

Making a Felt Elephant

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This project contains patterns for three sizes of elephants. One elephant for Florabunda or other 6½" to 9" (17 to 23 cm) small dolls; one elephant for Kitty or other 18" (46 cm) dolls; and one elephant for you.

Tools: Scissors, a needle, a disappearing ink pen for marking eyes and notches, a copy of the free download "Florabunda's Tools and Tips." and a stuffing tool such as a chopstick. A thimble and needle threader are handy if you like them and tweezers or a hemostat are helpful for stuffing, if you have them.

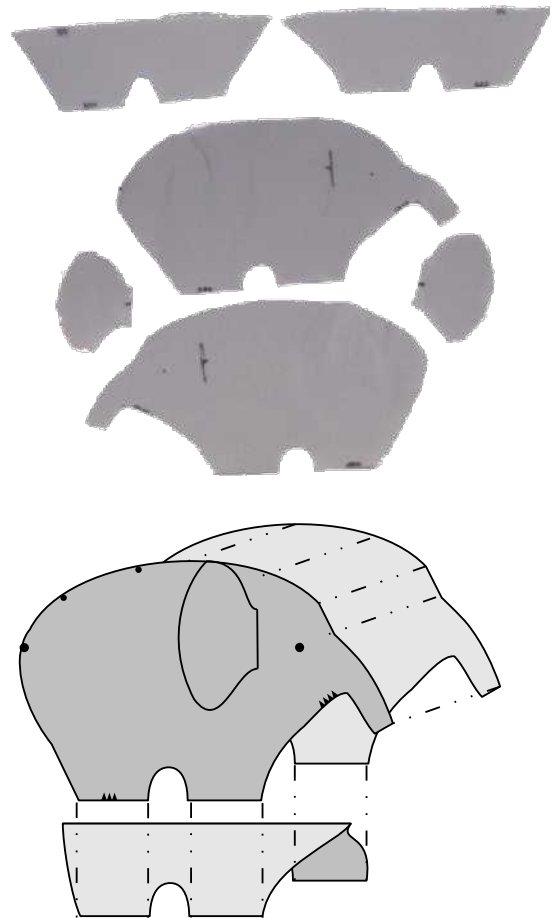
Supplies: Felt, matching thread, glue, polyester stuffing, a short piece of embroidery floss for the tail, and two ⅛" (3 mm) glass black beads for the small elephant's eyes, and two 5 mm wiggle eyes, black beads, or sequins for the medium and large elephants' eyes

It is probably easier to make the medium or large elephant first. The elephant pattern is a little harder than the other felt animals patterns, and I think that the larger pattern is easier to sew.

How to Make a Felt Elephant:

1. Clip out the elephant pattern that you will use. Cut out two felt pieces for each pattern piece. Mark the eyes, ears, and tail placement on each body piece, and placement notches on all the pieces. Use a disappearing ink pen to make all the markings. To mark the ear on the body pieces, draw the straight solid line and the notch to show where the ear goes. Do not mark the dotted lines that show the rest of the ear shape or the dotted lines that show the placement of the underside. I like to place the two body pieces facing each other to make sure that I have one left body piece and one right body piece. See "Florabunda's Tools and Tips" for marking tips.

2. Here is a picture to show how the felt pieces will go together to make an elephant. The dark gray shows the outside of the elephant. The light gray shows the inside of the elephant. To start sewing your elephant together, go to step three.



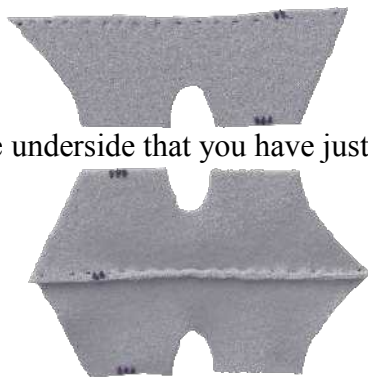
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3. Match the single notches and sew the ears on each body piece. Make sure that you have one left and one right body piece. Sew only the straight part of the ear. Leave the rest of the ear loose so that the elephant can flap its ears.

