

Upcycle *old clothes to make* Ellen Kharade's Mrs Fox

Children won't be able to resist Mrs Fox with her rosy cheeks and adorable outfit. This project is a great way to showcase your stitching and **upcycling skills**. Made from recycled jumpers and **scraps** of fabric, Mrs Fox will be adored by kids and grown ups alike.

essentials

Fabric: woollen, white; cotton, floral, 78cm x 130cm
Felt, pink
Old jumper: grey; orange
Thread: sewing, coordinating; embroidery, black
Buttons: vintage, green, one; black, three; orange, small, three
Ric rac, orange, 65cm
Hook and loop tape, 10cm
Blusher (for cheeks and ears)
Snap fastener, one

DIMENSIONS:
26cm x 42cm

make Mrs Fox

1 Go to www.sewmag.co.uk and download the templates for this project. From an old grey jumper, cut out two body pieces, four leg pieces, four ear pieces and two tail pieces. From white wool fabric, cut two tail tips, two ear middles, two nose sections and one chest piece.

2 Pin the leg pieces together in pairs, machine stitch, turn out and stuff well with toy stuffing. Pin a white ear middle to an ear section and sew into place. With right sides facing, pin two ear sections together and machine stitch, turn the right way. Stuff lightly and repeat for the other ear.

3 Pin the chest piece to the front of the grey body and machine stitch around the shape. Using a chalk pencil, mark the ear positions onto the head as indicated on the pattern and pin the ears to the inside of the head with raw edges aligned. Pin the body



MAKE IT... with recycled materials



pieces right sides together and machine stitch around the shape, leaving a gap at the base of the body. Turn out, then stuff until nicely rounded.

HOT TIP

Use scrap fabrics for this project or look for old jumpers in charity shops and car boot sales to give your toy a vintage vibe.

4 Pin the white tail tips to the grey tail sections and sew into place. With right sides facing, pin the tail section together, machine stitch and stuff. Make a 1cm hole in the back of the fox body as indicated on the pattern, insert the tail from the right side in, and sew it securely into place.

5 Insert the legs into the body, pin into place and hand sew using neat ladder stitches. With wrong sides facing, place the nose

sections together and sew around the shape using ladder stitches, leaving a small gap. Stuff lightly and close. Sew the nose to the face and add black buttons for the nose and eyes. Embroider a mouth using black embroidery thread. If desired, rub pink blush onto the cheeks and ears.

sew a dress

1 Cut out 20cm x 32cm of floral cotton. Across the longest edge, fold over two



"Every time I have a wardrobe clear-out, I always have a sift through to see if there are any garments I can cut up and use the fabric for to make something new"

Ellen Kharade, Sew designer

If Mrs Fox is for a small child, embroider features instead of using buttons and make sure all stitching is strong and secure.

1cm pleats roughly in the centre of the fabric, press and pin to secure. Cut two strips of ric rac and machine stitch down the centre of the pleats. Cut a further 19cm x 32cm of printed fabric and sew running stitches across the longest edge. Pull the thread to create gathers, and press. With right sides and the gathers facing, pin the fabrics together and machine stitch.

2 Pin the gathered fabric to the template of the dress, keeping the pleats central to the pattern and match up the waistline of the dress as indicated on the pattern. Accurately cut out the dress shape and press the seams open. This will be the dress front.

3 To make the back of the dress, cut out 20cm x 32cm of floral fabric for the bodice and a further 19cm x 32cm for the skirt. Make gathers in the skirt as described in step 1. Pin the two longest edges together, machine stitch and press the seams open. Cut down the centre of the fabric vertically. Press down and machine stitch a 1cm hem on either side of the cut edge. With right sides facing, pin the two halves together and machine stitch 5cm down from the waistline of the dress, this will leave an opening at the back of the dress for the fox's tail to poke through.

4 Pin the fabric to the template of the dress, matching up the waistline as indicated on the pattern, and cut out. With right sides facing, pin the dress sections together and machine stitch. Press the side seams open. Cut two thin strips of hook and loop tape and sew to the opening at the top of the dress. At the base of the dress, fold over 1cm at both edges and machine stitch into place.

