

Simple Bunting Doll Tutorial

Supplies (see Figure 1):

- One piece of 2" cotton tubular gauze at least 14" long (see resources listed at the end of this article or many medical supply stores sell this by the yard);
- Wool stuffing (see resources);
- Cotton string (crochet string works well);
- Natural fabric for doll body (old cashmere sweater, cotton knit, cotton flannel, cotton velour);
- Skin colored cotton tricot (a plain or tea dyed white knit shirt can be substituted);
- Embroidery floss (eye color, mouth color, coordinating color with body fabric for cinching the waist);
- Needle and thread in coordinating color; and
- Scissors.

Helpful but not necessary:

- Sewing Machine;
- 3" Doll making needle (any fabric store will carry this); and
- Red beeswax crayon (blush can be substituted).



(Figure 1)

Forming the Head:

- Use a running stitch to gather the top of a 14" piece of 2" cotton tubular gauze, cinching it tightly and tying it with a knot (as pictured in Figure 1).
- Divide some of the wool into strips and a 12"x12" piece. Tightly wind one of the wool strips into a ball (see Figure 2). Continue adding wool until the ball measures 8.5"-9" in diameter. Place the ball of wool on the 12"x12" piece of stuffing (see Figure 3).



(Figure 2)



(Figure 3))

- Pull the piece of wool around the ball, gathering it at the bottom (see Figure 4).
- Holding the ball of wool around the neck (see Figure 4), push the ball of wool into the tubular gauze. Tie a piece of cotton string as tightly as possible around the neck (see Figure 5).



(Figure 4)



(Figure 5)

- Stuff the rest of the wool into the gauze under the neck (it may be necessary to pull away and set aside some of the wool). 5" below the neck, use a running stitch to gather the gauze and tie off with a knot (see Figure 6). This firm inner body makes the doll substantial for a young child to cuddle.
- To make the eye line, tie a long piece of cotton string at the middle of the face (half-way between top and bottom). To create a deep eyeline, it is helpful to wet the string before tying (see Figure 6).



(Figure 6)

- To form the chin line, thread a length of the cotton string onto a needle, knotting the end. Insert the needle at the base of the neck and wrap vertically around the head, cinching tightly to create a line, wrap at least twice, and tie off with a knot (see Figure 7).
- Using cotton string anchor each intersection of the chin line and eyeline with a few stitches and secure with a knot (see Figure 8).



(Figure 7)



(Figure 8)

- Pull the eyelid down toward the neck (a crochet hook can be very helpful with this) until the eyelid almost reaches the nape of the neck. Next using a zig-zag hand stitch secure the eyelid and the neck line to the gauze. This should even out any puff created by the pulling down the eyelid (see Figure 9).



(Figure 9)

Covering the Head:

- Cut a 9"x9" piece of the tricot skin fabric. Placing the head in the middle of the fabric, pull the fabric tightly across the face, holding it in the back. Make a pencil mark on the fabric where the sides should be sewn together (see Figure 10).
- Using a stretch stitch on your machine (or a backstitch, if sewing by hand), stitch on the pencil line. The head covering will look similar to the one shown in Figure 12.
- Turn the tube right-side out and stuff the head and body inside. Pull down the fabric as far as possible (it will not cover the entire inner body) and use cotton string to tie around the neck (see Figure 11).



(Figure 10)



(Figure 11)

Sewing the Body and Hat:

- Print and cut out the pattern for the body and hat (located at end of this tutorial). Lay the body fabric right-sides together and trace the pattern onto the wrong-side of the fabric. Do the same with the hat pattern but make sure that the pattern is placed on a fold where indicated.
- Sew on the drawn lines on machine using basic straight stitch (or backstitch, if sewing by hand). Be sure to leave open where indicated. After sewing,

turn both the body and hat right-side out (see Figure 12).



(Figure 12)

Stuffing the Body and Attaching the Head:

- Lightly stuff each arm and the bottom of the body. Insert the doll's body into the neck hole.
- Beginning at the center back of the neck, attach the doll's head to the body with a ladder stitch, stitching directly above the neck string (see Figure 13).
- The neck hole is slightly larger than the doll's actual neck, so at the first shoulder use a ladder stitch to close the neck hole out toward the arm. Stitch to directly above the start of the arm.
- Use a running stitch back toward the neck to cinch the arms toward the neck (see Figure 14).
- Continue with the ladder stitch across the front of the doll to the other shoulder. Repeat the process from the first shoulder on the second shoulder, and then finish stitching around the neck.



(Figure 13)



(Figure 14)

Cinching the Waist:

- With a length of embroidery floss knotted at the end, use a running stitch to gather the fabric around the inner body (see Figure 15).



