

PHOENIX

plush



a free sewing pattern by



PHOENIX PLUSH

The phoenix is of course the widely known legendary bird that is reborn in flames! This cute version has a very chubby, baby-like appearance. It has a large body and wide neck with a fluffy accent neck piece. It's a great opportunity to use some fluffy fabric if you have any. The beak is small and pointed while the wings and tail are majestically flame shaped. To finish off the look is a tiny feather for the top of the head.

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Curved sewing
- Ladder stitch
- Matching notches and points
- Basting
- Darts

DIFFICULTY:



The most difficult part of this plush is likely attaching the bottom, which has some curves to contend with. So take your time pinning and matching up the fabric. There are also a lot of darts to give the plush a very round shape, so prepare yourself for that.

MAKES:

About 7" tall from bottom of body to top of head, 5" wide from each side of body, and 4½" long from front of body to back of body.



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MATERIALS & TOOLS:

- ¼ yd. of fabric for main body
- ¼ yd. of fabric for tail and wings
- ⅛ yd. of fabric for neck fluff and feather
- 5" x 8" of scrap fabric for pellet pouch
- 3" x 3" of accent applique fabric for eye markings
- 2" x 2" of black applique fabric for eyes
- 2" x 2" of pink applique fabric for blush
- 8" x 10" of accent applique fabric for tail and wing flames
- 10" x 10" of light or heavy duty fusible web
- poly pellets for weight
- spoon or funnel for filling poly pellets
- 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)

FUSIBLE WEB:

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



APPLIQUE FABRICS:

- Good applique fabrics include **flannel**, **cotton**, **felt**, **minky**, and **fleece**.
- Flannel and cotton are best for detailed applique with a lot of layers because they're thinner. Meanwhile felt, minky, and fleece are better for simpler applique like body markings.
- **Flannel** is used in the example instructions (page 7).



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fabric comparison:



MINKY VS. FELT



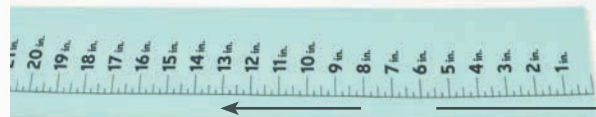
SUGGESTED FABRICS:

MINKY OR FLEECE

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

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

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



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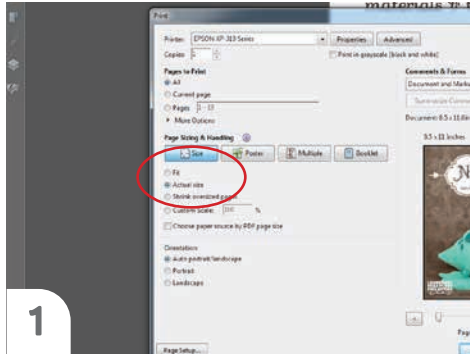
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PRINTING THE PATTERN:

Set your computer to print **PAGES 24-28**.

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

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



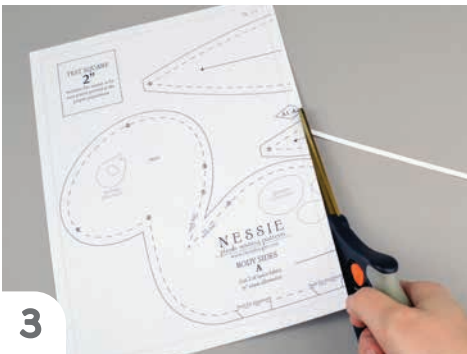
1

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



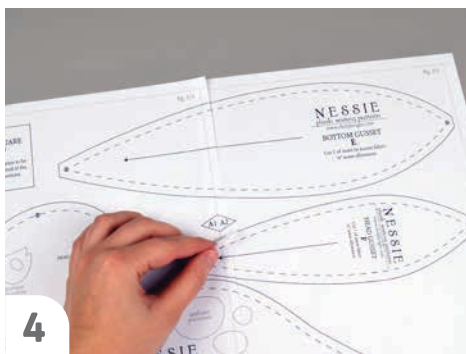
2

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



3

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



4

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

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



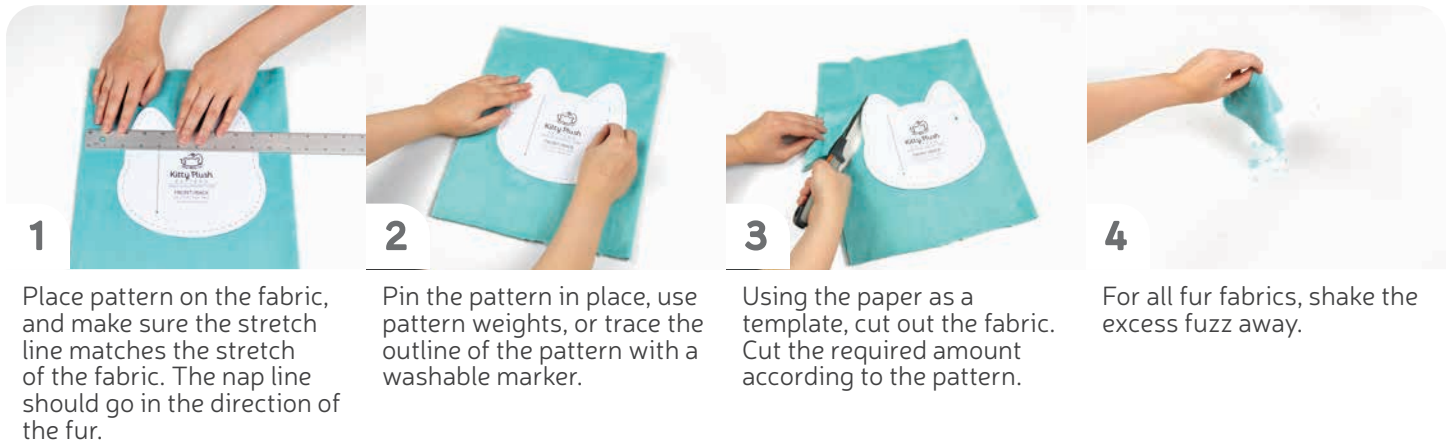
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You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper -- be sure that each piece is fully taped together along the joins so they don't fall apart when you cut them.

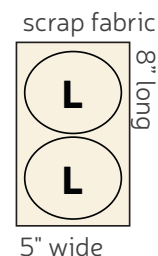
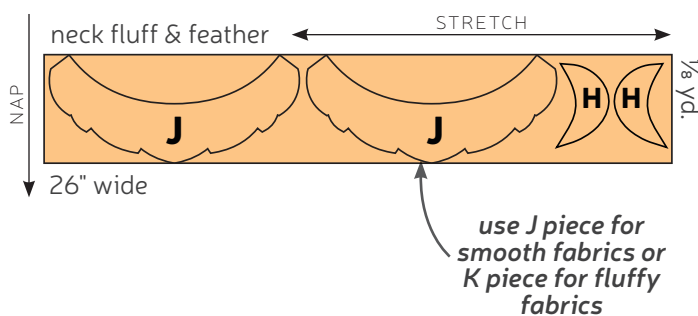
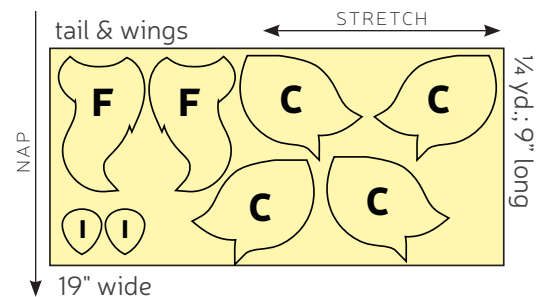
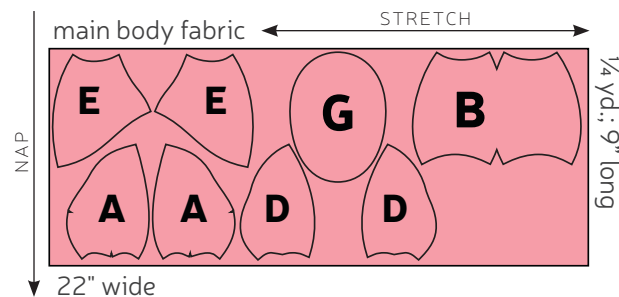
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CUTTING THE FABRIC:



CUTTING LAYOUT:



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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 ¼" seam allowance is used throughout the project, which is included in the pattern templates.



1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Grab your fusible web and applique templates. Trace the pieces for the face of your phoenix. You should have:
 - **eyes** (2, black)
 - **eye marking** (2, accent color)
 - **blush** (2, pink)
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side of the fusible web onto the applique fabrics.
- Cut out your applique pieces and grab your **HEAD FRONT** piece (A). Grab the **eye marking** piece. Set your paper pattern on top of the head front piece. Align the applique piece on top where the placement markings are. Next, carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.

