

Project: Wool Pumpkin Bag

DESIGNER: DEBBIE BUSBY



Cook up this felted-wool swing bag appliquéd with a snazzy pumpkin.

## Project: Wool Pumpkin Bag

### Materials

- 9×24" piece of green felted wool for bag
- 8×11" piece of black felted wool for appliqué foundation and bag edging
- 7×8" piece of orange felted wool for pumpkin appliqué
- 3" square of brown tweed felted wool for stem appliqué
- 3×5" piece of green tweed felted wool for leaf appliqué
- ¼×22" piece of tan felted wool for vine tendril appliqué
- No. 8 perle cotton: black
- 1"-diameter button
- 4 yards of ¼"-diameter cording
- Freezer paper

Finished bag: 7¾×10¾"

### Cut Fabrics

To make the best use of your fabrics, cut the pieces in the order that follows. The patterns are on pages 4–5.

To felt wool, machine-wash it in a hot-water-wash, cool-rinse cycle with a small amount of detergent; machine-dry it on high heat and steam-press.

To use freezer paper for cutting the appliqué shapes, complete the following steps.

1. Lay the freezer paper, shiny side down, over the patterns. With a pencil, trace each pattern the number of times indicated. Cut out the freezer-paper shapes.
2. Using a hot, dry iron, press the freezer-paper shapes, shiny side down, onto the front of the designated fabrics; let cool. Cut out the fabric shapes on the drawn lines. Peel off the freezer paper.

### From green wool, cut:

- 2 of Pattern A

### From black wool, cut:

- 1 of Pattern B
- 1—¼×6" strip

### From orange wool, cut:

- 1 each of patterns C, D, E, F, and G

### From brown tweed wool, cut:

- 1 of Pattern H

### From green tweed wool, cut:

- 2 of Pattern I

### From cording, cut:

- 3—48"-long strap pieces

### Appliqué the Pumpkin

1. Referring to the **Appliqué Placement Diagram**, position the orange C, D, E, F, and G pumpkin pieces, and the brown tweed H stem on the black B foundation; baste in place. Using black perle cotton, blanket-stitch the pieces in place, working from the bottom layer to the top.

To blanket-stitch, pull your needle up at A (see **Blanket-Stitch Diagram**), form a reverse L shape with the thread, and hold the angle of the L shape in place with your thumb.

Push your needle down at B and come up at C to secure the stitch. Continue in the same manner. If you like, vary the length of the stitches.

2. Position the green tweed I leaves; baste in place. Backstitch ¼" from the leaf edges.

To backstitch, pull your needle up at A (see **Backstitch Diagram**). Insert it back into the fabric at B, and bring it up at C. Push your needle down at D, and bring it up at E. Continue in the same manner.

3. Position the tan ¼×22" vine tendril; baste in place. Stitch in place with a running stitch.

To make a running stitch, pull your needle up at A (see **Running**

**Stitch Diagram**) and insert it back into the fabric at B, ¼" away from A. Pull your needle up at C, ¼" away from B, and continue in the same manner.

4. Sew the button on the appliqué pumpkin.

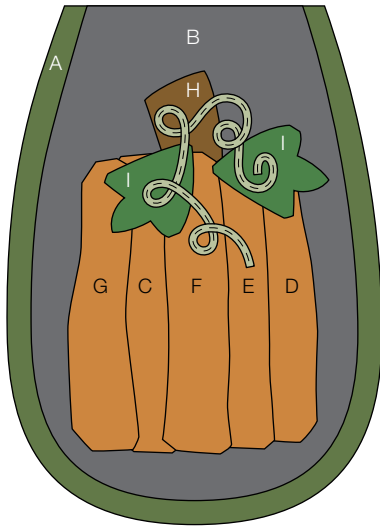
### Assemble the Bag

1. Referring to the **Appliqué Placement Diagram**, position the appliqué foundation on a green A bag piece; baste in place. Blanket-stitch the foundation in place to make the bag front.
2. Aligning long edges, place the black ¼×6" strip along the top edge of the remaining green A bag piece (**Diagram 1**). Baste in place, then trim the strip so the ends are even with the bag piece sides. Blanket-stitch the strip in place to make the bag back.
3. With wrong sides together, pin the bag front to the bag back. Blanket-stitch around the bag through both layers, leaving the top edge open.

