Constance cat

pcbangles sewing pattern

◆ *Suitable for beginners*

Easy to sew, elegant fabric cat. Cat form can be with/without features
Completed height: 10 inches (25cm)
Perfect for Cotton Fat Quarters

You will need:

◇ Cotton Fat Quarter or other fabric (50cm x 35cm)
◇ Optional: contrast fabric for front body (30cm x 20cm)
◇ Suitable toy stuffing
◇ Embroidery thread (optional)
◇ Sewing cotton to match fabrics
◇ Scissors, needle and pins
◇ Coloured pencil to mark out pattern pieces

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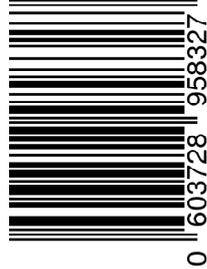
www.pcbangles.uk

This pattern makes Constance, a cat form that can be made up either as a stylised fabric decoration or a softie to hug. Use fabrics with a good strong pattern to create a decorative cat for your home or craft her with a soft, subtle fabric that you can embroider with her features for a nice hug :)

Whichever style you choose, follow the instructions then add embroidered features if you choose (step by step illustrations on the Cat Mask sheet included :)

The photo instructions will follow my attempt at making my cat in a strong pattern !

The pattern pieces are small enough that you may be able to upcycle fabric from other projects or clothing too. I think her pattern could also be used to make a lovely memory/ keepsake cat.

At the back of the instructions I've put some notes on stitches and sewing that may be helpful for stitching starters .

Important : All pattern pieces include a 5mm (1/4") seam allowance.

- -

Right, lets get started :)

CUTTING OUT:

Always work on the back of your fabric. If your fabric has some stretch in one direction, our cat works best if the pattern pieces are placed with the direction of stretch horizontally - see right.

1   As we need two of most pieces, it is usually easier to fold the fabric in half (right sides together) and work on the two layers. This also easily creates left/right facing pieces that we need :)
2   Pin each piece to the fabric, with the arrows on each following the pattern / threads on your fabric to avoid a cat with his pattern upside-down :)
3   Draw around the pattern pieces and mark any of my T marks along the edges as these mark the ending/beginning of stitching lines.
4   Dont' forget to draw the rectangle of fabric for the front legs (4" x 7" or 10cm x 18cm).
5   Cut all the pieces our cutting on or just inside your drawn lines. All pattern pieces include a 6mm seam allowance (1/4") already, so you do not need to add this .
6   If you are using two or more fabrics, make sure to cut the pieces you need from these too.
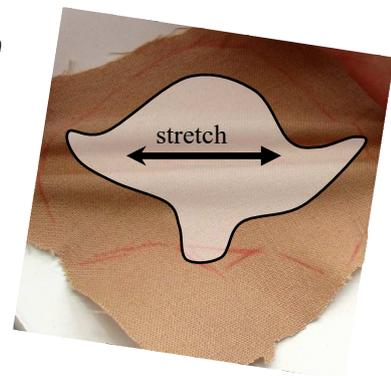
Good start, time to stitch and stuff.

MAKING UP THE HEAD ~

Remember all pattern pieces include a 6mm seam allowance (1/4")

Fig 1

1   Start by sewing the dart at the top of each head piece, by fold-
ing the piece in half (right sides together) and sewing from the
widest end of the dart to the point.

2   For the lower dart at the bottom of the head, line up the bot-
tom edges - note that as the head is tilted, this dart does not
sit central - see fig 1

3   Put the heads to one side for now and make up both ears.
Pair up the ear pieces and sew all the way around each ear,
leaving the straighter bottom edge free for turning (fig 2)
Use our 6mm seam allowance.

Fig 2

4   Turn both ears through to the right side - no need to close
the bottom edges as these will be hidden inside our cat's
head :)

5   Pin and tack the ears against the right side of one head piece.
They should be facing down and inwards (see fig 3) _The raw
edges along the bottom of the ears can poke out a little over
the head if you wish_

Fig 3

6   Pin the head pieces (right sides together), so the ears are now
sandwiched between them and sew from the top dart down to
the neck edge on one side. Then from the top dart again
down to the T marker on the other side (see fig 4) Making
sure you catch the ears in the seams as you sew.   This leaves a
nice big opening to turn the head through.

Fig 4

7   Trim the seam carefully at the pointed tips to avoid too
much bulk here, then turn the head through to the right side.

8   Stuff the head quite firmly, getting the stuffing right up into
the points at each side of the head.   The darts should help to
create a more 3D shape to the head.