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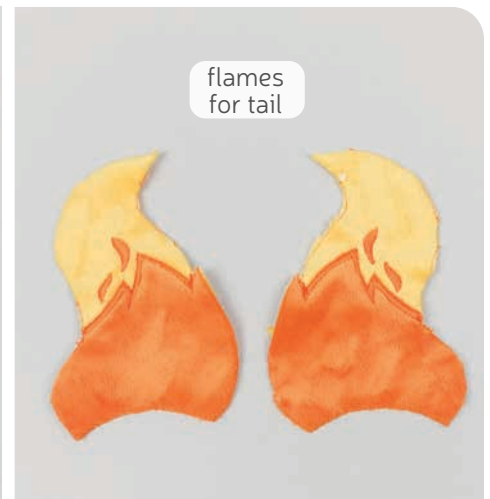


2. FINISH THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the applique pieces with your iron. Use a press cloth, such as a scrap piece of cotton. This will help protect any polyester or fuzzy fabrics from melting or scorching.
- Add the **eye** pieces on top of the **eye markings**. Use the paper pattern and photos as a guide.
- Finish by adding the smallest pieces, the **blush**.

3. APPLIQUE THE WINGS & TAIL

- Take this time to also applique your **flame markings** to the **WING** pieces (C). You'll want to fuse them to each wing piece for four total. Use the same fusing method as the eyes.
- Meanwhile the **TAIL** piece (F) also gets flame markings for each side.

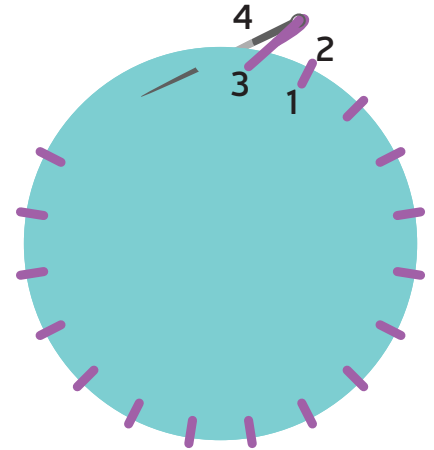
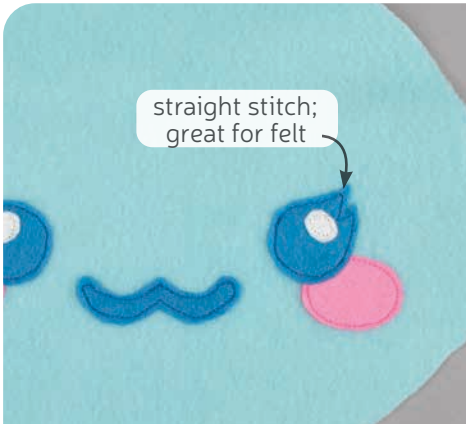


If you used heavy duty fusible web, you can keep the pieces fused without sewing, or you can sew them in place a number of ways. I've used a zigzag stitch here.

→ **Refer to the next step for some other applique options.**

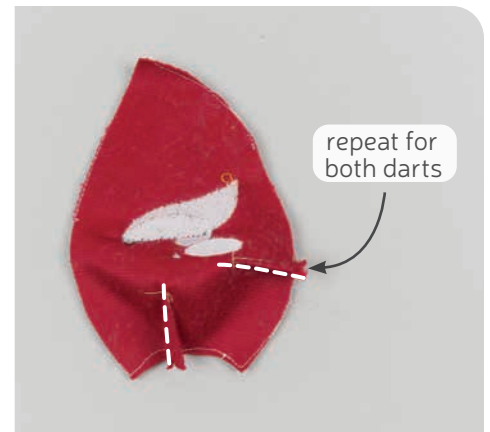
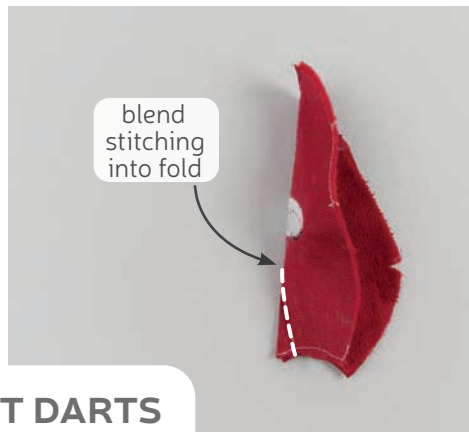
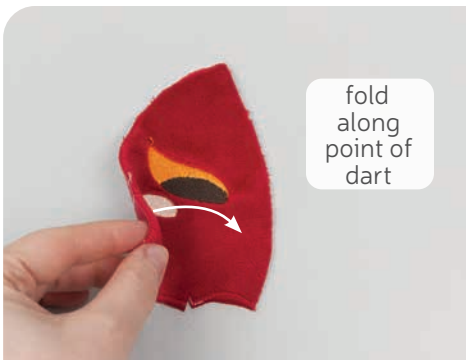
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4. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

- 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.



5. SEW THE HEAD FRONT DARTS

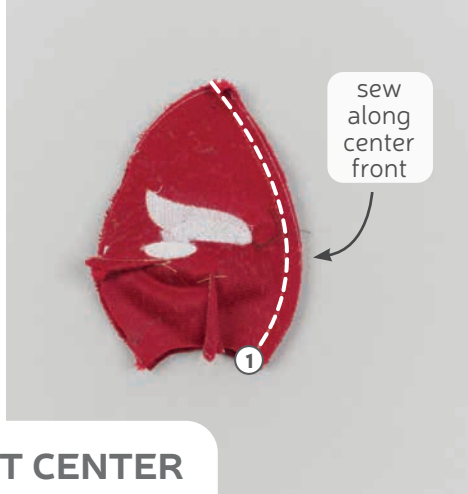
- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** pieces (A). In the side and bottom you'll find a small wedge shapes cut out of the fabric. These are **darts**. They're also also labeled on the paper pattern. To sew the bottom one first, start by folding the fabric along the point of the **dart** to match up the slanted edges.
- Sew the **dart** starting at the opening and work your way into the fold of the fabric. Try to blend your stitching into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finish to the plush.
- Repeat with the dart on the side for two **darts** for the head front. Then repeat with the other head front piece for four **darts** total.

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** of the dart.

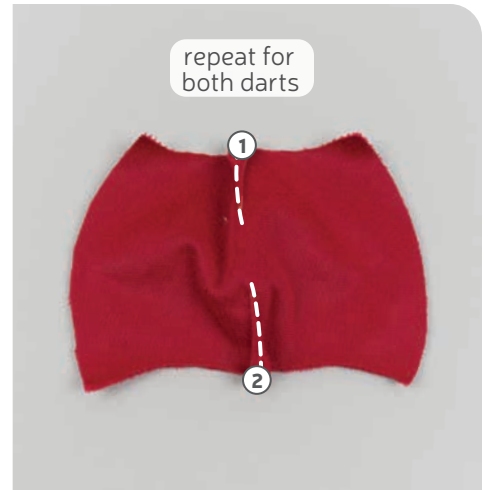
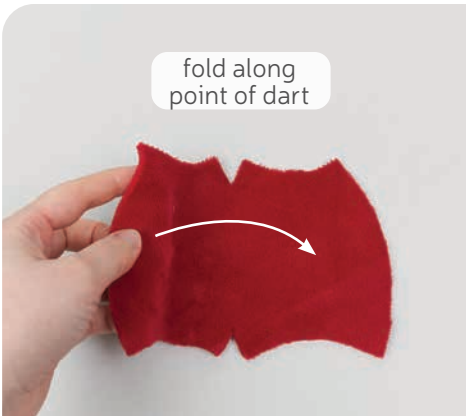
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6. SEW THE HEAD FRONT CENTER

- Grab your two **HEAD FRONT** pieces (A). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- Sew the pieces together along the center edge. This is the curved edge opposite the side **dart**. If you're watching the **numbered points** on the paper pattern, this starts at the upper corner and goes down to **point 1**.
- Open up the pieces when complete.



7. SEW THE BELLY DARTS

- Grab your **BELLY** piece (B). This piece also has **darts** along the center top and bottom. Sew it similar to the others, starting by folding the fabric along the point of the **dart**. This should match up **point 1** at the top.
- Sew the **dart** starting at the top and work your way down into the fold of the fabric. Try to blend your stitching into the fold for a smooth transition.
- Repeat for the bottom **dart**. This should match up **point 2** at the center bottom for two **darts** total.

