

# tiny dino



# plush

A SEWING PATTERN BY



# tiny dino plush

This pattern will show you how to make a super round and pudgy little dinosaur. It looks both cute and goofy as it's mostly head and tail with four itty-bitty legs. As if it's just been hatched and ready to waddle around. Any dinosaur lover is sure to be happy to see it! And with its shape and some added wings you could easily make a tubby little dragon as well.

## DIFFICULTY:



The hardest part of this plush is likely sewing all the very tiny pieces, including the four legs and several tiny spikes. So it might be closer to a 3 out of 10 depending on what you're comfortable with. Aside from that, there are some darts and curved sewing to contend with.

## MAKES:

One plush, about 5" wide, 5" tall, and 7" long

## SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Ladder stitch
- Sewing curves
- Gathering stitch
- Basting

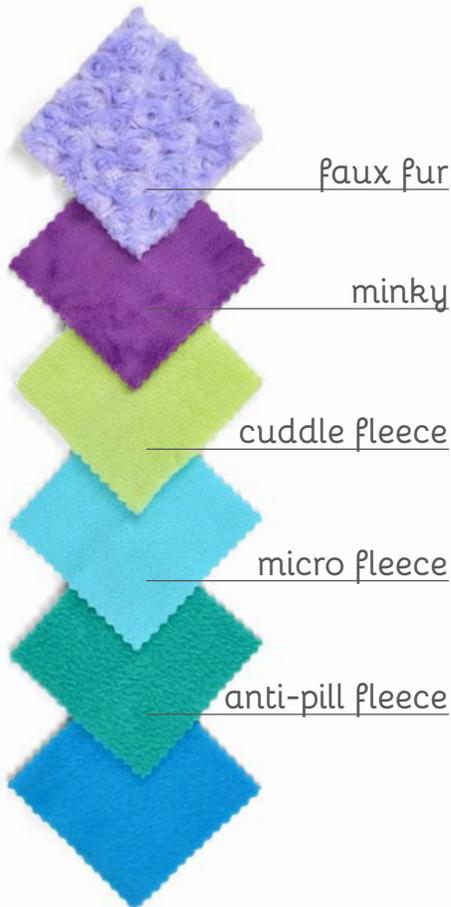


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## materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. of fabric for main body
- ⅛ yd. of accent fabric for spikes
- 3" x 3" piece of black applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) for eyes and mouth
- 4" x 4" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- sewing thread to match main fabric and applique fabrics
- poly-fil stuffing
- basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)
- white fabric paint (optional; see step 19)



## SUGGESTED FABRICS:

Plush, stretchy fabrics such as fleece or minky are suggested. The variations of fleece and minky mentioned to the left would work well, but really any plushy fabric with a bit of stretch on the cross-wise grain would be well-suited. Stretch fabrics like **FLEECE** or **MINKY** will create a more squat, round shape when stuffed. Non-stretchy fabrics, like **FELT** or **COTTON**, won't stretch when stuffed so the resulting plush will look elongated as shown.

**MINKY**

**VS.**

**FELT**

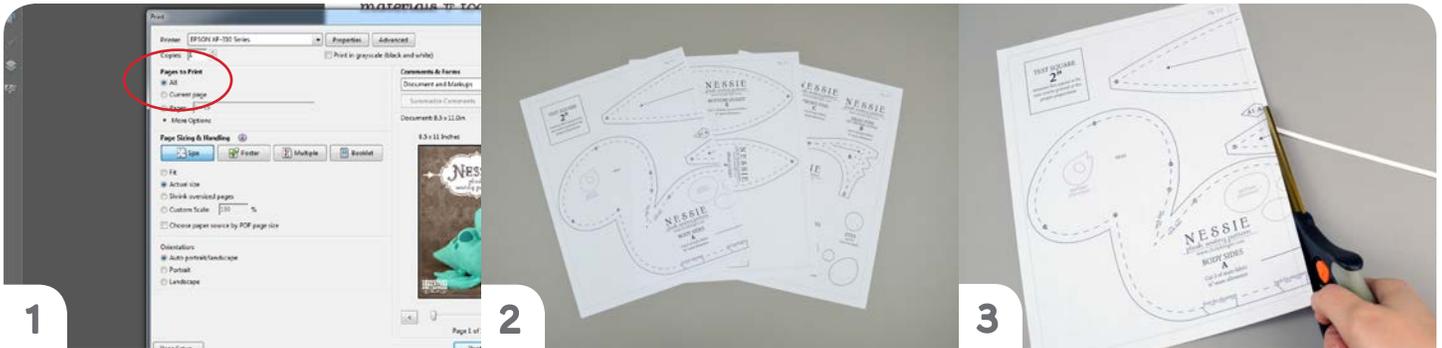


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## printing the pattern:

