

# the Puppet Ministry

## HOW TO START

### AN EFFECTIVE PUPPET MINISTRY

#### I. LET'S GET STARTED

##### A. What kind of characters do I want?

1. *People puppets*
2. *Animal puppets*
3. *Combination of animals and people*
4. *Imaginative creature puppets*

##### B. What can my characters do?

1. *Can they talk as if saved?*
2. *Can they pray?*
3. *Do they have set mannerisms?*

#### II. LET'S CHOOSE OUR CHARACTERS

(I suggest you make the basic puppet first, then choose it's personality and gender.)

- A. **Shall they be a family?**
- B. **Shall they be a bunch of neighborhood kids?**
- C. **Shall they be characters who personify the fruit of the Spirit?**
- D. **Shall they be biblical characters?**
- E. **The possibilities are endless**

#### III. LET'S GIVE OUR CHARACTERS AN IDENTITY

(I suggest you be very consistent with what you have chosen.)

- A. **Give them a name**
- B. **Give them a voice**
- C. **Give them a personality**
- D. **Give them idiosyncrasies and habits**
- E. **Give them a favorite song**

#### IV. LET'S WRITE A SCRIPT

##### A. Be aware of audience

1. *Attention span*
2. *Behavior (Be ready to ad-lib, to ask the audience questions with the puppet, etc.)*

##### B. Let's brainstorm (Keep a notebook and pen handy!)

1. *Select a theme*
2. *Select Scripture verses which apply*
3. *Select songs which apply\**
4. *PRAY (This step should really be #1)*
5. *WRITE!!!!!!*

##### C. Suggested helps:

PUPPET PALS  
100 Belhaven Dr.  
Los Gatos, CA 95030

(Ask for their catalog and let them know that you are interested in puppet scripts.)

CHILDREN'S BIBLE HOUR  
Box 1  
Rapids, MI 49501

(Ask for "Keys For Kids" ... From it, you can get great script ideas.)

NEW LIFE PUBLICATIONS  
143 Tuxedo Drive  
Thomasville, GA 317924

"Scripture Sings" (166 songs)  
Spiral bound songbook for \$4.98  
Cassette tapes for \$17.95

#### HANDLING YOUR PUPPETS:

##### SOME HANDY TIPS

1. Lip-sync
2. Walking motion (entering, exiting)
3. Look ahead (not up or down)
4. Only the talking puppet should be moving
5. While puppet is not talking, be careful to keep the mouth closed
6. When puppets are talking to one another, the listening ones should watch the talking one.
7. Talking puppet may shift from focusing on other puppets, to focusing on the audience
8. Puppet's gestures should match its attitude
9. Get audience involved (Invite them to memorize a short Scripture verse, to sing a familiar song, or to learn a new song, etc.)
10. Speak loudly, projecting voice
11. Speak VERY clearly
12. Be consistent with voices and personalities you have chosen for your puppet characters

# the Puppet Ministry

## SMALL PUPPET PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS

Refer to drawings on page 6

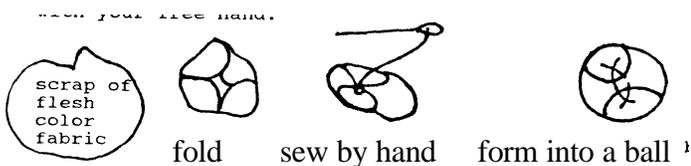
1. Sew dart into head.
2. Sew head seams together.
3. Sew mouth into head.
4. Sew arm seams, snip between fingers, turn right side out, stuff.
5. Sew leg seams, snip between toes, turn right side out, stuff.
6. Sew arms into body.
7. Sew head into body.
8. Sew legs onto front of body.
9. Glue cardboard into mouth, stuff head and body.
10. Hand sew body closed.
11. Make hair, nose, eyes, and sew them in place.
12. Make clothes and either sew them on or just place them on.

**USE YOUR IMAGINATION ...  
ANYTHING GOES**

**WARNING! PUPPET FEVER MAY RESULT!**

## SOME HELPFUL HINTS FOR:

1. Nose - Take a piece of the flesh colored material. Fold edges toward the center. With a needle and thread, take stitches in the fabric, from edge to edge, until a small ball is formed. It helps to squeeze the fabric into shape with your free hand.



2. Eyes - Moveable eyes, buttons, circles of felt, pompoms ... these all work fine. My favorite material for eyes are pom-poms (black preferably). on a dark puppet I follow the same method listed above for nose-making, but with white felt, this forms the whites of the eyes,

then I glue or sew a circle of black felt onto it, as the iris.

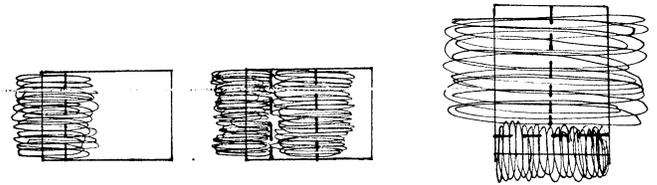
3. Hair - use rectangle of flesh colored material and yarn.

### a. Short hair

sew yarn on by machine flip first row toward front then start a new row, make about five rows

### b. Long hair

place yarn in this direction then sew on by machine



After the "wig" is made, it must be hand-sewn to the puppet's head. For straight look, cut loops. For curly look, leave loops intact. You may even want to give a hair cut!

## LARGE PUPPET PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

3/4 yard felt (flesh color), or double knit 1 square red felt for mouth 18" x 18" of 1" thick foam - optional Polyester fiber for stuffing ears, nose, and arms contact cement (available at hardware store) eyes heavy cardboard for mouth (illustration board, matt board) fake fur can be used for wigs size 2 boys shirt or girls dress

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

The head and body should be completely assembled separately before joining. This includes gluing the foam in place. A 1/4" seam is allowed on all fabric pieces. The fingers can be made flexible by using chenille wire. The wire is bent in the shape of the fingers and inserted in the hand before stuffing. Puppets should be treated with scotchguard fabric protector before use. Puppets

# the Puppet Ministry

can be constructed without foam inserts, just fill in with polyester fiber.

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Using pattern A, cut 2 from 1" thick piece of foam. Glue each piece of foam at arrows as indicated on pattern piece to form 1/2 bowl shapes as shown on pattern. Then glue front to front and back to back of each 1/2 bowl to form complete bowl-shaped padding for head. Set aside to dry. Cut pattern A-1 from foam, glue and set aside to dry.
2. **Mouth:** Cut two of pattern F, one out of red felt, and one piece out of cardboard. Cut posterboard in half as indicated on pattern. Glue fabric to cardboard. Set aside.
3. **Head covering assembly:** Pattern pieces B, C, D, and E. Place on flesh colored fabric, and cut as many pieces as indicated on pattern piece. Sew nose and ears and stuff with filler.  
**Face:** place nose where indicated on one side of face, right sides together, raw edges of seam matching. Baste in place. With right sides together sew face pieces together from top to mouth.  
**Back of head:** place ears as indicated, baste in place. Sew center seam with right sides together of back head pieces. Joining back to face: center top of head seams with pin. Sew from mouth to center seam, stretching fabric to ease so that seams meet at center and continue to other mouth corner.
4. Sew the head to the mouth piece through fabric and cardboard to form upper lip.
5. **Throat:** pattern G, sew center seam. Sew top of throat piece to mouth to form lower lip.
6. Slip foam in to shape head.
7. Cut pattern H and I from foam. Put contact cement on edges as indicated. Glue H to top of mouth cardboard for backup for fingers when working mouth. Glue I to pad under chin to form the throat shape.
8. **Arms and Hands:** pattern J, sew darts and then sew arm seams. Clip fingers to turn. Turn

to right side. Bend chenille wires to shape each finger. Put in finger and stuff with filler.

9. **Body:** pattern K, pin and baste arms in place as indicated. With right sides together, join K and L and sew sides and shoulder seams.
10. Mark center of pattern piece K and pin to center seam of throat. Starting at center back opening, sew neck to join body to head. Sew center back seam.
11. **Features:** mustaches, red cheeks, freckles, etc. can be made from felt and glued onto face  
**Hair:** sew fake fur (or whatever you choose to use) to head by hand  
**Eyes:** moveable eyes may be purchased in a hobby shop, and attached with glue  
**Eyebrows:** can be omitted or can be made from felt and glued onto face  
**Hats:** children's hats may be used

## PUPPET STAGE INSTRUCTIONS

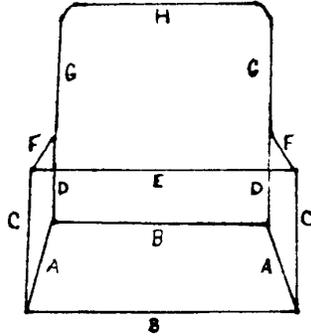
### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 5 - 10' PVC pipes
- 8 - T or Ty joints
- 12 - 45' joints
- 2 - 90 degree joints
- PVC glue

Use 1 1/2" joints and pipe. Wide socketed joints are best.

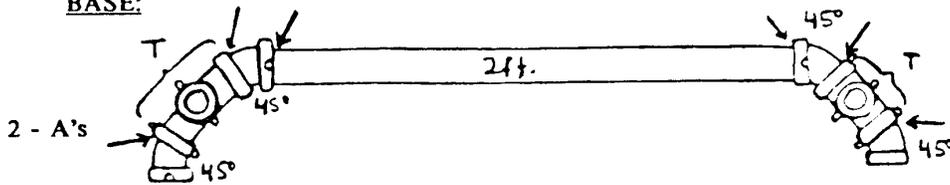
Construct stage according to diagram shown on the next page (4), gluing only where arrows indicate. Glue dries very quickly.

