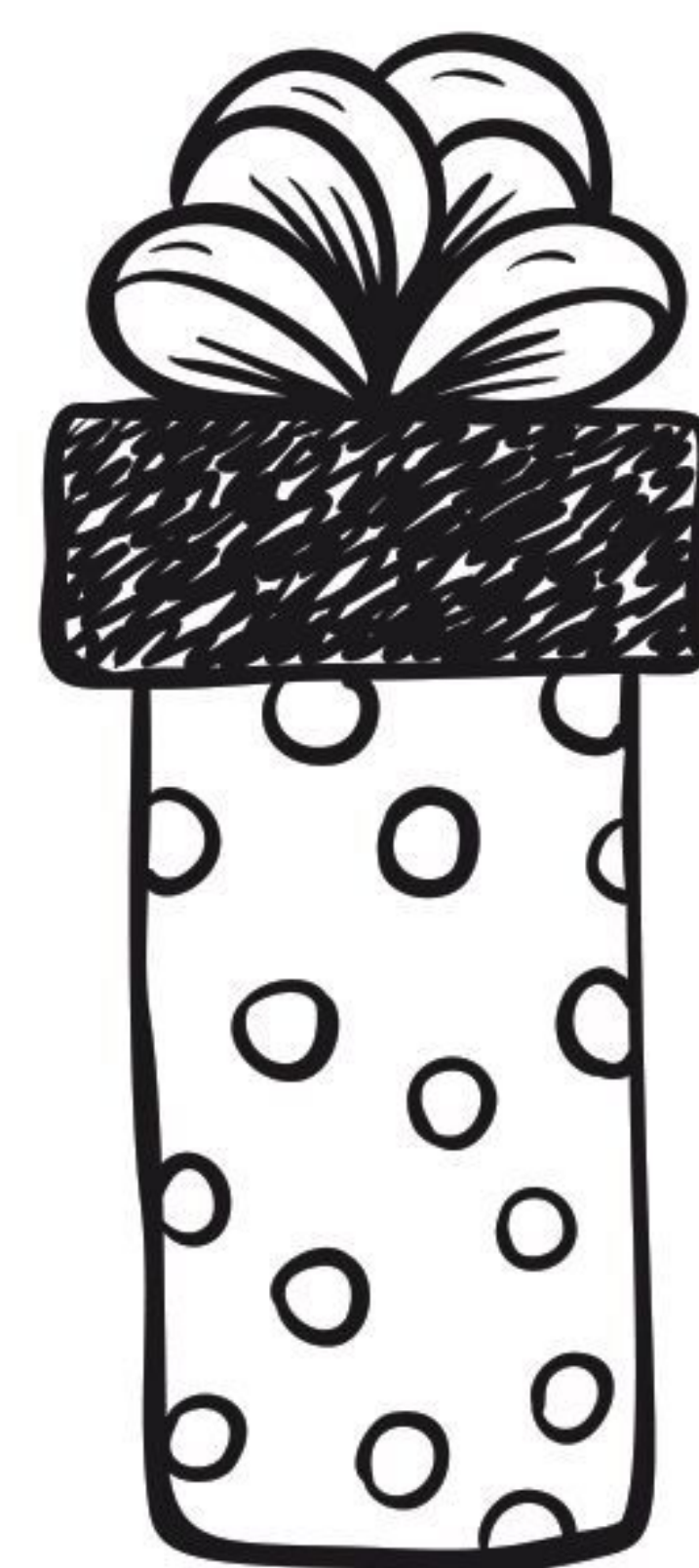


Of course you've made it to Santa's 'nice', list but an extra reminder for the big guy certainly wouldn't go a miss. Why not create one for the little ones in your life to hang on their bedroom door? It can be hung up year after year on Christmas Eve, along with a stocking and sack. Any festive fabric would work for this project, just make sure you use a contrasting thread for your embroidery so it stands out.





TOYS THAT made...



Every year there's one big toy that everyone wants to get their hands on at Christmas, and thinking back to these coveted finds just fills us with nostalgia. Here's our round-up of some of the best cult Christmas toys of the past, from the 1960s and beyond.

WORDS BY SOPHIE TARRANT



...
Christmas
GREAT!



TO
THE
1990s

THE GIRL NEXT DOOR

1963

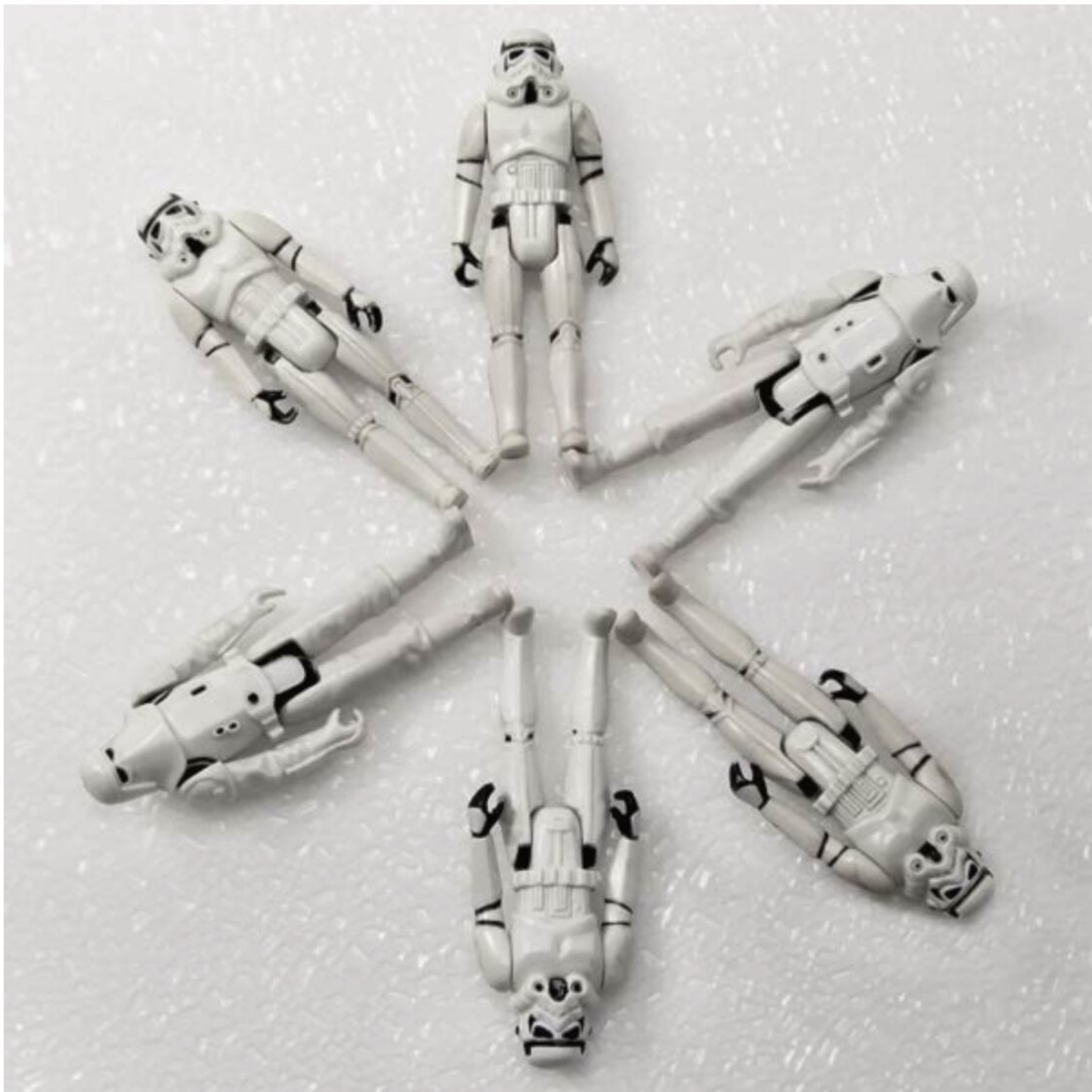
Fashion was a big deal in the swinging sixties and in **1963**, the Sindy fashion doll was top of every girl's Christmas wishlist. Launched by Exeter-based Pedigree Toys Ltd., the original Sindy range included nine different dolls with a choice of blonde, auburn, or brunette bobbed hair. Sindy's iconic wardrobe was a big part of the launch, and designers Marion Foale and Sally Tuffin (known for their work with brands including Mary Quant) were commissioned to create a selection of stylish outfits for the doll. Since then, Sindy has had a somewhat rocky road to success, with a dip in popularity in the 1990s and a triumphant relaunch just last year. To date, over 150 million Sindy dolls have been sold worldwide.



1977

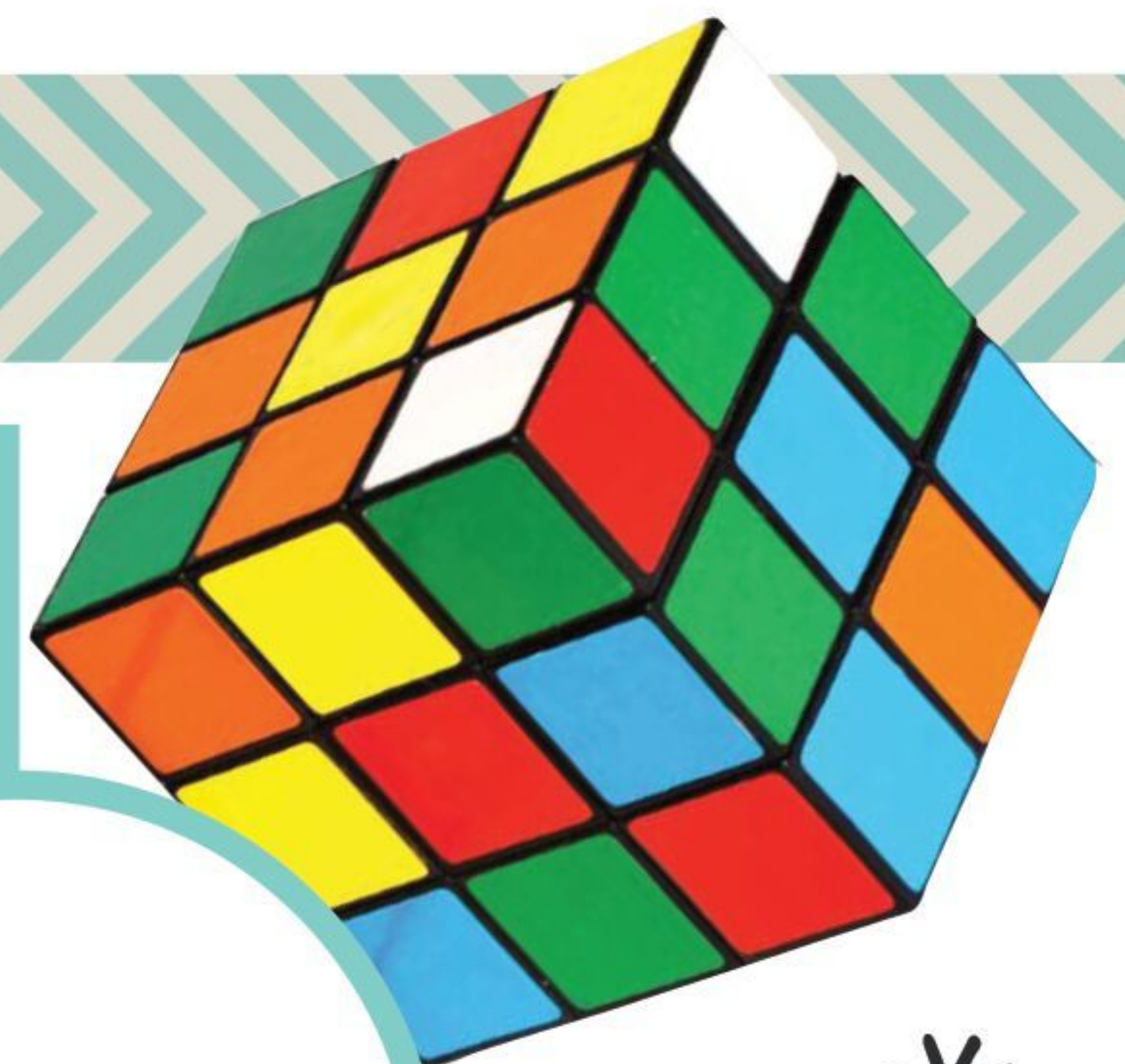
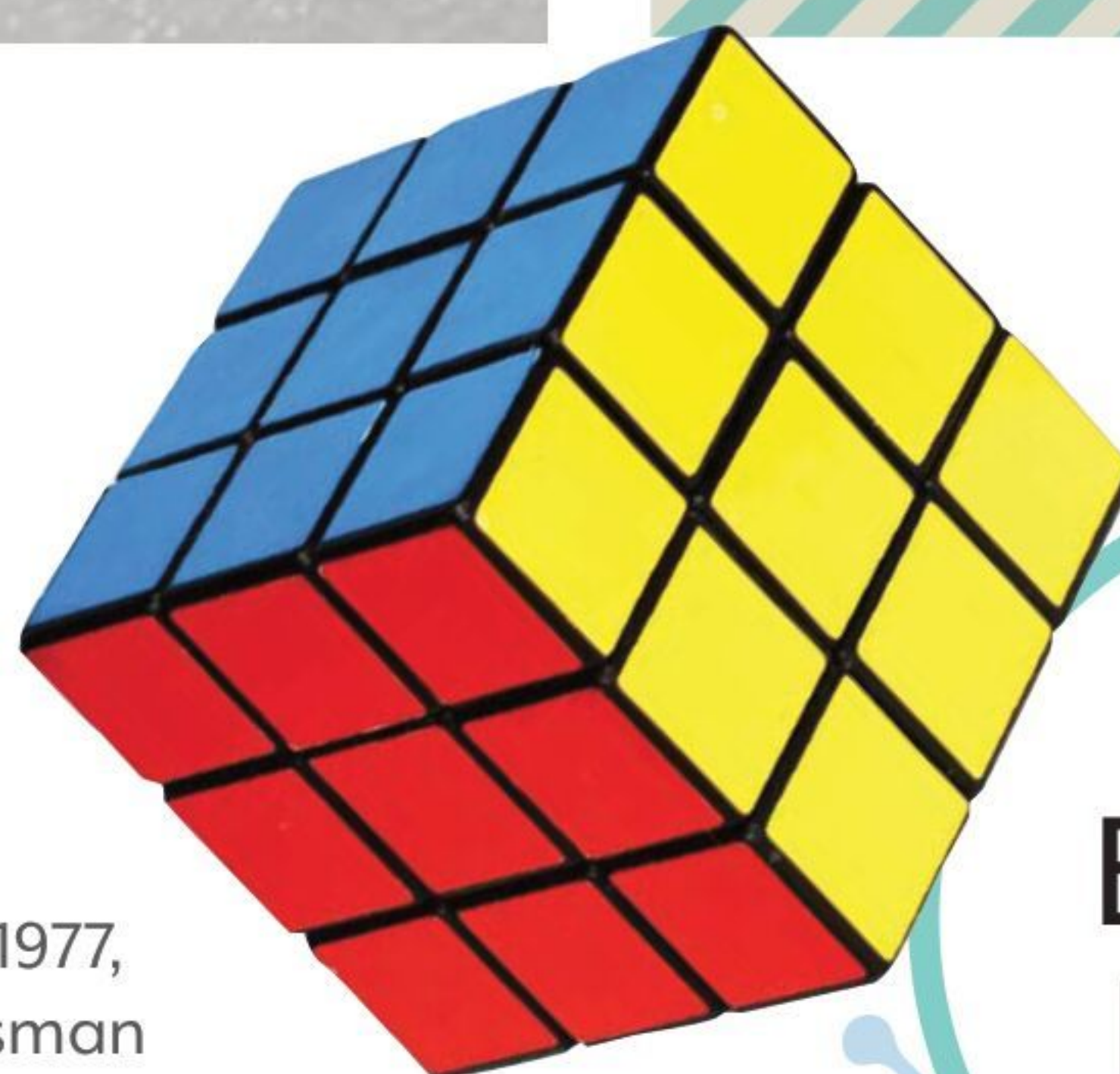
IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY

In **1977** George Lucas' *Star Wars: A New Hope* premiered and movie fans around the world fell in love with the sci-fi saga. So much so that by Christmastime that year, toy makers Kenner couldn't keep up with demand for the Star Wars action figures and instead had to issue eager collectors with an 'early bird' certificate, which could be redeemed for four Star Wars action figures when stocks were replenished in spring 1978. Despite the delay, the toys sold so well that Lucas was able to independently finance the next two chapters in the movie franchise, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*.



1980

By Christmas **1980** there was a new toy in town. In 1975, Budapest teacher Ern Rubik had created what he called a 'Magic Cube' for his students. Seeing how popular it had become, Rubik filed for a patent and in 1977, it started to be sold in local toy stores. By 1979 businessman Tibor Laczi took one of the cubes to Germany's Nuremberg Toy Fair, where it was snapped up for distribution. In a nod to its creator it was renamed the Rubik's Cube, and became a worldwide success.



BLOCK PARTY



When artist Elena Kucharik designed a new range of cards for American Greetings in 1981, she had no idea how popular the colourful, cuddly bears featured on them would become. Named the Care Bears, the characters would soon become a worldwide hit and by **1983** plush Care Bear toys were at the top of every child's Christmas list. Ten bears were featured in the original collection, each being a different colour and featuring their own 'belly badge'.



SHARING'S
CARING

1983



PATCHED UP

1983 was a bumper year for toys, with not only the Care Bears being launched but perhaps the mostly famous Christmas toy of all – the Cabbage Patch Kids. The cuddly dolls were originally created in 1978 by art student Xavier Roberts and quickly grew in popularity. Instead of paying a sale price, buyers would instead pay an 'adoption fee', and each doll would come with its own adoption certificate. By Christmas 1983 the Cabbage Patch Kids were in such high demand that a series of 'Cabbage Patch Riots' broke out across America, with customers fighting in the aisles to get their hands on the coveted toys.

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND



1996 was a year marked by toy hysteria – this time Disney's Buzz Lightyear doll from *Toy Story*. Hesitancy before the launch of the movie led to the licensing rights – which would normally be given to a global giant such as Mattel – being snapped up by a small Canadian firm, which couldn't keep up with demand. Rumour has it that 50,000 dolls were made, much less than the estimated two million required to fulfil orders. Shortages began at Easter, and some were even sold on the black market for four times the value.



1996



1985

Thanks to a popular Saturday morning cartoon, by **1985** the must-have toys on everyone's list were Hasbro's Transformer robots, especially leader of the Autobots, Optimus Prime, and his archenemy, Megatron. Though they only launched in 1984, by '85 there were over 80 variations to collect with buyers able to choose from cars, planes, and even dinosaurs.

AUTO
BOTS,
ROLL OUT



The other big Christmas hit of **1996** was the Tickle Me Elmo doll, from TV's *Sesame Street*. The cuddly toy originally went on sale in July of that year with a supply of 400,000 units. However, by November the dolls had sold out across the world. Reports of Elmo-related violence hit the news, including that of an American Walmart employee who was injured in a stampede after shoppers spotted him placing several of the coveted dolls on the shelves. By the end of December the entire stock of Tickle Me Elmos had been sold and they were being traded on the second-hand market for up to \$7,000 each. Several iterations of Tickle Me Elmo have since been launched – but none has captured the public's imagination as much as that initial batch.

1997

TUBBY TIME

In **1997** the must-have toy of the festive season was based slightly closer to home, with the BBC's *Teletubbies*. The first episode of the cult TV show aired in March 1997, and by the end of the year it was a hit not only in the UK but further afield, too. The Teletubbies dolls went on sale shortly after the program launched. It wasn't until December that a shortage of the dolls caused Teletubby mania. Demand for the cuddly toys grew so large that shoppers would be issued with tickets for store openings, and some would actually camp outside to get their hands on their favourite characters.



1998

The final addition to our list is **1998**'s hot Christmas toy, the Furby. Launched just before the festive season by Tiger Electronics, the fuzzy companions were the first successful domestic robot 'pet', following in the footsteps of the earlier Tamagotchi craze. Furbies would start out speaking their own language, known as Furbish, but over time would 'learn' to speak English. As the brand grew a cult following, various rumours circulated, including the idea that Furbies would repeat words that were frequently said around them. Whilst not true, this myth resulted in several government intelligence agencies banning the toys from their offices altogether. After the initial boom, the toys continued to be revamped with the latest version, the Furby Connect, having gone on sale in 2016.





Beginner
Friendly

Letters to SANTA

PASS ON YOUR WISHLIST TO THE BIG
MAN WITH **CORINNE LAPIERRE'S**
MAGIC ENVELOPES

Rumour has it that the big man is coming to town soon, so pop your Dear Santa letter into this felt pouch of dreams so he doesn't have to check it twice. Ideal for reusing year on year, it's a simple enough design for the kids to personalise. You could even adapt it to store a gift voucher or some money in, too. The possibilities are limitless!



YOU'LL NEED...

White felt, 15 x 25cm
Ribbon, 20cm
Mini buttons, assorted
Embroidery thread, red
Fabric glue
Embroidery needle

Let's get started...

CHRISTMAS ENVELOPE

1 On paper, draw a 15 x 25cm rectangle. Holding the rectangle vertically, with long edges at the side, draw a horizontal line (A), 9cm from the bottom. Sketch another one (B),

7cm from the top. These will be the fold lines. Mark the middle of the top edge and draw two lines from this point to the edges of line B. This will be the flap of the envelope. Curve the point slightly.

2 Cut out the template and transfer it to white felt, marking the fold lines with pins. Snip out the shape. Fold the felt along lines A and B and iron flat to mark the folds. On the front of the envelope, write the name and address of the recipient with a faint pencil line. Keep the writing neat and centre it on the envelope. Embroider with back stitch.

3 Draw the stamp and embroider it in the same way; the design could be something simple, like a rectangle with a heart or a snowflake in it. Close the sides of the envelope with blanket or overhand stitch.

4 Add small decorations to the envelope. You could make a bow with a 20cm length of ribbon and stick it on to the front of the envelope with fabric glue. Alternatively, draft a stocking or candy cane template freehand, cut one out in an alternate coloured felt and stick it on to the corner of the envelope. Add a button to the point of the flap on the back. **M&ST**



get the BOOK!

Felt Christmas Decorations by
Corinne Lapierre will walk you through
20 DIY festive projects. £4.99,
searchpress.com

Beginner
Friendly

robin PINAFORE

SEW **KIRSTY HARTLEY'S** FEATHERED
FRIEND FROCK FOR FESTIVE FROLICS

With its joyful splash of colour and perky face details, this dress is sure to have the kids beaming this season. Using just a handful of pattern pieces, it gives you the ideal chance to practise working with velvet or corduroy, and you can perfect your felt stitching and pocket-making skills. What's more, you can vary the fabric colours to create all manner of birdy buddies – black and white penguin anyone?

FABRIC swatch

Paired with thick tights and winter boots, a chunky brown corduroy like this brown option from My Fabrics is a winter wardrobe winner. £11.75 per metre, myfabrics.com



YOU'LL NEED...

Cotton, corduroy or velvet,
brown, 1m (150cm)
Fabric, red, one fat quarter
Cotton scraps, orange and beige
Felt scraps, beige
Adhesive fusible web, 30cm square
Elastic, 5mm x 2m
Buttons, two

CUTTING guide!

Front piece ◇ cut one on the fold
Back dress piece ◇ cut one on the fold in main fabric ◇ one in facing
Face piece ◇ cut two
Breast panel ◇ cut one
Pocket ◇ cut one
Strap ◇ cut four
Decorative ◇ cut one beak
◇ two eyes ◇ two feet

Seam allowances: 1cm for
main pieces, 2cm at hem

Let's get started...

ROBIN DRESS

1 Download the pattern from makeandsewtoys.com and cut the dress front, back and back facing, face piece and straps in brown fabric, checking the grain lines are parallel to the selvedge and the pile runs in the right direction. Cut a large breast panel and pouch pocket in red. Bond adhesive web to the back of orange





get the BOOK!

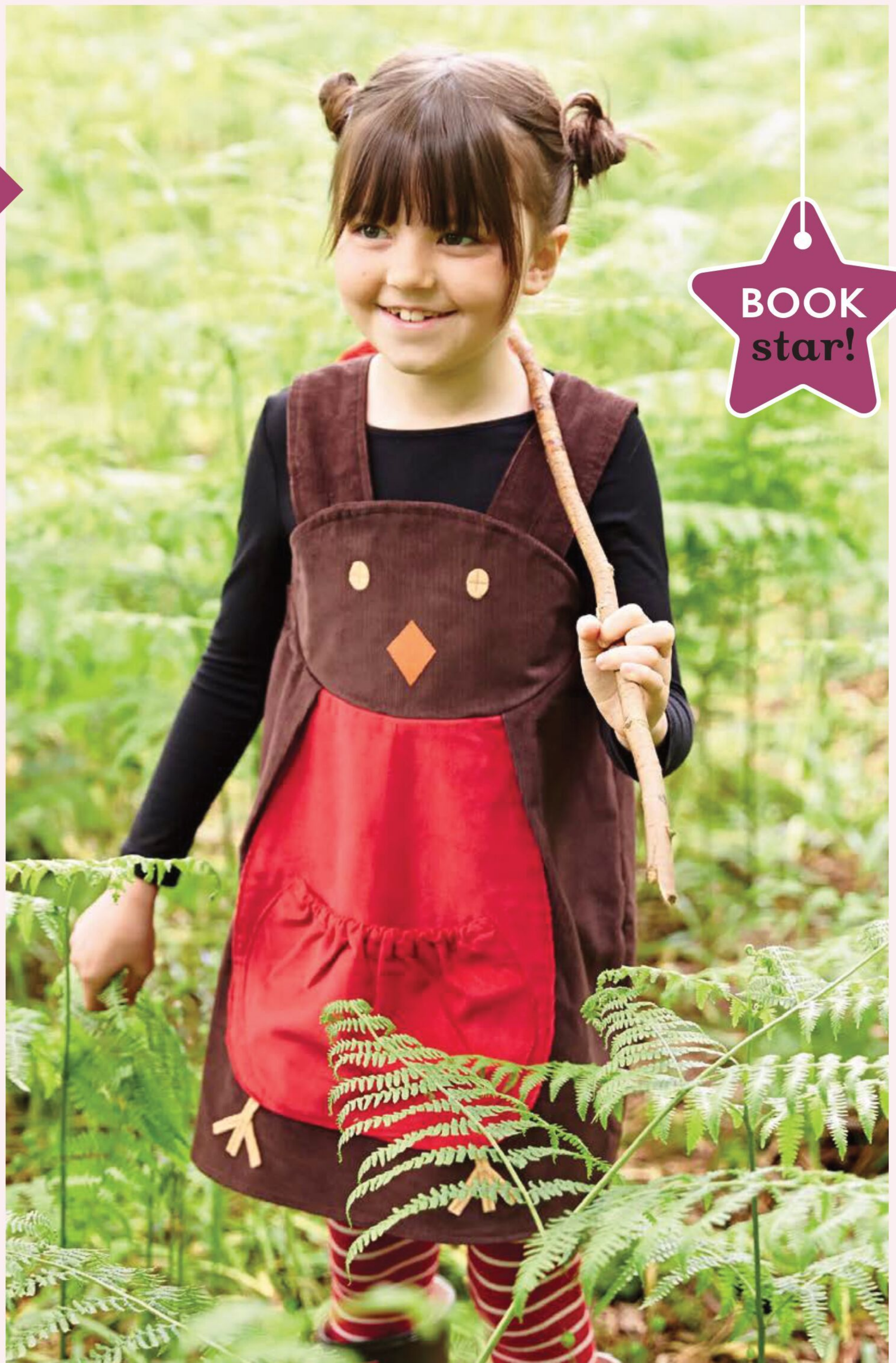
Find more fun outfits, accessories and gifts in *Wild Things To Make* by Kirsty Hartley. £25 (Orion Books), orionbooks.co.uk

and beige cotton. Using the template, cut one beak and two eyes. Peel off the backing and arrange on the right side of one face piece, then press and sew around edges. Pin the two faces, right sides together. Sew around the top edge, 1cm in. Snip allowances, turn out and press.

