



BUSTLE & SEW
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Charlie the Patchwork Elephant



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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.

Charlie measures 10" high x 11" long



Materials

- Scraps of cotton fabric sufficient to cut:
 - ❑ 50 hexagons measuring 3" wide x 2 5/8" high with sides of 1 1/2"
 - ❑ 50 hexagons measuring 2" wide 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 (or use two strands of embroidery floss)
- Toy stuffing
- Spray fabric adhesive or Bondaweb as preferred
- "Sharpie" or other felt tip pen



Method

- 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 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. (1)
- 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. (2)
- 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. (3)
- Now repeat this process using the smaller hexagons for the top gusset and ears. (4)

Assemble your Elephant

- All pieces should be joined with right sides together and a ¼" seam allowance is included in the pattern.
- Stitch under bodies together from A to B leaving a 3 ½" gap to insert stuffing, then stitch 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 . 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).

1



2



3



4



5

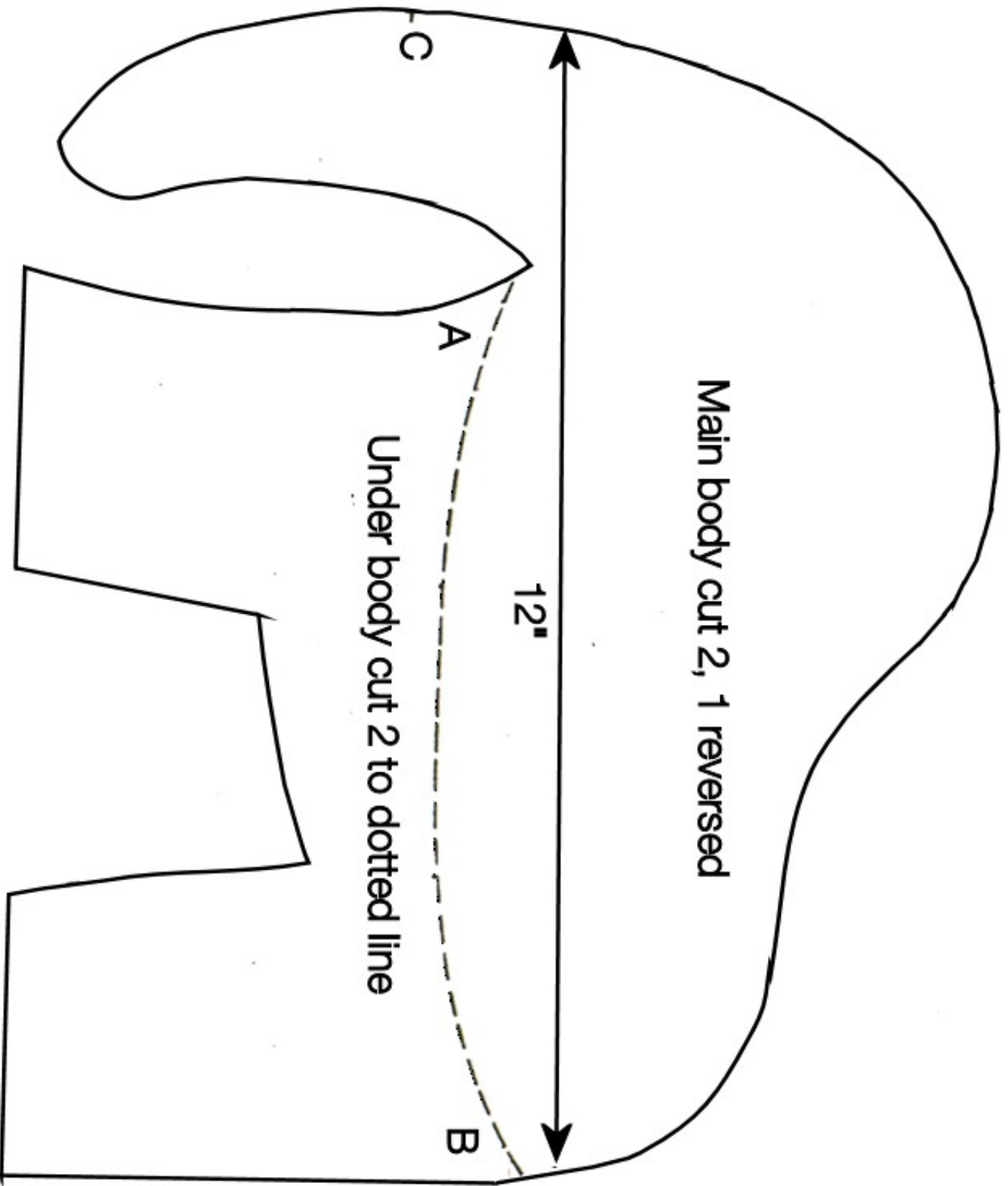


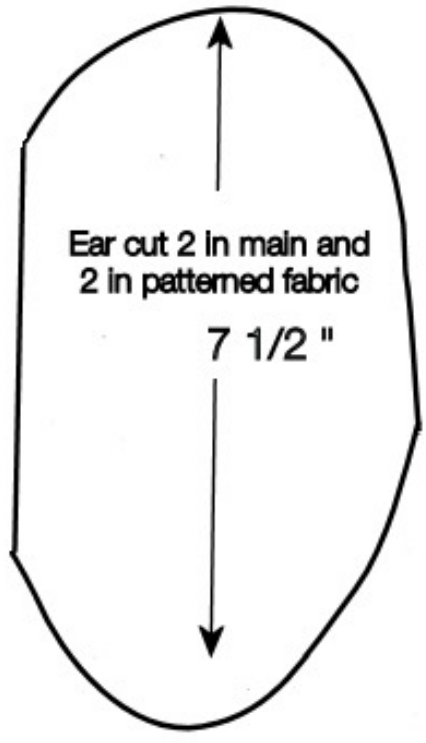
6



- 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. Sew button over seam.
- Thread beads and bell onto strong thread and attach to his bum, covering your joining stitches with decorative button. (5)
- Mark positions of eyes using pins, then cut two small circles of felt and sew into place, adding buttons on the top. (6)









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Why do we love to stitch? After all you can purchase mass-produced textile items at many high streets stores for very little cost. These days handmade means something special - a unique item created with love, a gift from the heart, not one that can be bought. Hand stitching is also a great way to personalise an item, or perhaps to breathe new life into an old favourite that has seen better days.

[Bustle & Sew](#) offers my own unique patterns, designed to appeal to all skill levels and bring out all your natural creativity. And you

can keep up to date with all the latest news from Devon where I live as well as the newest patterns and much more over on the [Bustle & Sew Blog](#).

But none of this would mean anything without YOU, the stitcher. And it's lovely to be able to share hints, tips, techniques and patterns with other like-minded people. So

PLEASE SHARE THE LOVE



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PS If you love stitching, then you're sure to enjoy my Bustle & Sew Magazine. It's delivered by email to your in-box each month and is crammed full of ideas, projects, features, articles, patterns and more to inspire you. Your family and friends will soon be queuing up to take delivery of your new Bustle & Sew creations. To learn more please visit the [Bustle & Sew website](#).

Helen xx

