

Rustic Reindeer Garland

by Jodi Massey of Mother Grimm

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Materials needed

- One fat quarter (UK measurement 50cm x 55cm 19 3/4" x 22") or co-ordinating material making up the equivalent of one fat quarter.
- 1 metre (39 1/2") of bakers twine in co-ordinating colour
- 5 miniature bells (I used liberty bells)
- Stuffing
- 80cm-1 metre Small ric rac ribbon, co-ordinating colours (5mm)
- 30cm crochet lace ribbon (1cm 3/8" wide), co-ordinating colours
- Optional -Mulled wine spices (other scents can be used if preferred)
- General supplies, co-ordinating threads, needles etc.
- A chopstick or similar with a round end for turning

Recommended fabrics

- The reindeer and sleigh can be made from most non-stretch fabrics. Thin materials are not suitable. Linen/cotton, quilting cottons etc. are the most effective. (I have not tried any other materials as yet. Please send me photos/details of other fabrics you try by email or Facebook).
- Pre wash and iron any quilting cottons used.
- If you are using directional fabrics then you need to be clever with cutting out your templates and folding your fabric. The instructions will show you how, as I have used directional fabric.

Preparation

- Print the templates out on thick paper and cut them out.
- If using one fat quarter then follow the laying out guide to make sure that you are able to cut out all the pieces.
- If using directional fabric then make sure to follow the laying out guide.
- Cut out all your pieces of fabric. Do not cut out the area marked between ★ on the reindeer foreleg until after you have stitched.

Difficulty

- This pattern is for sewists with Intermediate/ advanced machine/ hand sewing skills.
- You need to be familiar with sewing with small seam allowances.
- You should also be familiar with carefully turning fabric inside out through small openings without causing damage/fabric stress in order to attempt this pattern.
- You need to be able to sew precisely.
- Hand sewing skills are required.
- You can entirely hand stitch your Reindeer Garland if you prefer.

Laying out guide for striped fabric (can be used as a general guide for any fabric as well)

