

The First Ladies Friendship Mouse

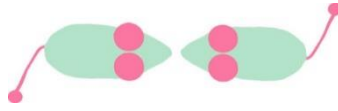
Mamie Eisenhower and Pat Nixon had a long friendship that spanned from the 1950s until Mamie's death in 1979. Not only did they share in the unique sisterhood all First Ladies belong to, but they also became family when Mamie's grandson David married Pat's daughter Julie.

In the collection of the Eisenhower National Historic Site, we have a cloth eyeglasses case that is shaped like a mouse. This whimsical object was found stored with the Christmas wrapping paper and handwritten gift tag which simply read "Love to Mamie, Pat."

This project will allow you to create your own version of the eyeglasses case which you can choose to give to someone special in your own life or to welcome into your own home as a new little friend. More information about the relationship between Mamie Eisenhower and Pat Nixon as well as an instructional video to help you sew your mouse can be found at <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/first-lady-friendship-mouse.htm>

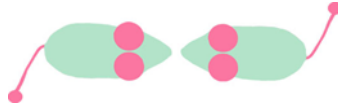


Materials:



¼ yard exterior fabric (or 1 fat quarter)
¼ yard interior fabric (or 1 fat quarter)
¼ yard batting or fusible fleece
¼ fusible midweight or lightweight interfacing
1 snap
5 inches of cording
Thread
3 Fleece circles or pompoms for eyes/nose

Cutting Instructions:



From Exterior Fabric:

1 Nose
1 top
2 Ears
1 Body

From Interior Fabric:

2 Body
2 Ears

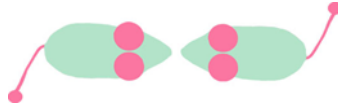
From Batting:

2 Body

From Interfacing:

2 Body
2 Ears

Assembly:



At the end of each step is a time step that shows where the step falls in our instructional video. If you need help with any of the steps, turn to the video on our website.

1. Cut out fabric, fuse interfacing to exterior fabric pieces and batting to interior pieces. (3:40)
2. Place one Exterior Ear and one Interior Ear right sides together and stitch around the outer curved edge, starting and stopping at the bottom edge. Notch seam allowance, turn right side out and press. Repeat with second ear. (7:31)
3. Fold the finished ear in half vertically and starting at the bottom edge, stitch a $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide pleat, 1" long. Press to one side. Repeat with second ear (10:06)
4. Line up each Ear pleat seam with the corresponding mark on the Top Body, with the Ear Lining facing up, and pin in place. (10:53)
5. On the Nose, clip in the seam allowance at the point to the dot. Then, with right sides together line up and pin the Nose to the Top Body/Ears, using your clipped seam to pivot at the point. Stitch the Nose to the Top Body/Ears. (12:10)
6. Attach the exterior body piece to the top piece with right side of fabric together. You will stitch between the seams where the nose piece is attached to the top piece. Place tail at back center, with the long part of the tail sandwiched between the fabric layers. Notch along curve. Turn fabric right side out. (15:08)
7. Sew one interior body piece and one batting piece to full nose piece piece of exterior, right side of exterior and interior fabrics together. Begin and end your seam where the seam of the nose meets the top. (17:55)

8. Sew the other interior body piece and batting piece to the exterior body piece, right sides of fabric together. Begin and end along the seam that connects the exterior top and body pieces. (19:28)

9. With right side of fabric together, sew the two interior lining pieces together leave two inches open at the bottom. (20:26)