2 Press the red breast panel under 1cm around the side and bottom edges. Pin right side up to the right side of the brown dress front, and topstitch. Using the template, cut two beige felt feet. Pin to the dress front and sew through the centre of each strip, back-stitching at the ends. Overlock the pocket edges. Press under 2cm across the top, then topstitch. Thread elastic through the channel, gather and secure at each end. Press under 1cm on the remaining edges, then pin to the right side of the dress front. Topstitch side and bottom edges, 5mm in. Pin and sew the dress front and back, right sides together. Overlock the edges and press.

3 Pin two strap pieces, right sides together, then sew around the edges, leaving the straight, narrow end open. Snip into the seam allowances, turn out and press, then topstitch around the edges. Repeat for the other strap. Sew both in place on the dress back, right sides together. Sew two tucks on the right side of the dress front, one on each side of the red panel, with the tucks open towards the outer edges. Pin the lower edge of the face to the top of the dress front, right sides together, then stitch, overlock, turn back and press.

4 Overlock the lower, curved edge of the back facing. Pin to the dress back around the outer edges, right sides



BOOK
star!

together, then sew, trapping the straps. Snip the curved seam allowances, trim the corners, turn out and press. Slip-stitch the shorter facing edges to the dress side seams. Topstitch 5mm in from the edge. Make a buttonhole at the end of each strap and sew buttons in place. To hem the dress, overlock the edge, press under 1cm and stitch, or press under a narrow double hem and sew. **M&ST**

Sew Clever...

Consult the height, chest and waist charts inside the template download pack to find the best measurement for your dress. When following the lines for the correct size, include the side extensions for the dress back

Read

BOOK CLUB

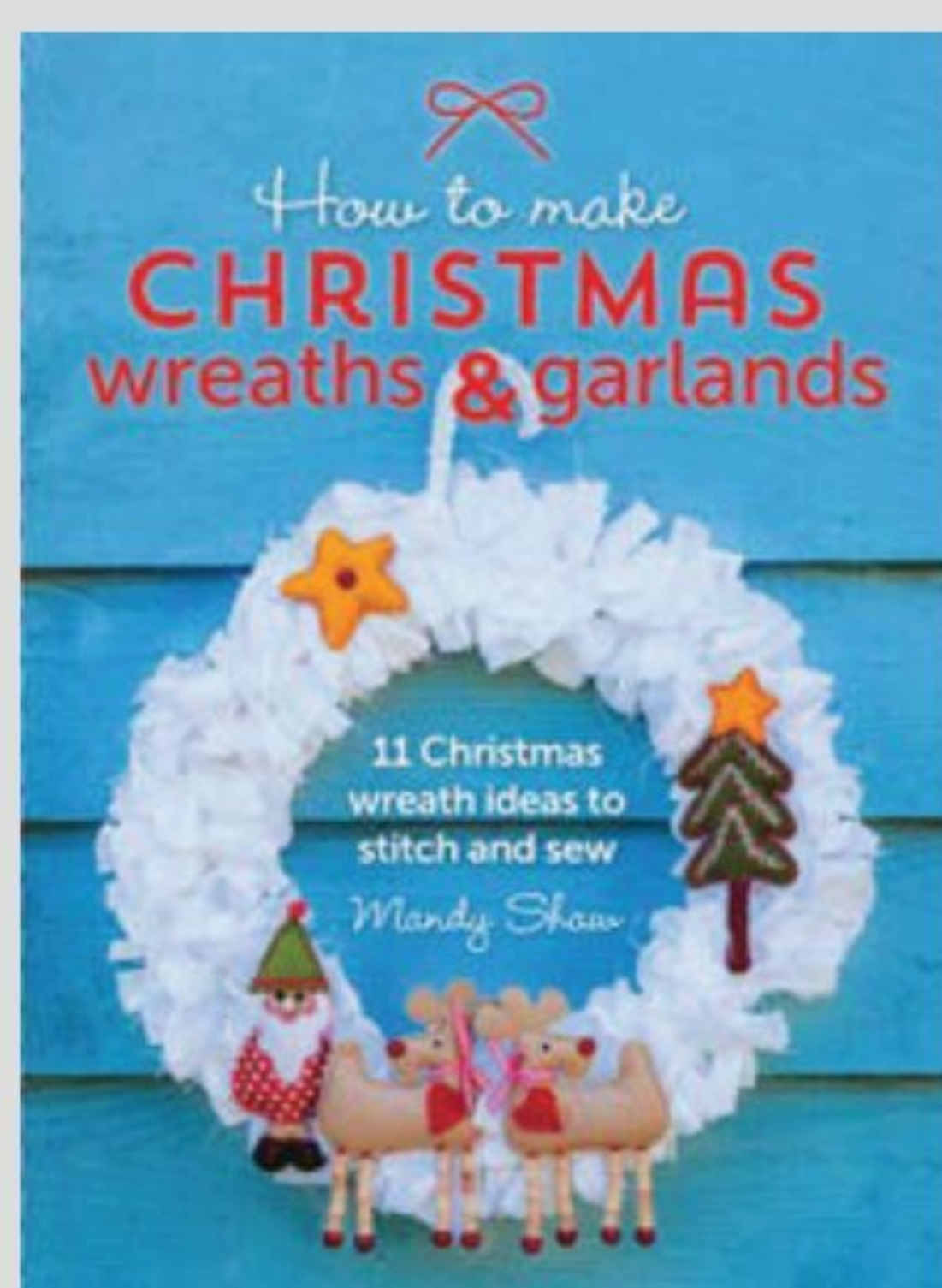


Top pick...

FESTIVE & FAST

They may not get a white Christmas Down Under, but that doesn't mean our Aussie pals don't enjoy cosy crafts during the festive season! Popular Australian quilter, Lynette Anderson has designed a gorgeous range of makes for you to try, combining simple patchwork techniques with her heart-warming style. Enjoy sewing gifts, stockings, cushions, decorations and more. *Stitch It For Christmas*, £7.99, davidandcharles.com

CHECK OUT OUR FAVOURITE FESTIVE TOYMAKING TITLES



DECK THE DOOR

Your front door isn't ready for Christmas without a wreath! Designer Mandy Shaw shows you how to use household items, such as old coat hangers, to create heirloom decs to treasure for years. Once you've mastered one of the basic bases, move on to decorating it with a whole host of festive characters. *How to Make Christmas Wreaths and Garlands*, £9.99, davidandcharles.com

FUN WITH FELT

Making all those pressies and decs can get pretty expensive, so that's why we love using felt – it's cheap, cheerful and incredibly easy to sew. Master crafter Sachiyo Ishii has put together a charming set of mini makes, from penguins to snowmen, and Santa Claus and his herd of reindeer. All the techniques and stitches you need are included in a know-how section, too. *Mini Felt Christmas*, £10.99, searchpress.com

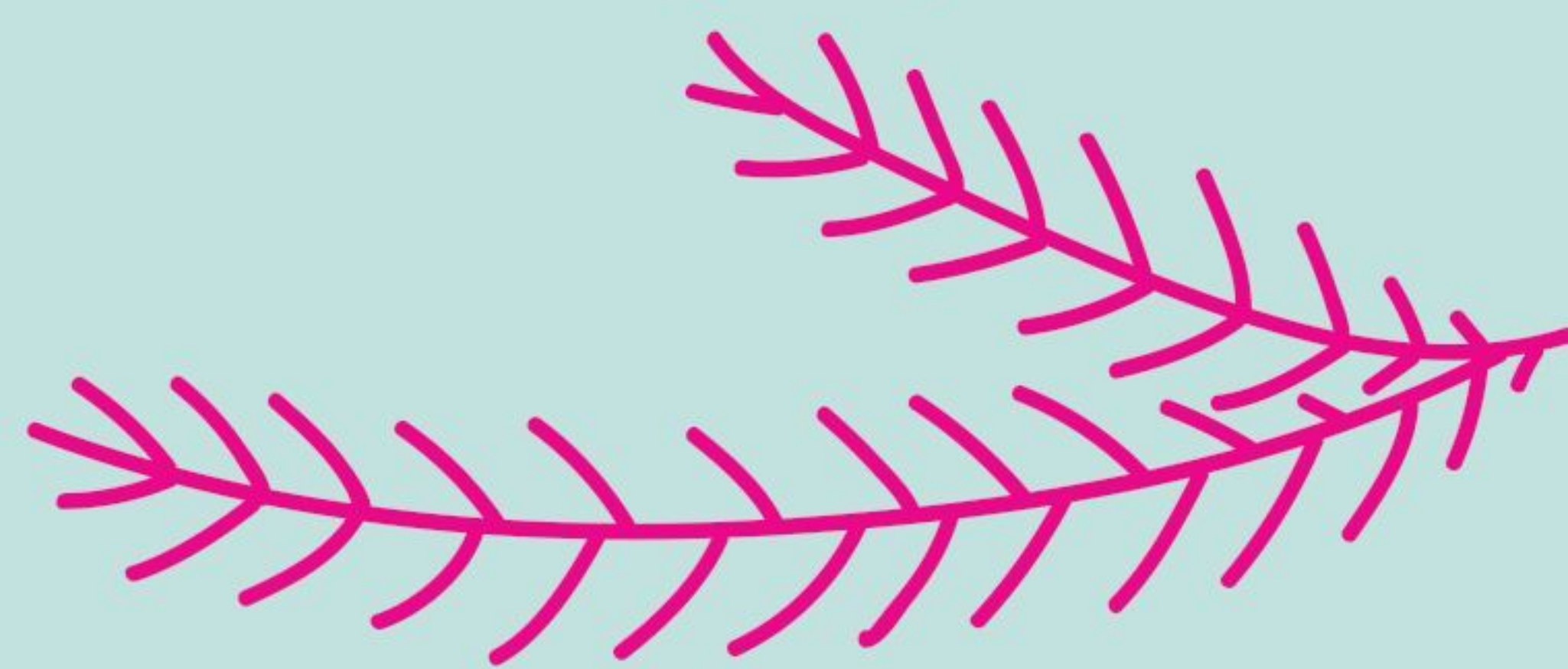
CRAFT QUEEN

By now, you know you can trust Debbie Shore – she is a best-selling and award-winning author, after all. That's why we were so excited to grab the Christmas edition of her Half Yard Sewing series to pop on our bookshelves. Themed chapters include rustic, traditional, Scandinavian and kids, with each project using no more than half a yard of fabric. There's truly something for everyone! *Half Yard Christmas*, £11.99, searchpress.com

YES TO YARN

Fancy putting down your cotton fabrics for a while and picking up some fun, fluffy yarn instead? If you haven't made a pom pom since primary school, kick things off with the simple how-to section at the front of Alistair Macdonald's book, then get stuck into his fabulous collection of 33 festive yarncrafts. Robins, gingerbread men, teddies and more will bring joy to crafters young and old. *Pompom Noël*, £8.99, searchpress.com

camel ye FAITHFUL!



Beginner
Friendly

GET A HEAD START ON YOUR HANDMADE DECORATIONS
WITH **CAROLYN LETTEN'S** BEDAZZLED BEAUTIES



Give your tree a traditional Nativity touch by making our charming camels in just three simple steps. These festive characters can be made on your machine or stitched by hand, and they're a great way to use up those colourful felt scraps, sequins and beads in your stash. Although a caravan of camels would look stunning on your tree, they are also the perfect size for present toppers – the choice is yours!



YOU'LL NEED...

Felt: mustard, cream, purple
Ribbon
Toy stuffing
Sequins
Tissue paper

Let's get started...

CAMEL DECS

- 1 Download and print the templates at **makeandsewtoys.com**. Trace the camel template onto white tissue paper, then place onto cream felt. Using brown thread for the body and black for the eye, sew over the design once, then tear the tissue away. Use the template to cut out the saddle. Pin onto the camel, then stitch in place.
- 2 Pin the camel front, right side up, onto mustard felt. Using brown thread, stitch over the first set of brown lines. Start above where the tail will be and include the section across the hump, catching a loop of ribbon for hanging. Stop just before the tail, lightly stuff and close the gap.
- 3 Cut the excess cream felt away, then trim the mustard felt to create a small border around the camel. When cutting the back end of the camel, leave the tail shape behind. Hand stitch sequins around the hump and saddle. **M&ST**

Sew Clever...

Add as much detail as possible to the front layer of felt, as then you will be working with one just pliable piece rather than a thick stack

Read



LITTLE HELPER

This fun-loving chap looks like he can't wait to get up to some mischief after a long day at Santa's workshop. This pattern from VecherniePosidelki on Etsy comes with instructions to make your elf bubble shorts, a scarf with fringe edges, a pointed hat and shoes with curled toes, which are all removeable, too!

ROCKIN' REINDEER

Although not as well-known as his cousin Rudolph, Roger is a friendly reindeer with a spotty coat and that same recognisable red nose. He would make a lovely gift for a child or simply something cute to sit on the sofa this Christmas. Find the free pattern from our friends at Sew Magazine.



FELT FRIENDS

How could you resist these adorable companions? These festive gnomes and their tiny house are just ready and waiting to be brought to life. The set would look fabulous on your mantelpiece or could easily be turned into tree decorations. Find the pattern from Bauldemalinka on Etsy.



PINTEREST

The holy grail of all things ideas and inspiration, Pinterest is a trusty resource for crafters everywhere. Here's our round-up of makes that we know you will want to get stuck into or save for later.



ICKS

INSPIRATION TO ADORN YOUR IDEAS BOARD



PENGUIN PAL

This winter companion is sure to warm young hearts. With moveable limbs, templates for a scarf to keep out the cold and three different sized fish to make sure your penguin is well fed, this pattern from My Fabric Heaven is top of our to-make list.

GET GIFTING

This pattern from sewing blog Sweet Cinnamon Roses is the perfect replacement for gift wrap – fill yours with treats or even handmade toys to delight a little one with a present they'll never forget.



KEEP IT COOL

This polar bear pattern from sewing blog Fluffmonger makes a super friendly and cuddly Arctic pal. Not only does the pattern come in two sizes, but it can also be sewn by hand or on a machine. We recommend that you whip one up on a chilly afternoon in front of the fire.



Now you're feeling inspired, head over to our Pinterest page to find all of these projects and add them to your own boards!

mr & mrs FROST

BOW FOR **SACHIYO ISHII'S** GLACIAL POWER COUPLE

Turn over to start...

COVER
star!



It's hard work ruling over an ice kingdom, but Jack and Jackie Frost still make some time for fun – on a Sunday afternoon, they like to slip on their skate boots and drift on the frozen lake in their back garden. We've dressed them up warm for the occasion with felted capes finished with pom pom trim, plus regal crowns and a silvery sceptre to halt any ungraceful slips.

Let's get started...

SNOW DOLL

1 Download the templates at makeandsewtoys.com, print and cut out. Work a gathering thread to one end of tubular gauze and draw tightly, before turning inside out. Firmly roll wool fleece stuffing into a 2cm ball. Place the ball in the centre of the wool fleece, then spread out to 10cm square. Wrap the ball with fleece and stuff it into the tube. With strong cotton thread, wrap the neck twice and pull one thread end through both loops. Pull tightly and make a knot. Wrap the head with thread and make the eyeline halfway down the head in the same way.

2 Cover the head with jersey stockinette, ensuring the grain of the fabric is running vertical. Tie the neck with strong cotton thread, same as for the head, matching the fabric colour. Pull the fabric below the neck firmly in front, so that you do not have any crease in front of the head. Gather the crease on the

back of head as much as you can. Wrap the torso with thread.

3 Cut out white felt for the king and grey felt for the queen, 12cm x 16cm each. Fold in half length ways and sew 5mm from the edge. Turn right side out and insert the torso. Work a gathering thread along the neck end of the body and stitch the body to the neck using ladder stitch, folding in the sewing allowance. Fold 1cm of the body hem into the body and make discreet stitches. Cut out the robe and sew a bobble ribbon along the hem.

4 To finish the queen, sew the grey robe at the neck. For the hair, thread soft yellow yarn through a chenille needle and make long stitches to cover the head. Leave long 20cm ends at both sides of the head to make long plaits. Trim the ends, coil the plaits and secure to the head with stitches. For the front hair, make back stitches, leaving loops on every other stitch. Sew a flower ribbon to the head.

5 With dark brown DK yarn, make French knots for the eyes, and using peach yarn, make a French knot for nose. Take two strands from dark brown embroidery thread, embroider the mouth. Stitch the ends of the crown and attach a crown to the head. To create the arms, fold doll stockinette, 2cm x 6cm, in half and sew a hand seam. Turn right side

out and stuff the hands. Sew a sleeve seam and turn right side out. Work a gathering thread along the cuff, insert the hand, and sew a hand to the sleeve with ladder stitch, folding in the sewing allowance. Wrap the neck with a white fleecy yarn and colour cheeks with pink pastel.

6 To finish the king, sew the white robe at the neck. With dark brown DK yarn, make French knots for the eyes. With peach yarn, make a French knot for the nose. Using the template, cut out faux fur for the beard and secure to the chin. Snip small pieces from the remaining faux fur for his hair and eyebrows, then stitch once happy with placement. Sew the ends of the crown and attach the crown to the head. Wrap a bamboo skewer with aluminum foil for the sceptre. Make a small bobble with foil, then push the rod in the bobble to make a dent. Insert the rod in the bobble and glue it to rod. **M&ST**



FABRIC swatch

Blue hues were spotted at this year's Ice Kingdom Fashion Week, so be sure to dress the duo in this palette – Light Blue and Teal are in vogue. £1.20 per square, corinnelapierre.com



YOU'LL NEED...

Tubular gauze, 3cm x 15cm per doll
Fabric: jersey stockinette, skin colour, 12cm square per head; 2cm x 6cm for hands; white faux fur, 10cm square

Felt: white, grey, sky blue

Wool fleece toy filling

Yarn: DK, dark brown, peach, soft yellow; white fleecy chunky

Ribbon: bobbles, 1m; white flower ribbon, scrap

Embroidery thread, dark brown

Bamboo skewer, 12cm

Aluminum foil

Glue

Fabric marker, pink pastel

Chenille needle

SIZE

14cm tall



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Riley Blake's Christmas Adventure collection celebrates all our favourite things about the season. From parcels and fairy lights, to baubles and snowflakes in green, bright red and frosty blue. Visit rileyblakedesigns.com for stockists.



A BUGS LIFE

Tired of struggling to get your needle threaded? Let this cute ergonomic Beetle Needle Threader do all the hard work for you instead. It also includes an LED light and practical lanyard holder, too. £4.55, BobbieLouFabric at etsy.com



FUN WITH FUNGI

Kids (and adults!) will love sewing this Oli&Carol Spot and Spotty the Mushrooms DIY Kit. Each pack has all you need to make two toadstools, and is suitable for ages 6 years up. £19, oliandcarol.com

SEE IT! Sew IT!

ADD THESE FABRIC, PATTERN AND HABBY TREATS TO YOUR PAYDAY LIST

NAME TAG

Finish off your handiwork by adding a personalised woven label, so everyone knows exactly who made it! You can choose from a variety of lettering styles, bright colours and motifs to create your own tag, or add a festive message to a loved one. From £14.99 for 36, wovenlabelsuk.com



JURASSIC PARK

Fans of prehistoric creatures will love this McCalls 7553 pattern which lets you sew not one, not two, but three roarsome dinosaurs, plus a fun appliqued quilt. Not only would the set make a lovely gift, it's a great opportunity to use up all those fabric scraps! £11.50, sewdirect.com



HONEY BUN

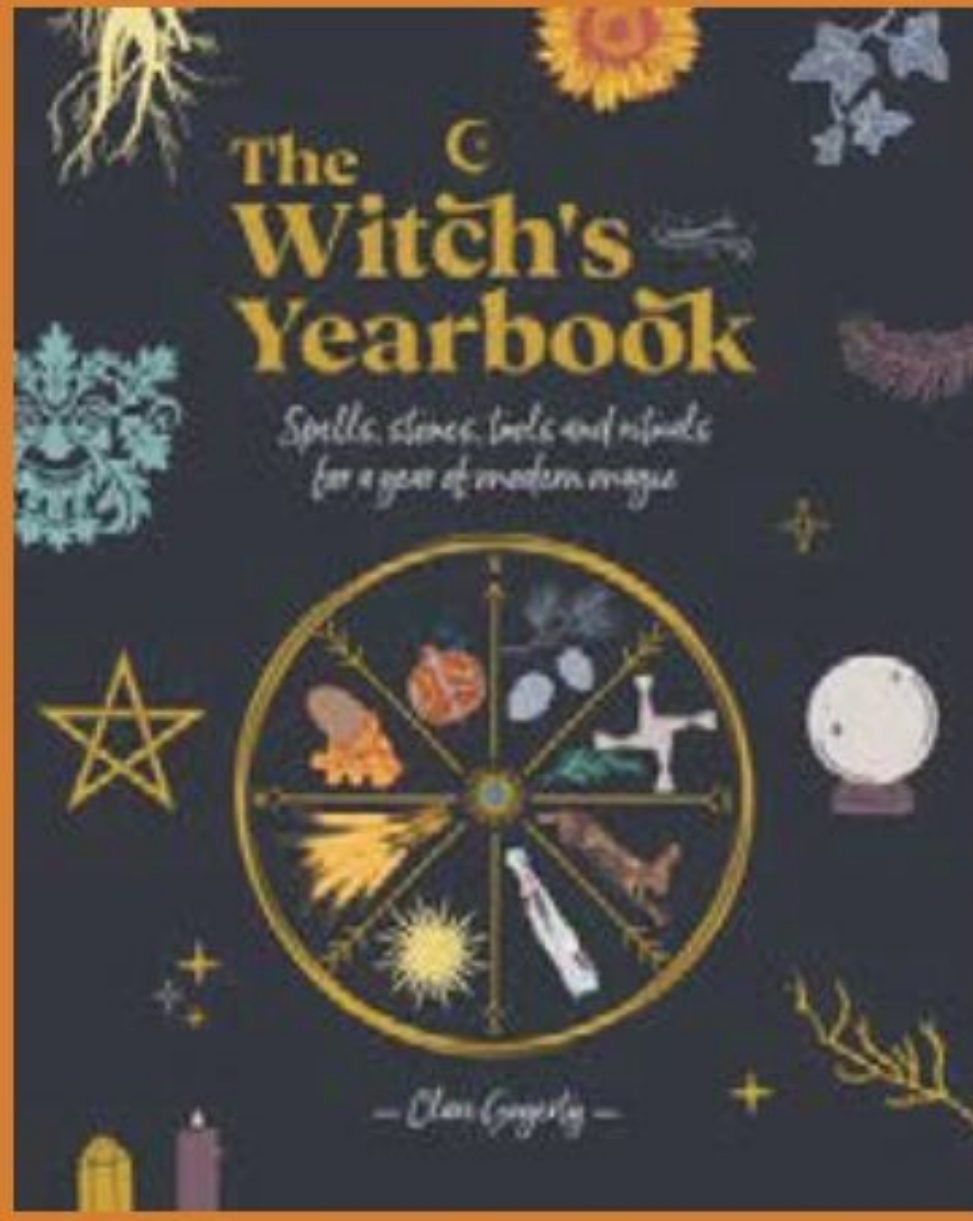
We're head over heels for the new Alice's Bear Shop kit, Rosie Rabbit. She is the first in a series of felt creature kits which include felt, cotton lawn, filling, thread, English glass eyes and buttons, plus instructions and full pattern. This cute little bunny can be hand or machine sewn. £23, alicesbearshop.com



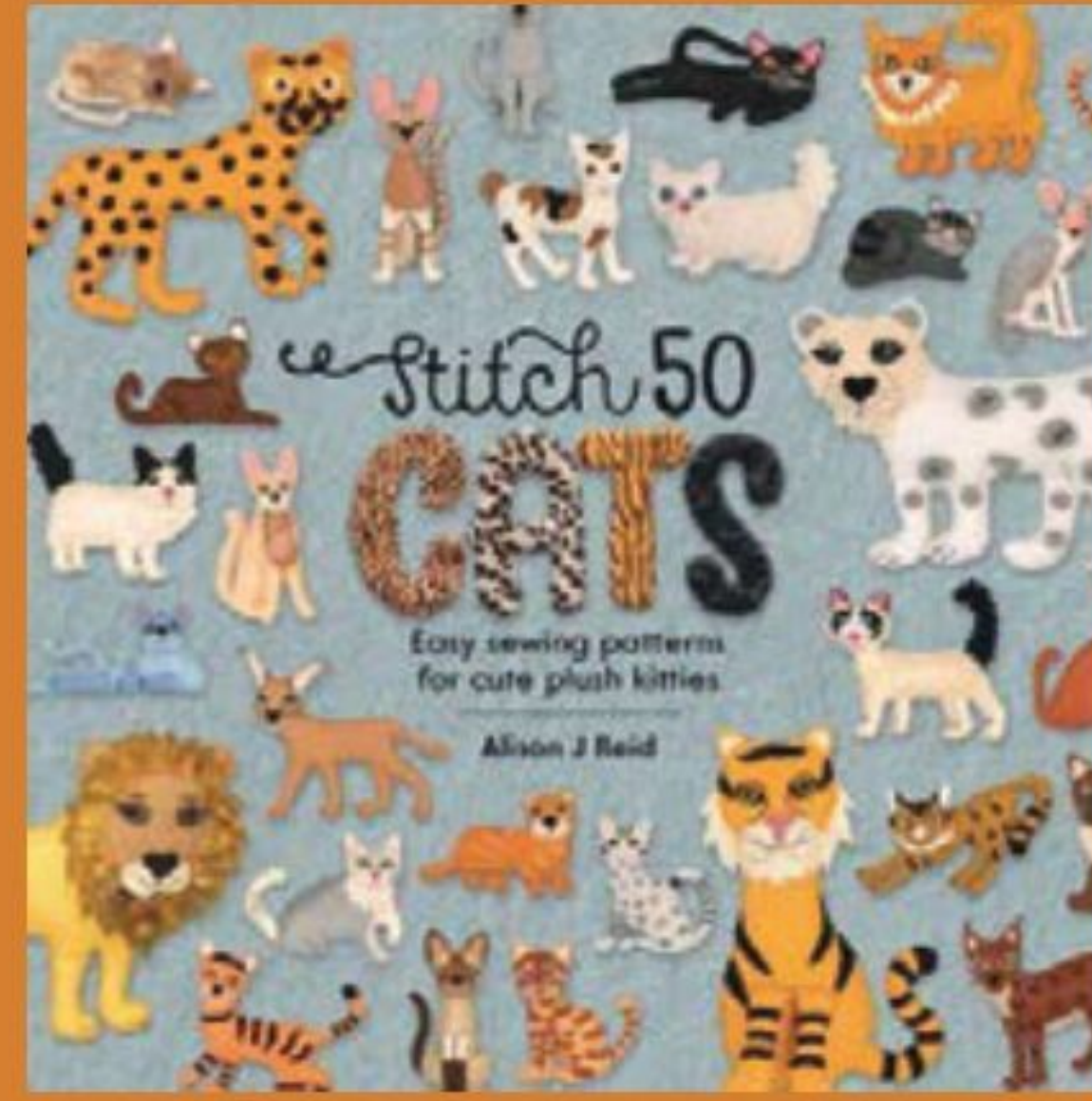
FAIRY LIGHTS

Jazz up your home with this Christmas Light Garland Kit from The Make Arcade. No need to check the bulbs – this set is made from felt! £14, johnlewis.com