1. Fold the fabric so the pattern is laid on top of itself and meets up as shown.

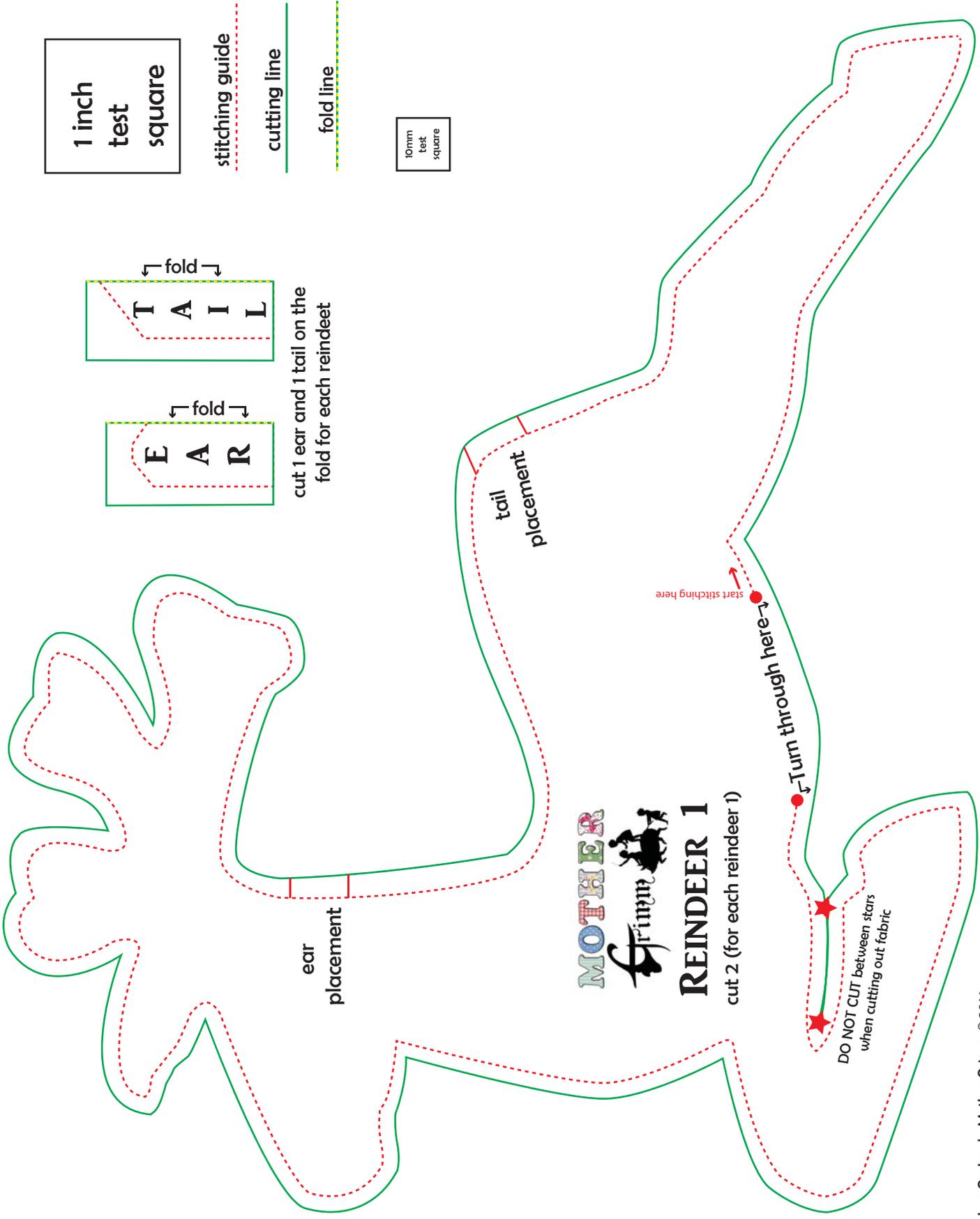


2. Cut 2 top deer out and sleigh only. The backwards facing deer & sleigh runner are only on this image to show where it will fit.
3. Take the remainder of the fabric and fold it in half so the pattern lines up on each side (the fold is on the right side of picture below).



4. Cut runner on fold and reindeer in the large free area
5. If you have lined up and cut correctly then your reindeer should have the pattern running straight along its back.





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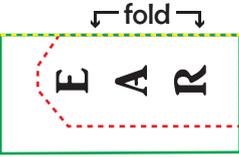
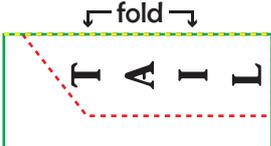
REINDEER 1

cut 2 (for each reindeer 1)

