

# Bustle & Sew



Love to Sew and Sew with Love .....



## *Charlie the Patchwork Elephant*

Charlie is a most cheerful elephant, easily created from your left-over scraps from other projects. I've made no attempt to stick to a particular colour theme, just chosen my brightest, most cheerful scraps.

And no worries about tricky piecing your hexagons – just use this really easy method to achieve a great result.



The first six issues



**You will need:**

To make elephant measuring 10" high x 11" long

Scraps of cotton fabric sufficient to cut:

50 hexagons measuring 3"w x 2 5/8" high with sides of 1 1/2"

50 hexagons measuring 2"w x 1 3/4" high with sides of 1"

1/2 yard of 48" wide of quilting weight white cotton/cotton mix fabric (must be non-stretchy) for lining of hexagon fabric

24" square piece of felt for insides of ears and underbody

2 x 1/2" buttons for eyes

Tiny scrap of light coloured felt for eyes

Selection of beads and a little bell (optional) for his tail

2 large buttons for ears (1") and one 1/2" button for base of tail

Perle cotton in contrasting shade to felt

Toy stuffing

Spray fabric adhesive or Bondaweb as preferred

"Sharpie" or other felt tip pen

**Notes:**

- If making this toy for a young child please do not use buttons for eyes and decoration. Substitute black felt for eyes – or embroider them, omit buttons on ears and at base of tail and stitch a fabric or yarn tail into place.
- Hexagons must be accurately cut, use your [Accuquilt Go! Cutter](#) if you have one or otherwise good quality quilting template.

**Mark out and cut your pieces**

Cut out 50 of each size hexagon. The smaller hexagons will be used for Charlie's ears and top gusset, the larger ones for the sides of his body.

You will need to resize your template to achieve a 10" high elephant. The dimensions are shown on the templates at the end of this pattern. When you've printed them to the correct size, cut out 2 underbodies and 2 ears in felt.

Place your templates on your white lining fabric and draw around them with your Sharpie or equivalent felt tip pen. You want the line to show through on the reverse of the fabric. DO NOT CUT THEM OUT yet.

Cut 2 side bodies and 2 ear pieces (don't forget to reverse your template before drawing the second pieces), and 1 gusset.

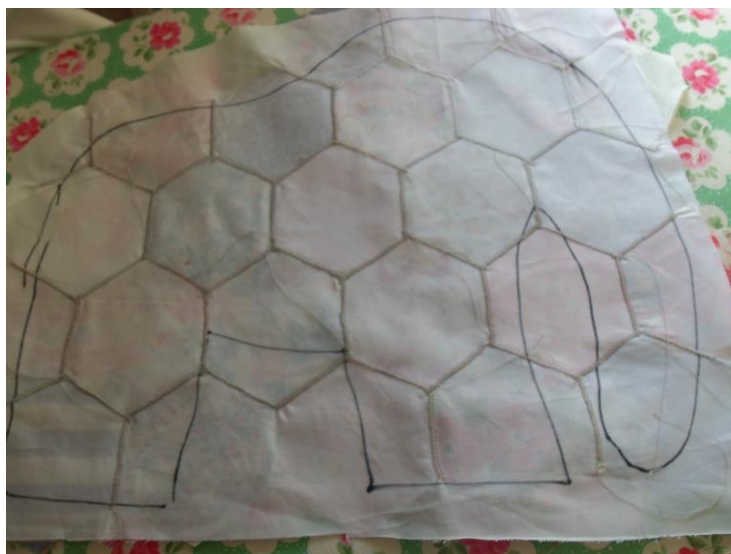
### Make your hexagon fabric



Arrange the larger hexagons on the lining fabric over the shape you drew. Line them up carefully so there are no gaps. You may need to cut them to fit into small spaces at the edges. When you're happy with the positioning secure in place using spray adhesive or Bondaweb.

Set your machine to a wide zig-zag with a short stitch – as you would use to make buttonholes – and zig-zag over all the joins between the hexagons. This will secure them firmly in place and cover all the raw edges.

Press lightly and turn over.