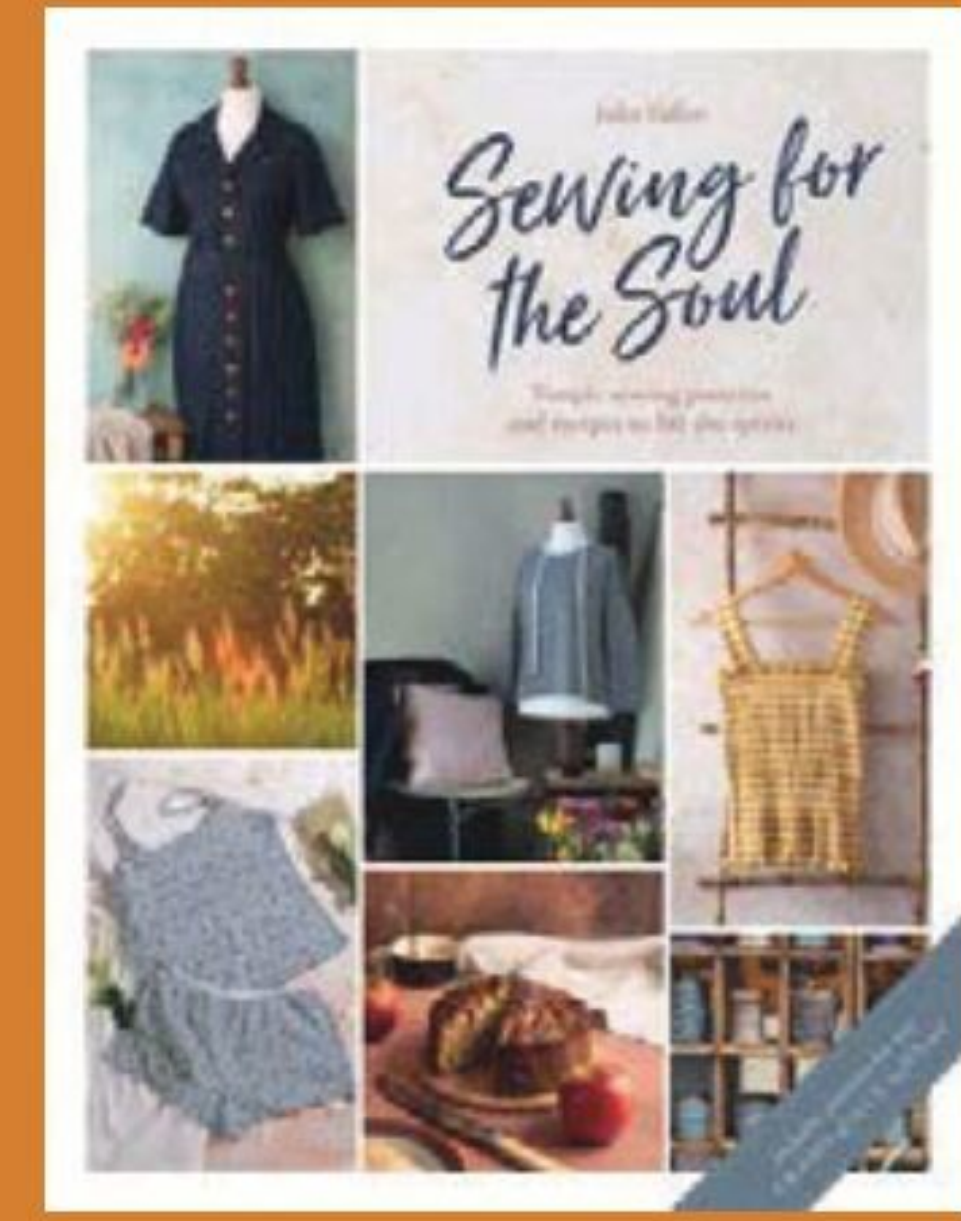
DAVID & CHARLES



The Witch's Yearbook
9781446308806 | £14.99



Stitch 50 Cats
9781446308547 | £14.99



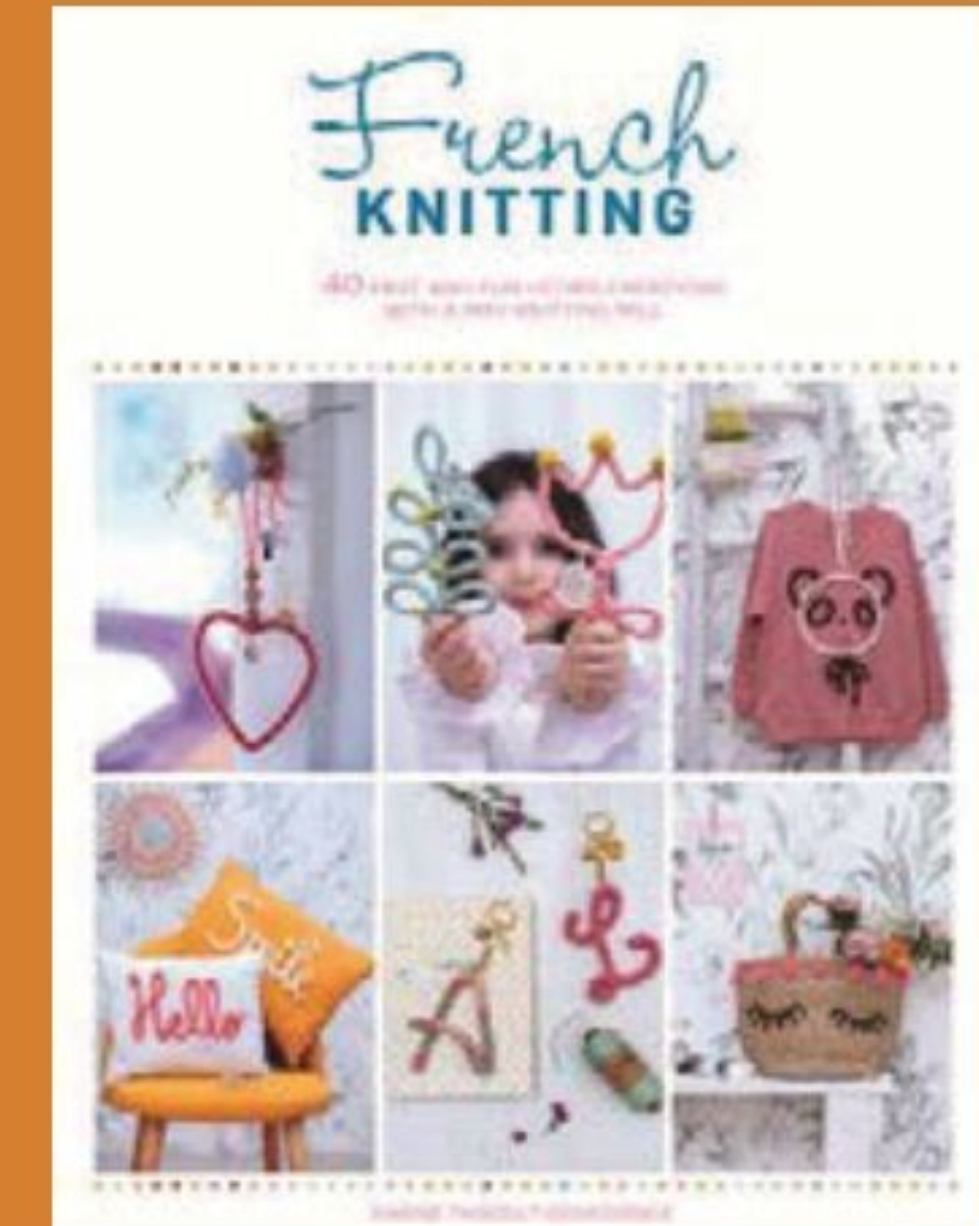
Sewing for the Soul
9781446308745 | £19.99



DIY Watercolor Christmas
9781446308448 | £15.99



Zero Waste Christmas
9781446308721 | £9.99



French Knitting
9781446308974 | £15.99

Treat yourself to a new craft book this autumn at
www.davidandcharles.com

Perfect picks for Christmas...



The Sock Knitting Bible
9781446308523 | £19.99
Created by Lynne Rowe, this is the only guide you'll ever need to knit the most beautiful of socks.



Crumb Quilts
9781446308707 | £15.99
Quilting the zero waste way, Emily will help you make beautiful quilted designs from scraps!



Mosaic Crochet Workshop
9781446308424 | £15.99
Esme Crick guides you through the mosaic crochet technique and how to harness it to make beautiful home wares!



The Gansey Knitting Sourcebook
9781446308516 | £16.99
With 150 stitches and 10 projects inspired by gansey knitting traditions this book will wow you with wearables!

Beginner
Friendly

finger PUPPETS

SET THE STAGE FOR A MINIATURE PERFORMANCE
WITH **SACHIYO ISHII'S** CUTE CHARACTERS

Move over *The Muppets*, there's a new cast of Christmas stars ready to take the stage! Budding puppeteers will enjoy hours of fun coming up with adventures for this jolly gang of felt faces – just remember to leave off the bell and stitch the pom poms securely if very young children will be putting on the show.

Let's get started...

SANTA CLAUS

1 Download and print the templates from makeandsewtoys.com. Transfer them to felt, using the image as a guide for colours, and cut out. Sew the beard to the face, then attach the nose. Sew a white hem to the front hat, then stitch the hat to the face. Attach two eyebrows. Using a chenille needle, make two French knots with four-ply

black yarn for eyes. With two strands of dark brown embroidery thread, embroider the mouth.

2 Attach the face to one of the body panels to make the front. Sew two body panels together around the edges, leaving the bottom open. Stitch the hat hem to the other hat piece and attach to the back side of the head. Sew the top edges of the hat together.

3 Sew two glove pieces together, leaving the cuff edge open. Insert the arm into the glove and secure with a few stitches. Wrap the wrist with a cuff, then sew to the body. Repeat for the other arm. Sew the jumper hems to the front and back of the body. Wrap the body with the belt and stitch. Sew on the buckle and button. Attach a pom pom to the hat.

FABRIC swatch

You'll only need a small amount of each colour of felt to make these mini puppets – try these A4 polyester sheets in red and green from Hobbycraft for just 50p each.
hobbycraft.co.uk



YOU'LL NEED...

Felt, assorted colours
Four-ply yarn, black
Embroidery thread, brown
Pom poms, white
Air-erasable marker
Chenille needle
Bell, gold
Fabric glue





PENGUIN

- 1 Transfer the templates to felt, using the image as a guide for colours, and cut out. Sew a white body piece to the wrong side of the front body panel: the tummy and face should show through the cut-out window. Using a chenille needle, make two French knots with four-ply black yarn for eyes. Attach the beak.
- 2 Sew two body panels together at the edges, leaving the bottom open. Stitch a hat hem to each hat piece, then sew the top edges of the hat together. Sew the hat onto the head,

inserting the top edge of the body into the hat. Wrap the neck with the scarf, then stitch the top edge of the scarf to the body. Insert the narrower end of the smaller scarf piece under the main scarf, and make stitches all round. Sew a pom pom to the hat.

SNOWMAN

- 1 Transfer the templates to felt, using the image as a guide, and cut out. Using a chenille needle, make two French knots with black yarn for eyes. With two strands of dark brown embroidery thread, embroider the mouth. Stitch buttons onto the front.
- 2 Sew the two body panels together. Stitch two hat pieces together at the top and side edges, leaving the bottom open. Insert the top edge of the body into the hat, then stitch the hat to the head. Wrap the neck with the scarf and stitch the top edge to the body. Insert the narrower end of the smaller scarf piece under the main scarf and make stitches all round.

JOLLY ELF

- 1 Transfer the templates to felt, using the image as a guide for colours, and cut out. Place the face piece on top of the collar and sew together. Stitch the hair onto the face. Attach the nose and cheeks. Using a chenille needle, make two French knots with four-ply black yarn for eyes. With two strands of dark brown embroidery thread, embroider the mouth.
- 2 Stitch the head to one of the body pieces to make the front panel. Attach buttons onto the body. Sew the hat hem to the hat, then stitch the bottom edge of the hat to the hair. Sew two body panels together at the sides and top: the top has three layers with the hat attached to the front panel. Sew two hand pieces together at the edges, leaving the wrist open. Insert the arm into hand and secure. Wrap the wrists with a cuff and secure the cuff to the body. Attach a pom pom to the hat.

REINDEER

- 1 Transfer the templates to felt, using the image as a guide for colours, and cut out. Sew the muzzle to one of the body panels to make a front piece, then attach a red nose. Using a chenille needle, make two French knots with four-ply black yarn for eyes. With two strands of dark brown embroidery thread, embroider the mouth.
- 2 Glue two antler pieces together and leave to dry. Repeat for the other antler. Stitch the front and back body panels together, sandwiching antlers inside the top. Sew two hooves together at the side edges, then insert the arms into the hooves. Secure the hooves to the body. Thread red four-ply yarn through a bell, then stitch around the neck.

M&ST

Sew Clever...

If you're new to embroidery, practise French knots on some scrap felt first to perfect the technique



FABRIC swatch

Little hands are sure to appreciate a super-soft cotton with a fun, colourful print. We love this Santa Express pick from Makower. £12 per metre, rooftopfabrics.com



YOU'LL NEED...

Fabric: cotton, plain, Christmas prints; fleece
Bias binding
Tear-away embroidery stabiliser
Fusible webbing
Embroidery thread
Toy filling
Wadding
Embellishments: buttons; ric rac, silver; red; ribbons, assorted
Card
Glitter glue
Adhesives

1cm seam allowance used throughout, unless otherwise stated.



Beginner Friendly

baby's first CHRISTMAS

STITCH **CAROLYN LETTEN** AND **SOPHIA PALMER'S**
SPECIAL SET FOR A LUCKY LITTLE ONE

There's nothing like a new baby in the family to reignite the magic of Christmas. Use machine embroidery to personalise this trio of heirloom gifts, each designed to commemorate that first year of festive cheer. Once the little one has grown out of their comfort blanket, and the card has come down from the mantelpiece, they can be popped away in a memory box to be cherished for years to come, while the mini baby grow decoration can be brought out every year to hang on the tree.

Let's get started...

BLANKET

1 Download and print the templates from makeandsewtoys.com. Cut fleece, 45cm square, fold it in half to make a triangle, then fold the side points to meet in the middle to make a smaller square. Tack the top folded point together.

2 Using the template, cut two large star shapes. Sew these right sides

together, leaving a small gap in the bottom-centre of the star. Turn through to the right side and press flat, folding the seam allowance up at the bottom. Stuff the star, then place the tacked corner of fleece into the bottom. Pin in place.

3 Hand sew the gap closed, encasing the fleece using a modified ladder stitch. Make sure the stitches are small and tight. On one front corner of the blanket, mark out where you want the wording to be. Trace the template

wording onto tear-away embroidery stabiliser and pin in place. Using free motion embroidery, sew the wording and rip the paper away.

4 Trace the small star template onto fusible webbing and loosely cut out. Iron onto the back of a scrap of cotton and snip out neatly. Use a small zig zag stitch to appliqué the star in place. Cut a two metre length of cotton bias binding. Sew this to the edge of the fleece and hand sew the binding to the reverse. Press to finish.

BABY GROW ORNAMENT

1 Using the templates, draw and cut out one vest shape from cotton fabric. Mark out where you want the wording to be. Trace the template wording onto tear-away embroidery stabiliser and pin in place to the front of the vest. Using free motion embroidery, sew the wording and rip the paper away. Trace the small star template onto fusible webbing and loosely cut out. Iron onto the back of a scrap of cotton and snip out neatly. Use a small zig zag stitch to appliqué the star in place.

2 Cut a larger piece of cotton and wadding. Place the cotton right side up onto the wadding, then lay the vest shape, right side down, on top. Pin in place. Insert a loop of ribbon in the top of the vest, with the raw edges outside and the loop inside between the cotton fabrics. Sew around the vest, leaving a small gap in the side. Turn the through to the right side, press flat and hand sew the gap closed.



“You can change the font by printing out new wording from the computer, or use your own writing instead”

DESIGNER SOPHIA PALMER



CHRISTMAS CARD

1 Stick blue snowflake fabric to the front of a decorative card blank, 14.5cm square, ensuring 1cm overlaps the spine onto the back. Stick silver ric rac around the raw edges of the fabric and adhere the ends on the reverse.

2 From printed fabric, trim a toy sack and green parcel, adding a 2mm border. Cut a square, 5cm, from striped fabric. Adhere them onto a large scrap of card with glue, slightly overlapping them. Allow to dry. Stitch around the edges of the fabric, then trim away the card. Use foam pads to mount it onto the bottom right corner

of the main card. Decorate the fabric square with red ric rac to make a parcel.

3 Cut out a reindeer from printed fabric, stick to scrap card, stitch around the edge and cut away the card. Mount above the parcel. Trace the words from our template onto a cream tag, 4.5cm x 8cm, and fill in the letters with black ink. Allow to dry.

4 Give the tag a lace border, add a line of glitter glue to the edges and leave to dry. Mount onto the card and add a red gingham bow to the top. Apply spots of glitter glue to the snowflake background and fix a star button to the top-right. **M&ST**

WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,
providing you various content:
brand new books, trending movies,
fresh magazines, hot games,
recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price

Cheap constant access to piping hot media

Protect your downloadings from Big brother

Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages

Brand new content

One site



AVX LIVE . ICU

AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open <https://avxlive.icu>



Beginner
Friendly

juggling BALLS

DON'T PLAY WITH YOUR FOOD... WELL, UNLESS
IT'S **CHLOE HAILWOOD'S** SPROUTS!

Love them or loathe them, it wouldn't be a traditional festive dinner without the most controversial of vegetables on your plate, the Brussels sprout! The good news is that you can now continue your enjoyment of them after dinner by creating this set of juggling sprout balls – what better way to work up an appetite for that evening turkey sandwich? Add glitzy details to your sprouts to give them maximum personality, and we think they'll make an excellent stocking filler.

FABRIC swatch

You'll find a veritable banquet of coloured felts for your brassicas from £1.20 per square, corinnelapierre.com



YOU'LL NEED...

Felt: dark green, light green
Toy eyes, 10mm, four
Embroidery thread
Glitter glue
Toy filling
Dried pulses or rice for weights

Let's get started...

SPROUT BALLS

1 Download and print the templates from makeandsewtoys.com. For each juggling ball, use the templates and cut out four body pieces and two of each shape outer leaf. Make small slits on the leaves as indicated by the templates. Push a pin through the dots on the body template and use this to mark where the eyes should be on one body piece. Embroider or add dolls eyes, then embroider and decorate the other face details.

2 Take another body piece, and with right sides together, stitch the face piece down one curved side, starting and stopping 5mm from the pointed tips. Select another body piece and repeat on the opposite side of the face piece. Add the fourth body piece before bringing the last two open sides together and stitching, this time leaving a 5cm gap in the centre for turning through. Constructing the ball in this order means the hand stitched closed gap will be hidden at the back.

3 Add some dried pulses or rice at the base of the ball, then fill with toy stuffing. Close the opening with whip

stitch. Pick up the leaves and topstitch with contrasting thread around the top edges. Bring together and overlap each side of the slit of a leaf slightly to make a curved shape and secure with a few stitches, repeat for all.

4 Add the leaves to the base of the ball in layers, positioning and stitching one at a time. Stitch to only the bottom section of the ball, about 3cm to each side of the slit. Make a small pleat in each leaf to give shape and mould round the ball and secure with some small stitches to finish. **M&ST**



“Make your sprouts extra festive with gold thread topstitching or glitter felt party crowns”

DESIGNER
CHLOE HAILWOOD



SIMPLY FESTIVE

How sweet is the Cranberry fabric from the Moda Christmas Morning range? We adore the winter floral illustrations mixed with a traditional colour palette. For stockists, visit modafabrics.com



TWINKLE STAR

Whether you want to stitch your dolly a glam party outfit, or just fancy adding a hint of sparkle to your next make, these glass beads will catch the light beautifully for a hint of Christmas magic. £3 per 10g, selfmade.com

STEP UP

If you're looking to take the next step with your toymaking, consider the Janome 230D – it's a fully computerised model complete with 30 pre-programmed stitches, LCD screen and extra needle penetration power, allowing you to sew heavier fabrics. £379, janome.co.uk



GET STARTED

The Singer Promise 1408 is designed with beginners in mind. You'll enjoy a super-easy set-up, plus eight built-in stitches including basic, decorative and buttonhole – all the features a toymaking newbie could wish for. £135, singer.com



beginner MUST-HAVE

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FAST FIX

Fabric glue can be a lifesaver if you're in a hurry, especially if you're batch-making a whole set of gifts. The Gütermann HT2 Textile Glue sticks to all kinds of materials including cotton, denim, felt and wool, and it's solvent-free. £5, sewessential.co.uk

HOLE IN ONE

An awl is a must-have for making small holes in fabric, especially heavy duty ones like leather. This one from Clover has a ball-point tip, ensuring the thread doesn't split and the fabric stays looking good as new. £9, sewessential.co.uk



ALL IN RED

There's nothing that can't be improved by a pretty ribbon trim – this pick, seemingly inspired by Father Christmas' iconic outfit, combines luxe red and gold for ultimate holiday vibes. £2.50 for 3m, selfmade.com



WINTER WONDERLAND

Classic Scandi motifs, pretty florals and twinkly metallic accents – we don't think we could love the Dashwood Studios Starlit Hollow collection more if we tried! £15 per metre, plushaddict.co.uk

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Beginner
Friendly

dapper BOW TIE

LOOK SMART AT THE DINNER TABLE WITH
SUSIE JOHNS' STYLISH ACCESSORY

Christmas day outfits are a hotly debated topic – do you stay in your PJs all day, or get dressed to impress in a flashy new get-up? If you prefer the latter, this classy bowtie is the perfect finishing touch for your little lad's ensemble. And if you want to make the tie adjustable, simply purchase a bow tie fastening kit.

Let's get started...

BOW TIE

- 1 Measure and mark out the following pieces: two 13cm x 26cm rectangles for the bow and two 4cm x 67cm rectangles for the strap. Snip out. Cut two pieces of fusible interfacing, 6.5cm x 24cm. Place one piece of interfacing in the centre of each of the two bow pieces. Lay non-stick baking parchment on top of the interfacing and press with a hot iron to fuse in place. Fold the two long edges of each piece towards the centre, folding the fabric along the edge of the interfacing on each side. Press.
- 2 Take the two ends of each piece and bring them to meet in the centre, then press. Machine stitch down the centre of each folded piece, on either side, to hold the ends in place. Place the two bow pieces together, with the neat sides facing out. Hand stitch down the centre with a small running stitch, through all thicknesses, to join

the two together. Wrap the thread round and round the centre, pulling it tightly, to form the bow shape.

- 3 To make the bow centre, cut a rectangle, 9cm x 12.5cm. Fold the piece in half, right sides together, and sew down the long edge with a 1cm seam allowance. Press the seam open. Turn right side out, position the seam down the centre of one side, and press. Reserve this piece while you make the strap.

- 4 To make the strap, join the two pieces along one short edge with a 1cm seam allowance. Press the seam open. Fold the strip in half lengthways, with right sides together, and sew down the length with a 1cm seam allowance. Trim the seam allowance, then turn the strip right side out with the aid of a loop turner. Press the strap. Insert one end through the ring on the hook. Double the end back on itself, tucking the raw end under. Pin, then stitch firmly, oversewing the edges together.

- 5 Thread the other end of the strap through both spaces on the buckle, through the ring, then back through the buckle. Double the end back on itself, tucking the raw end under. Pin, then stitch firmly, oversewing the edges together. Place the bow in the centre of the strap. Wrap the bow centre around the middle of the bow, with the ends overlapping on the other side of the strap. Fold the ends under, to neaten, then sew them together. **M&ST**

get the BOOK!

Discover retro-inspired projects inside *Fat Quarter: Vintage* by Susie Johns, published by GMC Publications, RRP £12.99, available online and from all good bookshops.



FABRIC swatch

Recreate the '70s look with this paisley print from the Red White & Bang! Collection. For stockists, visit rileyblakedesigns.com



YOU'LL NEED...