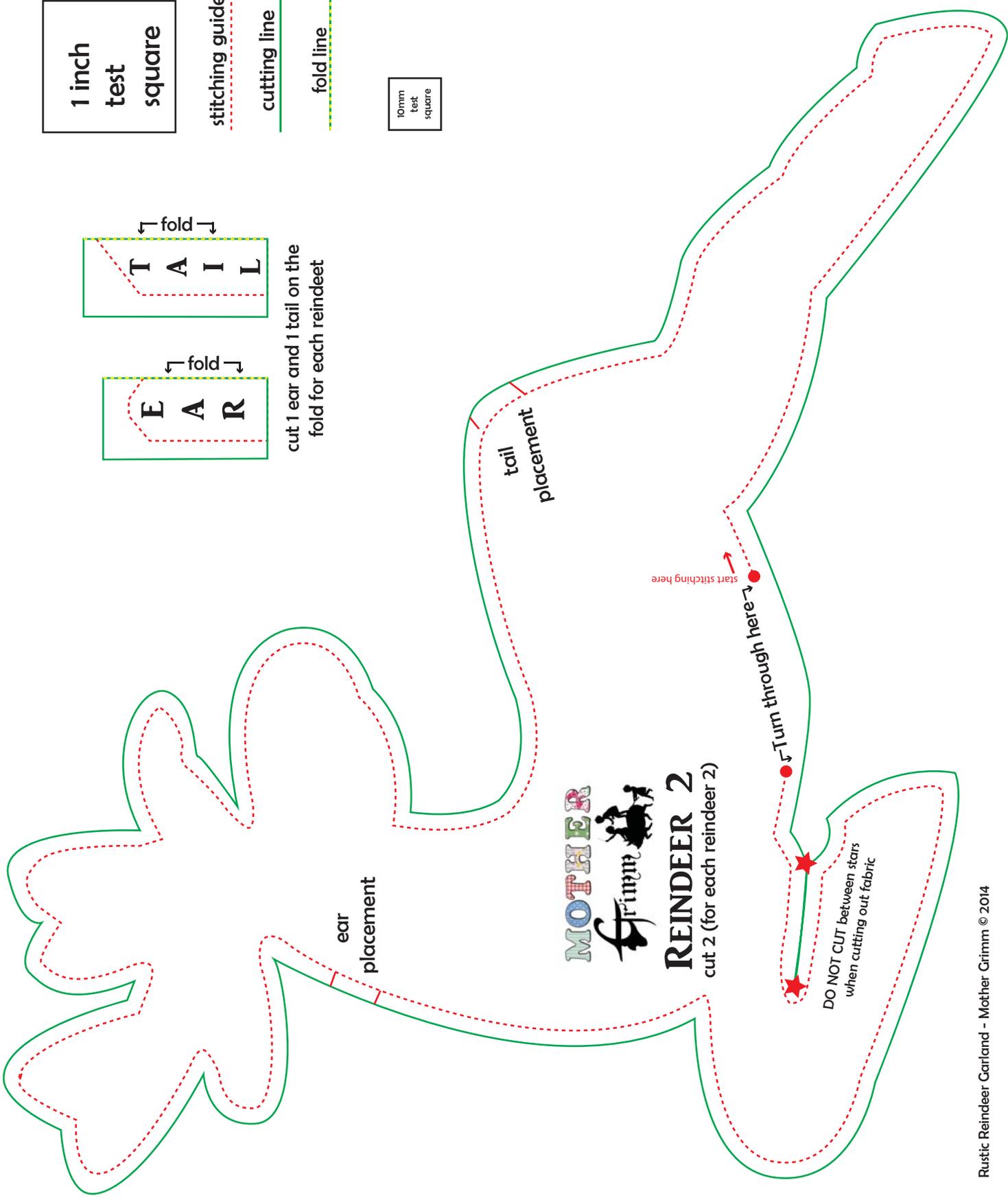
1 inch
 test
 square

stitching guide
 cutting line
 fold line

10mm
 test
 square



cut 1 ear and 1 tail on the
 fold for each reindeer

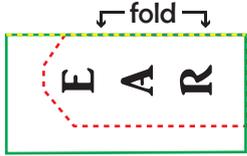
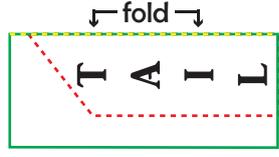


REINDEER 2
cut 2 (for each reindeer 2)