(Figure 15)

Adding the Doll's Face:

- Use three ball-head pins to experiment with eye and mouth placement. Traditionally the eyes and mouth should form an equilateral triangle (see Figure 16).
- With your chosen eye color, take a length of embroidery floss (after separating three strands), knot at the end, and insert the needle from the ear area to the eye (see Figure 17). Use three satin stitches to make an eye. Do the same on the other side.
- Insert the needle from the same spot and use one stitch to form the mouth (see Figure 18).
- To add rosy cheeks, rub a red beeswax crayon on a paper towel. Gently rub the paper towel on doll's cheeks in a circular motion. Likewise, blush may also be used for rosy cheeked dolls.



(Figure 16)



(Figure 17)



(Figure 18)

Attaching the Hat:

- Put the hat on the doll's head and attach with a ladder stitch around the face. Voila the doll is finished and ready to be loved.



Dollmaking Suppliers:

Weir Dolls and Crafts: <http://www.weirdollsandcrafts.com/>

Bear Dance Crafts: <http://www.bearancecrafts.com/>

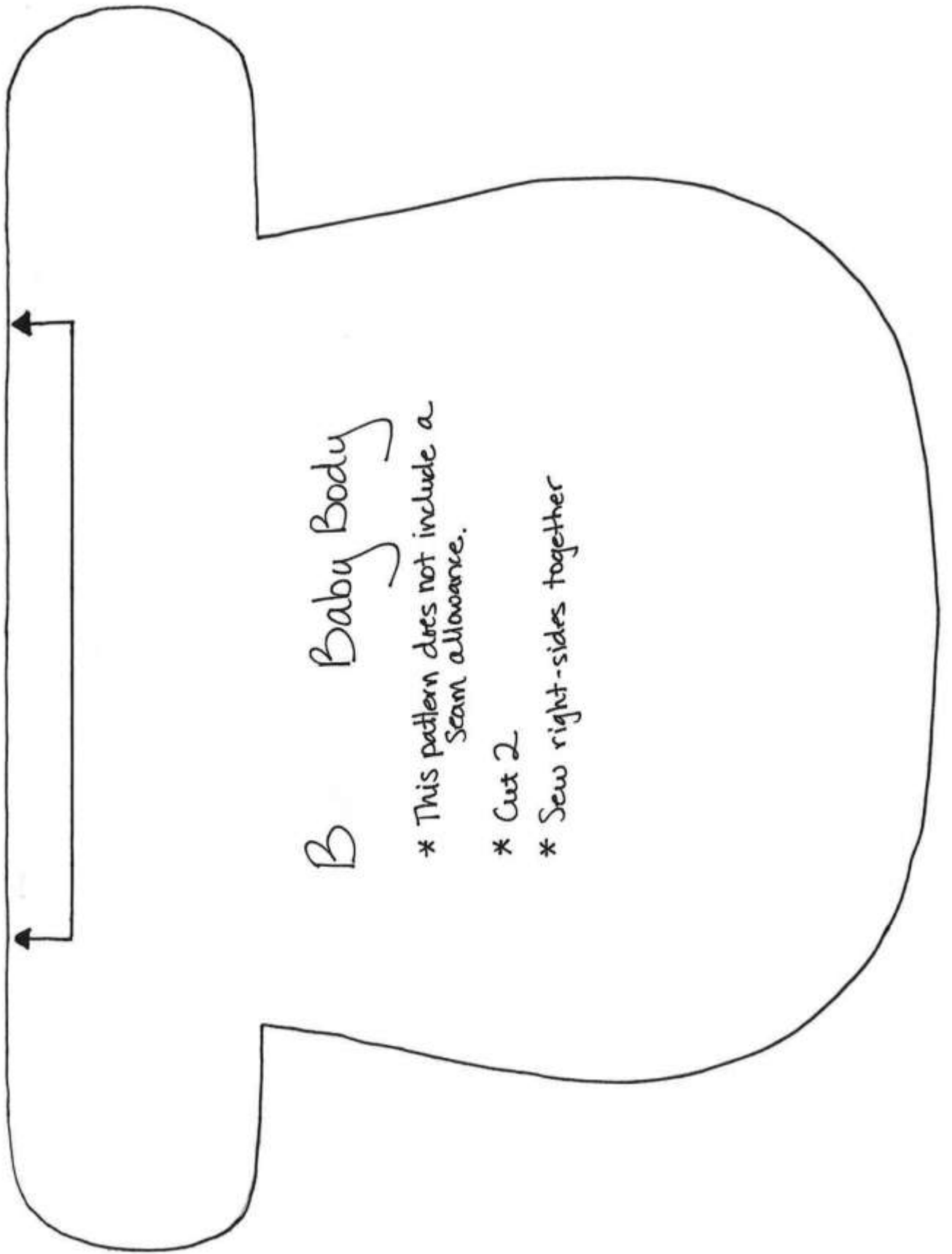
Bungalow Bear and Friends: <http://www.etsy.com/shop/BungalowBear>

Basic Sewing Resources:

http://cyberseams.com/article/105045/basics/how_to_sew_by_hand_basic_stitches.html

Backstitch Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n04ILVqOEjA>

Ladder Stitch Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CjOXMuTFXo>



B Baby Body

- * This pattern does not include a seam allowance.
- * Cut 2
- * Sew right-sides together