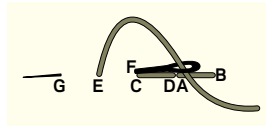
### Complete the Bag

1. Knot the 48"-long strap pieces together about 2" from one end. Braid the pieces together until 2" from the opposite end. Knot as before to make the braided strap.
2. Referring to **Diagram 2** for placement, place the strap ends on each side of the bag front about ½" bag from the side and top edges of the bag; overcast just above each knot to attach the strap and complete the bag.

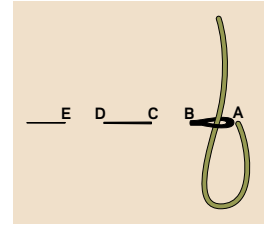
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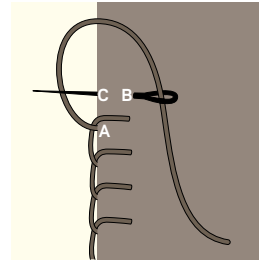
Appliqué Placement Diagram



BACKSTITCH DIAGRAM



RUNNING STITCH DIAGRAM



BLANKET STITCH DIAGRAM

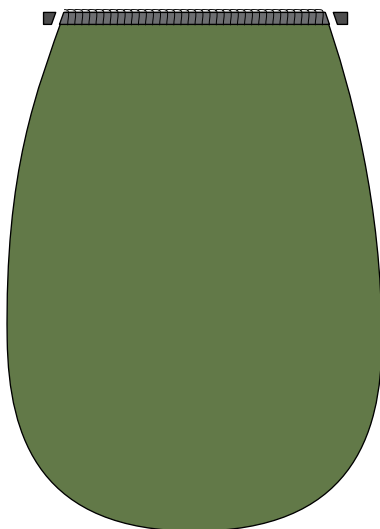


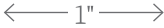
Diagram 1



Diagram 2

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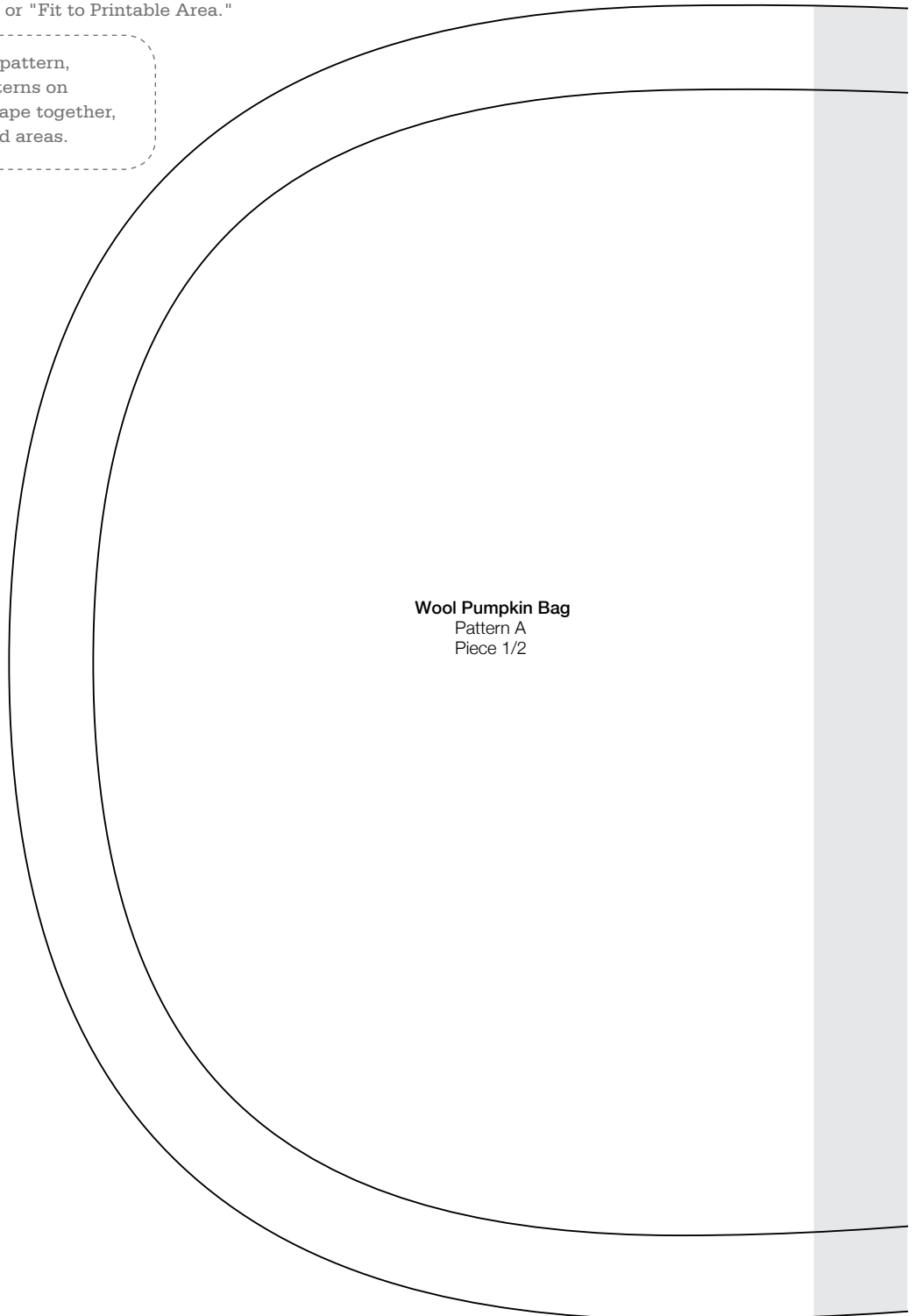
This box should measure 1".