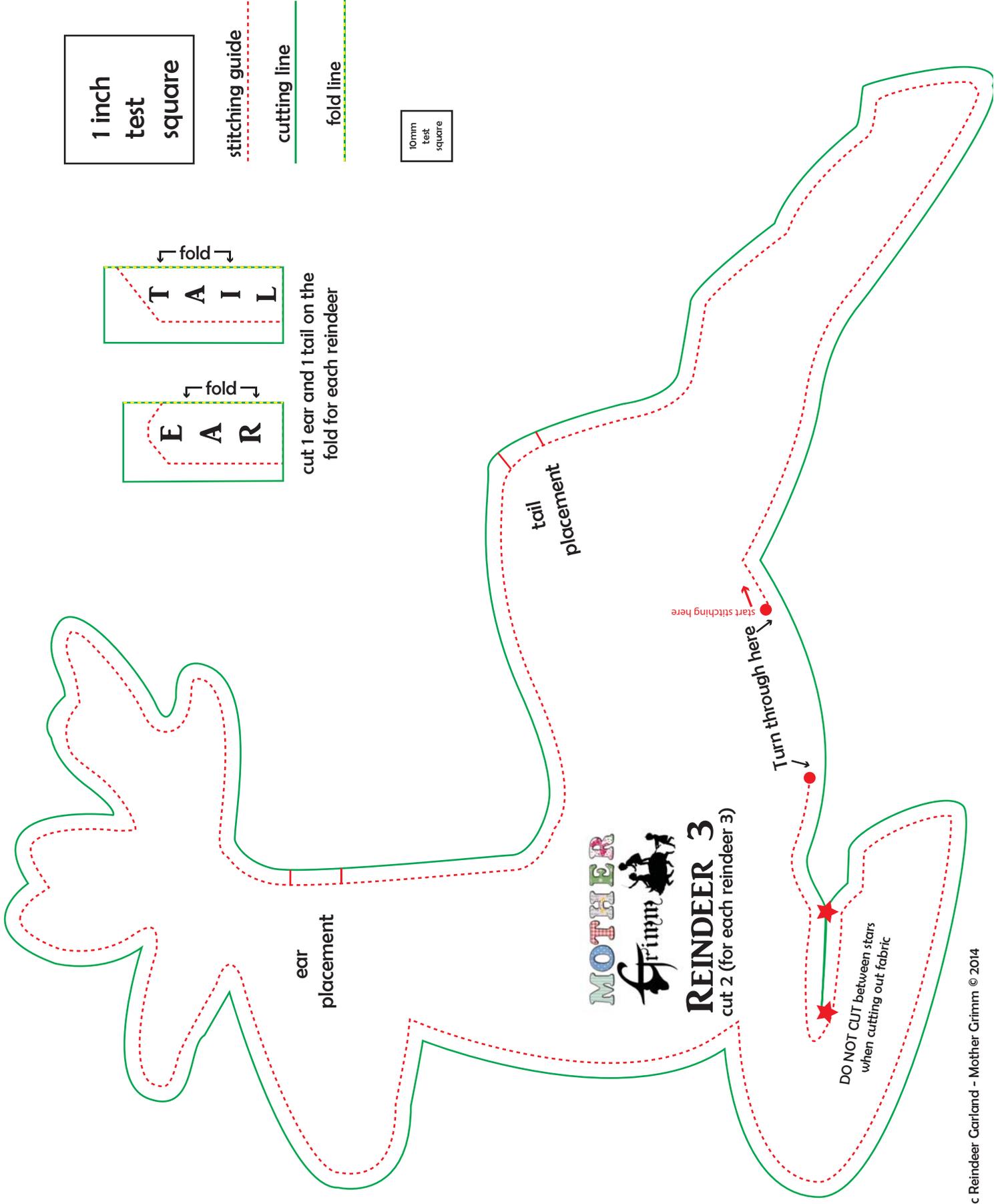
1 inch
test
square

stitching guide
cutting line
fold line

10mm
test
square



cut 1 ear and 1 tail on the
fold for each reindeer



REINDEER 3
cut 2 (for each reindeer 3)

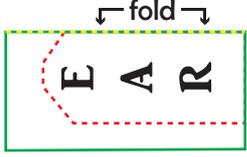
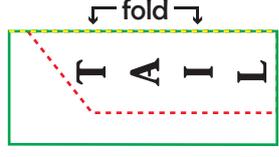
1 inch
test
square

