



Winter Caroler Tutorial

An original pattern by
Virginia Lindsay of Gingercake

Isn't she cute? Makes as many as you want for yourself, your friends & family. Please don't sell items made from this free pattern. It is for personal use only!

Before we begin, a few sewing tips to make your project go easily~

Always measure twice and cut once

Do a small backstitch at the beginning and end of each line you sew

Clip your threads after each step

Materials needed~

Fabric for the body~ I used wool, tweed & felt from coats & skirts that I found at the thrift store

Coordinating thread

2.5" x 3.5" piece of muslin, fused with interfacing, for the face

Small piece of wool felt for hair

Embroidery floss & needle for face

Felted strip of wool sweater for the scarf (or it would be so nice to knit one!) measuring 1" x 18"

2 medium sized buttons (optional)

Pompom for top of head (optional)

Sewing machine (this can also be hand sewn with out too much trouble!)

Scissors

Polyfil or stuffing

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup rice, beans, popcorn to weight the bottom

Instructions~

1. Begin by cutting out your pattern pieces which you will find at the end of this document. Fuse interfacing to the muslin piece. You should have what is pictured below~



To cut out the face oval, I usually just bend the pattern piece in half and mark the top and bottom of the face to guide me on the cut out. You can be more careful if you would like but make sure you leave about $\frac{3}{4}$ " to the edge.

2. Place the fused rectangle of muslin and the piece of wool felt hair under the oval opening and pin in place. Move these around a bit until you are confident that they are centered beneath the oval.



3. Move over to you sewing machine and with coordinating thread, zigzag stitch all around the face opening. I usually go around 3 or 4 times to make sure it looks like a good frame to the face.



Turn the piece over and cut off the excess muslin and wool felt. In the picture below, you can see how it is trimmed neatly around the zigzag stitches.



4. Pin on of the other body pieces to the face piece, right sides facing. Starting a 1/4 " from the top point, stitch down the side and smoothly along the curve all the way to the bottom.