Fabric, cotton, one printed fat quarter
Fusible interfacing, medium-weight
Bow-tie fastening kit
Baking parchment, non-stick
Loop turner

SIZE

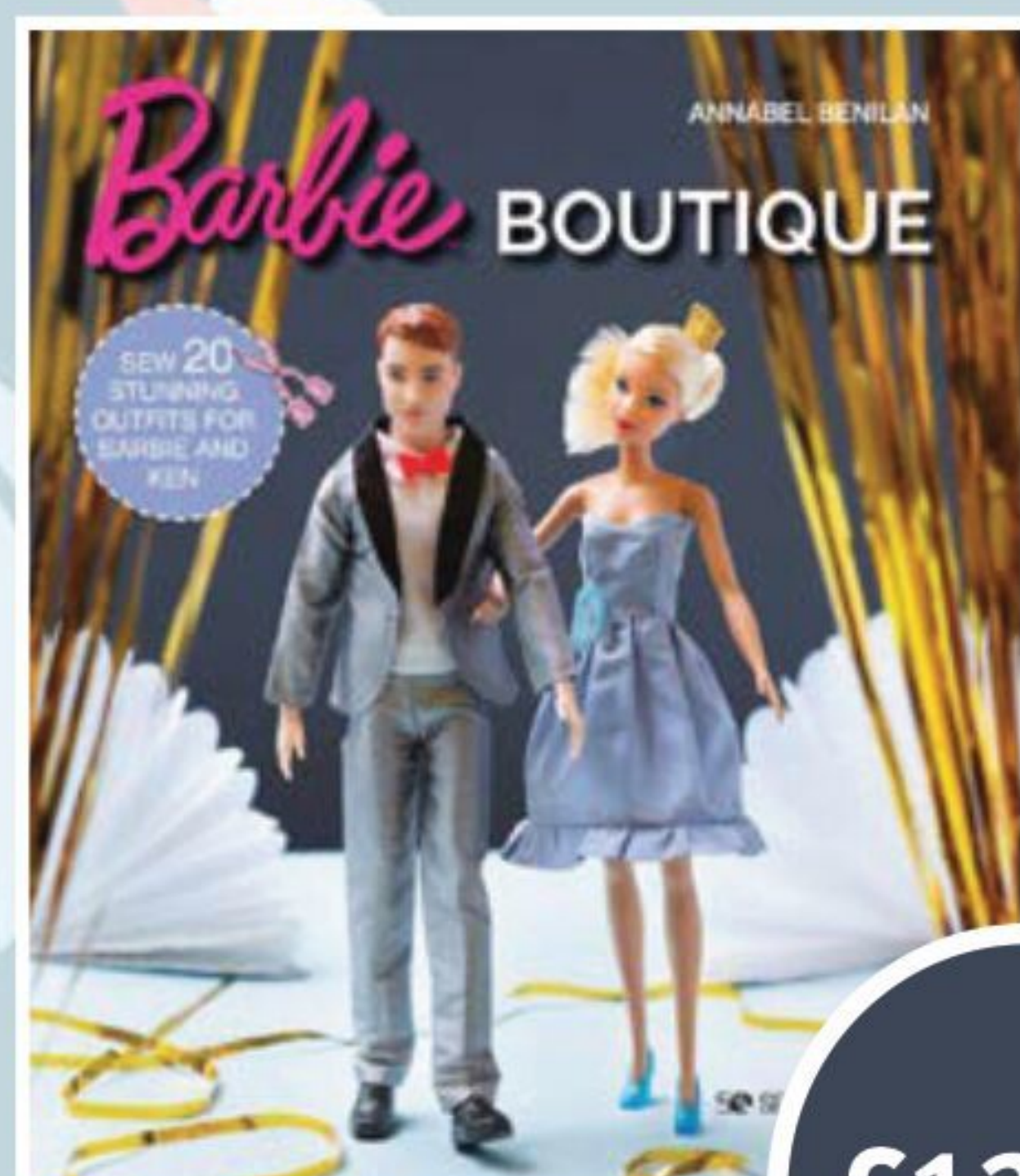
The strap is adjustable
to fit most neck sizes

Sew Clever...

Making a narrow tube of fabric can be fiddly, but the task is easier if you use a loop turner – a long metal pin with a ring on one end and a clip on the other. Insert the loop turner into the tube of fabric and attach the clip to the end of the seam, then pull the loop turner back

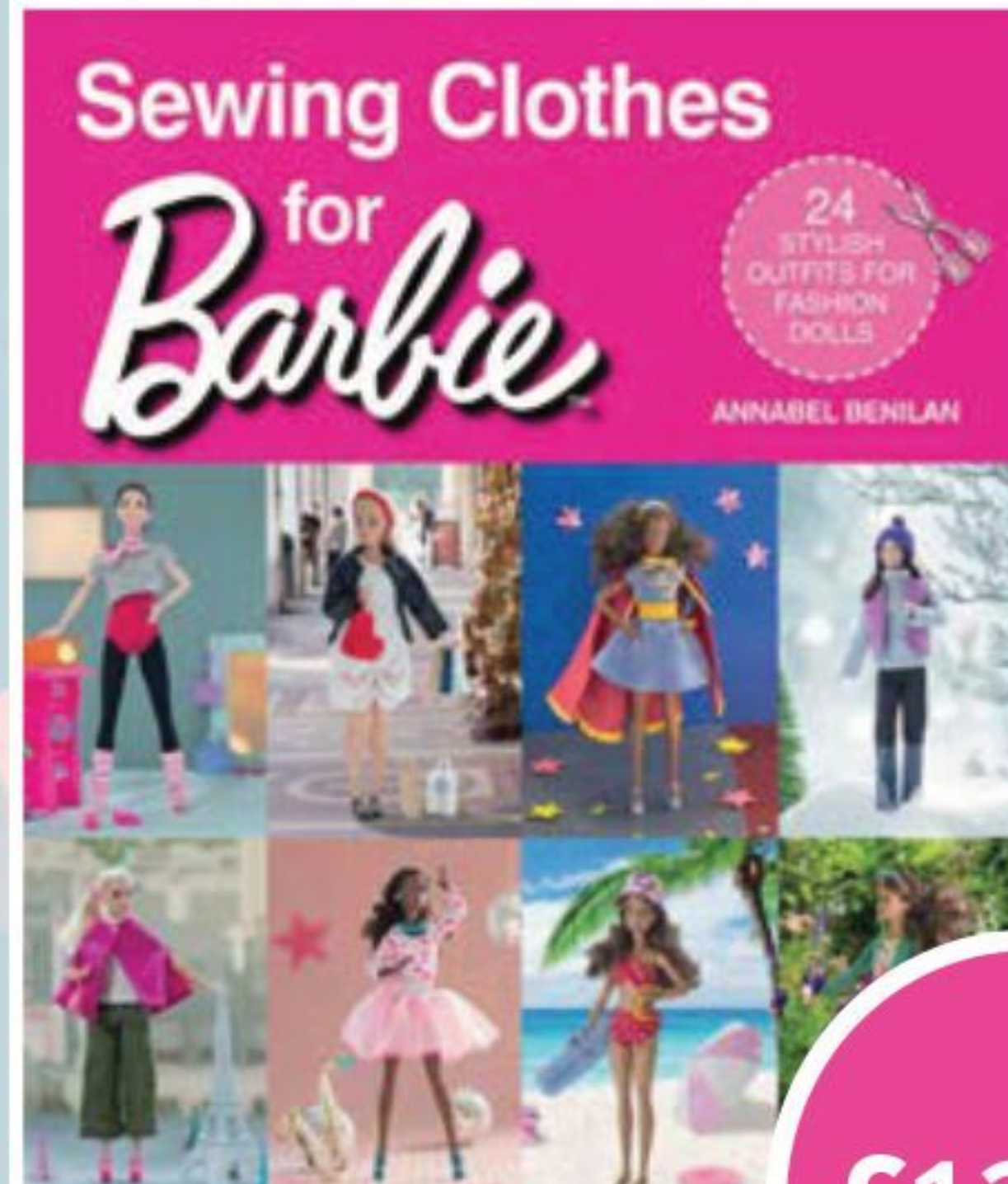


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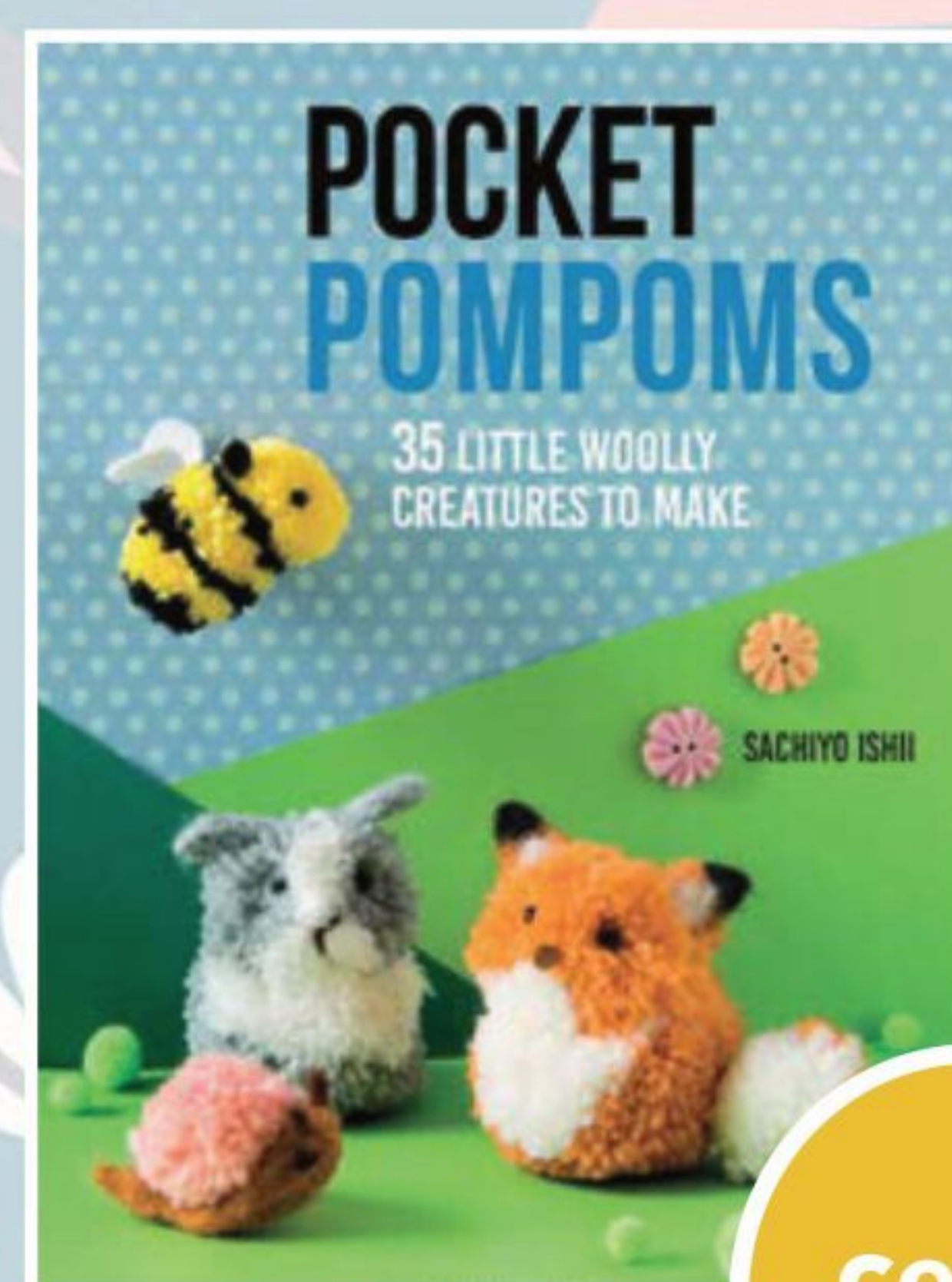
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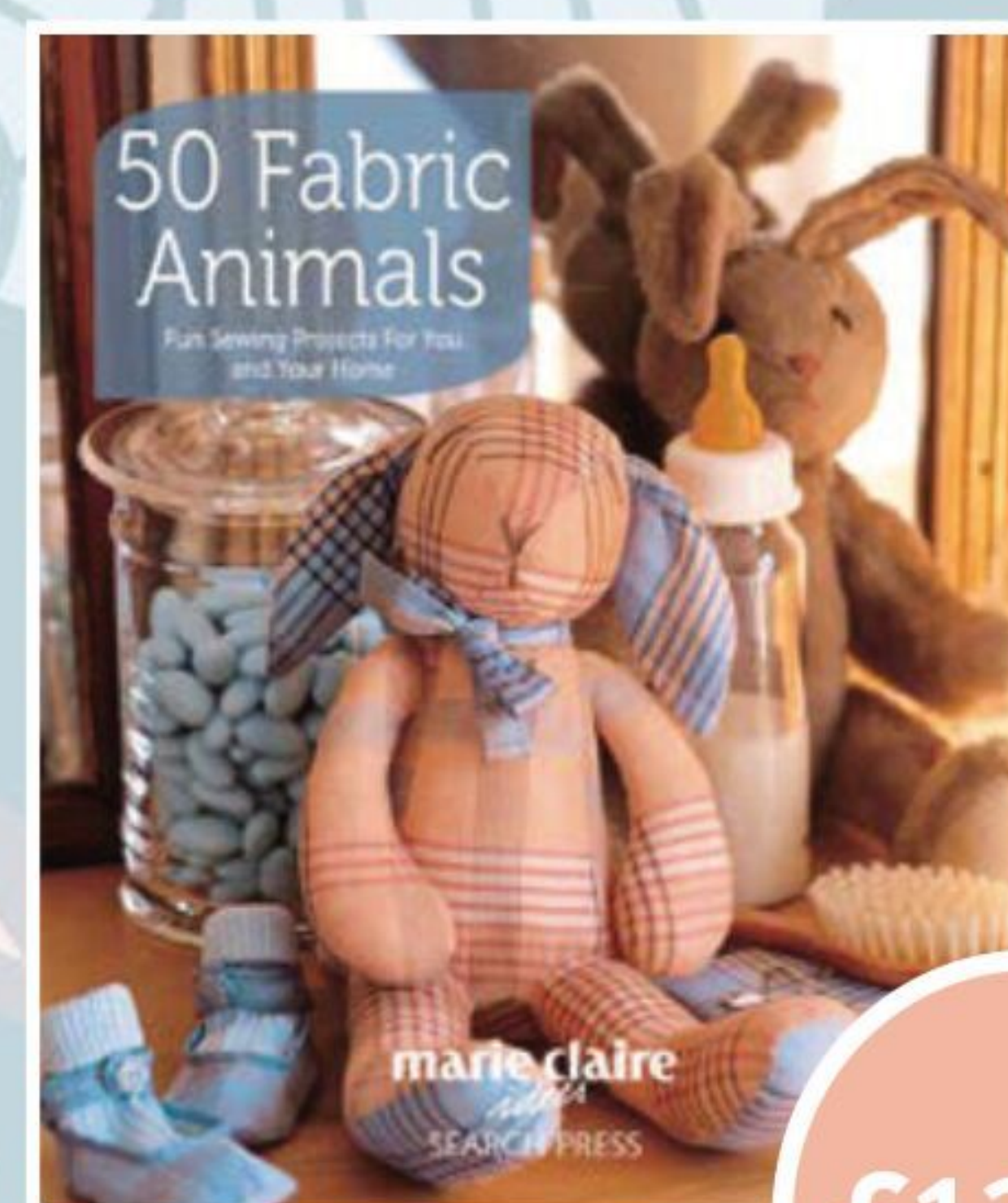
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IT'S PART TWO OF YOUR Nativity MAKE-ALONG

Welcome back to the second part of our exclusive nativity scene, created by the genius **Sachiyo Ishii**. If you've created your shepherd and sheep, plus the trio of three wise men, it's now time for the next stage of your heirloom set. Simply turn the page to find our steps to make a little donkey with saddle bags, and a heavenly angel clutching a sparkling gold star. Don't forget to finish your set with Mary, Joseph and Jesus in our next issue, on sale from 25th November 2021.

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HEAD TO SOCIAL MEDIA
AND USE THE HASHTAG
#MSTNATIVITY SO WE
CAN CHECK IN ON EACH
OTHER'S PROGRESS!



Some
Skill

christmas ANGEL

LET **SACHIYO ISHII'S** CELESTIAL DARLING
WATCH OVER YOUR NATIVITY SCENE

The festive season wouldn't be complete without an angel somewhere, and neither would your Nativity scene! Now that you've got the hang of making the basic figure after making our three kings, shepherd and sheep in part one, this angelic delight will take you no time at all. Have fun experimenting with yarn for her voluminous hair and don't forget about her tiny wand – now if only it granted wishes, too!

Let's get started...

LITTLE ANGEL

- 1 Download and print the templates and diagrams from **makeandsewtoys.com**. To make the head, work a gathering thread along one end of a 20cm piece of tubular gauze, then draw up tightly and turn inside out. Roll wool fleece or cotton into a firm 2cm ball. Place the ball in the centre of wool fleece or polyester stuffing, 10cm square. Wrap the ball with fleece and stuff it into the tube.
- 2 Use strong cotton thread to wrap the neck twice, and pull one thread end through both loops. Pull tightly and make a knot. Wrap the head with thread and make the eyeline halfway down the head in the same way.
- 3 Cover the head with doll jersey stockinette, 12cm square, with the grain of fabric running vertically. Tie the neck with cotton thread that matches the head colour. Repeat step 2 to tie the thread. Pull the fabric below the neck firmly in front, so that you do not have any creases in front of the head. Gather creases at the back of the head as much as you can, then wrap the torso with thread.
- 4 To make the body, cut white felt, 12cm x 16cm. Fold the piece in half lengthways and sew 5mm from the

edge. Turn through to the right side and insert the torso. Work a gathering thread along the neck and end of the body. Sew the body to the neck, using ladder stitch and folding in the seam allowance. Fold 1cm of the body hem into the body and make discreet stitches.

5 Make hands by folding stockinette, 2cm x 6cm, in half and sewing up the seam. Turn through to the right side out and stuff. Sew the sleeve seam and turn the right side out. Work a gathering thread along the cuff, insert the hand, and sew hand to sleeve with ladder stitch, folding in the seam allowance. Sew the sleeves to the body with ladder stitch.

6 Make the front hair by winding two lengths of yellow DK yarn around an 11cm piece of card. Place the loops on the head and sew to the top. For the rest of the hair, wind a long length of yellow DK yarn around a 15cm piece of card. Place the loops across the head and stitch into place. Add more loops in the same way until you achieve the volume you are happy with. Secure the yarn to the head, starting from one side of the head at the back, and finishing at the other. Wrap the head with gold ribbon and stitch to the head.

7 Make a French knot for the nose using peach DK yarn, then make two

French knots for the eyes using dark brown or black DK yarn. With dark brown DK yarn, embroider the mouth. For the wings, take quilt wadding, 10cm x 15cm, and make a gathering thread in the centre. Sew to the back of the body in the centre.

8 Take the gold star and attach it to the cocktail stick. Sew the angel's hands together and insert the stick in between the body and hands. Colour her cheeks with a pink pastel to finish. **M&ST**



“Make sure to give your work space a quick wipe to avoid dyes transferring onto the angel's white gown”

DESIGNER
SACHIYO ISHII

FABRIC swatch

Make a heavenly white dress for your angel with this quality felt that doesn't fray when cut. £4.99 per metre, **minerva.com**



YOU'LL NEED...

Fabric: medical tubular gauze; doll jersey stockinette, peach, dark brown
White felt
DK yarn: yellow, peach, dark brown
Embroidery thread, dark brown
Gold ribbon, 5mm
Card
Quilt wadding
Toy filling
Gold star
Cocktail stick
Pink pastel

Sew Clever...

For the angel's body, use medical tubular gauze, available from chemists. If you are using 2.5cm width gauze, which is more common, cut it to 20cm for each figure



Some
Skill

little DONKEY

SMALL BUT MIGHTY, YOUR NATIVITY SET WOULDN'T
BE COMPLETE WITHOUT **SACHIYO ISHII'S** STEED

The donkey has become a prominent feature of a Nativity scene, seen carrying Mary all the way to Bethlehem. Reliable and humble, this little stable mate is a joy to make with a comfy felted saddle and fluffy yarn mane, and once you've completed it you'll be well on your way to having a full scene – just keep your eyes peeled for part three!

Let's get started...

FELT DONKEY

- 1 Download and print the templates and diagrams from **makeandsewtoys.com**. Cut one pair of tummy gussets and one body from grey cotton fabric. Sew the right and left panels of the tummy gusset, leaving an opening in the centre. Sew the body from A to C and D to A, then sew the tummy gusset to the body. Turn through to the right side. Stuff the body and legs, then close the tummy.
- 2 Cut two pairs of ears from grey cotton fabric, sew the ear seam and turn right side out. Fold in the seam allowance at the base of the ear

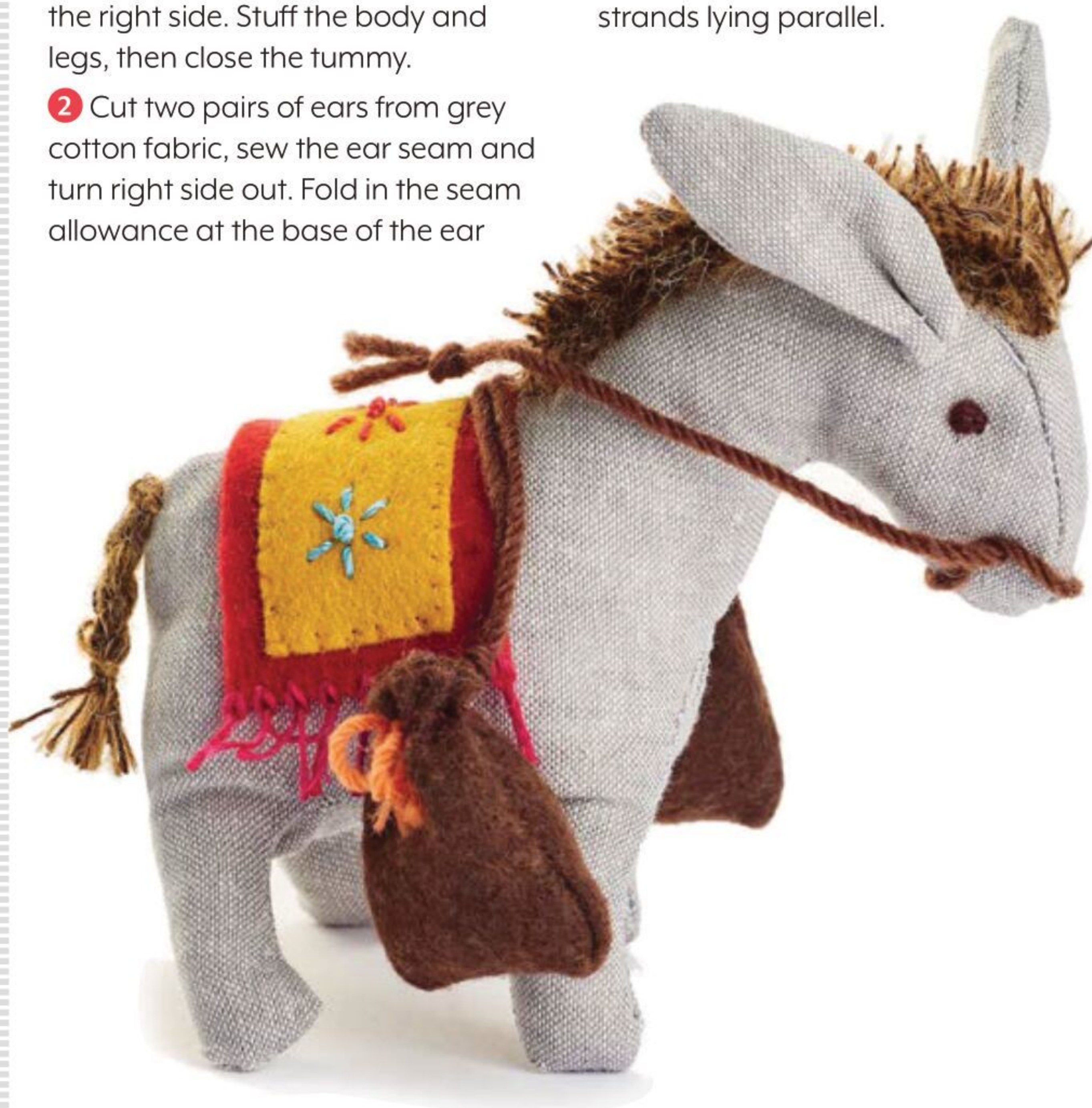
and sew to the head. Repeat for the other ear. Wind brown yarn around the card 120 times, working from one short end to the other. Sew two lines of small running stitch along the centre of the card and both layers of the yarn.

- 3 Cut open the yarn loops along both sides of the card, then carefully remove it, leaving a mane. Sew the mane to the spine of the body. To make the tail, snip brown yarn to 1m and tie the ends together. Fold twice so you have eight strands lying parallel.

- 4 Hold both ends and twist the yarn tightly until it folds in on itself. Insert one end slightly through the other to secure and tie the end with another length of yarn. Cut the loops of the tied end and trim, then sew the tail to the body. With dark brown DK yarn, make two French knots for the eyes.

- 5 For the blanket, sew yellow felt, 2.8cm x 7.5cm, to red brown felt, 4cm x 8.5cm. Embroider using the template and picture as a guide. To make the fringe, cut pink embroidery thread to 6cm, then fold in the centre and thread both strands into a needle eye. Insert the needle from the back of the edge and take out the loop, leaving yarn ends on the back of the blanket. Release the loop from the needle, take yarn ends through the loop and pull the ends tightly. Repeat eight more times and trim. Sew the blanket to the body.

- 6 Take a piece of brown felt, 5cm x 10cm, and fold in half lengthways. Sew both side seams 5mm from the edge. Turn right side out and stuff. With orange DK yarn, work a gathering thread along the top edge and draw tightly, then make a bow. Make another bag, then connect the two with a length of dark brown DK yarn. Make a rein with a length of dark brown DK yarn, using the photo as a guide. **M&ST**



FABRIC swatch

Find all the felts you need to create the donkey's saddle in Corinne Lapierre's online shop. Prices start at £1.20 per 22cm square, **corinelapierre.com**



YOU'LL NEED...

Fabric, cotton, grey
Felt: red brown, yellow, brown
Embroidery thread, assorted colours
Yarn: brown; DK, dark brown, orange
Card
Toy filling

SIZE
15cm tall



Sew Clever...

You can iron the felt before you embroider the motif, but remember to use a wool setting and cover with a press cloth



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jolly baby QUILT

COMPLETE YOUR CHRISTMAS COVERLET WITH
PART TWO OF **CORINNE BRADD'S** STEP-BY-STEP

Turn over to start...



jolly baby QUILT



Beginner
Friendly

This gorgeous quilt would make a lovely gift, whether it's to celebrate a baby's first Christmas or give to a friend or relative of any age. Last issue, we showed you how to create the tree block – now you can add in this equally vibrant star block to finish it off to perfection. Don't worry if you missed the first instalment though, you can find the instructions for the tree in your download pack. We do like to spoil you!

FABRIC swatch

You can use any colours or prints for your quilt, so long as they pack a punch. Why not try Nature Elements Hot Pink and Living Elements Banana from Art Gallery Fabrics? For stockists, visit hantex.co.uk



YOU'LL NEED...

Cotton fabric: assorted Christmas prints; plain backing
Lightweight quilt wadding

CUTTING guide!

FOR EACH STAR BLOCK

- Background** ♦ four 9cm squares
♦ four 5cm squares ♦ two 5.5cm squares ♦ two 5.5cm x 10cm rectangles
Pink Star ♦ two 5cm squares
♦ one 5.5cm square
♦ one 5.5cm x 10cm rectangle
Yellow Star ♦ two 5cm squares
♦ one 5.5cm square ♦ one 5.5cm x 10cm rectangle

with the pink and yellow 5.5cm squares. Stitch 4mm either side of the drawn line. Cut along the line, open out and press the resulting half square triangles (HSTs) before trimming to 5cm if necessary.

2 Stack all the 5.5cm rectangles together, right sides up, and cut diagonally from top right to bottom left. Lay out the resulting triangles to make rectangles of background and star colour, creating two sets of each combination. Flip the star colour onto the background, right sides together, and sew along the diagonal, taking care not to stretch the fabric on the bias as you do so. Open out and press before trimming to 5cm x 9cm.

