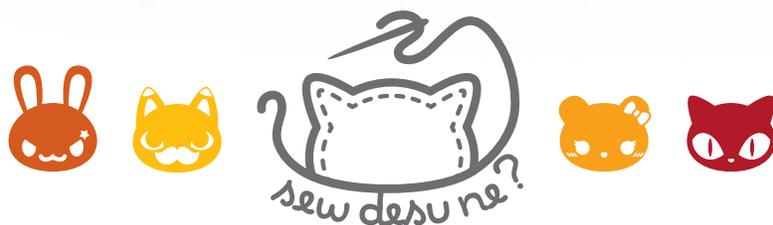


# Calcifer plush



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



# calcifer plush

Fans of Ghibli's *Howl's Moving Castle* should recognize this fiesty fire demon. He has a simple flame-shaped body with a wide base so he can sit up on his own. Lots of applique on the front and back bring his face to life. This pattern comes in two sizes, both a regular handheld size and mini size. This mini size was originally intended for machine embroiderers with 4" x 4" hoops, but you can use it for a machine sewn version if you crave some variety.

## SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Curved sewing
- Matching points
- Ladder stitch

## DIFFICULTY:



With only 3 pieces, this comes together very quickly. However, the amount of applique is a little daunting if you're not used to it.

## MAKES:

**REGULAR SIZE:** 6" tall, 5½" wide, and 2" long

**MINI SIZE:** 4" tall, 4" wide, and 1½" long



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## materials & tools:

### REGULAR SIZE

- ¼ yd. of red fabric for body
- 10" x 6" piece of orange fabric for outer flame applique
- 9" x 6" piece of yellow fabric for inner flame applique
- 3" x 3" piece of white applique fabric (flannel, felt, fleece, cotton, etc.) for eyes
- 2" x 2" piece of black applique fabric for pupils
- 2" x 2" piece of red applique fabric for mouth
- 10" x 10" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- sewing thread to match main fabric and applique fabrics
- poly-fil stuffing
- 5" x 7" piece of scrap fabric for poly pellet pouch
- poly pellets for weight
- spoon or funnel for filling poly pellets
- basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)

### MINI SIZE

- ¼ yd. of red fabric for body
- 7" x 5" piece of orange fabric for outer flame applique
- 6" x 4" piece of yellow fabric for inner flame applique
- 2" x 2" piece of white applique fabric (flannel, felt, fleece, cotton, etc.) for eyes
- 1" x 1" piece of black applique fabric for pupils
- 1" x 1" piece of red applique fabric for mouth
- 7" x 7" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- sewing thread to match main fabric and applique fabrics
- poly-fil stuffing
- 4" x 5" piece of scrap fabric for poly pellet pouch
- poly pellets for weight
- spoon or funnel for filling poly pellets
- basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)



## 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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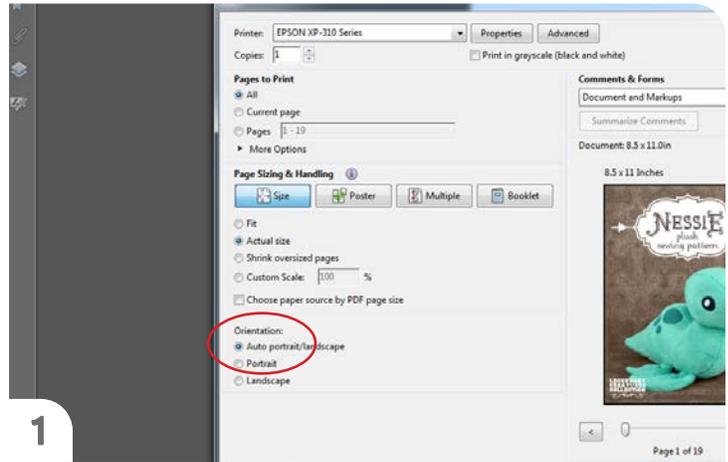
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# printing the pattern:

**REGULAR SIZE TEMPLATES:** pg. 11-12

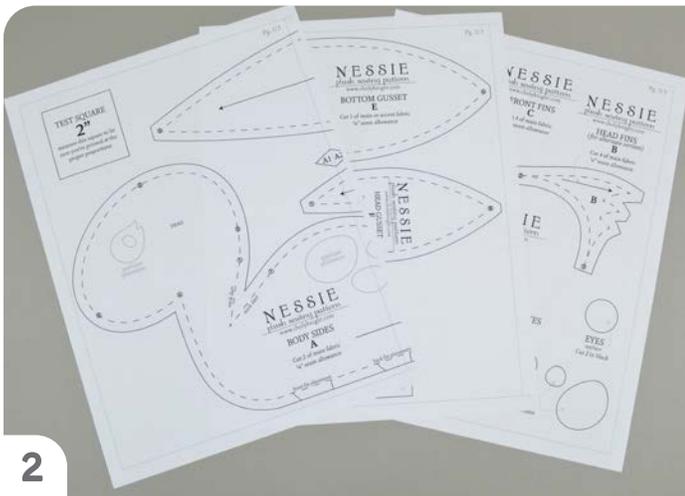
**MINI SIZE TEMPLATES:** pg. 13

To print the pattern, set your computer to print the size you want, based on the page numbers shown above. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



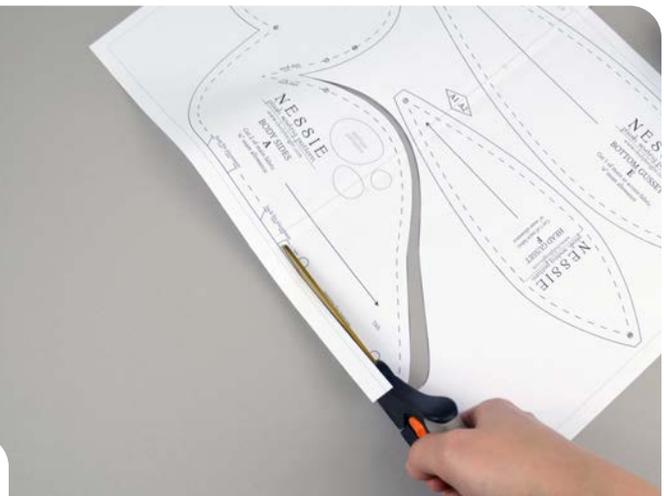
1

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

You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper. They might be a little hard to pin through, so you might want to use your longest pins. But you could also use pattern weights or trace the outlines onto the fabric with a washable marker and cut them out from there.

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## cutting the fabric:



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

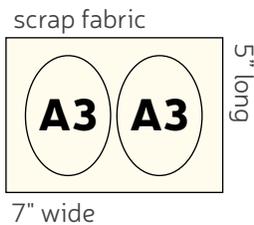
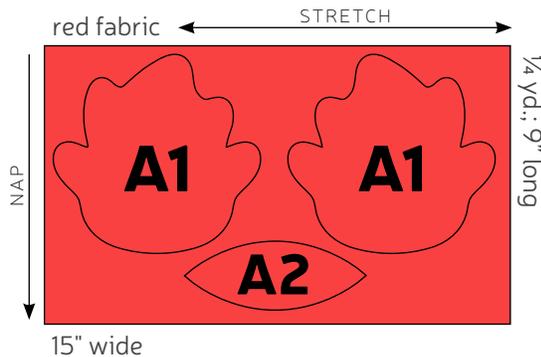
**2** Pin the pattern in place, use pattern weights, or trace the outline of the pattern with a washable marker.

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

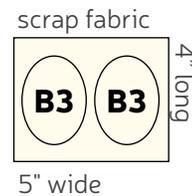
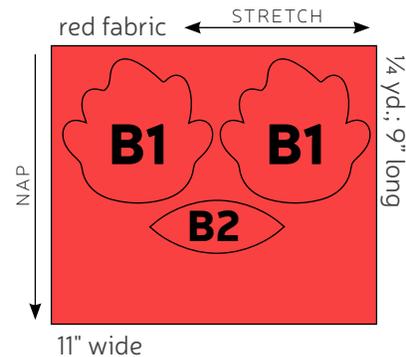
**4** For all fur fabrics, shake the excess fuzz away.

## cutting layout:

### REGULAR SIZE (A PIECES)



### MINI SIZE (B PIECES)



## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

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

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## 1. PREPARE THE APPLIQUE

- Grab your fusible web and trace all the applique pieces onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have two **orange flames**, two **yellow flames**, two **eyes**, two **pupils**, and one **mouth**.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The **orange flames** should go on orange, the **yellow flames** on yellow, the **eyes** on white, the **pupils** on black, and the **mouth** on red (or black if you prefer).
- Cut out the **orange flame** and arrange it on one of the the **FRONT/BACK** (A/B1) pieces. Set your paper pattern on top of the fabric (right sides up). Align the **flame** piece on top where the placement markings are. Then carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique in place.