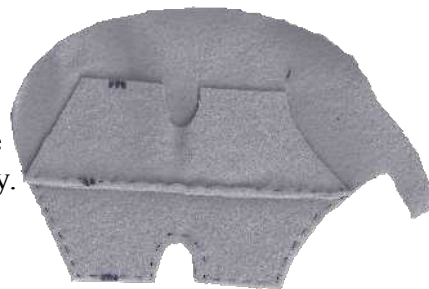


4. Match the double notches and sew the two underside pieces together straight across the top.

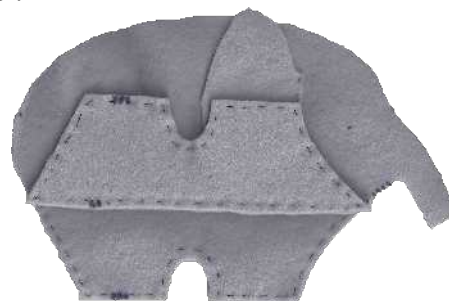


Open the underside that you have just sewn.

5. Match the three notches on one body piece foot with three notches on one underside foot. Sew two legs of the underside to the body. The underside is the elephant's tummy and the inside of its leg. Sew it inside the body.



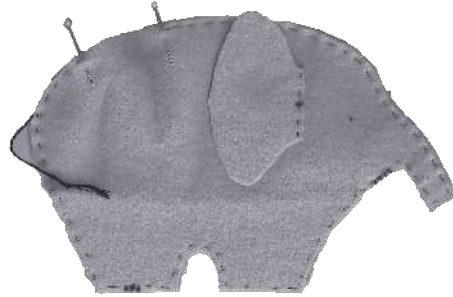
6. Match the three notches on the second body piece to the three notches of the underside. Sew the underside to the body.



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7. Use a piece of black 6 strand embroidery floss for the tail. Cut about 1½" (4 cm) for the Florabunda's elephant; 3" (8 cm) for Kitty's elephant; or 3 ½" (9 cm) for the your elephant. Tie a knot close to one end. Sew or glue the tail to one body piece at the tail dot. The glued edge of the tail should be inside the body. Match the two body pieces at the four notches below the trunk. Pin the body pieces together at the leave open dots. Sew the elephant body together. Do not sew between the leave open pins, yet.