**\* NOTE:**

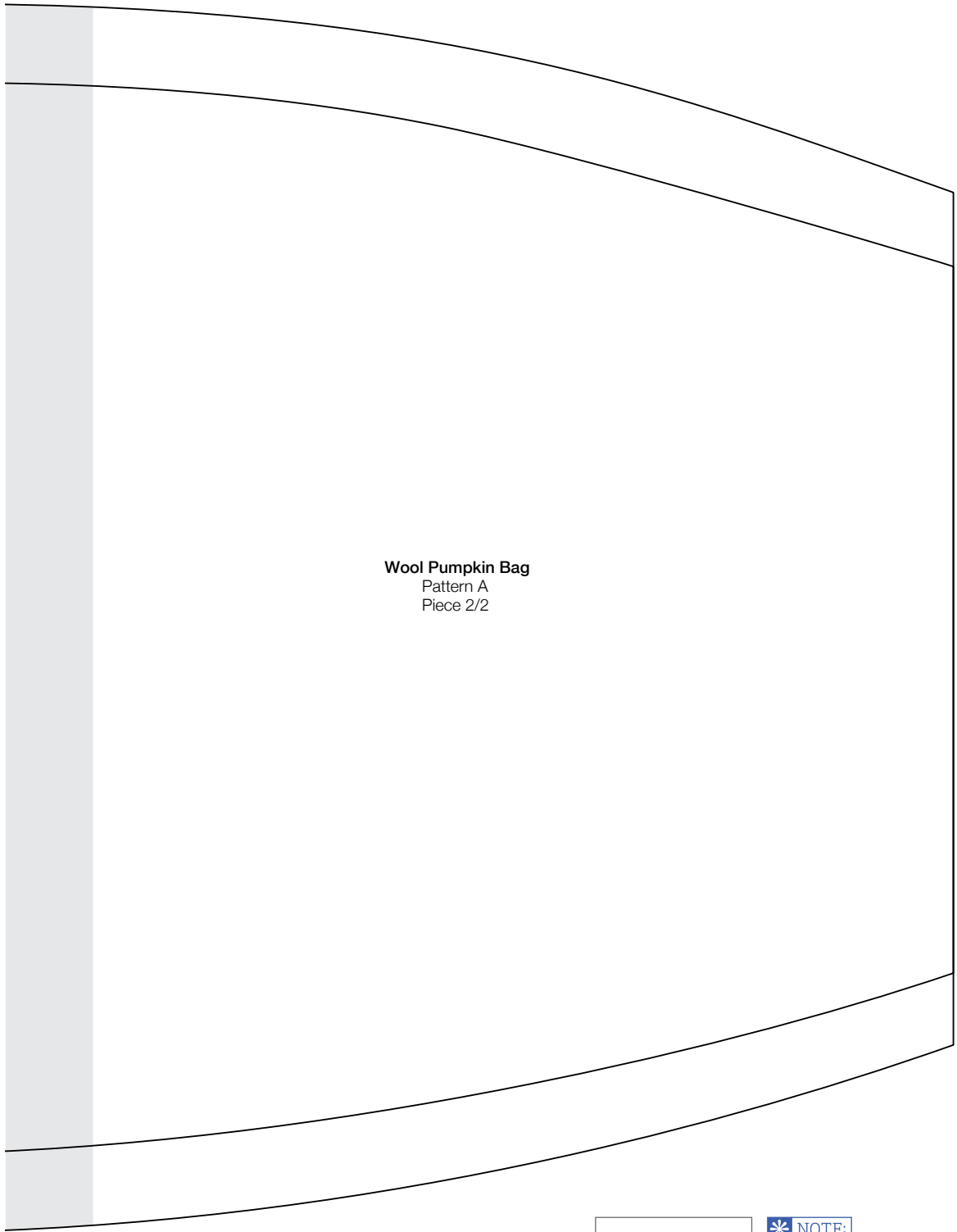
When printing a downloadable pdf, set Page Scaling preference to NONE to print patterns at 100%. Do NOT "Shrink to Fit" or "Fit to Printable Area."

To make an entire pattern, cut out partial patterns on outside lines and tape together, overlapping shaded areas.