stitching guide

cutting line

fold line

10mm
test
square



cut 1 ear and 1 tail on the
fold for each reindeer

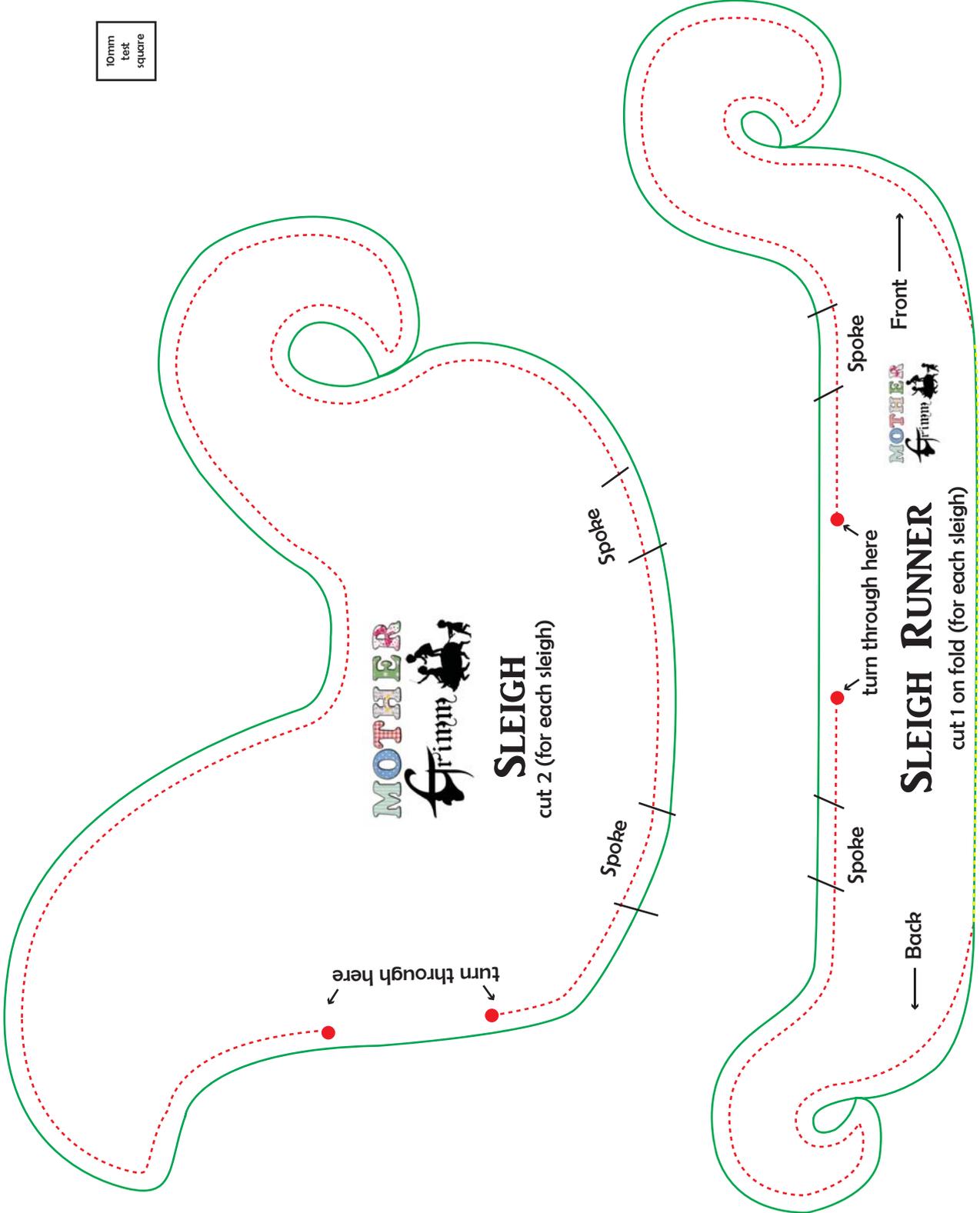
10mm
test
square

1 inch
test
square

stitching guide

cutting line

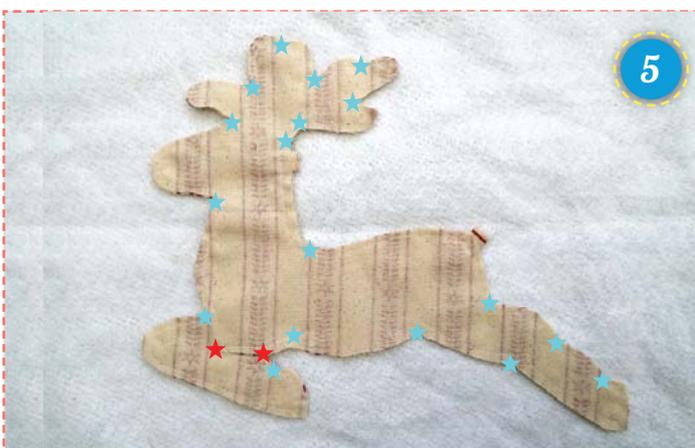
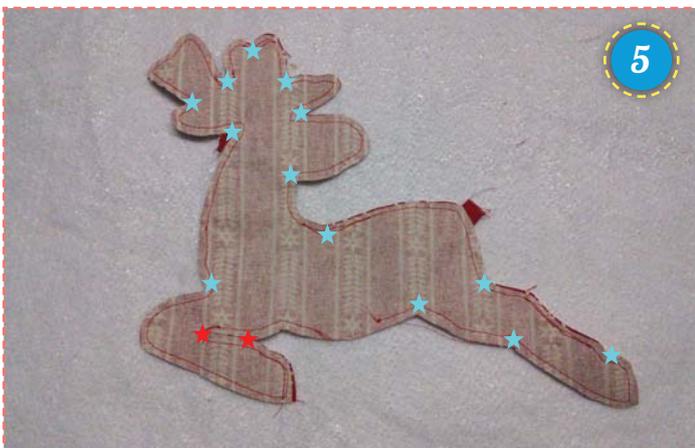
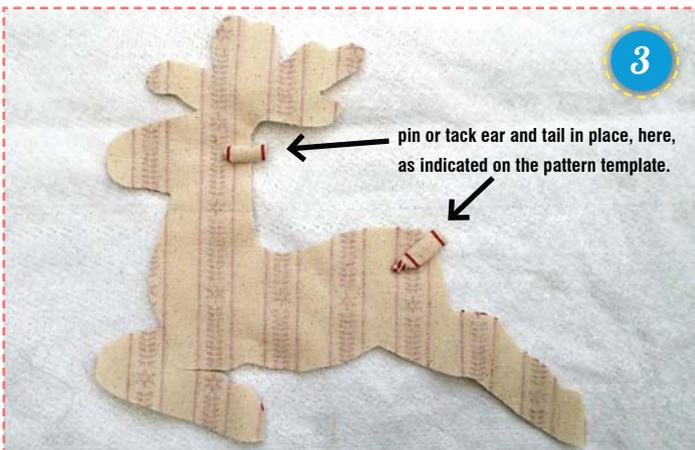
fold line



