



Last-Minute Holiday Gifts

Last-minute sewing Santas will love these **By Karen Dillon**

scrap-basket projects for holiday gift giving. Stitch a batch of your favorites using fabric leftovers and trims from your stash. Make them in multiples for holiday bazaars.

FINISHED SIZES

Holly Mitten: Approximately 5¾ (at widest point) x 7½ inches, excluding loop

Hanukkah Gift Card Package/Ornament: 4½ x 5½ inches, excluding hanging loop

Poinsettia Sachet/Ornament: 4 x 4-inch pillow; flowers extend past finished edges

Santa's Stocking Hat/Place Setting: 11 inches tall, including pompom

Jingle Rings: 6½-inch circumference



HOLLY MITTEN

Note: Use this as an ornament, gift bag or coaster.

MATERIALS FOR HOLLY MITTEN

- 6 x 8-inch scrap tightly woven off-white wool or felt for mitten front
- 6 x 8-inch scrap tightly woven red wool or felt for mitten back
- 3-inch square green felt for holly leaves
- Scraps white and red felt for cuff
- 3 small red ball buttons for the berries
- Template plastic
- Paper-backed fusible web
- 6-inch piece ¼-inch-wide ribbon for optional hanging loop

- All-purpose thread (white and green)
- Basic sewing tools and equipment

Holly Mitten Cutting

- Enlarge the mitten pattern on page 43 and cut out of template plastic. Trace the actual-size holly leaf template on page 43 onto template plastic and cut out carefully.
- Use the templates as patterns to trace one white mitten, one red mitten and three holly leaves. Cut out. If desired, trim two of the holly leaves each a bit differently so the leaves are not all identical.
- From the white felt scrap, cut two 1½ x 4-inch strips for the cuffs. From the red felt scrap, cut six ⅝ x 1¾-inch strips for the stripes.

Holly Mitten Assembly

Note: Refer to the photo.

1. Center a ½-inch-wide strip of fusible web on the wrong side of each holly leaf. Remove the paper and position on the white mitten. Fuse in place, and then stitch through the center of each one for the vein. Sew the buttons in place for the berries.



2. Pin the white and red mittens together with wrong sides facing. Adjust the machine for an appliqué (blanket) stitch and sew together around the outer curved edge, leaving the upper edge unstitched.
3. Optional: Fold the ribbon in half and pin in place at the upper edge of the mitten front, just inside the seam. Machine-stitch to the mitten front only.
4. Apply a ½-inch-wide strip of fusible web to the wrong side of each red felt strip. Remove the backing paper. Center a strip on each white felt strip and fuse in place. Add two more strips to each rectangle, spacing the stripes evenly. Blanket-stitch over the edges of each red stripe. Trim excess stripes even with the white strips.
5. Apply a ½-inch-wide strip of fusible web to the wrong side of each cuff at one long edge. Remove the paper and fuse a cuff to the upper edge of the front and back of the mitten. Center the stripes on the mittens before fusing. The ribbon loop will be sandwiched between the front cuff and the mitten.
6. Stitch the cuffs together at each side seam close to the red stripes; trim the excess cuff just beyond the stitching.



HANUKKAH GIFT CARD PACKAGE/ORNAMENT

Note: Tuck a gift card into the pocket on the front of this reusable “gift package.” Add a hanging loop if desired. Change the colors to turn this into a Christmas

package, if desired, or to match your tree color scheme to use it as an ornament.

MATERIALS FOR ONE PACKAGE

- 6 x 14-inch piece blue velvet (or other blue fabric of your choice)
- 1 yard ⅝-inch-wide silver wire-edge ribbon
- Optional: 7-inch piece narrow silver ribbon or flat trim for hanging loop
- Handful polyester fiberfill
- Liquid seam sealant
- All-purpose thread to match fabric and ribbon
- Basic sewing tools and equipment

Cutting & Assembly for One Package

1. From the velvet, cut two 5½ x 6½-inch rectangles for the package and one 7-inch square for the pocket.
2. Refer to Figure 1 for steps 2 and 3. With wrong sides facing, fold the 7-inch square in half and finger-press the upper edge. Turn under and finger-press ¼ inch at one short end of the silver ribbon, and then cut a 3½-inch-long piece. Carefully remove the wire by pulling it from both edges. Center the ribbon on the folded square and stitch close to both edges through all layers.

