

tiny tatars tote



A SEWING PATTERN BY



tiny totoro tote

This simple tote was inspired by the chibi-Totoro that turn in up the movie My Neighbor Totoro. The applique is optional, but on its own it's a great tote for a quick trip to the store and has nice contrast corner patches.

DIFFICULTY: 

The appliqué might not be for a complete beginner, but aside from that there's nothing too surprising here

MAKES:

one bag that is about 11" wide, 11" tall, and 3" deep

MATERIALS & TOOLS

- ½ yd. of 60" wide or 2/3 yd. of 45" wide medium to heavy weight fabric (denim or canvas would be perfect - I used a home décor canvas)
- ¼ yd. of medium to heavyweight contrast fabric for corners (denim or canvas would be perfect - I used home décor faux suede)
- ½ yd. of lightweight fabric for lining (I used quilting cotton)
- Appliqué supplies:
 - 10" x 10" scrap of white appliqué fabric (cotton or felt) for bodies & eyes
 - 2" x 2" scrap of black appliqué fabric (cotton or felt) for pupils
- 10" x 10" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- Matching sewing thread
- Basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

1. Print out the project pattern, pages 8-13
2. Assemble the printed pattern pieces
3. Lay out the pattern pieces on your fabric and cut them out
4. Mark the fabric pieces with the guidelines from the pattern

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1

The first step is making the corner patches for your bag :) Layer one of your corner patches with a corresponding lining piece, then sew them together along the curved edge. Trim the seam allowances so your curve turns more cleanly, then turn the corner right side out and press it firmly. Repeat this with the other three corner pieces.



2

To achieve the patch look on your bag, align your corner patch against the corner of your bag front. You should be able to match them up against the angled shape at the corner. Then sew the patch in place by edge stitching along the curved edge where you just made the previous seam. Repeat this with the other three corner patches and the other bottom corners of your bag for both the front and the back.

3

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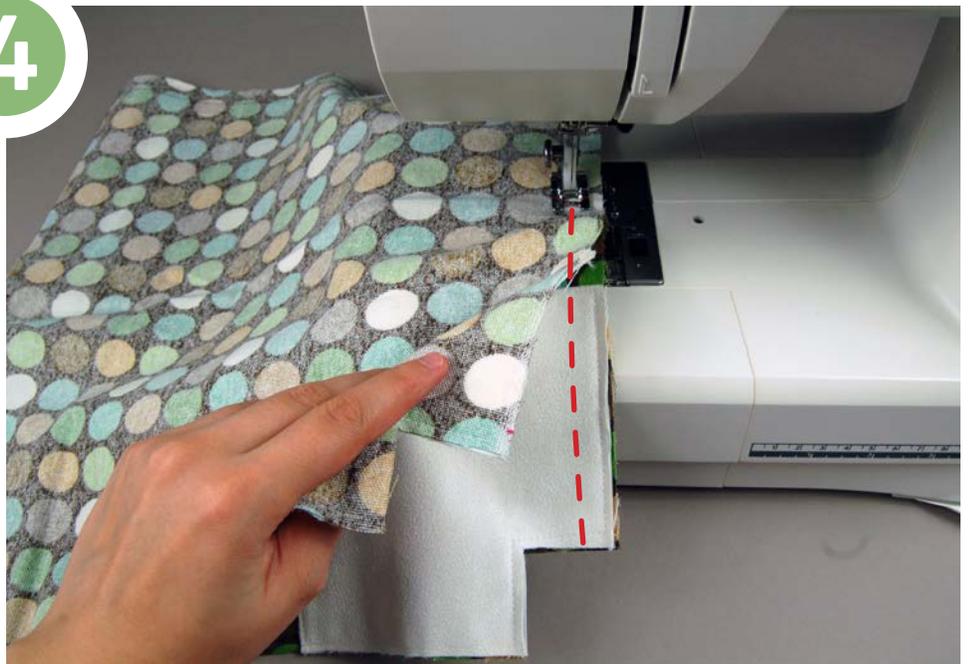
Now onto the appliqué! You have the choice of applying heavy duty fusible web to your appliqué fabrics, then ironing the pieces on. Or you can apply lightweight fusible web and sew the pieces on. Use the pattern guideline for placement help, and apply the pieces on the side that you want to be the front. I personally sewed my pieces on with a zigzag stitch.

