

HOW TO MAKE A PLUSHIE BEAR FROM AN OLD SWEATER

Materials:

Paper Pattern

Scissors

Pins

Old Sweater

Optional Light Colored Fabric or Felt

Stuffing (Fiberfill, Cotton, etc.)

Thread (Polyester is strongest for Plushie-making)

Needle

Embroidery Thread (a Color to match the Sweater, another Color for facial features)

Embroidery Needle

Buttons and/or Felt (for Eyes)

Chopstick or Pencil (for help in stuffing)

Step 1: Cut out your paper pattern along the "Cut Line."

Step 2: Pick the pieces of your old sweater that you will use for your bear, and make sure they are big enough for your pattern. Lay your sweater fabric with the 2 rights sides facing each other, and pin the paper pattern to both.

Step 3: Cut out the bear pieces from the sweater fabric, following your pattern.

Step 4: *If the sweater fabric is busy or dark colored, you may want to appliqué a face. This is totally optional and if you choose to sew a face directly to the body piece, please skip to Step 7.* Cut out the paper face pattern, pin it to your chosen appliqué fabric, and cut out. Felt is a great choice as it will not unravel if you are hand stitching. If you are machine stitching with a zigzag or satin stitch, most light colored fabrics would be suitable.

Step 5: Pin the appliqué to the body piece.

Step 6: Sew on the appliqué.

Step 7: *If you would like to embroider all the facial features, skip to Step 10.*

Trace two circles for eyes onto a piece of white felt. You can use a circle template or find a button or bottle cap in a size you like and trace around that. Cut out the felt circles.

Step 8: Pin the eye circles to the face, and sew them on.

Step 9: Sew buttons for the pupils of the eyes. *If you don't want to use buttons, you could repeat Step 7 with smaller circles in a dark color, and sew those on as you did in Step 8.*

Step 10: Embroider on the facial features. It helps to draw the features on first so you will have a guide to follow as you embroider.

Step 11: Pin the body pieces together with right sides facing in. Use lots of pins to be sure the sweater fabric does not slip around as you sew.

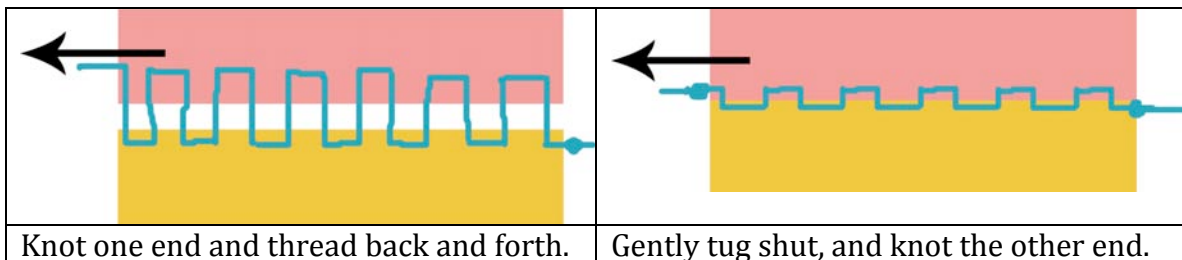
Step 12: Starting at one side of the ear at the very top of the head, sew all the way around the bear until you reach the top of the head again next to the other ear. You will leave the space between the ears open.

Step 13: Using your original paper pattern as a guide, cut slits at the corners in the excess fabric. This will keep the fabric from bunching up when you turn the bear right side out. Be careful not to cut all the way through the seams you stitched!

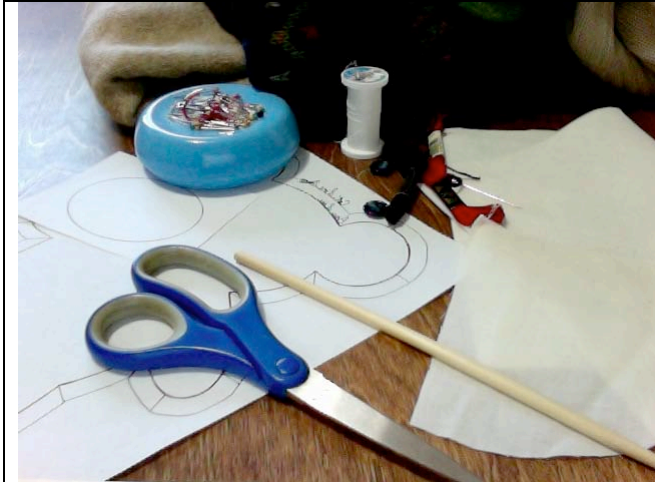
Step 14: Turn the bear right side out. If you find it hard to do this with just your fingers, you can use a chopstick or the eraser end of a pencil to help you push the fabric out.