Wool Pumpkin Bag  
Pattern A  
Piece 1/2

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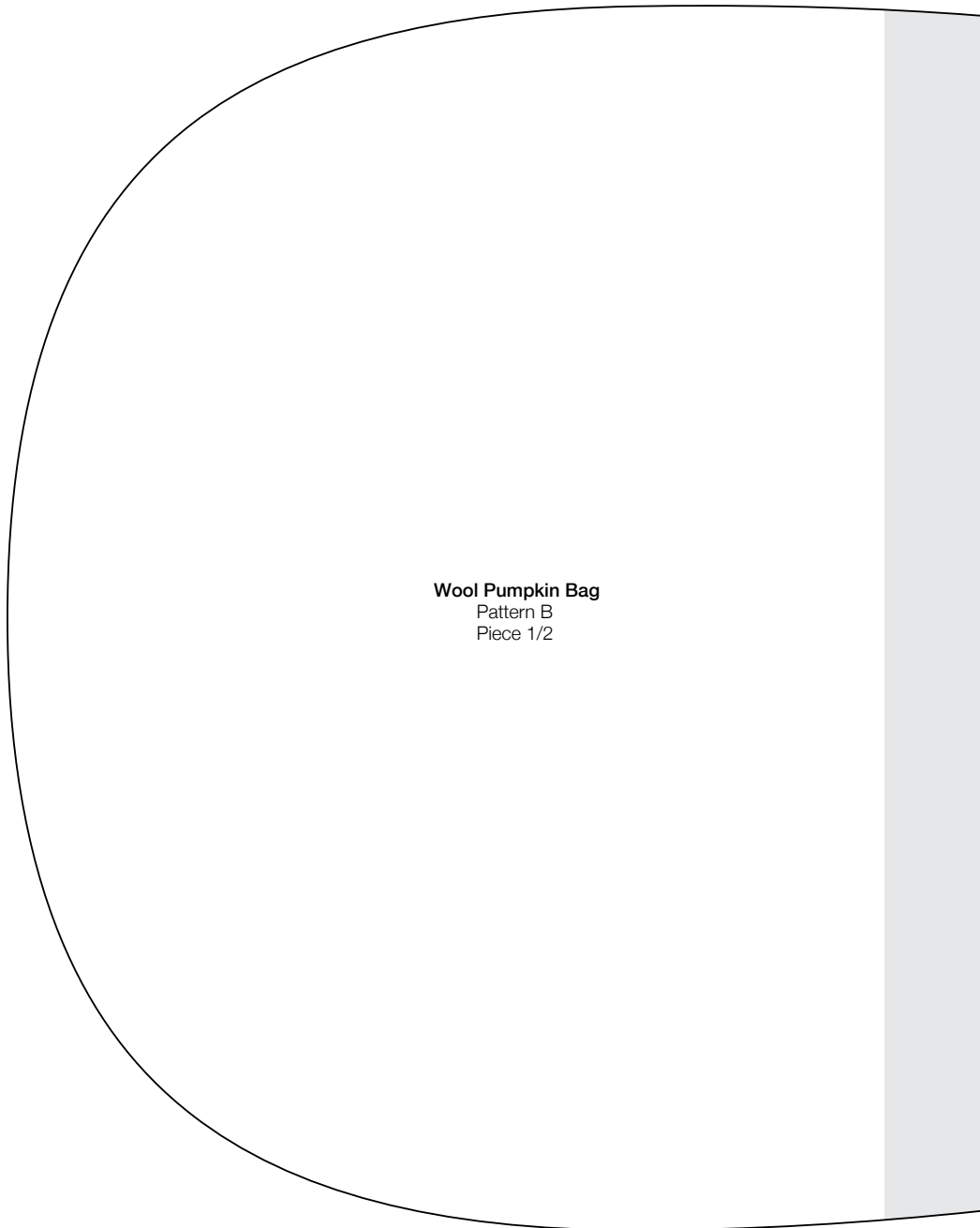
Wool Pumpkin Bag  
Pattern A  
Piece 2/2

To make an entire pattern, cut out partial patterns on outside lines and tape together, overlapping shaded areas.

This box should measure 1".  
← 1" →

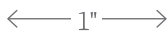
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Wool Pumpkin Bag  
Pattern B  
Piece 1/2

This box should measure 1".