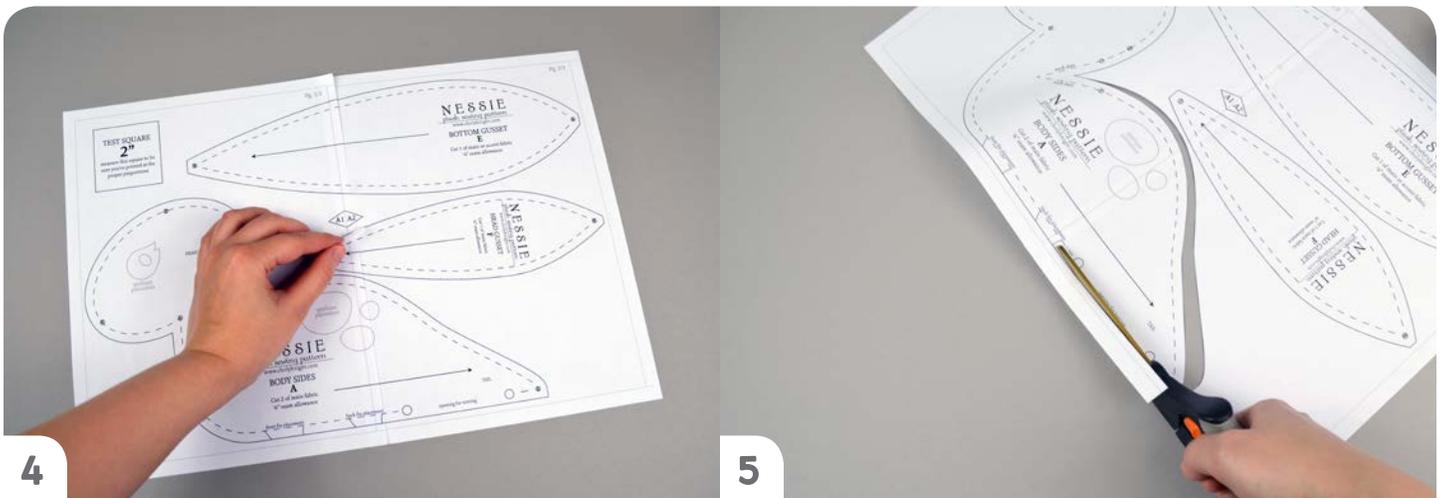
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 13-15**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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

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

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

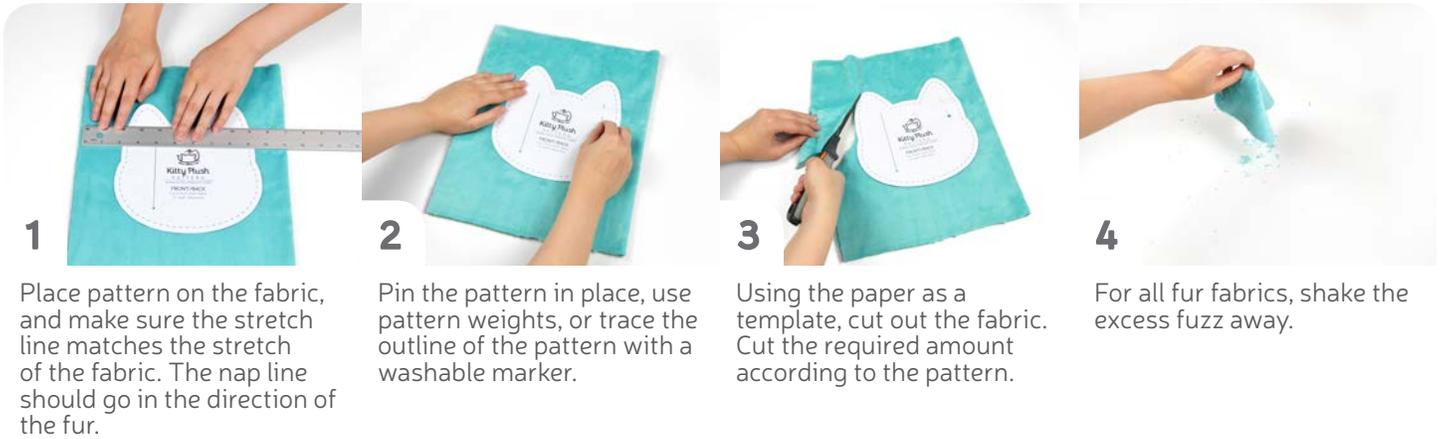


4 To line up the pattern pages, match up the corresponding diamond shapes. Each diamond will have a letter, so it's simply a matter of matching A1 to A2, B3 to B4 and so on. The faint gray lines indicate the border of every page, you should be able to line those up as well. When the diamond goes together,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