3



Once the appliqué is done, you can start to see your bag come together! Layer your bag front over the bag back with right sides facing, then sew them together along the sides and bottom edges. Skip over the corners as we'll be sewing those next.

4



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5

Fold the corners at an angle to make the bottom and side seams match up. You'll be left with a nice straight raw edge. Sew down that edge to create some depth for your bag. Repeat this with the other corner and your bag is really starting to take shape! At this time you'll want to go back and repeat steps 4 & 5 with your lining pieces as well. Be sure during step 4 to skip over the opening indicated by the pattern guideline for turning the bag right side out.



6

Before we can finish things up, we need to make the straps. Take your strap pieces and fold under the long edges by 1/2" each. Iron the folds in place. Then fold the entire strap in half lengthwise so the folded edges meet and iron that in place as well. Finish the strap by sewing these folded edges together with an edge stitch.



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To attach the straps to your bag you'll need to baste them in place first. Take one raw end of your strap and line it up against the top edge of your bag, centering it within the pattern guidelines. Baste it in place by sewing it within the seam allowances. Take the other end of the same strap and line it up on the other set of pattern guidelines from the same side of the bag. Baste that end in place as well in the same manner, being sure that the strap isn't twisted when you do so. Repeat this with the back of your bag in the same way and your straps are now neatly in place!

7



To add your lining to the bag, nestle your main bag into the lining piece with right sides facing each other. Line up the top edge, making sure the straps are sticking down into the bag. Sew around the perimeter of this top edge.

8



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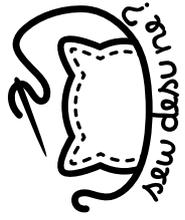


9

Turn the bag right side out from the opening in the lining, then press the top seam nice and crisp.

For a nice professional look, edge stitch close to that finished seam, about 1/8" away from the edge. Now go try on your bag because YOU'RE DONE!

strap
placement



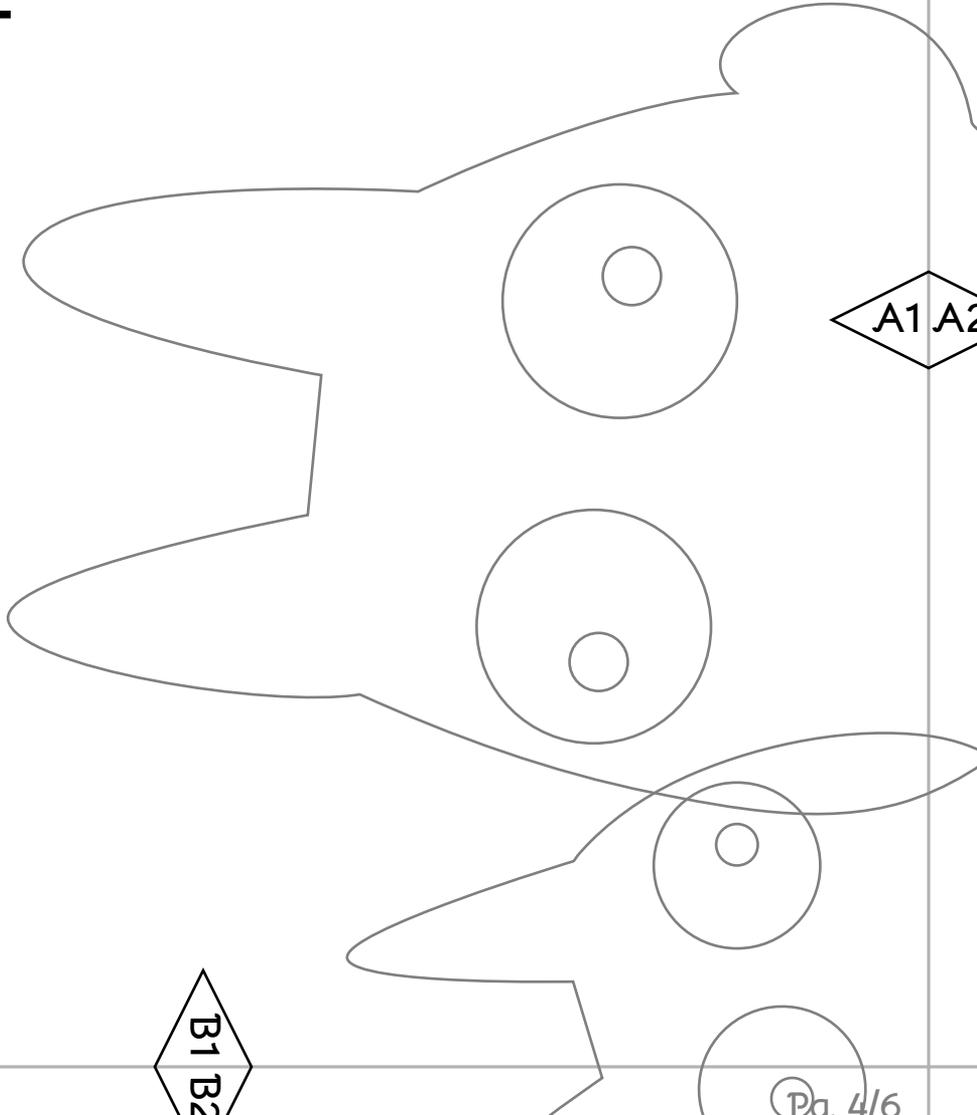
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P A T T E R N