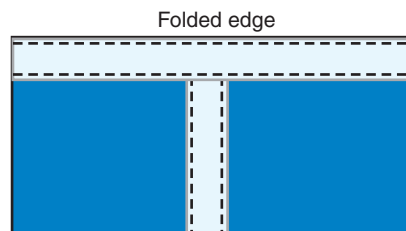


Figure 1
Position and stitch ribbons to folded rectangle.

3. Cut a 7-inch-long piece of ribbon, remove the wires and position it along the upper folded edge of the pocket. Stitch in place.
4. Cut a 5-inch-long piece of ribbon, remove the wires, and then center and stitch it to one of the velvet rectangles. Trim the excess ribbon even with the rectangle edges (Figure 2).

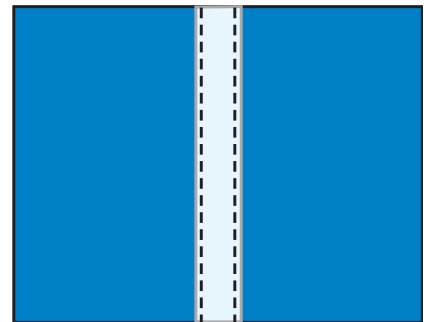


Figure 2
Center ribbon on rectangle; stitch in place.

5. Position the pocket on the ribbon-trimmed rectangle so the center of the ribbon is centered across the piece. Pin in place. Turn the piece over and trim the excess pocket even with the rectangle edges. Hand-baste the layers together (Figure 3).

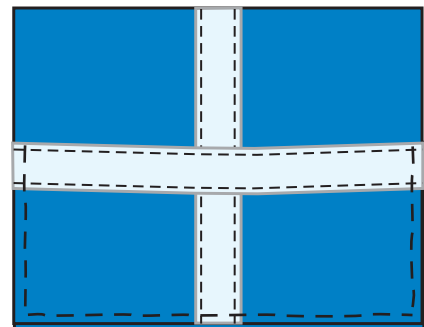


Figure 3
Hand-baste pocket to rectangle with ribbon centered across the piece.

6. *Optional:* Fold the narrow silver trim or ribbon in half to make a loop, and center at the upper edge of the ribbon on the rectangle. Machine-baste in place.
7. With right sides facing and using ½-inch-wide seam allowances, sew the two rectangles together, leaving a small opening at the bottom edge for turning. Trim the seams to ¼ inch and clip corners. Apply seam sealant to cut corners and allow to dry.
8. Turn the package right side out through the opening and stuff to the desired firmness with fiberfill. Slipstitch the opening edges together.
9. With the remaining ribbon, fashion a bow and hand-sew on the pocket.
10. Tuck a gift card inside the pocket.



JINGLE RINGS

MATERIALS FOR FOUR NAPKIN RINGS

- Scraps of silk dupioni or other dressy fabric in one or more colors
- 1 yard narrow decorative trim
- 4 x 36-inch strip woven, knit or weft-insertion fusible interfacing
- 4 x 40-inch strip polyester fleece (not quilt batting)
- 4 x 40-inch strip paper-backed fusible web
- 20 (9mm) gold jingle bells
- Optional: 4 ready-made napkins and 16 jingle bells
- ¼-inch-wide strips paper-backed fusible web
- All-purpose thread to match fabrics
- Rotary cutter, mat and ruler
- Basic sewing tools and equipment

Cutting & Assembly for Napkin Rings

1. For each napkin ring, cut a $3\frac{3}{4}$ x $7\frac{1}{2}$ -inch strip of silk and a matching strip of fusible interfacing. Apply the interfacing to the wrong side of each silk strip, following the manufacturer's directions.

2. At one short end of each silk strip, turn under and press $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Cut a $1\frac{1}{4}$ x 7-inch strip of polyester fleece and a matching strip of fusible web for each ring. Remove the backing paper on the fusible web and carefully position it, fusible side down, on the interfaced side of each fleece strip. Fuse in place. Turn under and press

$\frac{1}{4}$ inch at one long edge of each strip. Apply a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-wide strip of fusible web to the turned seam allowance (Figure 4).

