

DIY Upcycled Sweater Bunny and Bear

Materials and Items Needed

- Sewing machine
- Sweaters of all kinds and fleece can be used
- Needle and thread
- ¼ or 1/8 inch black beads for eyes.
- Embroidery floss
- Stuffing
- Scissors and pins
- Pencil with eraser for turning.

Large size measures approximately 16 inches tall.

Mini size measures approximately 10 inches tall.



Upcycled Sweater Tip:

To get the optimal use out of your sweaters, cut down the side seam and up the one arm hole to the neck. This will allow you to open up the sweater and make it more accessible for cutting. Save all your wool sweater scraps. These scraps come in handy for felting projects and other fun stuff.

Turning Tip:

Use a pencil with an eraser to help grab the fabric and push through. For the bigger pieces, use a small handle of a paint brush or something that doesn't have too sharp of a point that will not put a whole in your fabric. These tools will also be useful to help stuff and push out the seams.

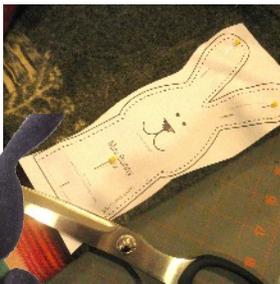
¼ seam allowance used • All seams will begin and end with a backstitch.

1

Cut out the head, body, leg and arm pieces.

**If you want your bunny or bear to look like they have a shirt*

on, cut out pattern pieces 1, 2 and 3 out of a different color than the head and legs.



When you are cutting out the arm pieces, make sure you cut out 2 and then flip the pattern piece over and cut out 2 more.

2

With right sides together (RST) **sew body trunks to legs.** Trim seams and open up.

For the larger bunny & bear, you will now **sew the head to the body pieces.**

With (RST) place the two pieces together. Line up the edges and pin in place.



3

Starting on the side of the body, **sew all around.** You will be leaving a space open to fill with stuffing.

Take your time and sew slowly, especially around the corners. At some points, you will need to stop, (with your needle down) lift up your pressure foot and pivot the fabric, to make the corner sharp.



4

Trim edges and turn inside out.

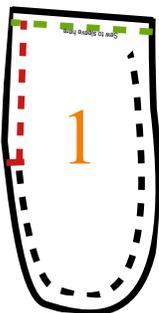


5 To sew the arms, place arm pieces (RST) and sew around leaving ends open to stuff.



For the arms with a **SHIRT**, place arm pieces #1 (RST) and sew just to this point

Open up the arm pieces and with (RST) sew the sleeve piece to the arm.



Trim the seam and open up. Now fold (RST) and line up bottom arm pieces and pin in place. Sew all the way around, leaving the top open to stuff.



Using the eraser end of the pencil, wrap some stuffing around the pencil and stuff into the arm. Keep stuffing a little at a time until it is nice and firm.



Thread your needle and double the thread. Knot the end. Using a basting stitch, sew around the top edge of your arm pieces.

Pull tight to gather and stuff the edges inside. This is another good place to use that pencil eraser to stuff the edges in.



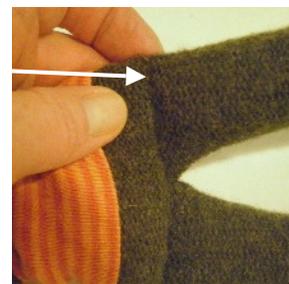
Pull tight and stitch back and forth to secure. Knot.



6 **Stuff the head** through the opening you left in the side body. **Do not stuff the ears.** Work the stuffing around with your pencil or whatever tool you are using. Get the lumps out push a little more stuffing in the nose area to push the front of the face out. Take time to play around with it to get it the shape you want. Stuff it quite firmly.

Wrap the stuffing around your tool and a little at a time stuff your legs. Put enough in so they are quite firm.

If you want your bunny or bear to have floppy legs so it will sit, you will be sewing across the top of the legs with your machine after you stuff. Don't stuff the groin area too tight at first, you can add more stuffing after you sew across the hips.