fold

GENERAL INFORMATION

- This pattern contains 3 reindeer templates. The reindeer have different antlers and one reindeer is facing backwards. You can have all the reindeer the same or use the 3 different reindeer in your garland; it is your own preference. Regardless of which way you go it should still take the same amount of fabric. I have chosen 3 different fabrics with the same theme and colours for my garland.
- If you wish to include a harness, then a crochet lace collar is best to allow the reins to pass through easily. You can use other materials if you like but this pattern will tell you how to attach the reins through the lace. (I'd love to see how you adapt this pattern so if you find something else that works, please let me know.)
- There is a very small seam allowance for the reindeer and sleigh, 3mm (1/8") and less around the leaping leg, antlers and sleigh curves. You need to be very precise in cutting and sewing to make this piece successfully.
- I use stay stitch on all my pieces to increase the seams strength and reliability.

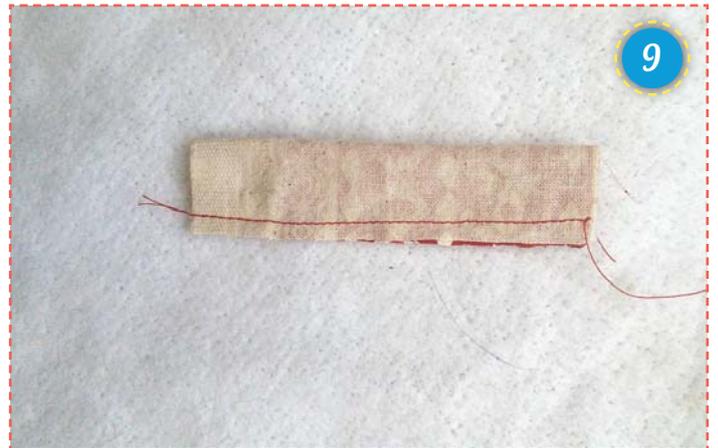


Sew your Reindeer - follow the same technique for all the deer

1. Sew your ear and tail. The pattern piece is a rectangle folded in half. Stitch as indicated on the pattern piece. Clip the corners carefully to reduce bulk and then carefully turn them inside out.
 2. Make sure your reindeer fabric templates are right sides together. Insert the tail and ear between the right sides of fabric in the positions shown on the template. Decide if you want the tail standing proud or facing down and place it accordingly.
 3. **OPTIONAL**
Tack/pin the tail and ear in place and tack/pin your reindeer pieces together. Face the pins inwards towards the reindeer's middle. You can forgo this step if you wish. I usually free stitch them together without pinning or tacking. It depends on your confidence and skill level.
 4. Sew from the starting dot as shown on the template (if your machine has Stay Stitch use it to secure your stitching) and stitch towards the back leg and follow the fabric piece around. Make sure that you have stitched the tail and the ear in place.
- Look at the template for a guide on how much of a seam allowance to leave. You will need to take special care around the antlers and the inner curve of the front leg to leave enough allowance but still be able to turn the deer right way out.*
5. Clip in at the points shown by ★ on the diagram above. Cut a straight line in the section marked on the pattern piece between the ★ on the reindeer's front leg.



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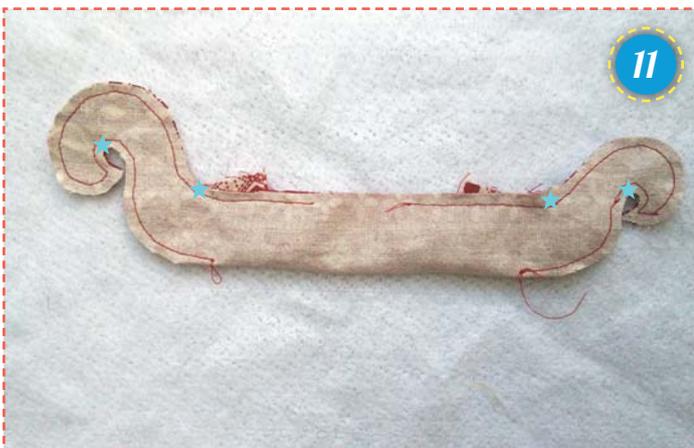


9



10

stitching line's



11



12

6. Turn deer carefully right ways out. I find it is easiest to start with the back leg, then the front leg, then antlers. You will need to be very gentle when turning the front leg to avoid stressing the seams.