5 Fold over the raw edges at the armholes and neckline and secure with running stitches. Cut out four collar sections (two reversed) and sew them together in pairs with right sides facing, leaving a gap for turning. Turn the right way, press and sew up the gap. Pin the collar pieces to the neckline and hand sew into place.

6 Mark out the positions for the buttons on the front of the dress bodice and sew on with coordinating thread. Turn up a double hem at the base of the dress, press and sew with neat whip-stitches. Add ric rac to the bottom of the hem.

create a jacket

1 Cut off the sleeves from an old orange jumper and open them up. Pin the templates for the jacket to the knitted fabric and cut out one back and two front pieces. Cut two 6.5cm x 12cm pieces for the jacket sleeves. With right sides facing, pin the sleeves in half lengthways and machine stitch down the long edge.

2 Embroider a decorative pattern using either a sewing machine or by hand, across the front and back jacket pieces, making sure they line up. With right sides facing, pin

the jacket fronts to the jacket back and machine stitch.

3 Pin the sleeves into the armholes and machine stitch into place. Fold over and sew down a 5mm hem at each raw edge on the front of

the jacket. Cut a 2cm wide strip from the cuffs of the jumper sleeves and hand sew around the neckline and cuffs of the jacket. Using pinking shears, cut a 1cm wide strip of pink felt and sew to the bottom of the jacket. Add a snap fastener to the neck and cover with a vintage button.



SHOP FOR

Floral fabric

Create Mrs Fox's dress from this pretty Breakfast at Tiffany's Pink Roses on Green cotton fabric, priced £10 per metre, www.eternalmaker.com, 01243 788174.



Ric rac trim

Sew contrasting ric rac to the dress for added detail. The Village Haberdashery stocks a range of colours priced 74p per metre, www.thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk



Vintage buttons

These shabby chic fabric buttons are ideal for hiding the snap fastener on Mrs Fox's pretty card. Priced £3.99 for 10, www.myfabrichouse.co.uk