# PUPPET STAGE

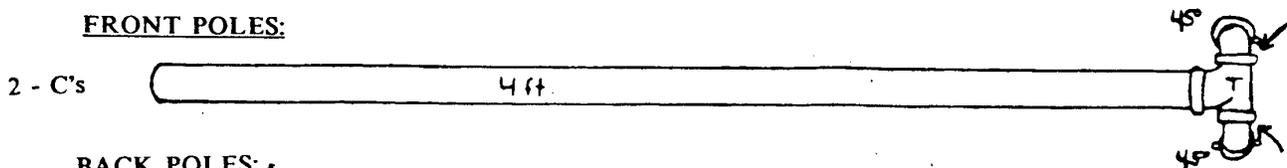


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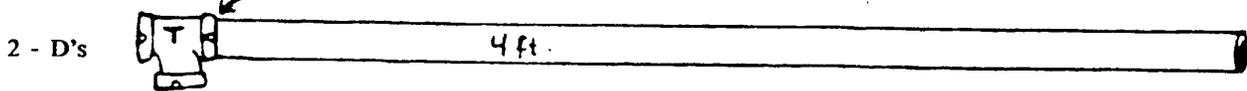
## BASE:



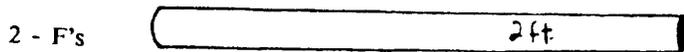
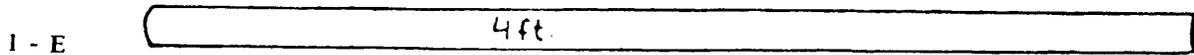
## FRONT POLES:



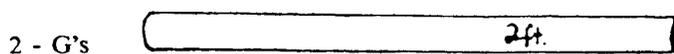
## BACK POLES:



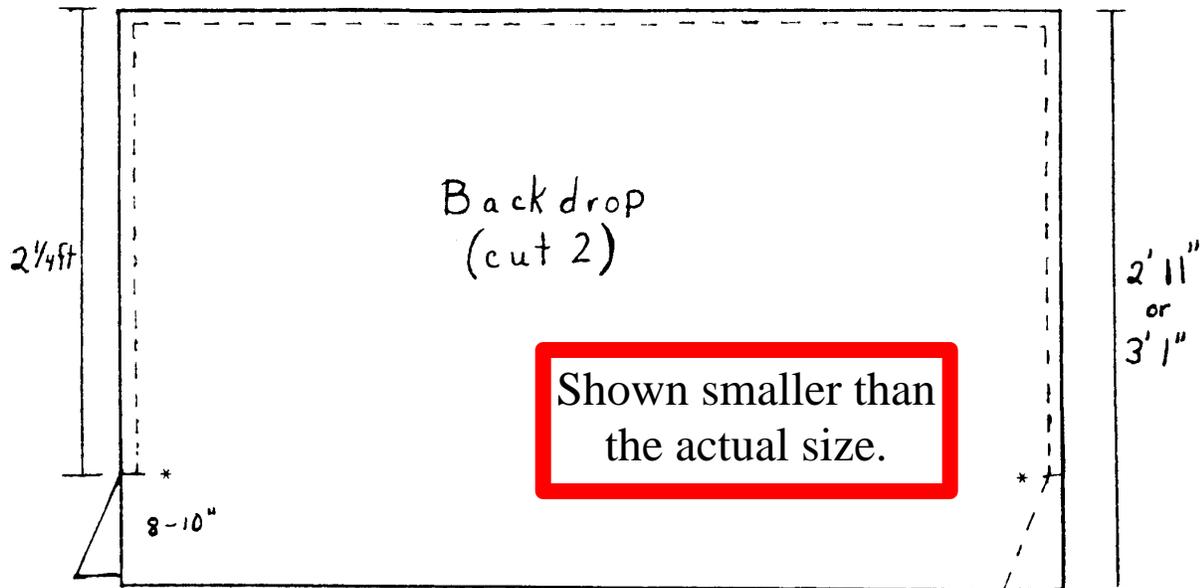
## CURTAIN POLES:



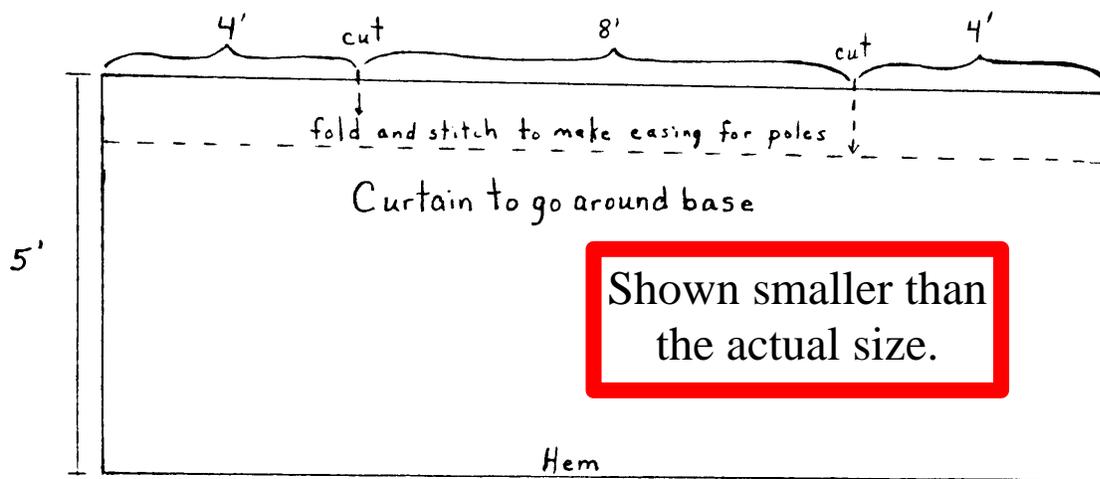
## BACK DROP:



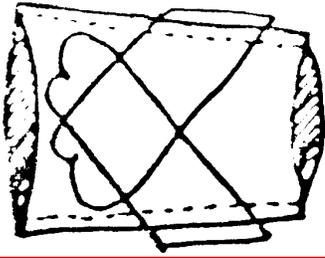
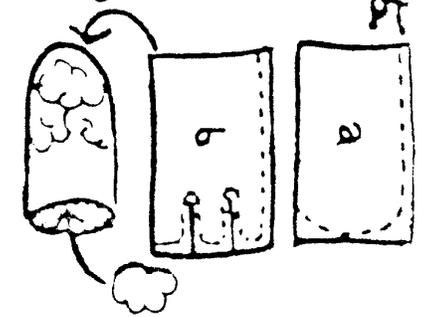
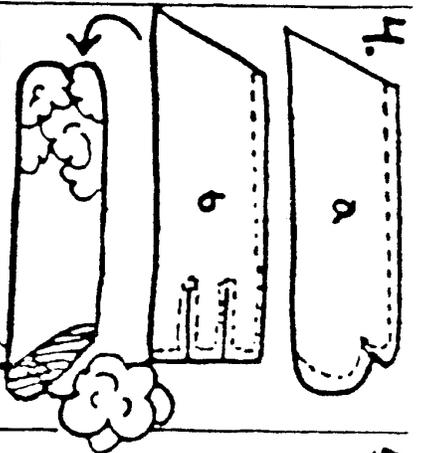
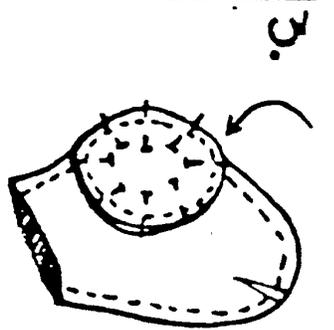
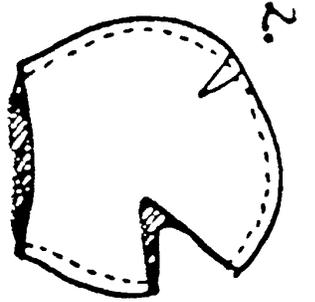
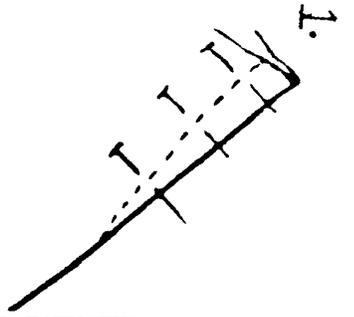
The arrows indicates where PVC glue should be applied to permanently fix joints.



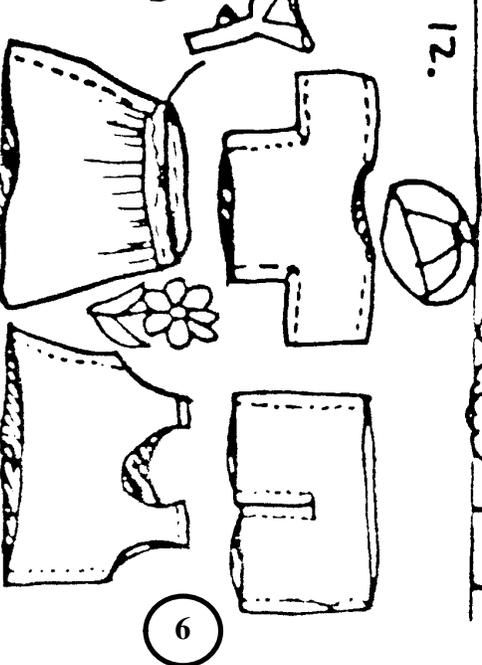
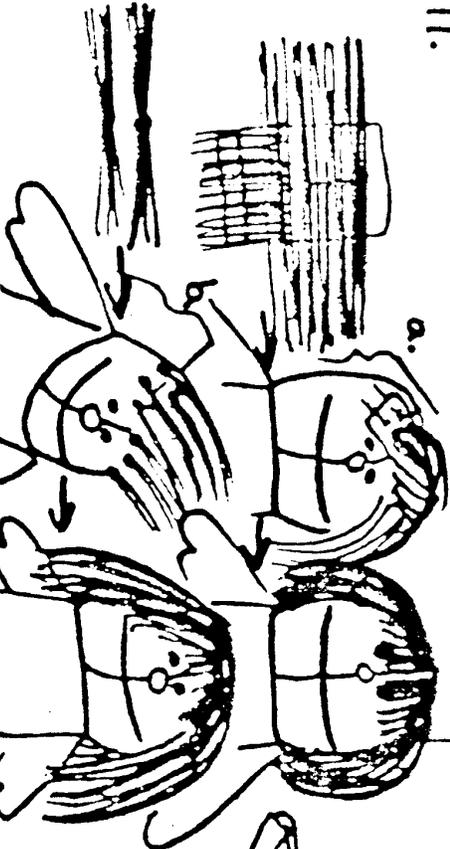
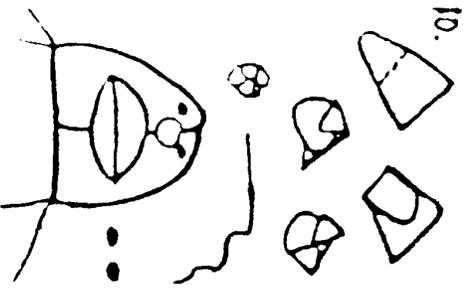
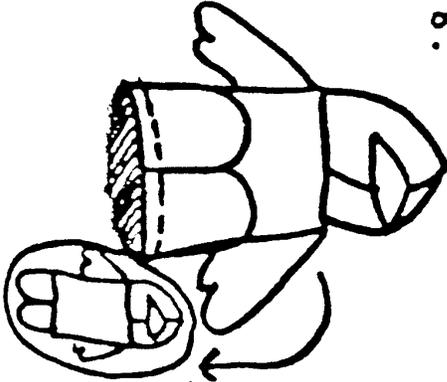
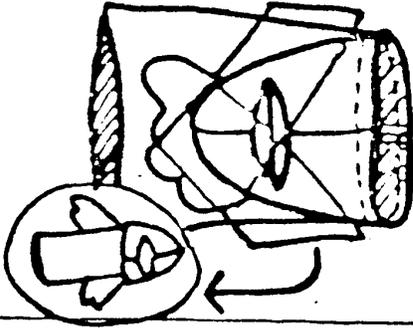
Backdrop curtain will fit like a pillow case over the top of the stage made by pipes G & H. Sew seam around top and two sides of curtain, stopping 8" - 10" from bottom on each side. Reinforce at \*.