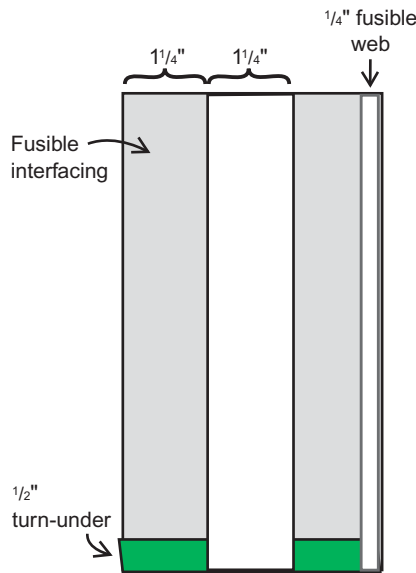


Figure 4
Center and fuse fleece strip to wrong side of napkin-ring strip.

3. Turn the raw edge of the strip over and onto the fleece; press. Remove the paper and turn the folded edge over the raw edge; fuse in place.

4. Cut a $7\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-long piece of trim for each tube. Apply $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-wide fusible web to the wrong side, remove the paper and position and fuse at one long edge on the right side of each silk tube, allowing $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to extend at the turned end. Tuck the extension inside the tube and press (Figure 5).

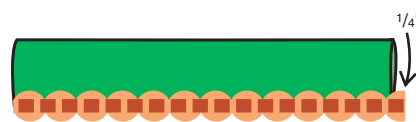


Figure 5
Fuse trim to right side of tube with $\frac{1}{4}$ " extending past finished end.

5. To finish each ring, tuck $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the raw end of the tube into the turned end and invisibly slipstitch the folded edge in place around the ring, inside and out.

6. Evenly space and hand-sew five jingle bells to the trimmed edge of each napkin ring.

7. Optional: Sew jingle bells to each corner of each napkin and tuck a napkin into each napkin ring for a thoughtful hostess gift.



POINSETTIA SACHET / ORNAMENT

MATERIALS FOR ONE SACHET OR ORNAMENT

- $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch square each 2 shades of red nonwoven faux suede or felt for petals
- 6-inch square green nonwoven faux suede or felt for leaves
- $4\frac{3}{4}$ x $8\frac{3}{4}$ -inch rectangle off-white or pale pink silk dupioni or other dressy fabric for the pillow
- $4\frac{3}{4}$ x $8\frac{3}{4}$ -inch rectangle lightweight fusible interfacing
- 11 small yellow beads
- Thread a shade or two darker than each suede color, yellow for the beads, and matching for the silk
- Scraps paper-backed fusible web
- Template plastic
- Polyester fiberfill or potpourri for stuffing
- Rotary cutter, mat, and ruler
- Hand-sewing needle for beading
- Press cloth
- Basic sewing tools and equipment

Assembly for Sachet or Ornament

1. Trace the templates on page 42 onto template plastic and cut out carefully. Trace around each template on the green and red suede or felt scraps and cut out carefully. Cut the larger set of petals from the darker red.
2. Stitch veins on the green leaves with slightly darker thread. Repeat with the petals if desired.
3. Apply a small square of fusible web to the center on the wrong side of each of the two petal shapes. Remove the backing paper.
4. Place the larger petal shape on top of the green leaf shape and adjust as desired so leaves show around the petals. None of the petals should be perfectly centered in a leaf (refer to photo). Use the tip of the iron and a press cloth and fuse the center of the petal to the leaf. Repeat to add the second petal, adjusting the positioning so the second petals are not centered in the first ones. Sew the yellow beads in the center of the assembled flower and set aside.
5. Apply the fusible interfacing to the wrong side of the silk rectangle following manufacturer's directions. Fold the rectangle in half with short raw edges even and right sides facing. Stitch $\frac{3}{8}$ from the raw edges as shown, leaving an opening in the center (Figure 6).