8. Stuff the elephant through the stuffing opening that you left on its back. Sew the stuffing opening closed.

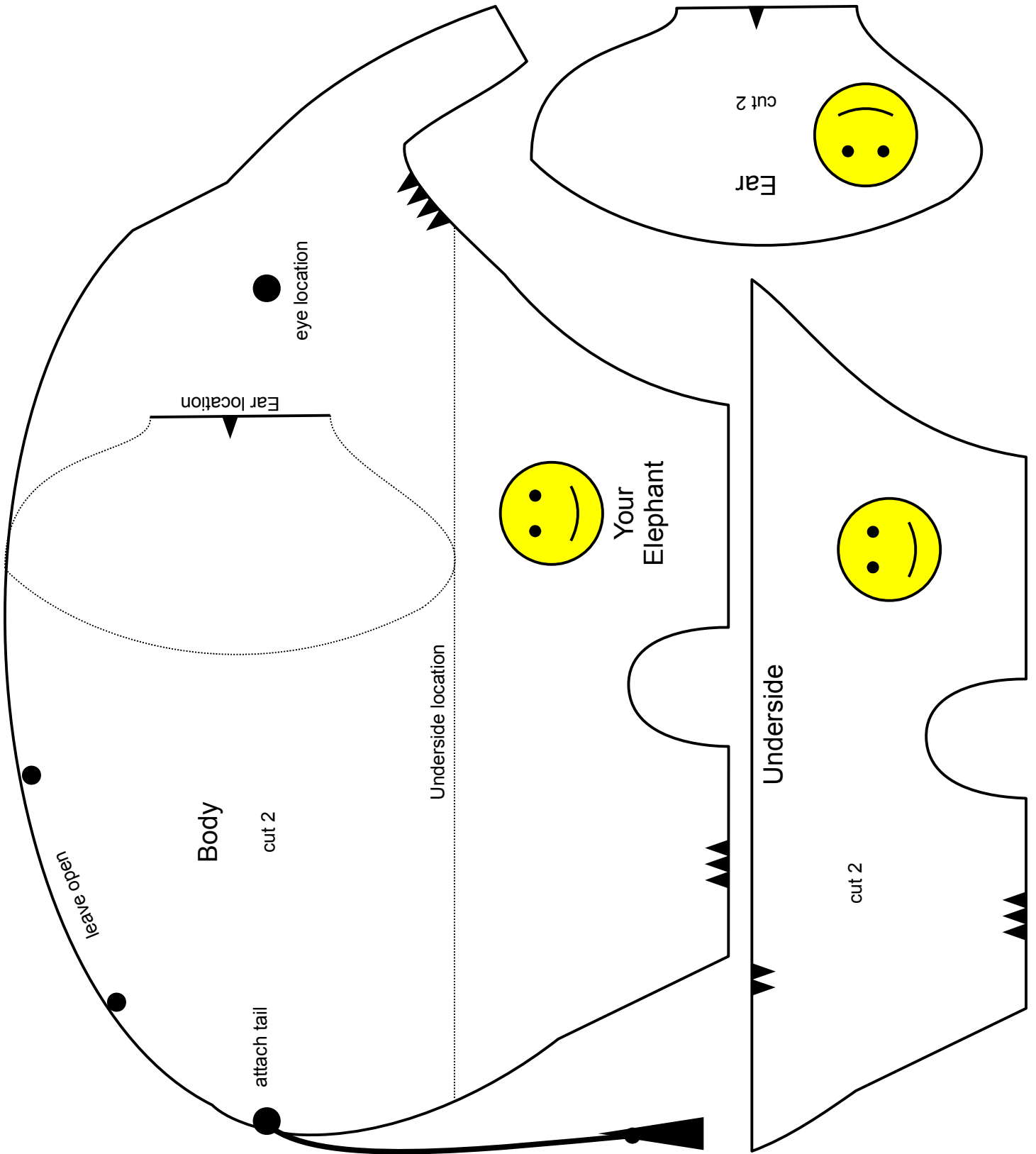


9. Here are finished elephants in three sizes and three interesting colors.



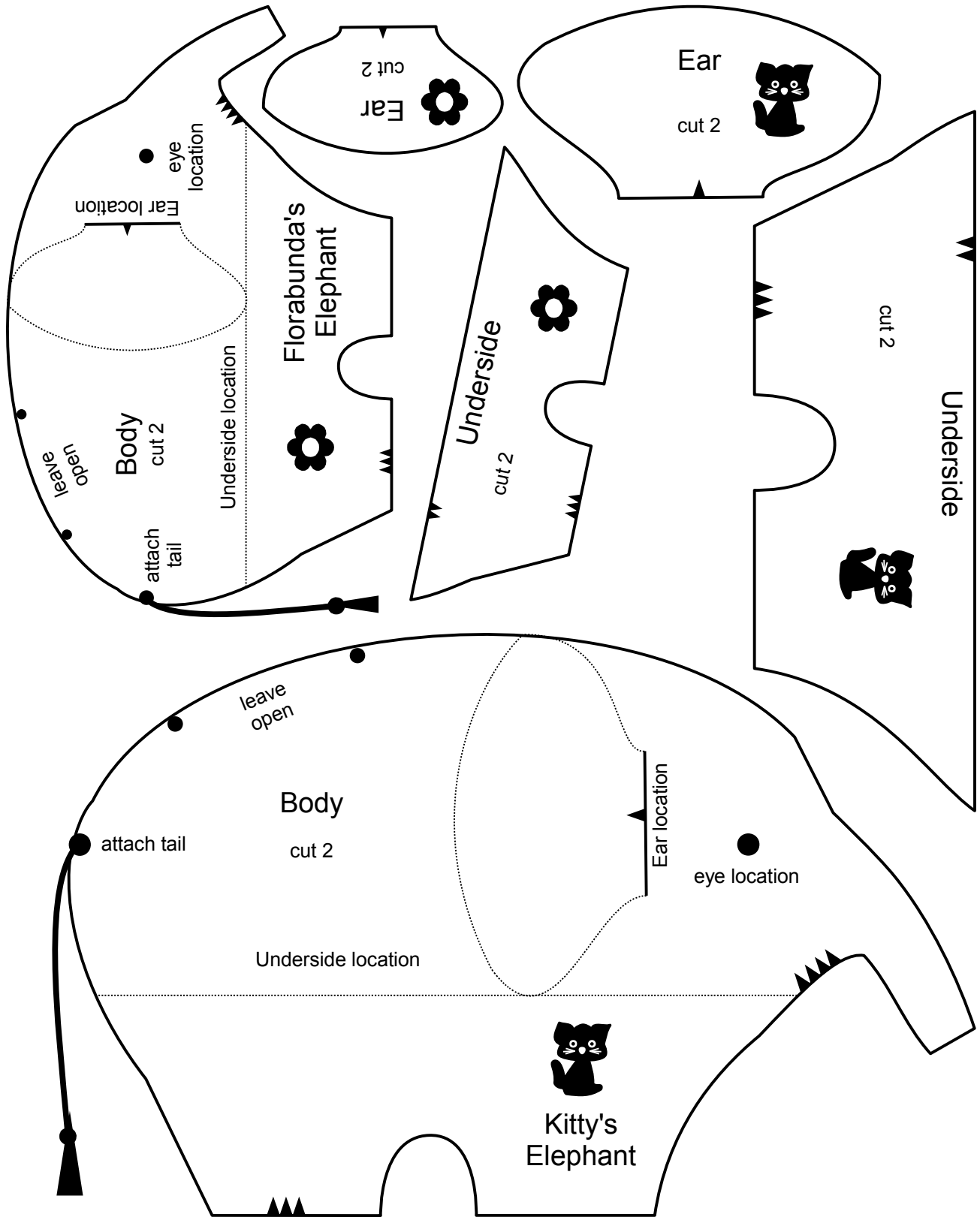
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The White Elephant (A Florabunda Funny Fable)