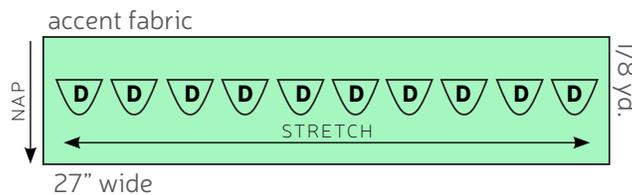
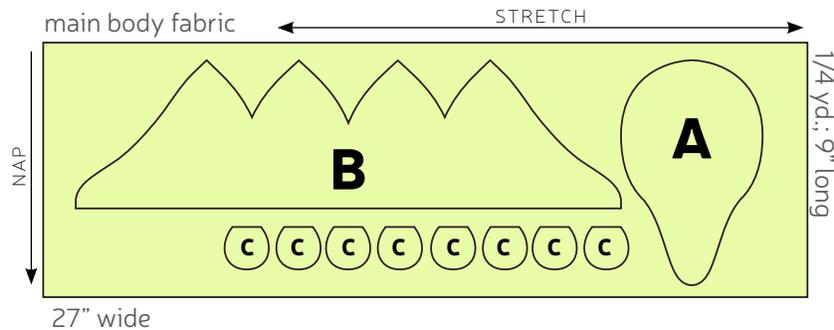
5 You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper -- be sure that each piece is fully taped together along the joins so they don't fall apart when you cut them.



## cutting the fabric:



## cutting layout:

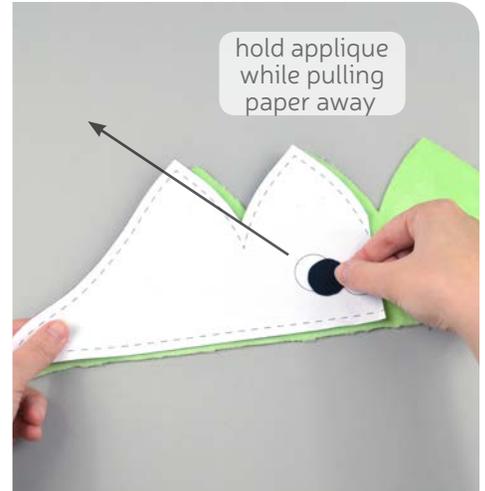


## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

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

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## 1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Take your fusible web and trace the eye and mouth pieces onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have two eye pieces and one mouth. Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric.
- Cut out the eye pieces and arrange them on the Body (B) piece of your main fabric. You can do this by setting your paper pattern on top of the fabric piece (right sides up), align the eye piece on top where the placement markings are, then carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.



## 2. SEW THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the eye pieces in place with your iron (use a press cloth -- such as a scrap piece of cotton -- if you're using a polyester or fur fabric like minky).
- If you used heavy duty fusible web, you can keep the pieces fused without sewing, or you can sew them in place a number of ways. I've used a zigzag stitch here.
- Refer to the next step for some other applique options.

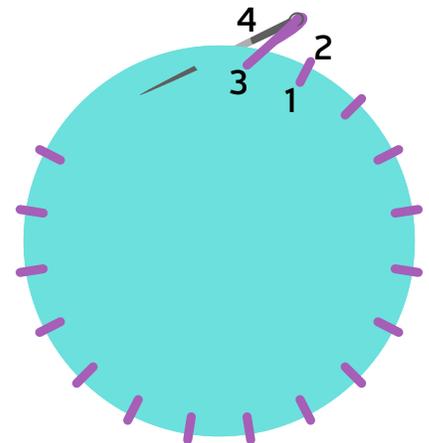


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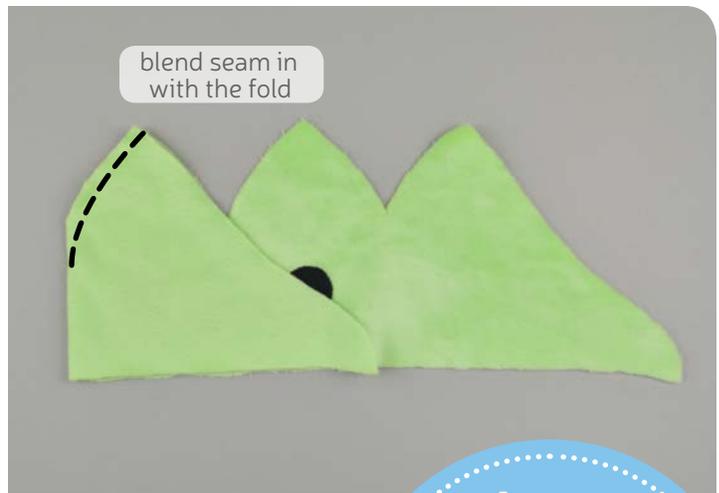


## 2a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

Other good options for applique include a straight stitch, which involves sewing around the edge of the applique pieces with a straight stitch using matching thread -- about 1/8" in from the edge.