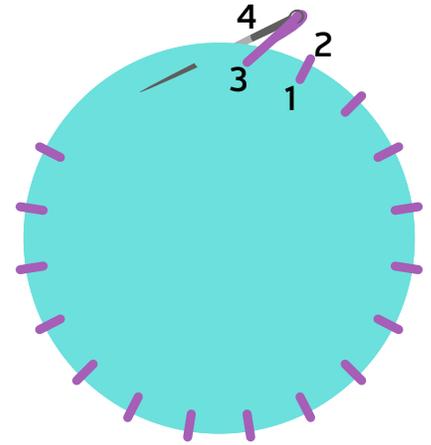
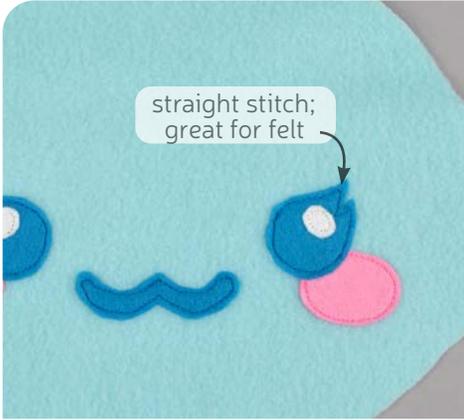
## 2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the **flame** in place with your iron. Use a press cloth if you're using a polyester or fuzzy fabric like minky.
- Next, move onto the **yellow flame**. Fuse it the same way as you did the **orange flame**, using the paper pattern and photos as a guide. Keep this for your **BACK** piece.
- Grab your other **FRONT/BACK** piece (A/B1) and fuse the **flames** again. This time add the remaining **eyes**, **pupils**, and **mouth** following the paper pattern and photos as a guide. This will be your **FRONT**. 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.

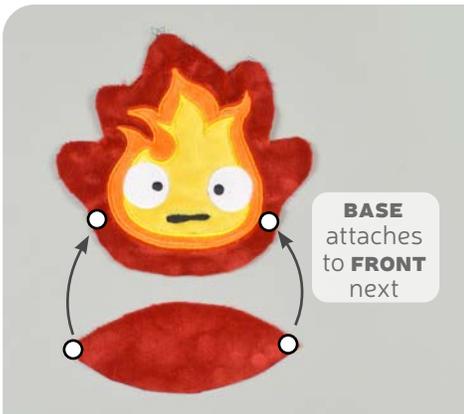
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## 2a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

- 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. ATTACH THE BASE

- Grab your **FRONT** piece from before (A/B1) and your **BASE** (A/B2). If you haven't already, locate the **circle markings** found at the corners of the base and along the bottom of Calcifer's body. These points will line up next to help sew the base.
- Line up one edge of the base to the front with right sides facing and the circle markings matching up. Pin the fabrics together.
- Sew the base to the front all along this edge.

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## 4. ATTACH THE BACK

- Open up the pieces you have so far. The top edge of Calcifer's **FRONT** and the other edge of the **BASE** will now attach to the back to make the full body.
- Grab your **BACK** piece and line it up over the front and the base so right sides are facing and the **circle markings** match up. Pin the back to the front along the top edge. Along the bottom, pin the back to the other edge of the base, all the way up to the corners.
- If you haven't already, locate the **opening for turning markings** found on the paper pattern for the front/back. Transfer them to the wrong side of the fabric. Sew the back to the rest of the body around the pinned edge, but leave an opening along the top as you marked.



## 5. CLIP AND TURN

- Trim the excess seam allowance at the tight curves of the body. This will reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the plush is turned.
- Turn the body right side out through the opening in the top.

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## 6. SEW THE PELLET POUCH

- Grab your **PELLET POUCH** (A/B3) pieces from your scrap fabric. Align the two pieces together with either side facing (doesn't matter). Sew the pieces together around the edge, leaving a 1"-2" opening (also marked on the paper pattern) for filling the pouch.
- Get your poly pellets and a funnel (I prefer a spoon, but both work). Fill the pouch with poly pellets until it's not quite full.
- Stitch the pouch closed by hand for extra safety using a back stitch, or take it to your machine. Stitch it closed very slowly, using only the hand wheel if necessary. Sewing over a pellet will very likely break a needle.