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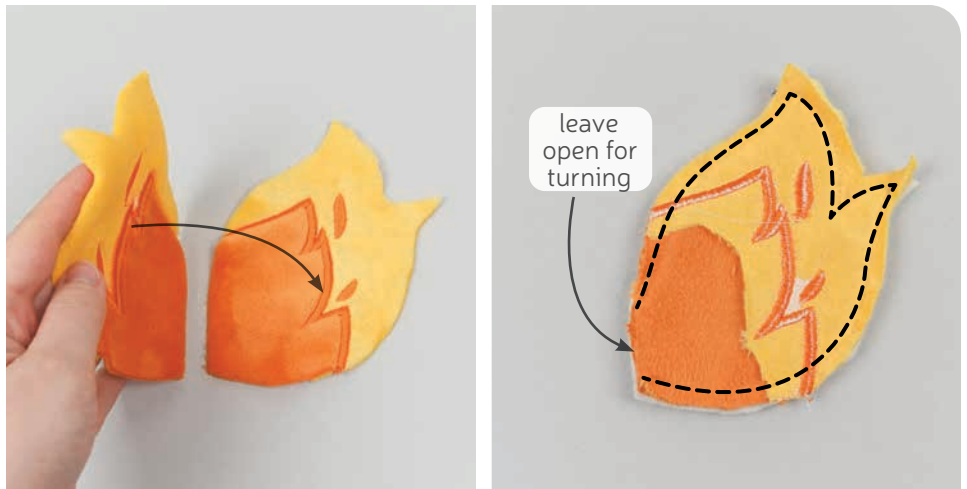


8. SEW THE FRONT NECK

- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** (A) as well as your **BELLY** (B). These two pieces will come together next along the neck edge. But there are also **numbered points** for help with alignment; **point 1** at the center.
- Flip the head over so now it's facing the belly with right sides together. Match up **point 1** at the center and align the edges all the way to each corner. Pin the fabrics together.
- Sew the head front to the belly along the edge with **point 1**.
- Open up the pieces when complete.

9. SEW THE WINGS

- Grab your **WING** pieces (C). Take two and align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- Sew the pieces together all around the pointed edge, but leave an opening for turning near the base. You'll find it marked on the paper pattern if you need extra help.

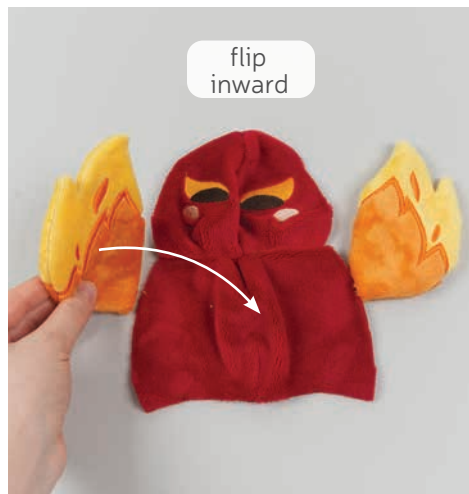
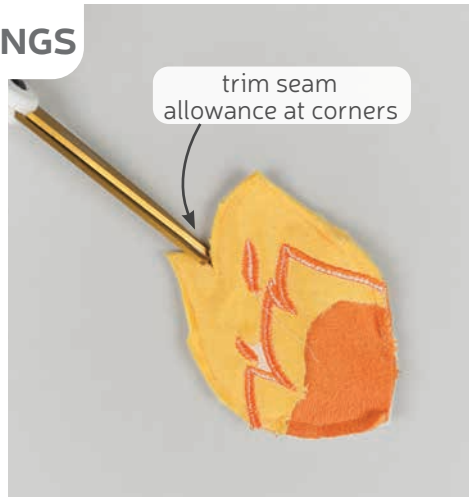


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10. CLIP & TURN THE WINGS

- Trim the excess seam allowance around the tight corners and curves of the wings. This will help reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the pieces are turned.
- Turn the wings right side out through the opening you left in the base. Define the points with a chopstick or similar turning tool. Repeat with your remaining wing pieces so you have two total.



11. BASTE THE WINGS

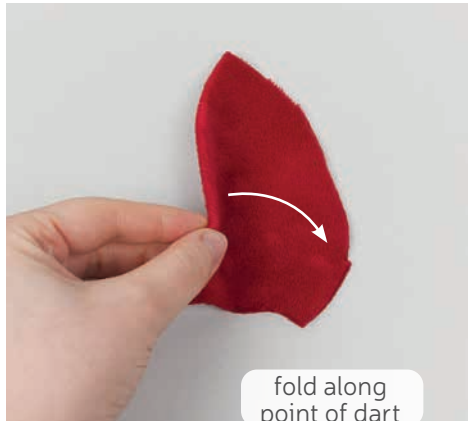
- Grab your body and head so far as well as your sewn **WINGS** (C). If you haven't already, note the **wing placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the **BELLY** (B). Align the wings within these **placement lines** so the tips are pointing upward.
- Now flip the wings so they're facing the belly with right sides together. Match up the raw edges and pin the fabrics together.
- Baste the wings to the edge of the belly fabric within the seam allowance. This will hold them in place for future steps.
 - ➔ *This completes the front of the body. Hold onto it for a bit as we work on the back of the body.*

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).

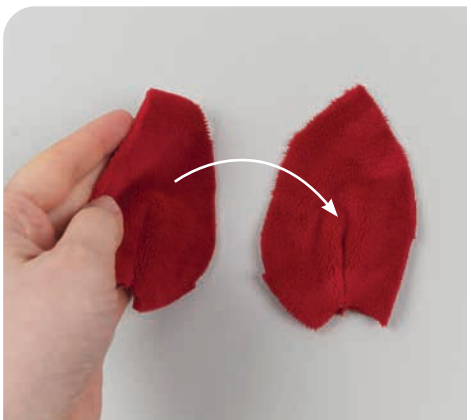
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12. SEW THE HEAD BACK DARTS

- Grab your **HEAD BACK** pieces (D). These pieces also have **darts** similar to the **HEAD FRONT** (A), but they're a little smaller. So it helps to transfer the stitching lines from the paper pattern. Trim away the labeled **dart** area and use it as a tracing template onto the wrong side of your fabrics.
- Fold the fabric along the point of the **dart** so the traced stitching lines match up.
- Sew from the opening of the **dart** into the fold of the fabric so you have a smooth transition and a rounder finish. Repeat with both head back pieces for two **darts** total.

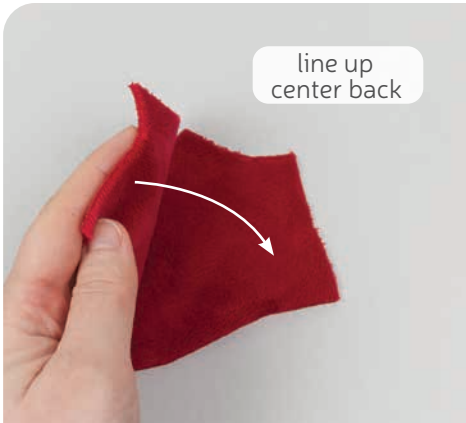


13. SEW THE HEAD BACK CENTER

- Grab your two **HEAD BACK** pieces (D) and align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- If you haven't already, note the **opening for turning markings** found on the paper pattern for the head back. Transfer these markings to the wrong side of the fabrics that you've stacked. Sew the head back pieces along this edge, but leave the **opening for turning** that you marked. If you're watching the **numbered points**, this is also the edge that ends in **point 3** at the bottom corner.
- Open up the pieces when complete.

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14. SEW THE BODY BACK

- Grab your **BODY BACK** pieces (E). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- Sew the pieces along the center back edge. This is the edge marked with **points 3 and 4** on the paper pattern.
- Open up the pieces when complete.



15. SEW THE BACK NECK

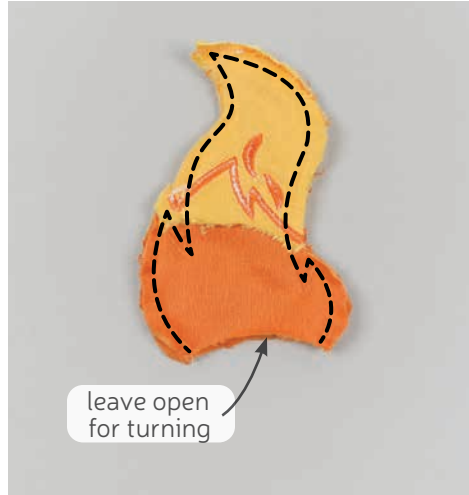
- Grab your **HEAD BACK** pieces from before (D). This head back piece will join to the body back along the neck edge. But there are also **numbered points** for help with alignment, **point 3**.
- Flip over the head back so now it's right sides facing with the body back. Line up the head back with the body back along the neck edge. Match up **point 3** at the center, then line up the corners. Pin the fabrics together.
- Sew the head back to the body back along the neck edge.

