

How to make your own coccoidal plush microbe!

Written and developed by Katie Inderbitzen, University of Miami
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
- Items to decorate your microbe with (fun foam, glitter, pom poms, etc)

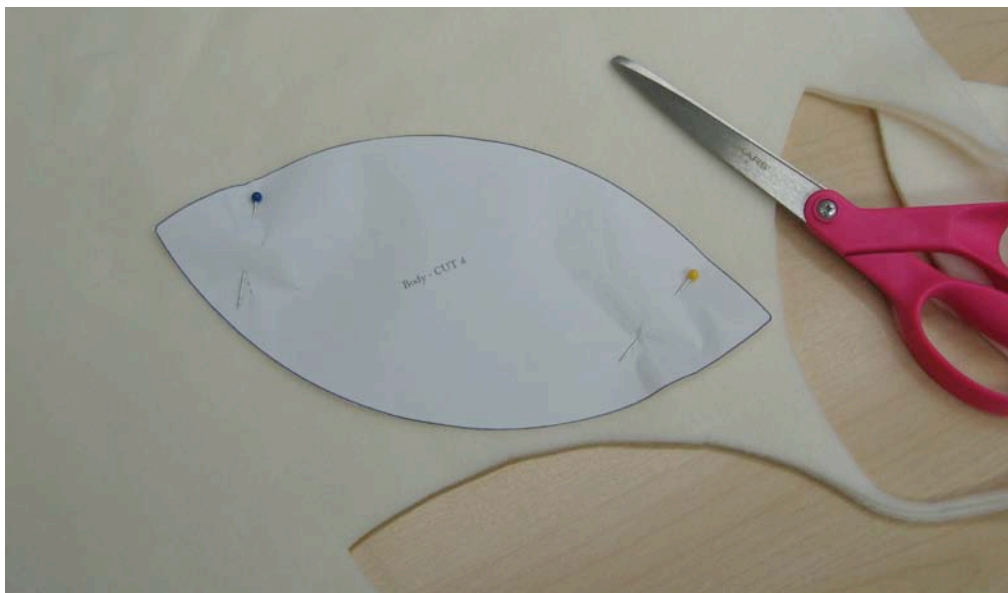
*****If you are using hot glue, make sure you get an adult's help!*****

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 HUGE microbes!). Cut out the pattern twice. You will have 4 leaf-shaped pieces after this.



Step 3.

Sew or glue 2 of the leaf shapes together with the right sides on the inside (not right at the edge...do this $\frac{1}{2}$ inch inside the edge),. Repeat with the other set of 2 leaf shapes. You should now have 2 half-sphere looking pieces.



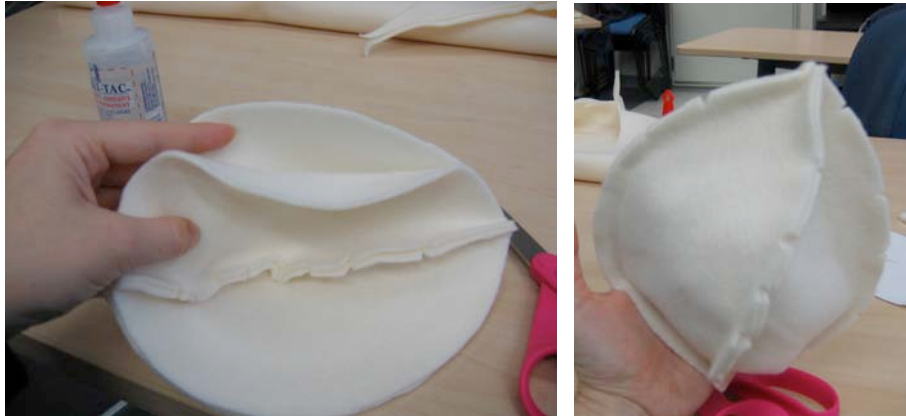
Step 4.

Cut small triangular notches on the edges of the curve you just sewed or glued together. (This helps you get a smooth curve on the outside later by removing some of the excess fabric)



Step 5.

Take one of the half-spheres and turn it right side out. Place the 2 half spheres one inside the other and sew/glue together with the right sides together. Don't forget to leave an opening so you can insert the stuffing!
Cut small notches on the edges of curves of your attached pieces.



Step 6.

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



Step 7.

Once you've stuffed your sphere, sew or glue the opening shut. Then shape the sphere a bit with your hands (mine looked like a football until I squished the ends a bit).