Step 15: Stuff the bear. Start at the legs and work up the body, next stuffing the arms, the chest, the ears and then the head. You can use the chopstick / pencil for help with stuffing, too.

Step 16: Sew the top of the head shut using an invisible stitch. Use embroidery thread that matches your sweater material, doubling it up if your sweater is somewhat thick. For help with the invisible stitch, please refer to the diagram.



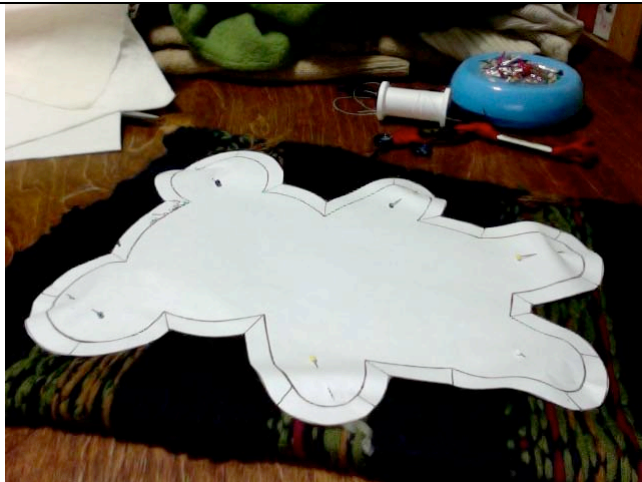
Now you're done!