Leave open

9   Close the opening at the side (ladder stitch is best but you can
oversew if you prefer).   Leave the small opening at the neck
free.

10   Turn the raw edges of the neck edge to the inside of the head
(just 2mm or 3mm will do). Tack around to hold them neatly
inside. _Note that the head is tilted - so do not try to make
the head symmetrical._   See fig 5

Put the head to one side for now - you can pin the bottom to stop
any stuffing escaping if you like   - well done :)

Fig 5

3
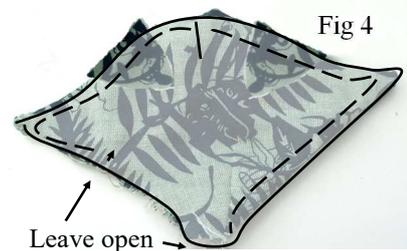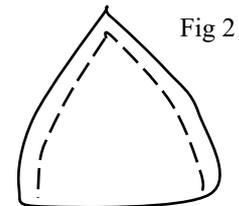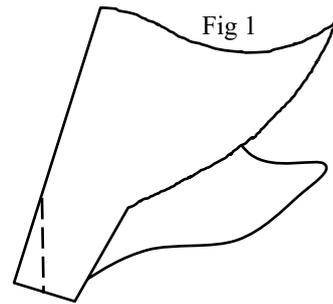
THE BODY :

To make up our cat's body, we need to make a tail first.
TIP: if you are using a thicker fabric (ie denim or cord) the tail will be easier to turn if you leave an opening on the underside – see the red line in fig 6

1   Pair up the tail pieces and pin (right sides together).   Sew all the way around them, leaving the straight bottom edge open, using our 6mm seam allowance as usual.   (fig 6)
2   Turn the tail through and stuff, but stop filling 3cm from the bottom end of the tail. Place a pin to hold the stuffing in place   (see fig 7) *This will allow us to sew the tail into the body seam easily, and let your cat place his tail in different positions.*
3   Tack the tail to the right side of one of the back body pieces. *It needs to face in towards the body* See fig 8
4   Pin and tack the second body back (right sides against the first) and ,with the tail sandwiched between, sew down the back seam, leaving a gap between the T markers, for turning.   Fig 9   *Make sure you catch the tail between the seams at its ends, but no where else !i*

Fig 6

Fig 7

Fig 8

Fig 9

Alternative opening
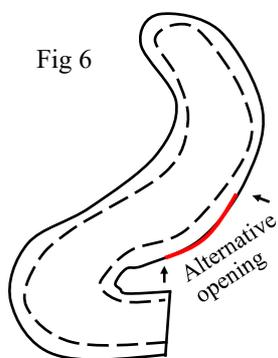
5   We'll put the back and tail to one side for now and make up the front.
        Pin the fronts (right sides together as usual) and sew all the way down the untabbed edge – see fig 10
6   Pin our newly created front half to the back half (right sides together).
        This is a little tricky, but if you poke the tail out through the back opening, all should be easier
7   *Start at the bottom and sew each side separately, keeping that tail out of harms way !   Do not close the two openings at the back and top yet.*
8   Turn the body through the back opening – use the tail to help pull it through.
9   Stuff the body so that is nice and firm and stuff right up into the neck. Making use of both body openings will aid stuffing – if it overflows a little, that will be fine.
10   Close the opening at the back with a ladder stitch.

Fig 10
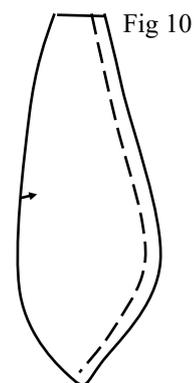
ATTACHING THE HEAD ~

1   Make sure that the necks of both body and head are firmly
     stuffed, right up to the edges of the fabric.   Our cat's head sits
     slightly tiled on top of the body.
2   Attach your thread to the back seam (as our cat is symmetrical,
     you can choose which side is to be the front and as she sits sideways,
     the back seam is actually a side seam -- sorry to confuse !)
3   Pin or tack the head front and back to hold it in place temporarily and
     begin sewing all the way around.   Take your stitches 5mm up the
     head and the same distance down into the body. See fig 11
     Add small pinches of stuffing as needed as you sew.
4   You will need to sew around at least twice to make sure the head sits
     securely.