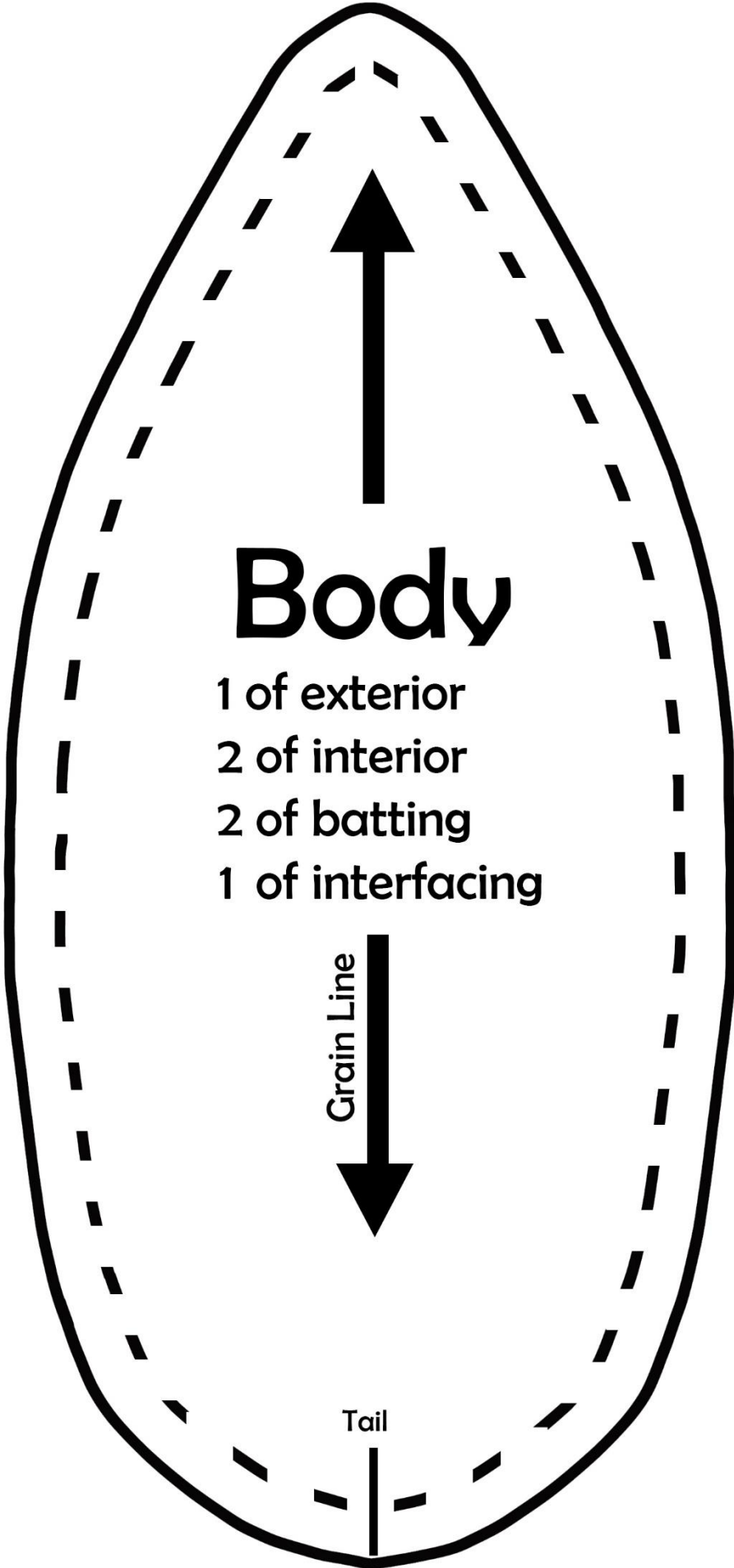
10. Trim the seam allowance along interior fabric close to the stitching line. (23:30)

11. Flip the interior pieces around so both the interior and the exterior fabrics are on the outside, right side of both fabrics facing up. When this step is completed, the mouse will look twice as long as it will be when finished and both the exterior and interior fabric will have their right sides on the outside. (24:21)

12. Whip stitch the two-inch opening on interior closed. Push interior fabric into place. You may need a ruler or a pen to help push the interior fabric into place Now the mouse will have its final shape with the interior fabric inside as lining. (26:19)

13. Add eyes and nose pieces to the top of the exterior nose piece. (29:54)

14. Sew snap on to interior body pieces close to pointed ends at opening of mouse. (30:39)

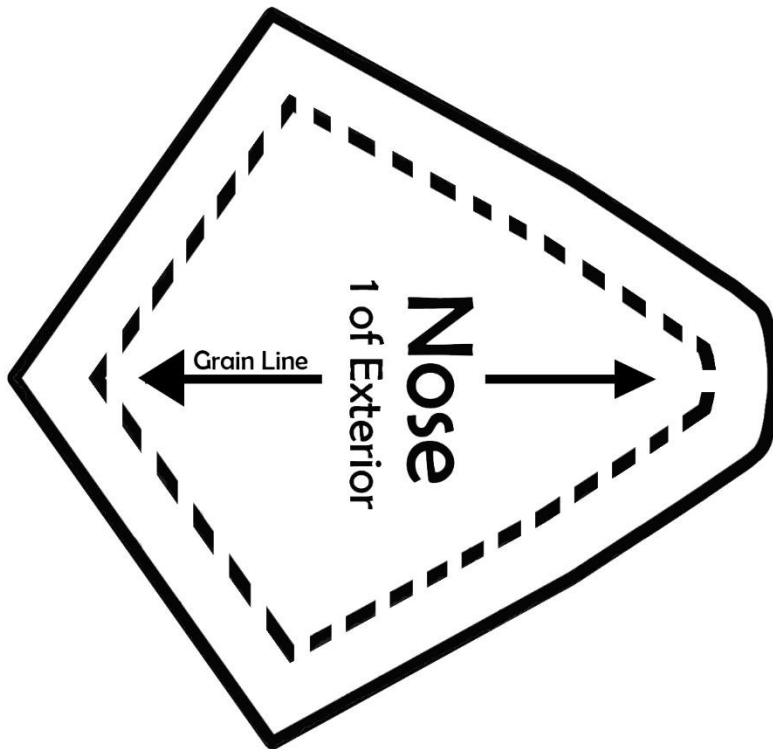
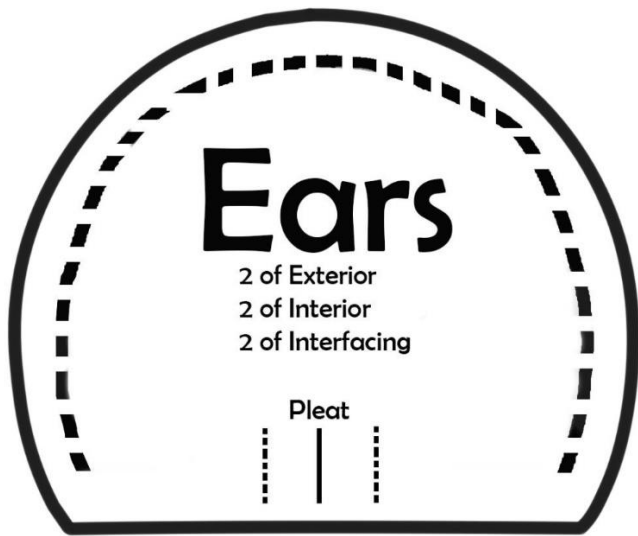