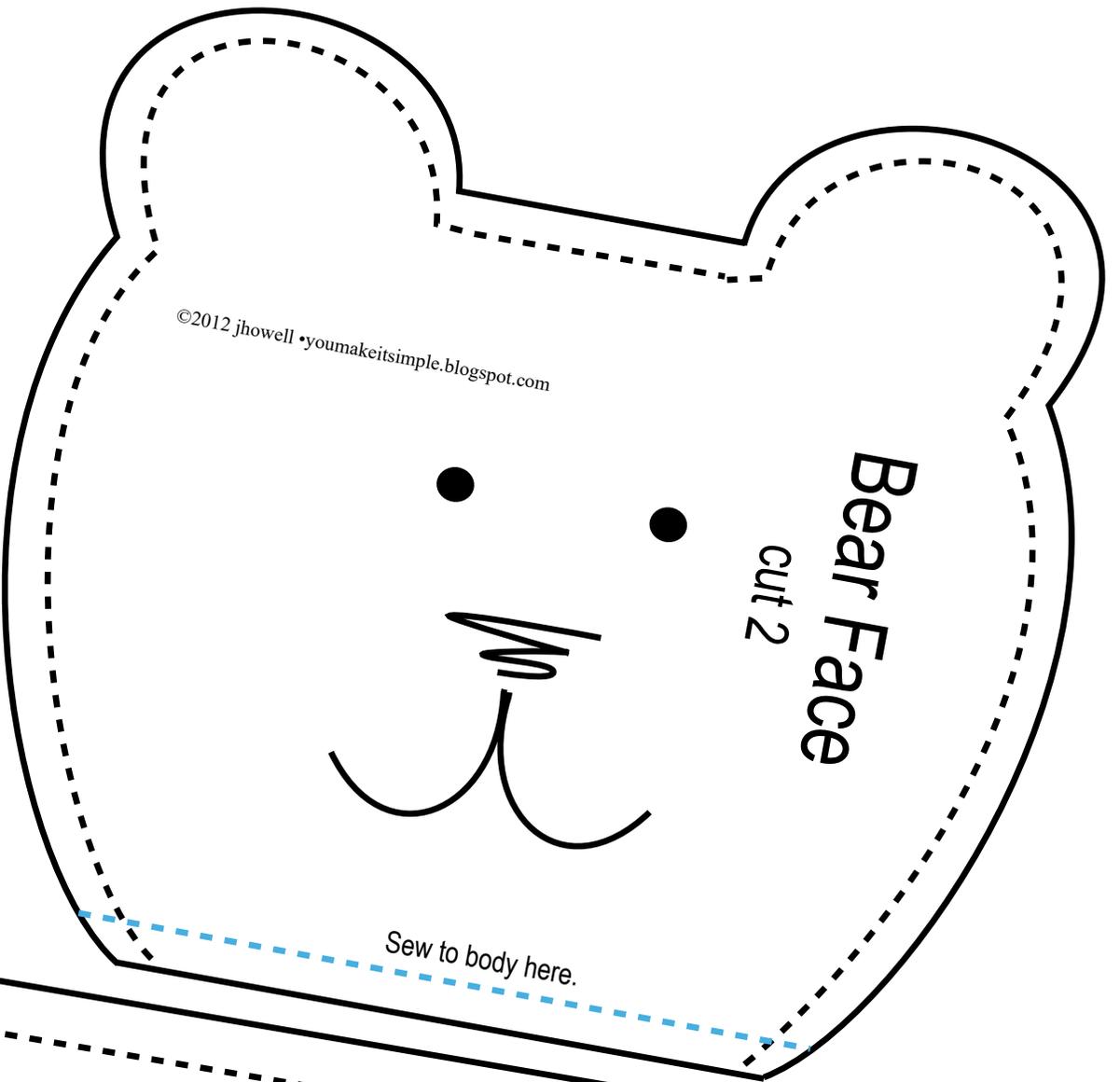
7 Now put some stuffing in the chest area. Thread your needle again with a double thread and knot at the end. Go in through the hole you left in the side body and pull your needle out at the neck.