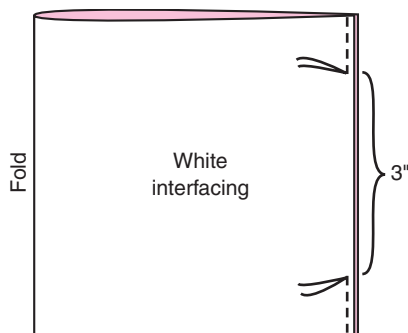


Figure 6
Fold rectangle in half and stitch, leaving opening in center.

6. Press the seam to one side and center the seam line in the piece. Stitch $\frac{3}{8}$ inch from the raw edges (Figure 7).

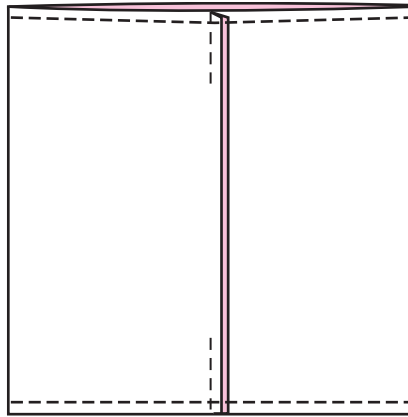


Figure 7
Center seam line in square; stitch $\frac{3}{8}$ " from raw edges.

7. Clip the corners and turn the silk square right side out. Stuff with polyester fiberfill or potpourri as desired. Slipstitch the opening closed.
8. Center the poinsettia on the pillow, covering the seam. Lift the red petals out of the way and hand-sew the leaf to the pillow top.
9. *Optional:* Make a ribbon or cord loop and hand-sew it to one corner of the pillow. Tuck the cord ends under the leaf and secure with whipstitching, and then sew the loop material to the pillow top by hand, allowing a loop to extend above the corner. If necessary, hand-tack the leaf to the pillow over the loop ends so they don't show.

**SANTA'S STOCKING HAT/
PLACE SETTING**

Note: Make one of these for each guest at your holiday luncheon. Tuck the ribbon loop inside before you place it on the plate and tuck treats and small gifts as well as a holiday place card into the hat brim to use as a festive place setting. Then allow guests to take the hat home to use as a Christmas "stocking" or to reuse as packaging for a special gift.



MATERIALS FOR ONE HAT

- 13-inch square red double-sided quilted fabric
- $\frac{1}{8}$ yard fake fur
- All-purpose thread to match fabrics
- Pattern tracing cloth or paper
- Handful polyester fiberfill
- $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-wide paper-backed fusible web
- 8-inch-long piece $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-wide red ribbon for inside seam finish
- Optional: 8-inch-long piece $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-wide ribbon for hanging loop
- Optional: Press cloth
- Rotary cutter, mat and ruler
- Seam board
- Basic sewing tools and equipment

Cutting for One Hat

- Enlarge the hat pattern (Figure 8 on page 41) on pattern tracing paper or cloth and cut out. Pin to the quilted fabric and cut one.
- From the fake fur, cut one $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 21-inch strip for the hat brim and one $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch square for the pom-pom.