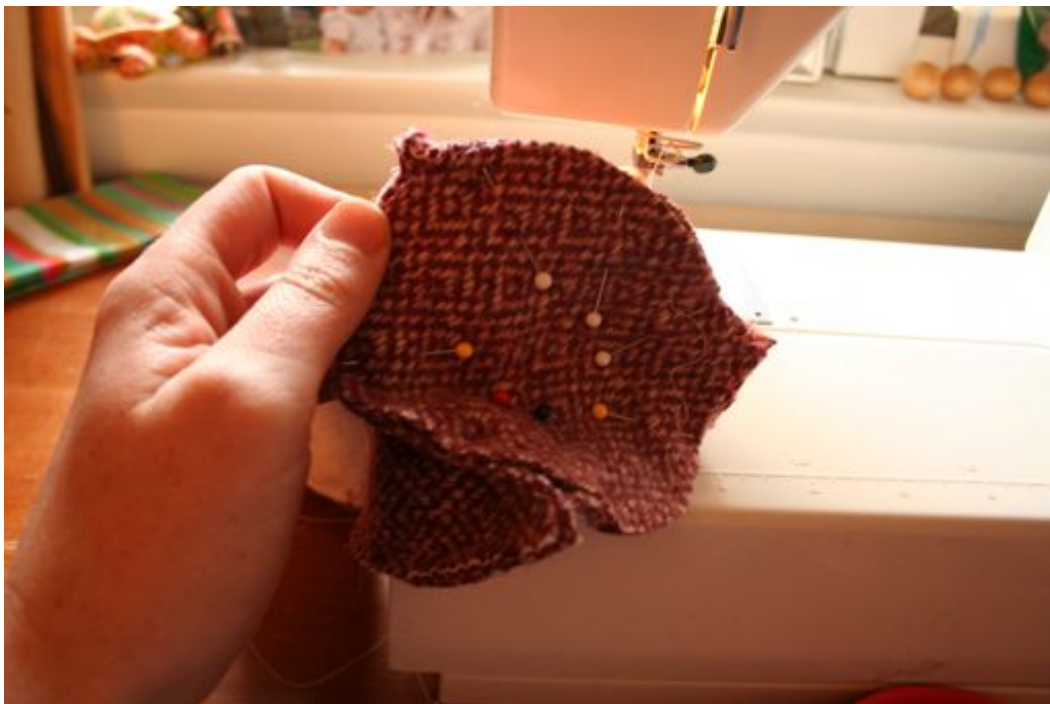


Attach the other body piece to the face piece the same way that you just did above, making sure to leave a 1/4" space at the tip. Now attach the two pieces without the face together. *You will need to leave an opening of about 2.5" in the back to turn it inside out and stuff it.*

In the picture below all three pieces are sewn together. You can see the how the tip is nice and neat since we left that 1/4" space.



5. Now take the circle bottom and pin it, right sides facing, around the bottom edge. Stitch it on with your sewing machine using a 1/4" seam. You can finger press the seams from the body pieces out but don't worry too much about those seams being open. It doesn't seem to make a big difference in your end product.





Now your caroler should look like this picture on the left.



6. Turn her inside out so that she looks like this picture on the right. Making great progress!



7. Now you need to stuff your piece. I weight the bottom of mine with rice, beans, or popcorn~ depends what I have on hand. Go for the smaller beans and popcorn kernels if you can. It doesn't make a big difference but it seems to be more evenly weighted on the bottom with smaller beans or kernels. I make a paper funnel to get it into the hole (that you made in step 4) neatly.

Next, with your caroler sitting upright, stuff with the polyfil. Get it nice and full and use your fingers to push the stuffing into the seams so that they are nice and even.



Below is a picture of one caroler stuffed and the opening closed and the other is with the opening still unsewn. (this reminds of a cooking show where they take the finished cake out of the oven that they did before the show) Do a simple blind stitch with your needle and thread to close the back opening.



8. Here is where you do the cute little face. If I were better with a paint brush, this step would be a lot faster with fabric paints and a little brush, and maybe some of you could make some cute painted faces and eliminate the next step! Below we have another before and after~



Lightly draw the face of the caroler onto the muslin with a pencil. Practice on some paper a few times if you are feeling nervous since you can't erase what you draw here. I used 3 threads (it comes with 6) and did a split stitch. If you need help with your embroidery skills, there are lots of useful tips out there! Here is a good one~<http://www.needlenthread.com/2006/10/split-stitch-video-tutorial-for-hand.html>.

8. Now for the finishing touches! Take your "scarf" and tie it around the neck. Experiment a little here until you get it just how you want it.



The pom-pom is applied by moving your needle through the pom-pom and then securing it to the top of the caroler. I put it on a little back from where the 3 seams come together so it looks like her hat is sitting back on her head a little. This comes loose easily (esp. if you kids drag it around like mine do) so give it some extra stitches.

Finally the buttons! Just use your needle and coordinating thread and sew those cuties on. Sit back and admire your caroler. Now go make 10 more so you have a group!



Some ideas for creating more fun with your carolers~

- Change the pattern piece each time a little each time you make a new one so that some are taller, smaller, rounder, etc. Small changes give them lots of personality. Don't forget that your circle bottom may need some adjusting too!
- Experiment with fabrics~ felts, corduroys, cottons, fleece (cute!) would all work great.
- Change the face to just be a smiling girl and you have a cute winter doll
- Knit or crochet the scarf yourself