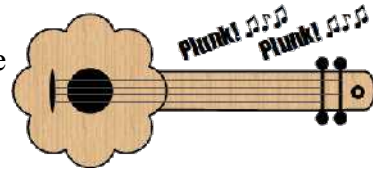
Long ago in a beautiful far away kingdom, there lived a princess named Abundance of Flowers. Everyone called her Princess Abundance, even though she wanted to be called Princess Flowers.

Princess Abundance of Flowers did very well in most things that she tried. She was a very good student. She could sing while she

played the national stringed instrument: the “plunk-plunk.”

She was good at games and ran

very fast. In her spare time she helped train the palace elephants. The only thing that she did not enjoy was sewing. She could cut a pattern out of fabric and sew a straight seam, but she never sewed anything. Her lack of interest in sewing made the royal seamstress very sad.



Now the princess's father, the king, owned only one beautiful and very young white elephant named Precious Pearl. Kings in richer kingdoms owned many white elephants. In those richer kingdoms, the prime minister and the under ministers had to be very careful not to anger the king. If the king was angry enough, he would give the poor misbehaving minister a white elephant. White elephants are very expensive to take care of. Soon the unfortunate owner of the elephant would spent all his money on the elephant. Then he would have to sell his house and move to another country.

The ministers in Princess Abundance's kingdom were not worried about making the king angry, because he had only one white elephant and both the king and the princess loved Precious Pearl very much. One day, however, the prime minister and the king had a very unpleasant argument. (No one ever told the princess what the argument was about.) The king became so angry that he said, “Respected Prime Minister, leave now, but come back tomorrow morning to receive the gift of a white elephant.”

Princess Abundance of Flowers had heard the sad tale of the argument many times that day before she finally saw her father at dinner. He looked very unhappy.

“Oh, my father,” said the princess, “I know why you are unhappy, but I must ask you if you told the prime minister that he would receive Precious Pearl herself, or just that he would receive a white elephant.”

“Oh my daughter,” said the king, “I only promised to give him a white elephant. I did not mention names, but my Precious is the only white elephant that I have.”

“I might be able to find another white elephant tonight. Please let me come into court tomorrow before you give the prime minister the gift that no one wants.”

“I doubt that you can find another white elephant in your bedroom tonight, but you may come to court tomorrow to see the giving of the gift.”

After dinner the princess went to her room and sent for the royal seamstress. The servants noticed a light shinning under the door of the princess's room all night long. No one saw the royal seamstress leave the room that night.

In the morning the princess ask for breakfast for two sent to her room. When she left her room to attend the royal court, she was dressed as an elephant trainer. She was carrying something covered with

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a large scarf.

Most of the royal court was already in the room. Princess Abundance walked over to her father and stood beside him. The king looked at his daughter and the scarf covered object. He knew that the royal seamstress had spent the night in his daughter's room. He was usually a wise king even though he lost his temper once in a while. Now he understood his daughter's plan and he smiled a tiny smile.

The prime minister, who had just entered the room, was not smiling at all. He really didn't want to own a white elephant that would make him spend all his money.

The King looked at the prime minister and said, "Welcome, oh honored minister. My daughter will now present you with your white elephant."

The princess stepped forward and removed the scarf from the cloth elephant that she had just finished sewing.

"Here is your white elephant," she said. "It was made by my own hand, although the royal seamstress did help a little."

Then the prime minister smiled with relief. "I thank you, Princess Abundance. What gift may I give you in return?"

"Yes, Princess Abundance" agreed her father. "We should give you a gift."

"Well," said the Princess, "You could call me Princess Flowers instead of Princess Abundance."



The moral of the story is:
Learn to sew. It comes in
handy sometimes.