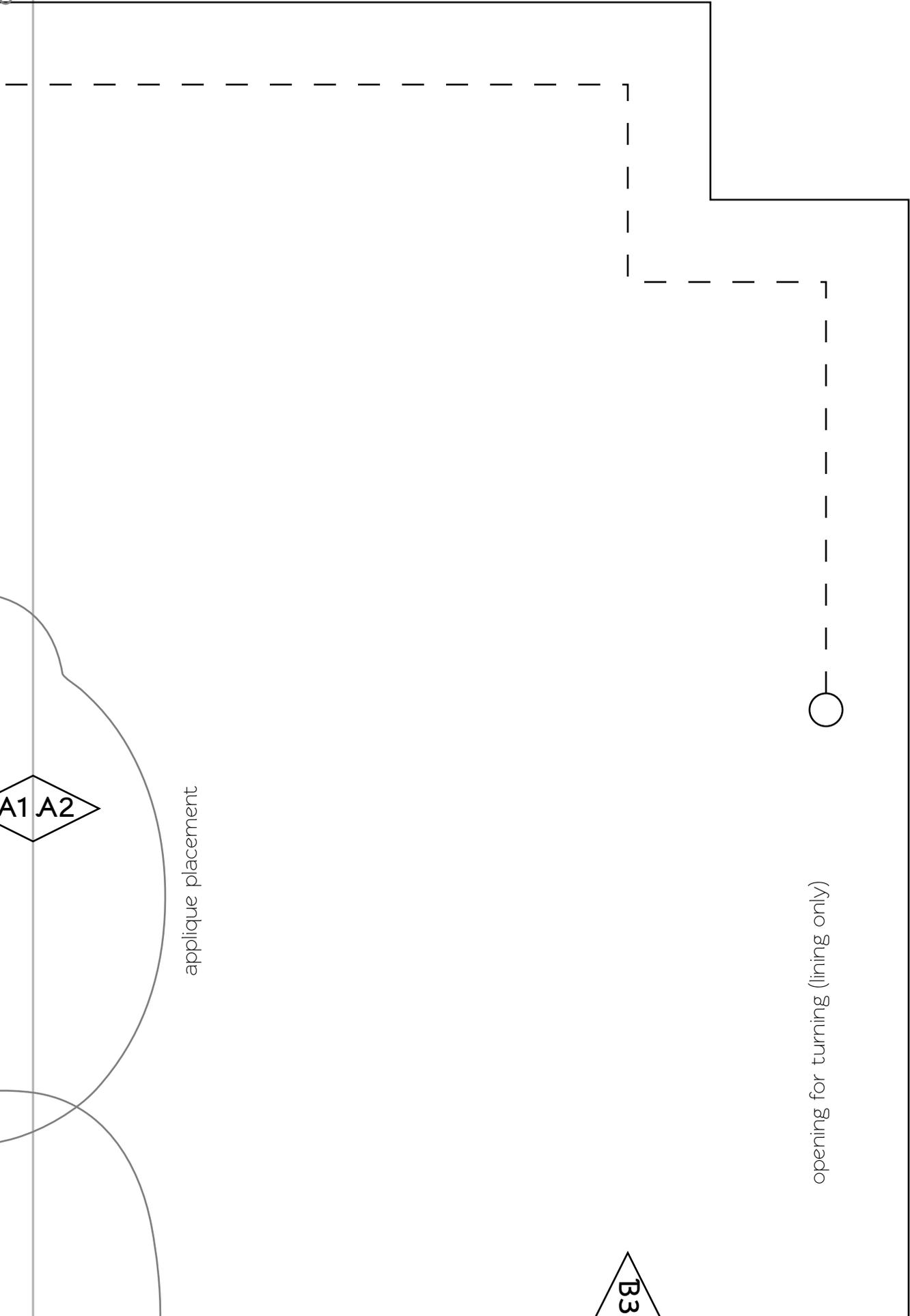
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TOTE FRONT & BACK

