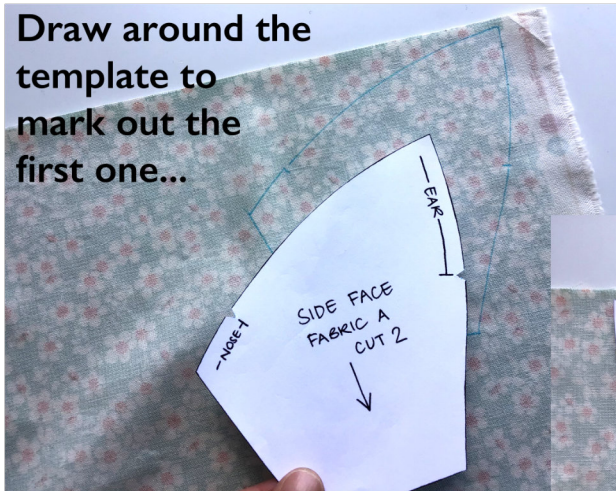


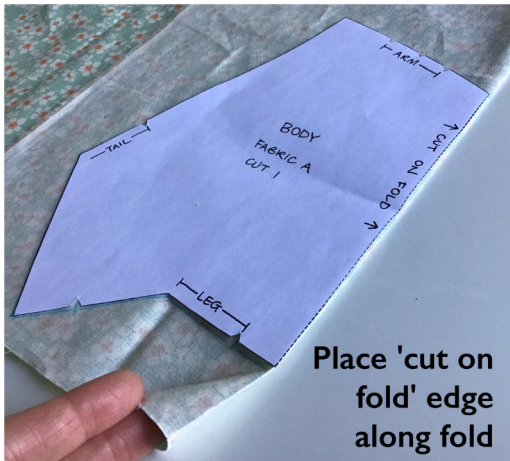
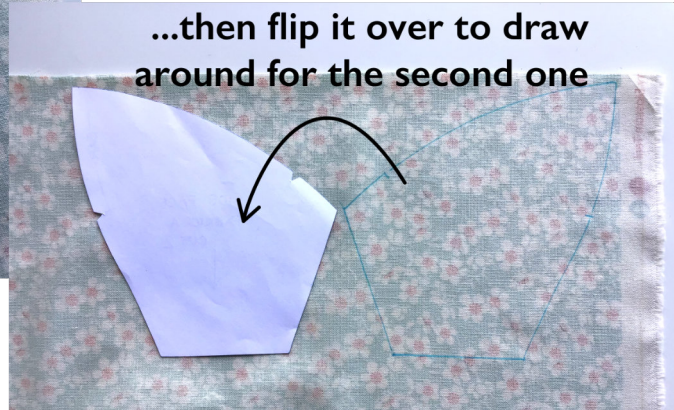
# Tips Sheet

**Draw around the template to mark out the first one...**



When it says 'cut 2' (or more) on a template then the template must be turned over halfway through marking out so one half of the pieces are mirror-images to the other. For example for Breezy Bear the side face specifies 'cut 2' so after the first one is marked out on the reverse of the fabric the template needs to be flipped over to mark out the second one. If the templates aren't flipped over then the result is two left sides or two right sides, like having two left shoes or two right shoes and not a complete pair!