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16. SEW THE TAIL



- Grab your **TAIL** pieces (F). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- Sew the pieces together along the long pointed edges. Be sure to pivot at all the points to create the flame-like shape. Leave the shorter curved edge free for turning the piece right side out later.
- Trim the excess seam allowance at the tight corners to reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned.



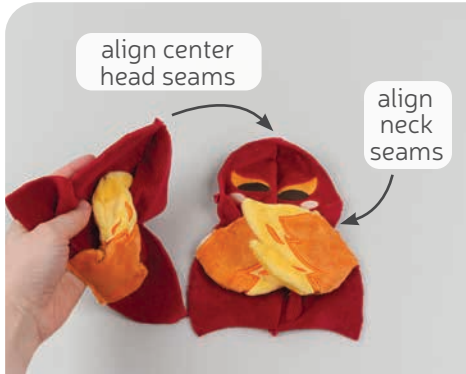
17. BASTE THE TAIL



- Turn the **TAIL** (F) right side out and define the points with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- Grab your body back so far. If you haven't already, note the **tail placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the **BODY BACK** (E). Take your tail and align the open edge within these **placement lines** so the raw edges match up. This should also line up **point 4** in the center if you're keeping track. Pin the fabrics together.
- Baste the tail to the edge of the body back within the seam allowance. This will hold it in place for future steps.

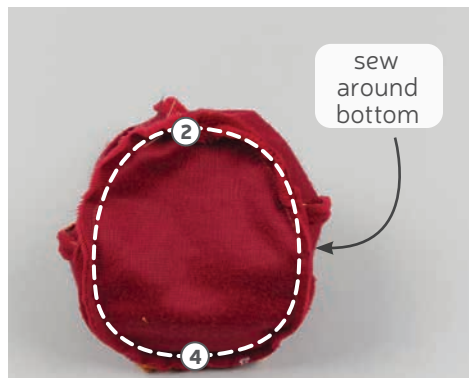
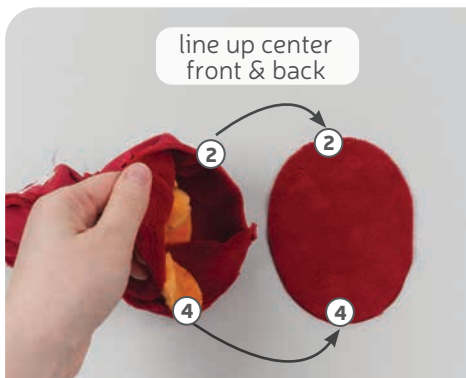
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18. SEW THE FRONT TO THE BACK

- Grab the front half of your body so far as well as the back half. We're going to join the front to the back around the head and the sides of the body. Line up the center seams on the head as well as the neck seams (from steps 8 and 15). Make sure the **WINGS** (C) are tucked inside and pin the fabrics together.
- Sew the front to the back going up one side of the body, around the head, and down the other side of the body. This should secure the wings in the seams. Leave the bottom open for the bottom piece next.
- When complete, you should be able to open up the bottom of the body so far. Inside will be the **TAIL** piece attached at the back.

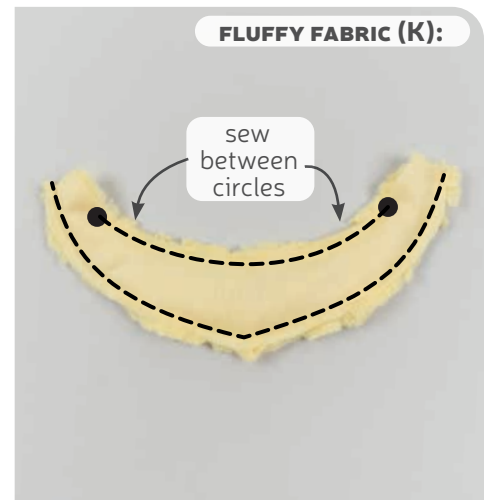
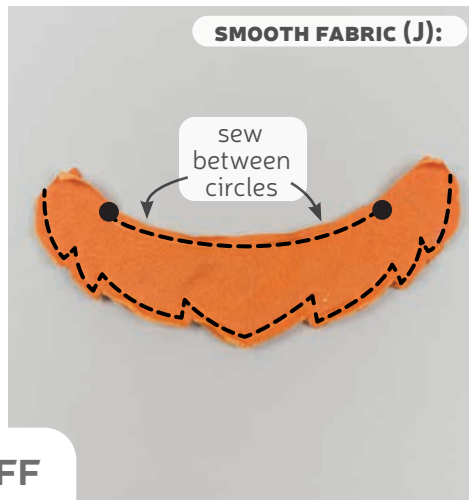


19. ATTACH THE BOTTOM

- Grab your **BOTTOM** piece (G). Take the open end of your body so far and align it around the bottom piece. There are **numbered points** marked on the paper pattern for extra help. This should match up the front **belly dart** with **point 2** on the bottom piece. Meanwhile the **center back seam** will match up with **point 4**. Make sure right sides are facing and pin the fabrics together. Ensure that the **TAIL** is tucked inside and secured between the layers.
- Sew the body to the bottom all the way around.
- You can now turn the body right side out through the opening in the back of the head.

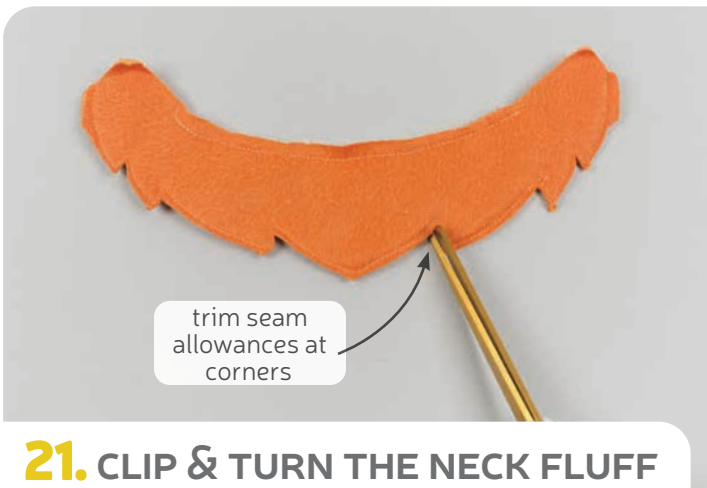
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20. SEW THE NECK FLUFF

- Grab your **NECK FLUFF** pieces (J or K). Take both of them and align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- Sew the pieces together along the bottom outer curve. The one intended for smooth fabrics will have several small points. Meanwhile the one intended for fluffy fabrics will just have one big point in the center.
Also sew along the inner curve along the top edge, but only sew between the **circle markings**. Leave the short straight ends free as well as the areas past the **circle markings**.



21. CLIP & TURN THE NECK FLUFF

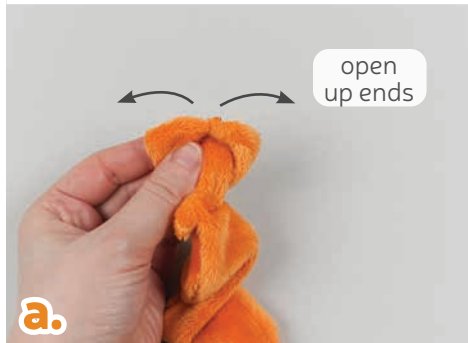
- FOR THE SMOOTH FABRIC VERSION (J):** trim the excess seam allowance at the inner and outer corners of the points. This will reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned later.
- Turn the neck fluff right side out through the openings in the sides. Define the points with a chopstick or similar turning tool.

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- a. Take one end of the **NECK FLUFF** (J or K) and open it up so the straight edges make one even line.
- b. Take the other end of your neck fluff and repeat this. Then align the two ends so right sides are facing and the seam at the center matches up.
- c. Sew the ends of the neck fluff together along this edge.
- d. When you open up the pieces, the neck fluff should now make a ring with an opening in the back.

22. SEW THE NECK FLUFF ENDS



23. SEW THE POLY PELLET POUCH

- a. Grab your **POLY PELLET POUCH** pieces (L). If you haven't already, transfer the opening for filling markings found on the paper pattern for the pellet pouch. Take your two pellet pouch pieces and align them together (either way facing; doesn't matter). Sew around the perimeter of the oval, leaving an opening as indicated by the markings.
- b. Fill the pouch with poly pellets until it's almost full. I like to use a spoon for this, but some people prefer a funnel.
- c. Once you've finished, thread a hand sewing needle and stitch the opening closed with a whip stitch or back stitch. You can also sew it by machine, but go very slowly or just use the hand wheel. Sewing over a pellet will very likely break a needle.