Ideal curtain width is double the length of each rod. Fold 6" - 8" of material over and sew to form casing for poles F & E. After stitching casing, cut from fold to stitch line so that curtain will fit around joints at corners of stage. Cut four feet from each side. Hem so that curtain touches floor when curtain is ON the poles.



Shown smaller than the actual size.

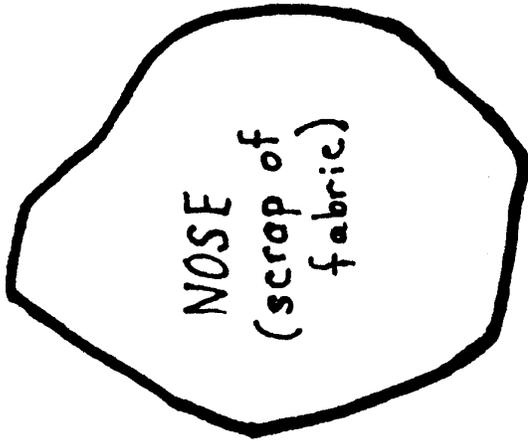


HEAD + NOSE

Dimensions of this figure:

2 3/4" X 2 1/4"

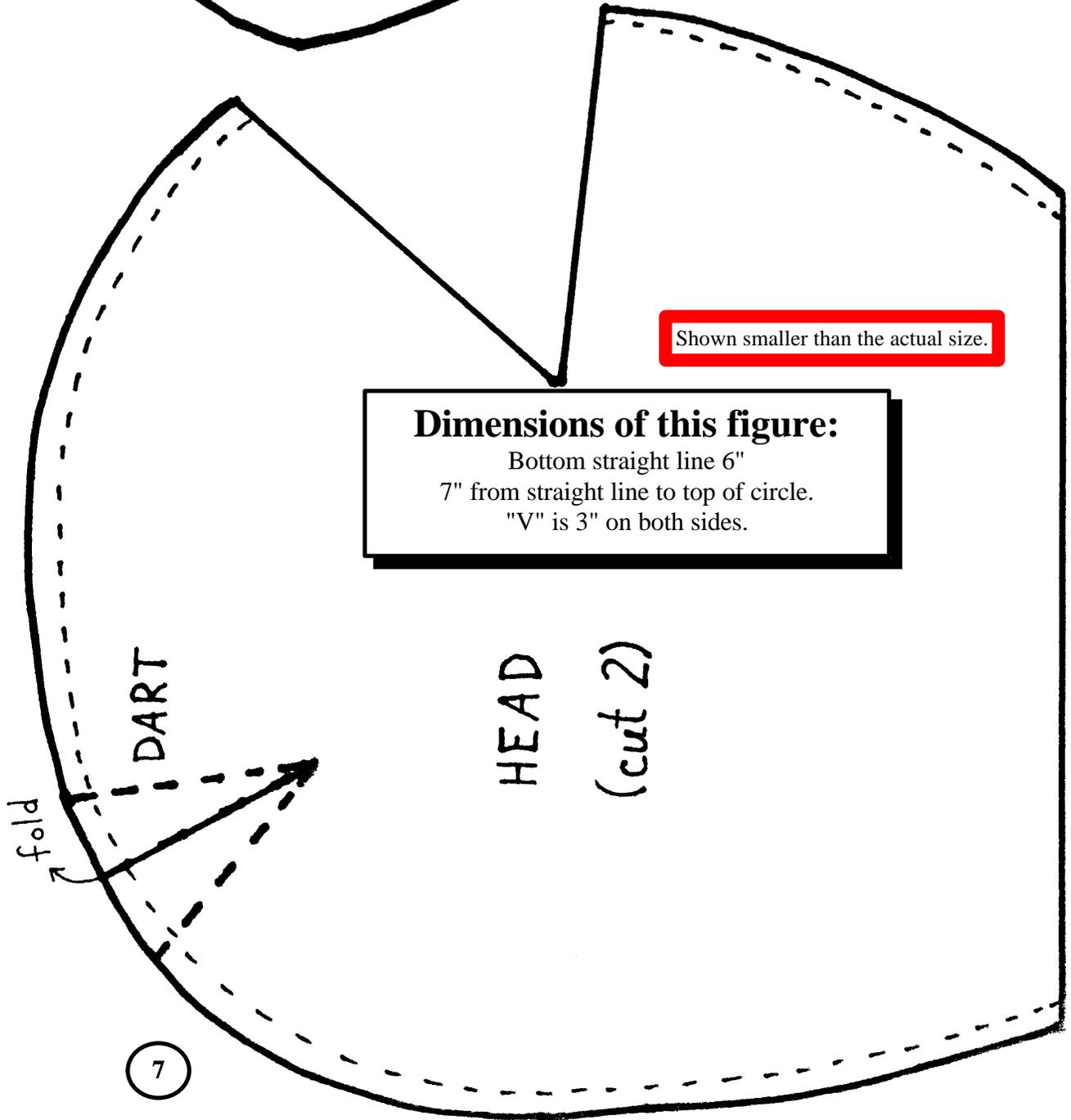
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Shown smaller than the actual size.

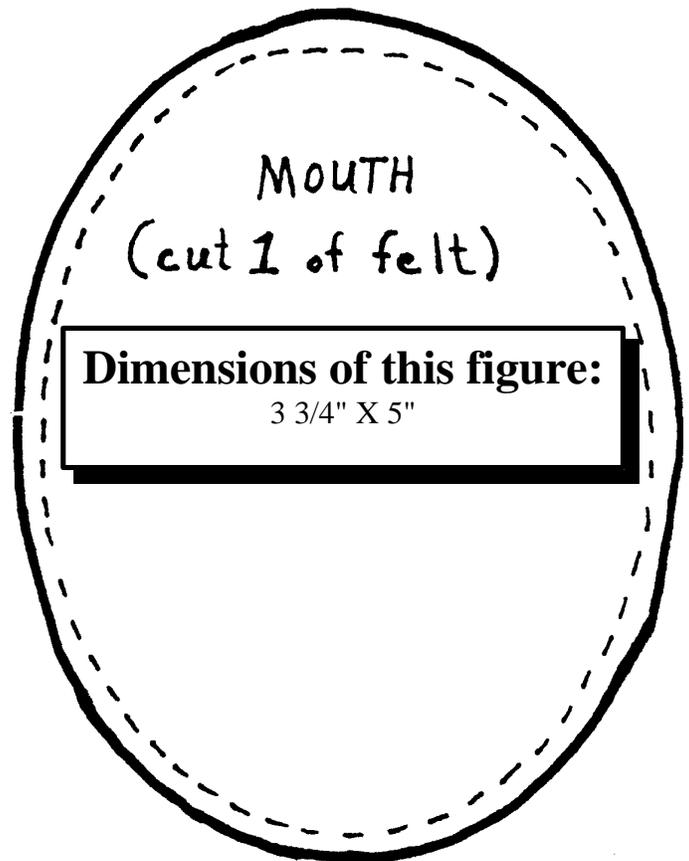
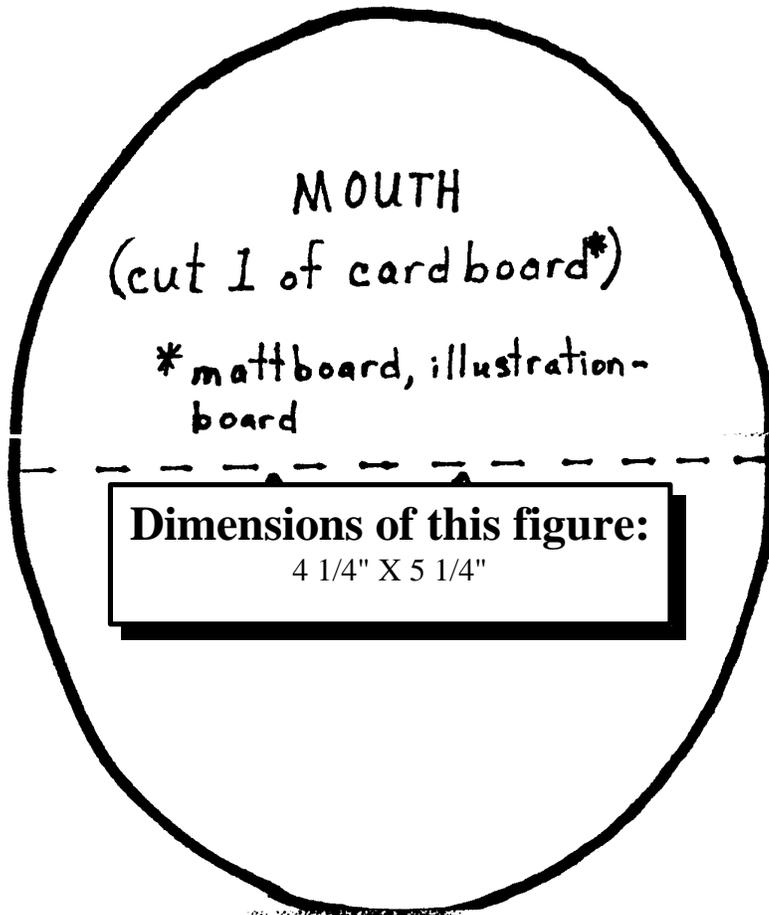
Dimensions of this figure:

Bottom straight line 6"  
7" from straight line to top of circle.  
"V" is 3" on both sides.



Shown smaller than the actual size.