**...then flip it over to draw around for the second one**

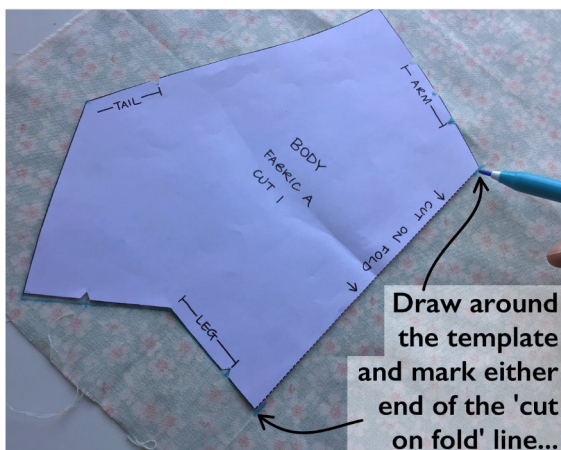


**Place 'cut on fold' edge along fold**

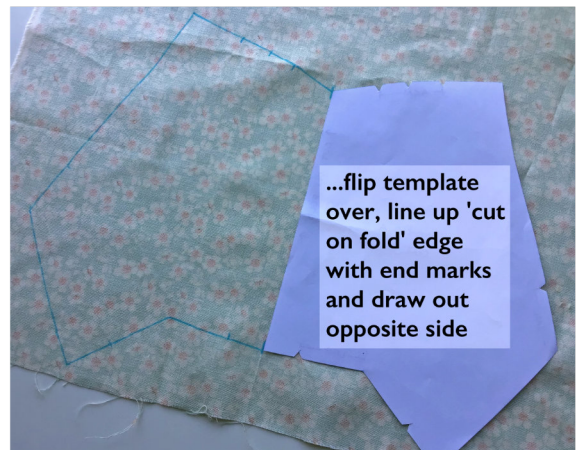


**Mark and cut whilst folded**

Cutting on the fold is helpful when using large symmetrical templates. Usually the fabric is folded in half and the 'cut on fold' edge of the template is lined up along the fold of the fabric. The template is drawn around and the fabric left folded in half for cutting out so that both the side marked and its mirror-image side are cut at the same time and when the final piece is opened out it is double size. Another way of achieving the same result and one that can be easier with the smaller more manageable templates for toy-making than for example dress-making, is to keep the fabric unfolded and draw around the template but only marking the top and bottom edge of the 'cut on fold' line. The template can then be turned over and the 'cut on fold' edge lined up with the top and bottom marks and the opposite half then marked out as well. The piece is then cut out as normal.



**Draw around the template and mark either end of the 'cut on fold' line...**

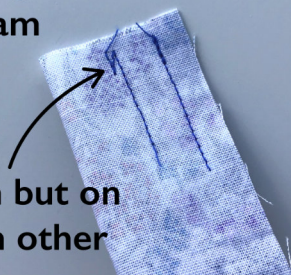


**...flip template over, line up 'cut on fold' edge with end marks and draw out opposite side**



**Sew 2 or 3 stitches then reverse back over them before sewing forward over them again at the start and end of every seam**

**This action but on top of each other**



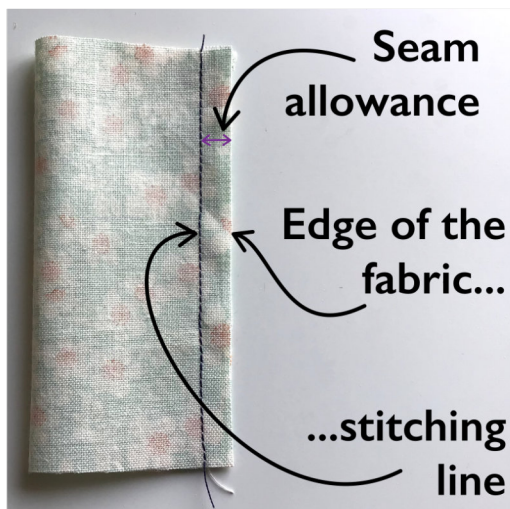
At the beginning and end of every seam (except for basting) reverse over the first (or last at the end of a seam) 2-3 stitches and then sew forwards over them again to stop them working loose.

**Right side**



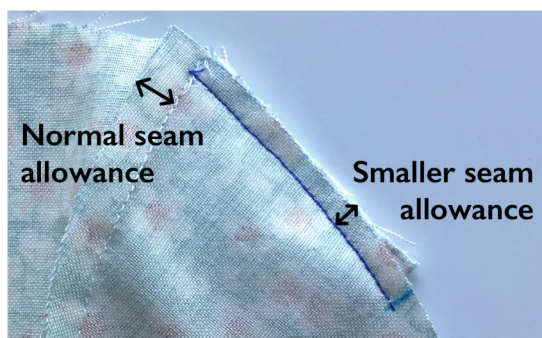
The right side of the fabric is the printed or 'best/prettiest' side of the fabric and the wrong side is the back.

**Wrong side**



The seam allowance is the distance or area from the edge of the fabric to the stitching line.