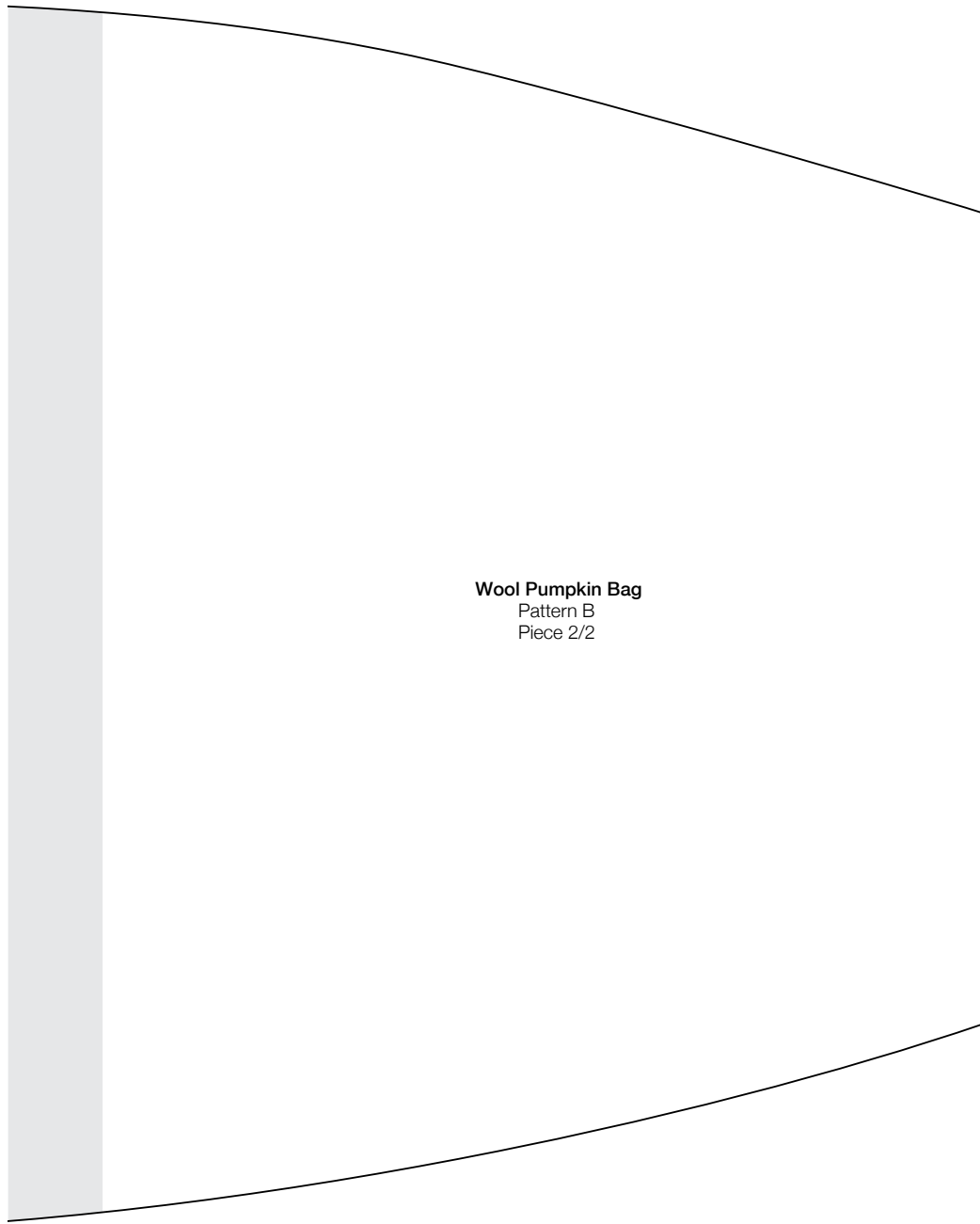


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Project: Wool Pumpkin Bag



Wool Pumpkin Bag  
Pattern B  
Piece 2/2

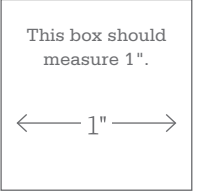
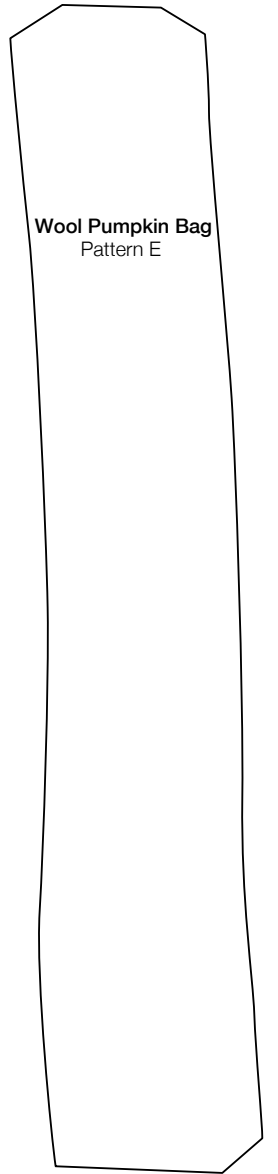