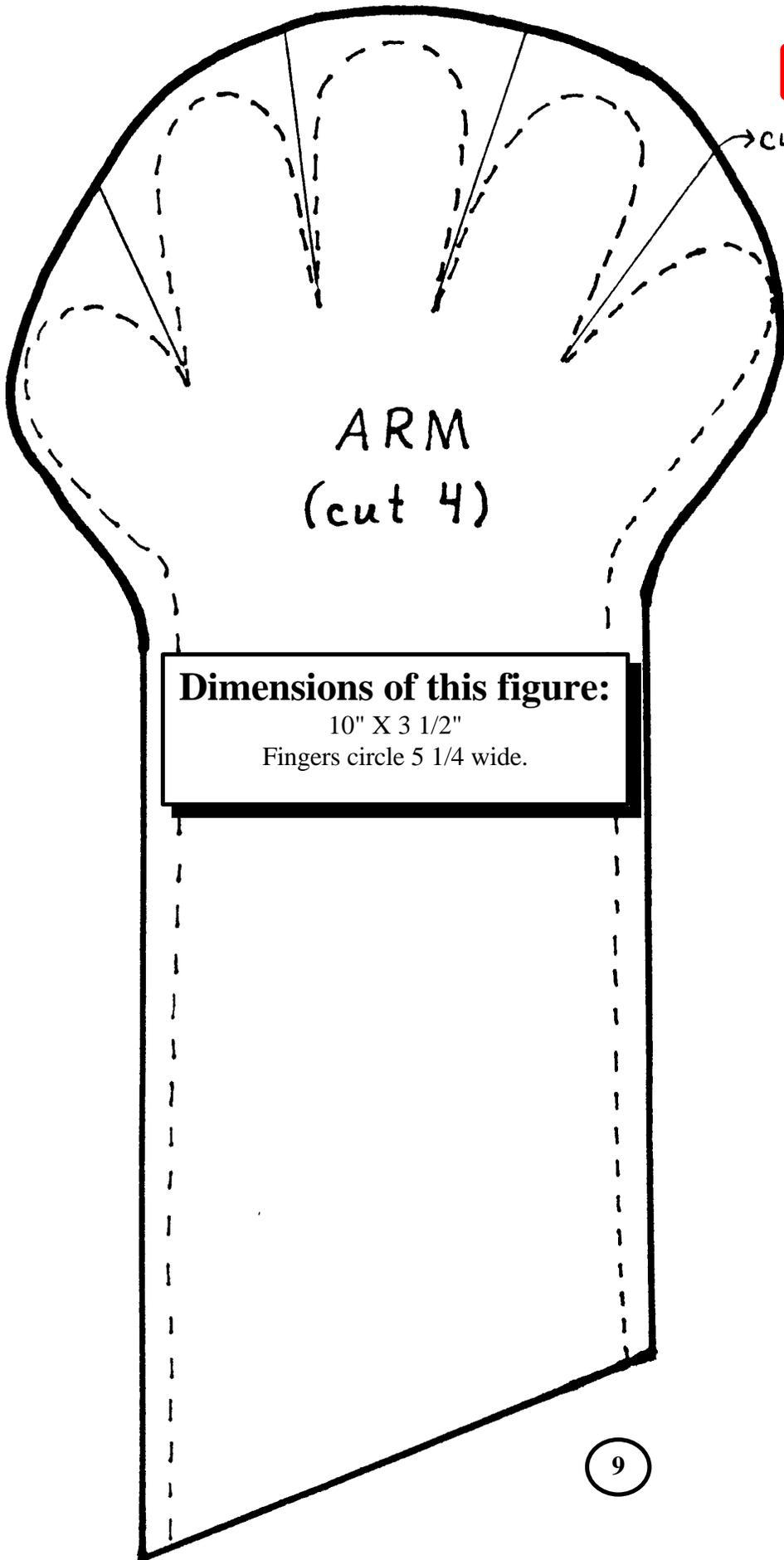
# MOUTH



# Arm Options

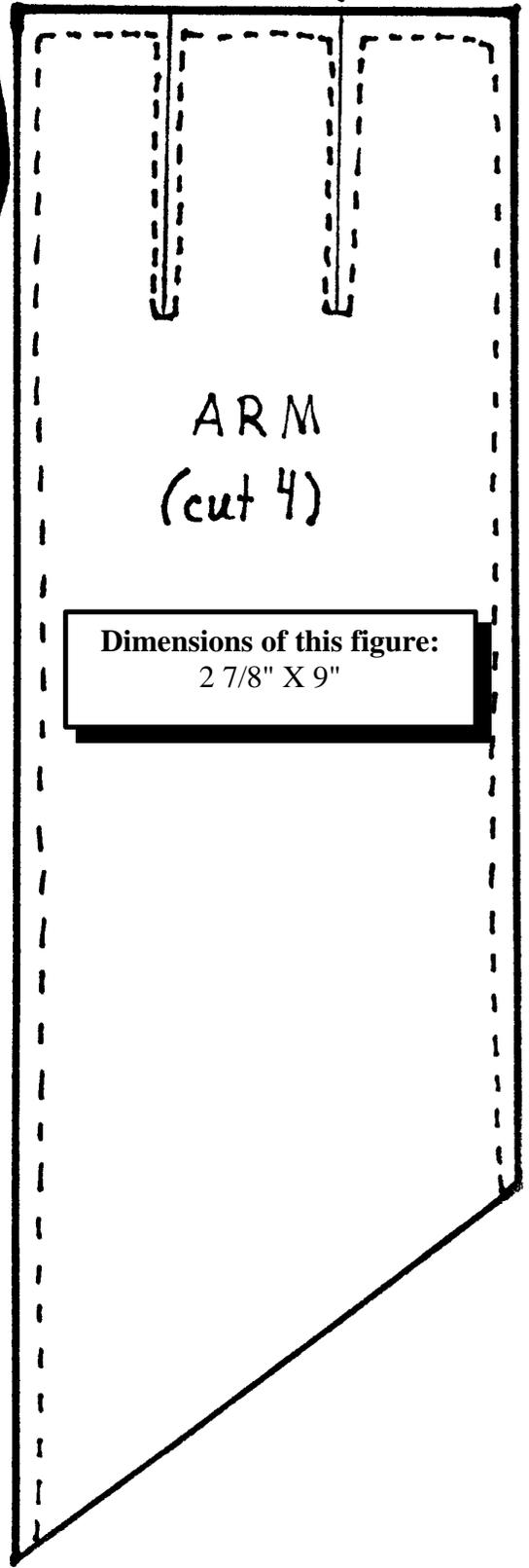
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→ cut after stitching



ARM  
(cut 4)

**Dimensions of this figure:**  
10" X 3 1/2"  
Fingers circle 5 1/4 wide.



ARM  
(cut 4)

**Dimensions of this figure:**  
2 7/8" X 9"

Shown smaller than the actual size.

BODY

BODY  
(cut 2)

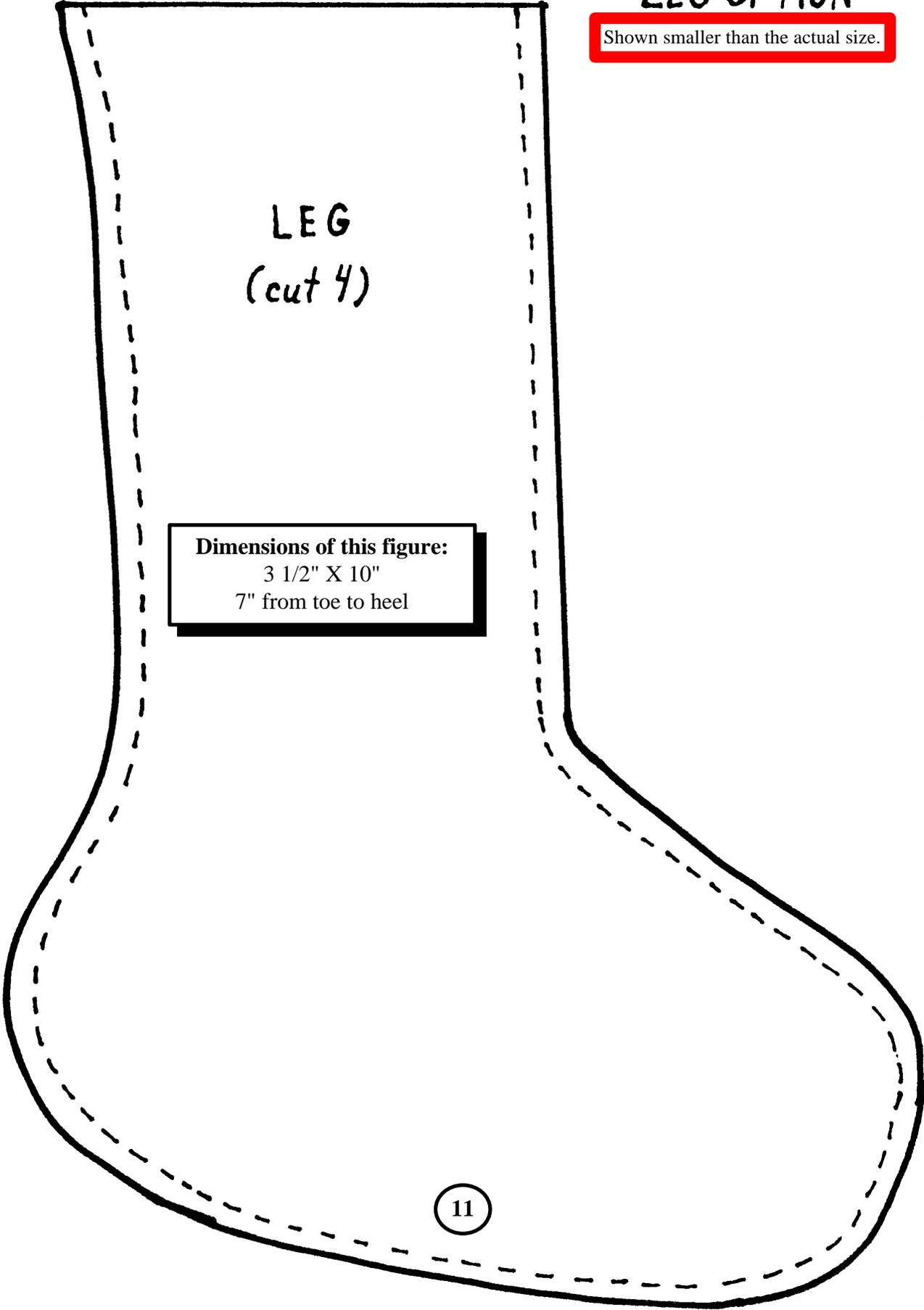
Dimensions of this figure:  
6 1/4" X 9"