When turning the antlers, it is easiest to start by pushing the head right side out (gently tug the ear up when you see it to help turn the head) and then working each antler out from the front to the back. Make sure you do not tangle the front leg and the antlers up when turning on the inside.

7. Once you have turned each deer the right side out then you will need to stuff them. Use small pieces of stuffing to gradually fill the antlers and front leg before stuffing the rest.

Optional

If adding a scent then put a small sachet inside the stomach area before stuffing this part.

8. Slipstitch the stomachs closed.

Sew your Sleigh

9. Fold the spoke piece of fabric in half (lengthwise) right sides together and sew using a 0.6cm (1/4") seam allowance along the long side to give a long tube. Turn right side out, then cut in half to give two spoke pieces (4.5cm / 1 3/4" long)
10. Open out your sleigh runner piece. Match the spokes as per the template (to get the angle right) on one side of the sleigh runner & baste in place. (NB The piece of white card is there to make it easier to see that the spokes are only attached on one side at this point. Where you stitch is indicated by the black dotted line on this image.)
11. Now fold the sleigh runner in half again, right sides together, keeping the spokes tucked inside and sew one half as shown on the template guide and then the other. Clip corners as shown on pic and any excess seams, including the spokes. Make sure you do not catch the free end of the spokes in the seam. Turn right side out. Gently push the front and back curves out.
12. Lightly pad out the spokes with stuffing. Do not stuff the runner yet.



13



13



13



13



14



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13. Take one of the sleigh sides and place the runner section on the bottom, right sides together. Take the template and line up the spokes in the correct place.

Alternate Method:

If you are not able to do this without distorting the runner then try placing the runner section on top of the sleigh and the template. Mark on the sleigh from the template where your runners need to lie. Then turn the spoke so its top edge is facing the bottom of the sleigh (the runner should be in the middle of the sleigh now). Pin spoke in place and flip it down, checking the position against your markings on the template. Adjust as needed. Repeat for the second spoke.

14. Now take the other piece of sleigh fabric and place them right sides together. You will need to tuck the runner inside carefully and make sure none of it is catching in the seams. Sew sleigh sides together leaving the hole as shown on the template. Clip excess seam, including the spokes and corners.

