

Project: Stuffed Mushroom

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Tuck scissors, needles, and a spool of thread into this adorable mushroom-shape needle case.

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Materials

- 5×20" rectangle white felted wool (stem pocket, appliqués, needle flaps)
- 4×12" rectangle red felted wool (mushroom cap)
- 6½×3" strip aqua felted wool (loop)
- Embroidery floss: red and white

Finished needle case: 5×6½" (excluding loop)

Cut Fabrics

Cut pieces in the following order.

Felted wool is available in many quilt shops. If you want to felt your own wool, machine-wash it in a hot-water-wash, cool-rinse cycle with a small amount of detergent; machine-dry on high heat and steam-press.

Patterns are on pages 4–6. To make paper templates, trace each pattern on paper and cut out. Pin patterns to felted wool and cut around the edges. Because felted wool pieces won't fray, there's no need to add seam allowances or turn under edges.

From white wool, cut:

- 1 each of patterns A and B
- 2 of Pattern C
- 9 of Pattern E

From red wool, cut:

- 2 of Pattern D

Assemble Needle Case

Use two plies of embroidery floss to finish the edges of all felted wool pieces and assemble the pieces in the following steps.

1. Using red floss, blanket-stitch around a red wool D mushroom cap beginning at green dot and ending at white dot, attaching

cap to white wool A stem (Diagram 1).

To blanket-stitch, pull needle up at A, form a reverse L shape with the floss, and hold the angle of the L shape in place with your thumb (Blanket Stitch Diagram). Push needle down at B and come up at C to secure stitch. Continue in same manner.

2. Using white floss, blanket-stitch top edge of white wool B stem beginning at green dot and ending at white dot (Diagram 2).

3. Using white floss, blanket-stitch white wool B stem to white wool A stem beginning at green dot and ending at white dot, joining side and bottom edges of stem pieces and sewing top edge to red cap, to make stem pocket and mushroom back (Diagram 3).

4. Using white floss, blanket-stitch around the outer edges of each white wool C piece.

5. Referring to Appliqué Placement Diagram, position white wool E circles on remaining red wool D mushroom cap. Trim circles even with edges of cap where necessary. Using white floss, blanket-stitch around edges to appliqué E circles.

6. Fold aqua wool ½×3" strip in half crosswise. Place mushroom back, pocket side up, on flat surface. Referring to Diagram 4, stack white wool C pieces (needle flaps) together and position on mushroom back. Insert folded aqua wool strip between C pieces with ends extending into center of C pieces about ¼". Position appliquéd D piece on top; pin layers.

7. Using red floss, blanket-stitch edge of appliquéd D piece only beginning at green dot and working counterclockwise toward white dot (Diagram 4). At white dot, continue blanket-stitching through all layers to join pieces. End stitching at green dot to complete needle case.

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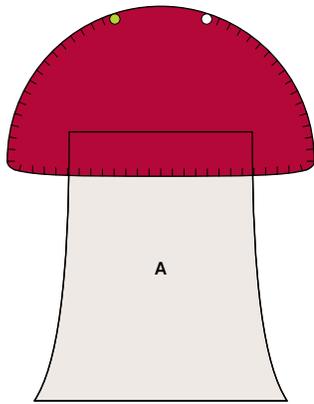
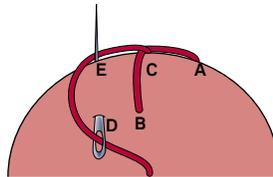


DIAGRAM 1



BLANKET STITCH DIAGRAM

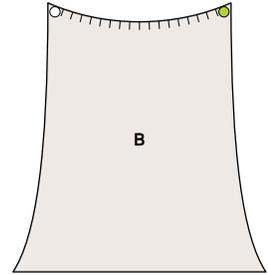


DIAGRAM 2

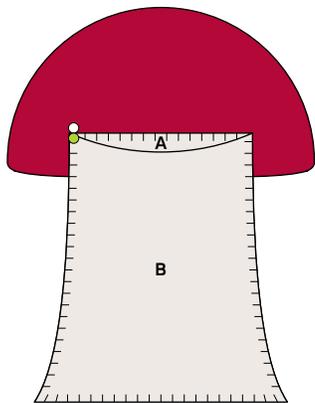
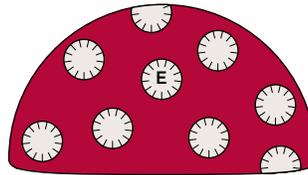