# LEG OPTION

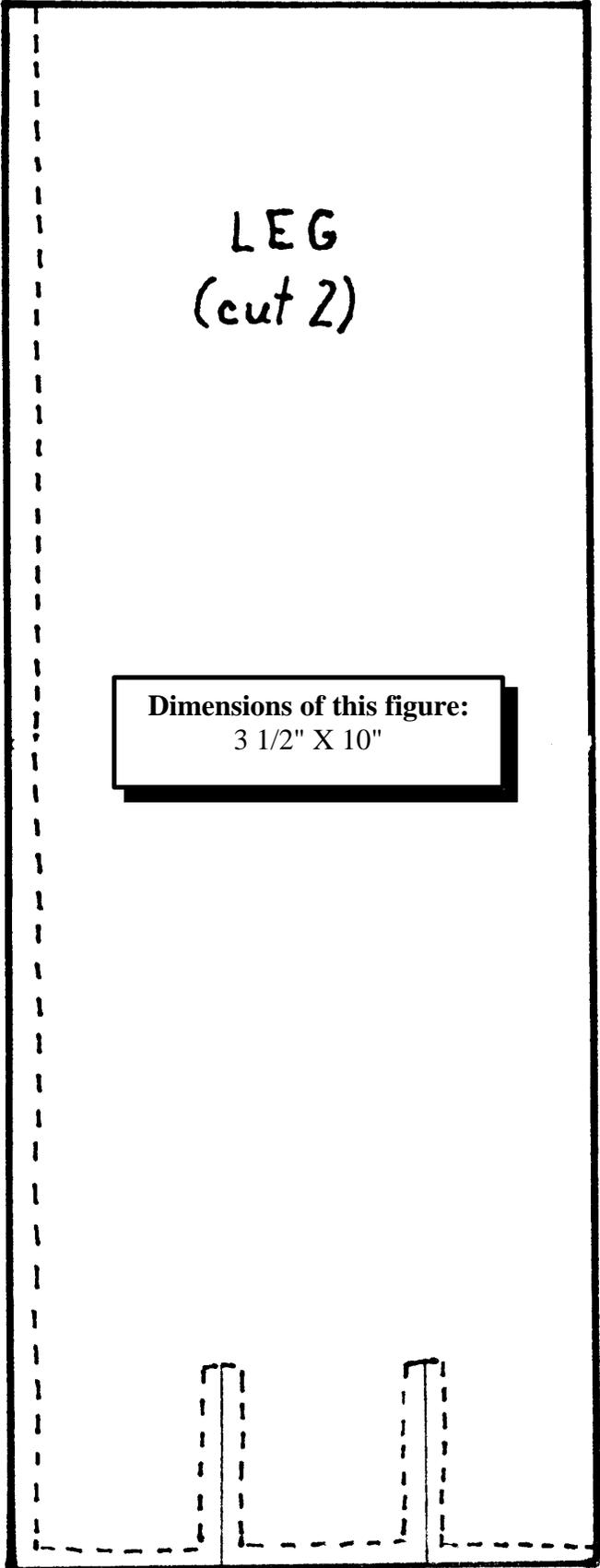
Shown smaller than the actual size.

LEG  
(cut 4)

**Dimensions of this figure:**  
3 1/2" X 10"  
7" from toe to heel



Shown smaller than the actual size.



LEG  
(cut 2)

Dimensions of this figure:  
3 1/2" X 10"

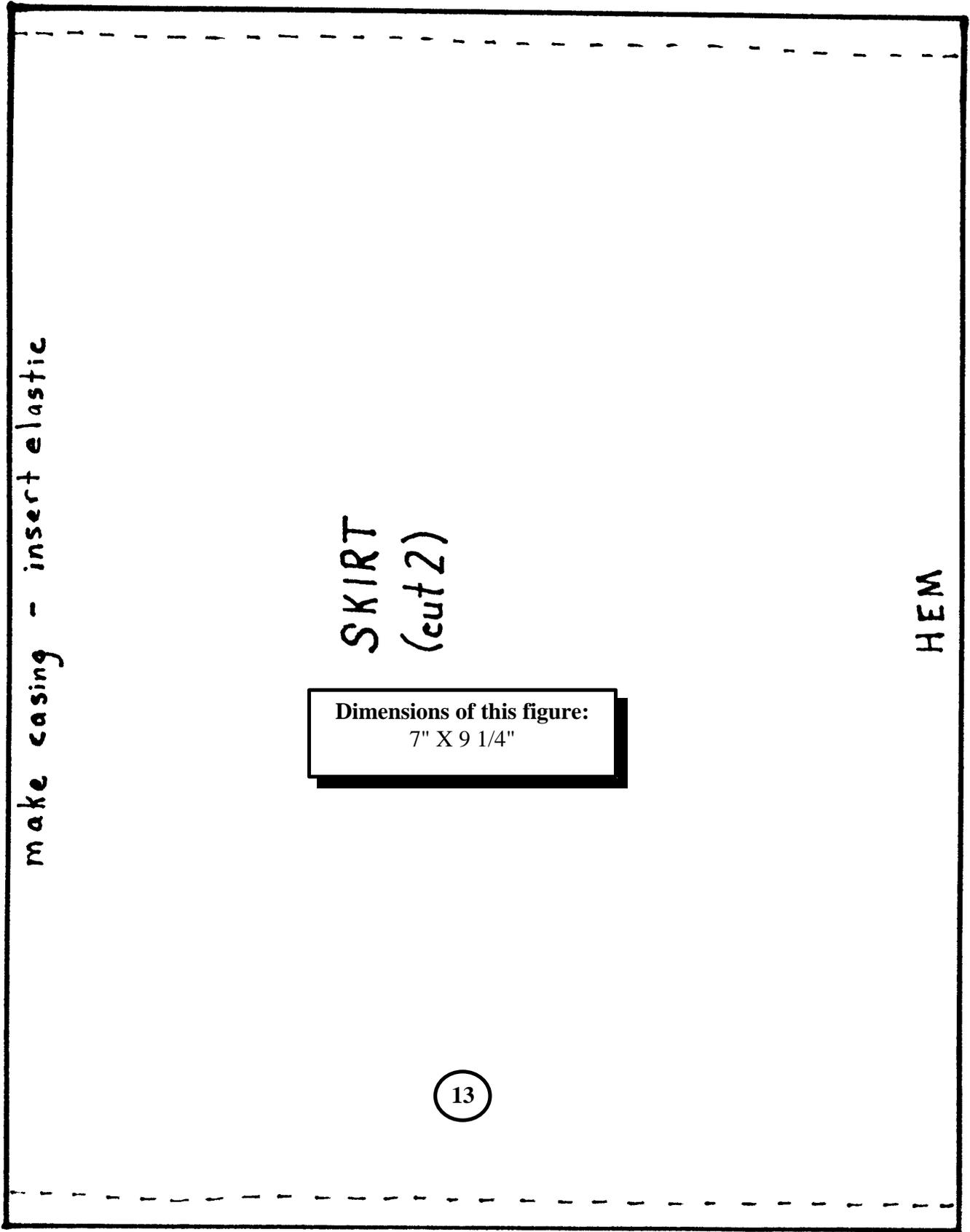
fold up

cut after stitching

Leg may be lengthened  
or shortened as desired.

Shown smaller than the actual size.

# SKIRT



make casing - insert elastic

SKIRT  
(cut 2)

HEM

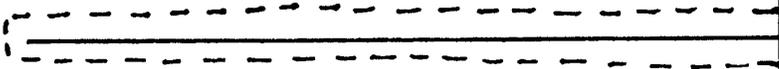
Dimensions of this figure:  
7" X 9 1/4"

Shown smaller than the actual size.

make casing - insert elastic

PANTS  
(cut 2)

Dimensions of this figure:  
7 1/2" X 9 1/4"



cut after stitching

HEM

HEM

# SHIRT

Shown smaller than the actual size.

Extend sleeve  
if desired

HEM

cut after  
stitching

Dimensions of this section:  
8" X 10"

Dimensions of this section:  
3 1/2" X 6 1/2"

SHIRT  
(cut 2)

HEM

# HEAD + NOSE

Shown smaller than the actual size.

B  
BACK OF HEAD  
(cut 2)

Dimensions of this figure:  
6 3/4" X 8 1/2"  
10 1/2" from point to point (top to bottom)

ears

D  
NOSE  
(cut 2)

Dimensions of this figure:  
3" X 3"

FACE

Shown smaller than the actual size.

ears

C

FACE  
(cut 2)

Dimensions of this figure:  
7 1/2" X 6"



Nose

center seam

Dimensions of this figure:  
6 1/4" X 3 1/2" X 5 1/2"

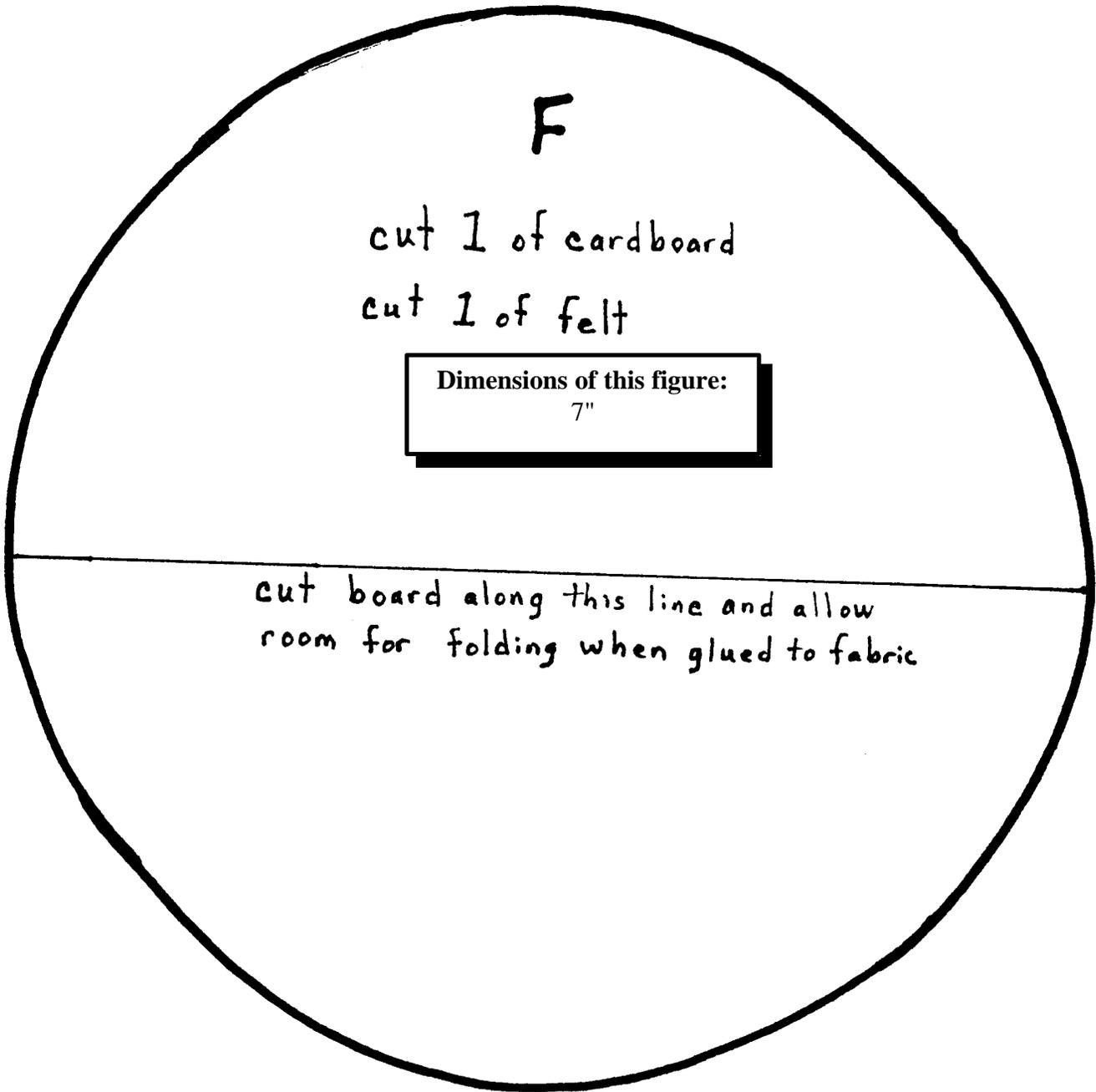
G

THROAT  
(cut 2)