Materials



Step 1: Cut out paper pattern



Step 2: Pin pattern to fabric



Step 3: Cut out fabric pattern



Step 4: Cut out face appliqué fabric



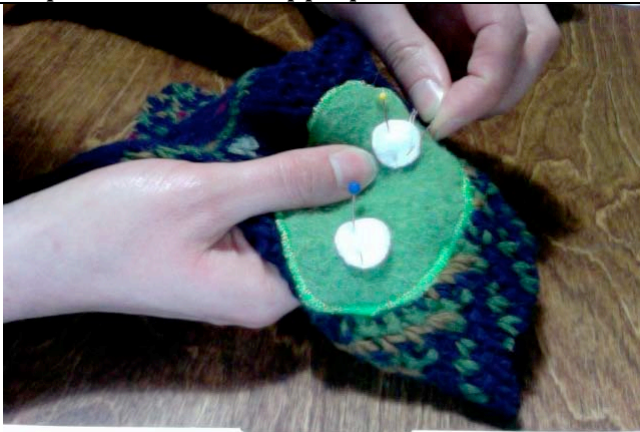
Step 5: Pin face appliqué to body piece



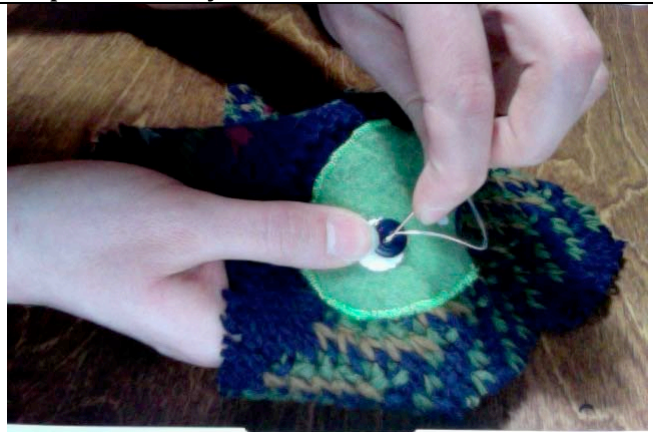
Step 6: Sew on face appliqué



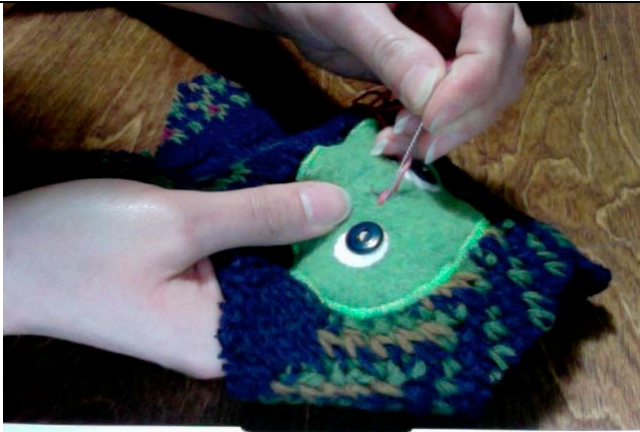
Step 7: Trace eye circles from felt



Step 8: Sew on eye circles



Step 9: Sew buttons on for eye pupils