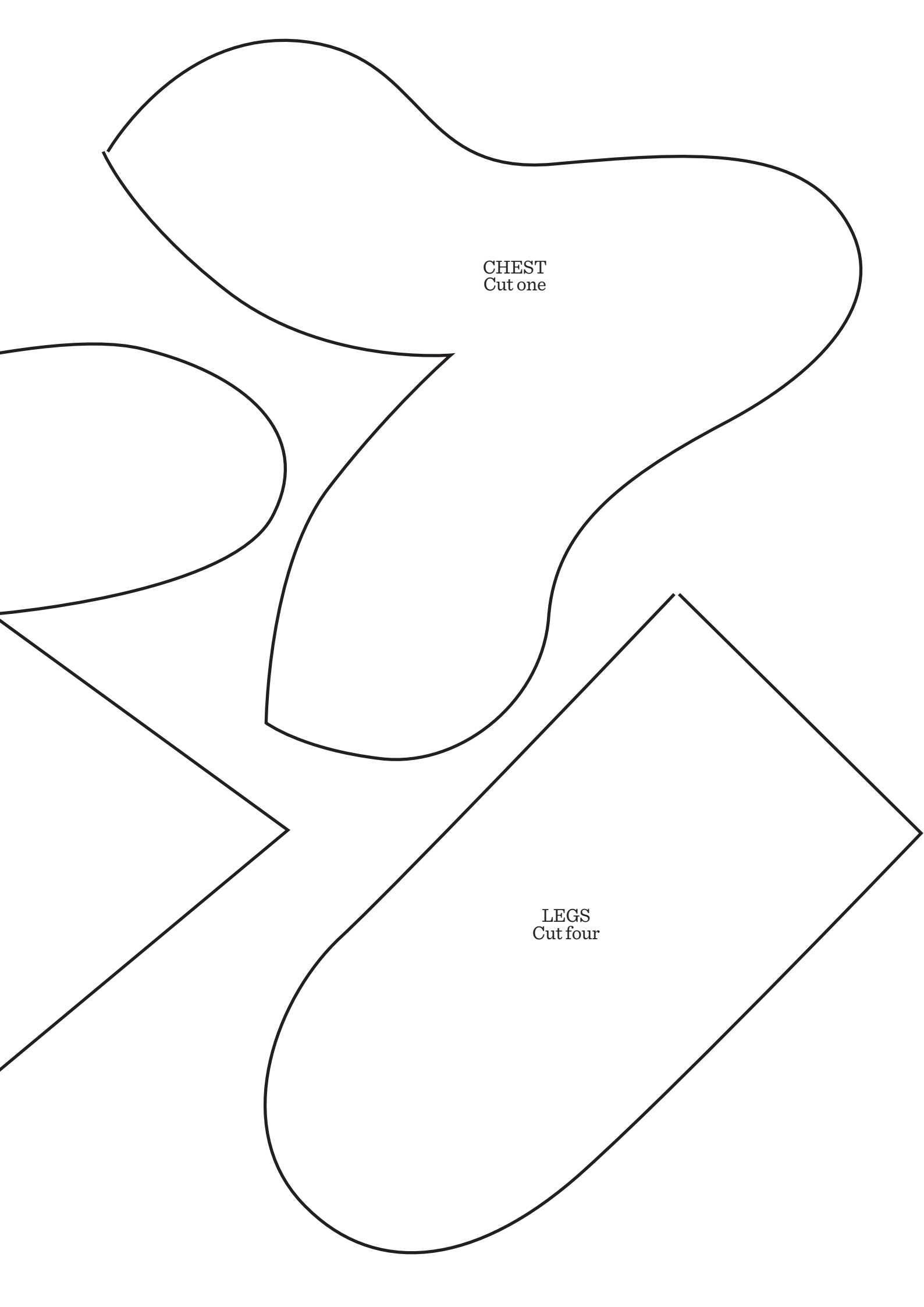
Ear position

Ear position

BODY
Cut two

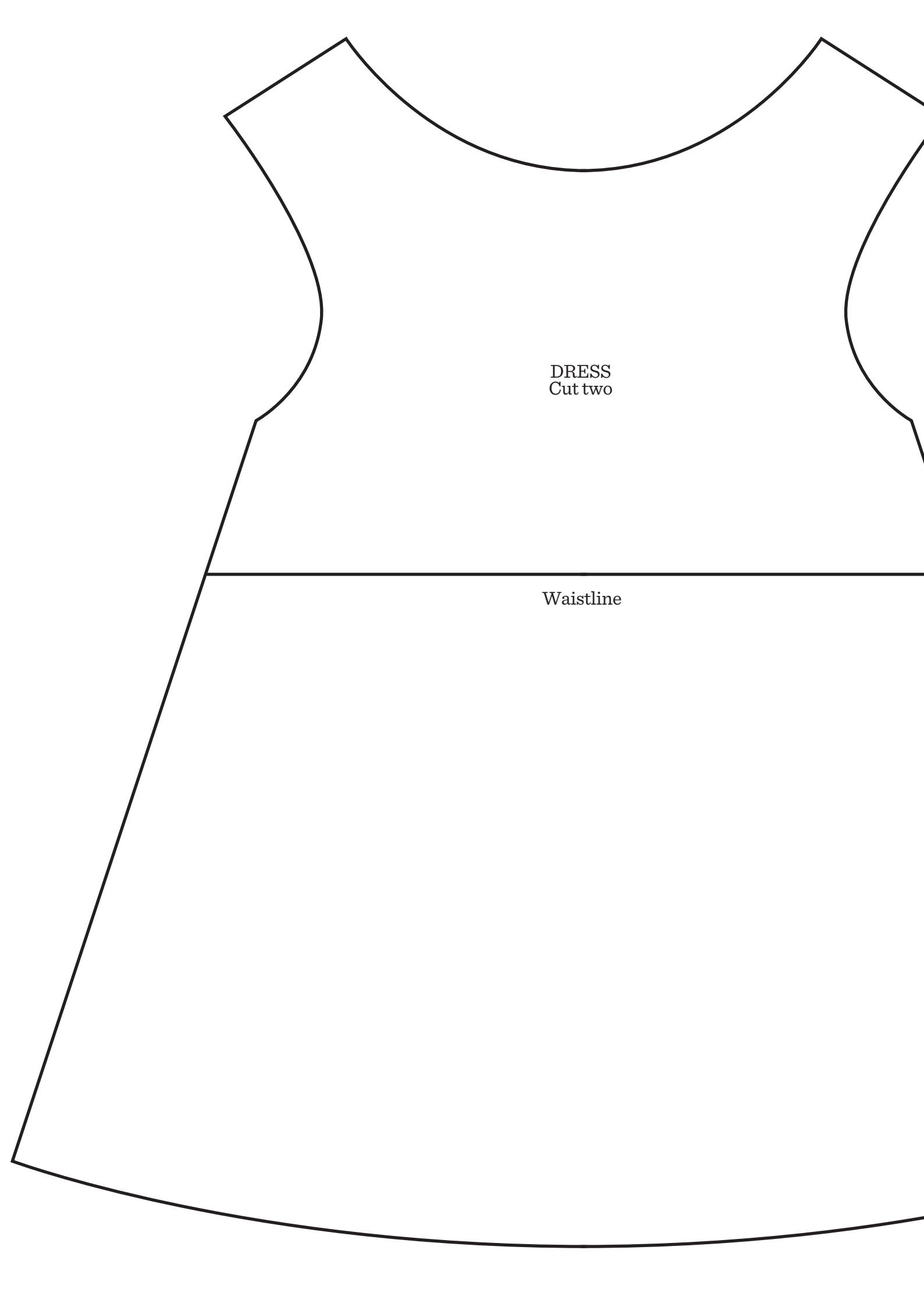
Tail position





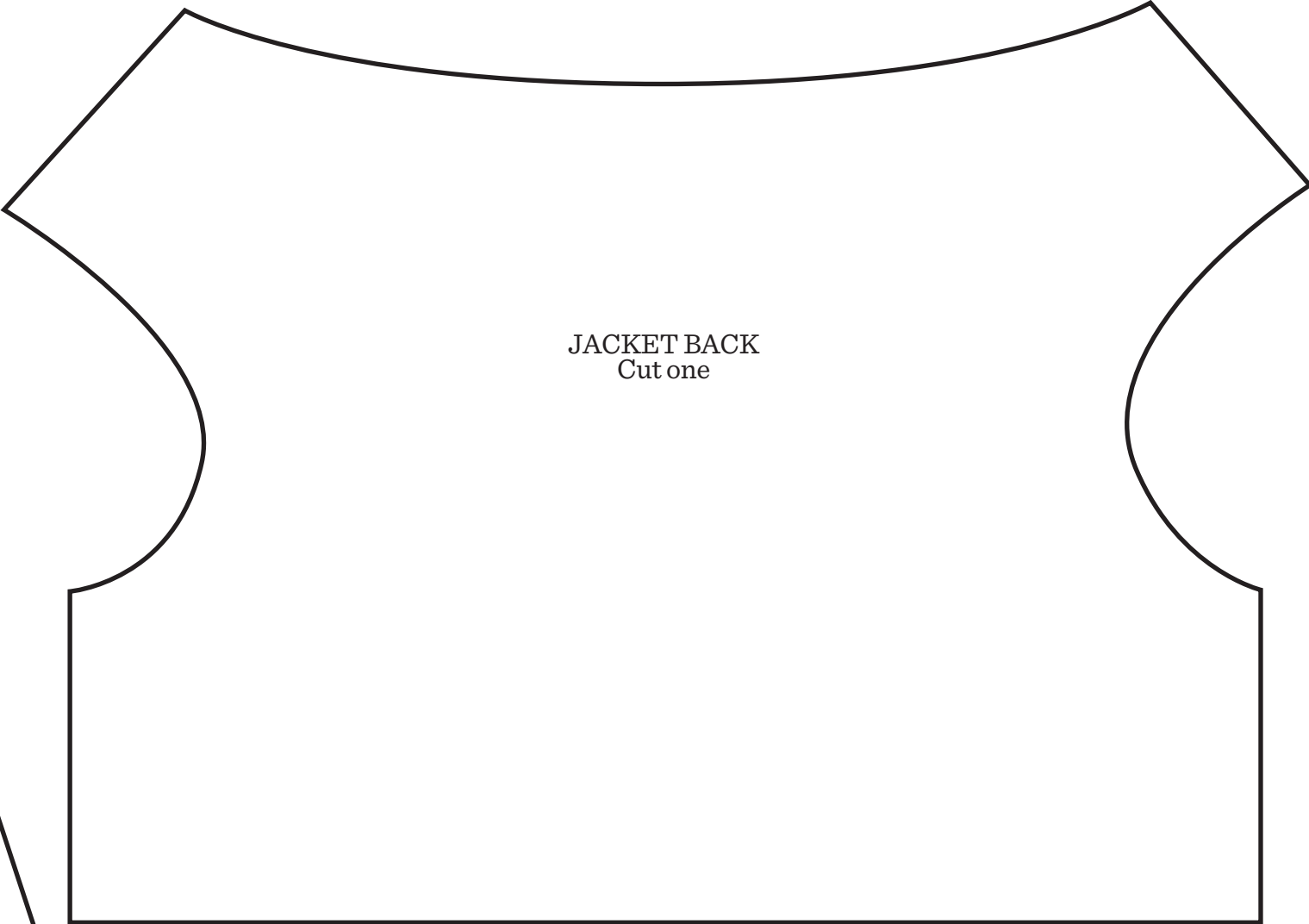
CHEST
Cut one

LEGS
Cut four



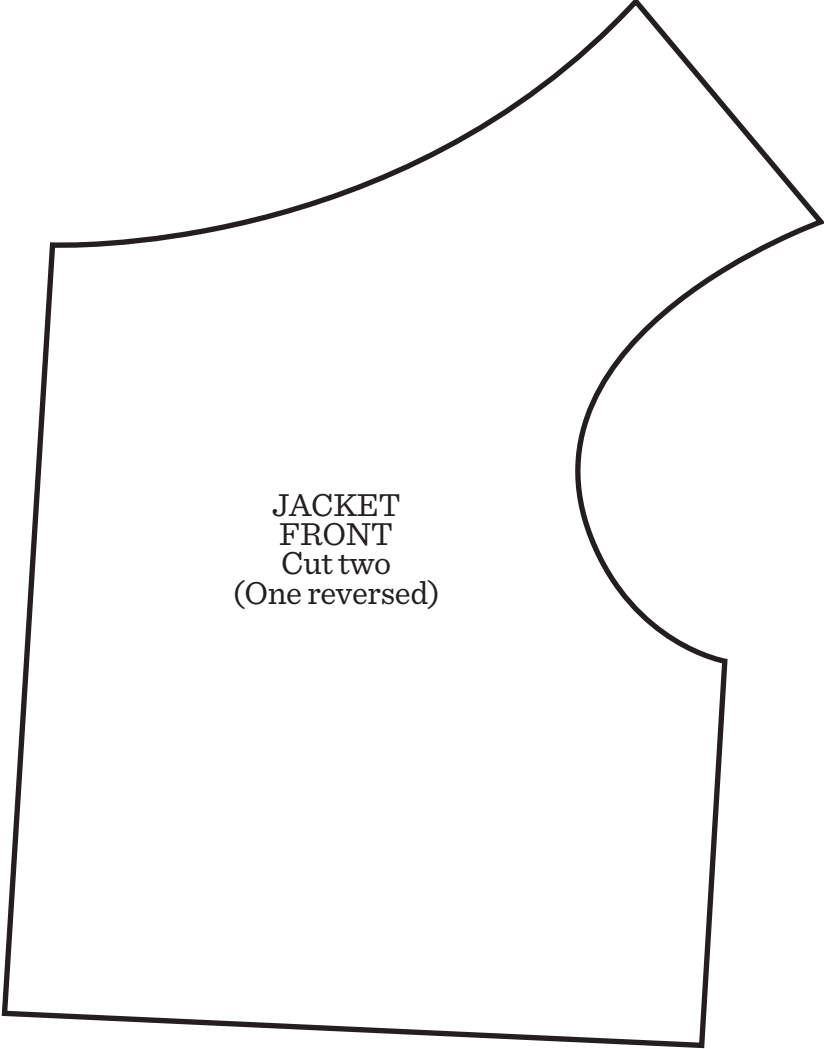
DRESS
Cut two

Waistline



A large, symmetrical pattern piece for the back of a jacket. It features a wide, curved neckline at the top, a straight vertical hem at the bottom, and two large, curved armholes on the sides. The piece is outlined in black.

JACKET BACK
Cut one



A pattern piece for the front of a jacket. It has a high, pointed collar at the top, a straight vertical hem at the bottom, and a large, curved armhole on the right side. The piece is outlined in black.

JACKET
FRONT
Cut two
(One reversed)

