

Alutiiq Doll Parka



INSTRUCTIONS BY HANNA AGASUUQ SHOLL

This activity creates an Alutiiq/Sugpiaq felt atkuk—parka for a Glitter Girls doll.

MATERIALS

Black, Red, & White Felt Sheets (12" x 9")
White Pipe Cleaners
White Bead (1)
Sticky Back Velcro
Black Thread
Hot Glue/Double-sided Tape

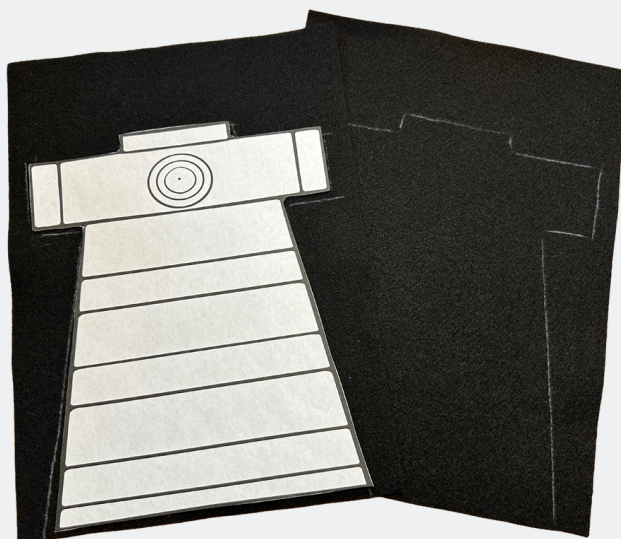
EQUIPMENT

Scissors
Ruler
Chalk or White Crayon
Needle
Leather Punch
Wire Cutters (optional)

Agunanek piliyut. — They are making clothes.

STEP 1: CUT THE BODY OF THE PARKA

Print the paper pattern (page 6) and cut out the parka. Use the pattern to trace the outline of the parka on two sheets of black felt—one for the front of the parka and one for the back. Cut the parka shape out of the felt.

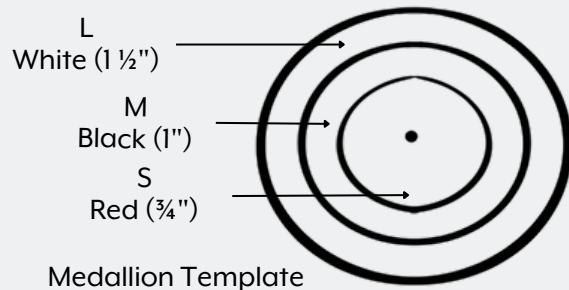


STEP 2: CUT THE COLLAR & CUFFS

Cut the collar and cuffs out of the paper parka template (page 6) and use them as patterns for cutting pieces of red felt for the parka's collar and cuffs. Cut pieces for both the front and the back of the parka—two collar pieces and four cuff pieces.

STEP 3: CUT OUT THE MEDALLION

Cut the circular medallion out of the paper parka template (page 6) and then cut each of the concentric circles out of the medallion. Use the three circles to cut out a white (large), black (medium), and red (small) felt circle. Stack as shown.



Felt Medallion - 1 1/2" across



STEP 4: CUT OUT THE RED FELT ACCENTS

Cut the three strips labeled "Accent Strip" out of the parka pattern (Page 6). Include the fringe area. Use these paper templates to cut six red felt strips. Make two red strips of each size—one for the parka's front and one for the back.

In the lower half of each red strip, measure and mark the desired fringe width (ca. 1/2"), and cut out the fringe. Repeat for all six red accent strips.

STEP 5: CUT OUT THE WHITE FELT ACCENTS

Cut out six white felt accent strips using the top portion of the paper patterns created in Step 4. Make two white strips of each size. One will be used on the front of the parka, the other on the back.