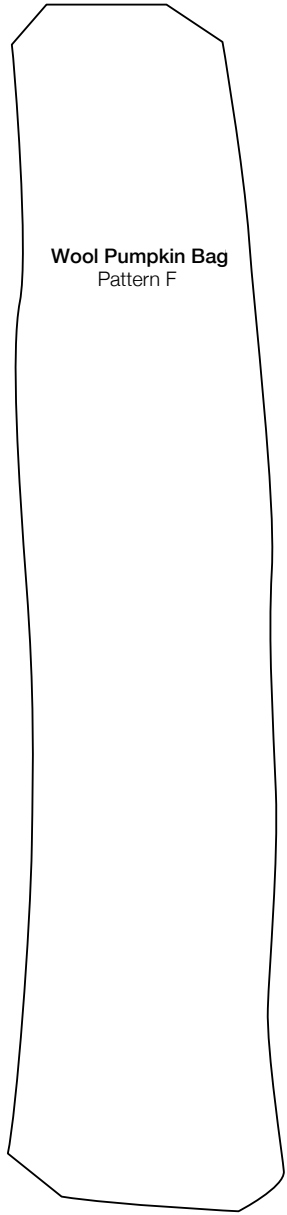
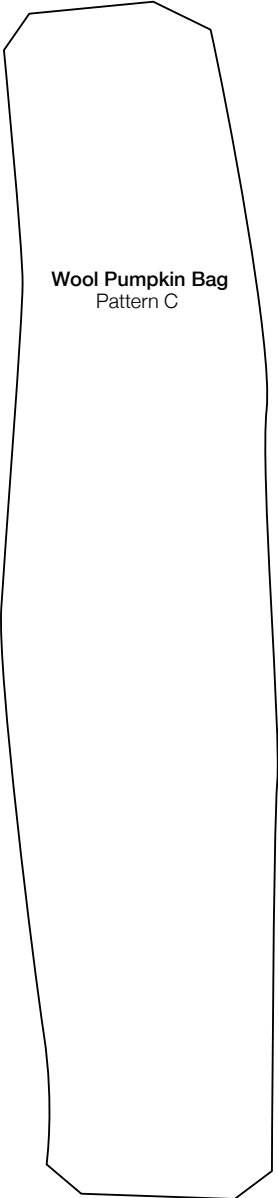
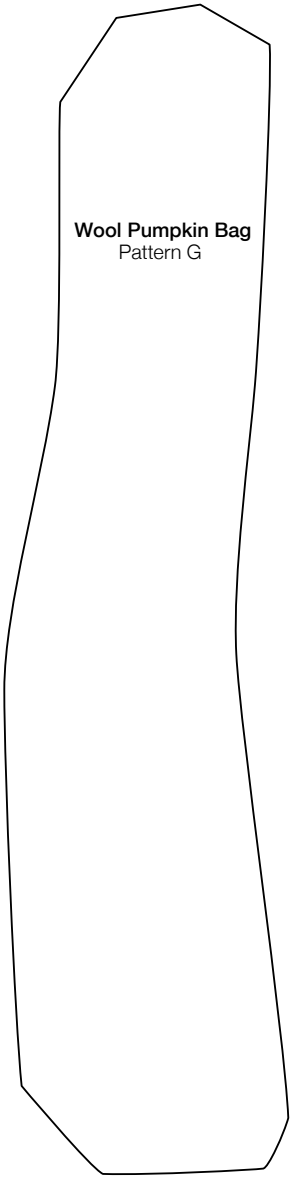
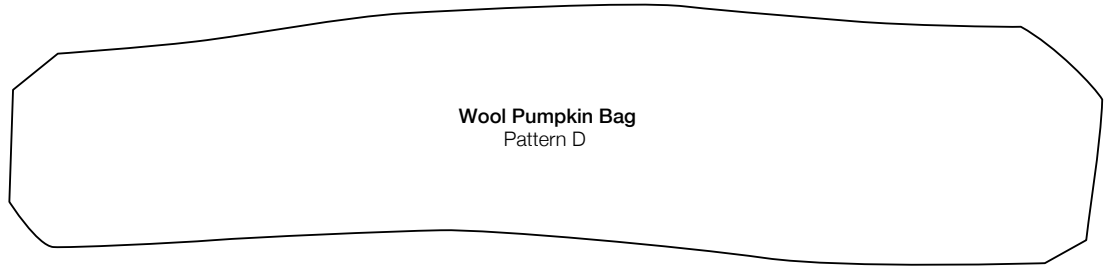
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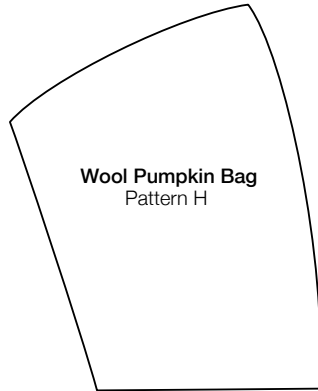
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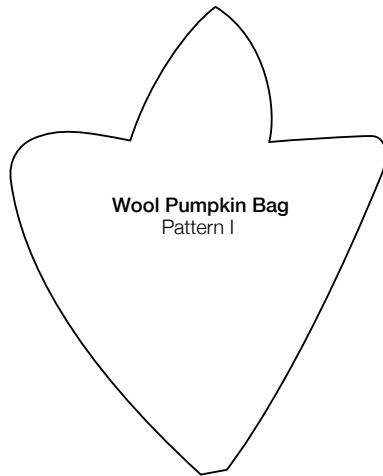
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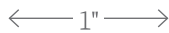