DIAGRAM 3



APPLIQUÉ PLACEMENT DIAGRAM

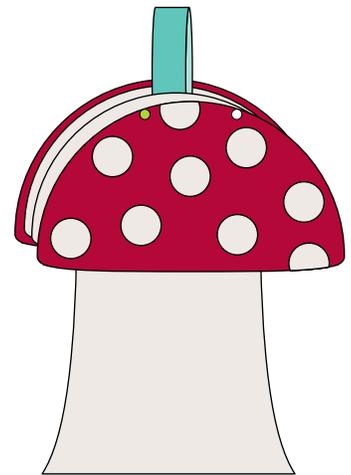
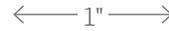


DIAGRAM 4

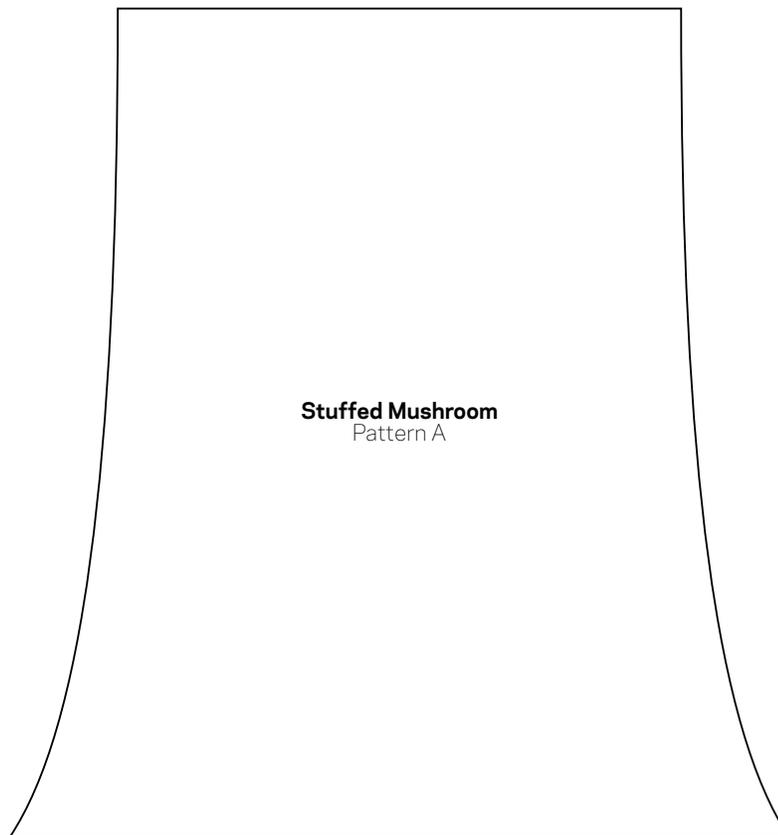
Project: Stuffed Mushroom

This box should measure 1".



*** NOTE:**

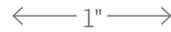
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Stuffed Mushroom
Pattern A