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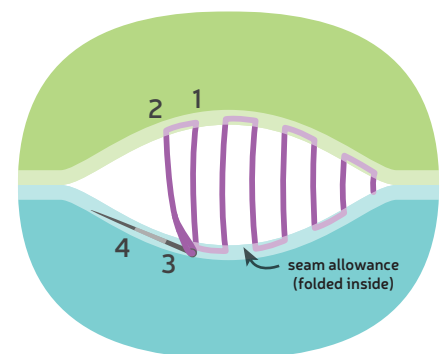
24. STUFF THE BODY

- Take your **POLY PELLETT POUCH** (L) and stuff it into the body of your phoenix. Place it centered flat on the bottom.
- Begin stuffing the plush. Start by filling up the body around the poly pellet pouch. Stuff it firmly so there are no wrinkles near the darts or other seams. Stop when the body is mostly full.
- Grab your **NECK FLUFF** piece (J) and dress it onto your plush. Loop the head through it so it rests around the neck.



25. LADDER STITCH THE OPENING CLOSED

- Now you can finish stuffing the rest of the head. Just like the body, stuff it firmly so there are no wrinkles near the darts and other seams.
- Once the plush is stuffed, make sure the seam allowances in the opening are tucked inside and prepare to ladder stitch it closed. Thread a hand-sewing needle and knot it at the end. Insert the needle from the inside of the opening and out of the plush near one edge of the opening. This will leave the knot inside the plush.
- Continue from here doing a ladder stitch. Take a 1/8" stitch into the fold of one side of the opening, then go across and take another. Keep going down the opening until you reach the end.



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26. TRIM THE THREADS

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



27. STUFF & CLOSE THE NECK FLUFF

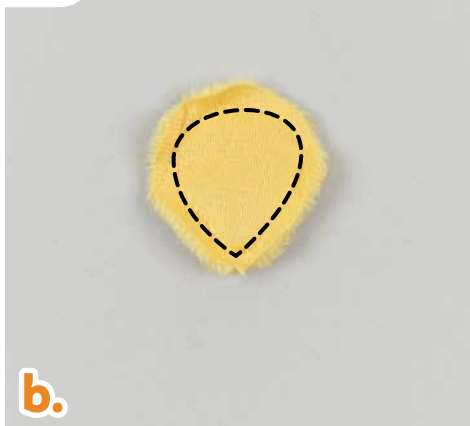
- a. Use the opening in the back of the **NECK FLUFF** piece (J or K) to stuff it lightly with stuffing. Hemostats make this process much easier.
- b. Tuck in the seam allowances in the back of the neck fluff and ladder stitch it closed.



sew desu ne?

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28. SEW & STUFF THE BEAK



- a.** Grab your **BEAK** pieces (1). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- b.** Sew the pieces together all the way around the shape.
- c.** Trim the excess seam allowance around the corners and curves of the beak to reduce bulk.



- d.** To turn the beak right side out, cut a short slit through one layer of the fabric only, near the base. There's also a **cutting guide** on the paper pattern for extra help.
- e.** Turn the beak right side out through the opening you've cut. Define the tip of the beak with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- f.** Stuff the beak lightly with stuffing. Be sure to get a small bit in the tip of the beak so it stays pointy.

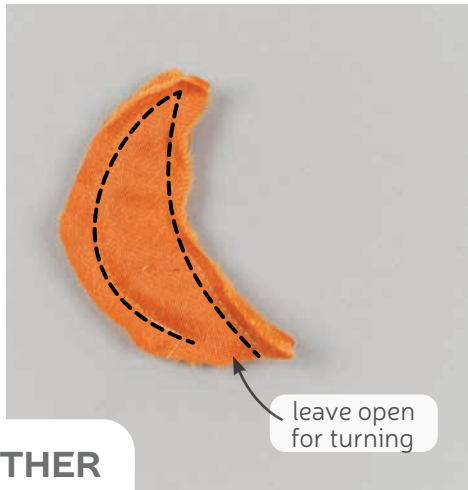
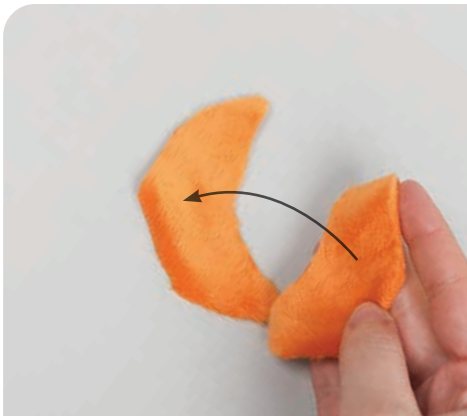
sew desu ne?

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29. ATTACH THE BEAK

- Grab your phoenix so far and align the beak onto the front of the face. Here it's centered between the eyes with the cut side facing down.
- Ladder stitch the beak to the face around the cut you made before. Along the top of the beak it helps to sew close to your seam (from step 28, part B).
- Then for the underside of the beak, you'll want to flip it up and sew close to the cutting line.

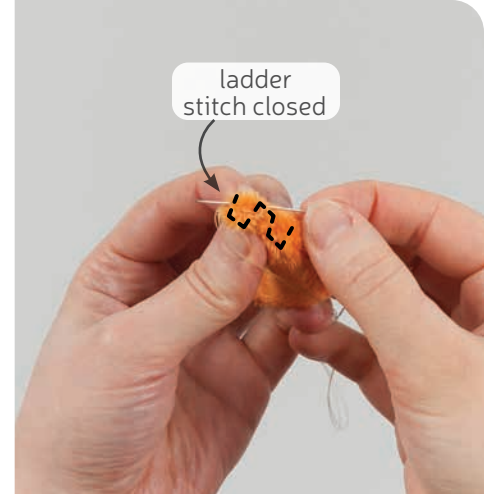
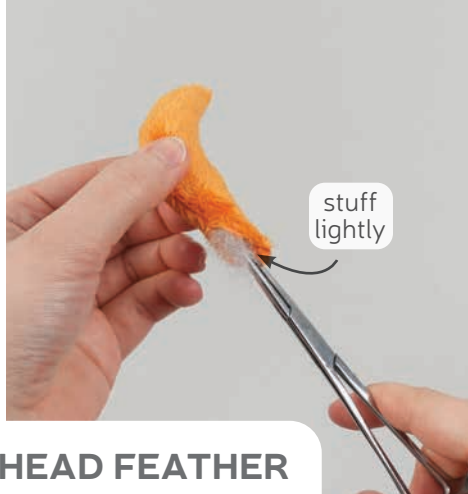


30. SEW THE HEAD FEATHER

- Grab your **TOP FEATHER** pieces (H). Align the pieces with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- Sew the pieces together all the way around, but leave a small **opening for turning** in the bottom as indicated on the paper pattern.
- Trim away the excess seam allowance at the tight corners to reduce bulk.

sew desu ne?

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31. TURN & STUFF THE HEAD FEATHER

- Turn the **FEATHER** (H) right side out through the *opening for turning* and define the point with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- Stuff the feather lightly with stuffing, but be sure to get a small bit in the tip of the feather so it stays pointy.
- The opening of the feather is a bit of an awkward shape. It helps to tuck in the seam allowances before attaching it to your bird. You can do this with your hemostats, then hold the feather closed with a long ladder stitch.

32. ATTACH THE HEAD FEATHER

- Grab your phoenix so far and align the ladder stitched end of the feather onto the top. Here it's centered on the head back seam, right behind the top seam of the head.
- Ladder stitch the feather in place around the base.