You can also applique by hand; I prefer a whipstitch. Thread a hand-sewing needle with some matching thread and knot it. Bring the thread up from the back of the project; about 1/8" in from the edge of the applique shape. Bring it down perpendicular from the curve, just outside of the applique shape. This completes one stitch.

For the next stitch, bring the needle back up about 1/8" away from the previous stitch and 1/8" in from the edge just as in the first stitch. Once again, bring it down just outside the applique shape. Continue this way until you've sewn around the shape.



## 3. SEW THE SIDE DARTS

- The open wedges found along the top of the Body piece are the darts. Sew these by folding over the left-most side of the Body piece with right sides facing. Match up the diagonal edges that form the 'legs' of these darts.
- Sew the darts by starting at the opening and moving down to the point.
- When sewing the point, try to blend the seam in with the fold so it makes a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.

### darts:

A wedge-shaped gap found in a pattern. When sewn in fabric, it creates a tuck in the fabric and develops a 3D shape. The diagonal sides of the wedge are the **LEGS**; these are matched up and sewn to the point or **APEX** of the dart.

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## 4. SEW THE OTHER DART SIDE

- Fold over the right-most side of the Body piece with right sides facing for the remaining dart. Match up the diagonal edges that form the 'legs' of these darts.
- Sew the darts by starting at the opening and moving down to the point. When sewing the point, try to blend the seam in with the fold so it makes a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.



## 5. SEW THE SPIKES

- Gather up two of your Spike pieces (C) and align them with right sides facing and raw edges lining up.
- Sew them together along the curved edge, leaving the straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Trim the excess seam allowance along the curve at the tip. Turn the spike right side out through the opening in the bottom.

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**tip:**

Alternatively, you can also place the spikes 1/2" apart starting from the center front.



## 6. BASTE THE SPIKES

- Repeat step 5 for the remaining 8 spike pieces for 5 spikes total.
- If you haven't already, locate the spike placement lines on the body paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of one half of the body. Align the open end of the spike between the placement lines so the end of the spike is pointing inward.
- Repeat this with all 5 spikes along one half of the body as shown. Baste the spikes in place within the seam allowance.

**basting:**

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



## 7. SEW THE BACK SEAM

- Fold the entire body piece in half width-wise. The face should be folded along the center and the spikes should be sandwiched between the two halves as shown.
- Sew from the tail end down to the center front. Treat the end of the center front like a dart, blending your seam in with the fold of the body.