With a gathering stitch, sew around the neck and pull tight to make it quite a bit smaller. I like to go around a few times to make it nice and secure.



After you have it the width you want, wrap the thread around and take a stitch to knot and secure in place. Stick your needle in neck where you knotted it out again just somewhere in the chest and cut the thread.

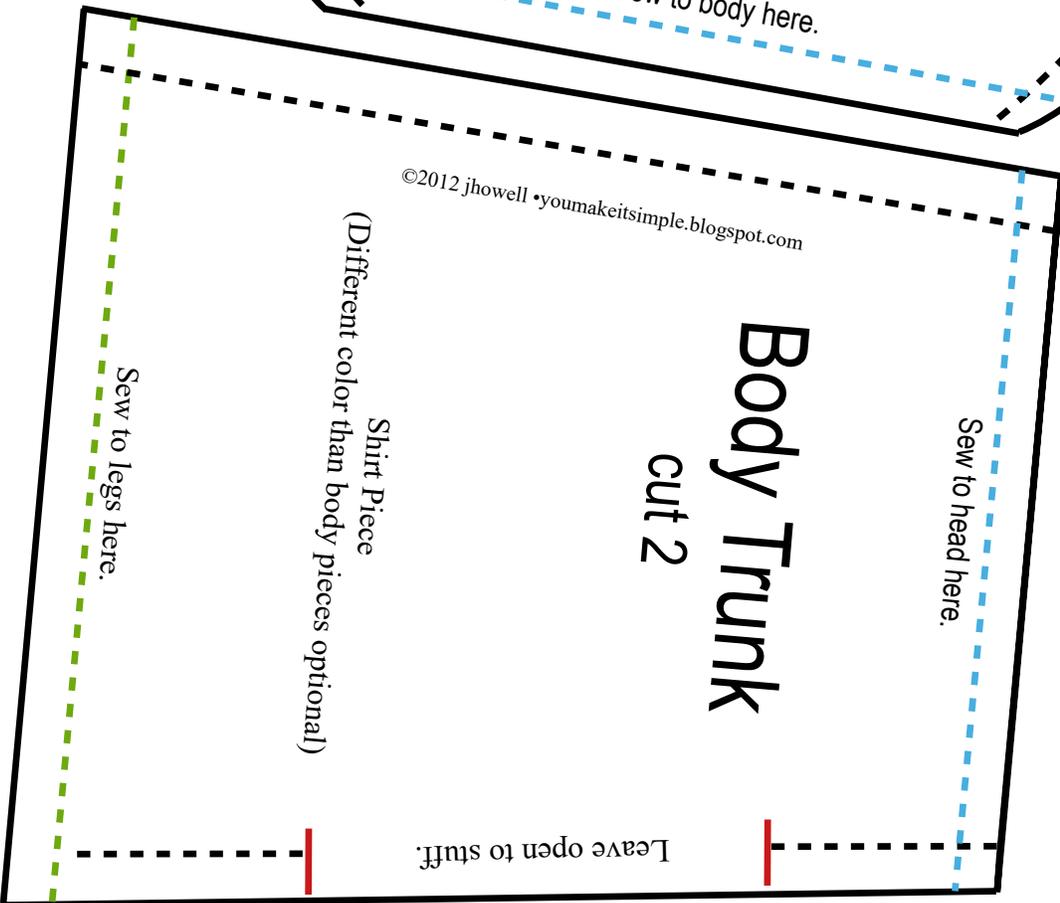




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Bear Face
cut 2

Sew to body here.



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Body Trunk
cut 2

Sew to head here.

Shirt Piece
(Different color than body pieces optional)

Sew to legs here.

Leave open to stuff.