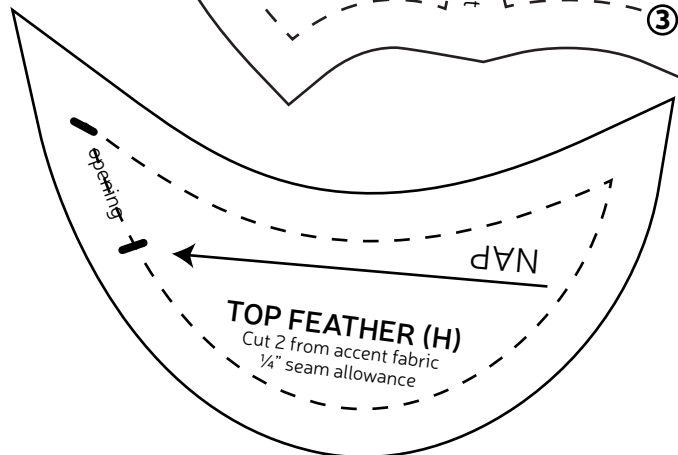
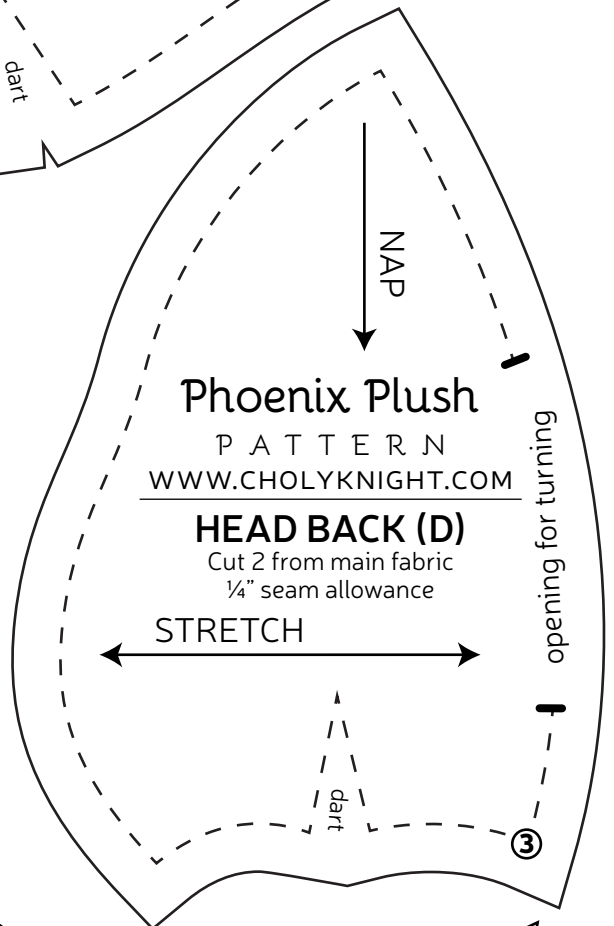
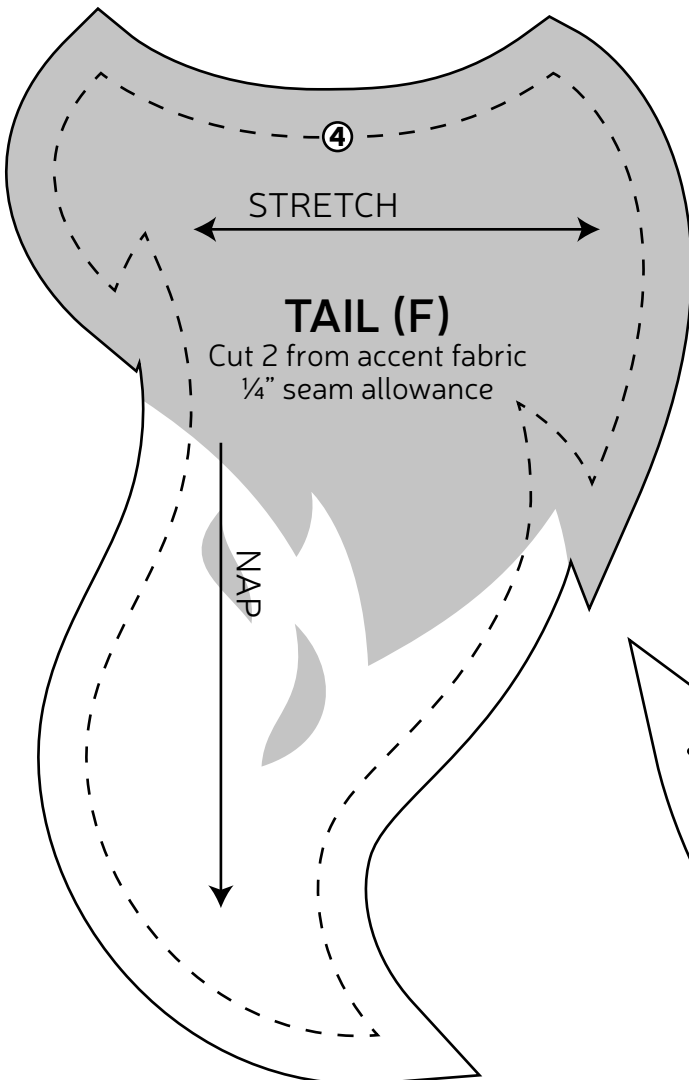
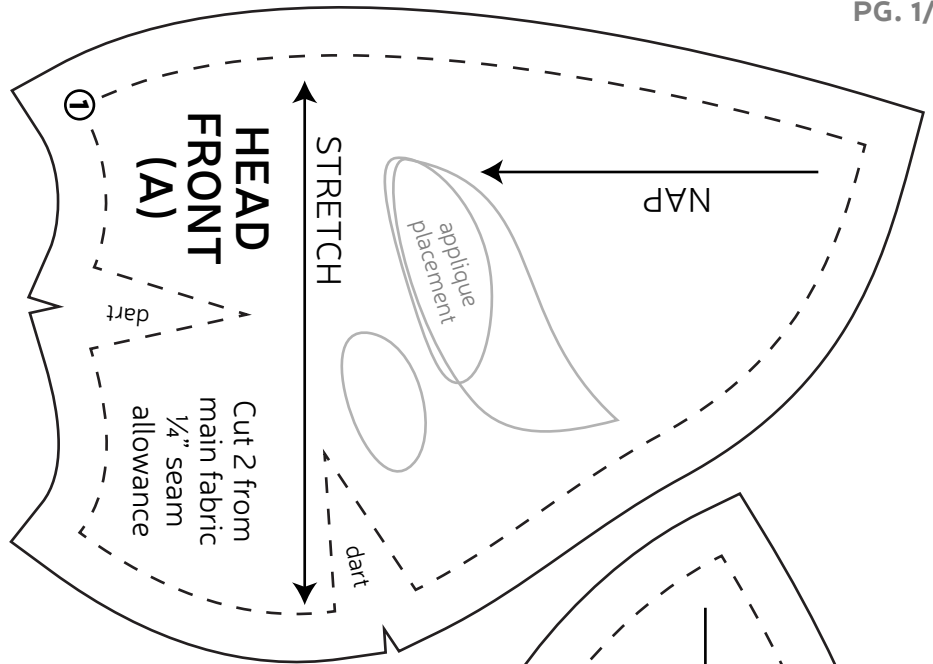