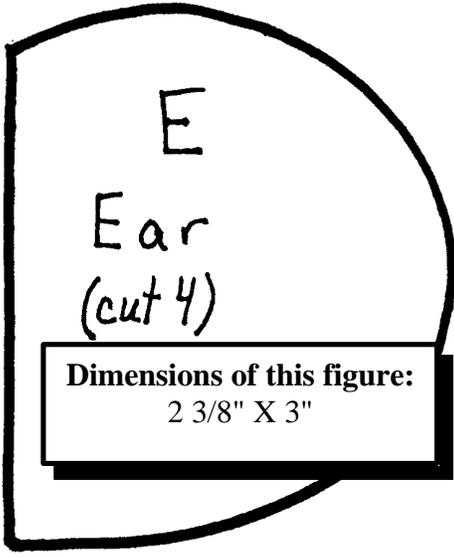
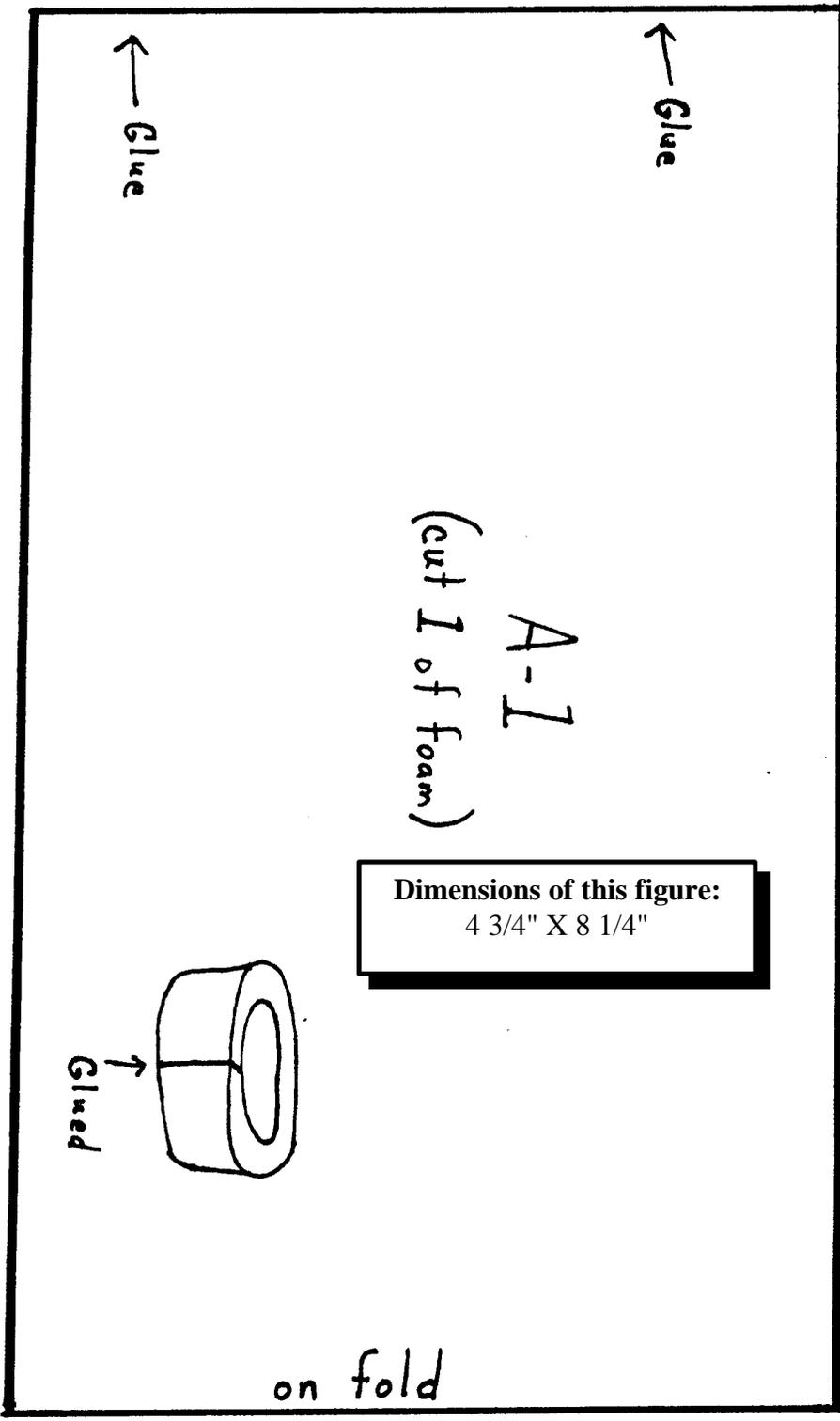
← straight of fabric →

corner  
of mouth

Shown smaller than the actual size.



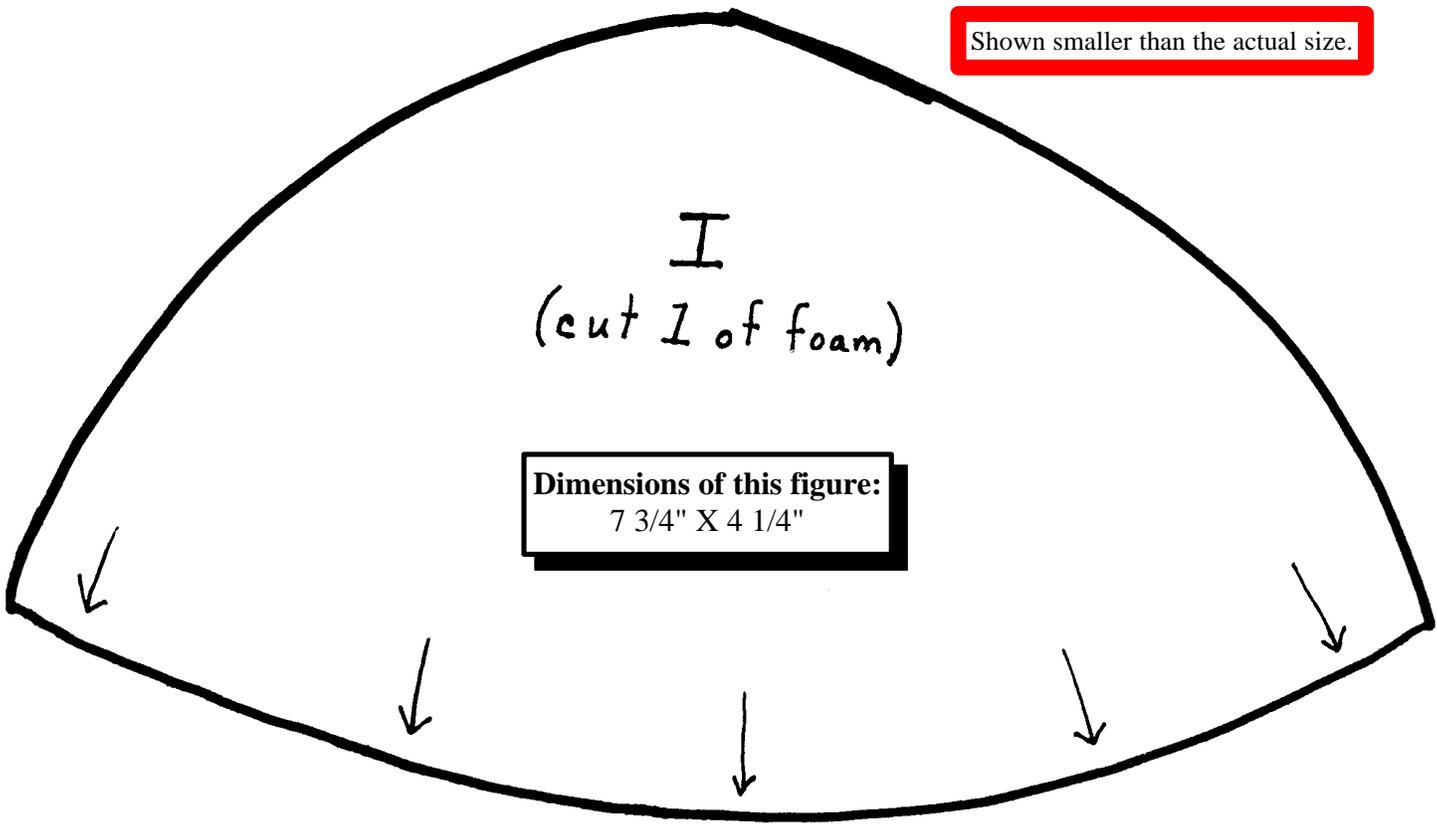
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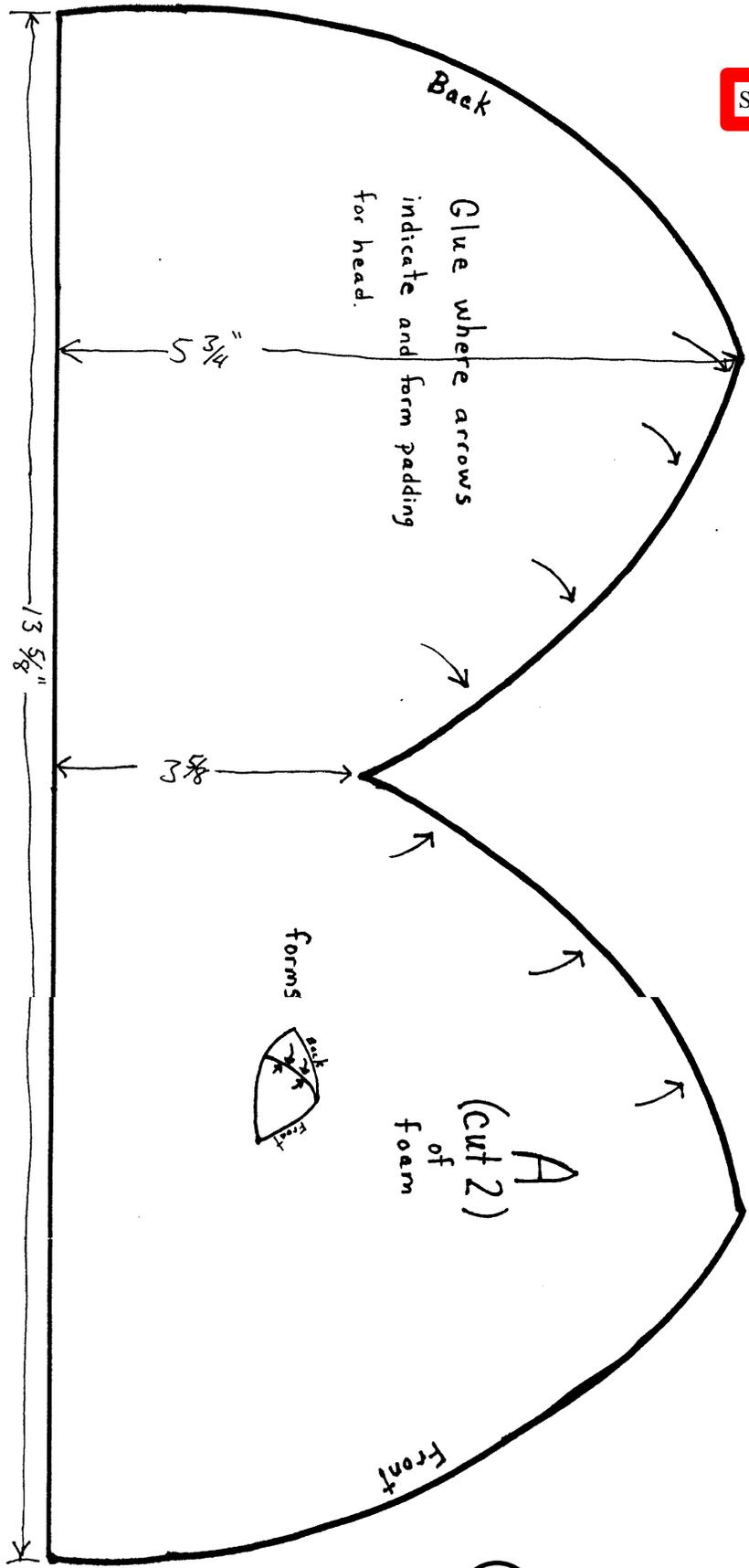
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I  
(cut I of foam)

