



A Bustle & Sew Design



Patchwork Puppy

This endearing little retro puppy was created using a selection of Liberty [fabrics](#), both vintage and from their new Craft [Fabric](#) range. Stitching the hexagons to a backing fabric means your patchwork is really robust and your pup won't start coming apart at the seams.

Finished puppy measures approx 10" in length.

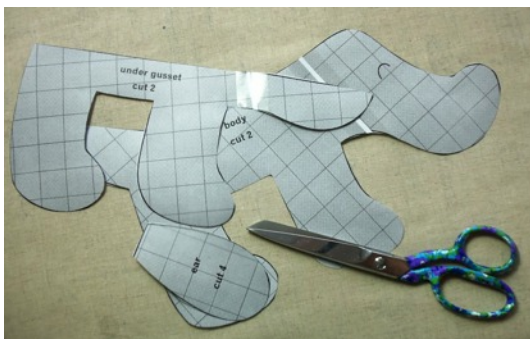


You will need:

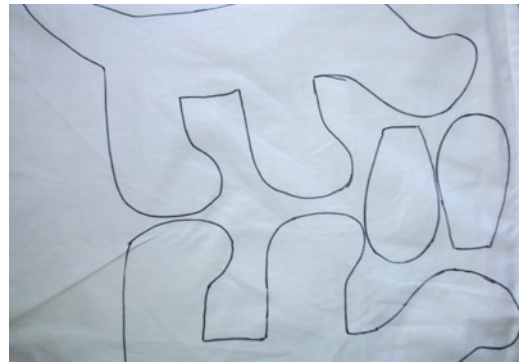
- 18” square piece of white cotton or cotton blend quilting weight fabric (an old sheet is good)
- Scraps of cotton fabric sufficient to cut 40 hexagons measuring 3”w x 2 5/8” high with sides of 1 1/2”
- 12” square coloured felt
- 6 mm (approx 1/4”) safety eyes
- Black cotton floss or perle thread
- Ribbon for neck
- Sharpie or other thick felt tip pen
- Temporary fabric spray adhesive
- Toy stuffing

Create your patchwork:

- Cut your hexagons from the scraps of fabric. You will need approximately 40, but the actual number will vary depending upon how you decide to arrange them on your fabric.



- The templates are given actual size - print the pages then join before cutting out.
- From your felt cut out two underbodies and two ear shapes, then place these to one side for the moment.
- Iron your 18” square of white fabric and lay it on a clean flat surface.
- Draw two bodies (reverse the template between them) and two ear shapes onto the white fabric using your Sharpie or other thick felt tip pen



- Check to make sure you can see your pen lines on the back of the fabric - this is very important, but if you’re using a nice thick pen then they should easily penetrate your fabric
- DO NOT CUT OUT your shapes at this stage
- Spray your first shape with temporary fabric spray adhesive (often called basting spray) and begin to cover it with your fabric hexagons, making sure their edges are well butted up against each other.



- Continue in this way until you have covered all the shapes. Pat your hexagons down well to make sure they're properly adhered to the fabric base



- When you flip the fabric over the lines of your shapes are still easily visible.
- To fit around the edges, slip in small pieces of hexagon - below is a picture of my patchwork held against the light so you can see how I fitted my shapes in.



- Set your sewing machine to a wide, short zig-zag stitch - rather as though you were going to stitch a buttonhole - though the stitch length can be a little longer than for buttonholes.
- Start to stitch all along the edges of the hexagons, securing them to the fabric below. Make sure your zig-zag is wide enough to catch in the hexagons on either side of the join.



- Continue until you've stitched all the hexagons to the fabric base. This is a great technique as you can use quite light-weight fabric hexagons as they'll be supported by the base fabric beneath.
- Turn your work over and press on the reverse.
- Cut out the body shapes.



Assemble your puppy:

Note: The templates include a ¼" seam allowance.

- With right sides together join the two underbodies to the body sides.
- Join the two underbodies, leaving a 4" gap at the centre of the tummy for stuffing
- Join the centre seam of your puppy.
- Clip corners and curves, then turn right side out and press, checking your seams carefully to make sure there is no puckering or gaps.



- Lightly stuff the head, then mark the positions of the eyes with glass-headed pins. Take your time doing this as their positioning will affect your puppy's expression and once fixed, safety eyes cannot be moved. When you're happy with the positioning, make a small dot with your pen to mark the place
- Remove the stuffing from the head and with a seam ripper, or sharp points of scissors, make a tiny slit in the fabric, just large enough to push the stem of the front of the eye through.



- Push the plastic washer firmly down the stem of the eye to fix it in place against the fabric. This may take quite a bit of effort as they are designed to be almost impossible to remove.
- When you've fixed the eyes in place, then re-stuff the head and then the rest of the puppy. Use small pieces of stuffing to avoid lumpiness and push them firmly into place. You may find a stuffing stick useful for his tail - this is just a bamboo skewer with the point broken off and the end frayed so that it "grabs" the stuffing.