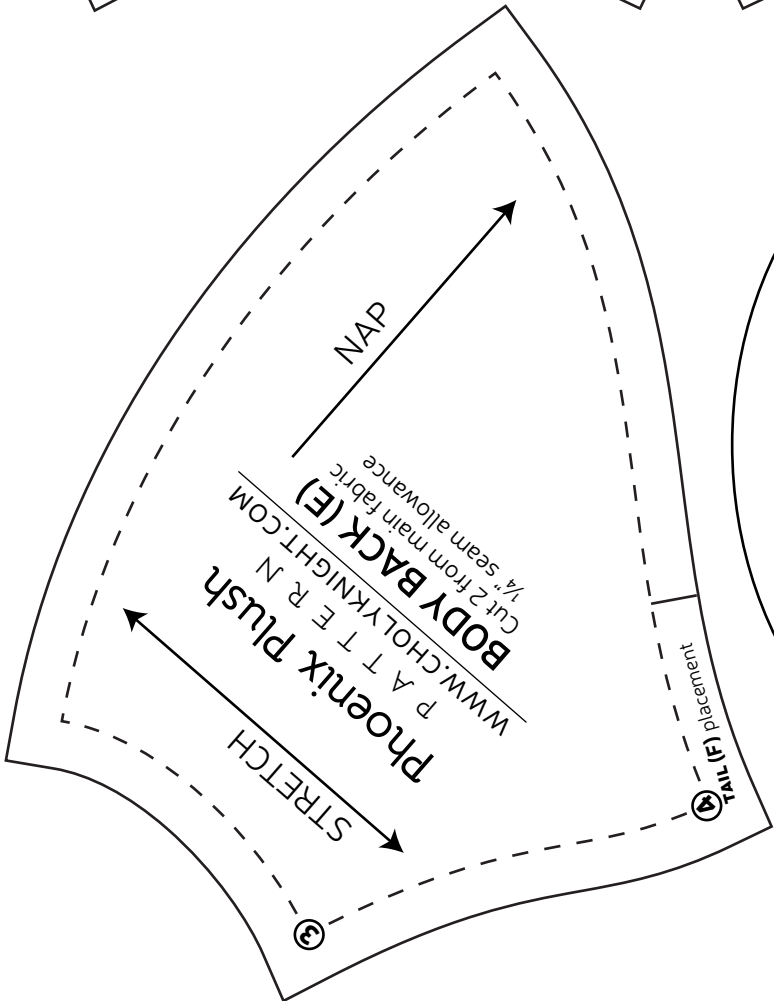
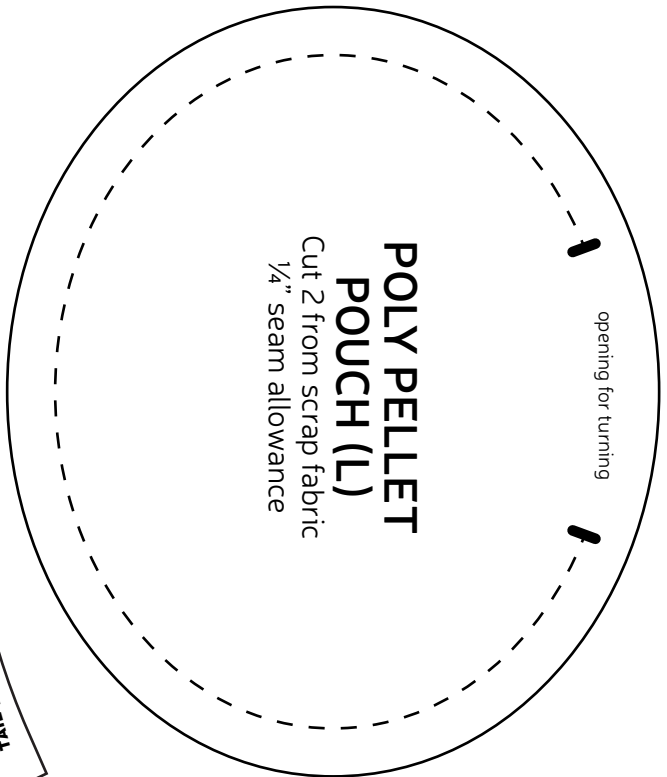
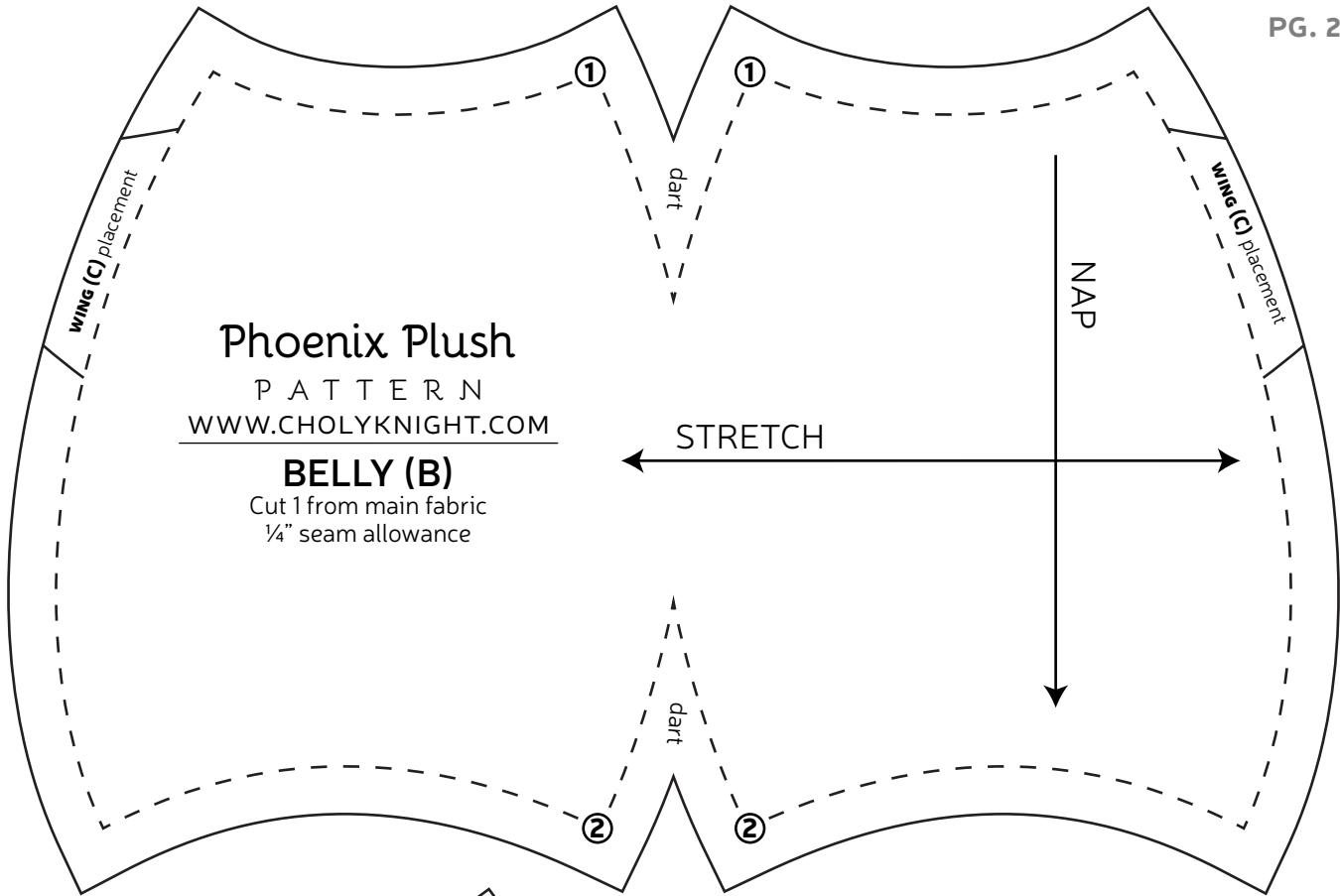
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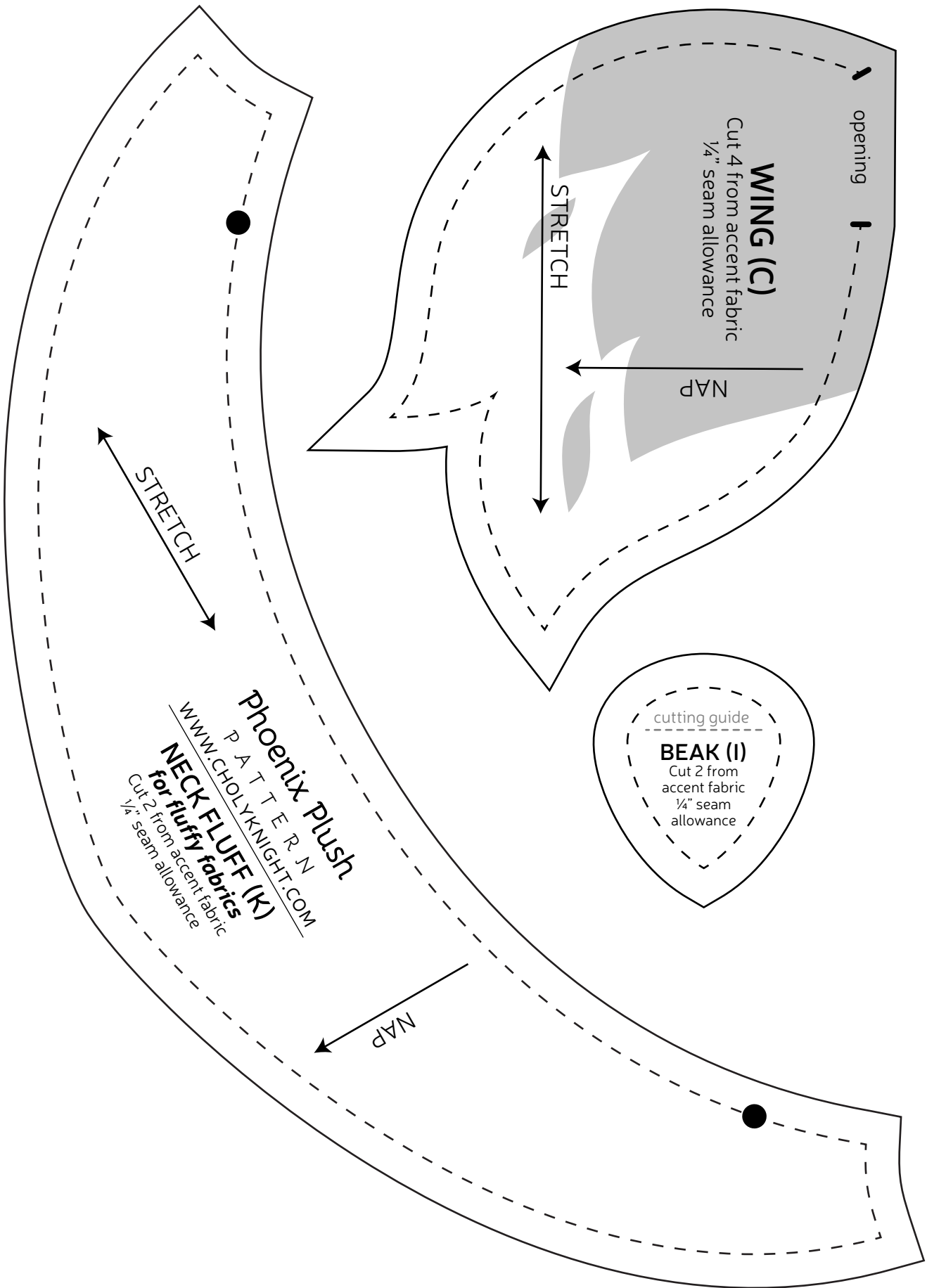
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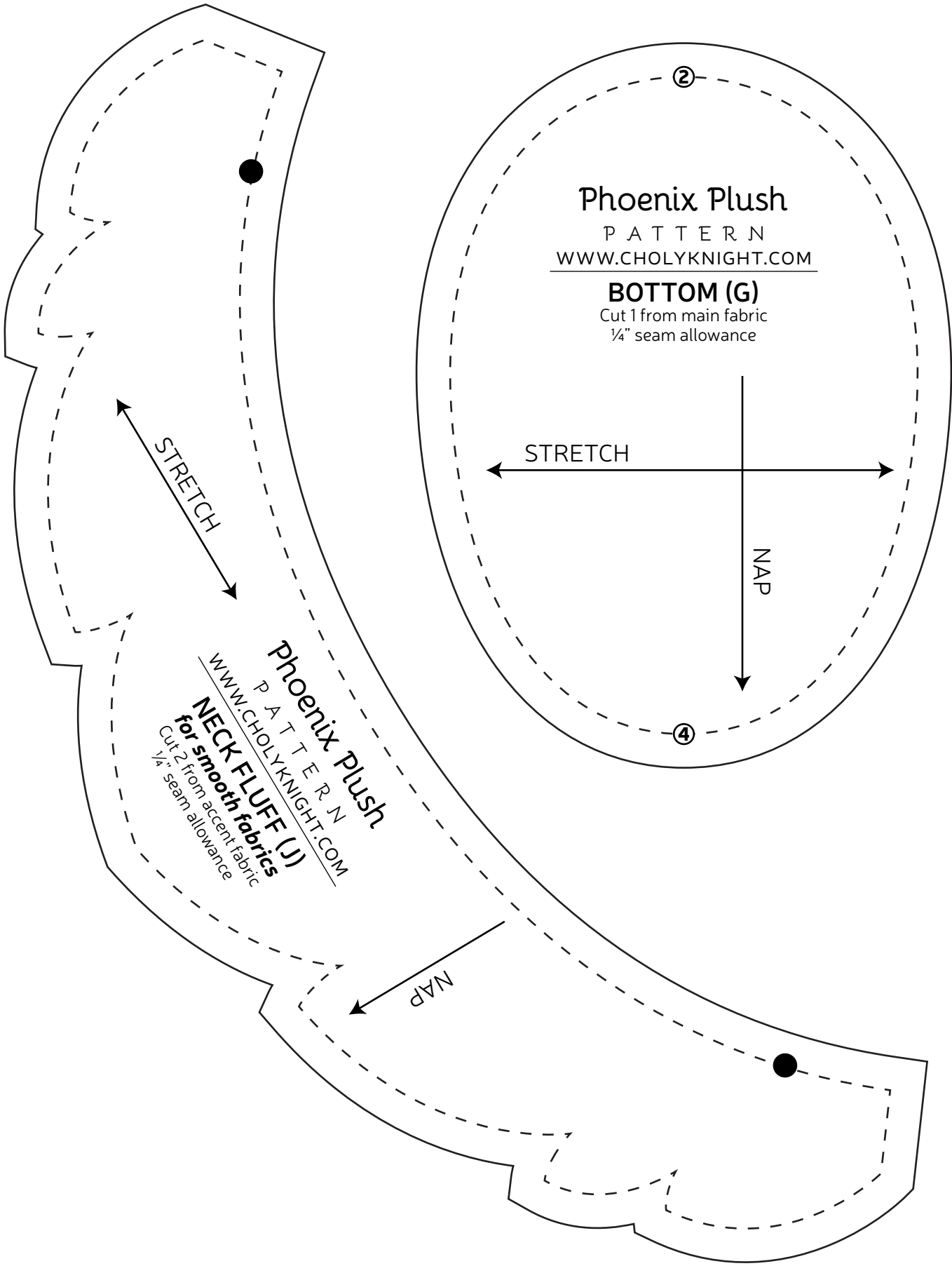
TEST SQUARE 2"

