



Basic Bunnies

Paper piecing can be fun and very rewarding, and by following these simple directions, which include time saving and nearly foolproof methods, your first paper piecings can look as if an expert made them! First of all, although you can print your pattern on heavy cardstock and trace around the pieces, make things easier for yourself and print them on a vinyl template sheet, which can be purchased easily at a fabric or quilt shop. It is best to print it on a laser printer, using a hand feed, as then the ink will be permanent and you can easily identify your pieces. When you get them printed, cut them out, using a small,

curved nail scissors for intricate areas, saving the bigger scrap pieces in case you would like to create an extra template piece of your own, or if you need to replace a lost piece. You will use all the pieces for the bunny you are making either print side up or print side down, depending on if you want the bunny to appear as in the picture or a mirror reflection of the picture. Then, place one or two pieces, on the back of a piece of heavy textured mulberry paper, (available at www.mulberrybear.com). There is no need to trace around the pieces! Just take a small paintbrush or Q-tip and wet the paper around each template piece, several times until when you check the other side the paper has a wet outline of your pieces. Then, holding the template piece near the edge, gently pull the paper apart. The template will guide you and help prevent tearing of the paper under the template. If it is difficult to tear, add more water! Your paper should be wet all the way though. Smooth any template impressions. Lay the first pieces aside and continue wetting and tearing until all the pattern parts have been torn. If you want a 3 dimensional paper piecing or the paper you are using is somewhat thin, tear one or more additional sets for layering...all duplicates exactly the same size as the original, so only the fringe from the lower pieces show. Note: Small intricate pieces may be cut rather than torn, if desired. A piece may also be partially cut and partially torn. It is sometimes helpful when you come to a tight spot to take a small scissors and cut a line midway between the edges to be torn and to the inner point. For example, if you are tearing ear B-2 cut a line to the inner point, midway between the edges and then tear each inner edge.

Note: Tear extra paws/tails to be used for cheeks.

When you have torn out all the body parts smooth the edge fibers with your fingers in the direction you will want them to go. Then, when the pieces are completely dry, use a toothbrush, stiff nailbrush or even your fingers to fluff the "furry" edges. There are special wire brushes and other tools, which may also be purchased for fluffing. Brush or pull the paper from the center to the edges, being careful not to brush so vigorously that you go all the way through the paper.

If you want an even furrier look, tear another set of pieces for layering! Very meticulous paper piecers, known for very furry edges, use as many as four layers for each piece. Also, the smaller the piece, the furrier it will look, in proportion. (You can top the first pieces with additional layers when dry.) After the pieces dry lay them out making small adjustments as needed. If you are doing layering, glue the layers of each piece together. When you are satisfied with your bear, shade the edges, if desired, with chalk. You can gently apply the chalk right to the edges or use a chalk sponge applicator, paintbrush, Q-tip, stipple brush or even your fingers. Some sets of chalks come with small foam brushes, which work just great...save Those old brushes from your eye shadow! You may also purchase foam applicators in a pack, which are specially designed for use with chalk. If you want a lot of accent you can rub the chalk lightly on the paper itself. If you accidentally get more chalk on than you want, brush some off with the toothbrush. You can also use watercolors and crayon, but they are much more difficult to control. The next step is assembling your pieces and adding a face. If you have some small punches you can use a small oval one for the eyes, a small heart for the nose, and a trimmed oval for the mouth, etc, adding accents with white gel pen or acrylic paint. I use Signo Uni-Ball gel pens or dimensional fabric paint that has a fine tip. I would use some caution to make sure the paint is thoroughly dry before adding it to your scrapbook pages and making sure it is not opposite a photo, as I have not had enough experience with it to assure you that it will not stick to the opposite page in warm temperatures. If you are using paint, you can use a fine brush, an old nail polish applicator with some of the bristles removed, or cut to a diagonal, or even a toothpick as an applicator. You can even choose white acrylic iridescent paint for added gleam! These eyes and noses can also be purchased pre-cut, as can the paw features. If you are drawing the face freehand and planning to use black and white gel pens, it is best to do the accents first and then color around them with your black gel pen, as the black will tend to merge with the white. If you have a small punch, you can even punch a hole in the paper right through your eye and back it with white. If you would like a shiny nose or mouth, try some embossing powder! Add a mouth freckles, eyebrows, and

eyelashes, as desired. The whiskers are attached under the nose. I used dental floss, although you can use 3-4 strands of white thread, which have been glued together and stiffened with white glue.