- As you stuff continually turn the body and mould it into shape with your hands, this stage is very important to the finished look of your toy.
- When you've finished stuffing, close the gap in the middle of his tummy, inserting more small pieces of stuffing to keep him nice and firm as you go.



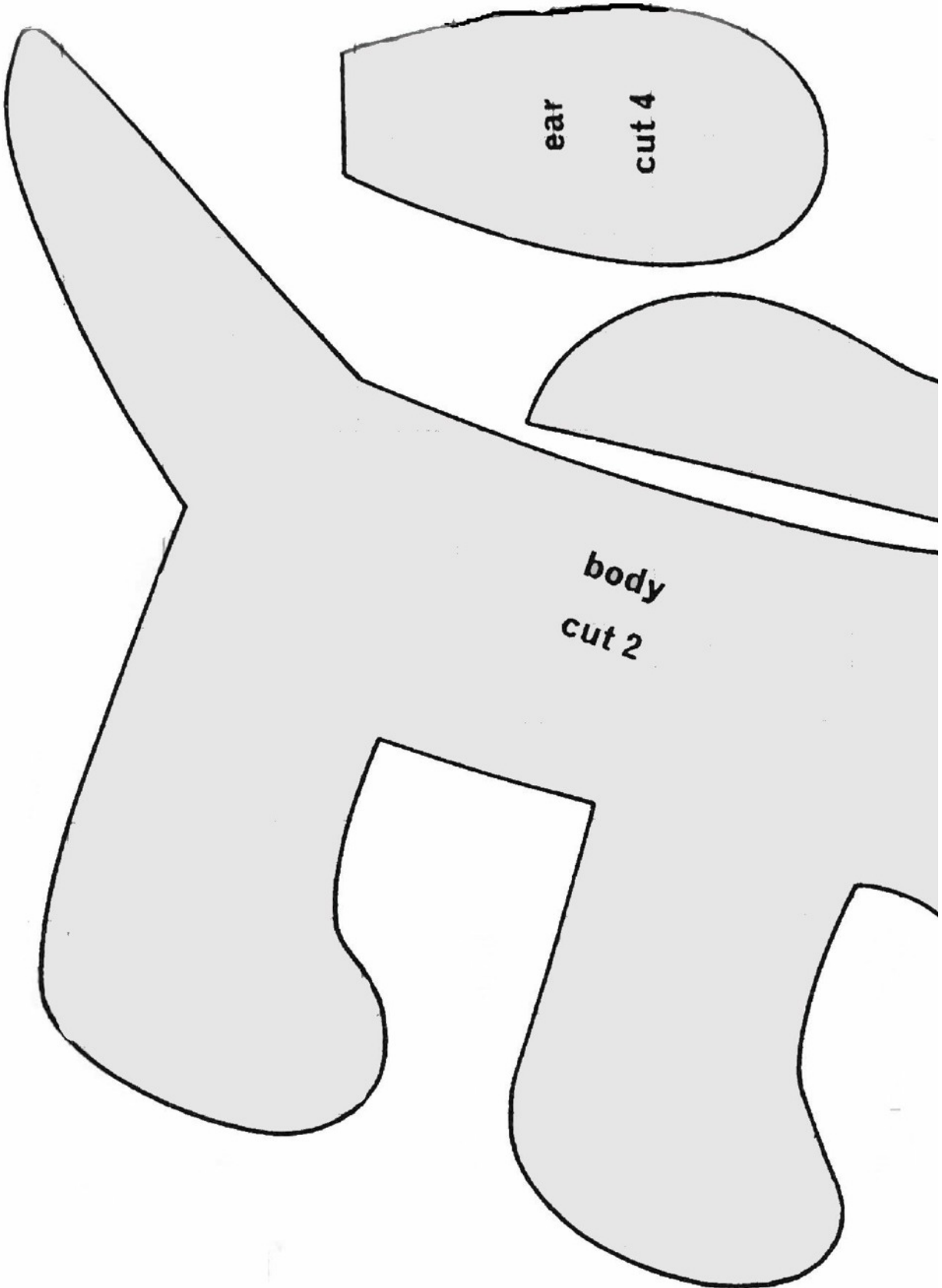
- After I've stuffed a toy I then like to run an iron (carefully!) over its body to make sure any creases caused during stuffing are smoothed out and to give it a nice finish. This stage isn't essential though.
- Now place your felt and fabric ear pieces together right sides facing and machine stitch around the curved edge, leaving the top open for turning.
- Turn right side out and press.
- Position ears on head, then hand stitch to head ¼" from top seam - when you fold the ears down your stitches and the raw edges will be hidden, though it's nice to trim with pinking shears if you have them, or overstitch if you like.