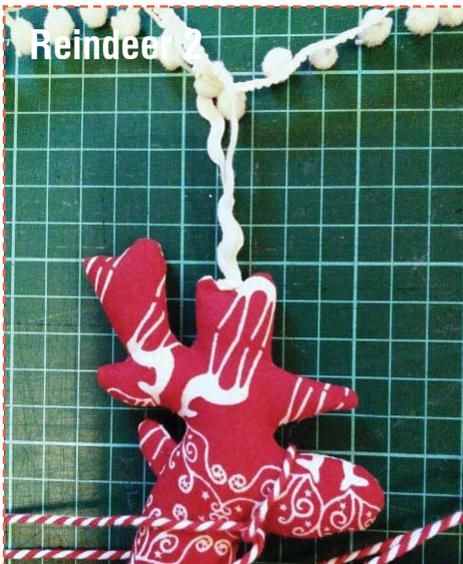
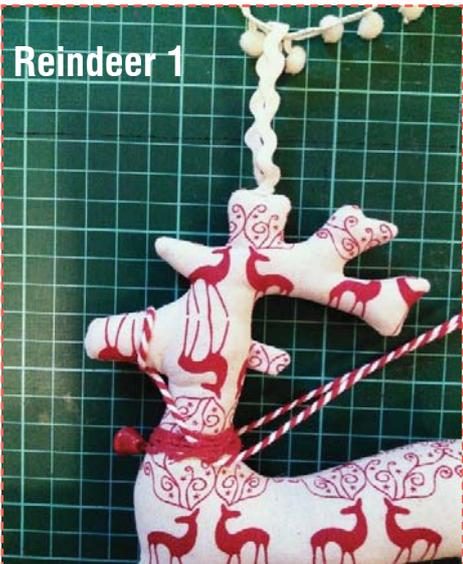
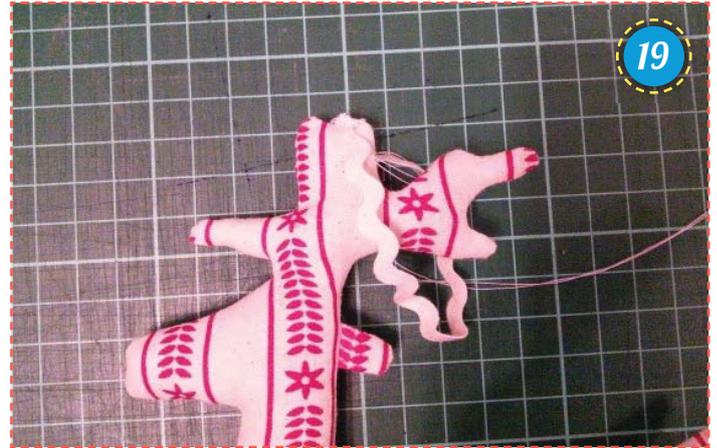
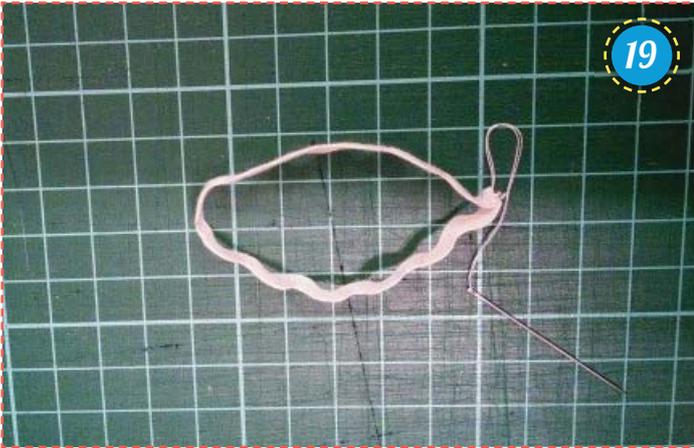
15. turn it the right way out and make sure the front curve is pushed out gently.

16. Now stuff the runner and the sleigh. And slipstitch the sides closed.

Optional

If adding a scent. Place it inside the main sleigh area before stuffing completely.

17. Your sleigh is now done!



Hanging the deer and sleigh

- 18.** You need to decide how far down the reindeer will be from the garland ribbon at the top. The hanging thread will need to go from the bulkier part of the reindeer's antlers and just up from the middle part of the sleigh. You will need to measure from these parts and calculate how long each thread needs to be for each piece.

This is easier to do after the reindeer have been finished as attaching the thread to the antlers before turning makes it almost impossible to turn them right side out neatly. You may try if you wish but it takes lots of time, patience and one wrong move and the fabric is stressed and gaping.

It is also better to do this before attaching the harness reins as it makes lining up the pieces easier. You can also decide if you want the front reindeer to be slightly higher than the sleigh giving an effect of leaping upwards or you can have them all at the same height. It's down to your own creative flair and what you find more pleasing.

- 19.** Hand sew the edges of the hanging ribbon together at the bottom and then turn inwards. Sew across to neaten and then attach the hanging ribbon to the deer or sleigh in the indicated positions as shown in the pictures. (NB Photos have been taken on cutting board so you can see the approximate lengths I use).



Attaching the Harness

20. Take your lace and measure it around the reindeer's neck for a collar. You want a small overlap but not too much bulk.

It looks better if you angle the collar from the neck down towards the front but this is personal preference.

Hand stitch the lace in place, folding under and stitching a small seam allowance at each edge for neatness.

I generally just stitch around the top of the collar and then stitch the edge to the collar for neatness and to prevent fraying.



21. Repeat with other reindeer. Add a bell to the front of each collar.

22. Take about a metre (39") of the bakers twine.

Make a small loop in the middle and put this over the lead reindeer's nose.

Feed the two ends of the twine into the collar, one on each side.

23. Tie another loop in one side of the twine around the second reindeer's nose, feed this through the collar. The other piece of twine should just feed into the reindeer's collar and out again.

Repeat this for the third reindeer.



24. Wrap the ends of the twine gently around the front of the sleigh until you are happy.

You can tie a bow or any knot you like to secure. I prefer to just wrap around twice and then tie.

Snip off any excess twine and tie a knot in each end.



You are done! Sit back and wait for Santa to hitch a ride and deliver your presents (if you've been good)

