How to make your own plush *Mariprofundus*!

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In collaboration with the Adopt A Microbe project

Special note: You do not need to know how to sew to do this project! You can use Fabri-tac, fabric glue, or hot glue to attach your fabric together. All of these products can be found at most craft stores.

Materials:

- ½ yard of fabric, your choice
- Poly-fill or stuffing
- Scissors
- Sewing machine **or** needle and thread **or** fabric-tac **or** hot glue
- Ribbon **or** strung sequins **or** other (for iron oxide chain)
- Other items to decorate your microbe with (fun foam, glitter, pom poms, etc)

*****If you are using hot glue, make sure you get an adult's help!*****

Step 1.

Choose your fabric. Be creative! Fleece and felt are good choices because they are easy to work with and don't fray very easily

Step 2.

Fold your fabric in half so you have a double thickness. Pin the pattern to your fabric (you can enlarge the pattern if you want to make a HUGE microbe!). Cut out the pattern once on your doubled fabric. You will have 2 kidney bean-shaped pieces after this.

Step 3.

Sew or glue the shapes together with the right sides on the inside (not right at the edge…do this ½ inch inside the edge). Make sure to leave an opening so you can turn your microbe right-side out and insert the stuffing!

Step 4.

Cut small notches on the edges of the curves. (This helps you get a smooth curve on the outside later by removing some of the excess fabric)

Step 5.

Carefully turn your microbe right-side out and fill it with poly-fill or your stuffing of choice.

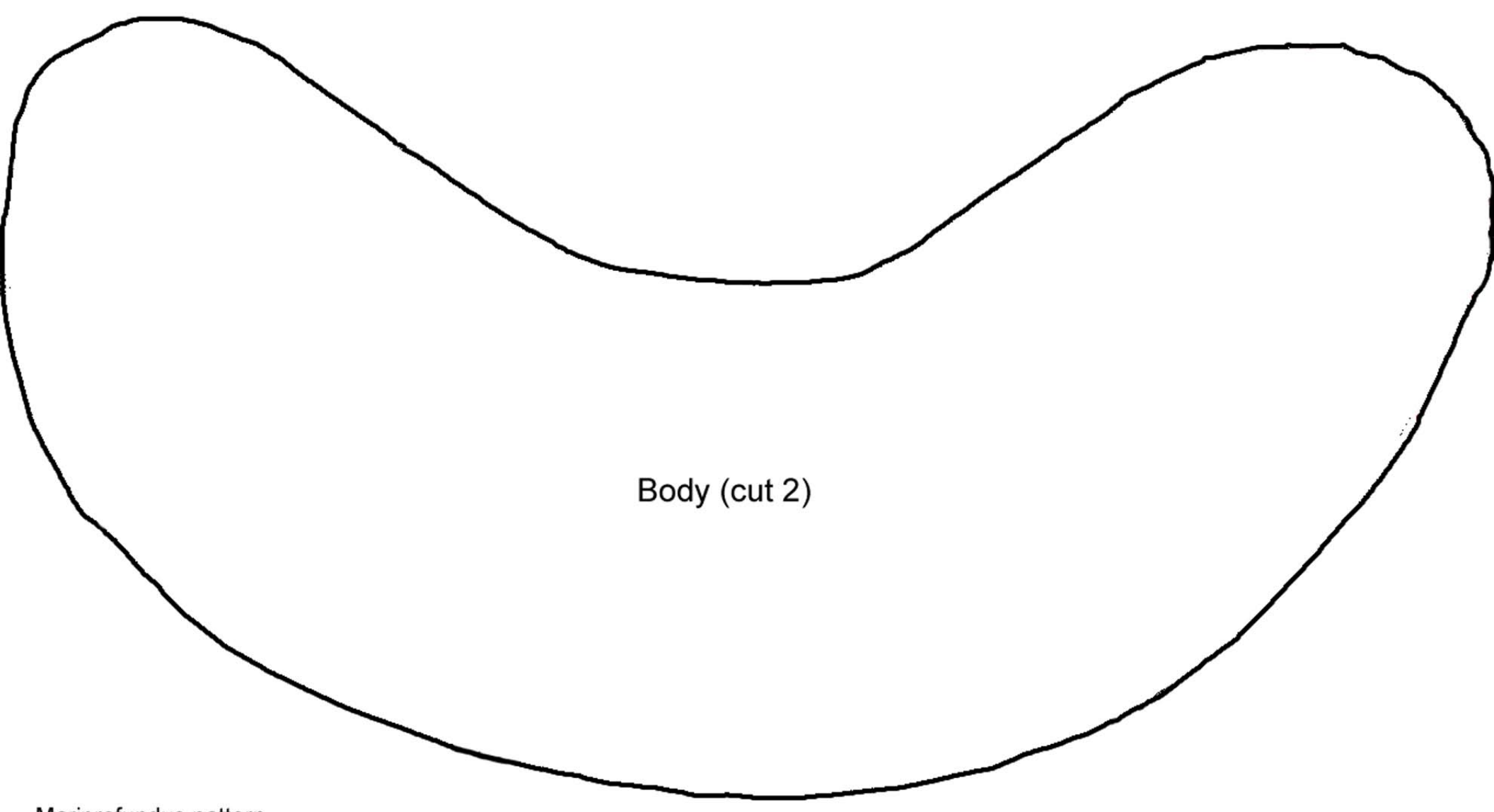
Step 6.

Once you've stuffed your microbe, glue pieces of ribbon or strung sequins to the inner curve of the "kidney bean". These are the iron oxide chains that Mariprofundus produces. I used sparkly ribbon…but you can use whatever you like. Be creative!

Step 9.

Sew or glue the opening shut.

TADA! Now you've got your own giant *Mariprofundus*!



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