All that is left is to add your paper piecing to your layout. Lay the pieces out, positioning them as desired. The legs will generally go under the body or clothes. The tops of the arms will either go under the body or head. You can give some extra pop to your pieces by using pop dots, or a small piece of other raised material, which will accept glue. You can then add chalk shading to the edges, cheeks, ears, tummy, wherever you want. I find it is best to add the chalk right before final assembly as, as little handling as possible after it is added is desirable. I generally lay the pieces out and then add chalk just before I glue pieces together, adding more chalk, if needed, after everything is assembled. Begin gluing the bottom most pieces first as you have determined by your lay out. White glue works fine, but a glue stick allows more time for adjustments, and you do not run the risk of glue showing through your paper.

Pattern specific notes

Bunnies A and D have pre-punched paw prints. You can also do the paw accents with gel pen. The eggs in Bunny B's basket are punched ovals. The "grass" is torn green mulberry paper. Easter Bunny (B) has been done with 4 layers. All the other bunnies have one or two layers per body piece. Wonderful bunnies can be made with only one layer! If you are using one white layer, you may wish to purchase extra heavy white paper, as white tends to be thinner than colors as it has no additives.

Bunny D has a folded over ear. You will need to reverse the ear and tear a second, glue the smooth sides together, with the back piece just slightly higher than the front piece to assure coverage, and then fold the ear. Apply chalk or ear insert before gluing the fold down. Bunny D also has scrap pieces of torn white paper for a muzzle under its cheeks and belly piece. The flowers used for bunny C are from a 100 pack of tiny mulberry flowers. The heart, bunny D is holding, is available along with the flowers and paper from The Mulberry Bear.

You may change the direction of your bunny by turning the pattern pieces over. It is best to mark each piece as left or right facing, so you make sure you tear them all facing the same direction. Remember, the direction you lay your pattern pieces on the back of your paper will be opposite to the way your finished piece will face. You can make also make quick peek-a-boo characters by using front facing heads and paws.

The ears are interchangeable so you can get different looks just by changing the ears. Bunny A is very versatile and the position of its legs may be changed for different looks. Arm positions may easily be changed on all bunnies.

MATERIALS LIST

150-165 gsm (thickness) Handmade Textured Mulberry paper

Q Tips or paintbrush for applying water

A bush or other tools for fluffing (stiff tooth brush, metal bristle brush, or special picks)

Template vinyl or card stock for pattern printing

Assorted embellishments and background papers

Gel Pens (We recommend Signo Uni-Ball)

Chalk and applicators

Small curved nail scissors and larger scissors

Glue stick and/or white glue

Small plastic bags to hold pattern pieces

Dental Floss or White Thread

Dimensional Fabric Paint (Tulip Slick or other brand with very fine tip)

Pre-cut faces and paws and eggs (optional)

If you have any problems, please email me. I love to see finished results as well! If you have any suggestions, please let me know how I can make this pattern and the instructions better!