3 Sew a 5cm square of background colour to the bottom of a 5cm HST so the star portion is in the top right. Repeat for the remaining 5cm squares and HSTs so there are two of each star colour. Stitch these rectangles to the right-hand side of a bicolour rectangle of the different



Sew Clever...

Find Corinne's binding tutorial by searching 'The Crafts Channel binding' on YouTube

colour (i.e. yellow to pink) so the other star colour is top left. Press.

4 Sew the four star coloured 5cm squares into a Battenburg block and press. Layout the blocks, along with the plain background 9cm squares, with the Battenburg in the centre and the points of the star radiating out. Stitch the rows of three blocks together, matching up centre seams

Let's get started...

STAR BLOCK

1 Download and print the templates from makeandsewtoys.com. Draw a diagonal line on the reverse of each 5.5cm background square, and pair right sides together



“Personalise your quilt with a hand sewn bauble made from a circle of plain fabric. Embroider it by hand, and sew to the corner of your quilt”

DESIGNER CORINNE BRADD



in the middle row. Sew the rows together, again matching up the centre seams. Press and trim to 26cm square. Make five more blocks in the same way.

5 Cut several 3cm wide strips of printed fabric to use as sashing. Lay out the blocks and add sashing between each one to make rows. Join the rows with longer pieces of sashing and press well. Pin the quilt top onto wadding and background fabric, leaving an excess of at least 2cm all round. Topstitch the quilt top to the backing layers along one side of the sashing, stitching in the ditch. Smooth out and pin the layers together along the edges of the quilt, topstitching 2mm from the edge and trimming away the backing.

6 Cut more 3cm wide strips of cotton print fabric and join end to end to make a continuous piece long enough to bind the edges of the quilt. Sew the binding to the reverse of the quilt, matching up the raw edges and mitring the corner. Join the ends of the binding neatly on one long side and trim away the excess length. Flip the binding over to the front of the quilt, fold under 5mm on the raw edge. Pin and topstitch to the top of the quilt, covering any previous seams and stitching 2mm from the inner folded edge. **M&ST**



Beginner
Friendly

barbie OUTFIT

WEARING **ANNABEL BENILAN'S** COLOURFUL LOOK,
THIS DOLL IS READY TO PICK UP HER PAINTBRUSH



Whether she's taking her first steps as a student, saving lives as a doctor or making concoctions as a scientist, everyone's favourite doll Barbie is famous for having all different kinds of jobs. Today, she's an artist waiting for inspiration to strike, and designer Annabel Benilan has created a pair of vibrant trousers and long-sleeved top so she can paint in style. These pieces are easy to sew, while the hook and loop tape fastenings make both garments easy to put on and take off.



Sew Clever...

Take time to pin the pieces, and line them up properly. As they are so small, being out by just a little can affect the whole garment, so work carefully and double check before sewing



FABRIC swatch

Make Barbie's top from this viscose georgette fabric, from £9 per metre. Try this multicoloured viscose challis with bright strokes, £15 per metre. Both available from minerva.com



YOU'LL NEED...

Soft viscose crepe: yellow, patterned
Hook and loop tape, 1cm wide

Let's get started...

BATWING TOP

- 1 Download and print the templates from makeandsewtoys.com. Cut four of the top segments from soft yellow viscose crepe. Sew the front and back of the top together along the shoulders, right sides together.
- 2 Make a 5mm hem around the bottom of each sleeve. Sew the front and back of the top together, along the undersides of the sleeves, right sides together. Make a 5mm hem around the neckhole and around the bottom of the top.
- 3 Press a 5mm hem along one of the centre-back edges. Stitch the loop tape onto the hem. Attach a hook tape onto the right side of the other centre-back edge.

TROUSERS

- 1 Using the templates, cut four of the trouser segments from soft patterned viscose crepe. Sew up the centrefold seams, right sides together, then make a 5mm hem around the top of the trousers.
 - 2 Press a 5mm hem along one of the centre-back seams, then stitch the loop tape onto the reverse side of the hem. Attach a hook tape onto the right side of the other centre-back seam.
 - 3 Sew the centre-back seams together, below the hook and loop tape, right sides together. Complete the trousers by sewing up the inside leg seams. Make a 5mm hem around the bottom of each leg.
- M&ST**

get the BOOK!

Find more stunning outfits to stitch in *Barbie Boutique* by Annabel Benilan (Search Press, £12.99), searchpress.com







INSPIRATION
COMES FROM
HANS CHRISTIAN
ANDERSON
STORIES



CLAIRE'S DESIGNS ARE ROOTED IN
A FAIRYTALE AESTHETIC



Fairytale FANTASY

Discover the sprinkling of magic sewn into each
of **CLAIRE PÉREZ'S** dressing-up costumes



Thanks to four young daughters who love playing make believe, Claire Pérez often used to find herself at the sewing machine whipping up another dress, tutu or crown to satisfy their huge imaginations. As word spread about Claire's storybook creations, so did demand, and eventually she was encouraged by her equally creative husband to take the plunge and open a shop with Not On The High Street. Eight years on, Fable Heart is now a leading name in the dressing-up world, with a team of seamstresses across Europe working hard to incorporate a little bit of magic with every stitch. We caught up with Claire to find out more about the wholesome, nostalgic sentiment of the brand, and why she's so enamoured with childhoods of years gone by.

MADE WITH LOVE

I learned to design and make as a child, with my maternal grandmother. As one of 11 siblings growing up in the 40s, making clothes, knitting socks and cutting patterns was part of her life as a necessity. Many of her family members worked in Irish linen and lace factories, so making has been a part of my family for generations. As a child I spent many days curled up on the sofa in her warm little flat, making toys, painting, and learning how to use a sewing machine. She really gave me free reign but was always on hand to help if I needed it – I still turn to her for help now.

For the first three years of my business, I sewed everything myself, and called in my nan to help when things got really busy. As it has grown so much over the



THE COSTUMES HAVE AN HEIRLOOM QUALITY

“Our business is a reflection of the warmth and the magic of our family”



FOUR GENERATIONS OF CLAIRE'S FAMILY ARE INVOLVED IN FABLE HEART

last eight years, we now work with seamstresses in Ireland, as well as a small team of women in the north of Spain, which is where my husband Angel is from. We co-run Fable Heart together, and our children are Spanish and Irish, so it felt right that our products would be too. Our process is slow, and we have been asked several times to consider outsourcing to China, which would enable faster growth. We are committed to our business being a reflection of the warmth and the magic of our family, so we will continue to grow, at a pace that suits us, and not the high street. All in all, we work with around 20 seamstresses now.

NOSTALGIC WHIMSY

I feel like so much of what was a part of childhood in the first half of the 1900s stands the test of time so well, and it is this timelessness that we aspire to with Fable Heart. We make dress-up clothes for every child – from tiny tutus to capes for adventuring through the forest, with an emphasis on long lasting quality. Our inspiration comes from places like the nursery in Mary Poppins, Enid Blyton books, Hans Christian Anderson fairy tales and Victorian Christmas



illustrations. We like to combine all that magic, but make sure that our re-imagining is one that represents all children, from all backgrounds. As a mum of four little girls, I try to stay away from the ‘Disneyfication’ of princes, princesses and the need for women to be saved (and get married!). Imaginative play is so important for children, and I really feel this should be given as wide a scope as possible. We make a lot of tutus for little boys, and we also make capes for little girls who love playing with a bow and arrow in the woods. Fable Heart will always be rooted in a fairytale aesthetic, but we want that to mean running free in the wild, putting on a show for siblings and grown-ups you love, and twirling around to your favourite music in a tutu. We aren’t about conforming to any illusion of beauty.

At Fable Heart we are about real magic, and making memories and products that will last. I think there are two things to consider when trying to make an heirloom piece – firstly, the design. Will this outlive current trends? Am I staying true to those feelings of magic and nostalgia that don’t grow old? And secondly, is this good enough quality to be given to not only my daughter, but perhaps my grandchild? Can it be played with by several children? Is it special enough that when a child has outgrown it, the parent will want to store it away somewhere special, to be taken out again in the future for someone else? If we can answer yes to those questions, then we know we have an heirloom piece.

FUTURE FAIRYTALES

I love how much time running this business affords me with my family. I love that my nan has been a part of my whole journey. I sometimes feel sad that she was never given the same opportunities, as she would most certainly have matched or surpassed what I have done. But then there are times where I have four generations of women in my studio – my nan, my mum, and all my children – and I remember how lucky I am. That feeling of warmth translates down through our products, and to our customers. All of the people who shop with us share the common thread of wanting to gift some magic to a child they love. We are now at the crossroads of deciding whether to work with the larger corporations who are asking to sell our products and work with our brand. Right now, Angel and I homeschool our children whilst running Fable Heart. It is a real juggle, but it is one that we love. We now face the question, do we stay as we are, or do we expand and grow further. That will inevitably mean change, and the task is how to do that whilst keeping the magic as a real tangible part of the business behind the scenes. **M&ST**

WANT MORE?

TO DISCOVER MORE OF CLAIRE'S MAGICAL COSTUMES, VISIT **FABLEHEART.COM** OR CHECK OUT HER INSTAGRAM **@FABLE.HEART**

QUICK FIRE QUESTIONS

Must-have craft tool?

I love a beautiful pair of scissors – great for both crafting and using in photoshoots.

Sweet or savoury?

Sweet, 100 percent. I've already eaten four boxes of chocolate frogs that we sell in our shop!

Sun or snow?

Snow is so magical – my dream holiday is definitely mountains, good books and a cosy fire.



Beginner
Friendly

wheely toy TROLLEY

TRY **AMANDA WALKER'S** UPCYCLING PROJECT
FOR THE ULTIMATE TOY STORAGE SOLUTION

We think this toy crate may just be the most practical accessory we've seen yet. Ideal for a nursery or playroom, you can store toys, books, or, if you were feeling cheeky, you could even borrow it to store your sewing stash in the living room. This simple project could be used as a stabling device for the little one to push along when they start walking, too. You'll soon be making plenty of memories knowing your upcycling efforts have been truly worth the effort.

Sew Clever...

If your crate is particularly old, sand the surface down well before painting so that the little ones don't get splinters or nicks

Let's get started...

TOY BOX

- 1 Place masking tape around the crate where you want to paint a stripe, making sure that it is pressed down firmly to prevent bleeding. Apply yellow paint to the wood and remove the masking tape before it dries. When the crate has fully dried, apply an orange dot to the centre of each length's stripe.
- 2 Turn the crate upside down and drill pilot holes into each corner. Screw a wheel into each hole. Starting from halfway down the outside of the crate, measure down to the base, along the base length, up the other side and halfway down the outside. Make a note of the measurement and take the same measurements on the width of the crate. Cut out a rectangle of fabric to these dimensions.
- 3 Make a note of the crate's length. On the longer edge of the rectangle, clip a notch into the fabric at the beginning and end of this measurement, centralised. Repeat the same process using the width of the crate and mark

FABRIC swatch

Brighten up the kiddies' playroom with this vibrant Rainbows on Blue polycotton. £3 per metre, plushaddict.com



YOU'LL NEED...

Cotton fabric
Castor wheels
Wooden crate
Thick piping cord
Felt
Paint: yellow, orange
Masking tape
Upholstery studs
Staple gun
Set square
Screwdriver and screws
Hammer





this measurement on the edges of the shorter sides in the same way. At one of the corners draw the two notches together, one from the long edge and one from the shorter width edge.

4 Place the clips on top of each other and match the edges of the fabric together; a diagonal fold should be created from the corner point of the rectangle. Using a set square, draw a line from the clip marks down towards the folded edge, at a right angle from the edges of the fabric. Pin and stitch along this line.

5 Repeat on the three remaining corners. Clip any excess fabric of the corners and hem the top edge. Place the lining inside the crate and fold the clean edge over the sides of the crate. Cut a long, 4cm wide strip of felt and wrap it around a length of piping cord. Attach a zipper foot to your machine and stitch as closely to the piping cord as you can.

6 Trim any excess felt and make end caps for the cord handle, sewing all the way across the

narrow ends to trap the piping inside. Staple the handle to the fabric lining near the top of the

crate. Use a hammer to install an upholstery stud over each staple to finish. **M&ST**



“For a classic country look, apply only one coat of paint so the rustic wood effect can still be seen”

DESIGNER AMANDA WALKER

My FAVOURITE Toy!

Julie Peasgood catches up with some familiar faces to chat about their cherished childhood companions...



In this issue, Julie delves into the childhood memories of two more stars of the screen, to find out which toys brought them joy in those early years. Read on to hear stories from *Downton Abbey* favourite Jim Carter, plus five-time Emmy winner Georgia Pritchett, known for writing TV hits including *Miranda*, *Not Going Out* and *The Thick Of It* – it's clear she was destined to be a comedian from day dot!



“

“When I was little, I really wanted an Action Man,” says Georgia Pritchett.

“I begged my brother to give me one of his, so he passed on his old one, which only had one leg. When it was my birthday, I told everyone I wanted a new Action Man because mine only had one leg, which meant that he couldn't get around very well. My grandpa told me he had it

GEORGIA PRITCHETT, AWARD-WINNING SCREENWRITER AND PRODUCER

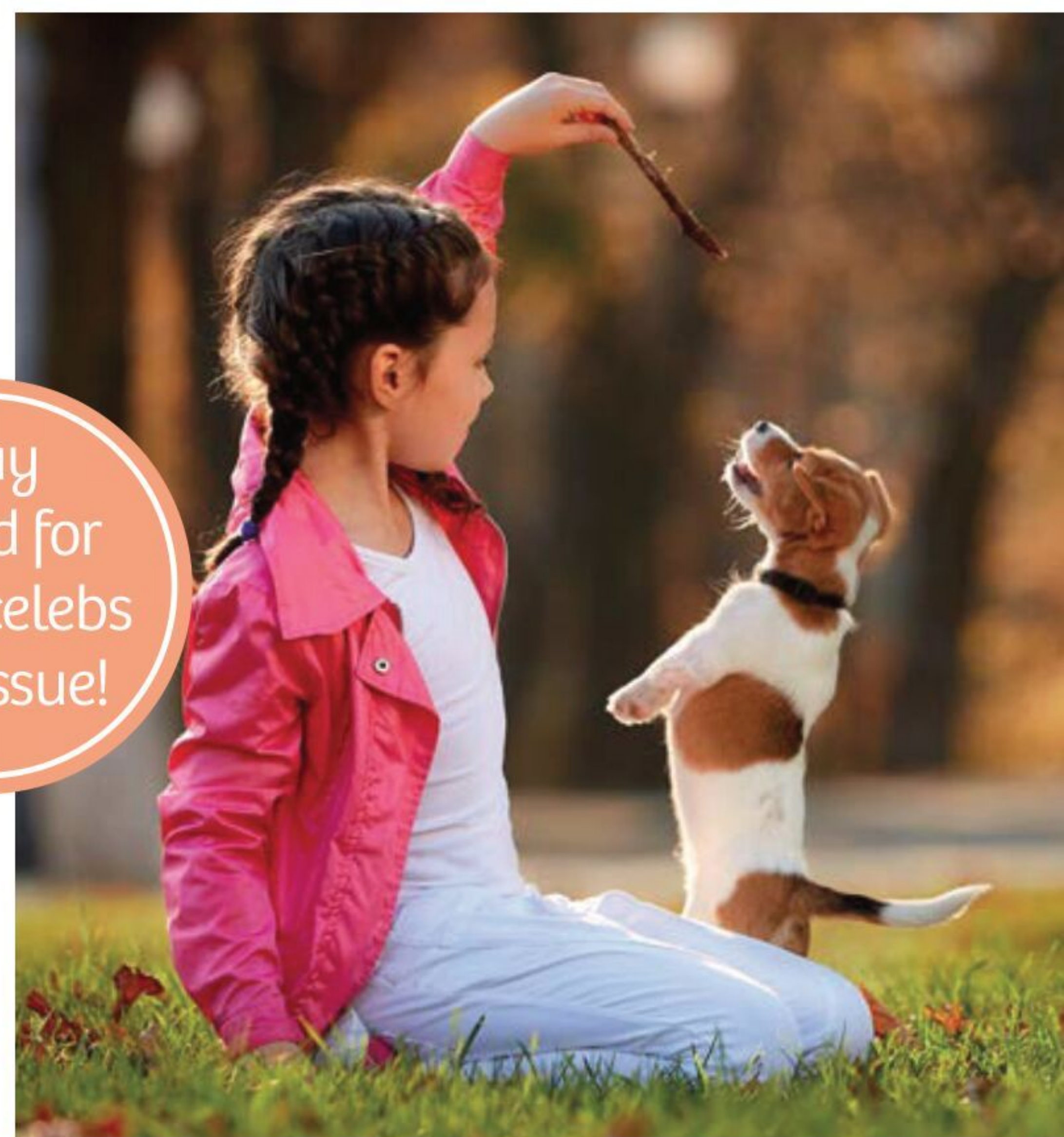
covered. On the day of my birthday, my grandparents handed me a package and I unwrapped it excitedly. This was my new Action Man! But no – inside the package was a small wheelchair which my grandpa had made out of wood. Now my Action Man could get around!

“Along with the Action Man in his wooden wheelchair (who I grew to love), some other favourites were the Bionic Woman and a very realistic life-sized baby doll, who towered over Bionic Woman and Action Man. They made quite an unusual family. Later Lindsay and Pete (AKA Bionic Woman and Action Man) adopted another child, Starsky, a doll made on a much smaller scale than his freakishly large sister. The trouble started when my dog, Flo, in the absence of a real puppy, decided that Starsky was hers. She would steal him, put him in her basket, lie on him and try to suckle him. I would then rescue him and return him to his anxious parents. A lengthy and upsetting custody battle ensued. Flo won.”

FOR MORE

GEORGIA IS WRITING AND CO-PRODUCING HBO'S HIT SHOW *SUCCESSION*. HER MEMOIR *MY MESS IS A BIT OF A LIFE* IS ON SALE NOW.

Stay
tuned for
more celebs
next issue!





JIM CARTER OBE, FILM AND TV ACTOR, BEST KNOWN FOR HIS ROLE IN DOWNTON

When I was a child, we mostly played games, rather than having toys," recalls Jim Carter. "We always played lots of bat and ball – this was the 50s, when you could have fun in the street because there was no traffic. The kids didn't need entertaining, we'd just shout 'I'm playing out!'. A massive part of growing up was getting your first bike, which was always a hand-me-down, and that represented freedom. But I also remember enjoying board games like Ludo, Sorry and others

with my family. We had a big wooden sledge, too, because winters in Yorkshire were pretty much guaranteed snow. We were able to sled in the roads because they were so clear. I think the toy that was most significant for me was a very small game in a tin called Owzthat. It was a cricket simulation game with little cylinders – we played illegitimately under desks at school and test matches could go on for days. We'd also play conkers; carrier bags full of them were baked or pickled in vinegar to make them harder before stringing them on bootlaces or string.

"I always saved my pocket money (sixpence to a shilling a week) for the Ellisdons catalogue. Ellisdons was a joke, magic and novelty store in London, and having accumulated ten bob I'd pore religiously over their

crudely printed catalogue, carefully eking out my savings on whoopee cushions, rubber pencils or something you dropped on the floor to sound like a window breaking. They were always terribly disappointing when they arrived. The thing you dropped on the floor to sound like breaking glass was five little bits of tin – which just sounded like five little bits of tin. They never lived up to their billing at all!"

FOR MORE

JIM REPRISES HIS ROLE AS THE INIMITABLE BUTLER, MR CARSON, IN THE NEW DOWNTON ABBEY 2 MOVIE, IN CINEMAS NEXT SPRING.



JULIE PEASGOOD Actress, author and television presenter, Julie has written regular craft columns for several years, produced TV crafting shows and now hosts Let's Knit Together. Julie is renowned for creating **SupercraftCruises.com** and has established herself as a much-loved figure in the craft community.



Some
Skill

advent CALENDAR

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS WITH
CHLOE HAILWOOD'S BEARDED ST. NICK

As if the build up to the big day wasn't exciting enough already, this irresistible design is set to take your family festivities to the next level. Just the ticket for celebrating the 12 days of Christmas, this adorable advent can be enjoyed year after year. What's more, if you think your loved ones would prefer 24 days of fun, you can quickly and easily increase the sizing and the number of pockets.

FABRIC swatch

Craft our jolly chap with Snowball Green and Red from the Makower Christmas 2021 Santa Express range, £3.20 per fat quarter, mysewingbox.co.uk



YOU'LL NEED...

Fabric, cotton: red, fat quarter; skin tone, fat quarter; metallic, fat quarter; white, 45cm x 50cm; faux sheepskin, 45cm x 50cm; faux fur, 15cm x 40cm
Felt: glitter, 12cm x 25cm; pink, 5cm x 10cm
Ribbon, 20cm
Toy stuffing
Embroidery thread
Fusible webbing

5mm seam allowance used throughout, unless otherwise stated.

Let's get started...

ADVENT CALENDAR

1 Download and print the templates from makeandsewtoys.com. Using the templates, cut out two head pieces in cotton, two hats in cotton, two eyebrows from faux sheepskin and two cheeks in felt. With chalk or a disappearing ink pen, mark a nose centrally on a head piece using just the curved edge of the template, and mark the eyes in the same way. Separate two strands of embroidery thread and back-stitch over the marked lines. Sew the eyebrows in position, then the cheeks. Make a few small stitches towards the bottom of the cheeks to hold in place.

2 With right sides facing, pin the hat pieces together. Fold the ribbon in half and lay at the top between the hat layers, with the raw ends of the ribbon slightly overlapping the cut edges of the hat and the loop hidden between the layers facing downwards. Sew all round, leaving the straight edges open. Stitch a 1cm hem along these straight edges and turn through to the right side.

3 Using the templates, cut out a pom pom circle and a 6cm x 24cm strip of



Sew Clever...

Position the templates horizontally or vertically to mix up the selection of shapes. To vary the pocket sizes, just press a bigger hem all round

faux fur. Secure a thread near the edge on the pom pom piece and make small running stitches all round the perimeter of the circle, gently pull the thread and gather the stitches and as doing so add in some toy stuffing before pulling the thread tight and double stitching to secure. Attach the pom pom to the tip of the hat and sew the faux fur trim to the front.

4 Mark and cut out a mix of 12 pockets using the templates. Press a hem round each one, neatening and trimming overlapping ends if using the triangle shapes. Press fusible webbing to the reverse of the glitter felt and mark the numbers needed to the reverse using the templates. Snip out the numbers, peel away the backing paper and press to the pockets. Cut out a beard piece from the faux sheepskin and white cotton.

5 Mark a smile using the mouth template centrally at the top of the beard. Position the pockets on the beard, keeping them around 3cm from the edge. Topstitch in place, leaving the tops of the pockets open. With right sides facing and edges meeting up, lay the cotton backing on top of the beard and sew all round, leaving a 15cm gap along the bottom. Turn through to the right side and whip stitch the gap closed.

6 Using the remaining faux sheepskin and white cotton backing again, cut out two 8cm x 8cm rectangles from each. With right sides facing, pin a piece of cotton to a piece of sheepskin and mark a hair template to the cotton side. Flip the template over to mark a mirror image hair template to the other pieces. Stitch directly over this marked line leaving the straight edges at the top open for turning through. Trim all round and turn through to the right side.

7 Position the hat and hair pieces on the head, sew the hair first to the head, then the hat, using running stitches and whip stitches all round. Attach the beard to the head using whip stitch between the top of the beard and the face, ensuring the stitches are small and strong to hold the weight of gifts when the pockets are full and the advent calendar is hung up. **M&ST**



Beginner
Friendly

scandi GNOMES

GO ON, DECK THE HALLS WITH OUR ADORABLE
DUO FROM **CHLOE HAILWOOD**

How could you resist these adorable bearded companions? These festive gnomes are ready to be brought to life in just six steps. The set would look fabulous on your mantelpiece above a roaring fireplace, peeping out the top of a stocking, or propped by the front door to greet visitors. Why not create a weighted set of six that can be transformed into bowling pins?

Let's get started...

Sew Clever...

GNOME DUO

1 Download and print the templates from makeandsewtoys.com. Press the interfacing to the reverse of the red cotton. Cut out a body and a base piece, then snip a beard from the faux fur and a nose from the felt. Trim six holly leaves from the green felt.

When adding the base to the body, place the first pin at the seam and label this 12 o'clock. Place the next pin at 6 o'clock, then 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock. Put an extra pin between each of the first four pins, then tack and remove the pins. This will ensure an evenly placed base

2 Lay the body piece flat with the longest curved edge positioned at the bottom. Along the left hand straight edge, make a mark 2cm up from the curved edge, then repeat for the right hand side. Separate two strands from embroidery thread and stitch a wavy line between the marks just made. Switch to green thread and sew pine needles along the wavy line, alternating the length of stitches for a natural look. Sew the holly leaves at intervals along the embroidery.

3 Fold the hat piece in half as indicated by the fold line. Make a mark on each straight edge up from this fold line, 1cm up from the curved edge. Finger press along the fold line to make a crease and open the fabric out. Embroider a wavy line between the marks and add in the pine needles as before.

4 With wrong sides facing, fold the hat along the crease again, then with right sides facing, fold so that both of

the long straight edges meet. Stitch together down this long edge and turn through to the right side. Snip away any excess seam allowance and gently push out the tip of the hat.

5 With right sides of the body facing, fold in half with the straight, long edges meeting. Sew straight down these edges. With the right side of the base piece facing inwards, pin the base to the bottom of the body, then tack and remove the pins. Sew all round and remove the tacking stitches. Turn through to the right side. Fill the body and hat with stuffing.

6 Make small running stitches around the perimeter of the nose piece. Pull and gather the stitches. As it takes shape add in small pinches of stuffing. Pull tight to close and double sew to secure. Stitch the beard to the front top of the body before adding on the nose. Sit the hat on top of the body and whip stitch to secure. **M&ST**

FABRIC swatch

These mythical lovelies want to look the part, so be sure to pick out a jolly cotton that's as bright as can be! We've used organic cotton in shade red, £5.25 per metre, selfmade.com



YOU'LL NEED...

Fabric, cotton, red, 35cm square;
faux fur, 8cm square
Lightweight fusible interfacing,
35cm square
Felt, skin coloured, 5cm square;
green, 5cm x 8cm
Toy stuffing

5mm seam allowance throughout,
unless otherwise stated.





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We have included full-size patterns for selected projects so that you can get started straight away. Copy or trace the templates to make the projects which appear with a special symbol in the magazine. You can also visit makeandsewtoys.com and download all the patterns for projects in this issue, for free!