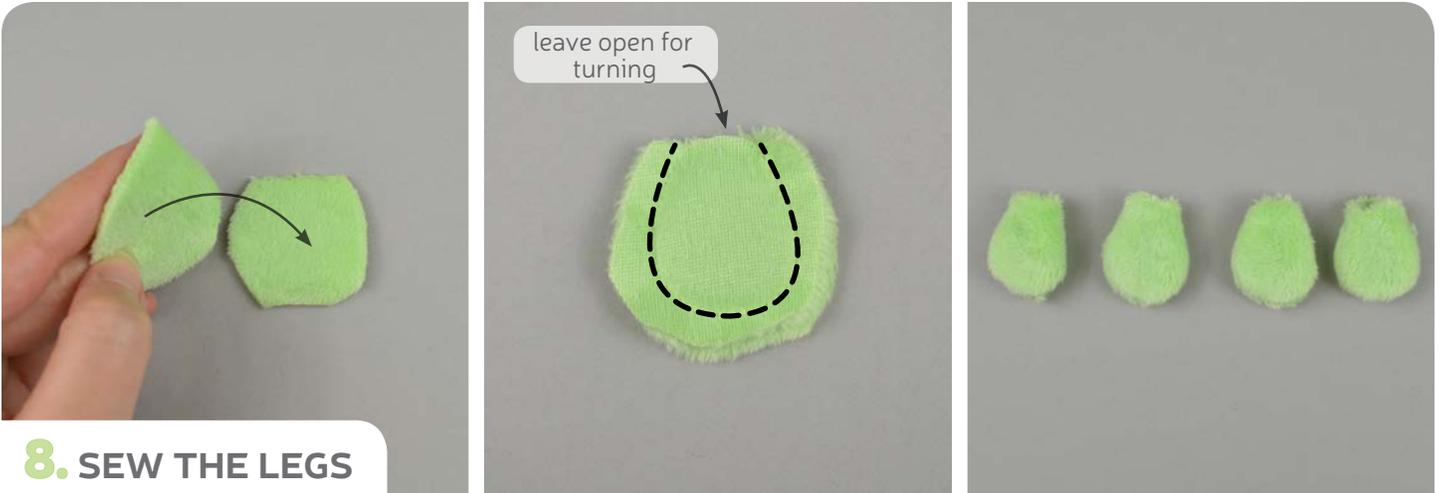
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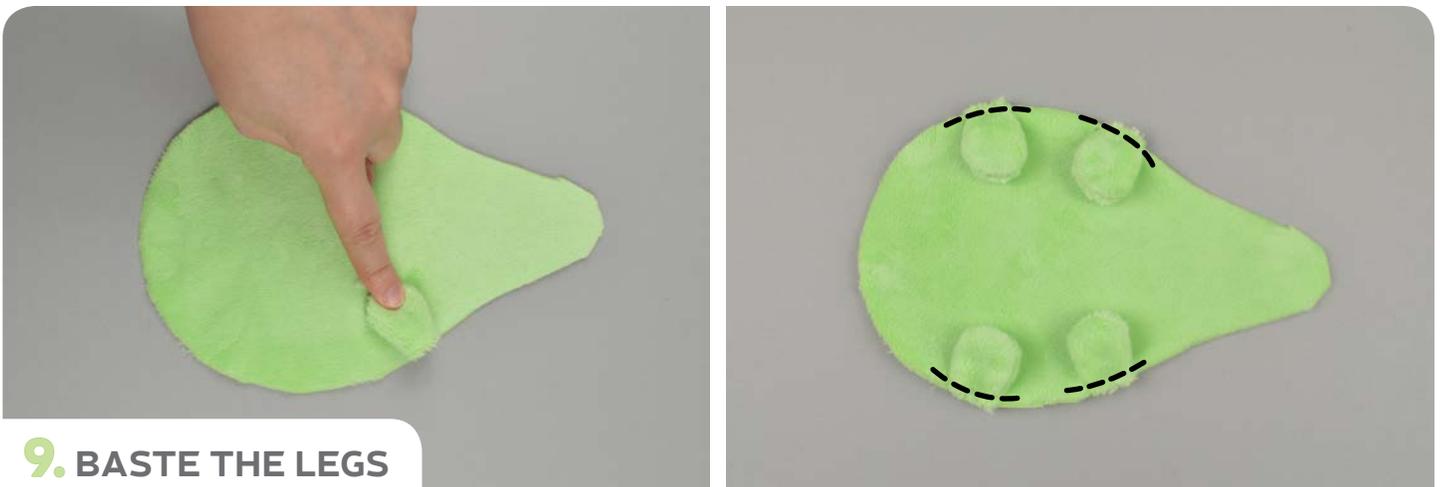
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## 8. SEW THE LEGS

- Gather up two of your Leg (D) pieces and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the curved edge, leaving the straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Repeat with the remaining 5 leg pieces for 4 completed legs total as shown. Turn all of the legs right side out.



## 9. BASTE THE LEGS

- If you haven't already, locate the leg placement lines on the Bottom pattern (A). Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open end of one of the leg pieces between these placement lines. Baste the leg in place within the seam allowances.
- Repeat with the remaining three legs for all four of the legs total.
- *You might also want to take this opportunity to mark the body placement lines on the bottom. The notch marking is for lining up with the center front, and the circle marking is for lining up with the center back tail seam. The opening for turning markings can also be found along the tail.*

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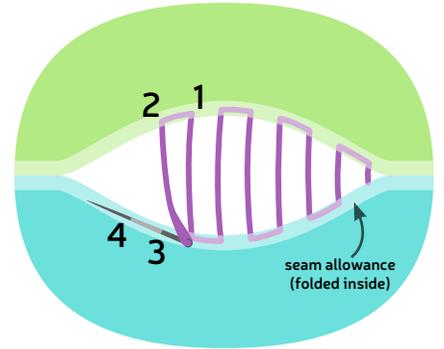
## 10. SEW THE BODY TO THE BOTTOM

- Gather up your body piece from before and line it up with the bottom piece. The center front notch on the body should match up with the notch on the bottom. The tail seam should match up with the circle notch. Pin around the perimeter of the body once everything is aligned.
- Sew around the perimeter of the body, being sure to leave an opening for turning near the tail as marked.