**Use smaller seam allowance for basting so the stitches will be hidden later**

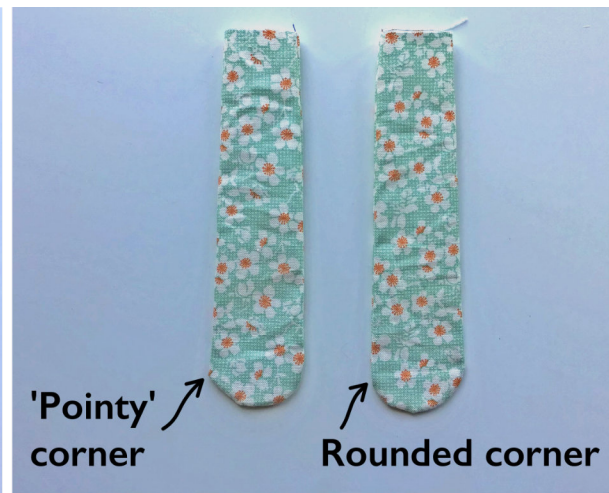
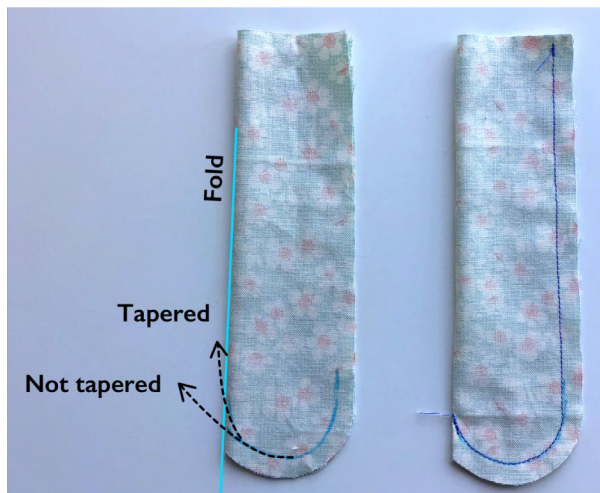


**Check positioning**

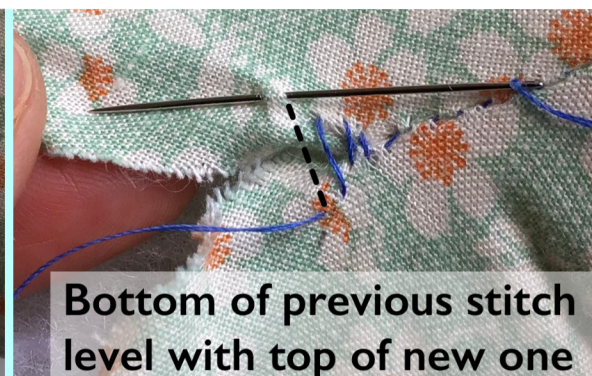
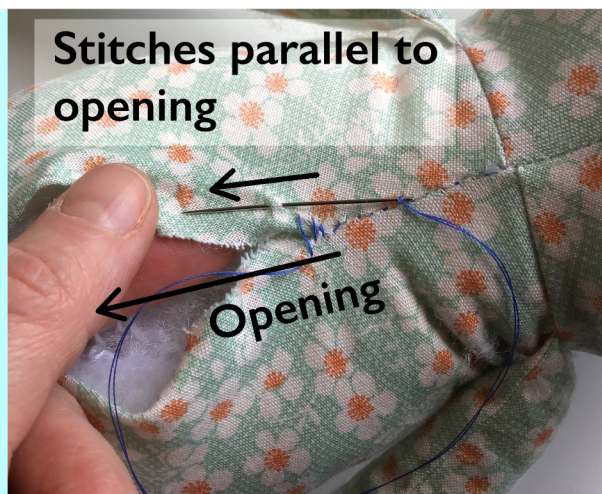


The technique of basting which is advised in the Breezy Bear pattern is a way of fixing features such as ears and tail (and in Breezy's case arms and legs too) in the correct position so they don't move and become lop-sided when sewing the seam that holds them in place. Basting the feature in position first with stitches that are inside the seam allowance and won't be seen on the finished item (and therefore will not need removing) makes sewing the seam easier and helps give better results. Do not reverse over the first and last few stitches to secure them when basting because if you are unhappy with the positioning after basting it is easy to unpick the basting stitches and re-do them.





Tapering the end of a seam is a technique to gently graduate a seam to meet a folded edge and prevent too much of a 'point' forming and give a smoother more rounded finish. With Breezy's arms/ legs if the bottom end of the seam isn't tapered around to meet the fold then a corner forms and it doesn't mirror the opposite side as well. It can help to draw the seam on with pen first to give a line to follow when sewing.



Ladder stitch is a hand-sewing stitch which is ideal for toy-making as it gives an invisible seam. Secure the thread first with a few small stitches on top of one another and then observing the seam allowance begin by making a stitch parallel to the opening that is being sewn shut. Go across to the other side of the opening and take the needle in level with the bottom of the previous stitch and make another parallel stitch. Continue from side to side and after every 5-6 stitches pull on the thread to draw them closed so that the stitches disappear.