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



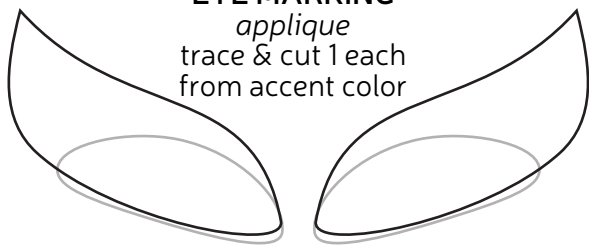






EYE MARKING

applique
trace & cut 1 each
from accent color

**EYES**

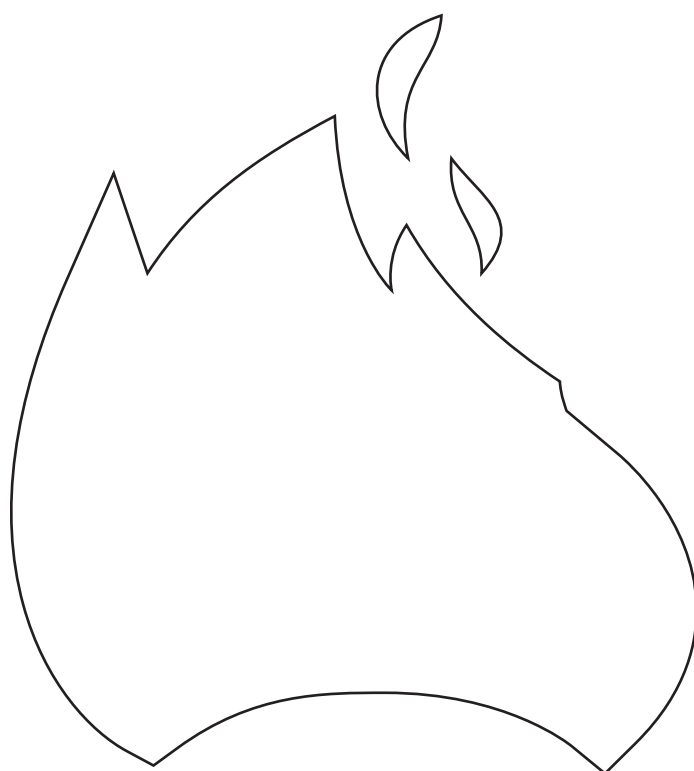
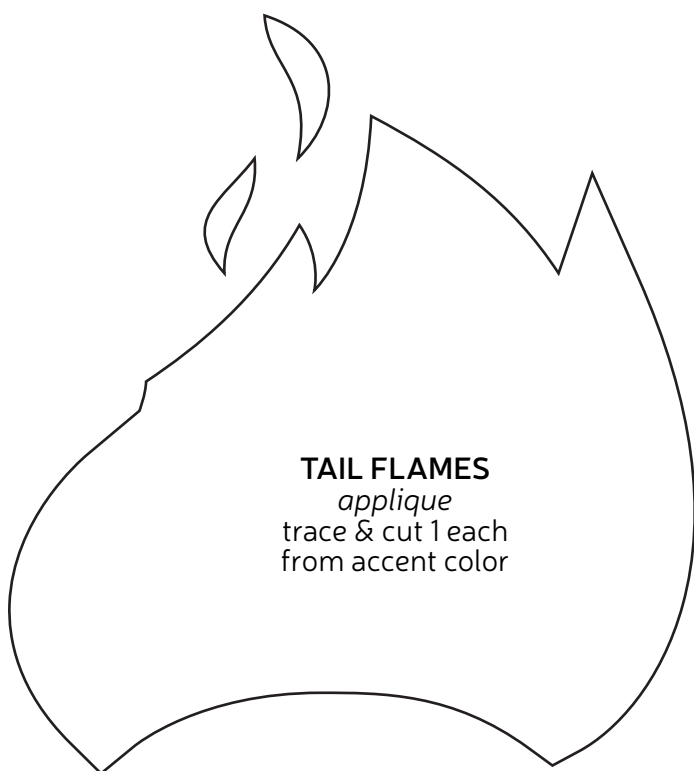
applique
trace & cut 1 each
from black

**BLUSH**

applique
trace & cut 2
from pink

**TAIL FLAMES**

applique
trace & cut 1 each
from accent color

**WING FLAMES**

applique
trace & cut 2 each
from accent color