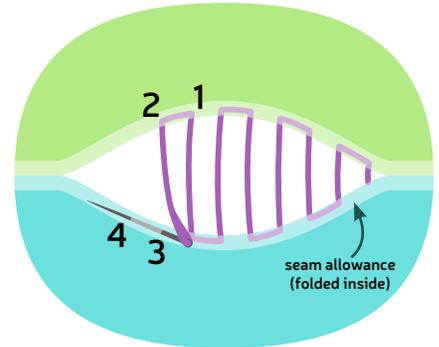


## 7. STUFF THE BODY

- Grab your pellet pouch and squeeze it into the opening of the body. Let it rest flat along the base of the body.
- Stuff the rest of the body with stuffing, being sure to get a lot in each tip of the shape so they don't deflate later.
- Thread a hand sewing needle and knot the end. Bring the needle through one edge of the opening and this will leave the knot inside the plush.

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## 8. SEW CLOSED

- Sew the opening closed with 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!

**congrats!**  
this completes  
your plush! Now  
give it a big  
hug!

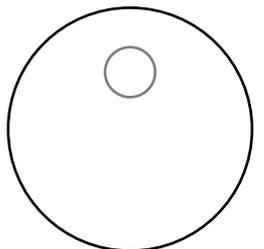


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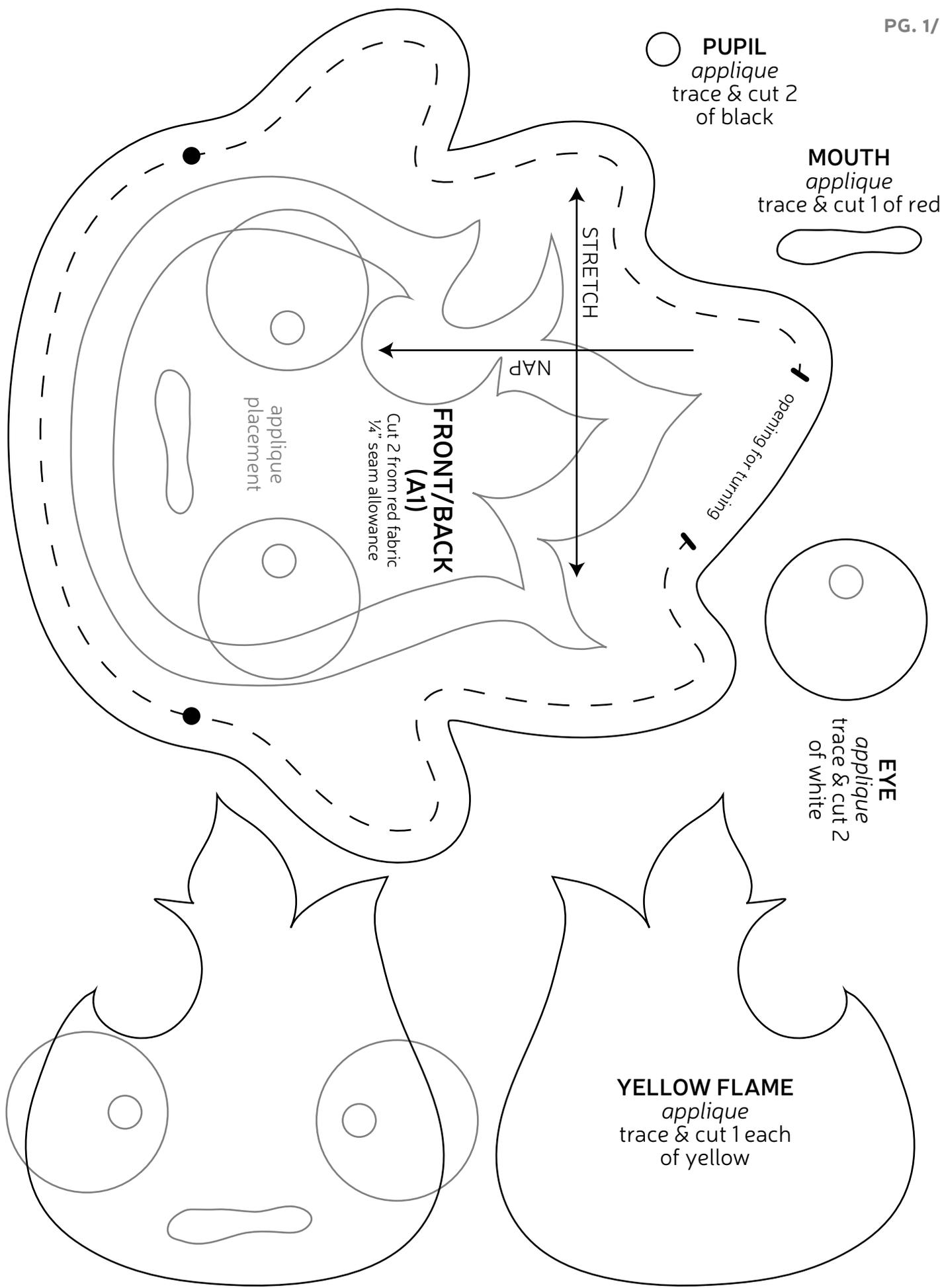
○ PUPIL  
aplique  
trace & cut 2  
of black