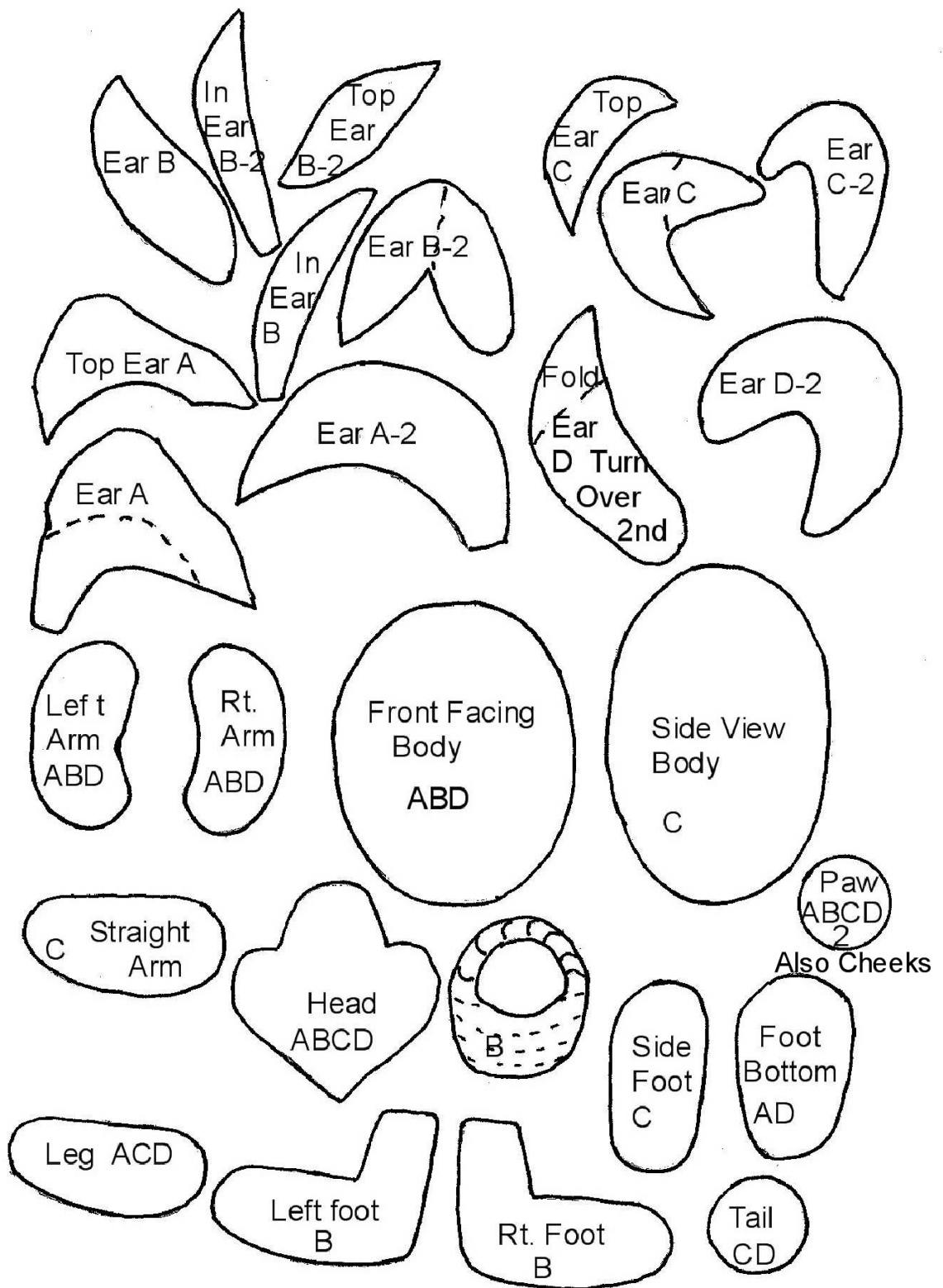
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and researching and trying various techniques so that paper piecing will be easier for you. Publishing this pattern and/or instructions, without my expressed written consent, is a serious violation of copyright law, subject to substantial fines. Additional permission for publication may be obtained on a case by case basis.