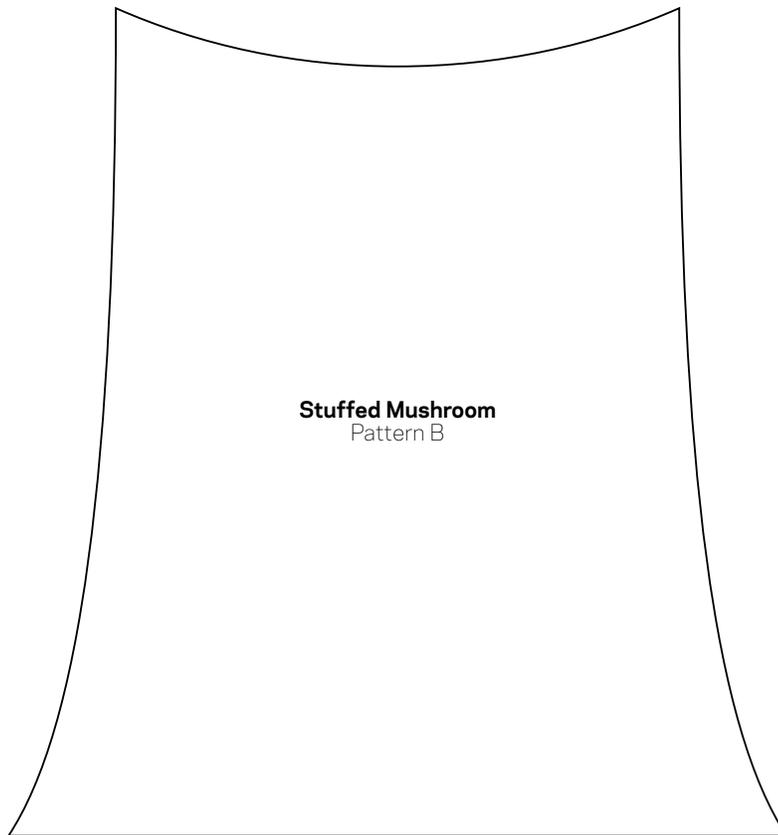
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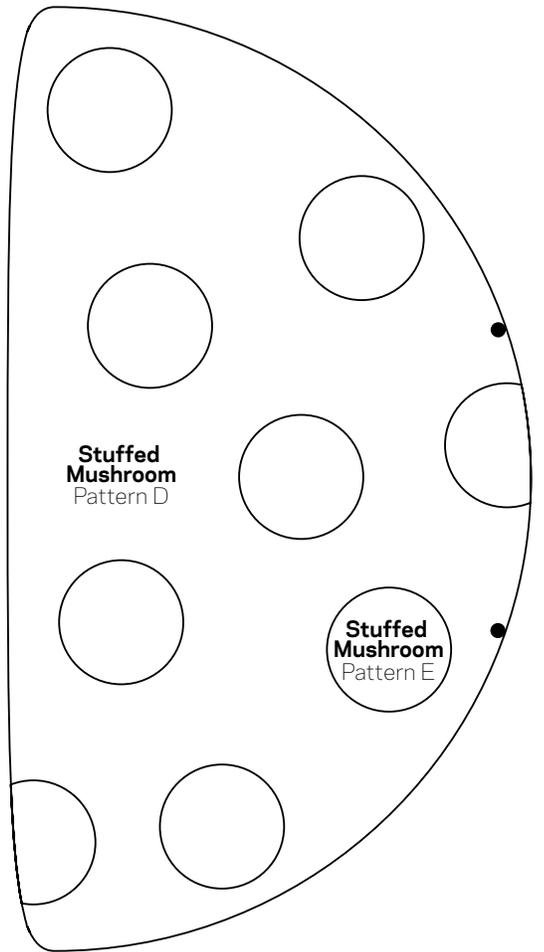
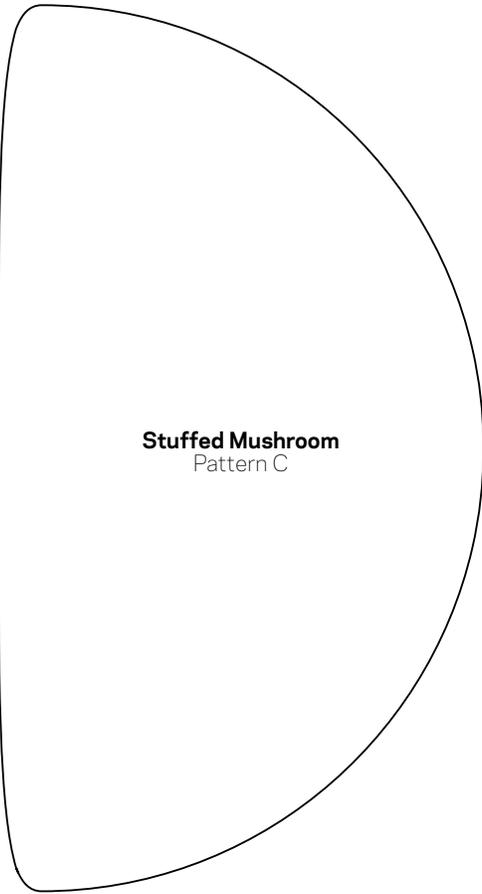
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← 1" →

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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.

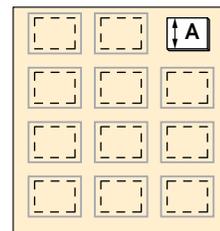


DIAGRAM 1

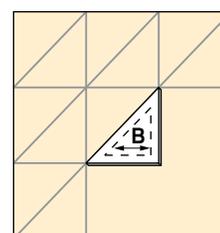


DIAGRAM 2