## 12. STUFF THE PLUSH

- Turn the dino right side out through the opening for turning. Stuff it relatively firmly with stuffing. First stuff the tail, then stuff the face nice and full so it takes shape. Finally work your way up and towards the opening.
- Once the plush is stuffed, make sure the seam allowances in the opening are tucked inside and prepare to ladder stitch it closed. Thread a hand-sewing needle and knot it at the end. Insert the needle from the inside of the opening and out of the plush near one edge of the opening. This will leave the knot inside the plush.



### 13. CLOSE UP THE PLUSH

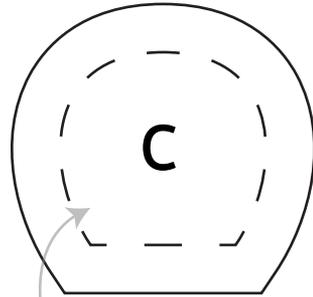
- Continue from here doing a ladder stitch. Take a 1/8" stitch into the fold of one side of the opening, then go across and take another. Keep going down the opening until you reach the end.
- When you're finished, stitch a knot into the end of the seam. Then insert the needle near the finished knot and out of the plush about 1-2" away.
- Pull the thread through and hold it taut while snipping the thread. The excess thread should sink back inside the plush -- all hidden!



### 14. PAINT THE EYE SHINES

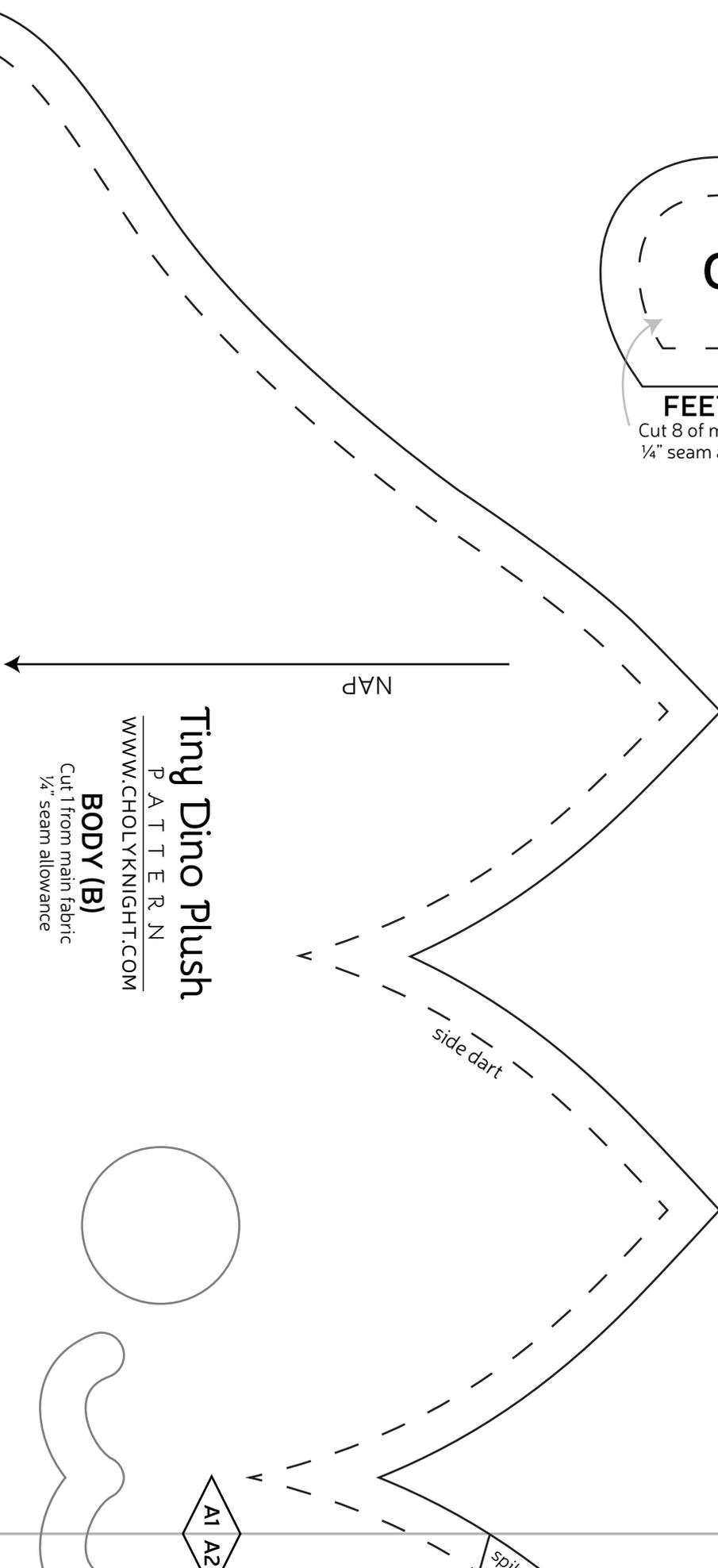
- This part is optional, but to give your plush that extra finishing touch, I like to dab a bit of white fabric paint in the corner of each eye for that little something. Let it dry fully before cuddling!
- You could also do a French knot in white thread or glue on a rhinestone for the eye shine as well.