- Cut 2 from main fabric
- Cut 2 from lining fabric
- 5/8" seam allowance



6



A1 A2

applique placement

opening for turning (lining only)

B3 B4

A3 A4

6



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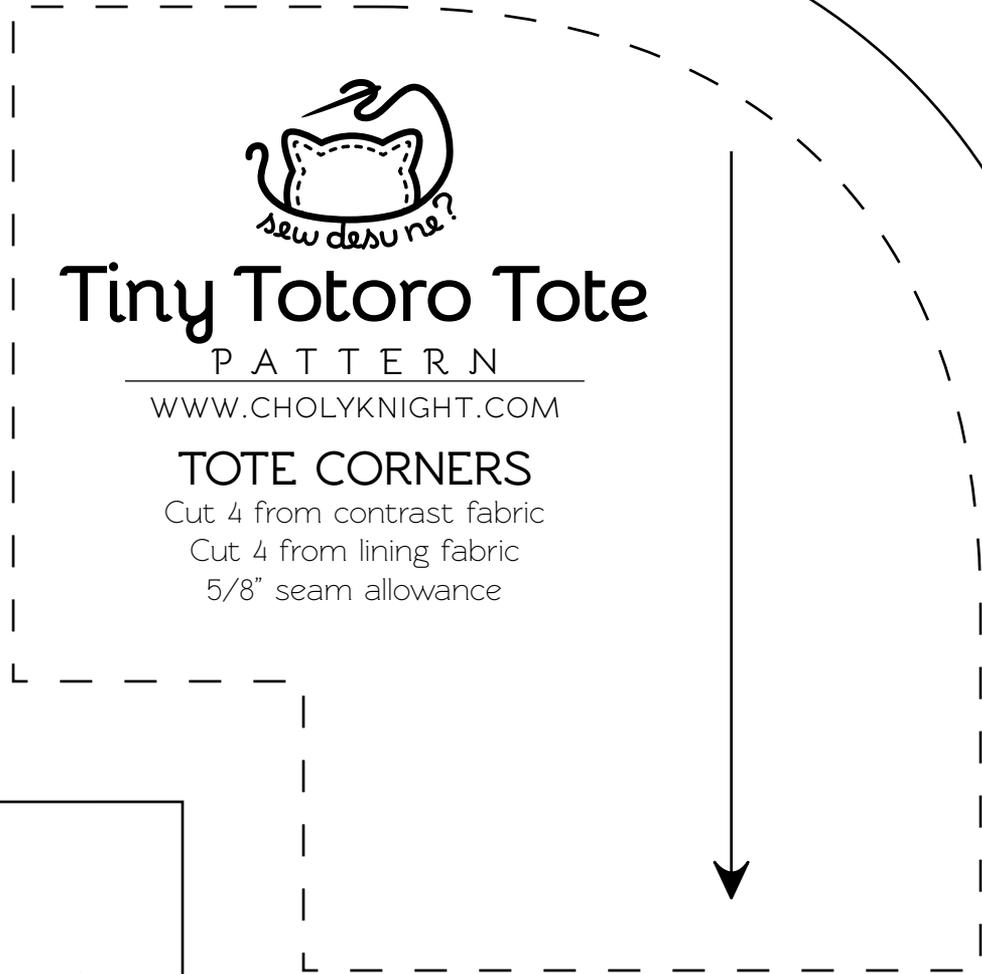
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TOTE CORNERS