MOUTH  
aplique  
trace & cut 1 of red



EYE  
aplique  
trace & cut 2  
of white

YELLOW FLAME  
aplique  
trace & cut 1 each  
of yellow



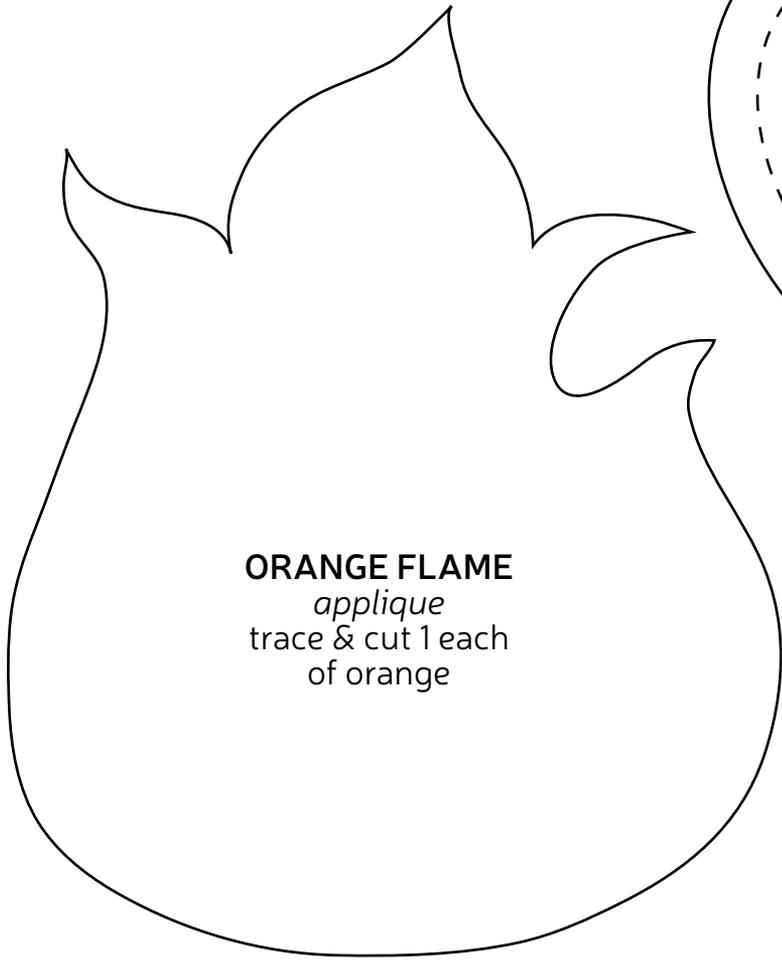
FRONT/BACK  
(A1)  
Cut 2 from red fabric  
1/4" seam allowance