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The Mulberry Bear

www.mulberrybear.com

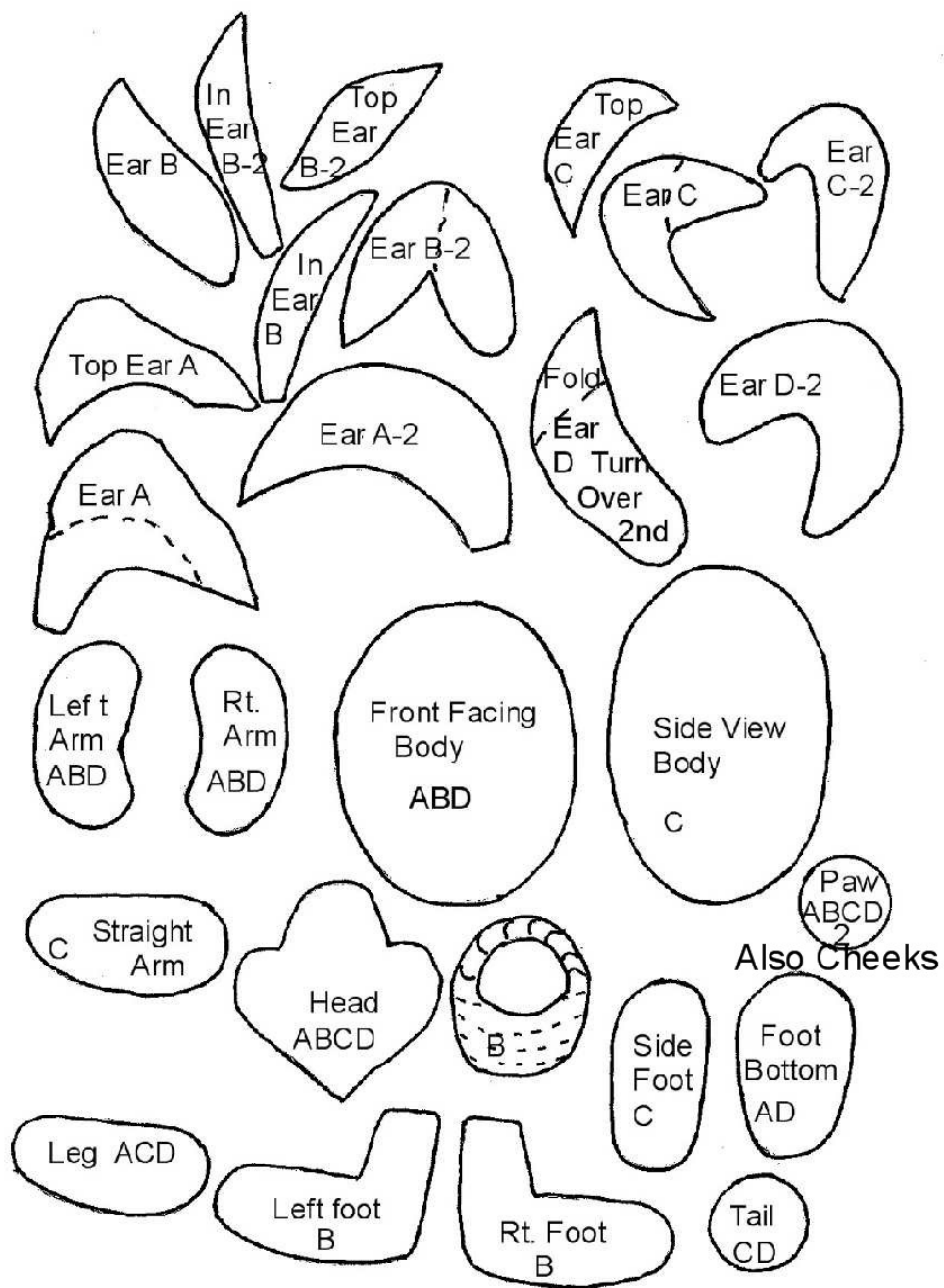


Basic Bunnies

© Jandora's Box 2006

Bunny Key

A
C D
B



Basic Bunnies

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Bunny Key

A	
C	D
B	