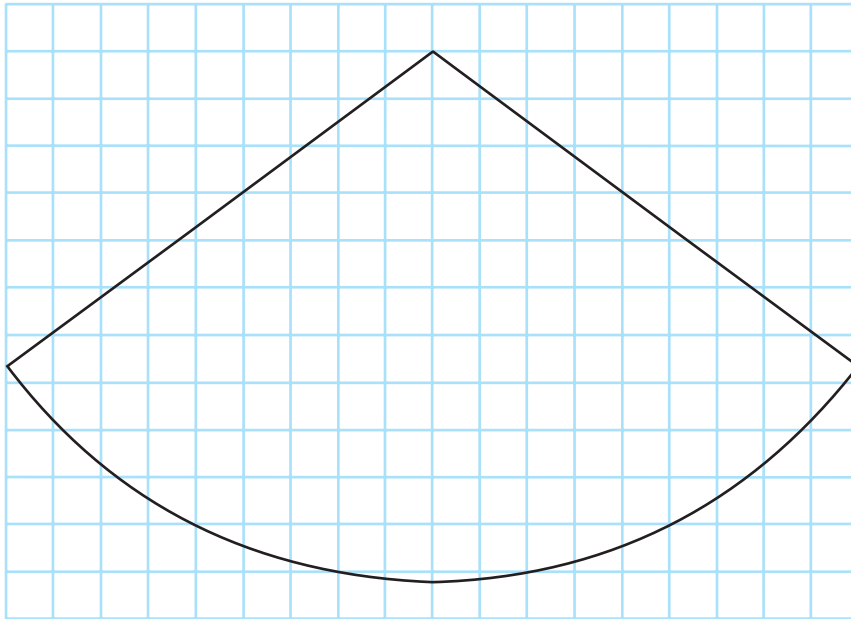


Figure 8
Santa's Stocking Hat
1 Square = 1"

Assembly for One Hat

1. Fold the hat in half with right sides facing and long edges even. Stitch $\frac{3}{8}$ inch from the raw edges. Tuck the point of the seam board into the hat and press the seam open, using a press cloth to protect the fabric if necessary.

2. Apply fusible web to the wrong side of the wide ribbon. Remove the backing paper and center the ribbon over the seam allowance. Fuse in place. The ribbon won't reach all the way into the point, but that won't show in the finished hat (Figure 9).

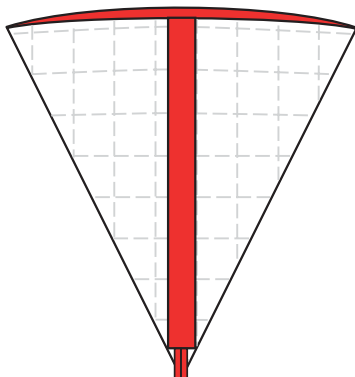


Figure 9
Center ribbon over seam allowances; fuse in place.

3. Turn the hat right side out and poke out the point carefully. Measure the lower edge of the hat from seam line to seam line and add $\frac{3}{4}$ inch for seams. Trim the $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 21-inch fur strip to this measurement.

4. With the short ends even and the right sides facing, sew the fur strip into a circle. Use a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch-wide seam. Finger-press the seam open. On the right side, use a pin or needle to lift the fur fibers out of the seam line.

5. At one long edge of the fur circle for the brim, turn under and pin a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-wide hem. Machine-stitch close to the raw edge (Figure 10). On the outside, use a pin or needle to lift the fibers out of the stitching so it doesn't show on the brim.

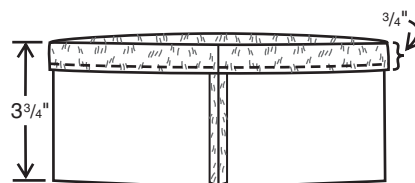


Figure 10
Turn and topstitch hem.

6. On the wrong side of the brim, draw a placement line $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the raw edge. With the seams matching and the right side of the hat facing you, lap the lower edge of the hat over the raw edge of the fur so the edge is aligned with the markings. Pin securely in place, and then zigzag the layers together (Figure 11). Work over the free-arm of your sewing machine to make this easy. Turn the brim to the outside over the zigzagged edge of the hat.

