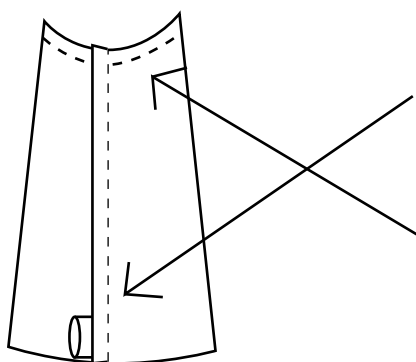


Stripe-y Patchwork Cat

by Michelle Russell
Green Kitchen



Materials:

Fabrics (4 colors, two lights & two darks)
Felt (3 colors)
Poly-fil
Embroidery floss (3 colors)
Iron-on interfacing
Thread

General info:

Seam allowances are 1/2 inch.

NOTE: This is free pattern. Make them for yourself or as gifts. Please do not sell toys made from this pattern.

1: Choose fabrics

Choose fabrics in colors and textures of your choice. I used loosely woven garment-type fabrics (think sport coats and wool skirts) in blues and oranges, two tones of each color.

2: Cut strips

Randomly cut strips of fabric. You'll want some wider and some narrow pieces. They don't have to be rectangles, they can be trapezoids or even trapeziums (just learned that word). No need to worry about super straight lines.

3: Sew strips

You *don't* have to measure, keep regular seam allowances, or sew straight lines -- some of my lines were even curvy. You *do* need to pay attention to color layout and strip widths. I wanted a wider strip around the cat's face, smaller for the neck area, and wider for the body. Make sure you have enough fabric for both the body and the tail piece. Remember, the pattern piece for the body is placed on a fold, so you will need twice as much as the body pattern piece, plus some for the tail.

4: Trim seams

Trim up the backside of the patchwork fabric with pinking shears. My seams were trimmed to anywhere between 1/4 and 1/2 inches.

5: Add interfacing

Iron on interfacing to the wrong side of the patchwork to secure the seams. This also helps the cat have girdle-like support, so that some fabrics don't bulge more than others when stuffed.

6: Cut out body, tail, and base

Before cutting your fabric, make sure that you have enough patchwork for both the cat body and the tail. If your fabric is too thick to fold easily, you can make two copies of the body pattern and tape them together at the dotted line. Then, you can lay the whole pattern out flat. Pay attention to pattern placement on your patchwork so that you get the face where you want it. The base piece should be cut from a solid piece of fabric, not patchwork, so that it sits flatter.

7: Cut out face pieces

The face pieces are all felt. Cut them out and place aside to sew on after the body is put together.

8: Sew tail

Fold in half vertically with right sides together. Sew from base to tip of tail. Trim seam with pinking shears to 1/4 or less. Turn right side out. This is a little tricky. Use a chopstick or other blunt tool to help push it through.

9: Sew back seam

From the top, sew down to almost the bottom (see body pattern for placement). Leave needle in fabric and lift foot. Put the tail into position to finish off the seam. The tail will be pointed toward the inside. Finish the seam by sewing over the tail. It's OK if the stripes don't match up.

10: Sew top seam

Flatten cat so that the back seam is centered. Make sure the tail is out of the way. Sew curved seam at the top. This makes the shape of the ears. Trim off points.

11: Turn right side out

Turn right side out and see how your cat looks. Now is the time to make any adjustments.

12: Stuff

Fill your cat with poly-fil or other stuffing.

13: Sew on base

Hand stitch, turning in seam allowance as you go, the base of the cat to the body.

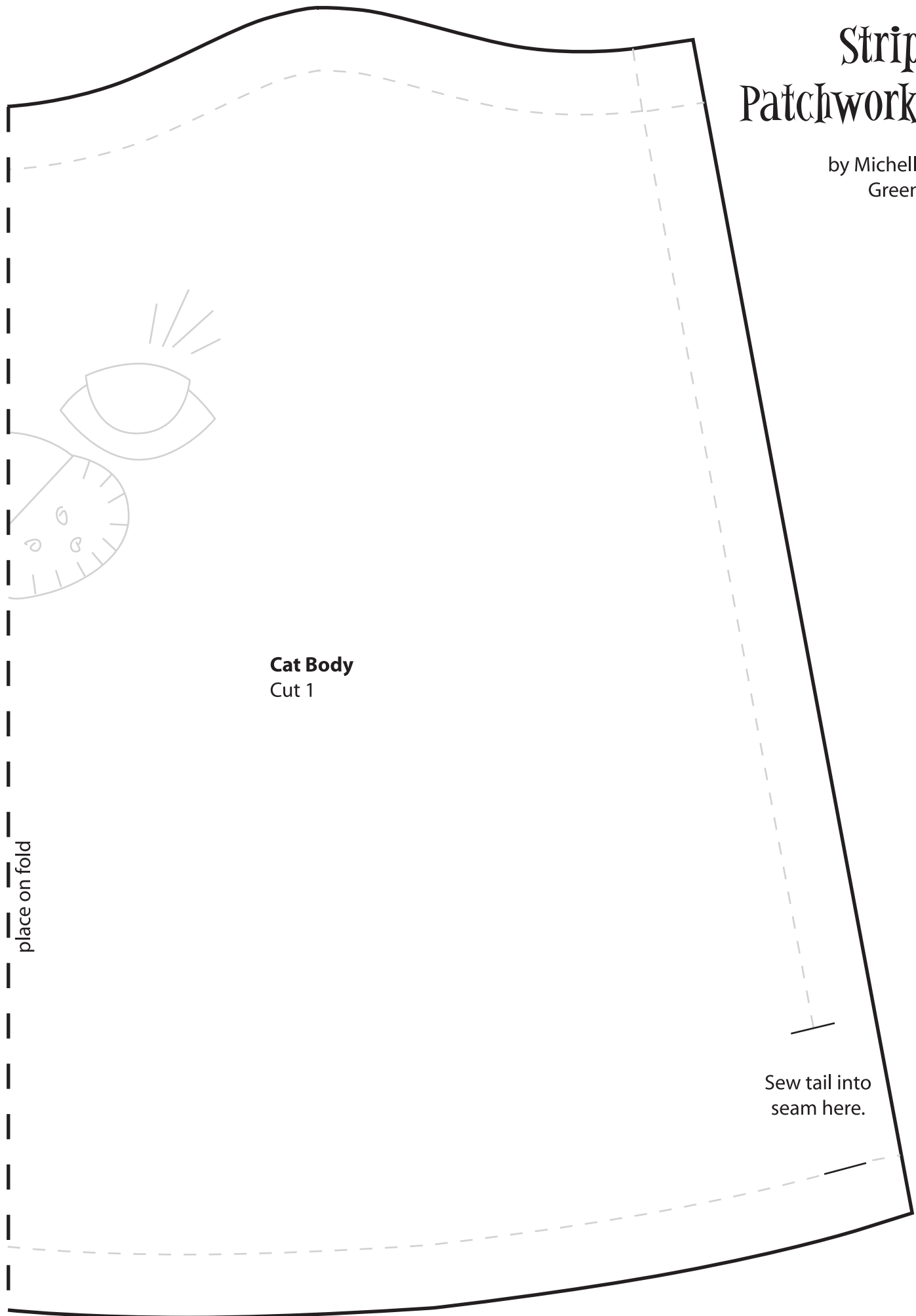
14: Iron on face pieces

I used fusible web to stick the facial features on. Alternatively, you could hand stitch them on.

15: With embroidery floss, hand stitch facial details. Follow the photo for placement, or make up your own.

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Cat Body
Cut 1

place on fold

Sew tail into
seam here.

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