Wool Pumpkin Bag  
Pattern H



Wool Pumpkin Bag  
Pattern I

This box should  
measure 1".



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## Make and Use Templates

### Make Templates

A template is a pattern made from extra-sturdy material so you can trace around it many times without wearing away the edges. Acrylic templates for many common shapes are available at quilt shops. Or you can make your own by duplicating printed patterns on template plastic.

To make permanent templates, purchase easy-to-cut template plastic, available at quilt shops and crafts supply stores. Lay the plastic over a printed pattern. Trace the pattern onto the plastic using a ruler and a permanent marker to ensure straight lines, accurate corners, and permanency.

For hand piecing and appliqué, make templates the exact size finished pieces will be (without seam allowances). For piecing, this means tracing the patterns' dashed lines.

For machine piecing, make templates that include seam allowances by tracing the patterns' solid and dashed lines onto the template plastic.

For easy reference, mark each template with its letter designation, grain line (if noted on the pattern), and block name. Cut out the traced shapes on their outside lines. Verify each template's shape and size by placing it over its printed pattern. Templates must be accurate; errors, however small, will compound many times as you assemble a quilt. To check templates' accuracy, make a test block before cutting the fabric pieces for an entire quilt.

### Use Templates

To mark on fabric, use a pencil, white dressmaker's pencil, chalk, or a special fabric marker that makes a thin, accurate line. Do not use a ballpoint or ink pen; it may bleed if washed. Test all marking tools on a fabric scrap before using them.

To make pieces for hand piecing or appliqué, place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the previous tracing (**Diagram 1**), trace again, and repeat. The lines you trace on the fabric are sewing lines. Mark cutting lines  $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the sewing lines, or estimate the distance by eye when cutting out the pieces with scissors. For hand piecing, add a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance; for hand appliqué, add a  $\frac{3}{16}$ " seam allowance.

Because templates used to make pieces for machine piecing have seam allowances included, you can use common tracing lines for efficient cutting. Place a template facedown on the wrong side of the fabric and trace. Then reposition the template without a space between it and the previous tracing (**Diagram 2**); trace again and repeat. Using a rotary cutter and ruler, cut pieces out, cutting precisely on the drawn lines.

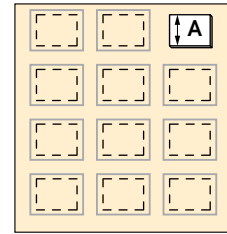


DIAGRAM 1

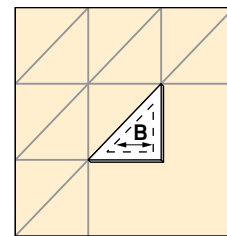


DIAGRAM 2