Step 10: Embroider facial features



Step 11: Pin body pieces, right sides facing



Step 12: Sew body, leave opening at top of head



Step 13: Cut slits for ease of movement



Step 14: Turn bear right side out



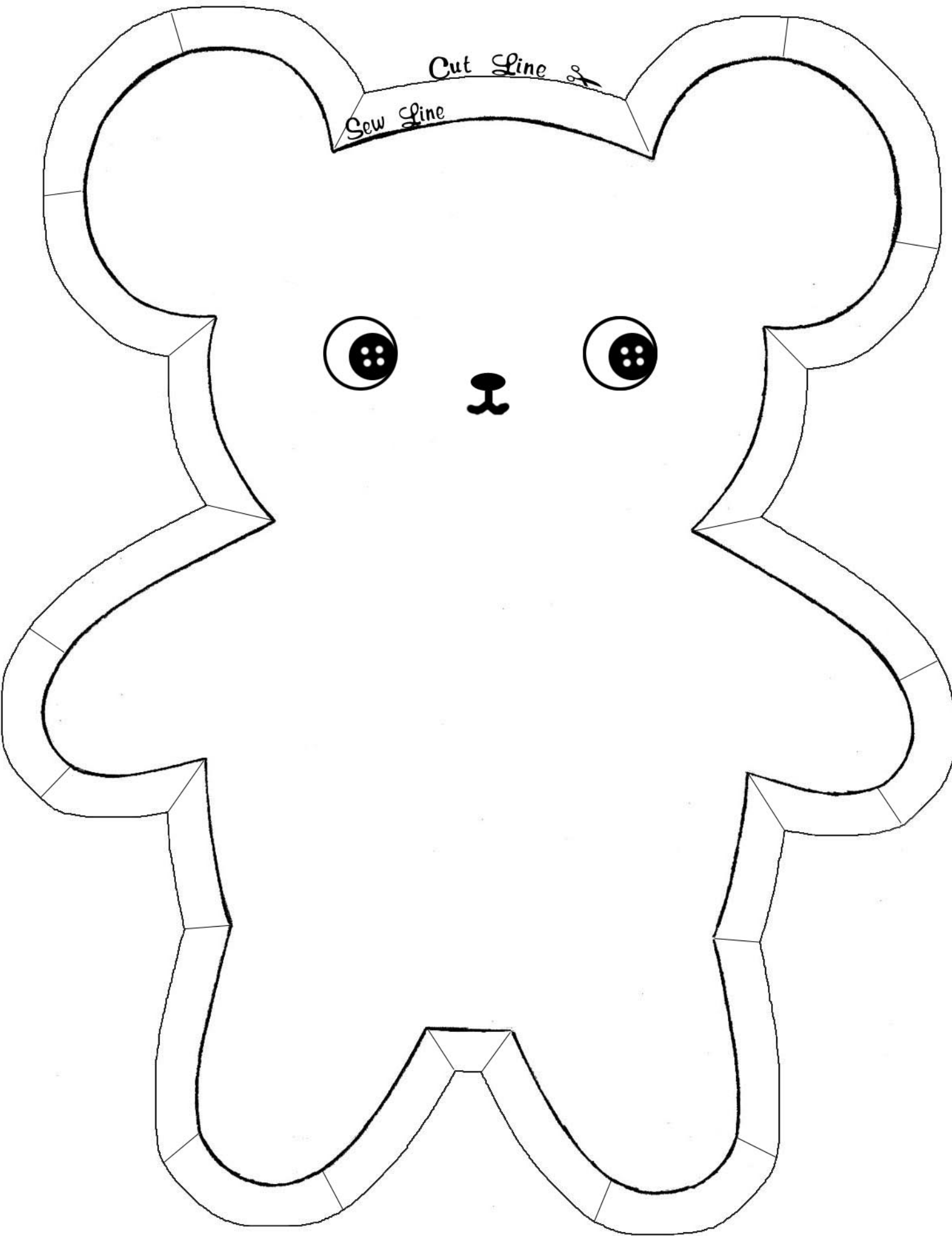
Step 15: Stuff bear



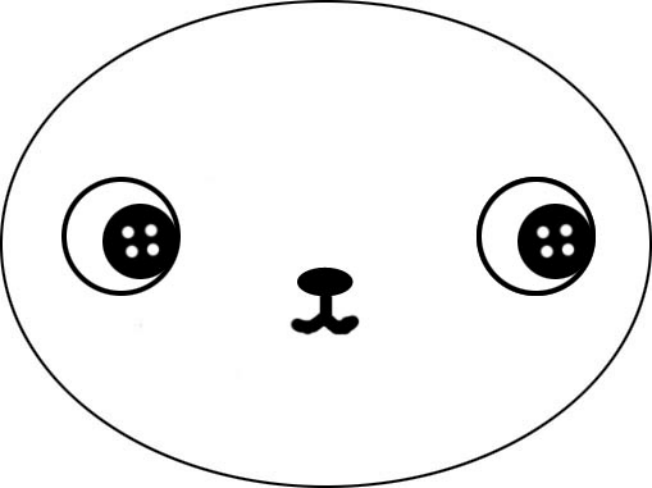
Step 16: Sew shut with invisible stitch

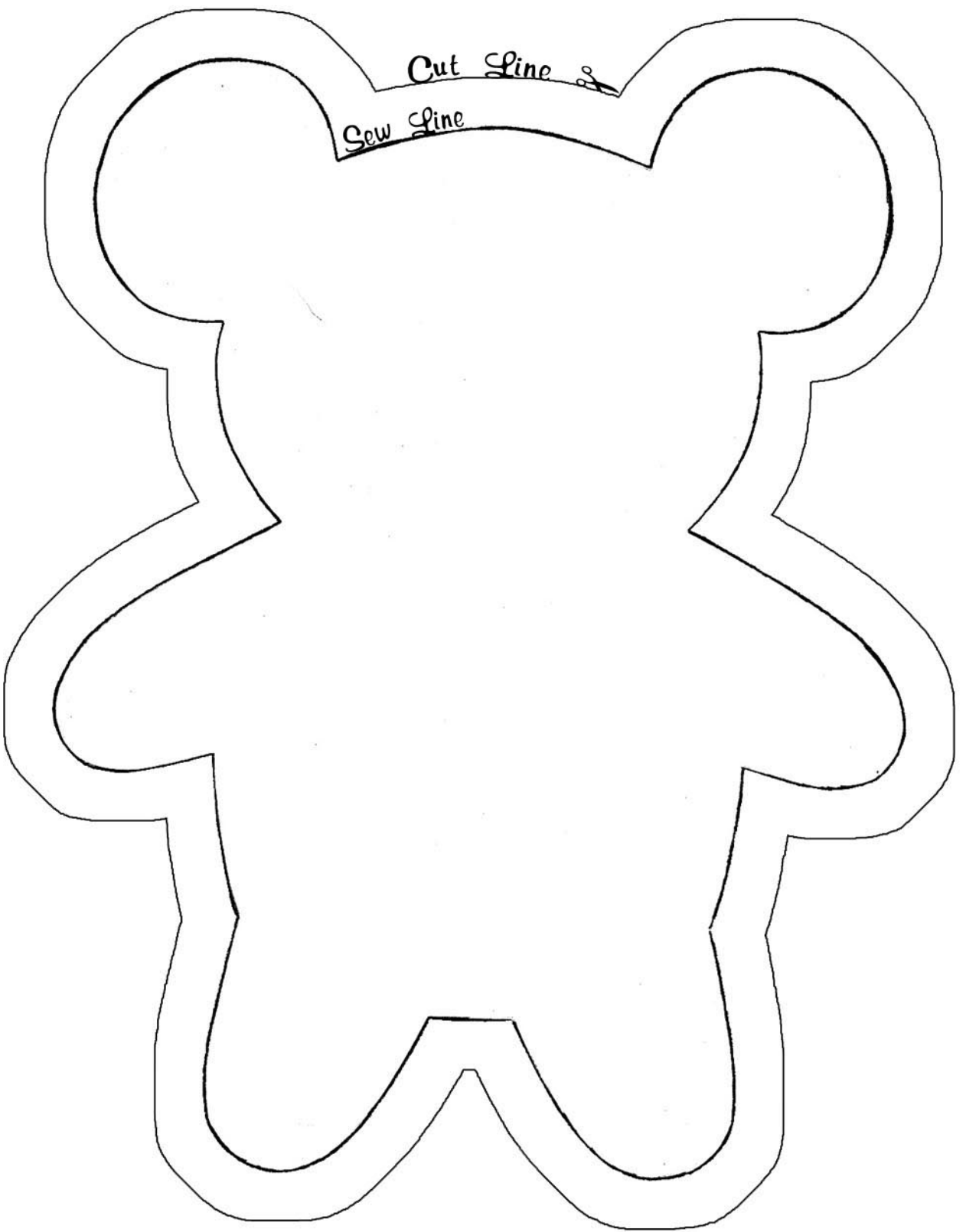


You're done!



Cut Line ✂
Sew Line





Cut Line

Sew Line