Well done !   Hopefully the head is sitting nicely on the body now x

Fig 11

LEGS AND FEET ~

We'll make the back legs (or feet) up first

1   Pair up the back foot pieces (right sides together) and sew, leaving
     the straight bottom edge open.   We only make the one foot !
2   Turn this through to the right side and stuff , but not too firmly.
     Leaving 2cm free of stuffing at the opening.   Pin against the
     stuffing (see fig 12)
3   Hand sew behind the stuffing (machine if you can) to hold the
     stuffing at the front of the foot.
4   Turn the raw edges inside 2mm or 3mm and oversew to neaten.
5   Use either your sewing thread or a coloured embroidery thread
     and attach this to the center back of the foot. Wrap the thread
     around the foot, over the front edge (see fig 13)   Pull a little so
     that the foot is indented along the center - and creating two
     feet :))   Sew to secure the thread and finish.
6   Position our feet at the base of your cat, centered over the front
     body seam, to allow them to sit comfortably.   Pin, then sew.   See
     fig 14
7   Optional :   I also like to add a few stitches between the body and
   the top of the feet, to stop them flopping down when you lift
     your cat
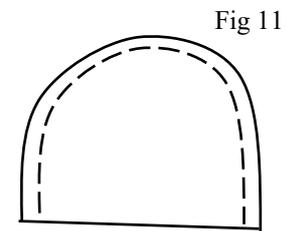
Still with me ? Good :))   Next we'll turn our attention to the front
legs.   These will also be made from the one piece.   We need that rec-
tangle of fabric now :)

7   Fold the fabric in half along the shorter side (so it is now 2" x 7")
and sew a seam down the longer edge   -   Fig 15

Fig 11

Fig 12

Fig 13

Fig 14
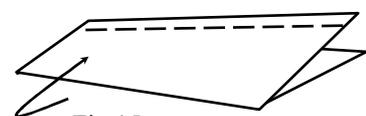
Fig 15

5

LEGS AND FEET CONT ~

Fig 16

8   Turn the seam so that it sits in the center— open it to avoid bulk.
     See fig 16.   Sew across the bottom end. *Make sure you sew the
     bottom edges, toether or any pattern on the legs will be upside
     down when we finish :)*
9   Turn the legs through to the right side
10   On the seamed side (which will be the back of the legs), measure
     approx 3cm from our sewn end.
11   Pinch the seamed layer of fabric only to create a fold and pin to
     hold in place . *Make sure you are only pinning through the back
     layer – do not use both layers.*   Fig 17

Fig 17
3cm

12   Sew a short line of stitches across the fold, close to the edge. Again
     shown in fig 17
13   Working the on the seamed back of the leg, sew a line of stitching
     down the seam, starting a little above the fold and stopping approx
     2cm from the top of the legs.   See red sitching line in fig 18.   Sew
     through both layers this time, of course :)
14   Stuff the foot area first (may need a long stick or pencil here).
   Then stuff both legs up to the stitching line between them (ie stop
     stuffing 2cm from the top of the legs.
15   Now we need to create two legs from the one :)   Use your sewing
     thread, or embroidery thread and attach this to the fold at the
     bottom of the "feet".   See fig 19

Fig 18

16   Swing the thread over the end of the foot and bring the thread
     down through the top of the foot to the back fold again. Gently
     pull to make an indent in the front - and create two feet (I hope !)
17   Turn the raw edge at the top of the leg inside as usual and oversew
     to neaten.
18   Position the front legs against the body so that your cat will sit hap-
     pily (I found placing them quite low down worked best or you lose
     the tilt in her head)
19   Legs should sit centered over the front body seam.   Oversew the
     top of the legs to the body. *If you do not want them to flop
     around, sew 2 or 3cm down the side too.*
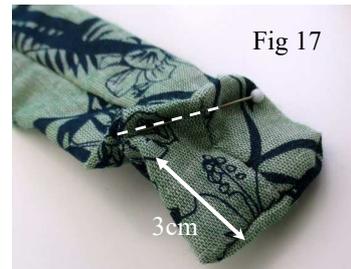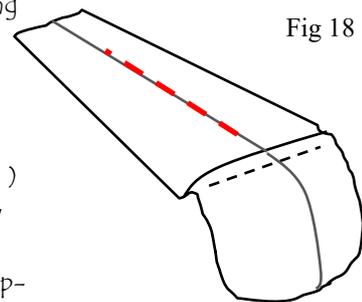
Fig 19

Good work !   At this stage you can leave your cat without features. If
you wish.   The fabric I used had a busy pattern so I did not add features
and left this way she makes an attractive fabric sculpture/feature.