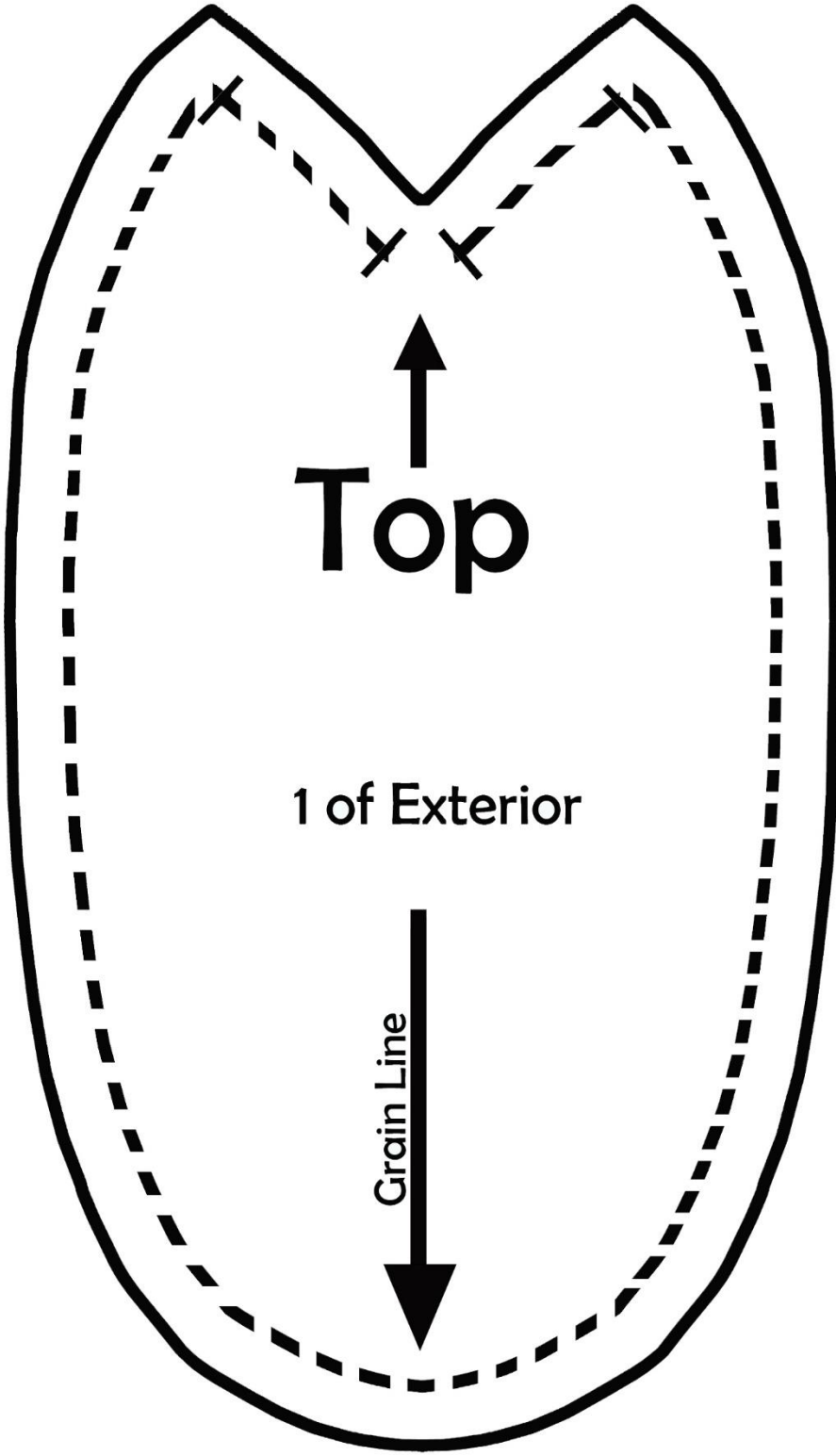
Body

- 1 of exterior
- 2 of interior
- 2 of batting
- 1 of interfacing

Grain Line

Tail





Top

1 of Exterior

Grain Line