Click & Sew

1 To download actual-size templates for this issue's toys, visit makeandsewtoys.com

then click on the tab to view our archive of toy patterns.
2 Select the Make & Sew Toys issue 9 templates and click 'Download Template' on the new page. The pattern folder

will automatically transfer onto your computer. Follow the instructions to print all or selected templates at 100%.
3 If you haven't already registered, you'll need to

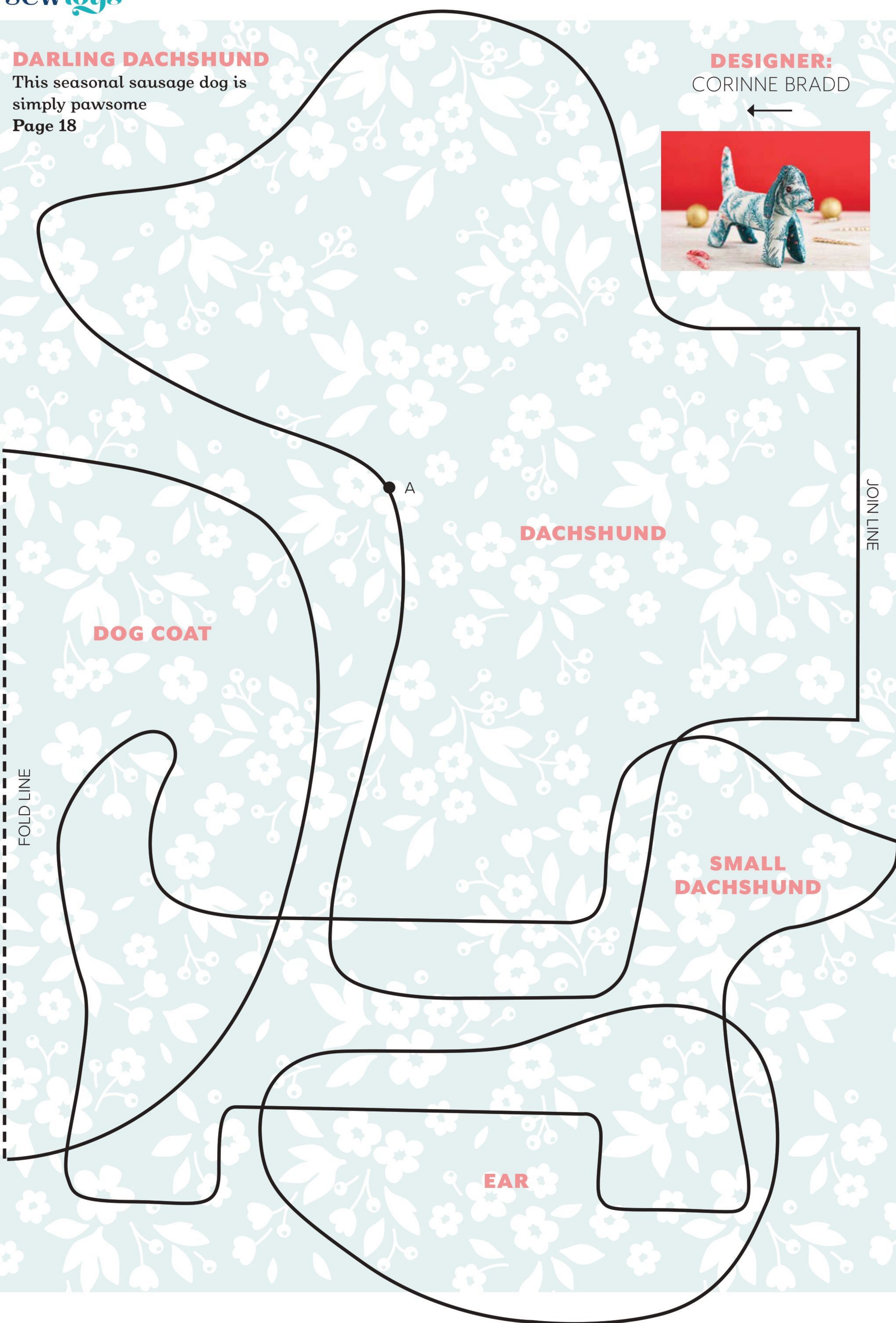
create a log-in for our website to allow you exclusive access to all our free downloads and templates we have up for grabs.

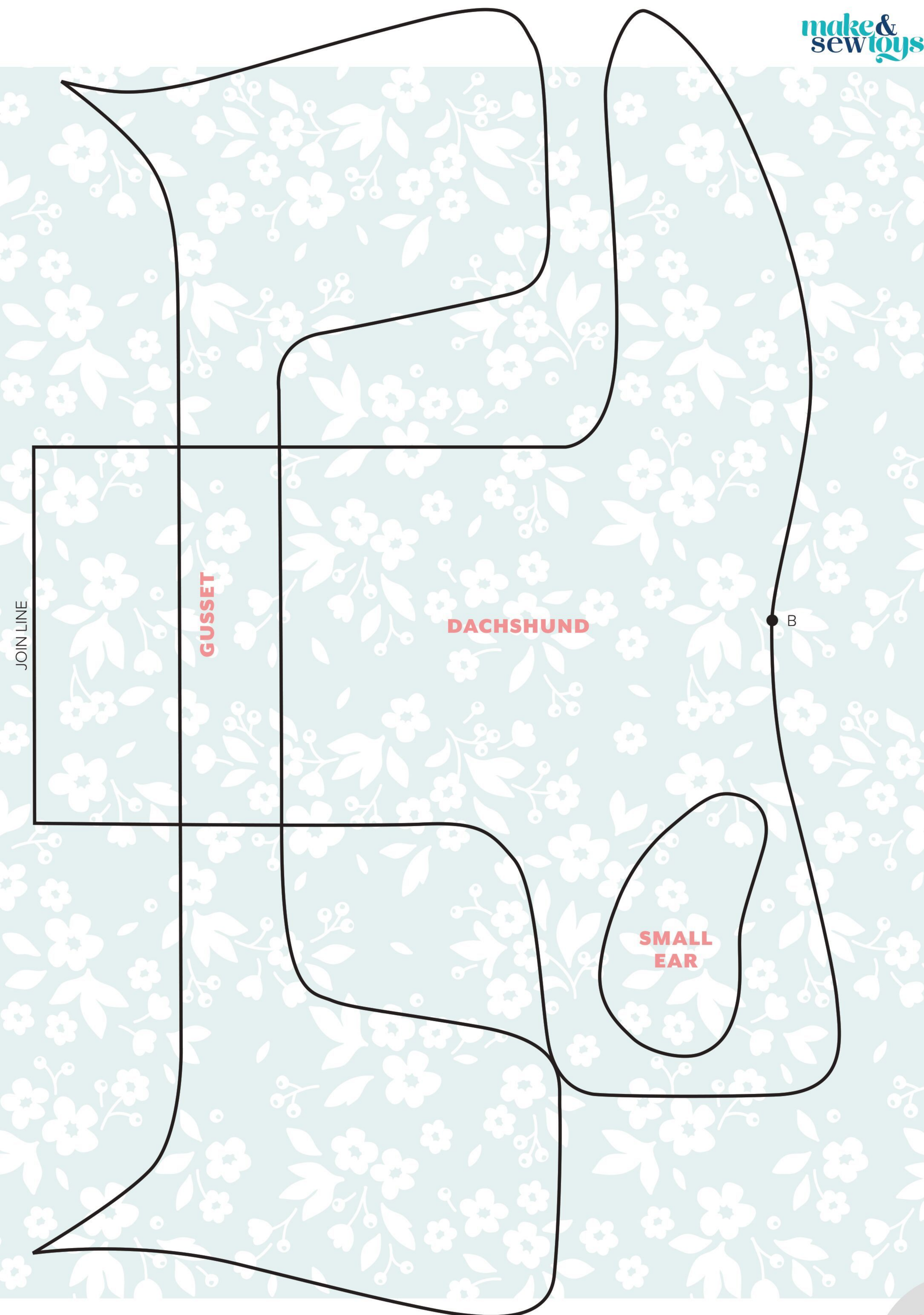
DARLING DACHSHUND

This seasonal sausage dog is simply pawsome

Page 18

DESIGNER:
CORINNE BRADD





JOIN LINE

GUSSET

DACHSHUND

SMALL
EAR

B

MERRY MOUSE

Knit and stitch our jolly cheerful critter

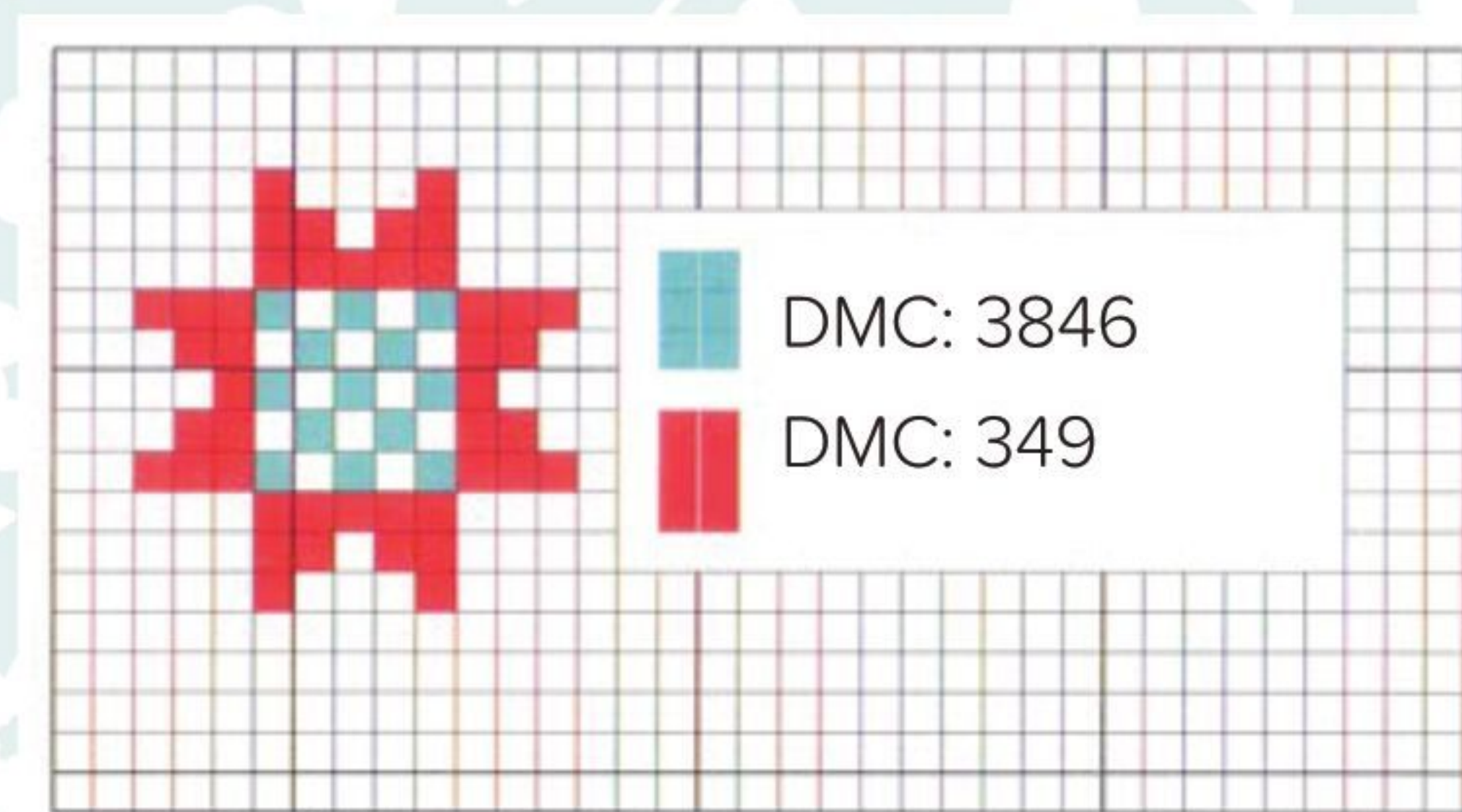
Page 24

DESIGNER:

HELEN
PHILIPPS

EAR

Cut two



ARM

Cut two

LEG

Cut two

BODY

Cut one

NORDIC PIXIE

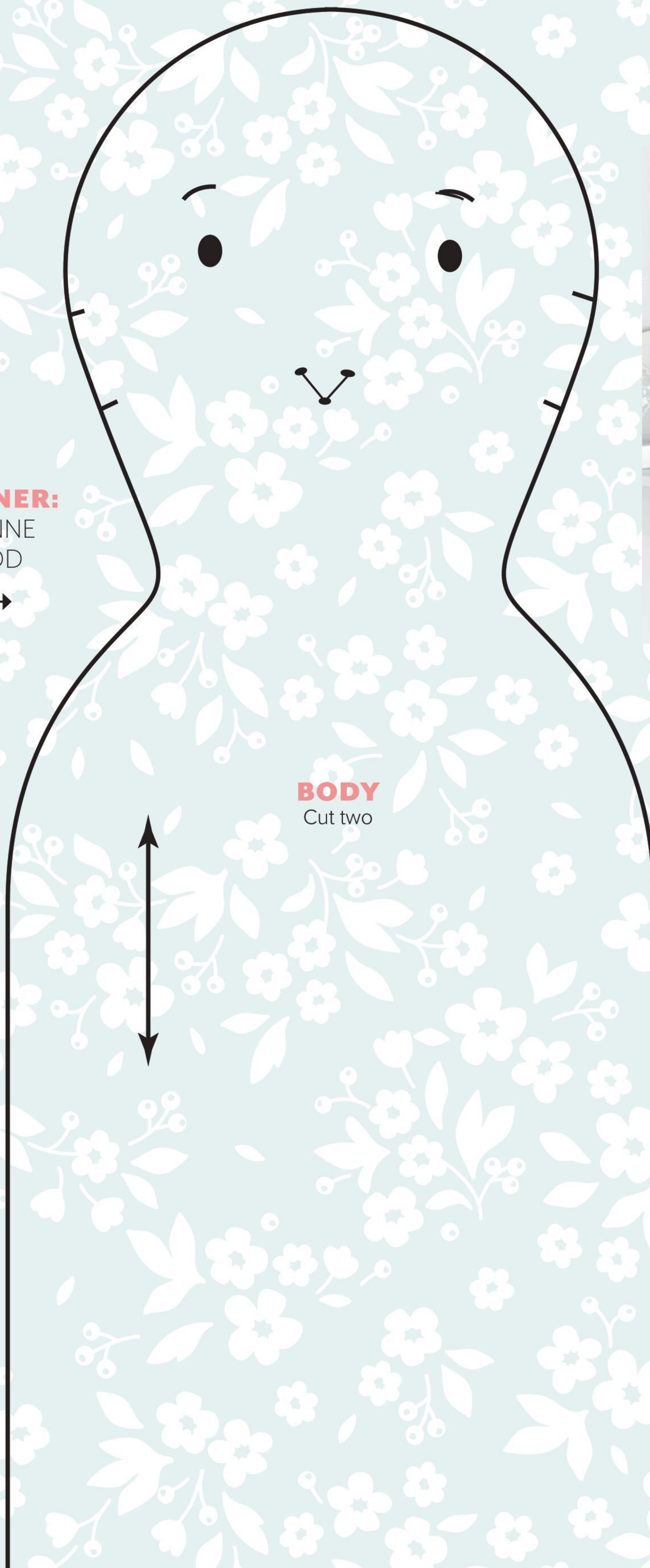
Make yourself a quick and simple Yuletide pal
Page 26

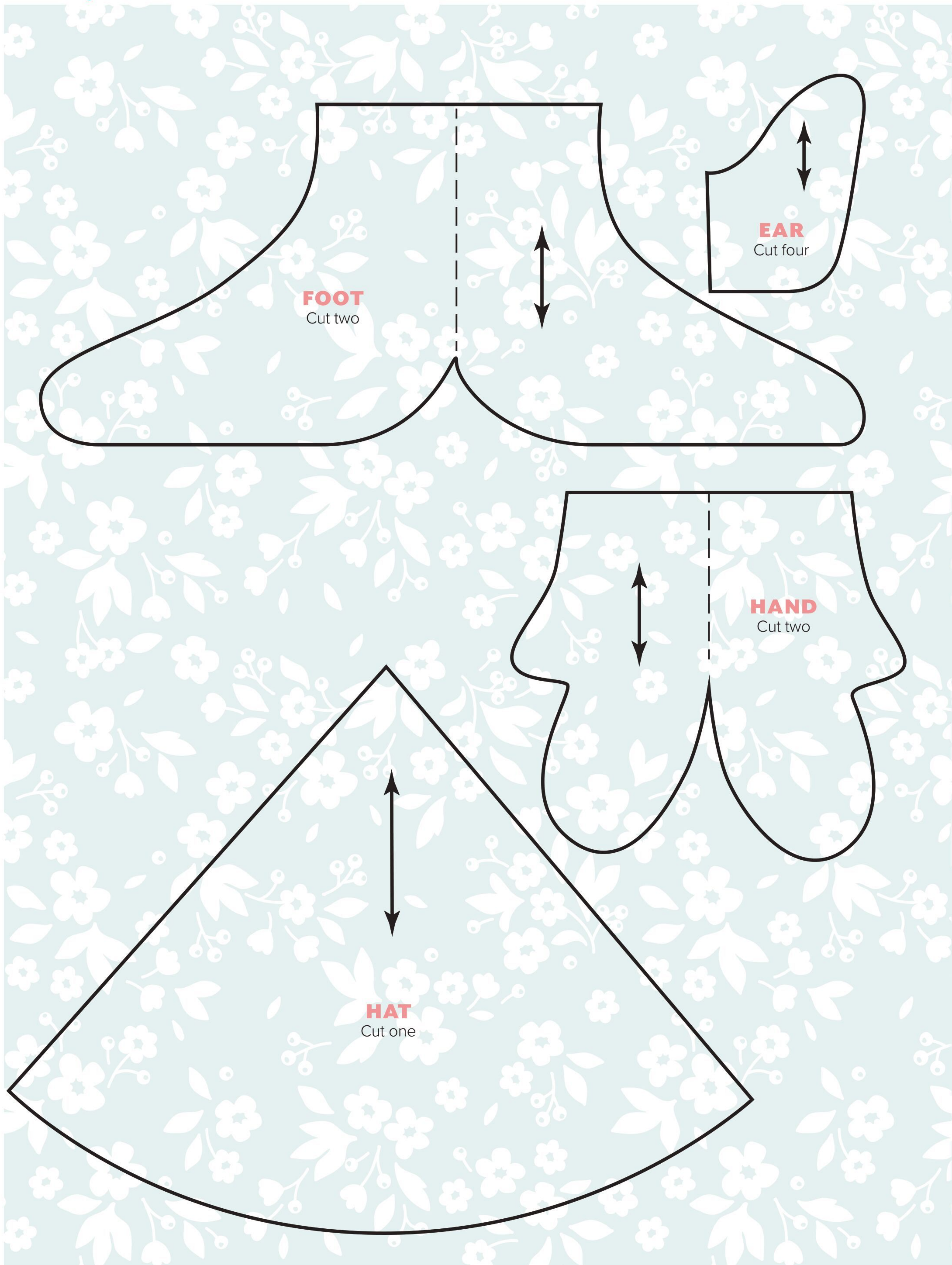


DESIGNER:
CORINNE
BRADD



BODY
Cut two



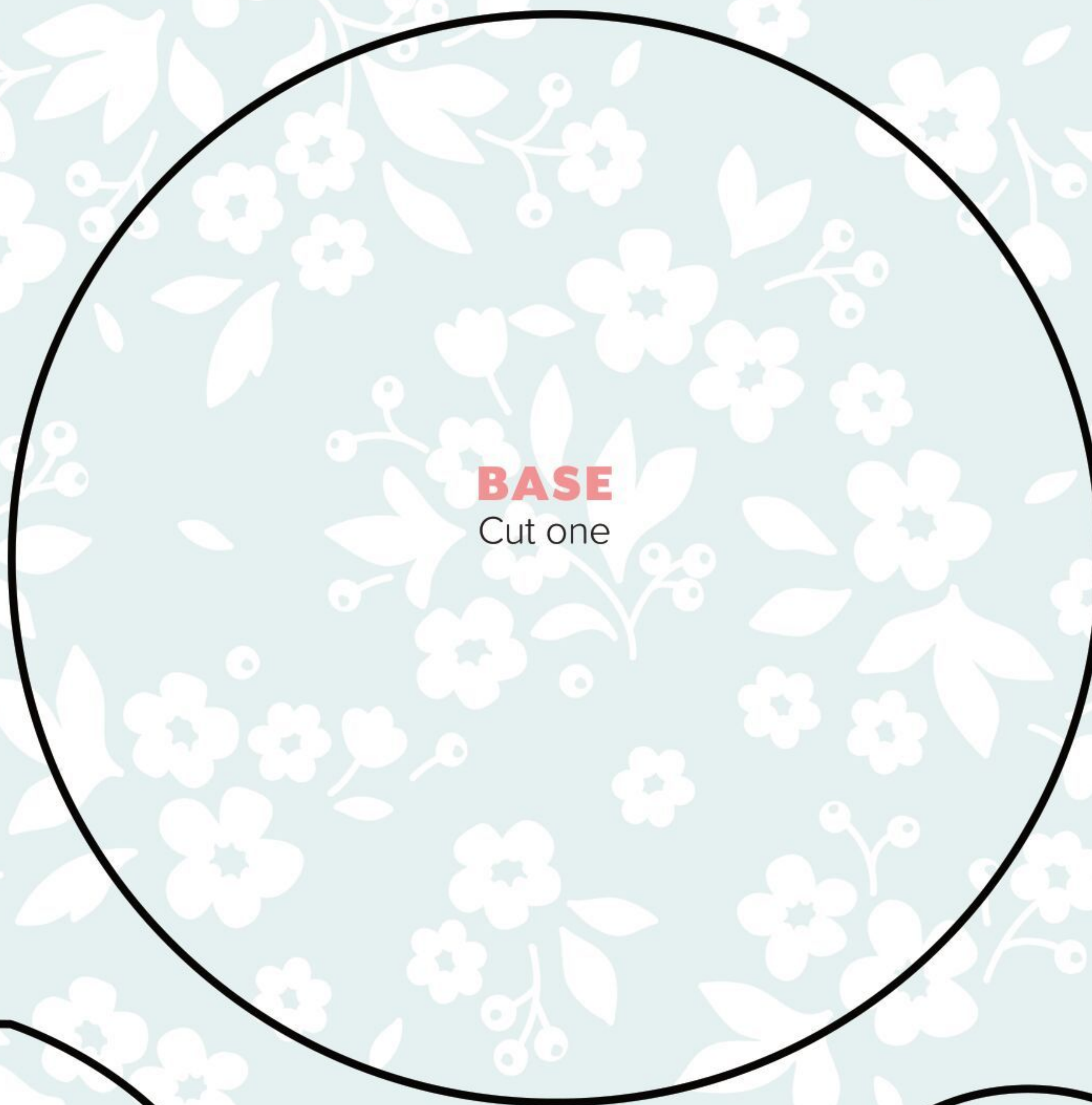


SCANDI GNOME DUO

Deck the halls with Chloe
Hailwood's adorable companions
Page 76

DESIGNER:

CHLOE
HAILWOOD



BASE

Cut one



BEARD

Cut one



NOSE

Cut one



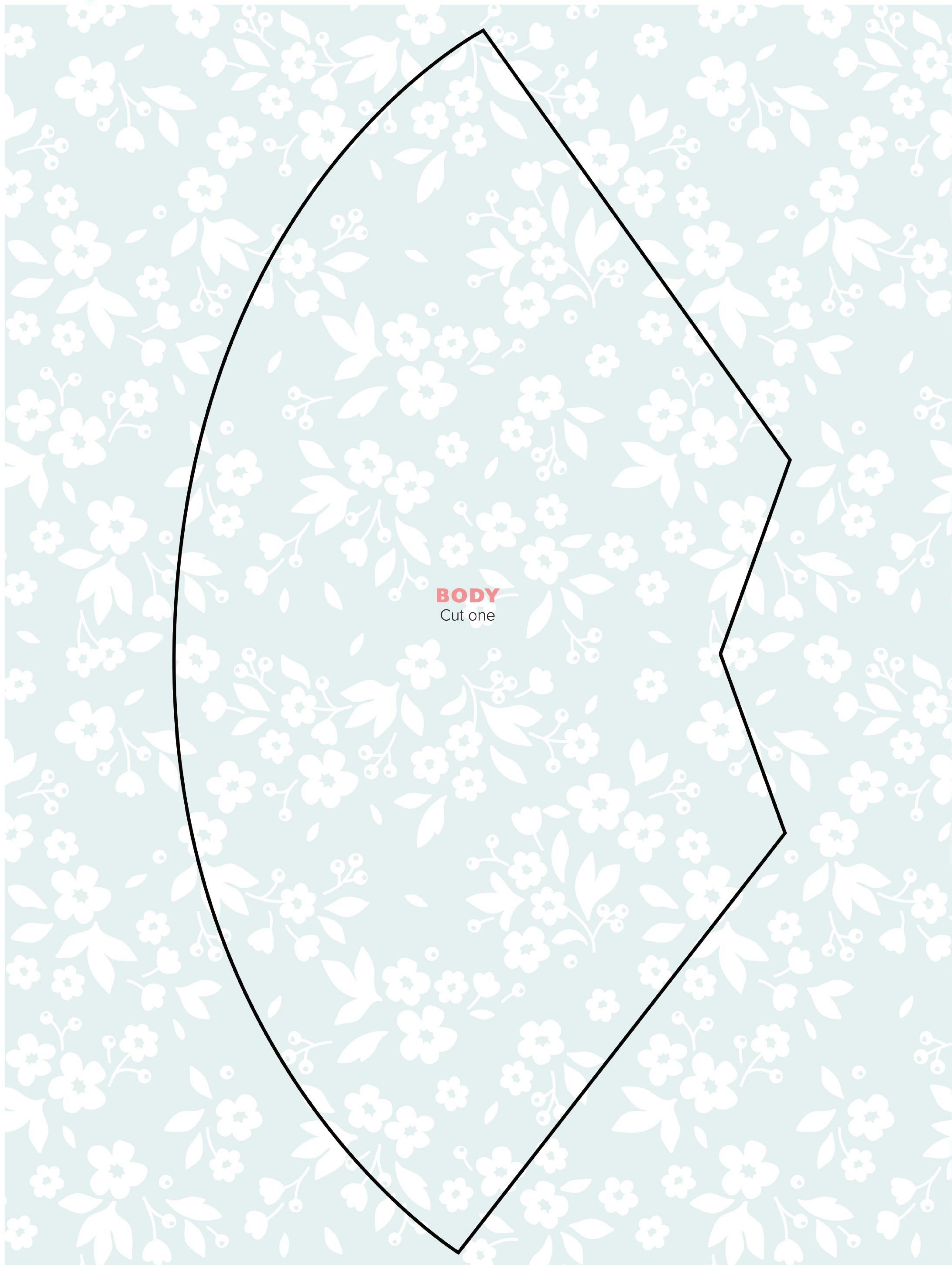
HOLLY

Cut one



HAT

Cut one



LITTLE DONKEY

Don't forget to add Mary and Joseph's
trusty steed to your Nativity scene
Page 60

DESIGNER:

SACHIYO
ISHII

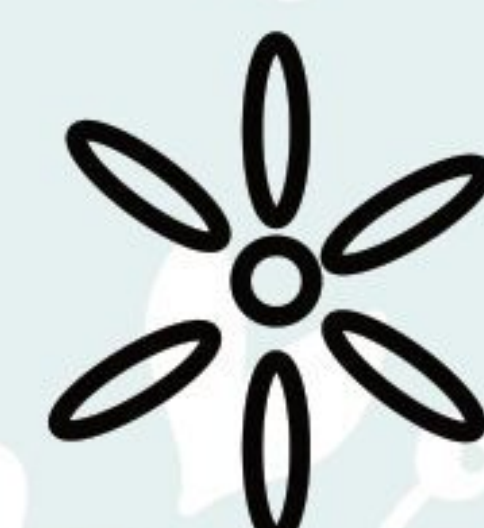


BODY

Cut one right
Cut one left

EAR

Cut one left
cut one right



Blanket
embroidery

TUMMY GUSSET

Cut one right
Cut one left

HEAD GUSSET

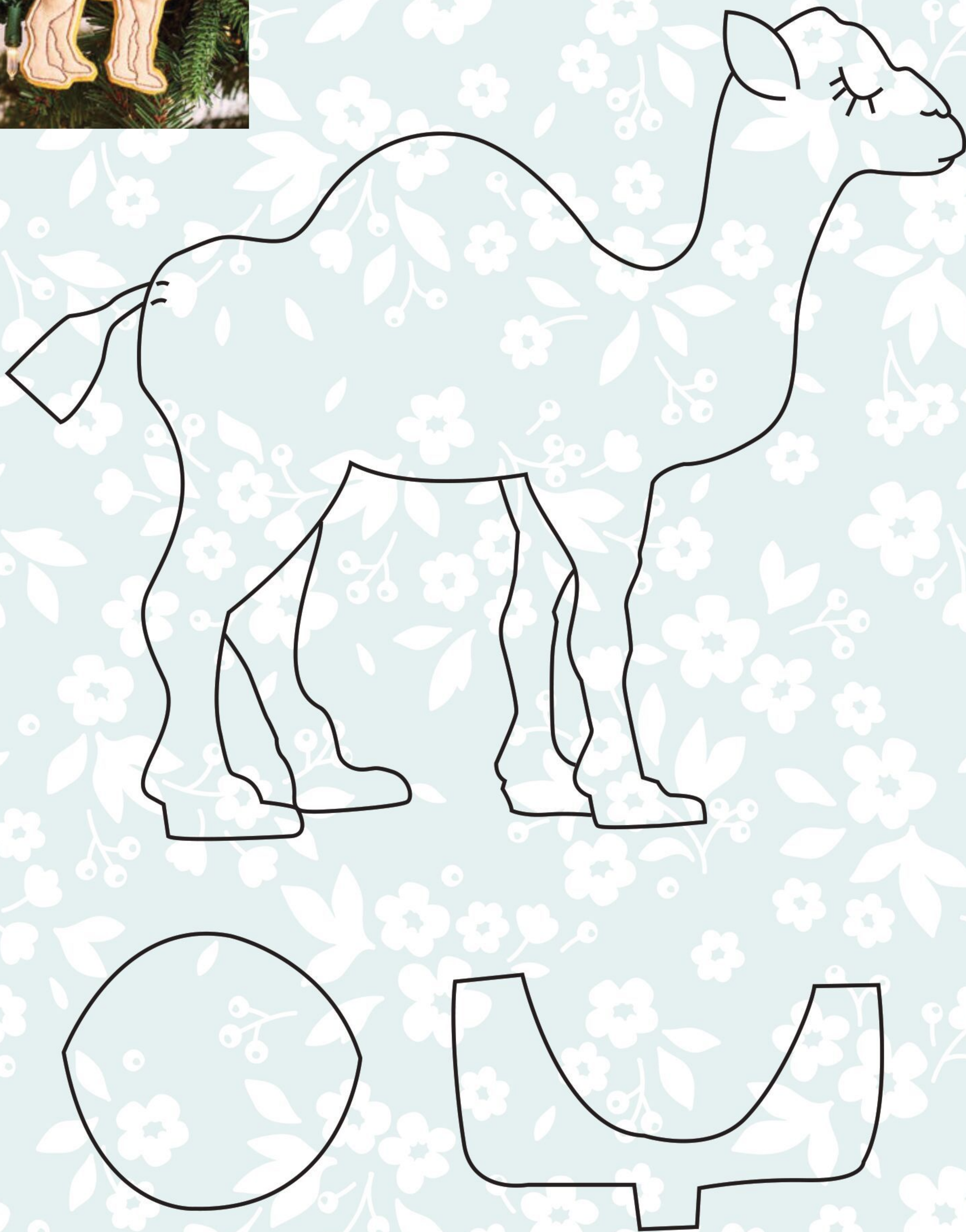
Cut one

CAMEL DECORATIONS

Get a head-start with your
handmade Christmas
Page 37

DESIGNER:

CAROLYN
LETTEN



BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

Sew an heirloom set for a new arrival

Page 46

DESIGNER:

SOPHIA
PALMER



My First
Christmas

My First
Christmas



JOLLY BABY QUILT

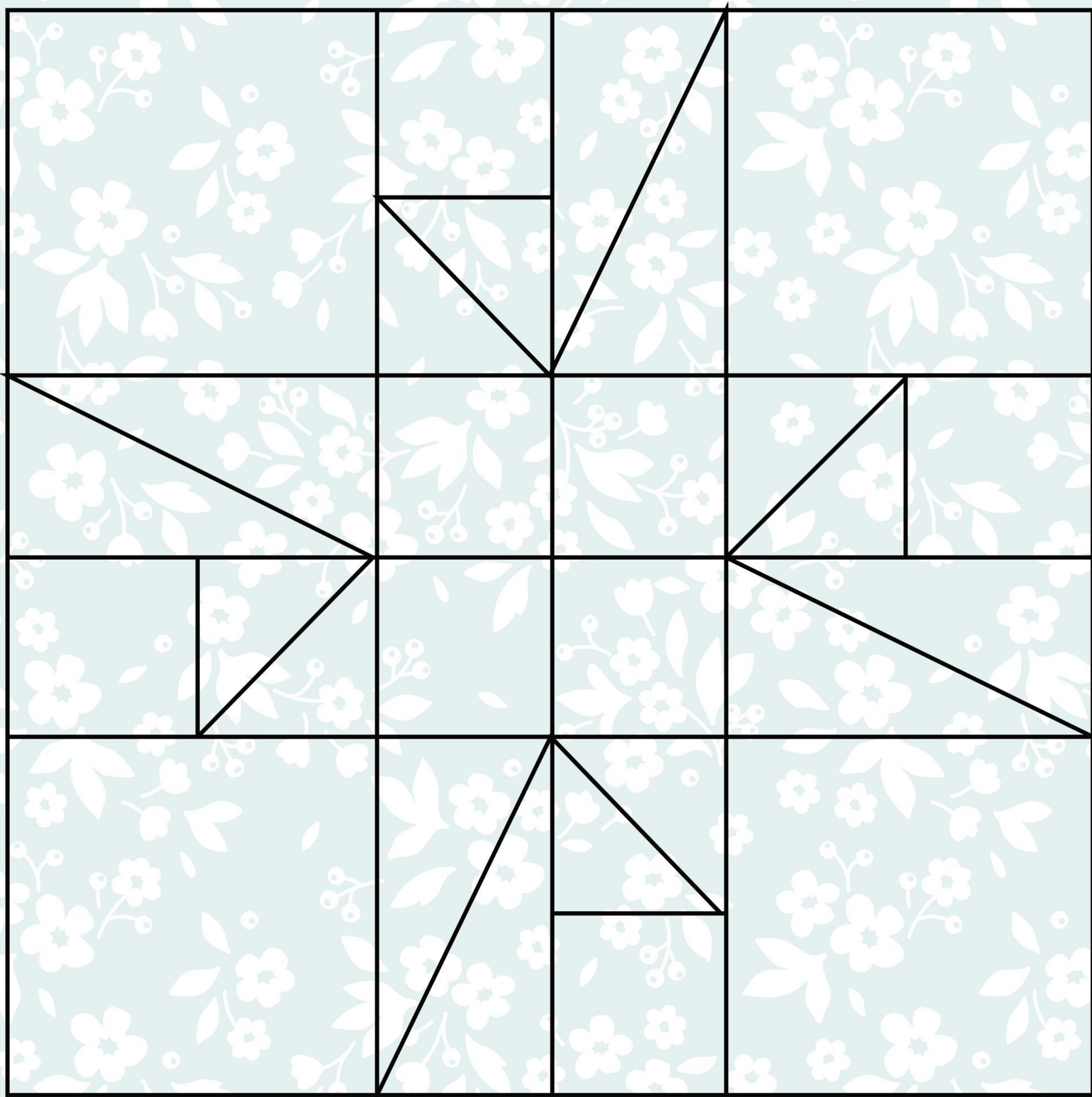
This gorgeous quilt would make a lovely gift

Page 63

DESIGNER:

CORINNE

BRADD



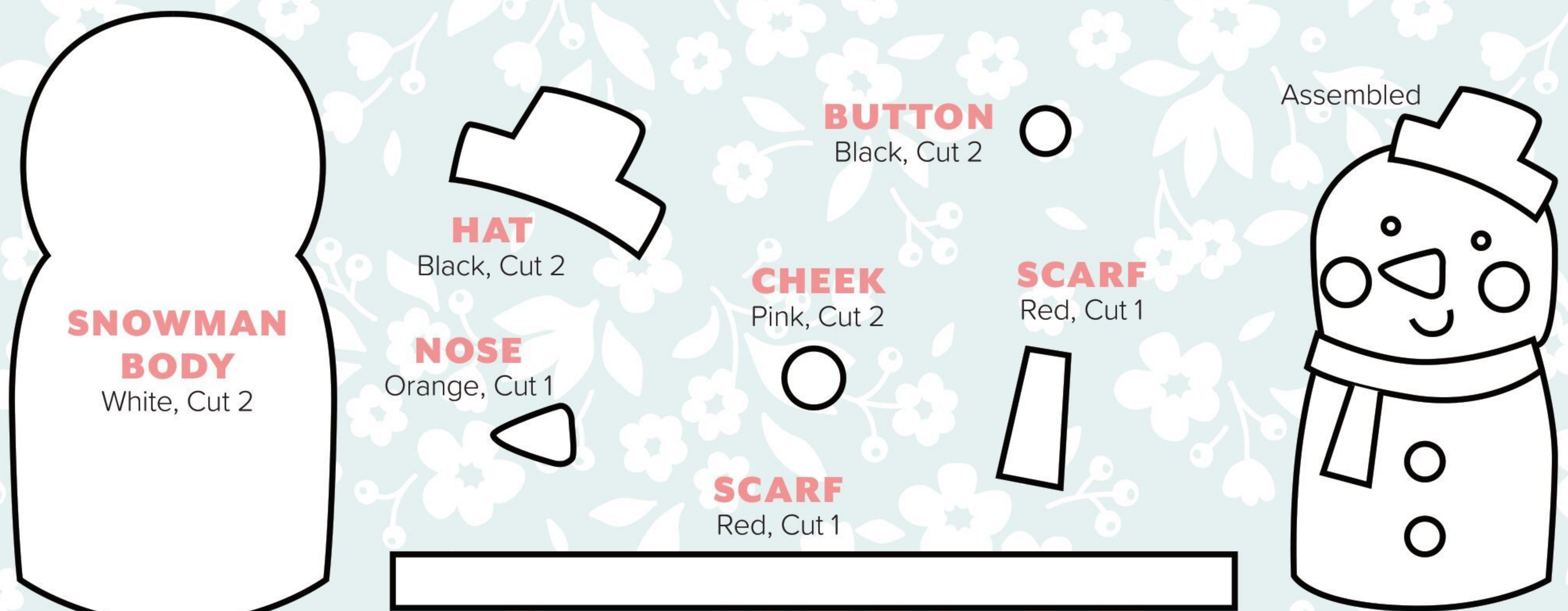
FINGER PUPPETS

These cute characters are ready for a big performance
Page 44

DESIGNER:

SACHIYO
ISHII

Assembled



DESIGNER:

SACHIYO
ISHII



HAT

Green, Cut 1
(front only)

HAT HEM

Red, Cut 1 (front only)

HAIR

Brown, Cut 1

COLLAR

Red, Cut 1

HAND

Peach, Cut 4

NOSE

Peach, Cut 1

ELF BODY

Green, Cut 2

FACE

Peach, Cut 1

BUTTON

Red, Cut 2

CHEEK

Pink, Cut 2

CUFF

Red, Cut 2

Assembled

Assembled

**PENGUIN
BODY**

Front, navy,
Cut 1

**PENGUIN
BODY**

Back, navy,
Cut 1

POMPOM

Red, Cut 1

HAT HEM

White, Cut 2

BEAK

Yellow, Cut 1

SCARF

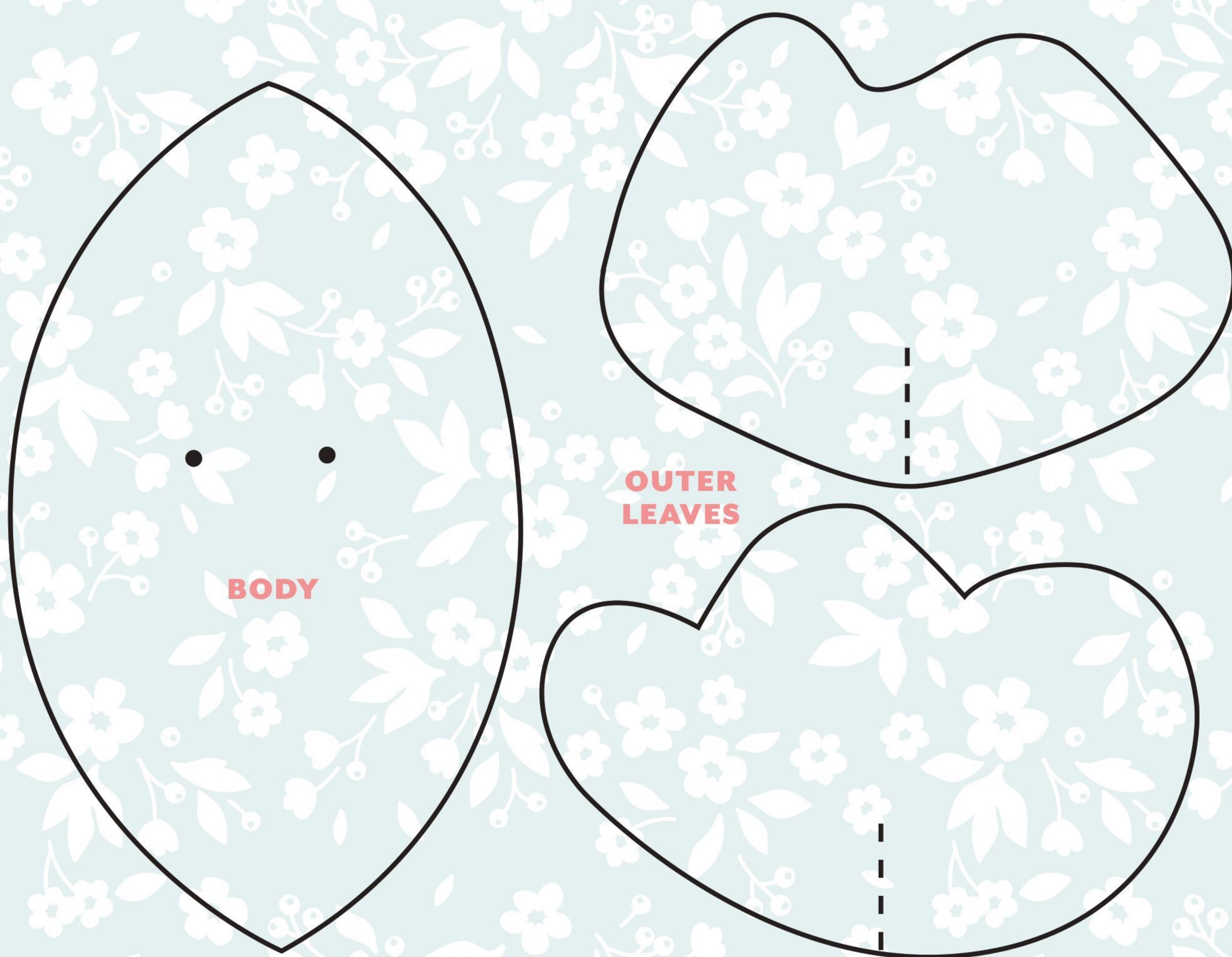
Blue, Cut 1

SCARF

Blue, Cut 1

HAT

Red, Cut 2



DESIGNER:
CHLOE
HAILWOOD

SPROUT BALLS

Entertain the whole family with this fun veggie game
Page 48



SANTA STOP SIGN

Test your machine
embroidery skills with
this fun decoration

Page 28

DESIGNER:

CHLOE
HAILWOOD



Santa
please stop
here!

NEXT
ISSUE
with...

make & sew toys

25+
PRECIOUS
PROJECTS

to make & share

YOUR GIFT!

MUST-HAVE PATTERN
SHEETS TO START
STITCHING TODAY

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FROSTY
FRIEND!



COMING
SOON!

- ◆ Finish your ten-part Nativity scene
- ◆ Upgrade your stash with top fabric picks
- ◆ Discover even more winter plushies inside

INSIDE...
NOSTALGIC MOOMIN
PROJECTS!

Make these
winter cuties!



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must-sew
moose

A fun weekend
project for
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SEW OUR
SNUGGLY
Snowman

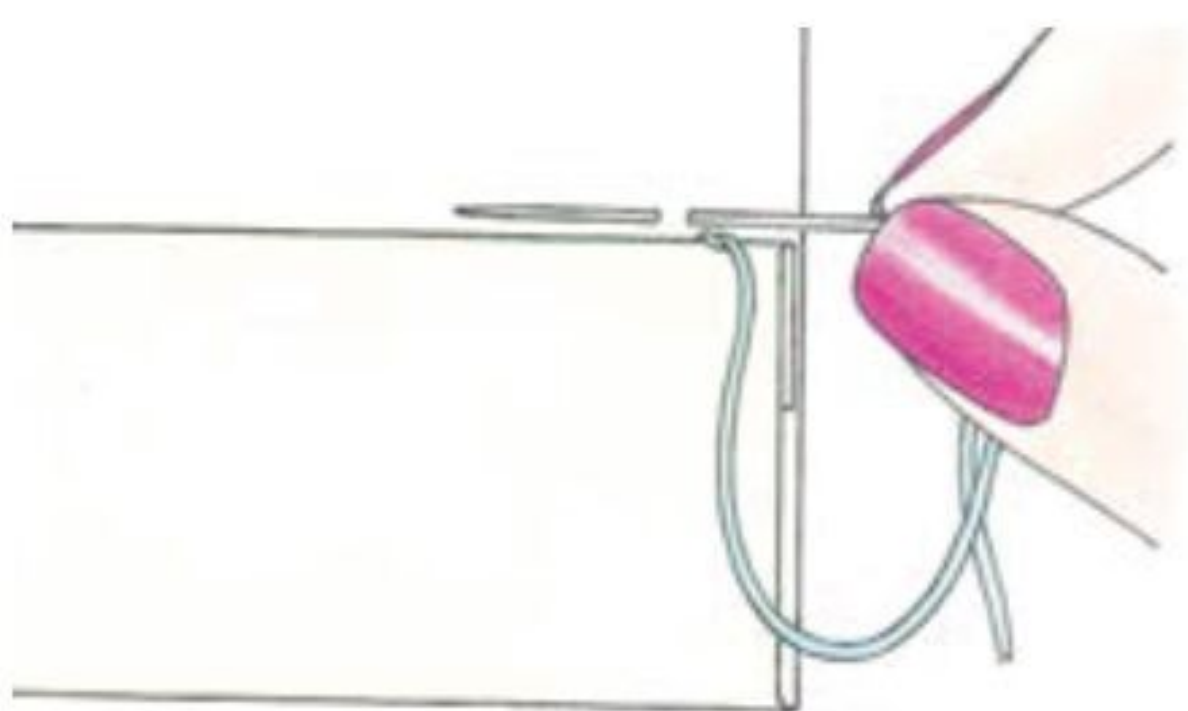


SOFT TOY SCHOOL

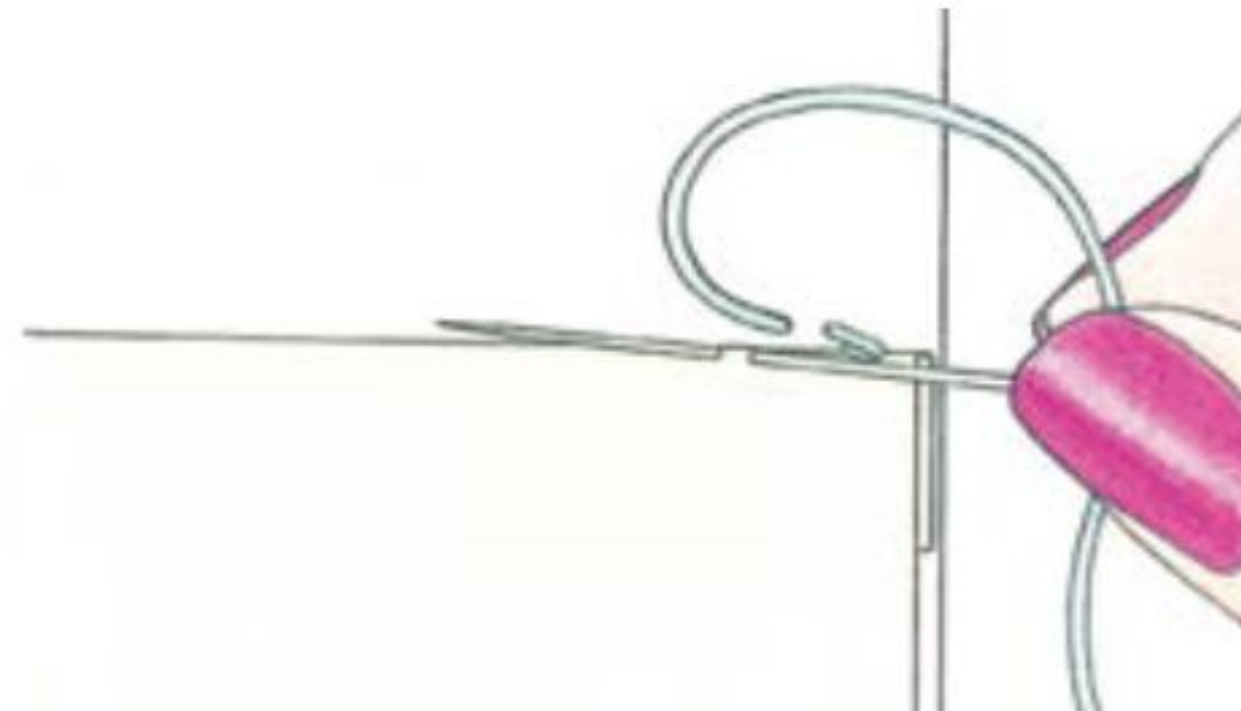
MASTER ESSENTIAL
SEWING TECHNIQUES WITH
OUR HANDY GUIDE

slip stitch

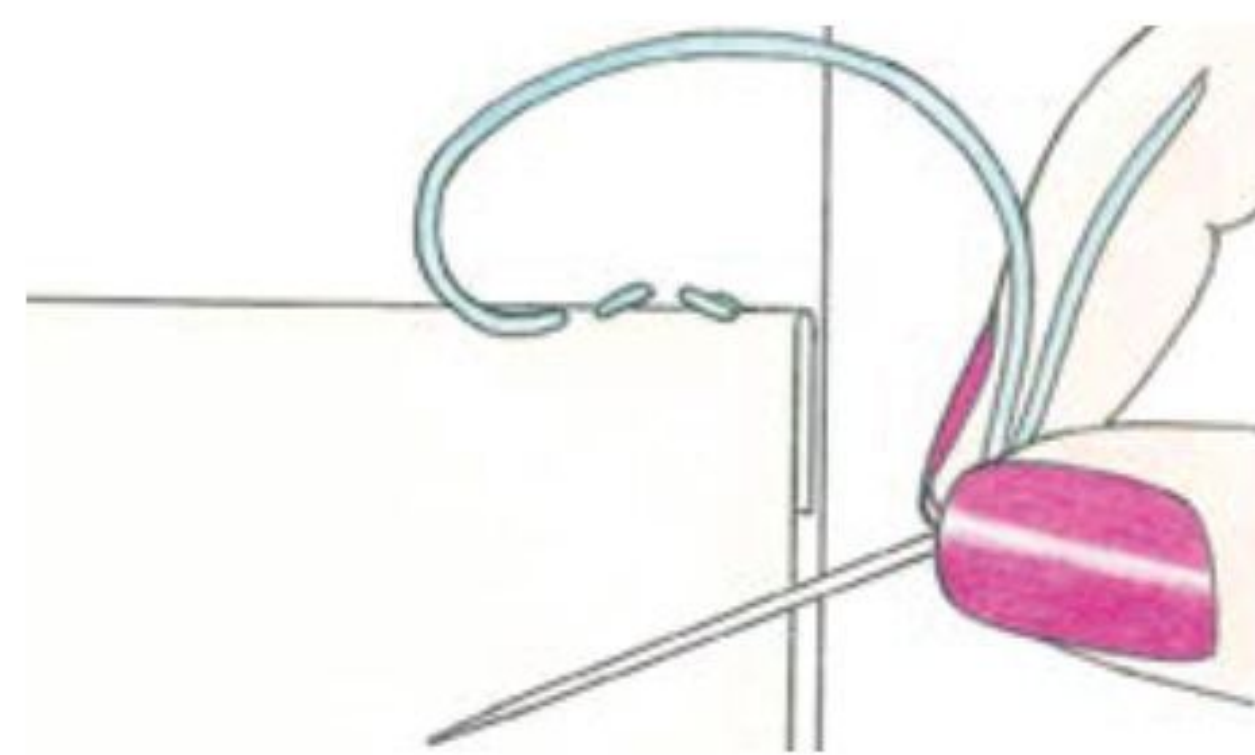
Working on the fold in the fabric, secure the thread with a double stitch.



1 Pick up two threads of the fabric with the needle tip, then slip the needle through the fold of the hem. Bring the needle out 5mm along.



