

Simplified Puppet Instructions

Notes: Sew with 1/4-inch seams. *

These directions are for making a single puppet. If you are sewing both Circuit and Sadie, you will need to repeat each step.

*These puppets can also be made on a serger.

Assembly

1. With right sides together, sew center seam of a Top and a Bottom, matching notches (See Figure A1). Repeat for a second section. You will have 2 sections for one puppet.

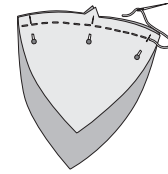


Figure A1

2. With right sides together, sew seams of Ears. Turn right side out. Stuff each piece with enough fiber-fill to give shape, but not so much to create bulges or stiffness.

3. With right sides together, pin remaining 2 Bottom sections on a side. The notch should be at the top. Sew seam. (See Figure A2). This creates the bottom of the face of the puppet.

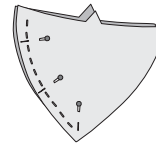


Figure A2

4. With right sides together, pin remaining 2 Top sections on a side. The notch should be at the bottom. Sew seam. (See Figure A3). Pin, then sew 1 Ear to each outside edge of this new top section, matching the dots. This creates the top of the face of the puppet.



Figure A3

Mouth Construction

1. With right sides together, pin, then sew the 2 Mouth sections along the straight edge. (See Figure M1)

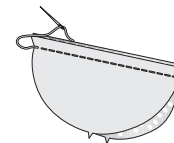


Figure M1

2. With right sides together, pin, then sew one side of the Mouth to the Bottom created in Step 3 of the Assembly section. Match the notch to the center seam.

3. With right sides together, pin, then sew the other side of the Mouth to the Top created in Step 4 of the Assembly section. Match the notch to the center seam. You will have created the face half of the puppet.

4. With right sides together, pin the 2 puppet sections made in Step 1 of the Assembly, matching center seams. Beginning 2 1/2 inches from the center seam, sew the 2 Tops together. Then, beginning 2 1/2 inches from the center seam, sew the 2 Bottoms together. You will have created with back half of the puppet.

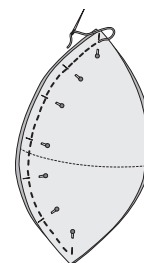


Figure M2

5. With right sides together, pin the face half of the puppet to the back half. Carefully sew the two halves together being careful to keep the remainder of the puppet out of the way. Check frequently to make sure no unwanted fabric gets in to the seam. You should have the outside of the puppet.

Lining

1. Turn the puppet inside out. Pin one Mouth Lining to one Mouth section. Stitching in the ditch,* sew the lining to the Mouth on the curved seam only. Repeat with the the other half of the mouth.
2. With the puppet still inside out, pin 1 Lining to the bottom of the puppet matching the dots and notches on the lining to the seams of the puppet. Carefully sew the lining to puppet, beginning and ending 2 1/2 inches on both sides of the center back seam. Check frequently to make sure no unwanted fabric gets into the seam. Repeat this process to sew the other Lining to the top of the puppet.

Finishing the Mouth

1. Turn the puppet right side out, forming a shapeless ball with Mouth sections facing each other inside “ball.” Place puppet on flat surface. “Open” the Mouth so that the confetti sections are facing up, forming a complete circle. Slide Cardboard Inserts through the opening in the center back of the puppet and into the “pockets formed between the Mouth and Mouth Lining. Pin each pocket closed, matching raw edges. Hand baste the seam to close the pockets.

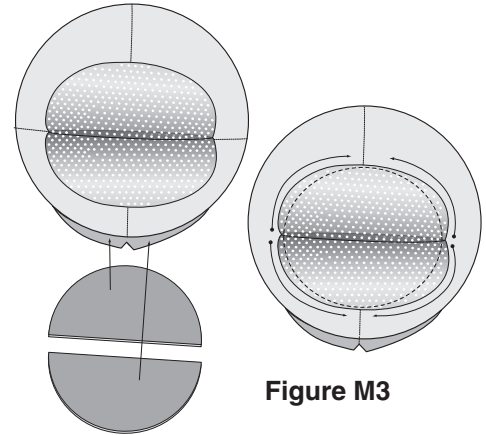


Figure M3

2. Reach your hand into the puppet and close the Mouth. Holding the Mouth closed with one hand, carefully begin pulling the closed mouth and cardboard (Mouth unit) through the back opening while manipulating the body over the Mouth unit. The puppet will end up being wrong side out and the Mouth unit mostly “outside” the back opening. This allows access to the raw Mouth edges.

3. Pin the raw Mouth edges together. Machine stitch a scant 1/8 in away from the cardboard, checking that the seam is even and no other fabric is caught in this seam. A zipper foot may facilitate this. It may be easier to sew the seam in two stages: from side to center, then from other side to center.

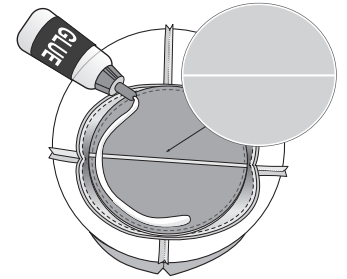


Figure M4

4. Manipulate cardboard through back opening, turning puppet right side out. Open Mouth flat and check seam to make sure it is neat. Glue Inner Mouth felt pieces 1/16th inch away from Mouth “throat” seam, centering it from side to side. Leave Mouth open until glue dries.

Stuffing the puppet

Stuff the puppet top and bottom in between the puppet and lining. Use enough stuffing to form a ball shape. Close the top and bottom seams by turning under 1/4 inch of both the lining and the puppet. Hand sew.

Continue with Step 2 under “Finishing” on page 110 of your Cosmic City VBS Director’s Guide to complete your puppet.

*—*Stitching in the ditch* is a method where you press seam allowances to one side and top stitch as close to the seam as you can. Stitching is actually done in the seam allowance.