aplique  
placement

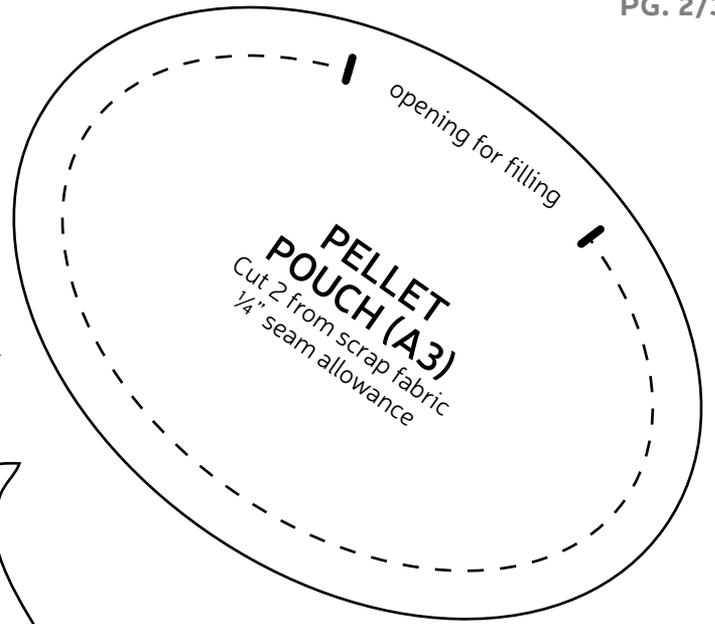
STRETCH

NAP

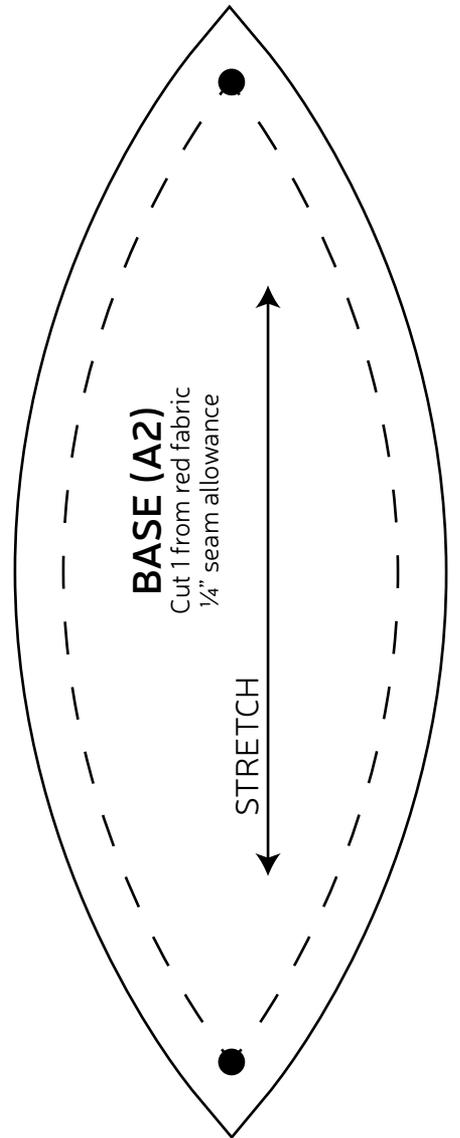
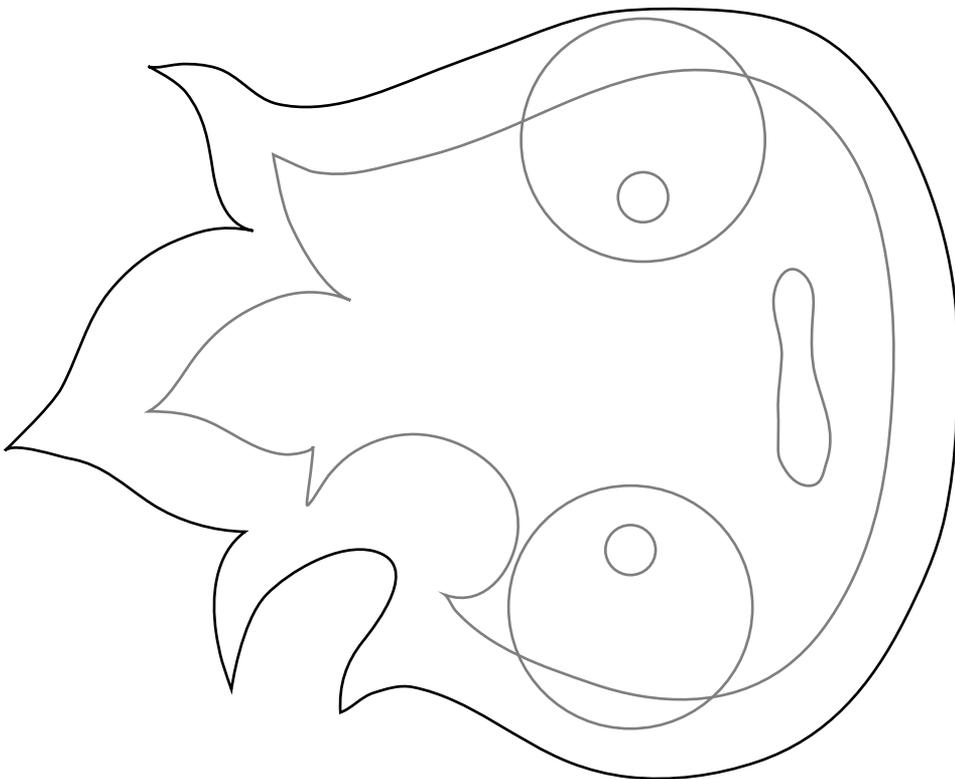
opening for turning