2 Then, pick up two more threads of fabric before returning through the fold of the hem.



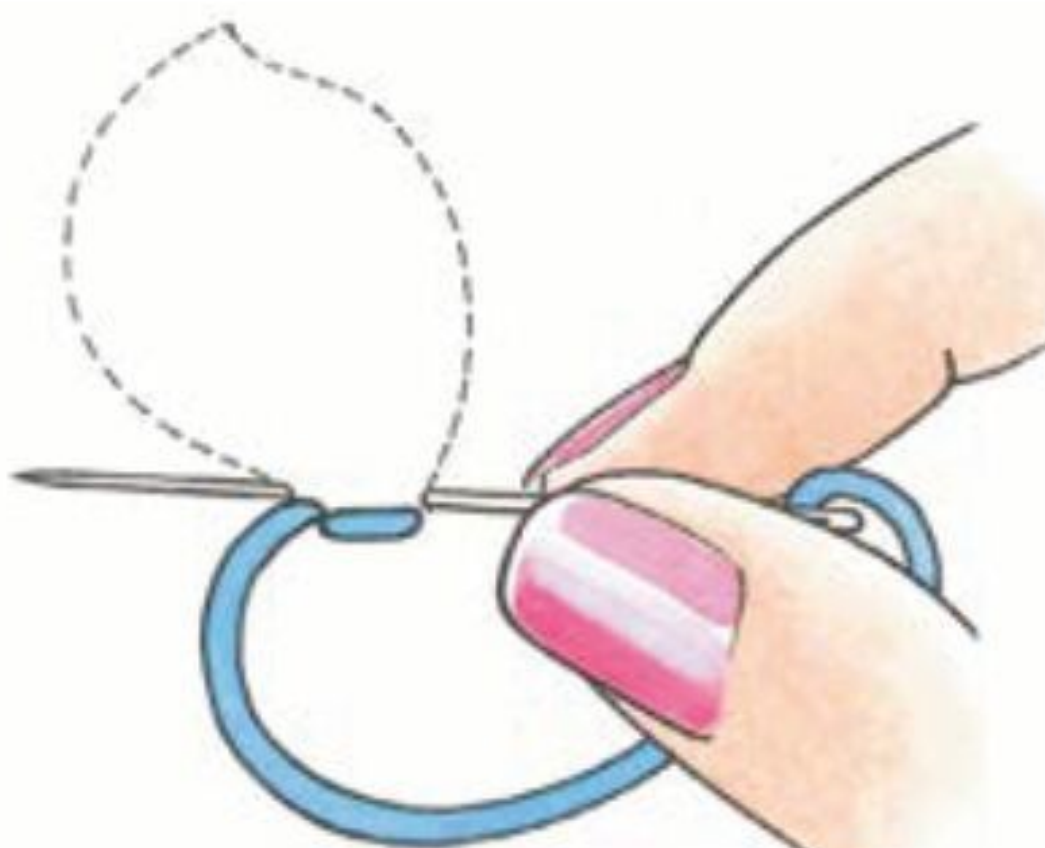
3 Pull the thread lightly as you work to tighten the stitches, being careful not to distort the fabric which makes the stitches visible.

TEMPLATES

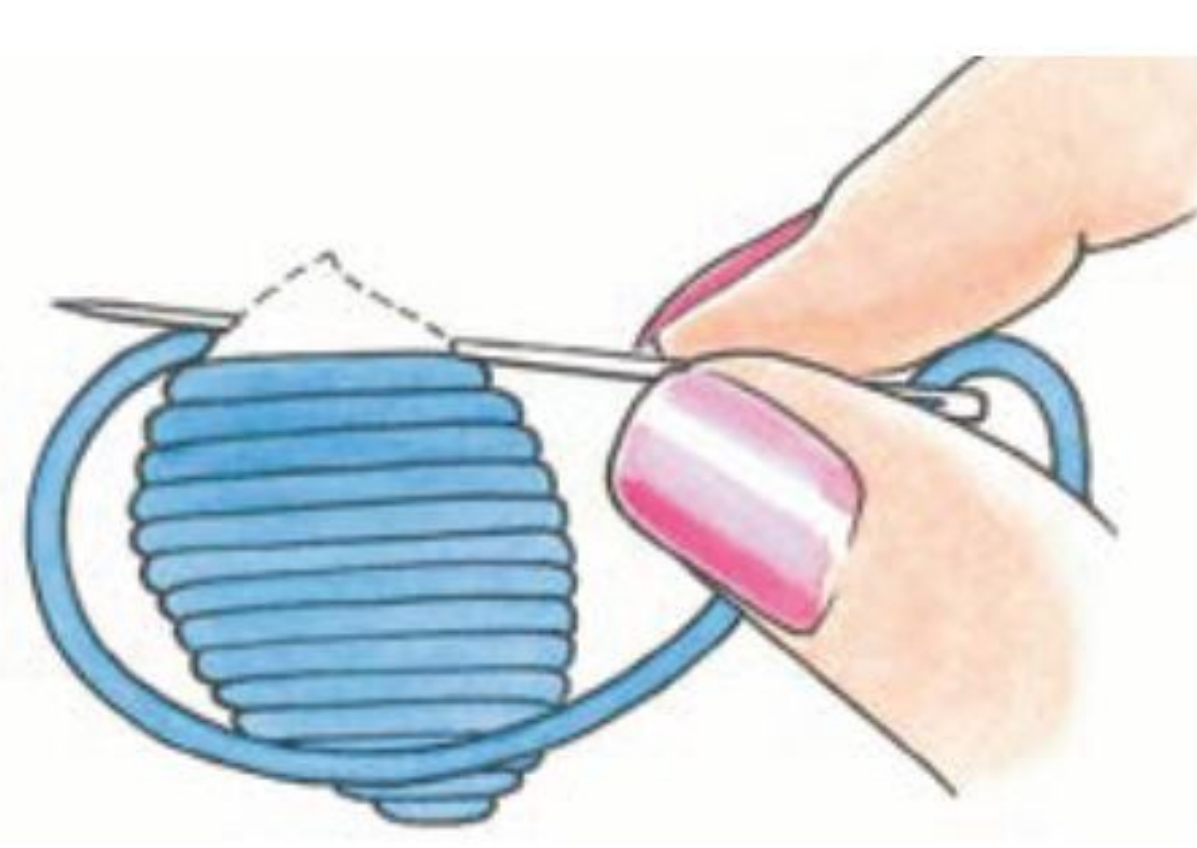
Download the template pack at makeandsewtoys.com. Ensure your printer is set to print at 100% or 'actual size' as this will guarantee printing at the correct dimensions. You can measure the 2cm line with a ruler to check.

satin stitch

This decorative stitch requires parallel lines of thread to make a design. These can be worked horizontally, vertically or at an angle.



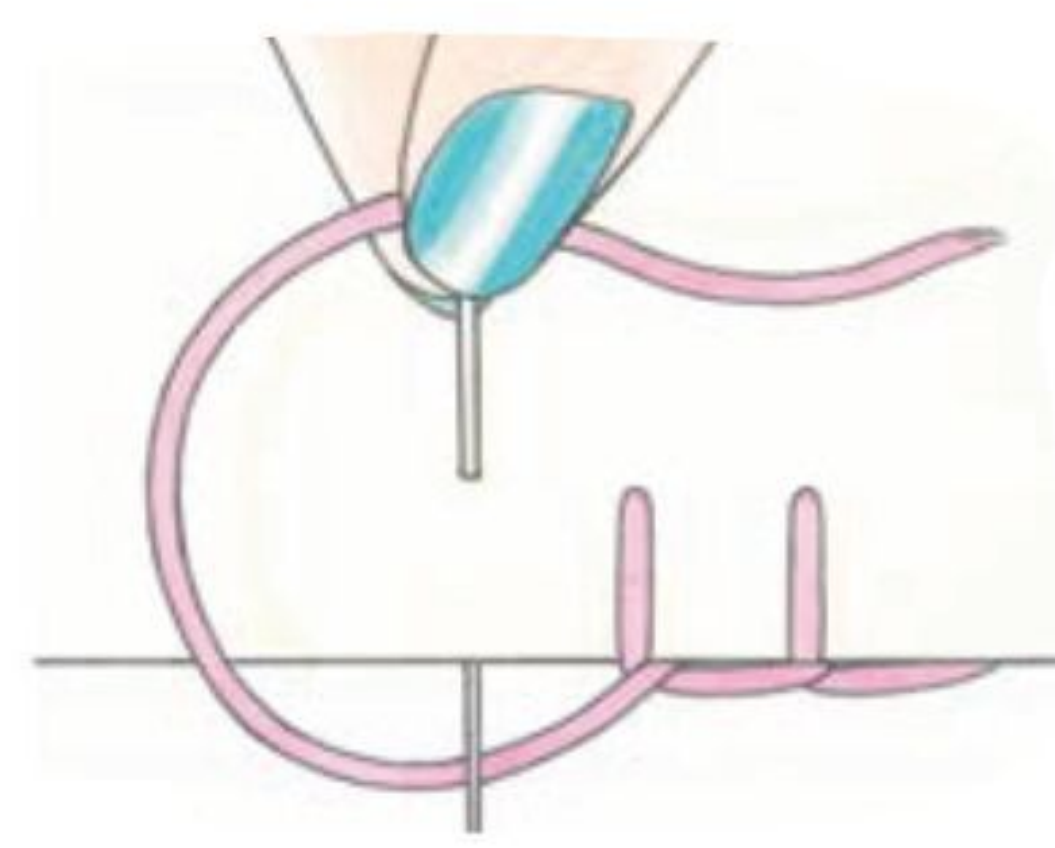
1 Start with the secure end on the wrong side of work. Pull the needle through to the surface on the base of the outline to be filled. Take the needle to the outline on the opposite side and push the needle back through to form a long, straight stitch.



2 Take the needle down next to the end of the first stitch and under the work, bringing it back through at the start of the previous stitch forming a parallel line of thread. Repeat this process until the desired area is filled.

blanket stitch

Also known as buttonhole stitch, used for reinforcing the edge of thick materials.



1 Secure the thread and working along the edge, bring the needle to the surface of the fabric.

2 Take the needle through from the back of the fabric to the surface on the stitching line. Loop the end of the thread under the

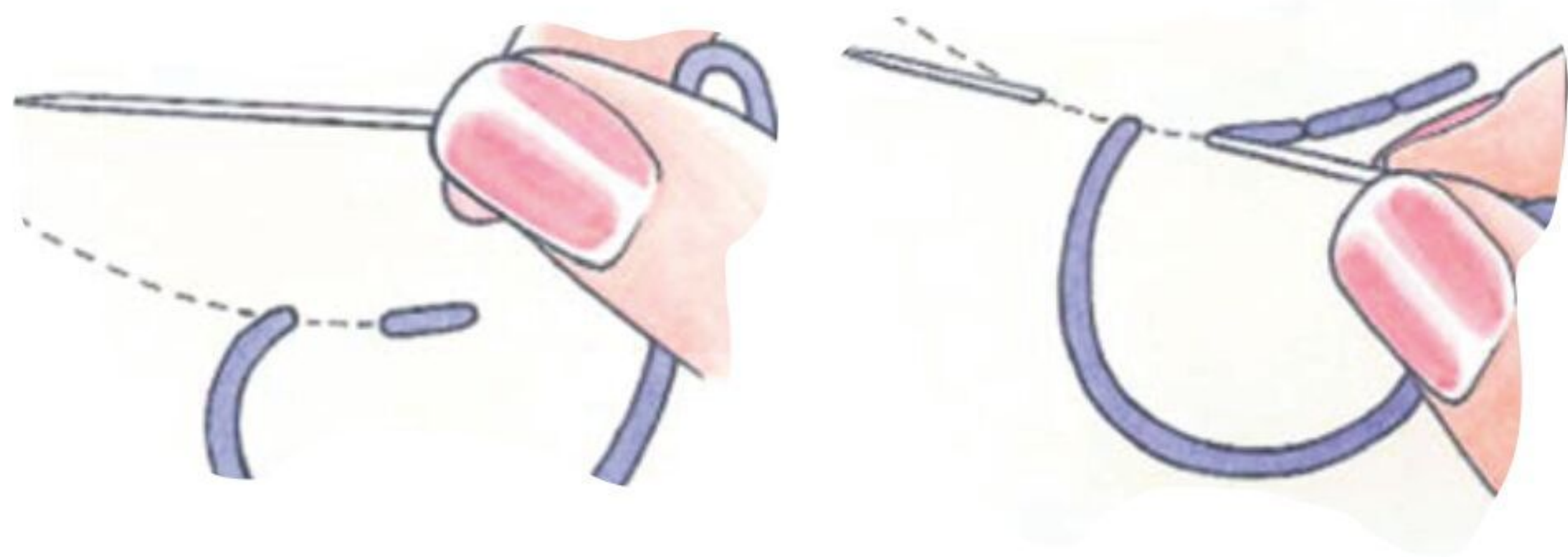


needle and pull through to adjust so that the stitch lies along the edge of the fabric.

3 Repeat to create evenly spaced stitches along the fabric edge, maintain an even tension to avoid distorting the fabric.

back stitch

Strong hand stitches with a neat finish.

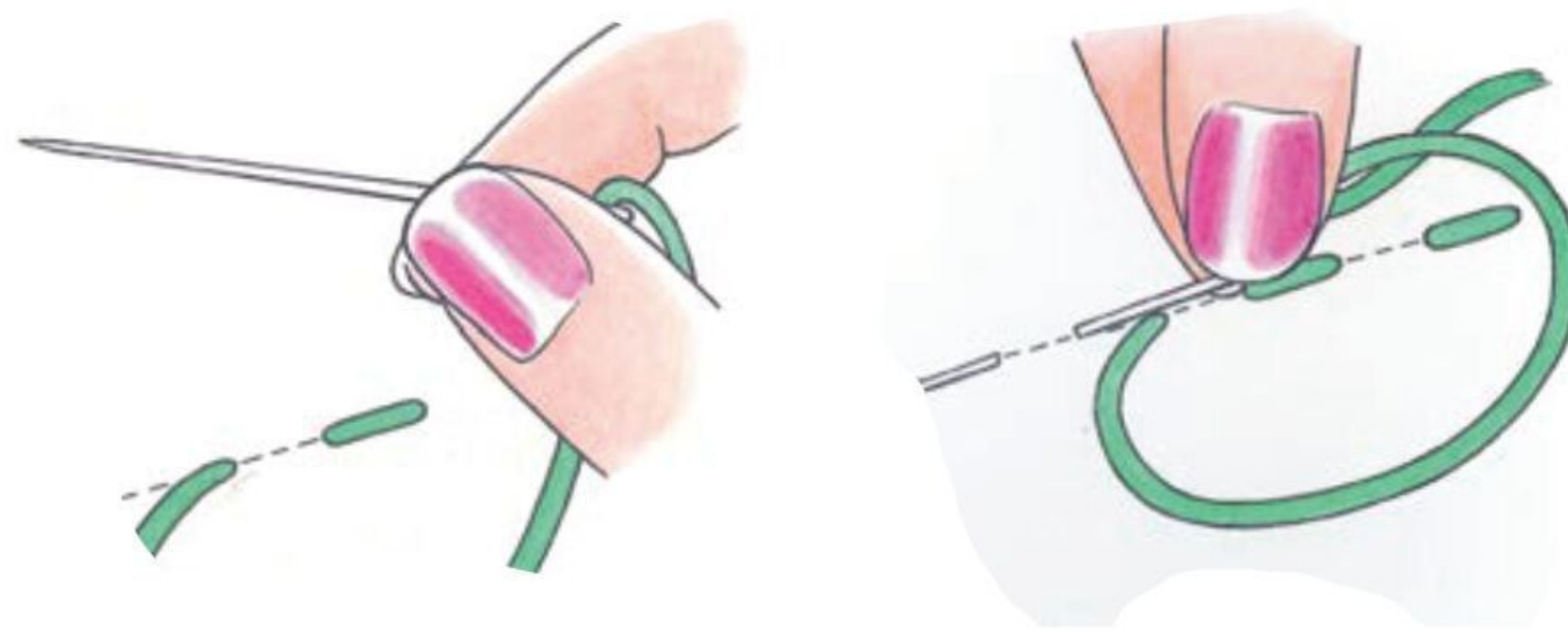


1 Secure the thread on the wrong side of the fabric and bring the needle through to the surface to start the first stitch. Move a stitch length backwards along the sewing line, take the needle back through the fabric and then bring it to the surface at the end position of this stitch.

2 Moving back along the stitching line, take the needle down through the same hole as the previous thread. Bring it to the surface for the end position of the stitch. Repeat along the sewing line to create even stitches.

running stitch

A simple row of stitches that creates a dotted line of thread.



1 Secure the thread on the wrong side of the fabric, then bring the needle through to the surface to start the first stitch.

2 Moving forward take the needle back down through the fabric and then bring up again. Keep the distance between the gaps and the stitches the same size and continue along the stitching line.

Before you get started...

1 Once you've cut out all of your template pieces, keep them together in a project bag or zip lock bag so there's no risk of accidentally losing one.

2 Use a rotary cutter with a fresh blade to achieve neat, straight cuts.

3 Invest in a cutting mat and keep it clean and flat when not in use.

4 Keep your fabric scissors sharp and use them for just material use only.

5 Iron your fabric before pinning your templates to it to ensure accuracy.

6 Check the pattern to determine the seam allowance required for your toy – this could be anything from 3mm to 1cm.

APPLIQUÉ ADVICE

◇ Carefully press your fabric pieces before stitching for a neat finish.

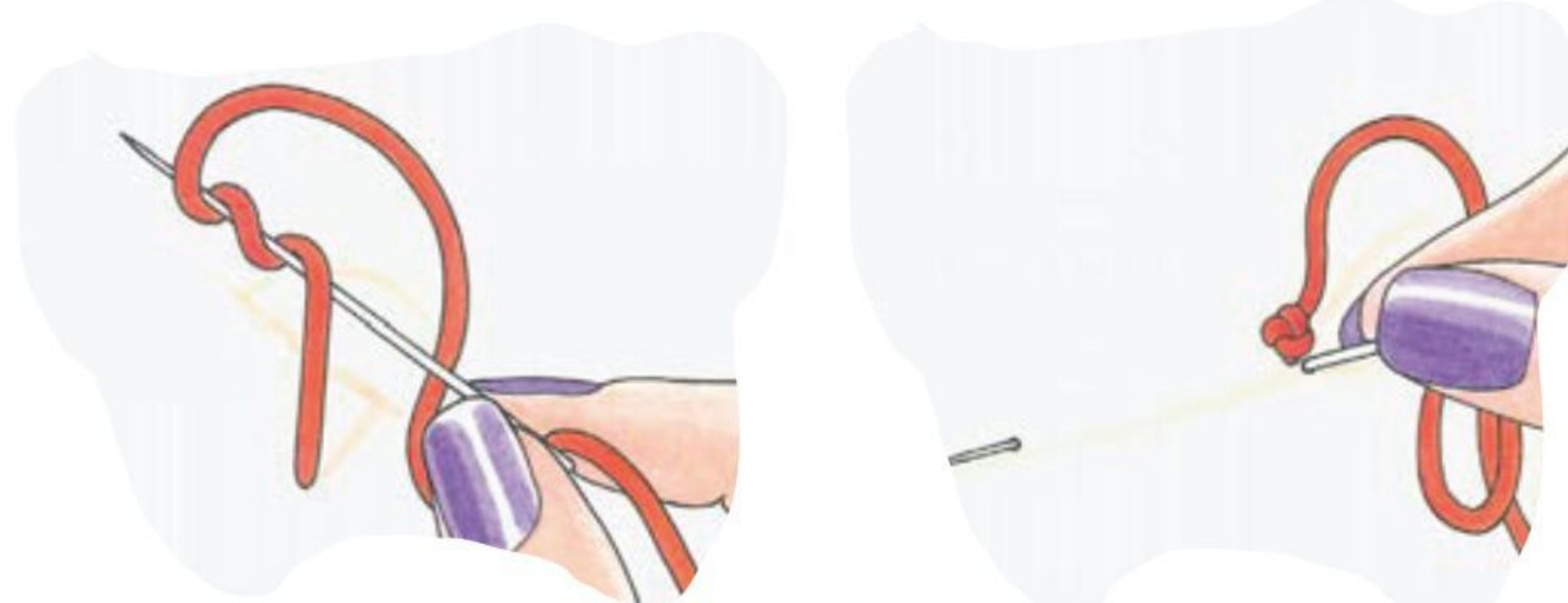
◇ Back the fabrics with fusible webbing to secure them to the work and prevent edges from fraying.

◇ Use a variety of machine or hand stitches to get different effects.

◇ For really neat edges, use felt to create your designs.

French knots

Use French knots to create child-safe eyes for your toys.



1 Bring the thread to the surface at the position for the knot. Wrap the thread around the needle tip twice and take the needle back through the fabric where it came up.

2 Ease the knot on to the surface of the fabric, holding it steady whilst pulling the needle through to the wrong side. Stitch to secure or return to the surface for next French knot.

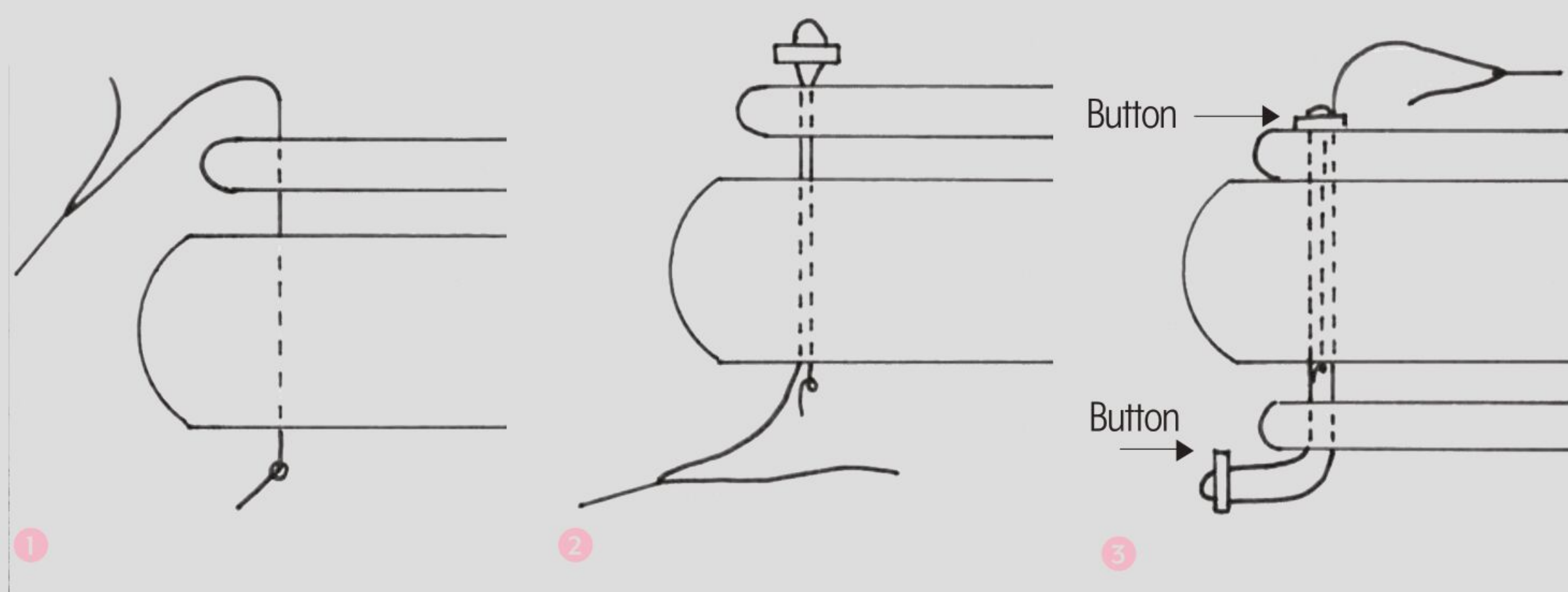


"If you're new to making soft toys, quilt weight cotton is the perfect material to start with. It has very little stretch, a tight weave that will give a smoother finish,

it's washable and comes in a huge range of colours and beautiful prints to choose from"

DESIGNER CORINNE BRADD

How To... Create button joints



TOY SAFETY

◇ If making for a very young child, omit any loose embellishments and embroider details such as the face instead.

◇ Ensure you use strong stitching to prevent filling materials escaping.

◇ Use hypo-allergenic toy stuffing and materials that are chemical-free or organic fabrics where possible.

◇ Think about using materials which can be easily machine washed to get rid of dirt and bacteria.



INSIDE THE TOY BOX



ALICE WOOD

We caught up with founder of The Little Toy Dog Company to discover the magic of her personalised pooches



1 Drawing and sewing are my two favourite activities.

I learnt to sew at primary school, starting with simple two-piece felt pincushions and needle cases, then moved on to more complex dolls and toys. I studied A Level Dress and Design, where I learnt pattern cutting, too, before I went on to art school in London to complete a degree in Illustration. I have a textile background in my family – my great-grandfather was a shirt cutter and later had a women's clothing business.

2 I just love dogs. They are such wonderful companions: big, small, tall, short, thin, fat, old, young, warty, grumpy and barky! My brand started when I was working on illustrations for a picture book and, while waiting for feedback, I found myself drawing designs for toys. My son was small and I wanted to make him a dog like an old fashioned bear, with jointed legs. The first few were made for friend's children, but I wanted to make more complex toys – recognisable breeds for grown-ups to buy. Now, I make lots of different breeds.

3 I use techniques that have been around since the early 1900s.

The dogs are made in separate pieces – head, body, legs. The parts are assembled using hardboard and split pin cotter pin joints, then the body is stuffed and closed. I use glass eyes

with wire looped backs, and embroider the features by hand. I then use scissors to sculpt the fur shape, and fabric dye to colour it. It can take me several hours to make a pattern, and usually a day or two to finish a dog. I work from sketches at first, relying on my illustration training to capture their shape and character, then I convert the drawings into sewing patterns. Some have as many as 27 pieces!

4 I mimic real fur with mohair – it's a beautiful fabric. There are only a few surviving textile mills which still make it. It is fiddly to work with, especially the very short and very long piles, and you need to be careful not to trap the fur in the seams. I use a little wire brush to keep it under control. I try to find mohair which suits the coat of the dog I am making; sometimes it takes me a while to find just the right one.

5 My own dog Franki is a Shetland Sheepdog. I haven't made him yet, but I might do. I love the challenge of problem solving, making a three-dimensional object from my drawings, finding the right materials, collecting old buttons and sentimental pieces of fabric or ribbon to finish them. I just finished making a dog called Peggy for my friend, illustrator Helen Stephens, and I added a small coat exactly like the one Helen had made her from an old anorak. I really enjoy those personal touches. **M&ST**



➔ **TO SEE MORE** OF ALICE'S PERFECT PUPS, VISIT LITTLETOYDOG.CO.UK OR HEAD OVER TO HER INSTAGRAM OR FACEBOOK PAGE [@LITTLETOYDOGS](https://www.facebook.com/LITTLETOYDOGS)

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Views on YOUTUBE

YOU'D BE EVER SO SILLY NOT TO GET INVOLVED



*New demos
added
every week!*

Join the always creative, ingenious, marvellous Corinne Bradd on The Crafts Channel, your online masterclass for crafting techniques. There are hundreds of video demonstrations that are jam-packed with ideas for you to try – all from the comfort of your own home! The video tutorials help you master essential crafting skills including toymaking, plus cardmaking, papercraft, stitching, knitting, crochet, wire work, felting, origami, polymer clay and lots more. Phew! Along the way, Corinne offers up plenty of insider tidbits and handy advice, ensuring you come away armed with both knowledge and inspiration. What's not to enjoy?

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