**FEET (C)**

Cut 8 of main fabric  
1/4" seam allowance



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**BODY (B)**

Cut 1 from main fabric  
1/4" seam allowance

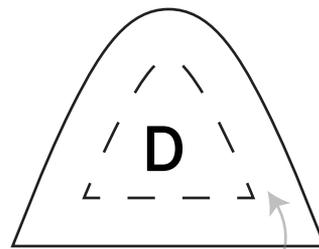
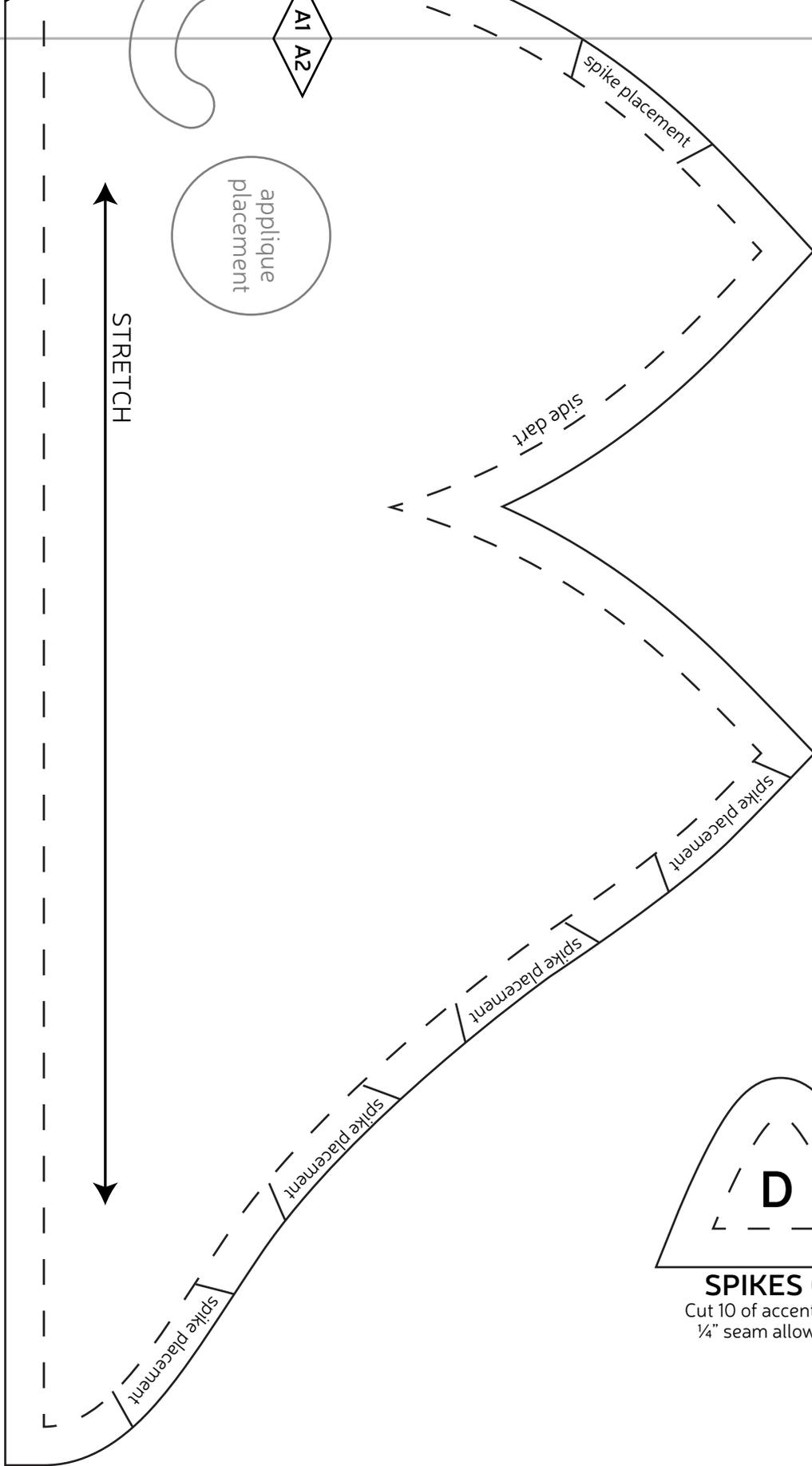
NAP