**ORANGE FLAME**  
*applique*  
trace & cut 1 each  
of orange



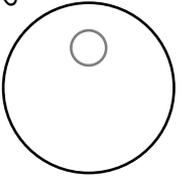
**PELLET POUCH (A3)**  
Cut 2 from scrap fabric  
1/4" seam allowance



**BASE (A2)**  
Cut 1 from red fabric  
1/4" seam allowance

STRETCH

**EYE**  
applique  
trace & cut 2  
of white

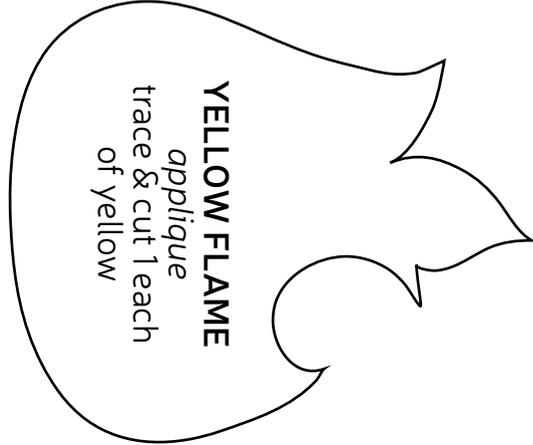


**PUPIL**  
applique  
trace & cut 2  
of black

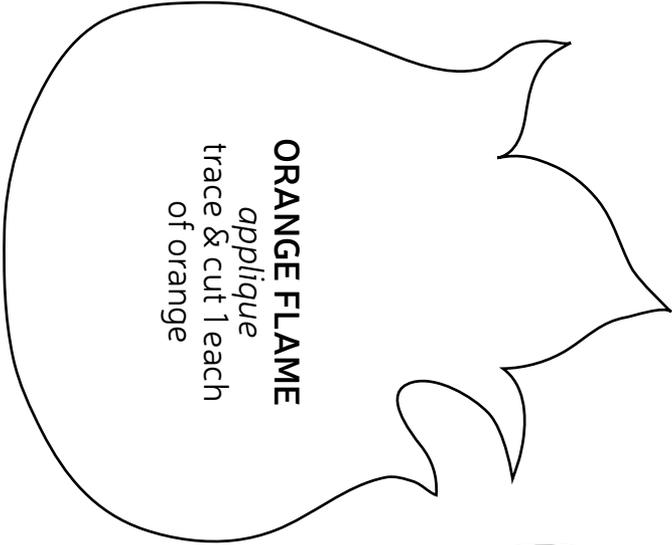


**MOUTH**  
applique  
trace & cut 1 of red

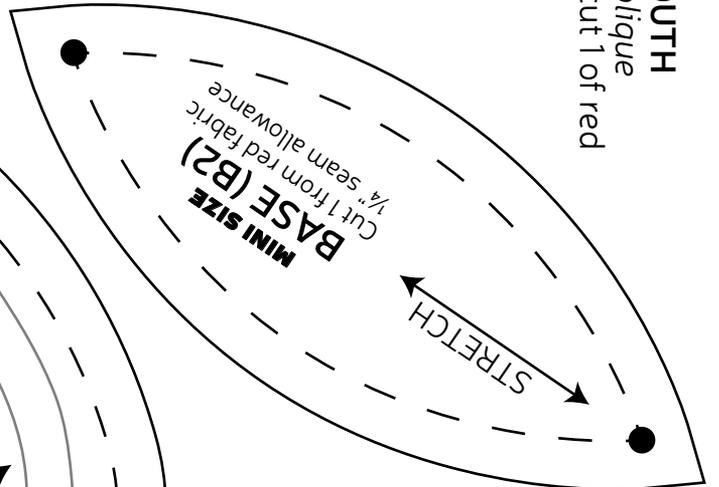
**YELLOW FLAME**  
applique  
trace & cut 1 each  
of yellow