Cut 4 from contrast fabric

Cut 4 from lining fabric

5/8" seam allowance



A3 A4



TOTORO A APPLIQUE

Cut 1 of white

TOTORO A PUPIL APPLIQUE

○ Cut 2 of black

TOTORO A EYE APPLIQUE

○ Cut 2 of white

B5 B6

B1 B2

strap
placement

C1 C2



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STRAPS

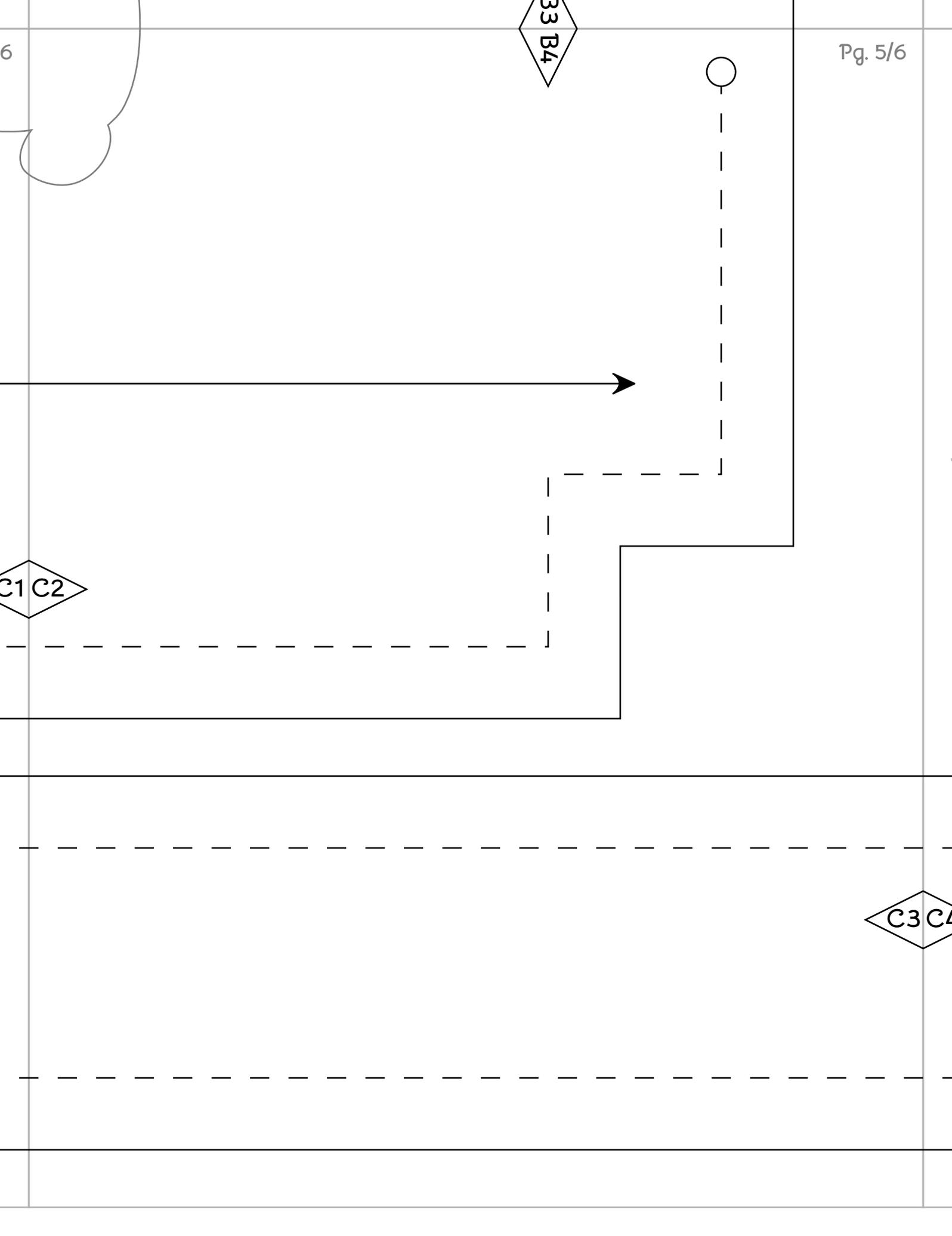
Cut 2 from main fabric
5/8" seam allowance