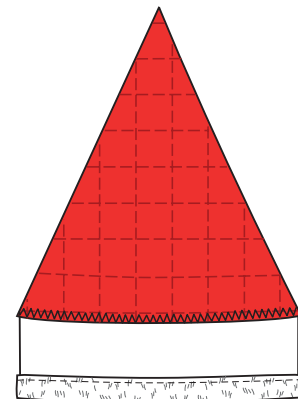
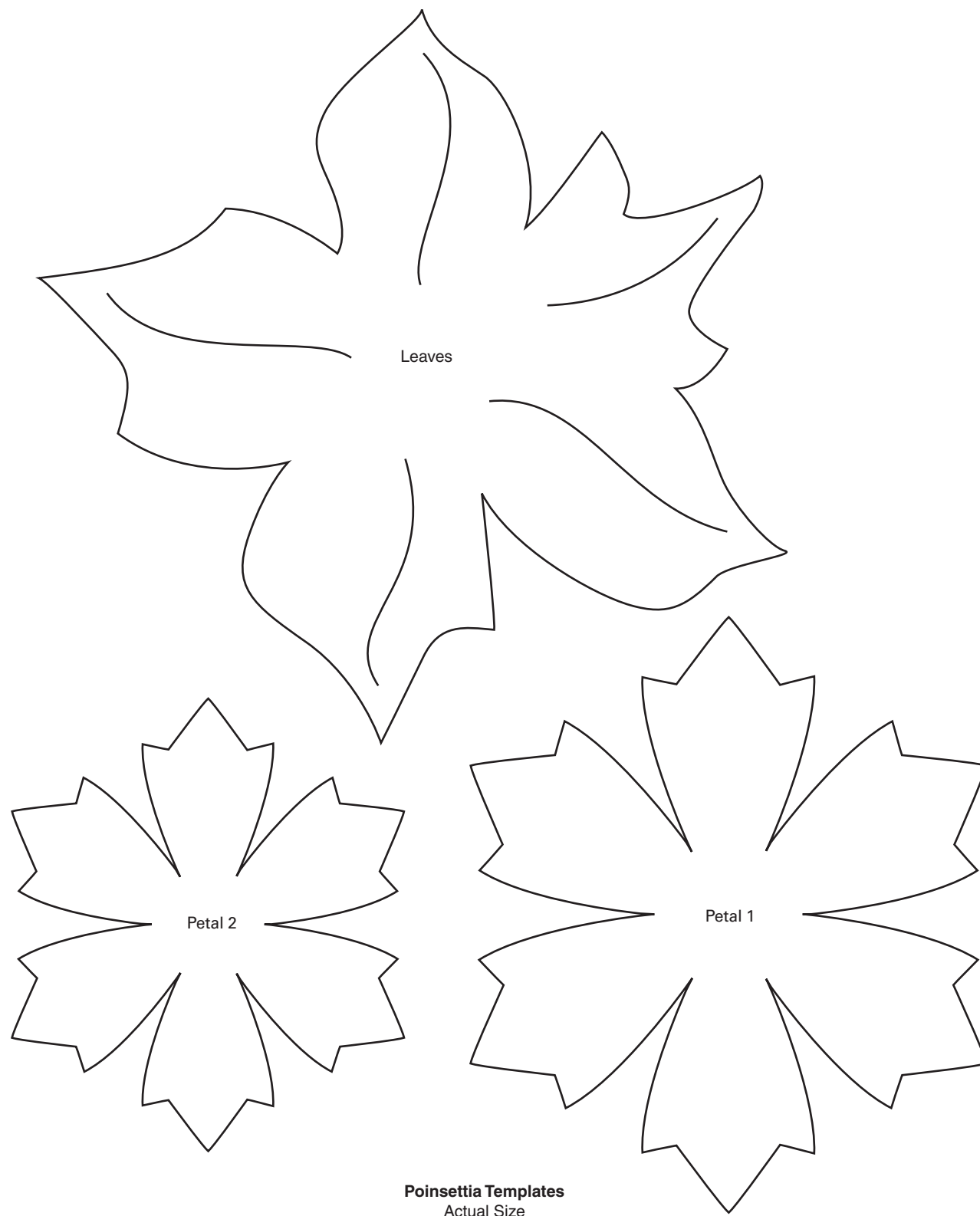
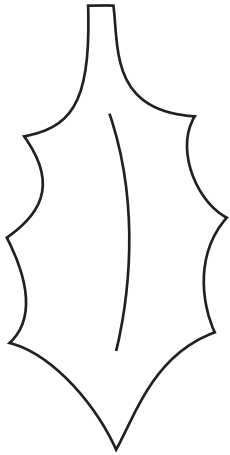


Figure 11
Lap hat edge over fur edge by $\frac{1}{4}$ " and zigzag together.