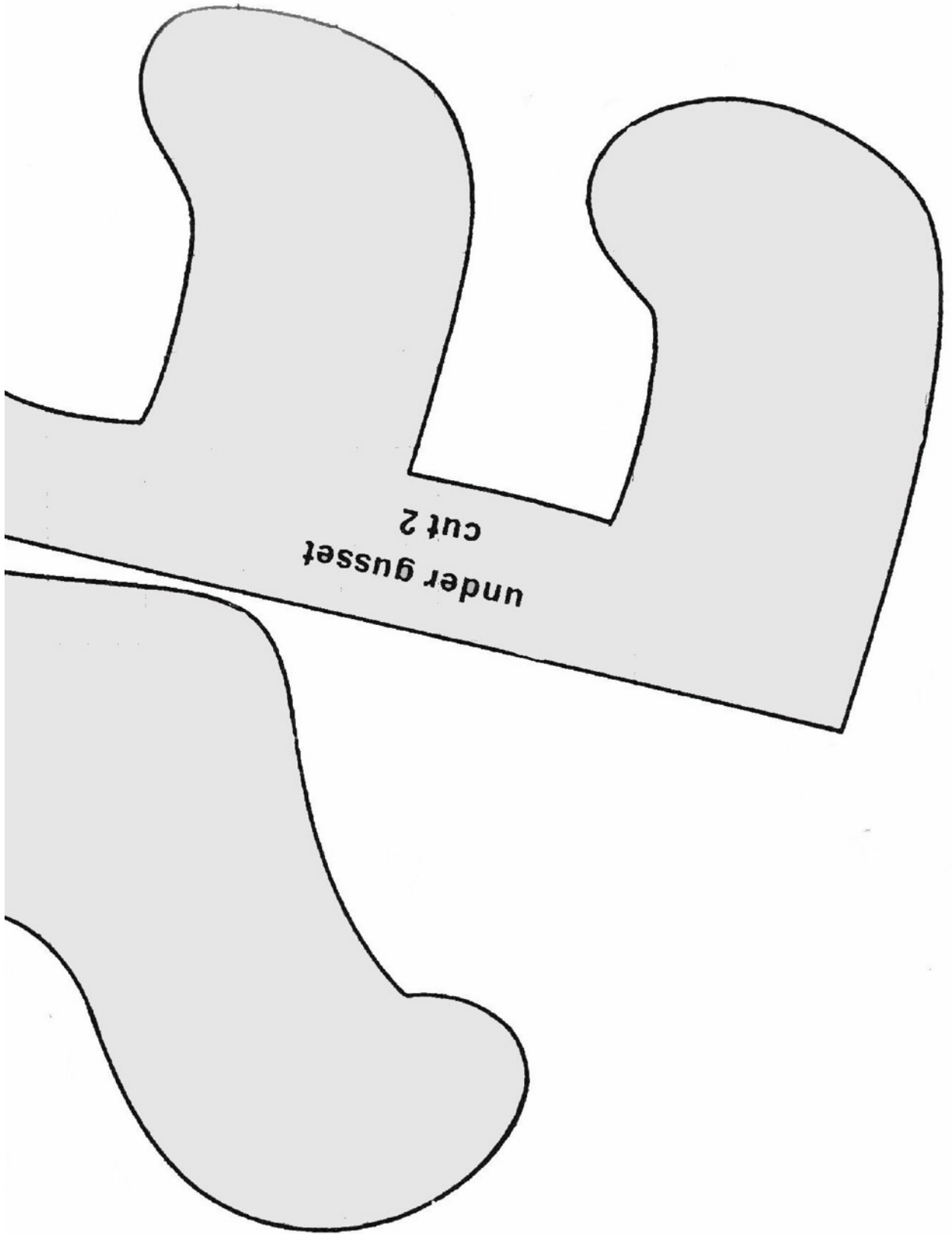


- Finally add your puppy's nose and mouth using your black cotton floss or perle thread and tie ribbon around his neck.

FINISHED!









Why do we love to stitch? After all, you can purchase mass-produced embroidered items at many high street stores. 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 personalize an item, or even 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 your natural creativity. And you can keep up-to-date with all the latest news 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 and techniques with other like-minded folk.

PLEASE SHARE THE LOVE: I am happy for you to circulate this free pattern as widely as you wish – with just two conditions: Firstly that you leave all links to my [website](#) and [blog](#) in place. And secondly, it is not a commercial publication and must not be reproduced for resale in any form.



PS : If you love stitching then you're sure to enjoy my Bustle & Sew Magazine. It's my own e-zine delivered monthly to your in-box stuffed with ideas, projects, features, articles, patterns and more. Your family and friends will be queuing up to take delivery of your new Bustle & Sew creations.

To learn more, please visit my website.

<http://bustleandsew.com/magazine>