**ORANGE FLAME**  
applique  
trace & cut 1 each  
of orange



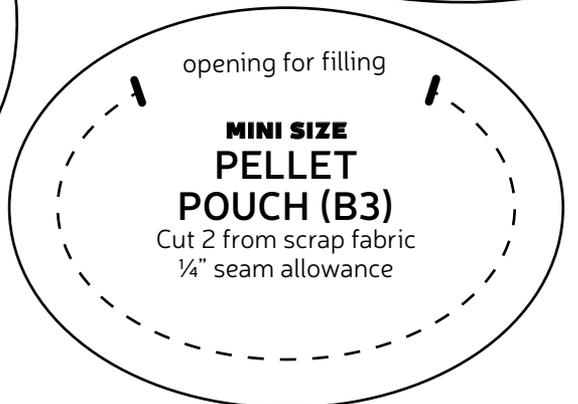
**MINI SIZE  
BASE (B2)**  
Cut 1 from red fabric  
1/4" seam allowance



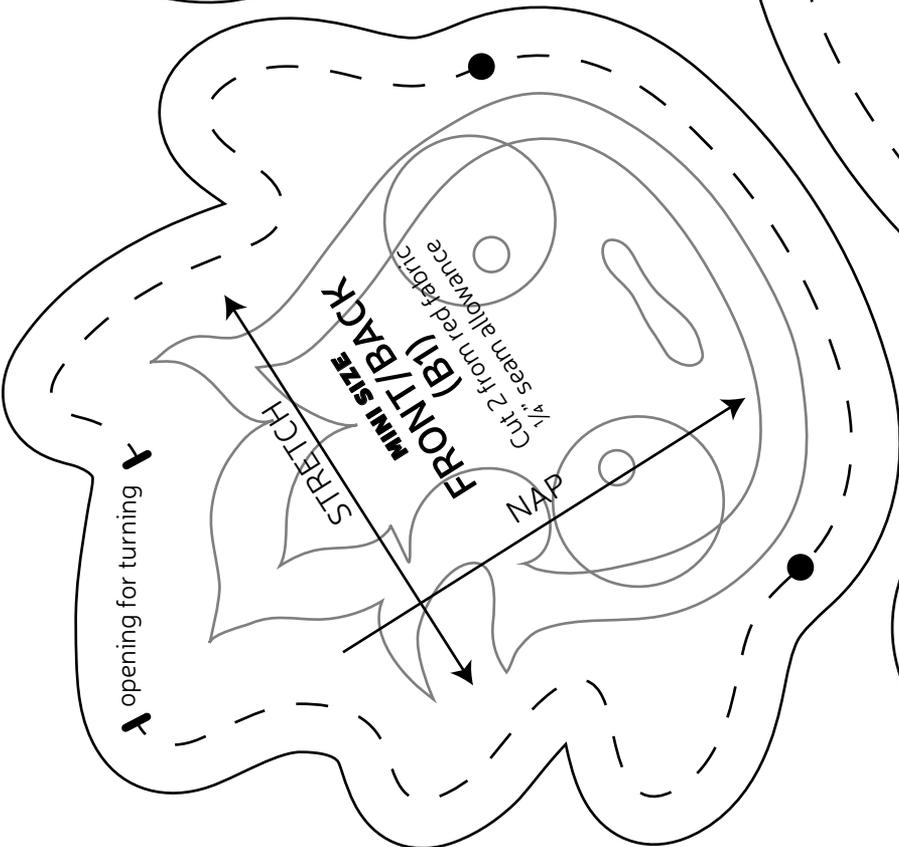
STRETCH

opening for filling

**MINI SIZE  
PELLET  
POUCH (B3)**  
Cut 2 from scrap fabric  
1/4" seam allowance



**MINI SIZE  
FRONT/BACK  
(B1)**  
Cut 2 from red fabric  
1/4" seam allowance



STRETCH

opening for turning