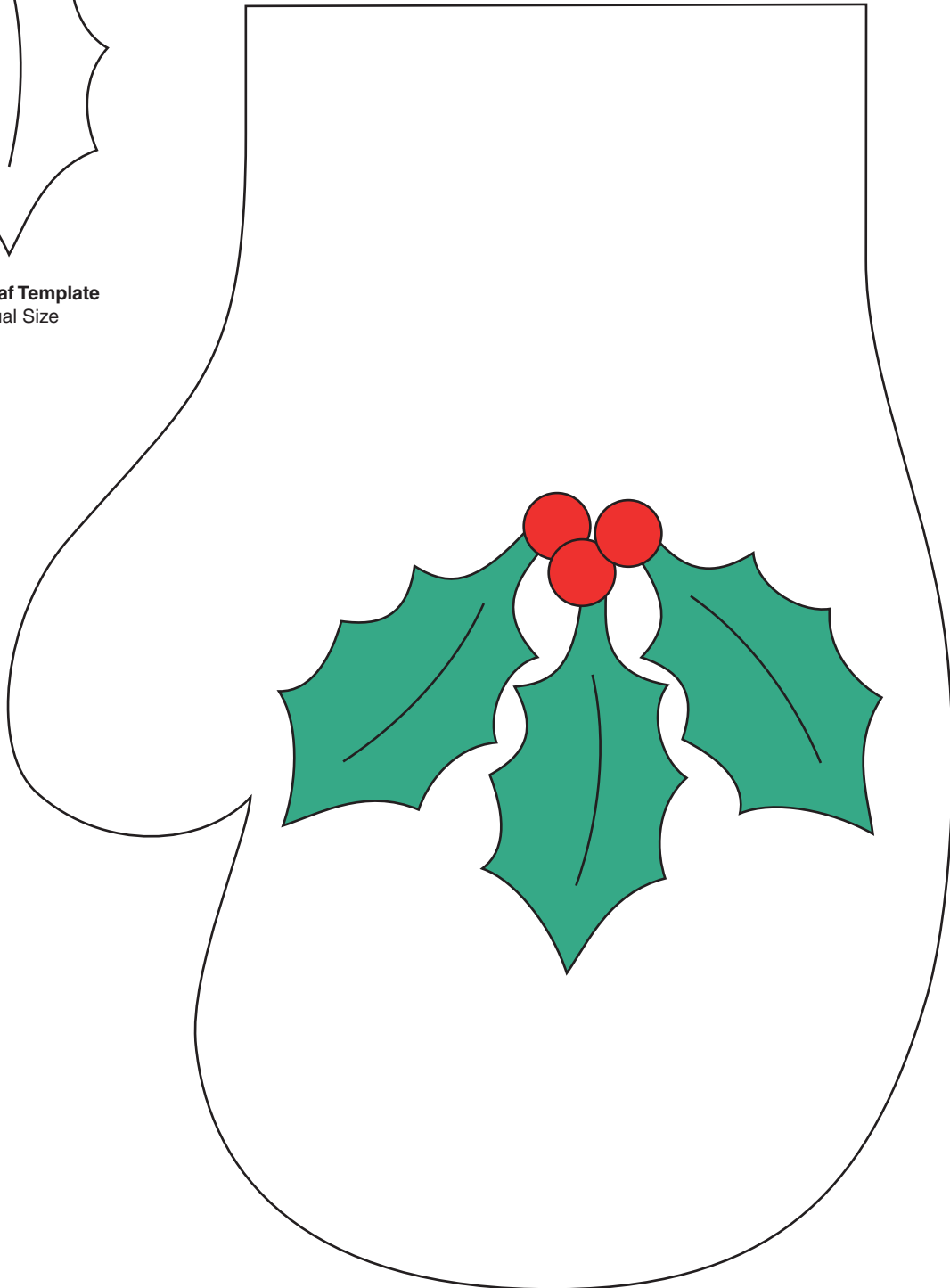
7. Round off the corners of the $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch square of fake fur. Hand-baste around the perimeter using double thread, and draw up the gathers to make the pompom. After drawing them up partway, stuff the pompom with fiberfill to the desired fullness and then draw it up further. Tuck the point of the hat into the opening and sew the pompom securely to the hat.

8. Optional: To use this hat as a stocking, add a ribbon loop for hanging. Fold the narrow ribbon in half with right sides facing and stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the raw ends. Trim close to the second stitching. Turn right side out, fold along the seam line and stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the fold. Position the stitched end of the loop inside the hat at the seam and securely hand-sew it to the ribbon over the seam. ●





Holly Leaf Template
Actual Size



Holly Mitten Ornament Template
Actual Size

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