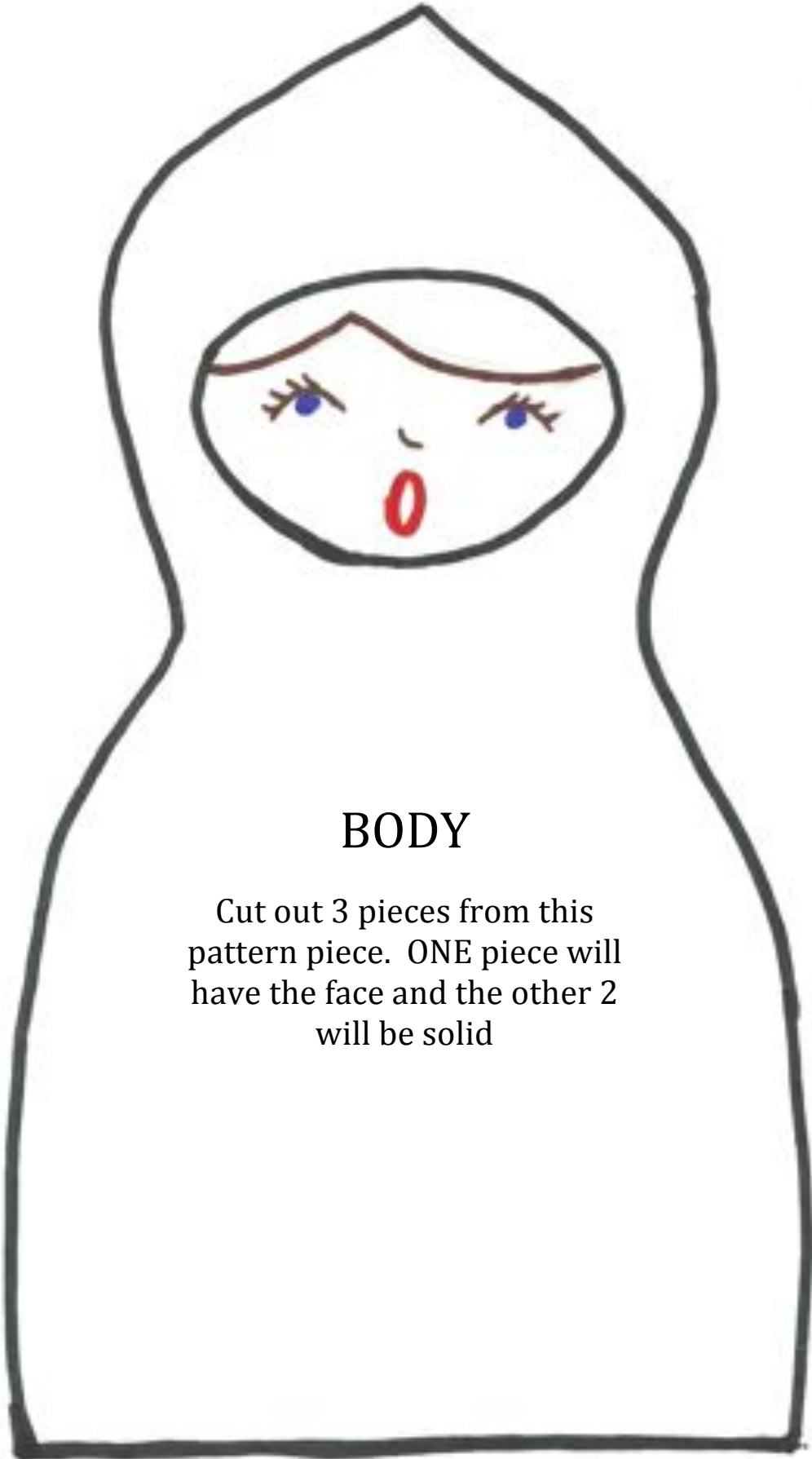
Thanks for following this tutorial! Please post pictures of finished caroler in my Gingercake Flickr group

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1515592@N24/>

This tutorial was made by Virginia Lindsay of...



PATTERN PIECES FOR WINTER CAROLER



BODY

Cut out 3 pieces from this pattern piece. ONE piece will have the face and the other 2 will be solid



BASE

Cut out 1 piece from this
pattern piece.