If you want to embroider her features, you can turn your cat into a cute
huggable softie.   See the pattern sheet/ cat mask which has full instruc-

OTHER OPTIONS :
If you do not want to embroider, try cutting felt shapes for the eyes and either glue or stitch these in
place.
Try using buttons for the eyes or plastic safety eyes (these are available in cat-versions) *Remember to fit
them BEFORE stuffing the head :)*
You can add more interest by adding patches of fabric, or adding embroidery around the body.
Part fill your cat with a heavier weighted filling to create a neat doorstop.
Sew the tail into position against the body, or leave it free (helps her to stand if the tail is placed along the
ground :)

Thank you for joining me in making our cat—hope you had fun and that you will visit my website. I have many more patterns for you to keep busy sewing :)

If you get the chance, do email a picture for my Customer's Gallery. Send to pcbangles@ntlworld.com

Angela X

BASIC BITS

Always use a double thread for any hand sewn part.
Back stitch is a great stitch for seams.

All the pattern pieces include a 5mm (1/4 inch) seam allowance.

Pin at right angles to the sewing line (especially important for fabric with a pile as the layers can "walk" against each other otherwise.

Back Stitch

Very good for hand sewing seams and outlining our cat's features if you are going to embroider for instance
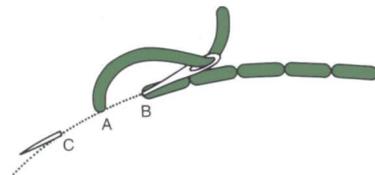
Oversew or Overcast Stitch

Great to attach our cat's legs and can be used to close openings (although the stitch below works best for that :)

Ladder Stitch:

Ideal stitch to close openings securely and neatly. Almost invisible
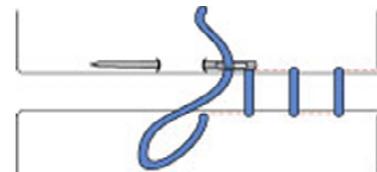
CAT MASK

GIVING YOUR KITTEN FEATURES :

If you want to make you cat into a cute softie to hug, you may wish to add features to her face.   You can follow this example, or design and create your own cat-face :)

If you are handy with pen and pencil, you will be able to lightly draw the outlines directly onto your fabric.   If you prefer a little help, try the cat mask on this sheet.   Use a good, soft, black sketching pencil and draw over all the lines on the template mask. No need to colour in the eyes and nose, unless you want to .   *You could use transfer paper as an alternative method.*

Place your pencilled-over cat-mask onto the front head (hold firmly in position—pin if needed)   Rub with the pencil, or your finger to transfer the template onto the head. Lines should be quite light, just bold enough for you to use as a guide.

TIP: you may find transferring the guide lines easier BEFORE making up and stuffing the head.

Time to embroider …………

(A)   Use a small back stitch to outline the eyes.   Then add a small nose with vertical stitches, placed close together so no fabric shows between them (add a second layer if needed).   Then sew the "frown" lines between the eyes to the nose. (for these I used a simple running stitch)

(B)   Extend the lines from the outer corners of each eye and add the mouth with three simple stitches.

(C)   Use a contrasting colour to sew the whiskers on either side.

(D)   Fill in the iris of the eye with a coloured embroidery thread.   Start with vertical stitches (as with the nose), then add a layer of horizontal stitches on top. Leave the inner and outer corners free

(E)   Add a nice strong black oval pupil to the center of the eye. Looking much more cat-like now :)   Then fill the inner and outer corners of the eye with white sewing cotton.   Add a small highlight to the eye with a couple of white stitches.

Transfering the mask to fabric

HEAD X 2

1 in mirror image

ear

ear

dart

dart

leave open

TAIL X 2

1 in mirror image

BACK FEET X 2

leave open

stuffing line

leave open

EAR X 4

leave open

FABRIC CAT SEWING PATTERN

Printing Instructions:

Pattern sheet prints to standard A4 : Portrait
You may need to set your printer to "print to
full page" or "resize to page"

CM

0

5

INCHES

2

CM   5

0 ▭▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▬▭

INCHES   2

FRONT LEG X 1

Cut rectangle 4" x 7"
(10cm x 18cm)

→

Printing Instructions:

Pattern sheet prints to stand-
ard A4 : Portrait
You may need to set your
printer to "print to full page"
or "resize to page"

leave open

BACK BODY X 2

1 in mirror image

↓

t
a
i
l

FRONT BODY X 2

1 in mirror image

↓

FABRIC CAT SEWING PATTERN