6

B3 B4

C1 C2

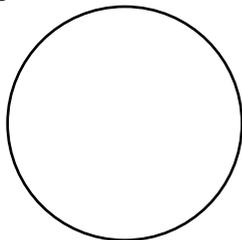
C3 C4



B5 B6

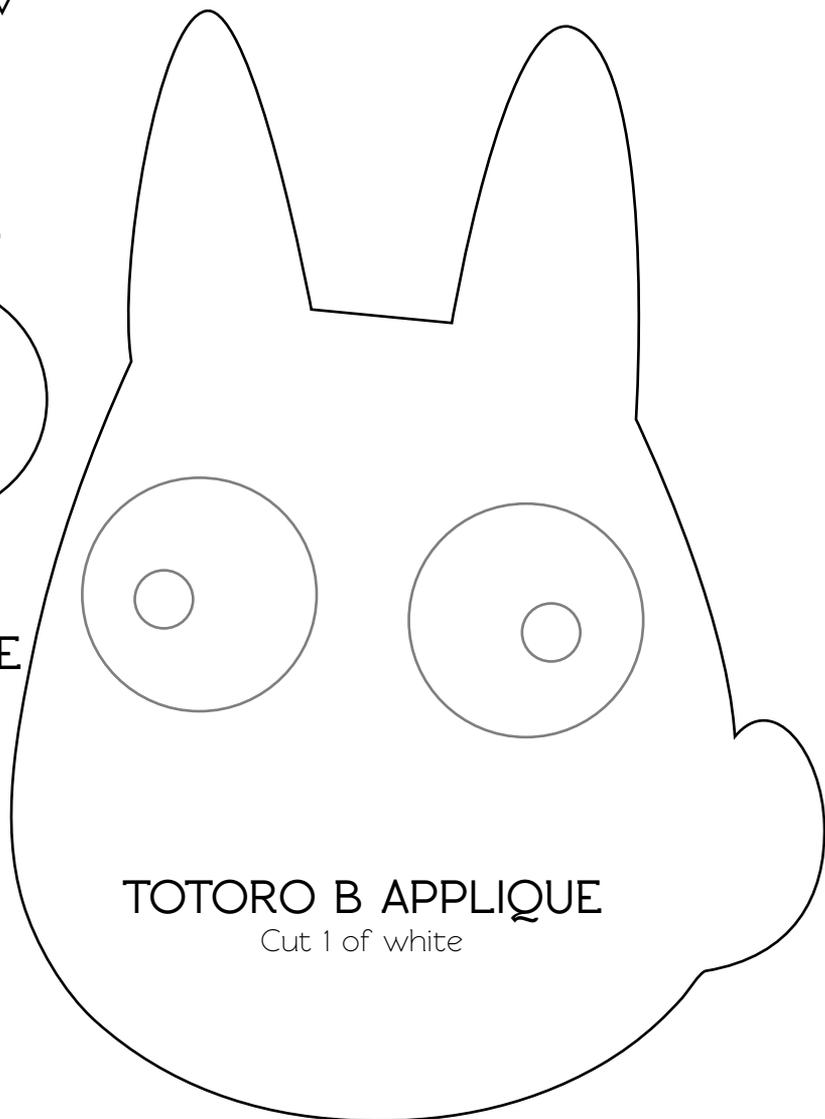
TOTORO B EYE APPLIQUE

Cut 2 of white



TOTORO B PUPIL APPLIQUE

Cut 2 of black



TOTORO B APPLIQUE

Cut 1 of white

33 C4