side dart

center front

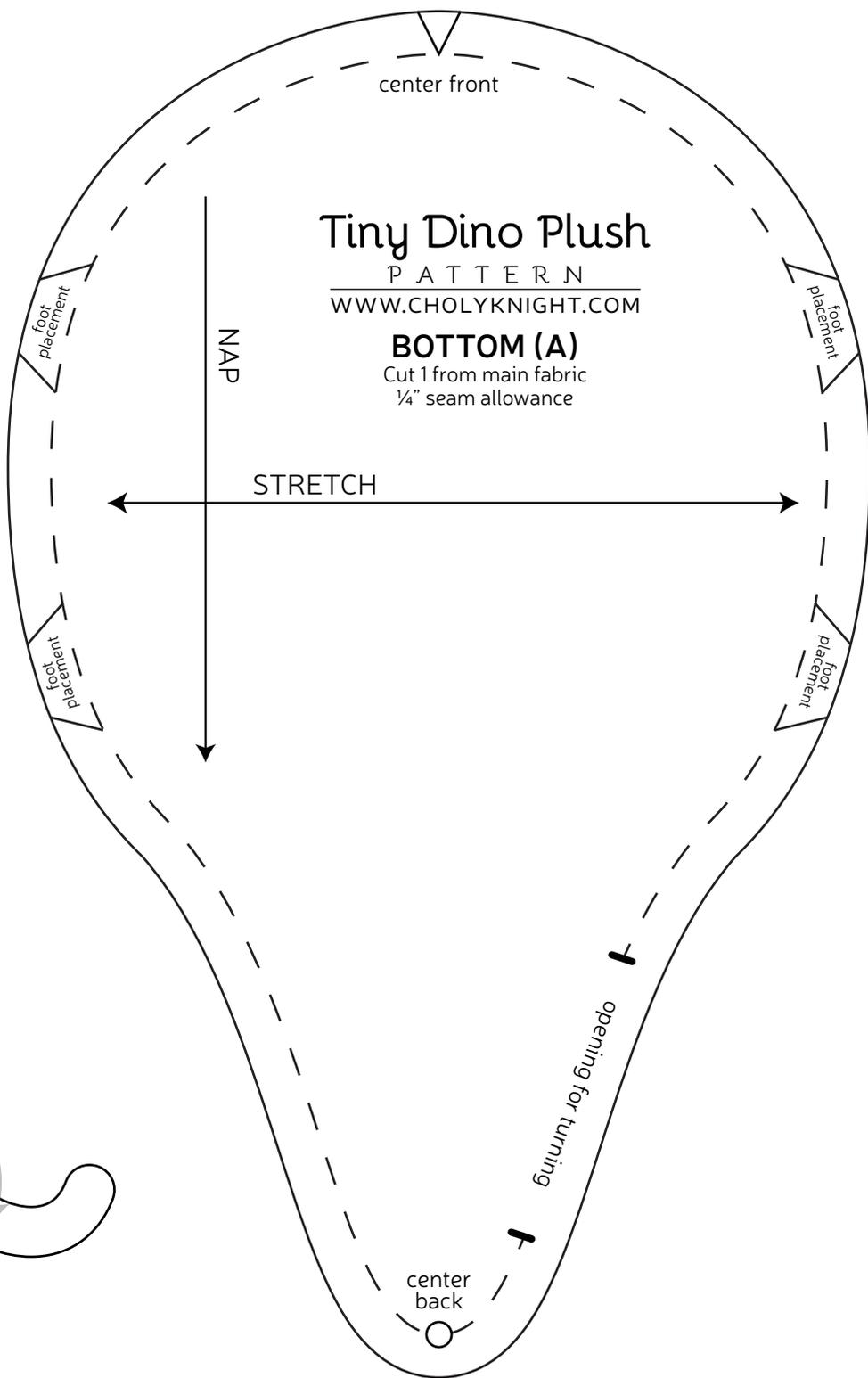
A1 A2

splice



**SPIKES (D)**

Cut 10 of accent fabric  
1/4" seam allowance



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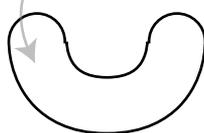
## BOTTOM (A)

Cut 1 from main fabric  
1/4" seam allowance

**CUTE SMILE**  
trace & cut 1  
from black



**SMILE**  
trace & cut 1  
from black



**EYE**  
trace & cut 2  
from black