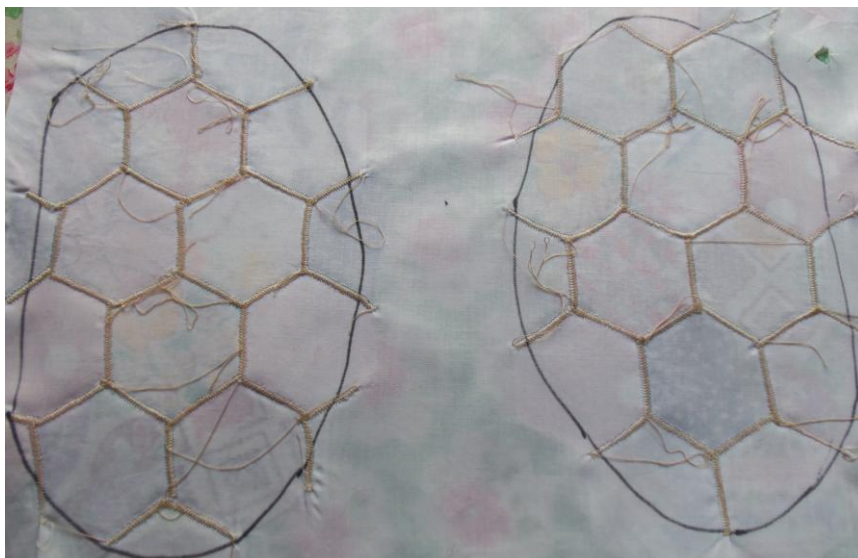


You can still see the lines you need to cut as the felt tip pen penetrated through the fabric. Cut out your shape and repeat for the second side of the elephant.



Now repeat this process using the smaller hexagons for the top gusset and ears.







## Assemble your Elephant



All pieces should be joined with right sides together and a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance is included in the pattern.

- Stitch under bodies together from A to B leaving a  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " gap to insert stuffing.
- Stitch under body pieces to main body pieces matching points A and B
- Stitch the head gusset into place along the back to his bum matching points B and C on templates.
- Stitch around bottom of trunk and up as far as C (where the head gusset is placed).
- Clip curves and corners so you'll have a nice flat seam when you turn him the right way round. Pay particular attention to his trunk.
- Turn Charlie right side out. You may want to press him lightly at this stage, as his trunk in particular may have developed wrinkles in the turning out process.
- Now stuff your elephant's . Use small pieces of stuffing to avoid lumpiness and push into corners (but not too hard!). Keep checking your stuffing for good shape and no lumpiness. Stuffing is really important and it can make (or ruin) the appearance of a toy.
- When you're happy with his appearance, close the seam in the centre of the underbody. First slip stitch with matching thread, then it's nice to take a contrasting thread or floss and

work cross stitches over your hand-stitched seam. This adds extra strength and also looks pretty.

- Place the ear pieces right sides together and stitch around curved edges. Clip seams and turn. Slip stitch straight edge closed and press. (Tip: to make sure the pieces are properly turned out, moisten your finger and thumb and gently roll the seams backwards and forwards. This will give a nice finish).
- Position on sides of head and pin in place. Do this by placing the ear backs against the body and pinning flat. Then slip stitch straight edge in place. When you take the pins out you can fold the ears forward which will make them stand up nicely.

### Finishing your elephant

- Mark positions of eyes using pins, then cut two small circles of felt and sew into place, adding buttons on the top.



- Sew large decorative buttons to his ear backs where they join his body.
- Thread beads and bell onto strong thread and attach to his bum, covering your joining stitches with decorative button.
- Note: omit these stages and simply embroider eyes and sew fabric tail if making for a very young child.



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PS for more great patterns, please visit my site, [Bustle and Sew](http://www.bustleandsew.com) or to learn more about me and life here in Devon, England, check out my [Bustle & Sew Blog](http://www.bustleandsew.com).

Hexagons cut using Accuquilt BabyGo! Cutter from [Accuquilt](http://www.accuquilt.com).