Dimensions of this figure:  
7 3/4" X 4 1/4"

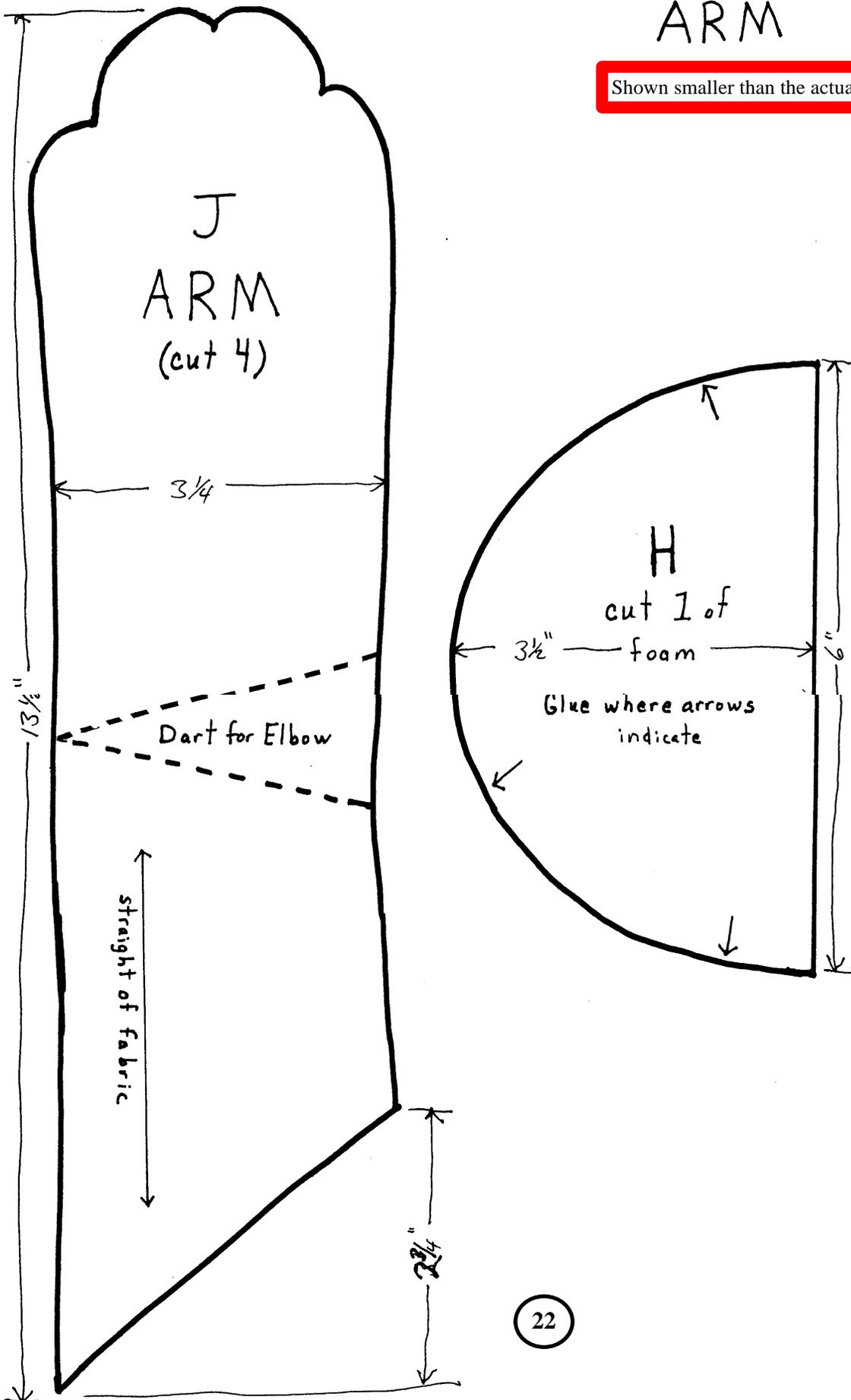


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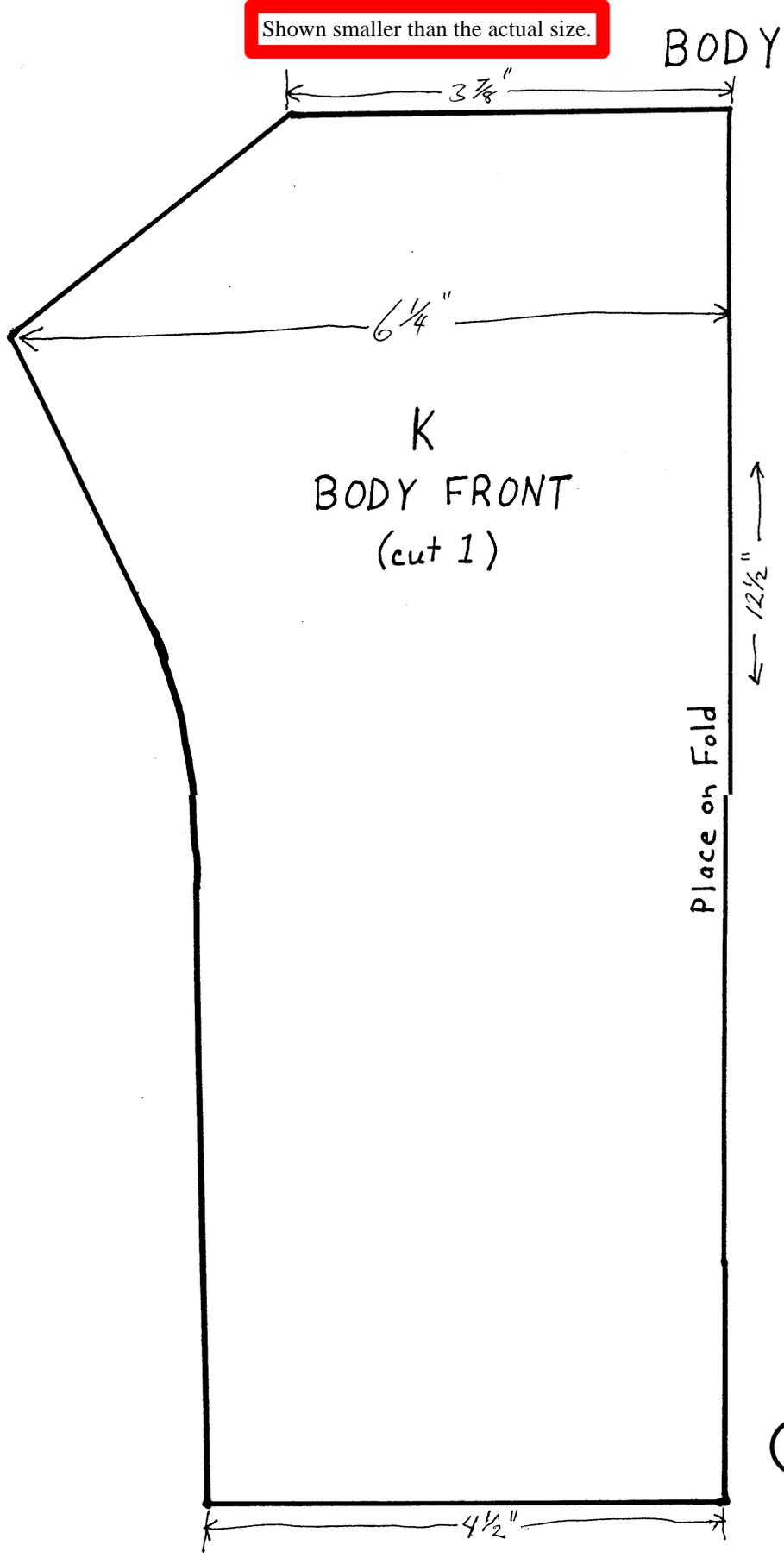