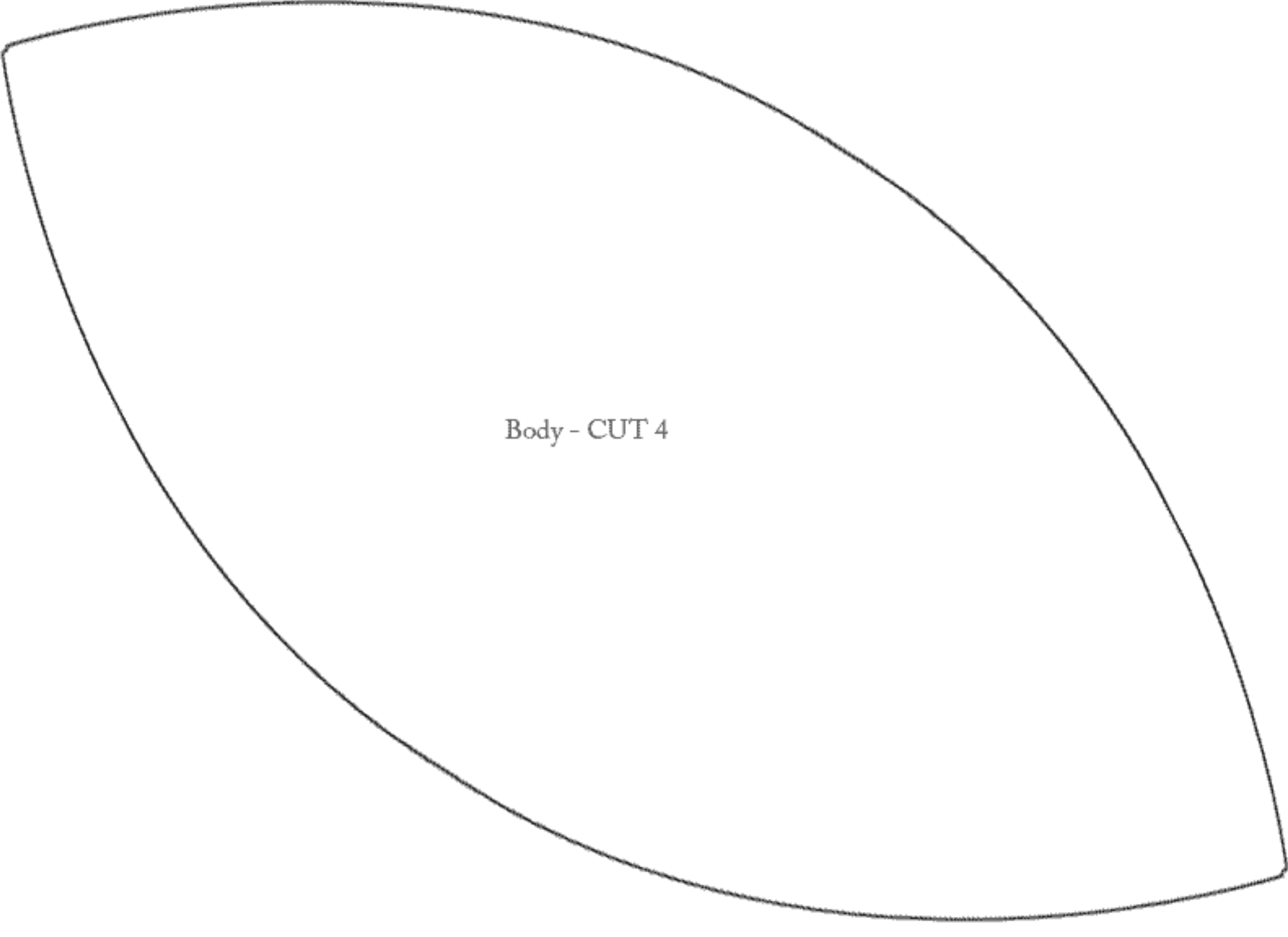
Step 8.

Repeat steps 1-7 until you have 3 or 4 spheres.

Step 9.

Sew or glue the spheres together into a chain. Decorate your microbe how you'd like it to look. Be creative!

TADA! Now you've got your own giant coccoidal microbe!

A large, empty, teardrop-shaped outline, resembling a lens or a stylized eye, with a smooth, curved border. It is centered on the page and occupies most of the visual space.

Body - CUT 4