# ARM

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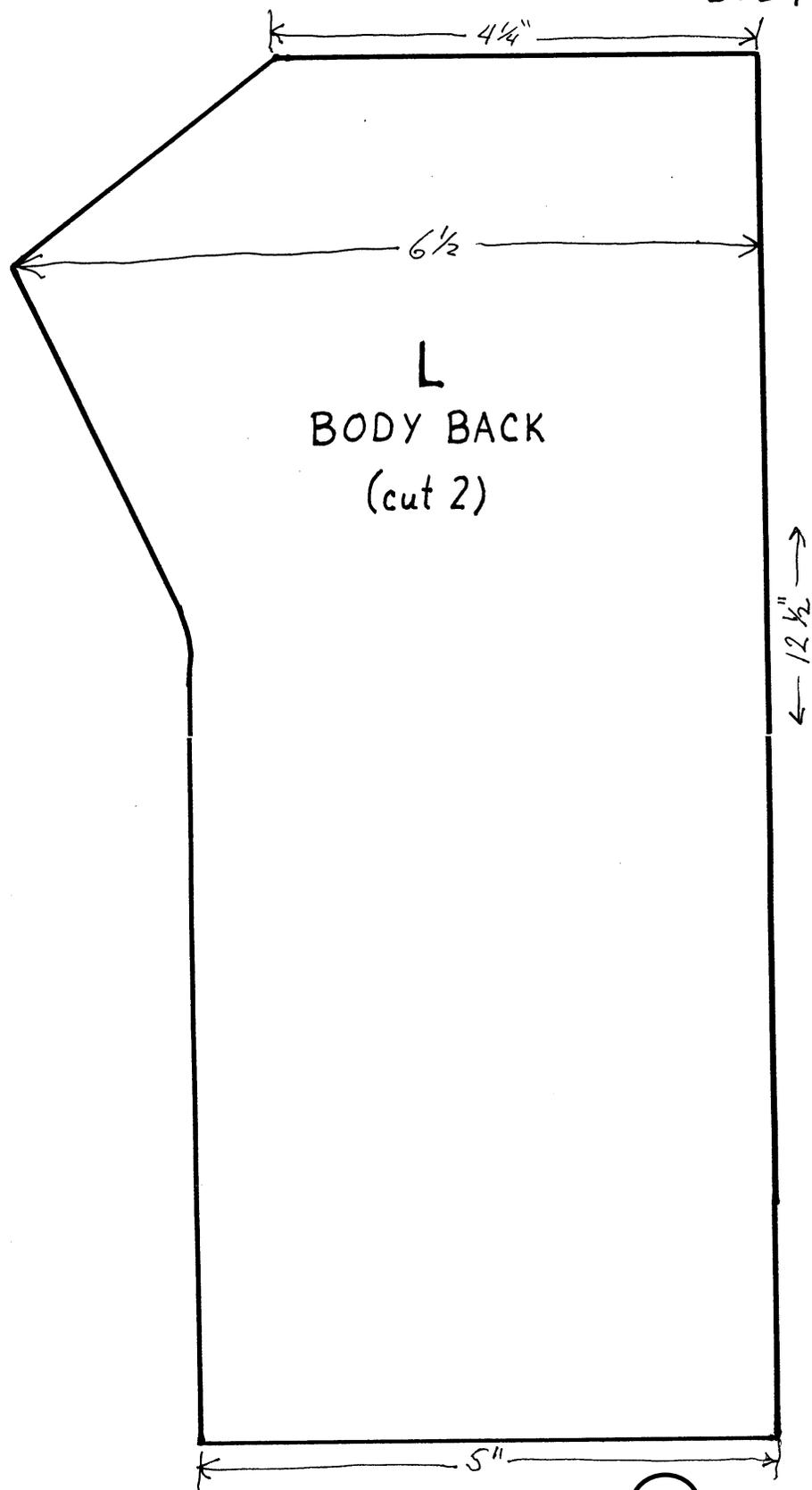


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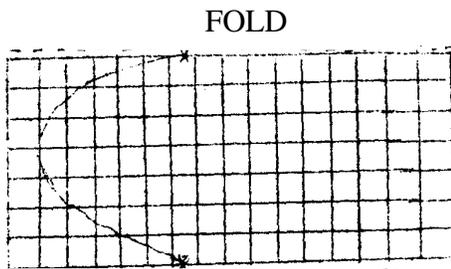


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BODY

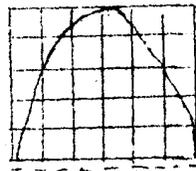


# Hand Puppets



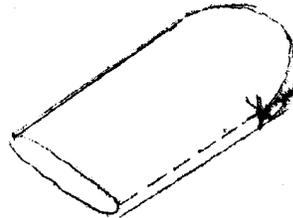
each square = 1 inch

A

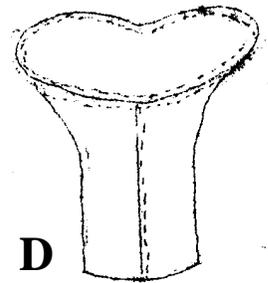


FOLD

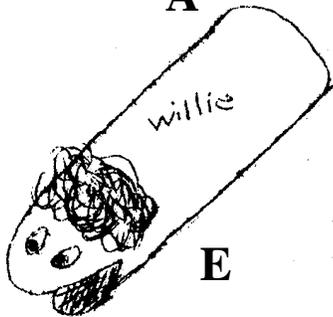
B



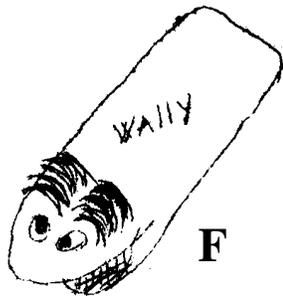
C



D



E



F

## Material:

1/2 yard material (makes 2 puppets), 1 pink material, thread and needle, scissors, yarn, felt or iron-on tape.

## Procedure:

Cut puppets from 1/2 yard material (a). Cut mouth from pink material (b).

Sew puppet body together ending stitching at X (c). Open mouth section of body piece and sew in pink mouth section (d).

Turn puppet right side out. Attach eyes cut from felt or iron-on tape. Sew on yarn for hair.

# Fist Puppets



## Material:

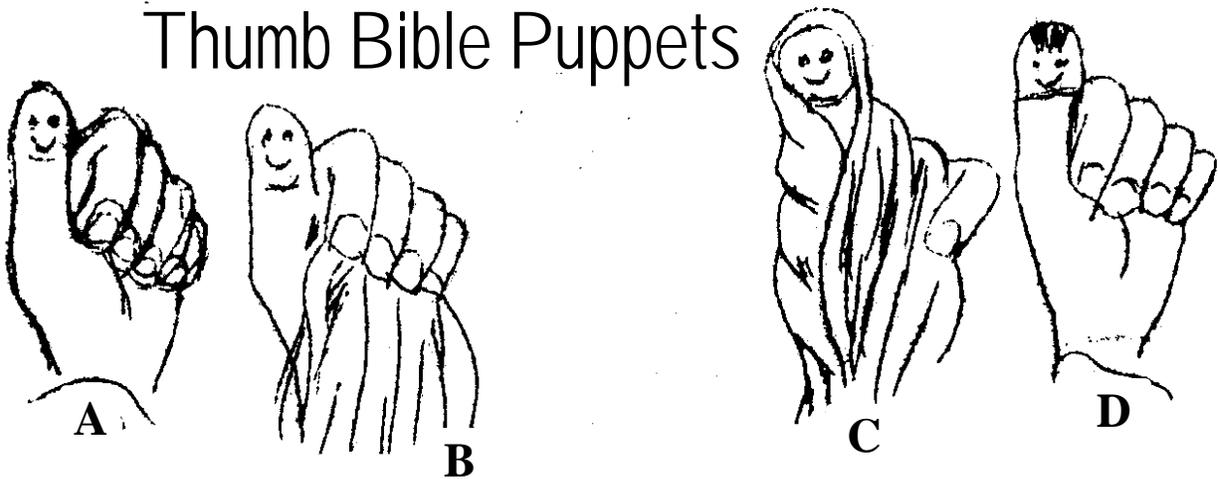
Water color paints and brush or colored pencils or lipstick or eyebrow pencils, yarn.

## Procedure:

Draw face on fist as in sketch. Draw upper lip on side of fist, lower lip on thumb, nose on first knuckle, and eyes above.

A wig may be made of yarn strands stitched down the center. Tape wig to hand or wind a few strands of yarn from wig around little finger. To make puppet talk, tuck thumb in fist and move thumb up and down gently. Add tongue by sticking thumb from other hand between thumb and fist.

# Thumb Bible Puppets



## Material:

Colored pencils, ball-point or felt-tip pens, one plain handkerchief or piece of cloth.

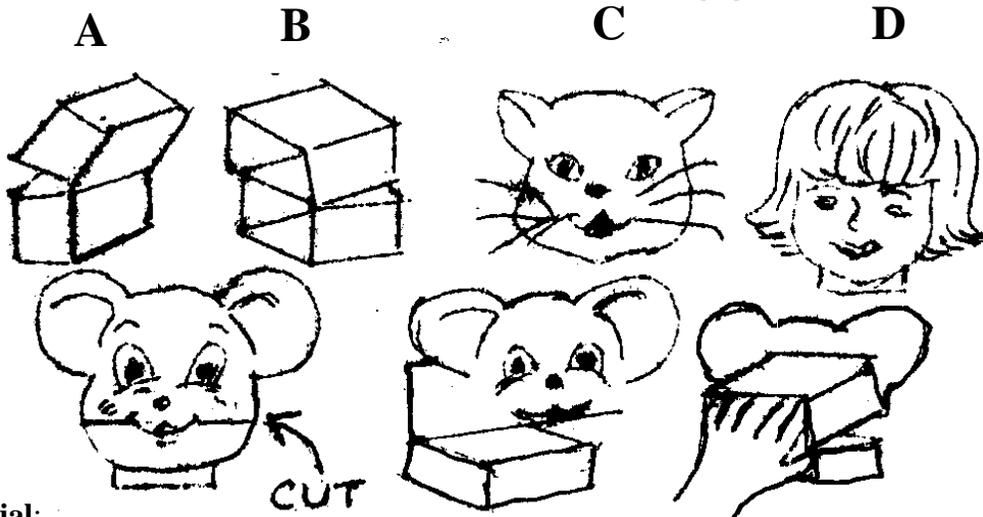
## Procedure:

Draw features of face on front of thumb as in sketch (a). Place one corner of the handkerchief or cloth between fingers and palm of hand as in sketch (b). Wrap rest of handkerchief around top and back of thumb as in sketch (c). and hold in place with small finger.

This puppet is an almost "instant" visual aid, usable for many stories.

Make modern boy puppet named "Tom Thumb" by wearing dark gloves with end of thumb cut out (sketch d).

# Cereal Box Puppets



## Material:

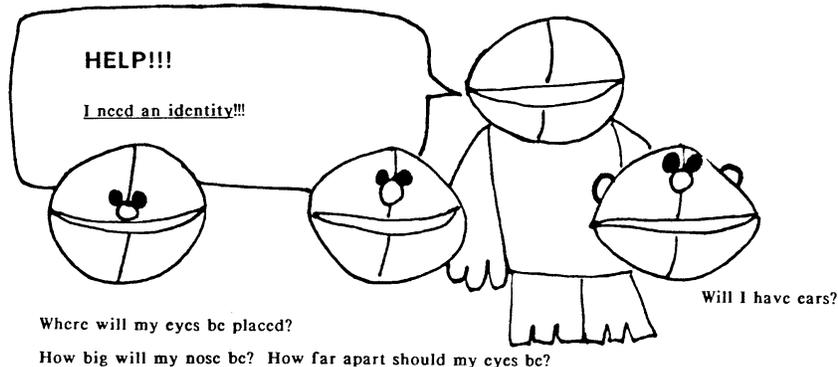
1 small (individual size) cereal box with both ends intact, 1 piece white construction paper 6X9", crayons or poster paints and brush, scissors, sharp knife, glue.

## Procedure:

Cut cereal box in half as in sketch (a) with one wide side uncut. Fold over as in sketch (b). On construction paper, draw face of person or animal using pattern (c) or (d) or other figure.

# *the Puppet Ministry*

How to start an effective Puppet Ministry  
by  
**John and Marilyn Lawrence**



And what about my hair and clothes? Shall I have glasses, earrings, buttons and bows?



What? No Socks?!

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