STEP 6: LAYOUT ACCENTS AND SECURE

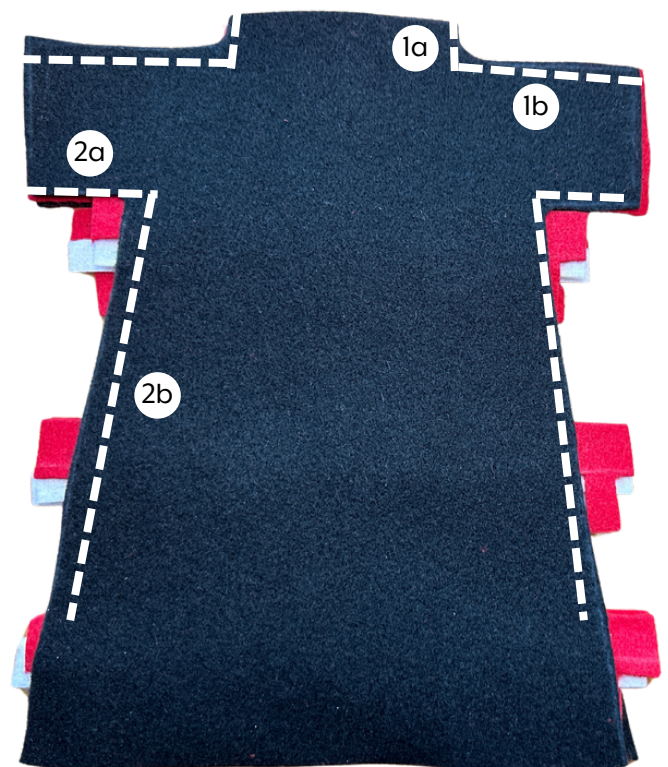
Lay out the felt accent pieces as shown below and secure them to the parka with hot glue or double-sided tape.



STEP 7: SEW THE PARKA SIDES TOGETHER

Place the sides of the parka together with the insides out. The decorated sides should face each other as shown here. Carefully align the red and white strips on each side.

Sew the seams together, reinforcing your stitches by sewing over each seam twice. Start with the collar. Sew up the neck and then back down (1a). Tie a knot. Then sew from the neck to the cuff and back, and tie a knot (1b). Now move to the armpit and sew from here out to the cuff and back. Tie a knot. Finally, sew from the armpit to the top of the lowest red accent strip and then back up to the armpit (2b). Tie a knot.



STEP 8: MAKE AN OPENING FOR THE DOLL'S HEAD

At the center of the back collar, cut a slit from the top of the collar to the top of the first red accent strip on the back of the parka.

Next, cut a piece of sticky back velcro that will fit inside the slit, and secure it on both sides.

Velcro-lined Slit



STEP 9: ADD DECORATIONS

You can decorate your doll parka in many ways. Consult images of Alutiiq clothing for ideas or try some of these techniques.

Medallion: Use a leather punch to make a hole through all three layers of the medallion and the parka beneath. Thread a one-inch piece of pipe cleaner through the hole. Add a bead to the pipe cleaner, then bend the pipe cleaner on the other side of the bead and pass it through the hole. On the inside of the parka, twist the ends of the pipe cleaner together to secure.

Fringe: Cut ½" segments of white pipe cleaner—one for each piece of red fringe on both sides of the parka. Use a leather punch to make a hole in each piece of fringe about 1/8" from the end. Thread a piece of pipe cleaner through each hole, bend it around the end of the fringe, and crimp gently to secure.

Medallion Decoration



Fringe Decoration

*Cormorant Skin Parka, Etholen Collection,
National Museum of Finland,
Photo by Sven Haakanson Jr.*



BIRD SKIN PARKAS

Before the introduction of Western clothing, Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people wore atkut—parkas, long, hoodless robes of animal skins. Puffins, cormorants, and other sea birds provided pelts for elaborately decorated bird skin parkas. Bird hides were cleaned and scraped to soften. The number of pelts used in each parka varied by species and parka design. It took about 150 cormorant neck skins to create the parka shown above—the inspiration for many of the parkas worn by Alutiiq men and women today. These garments feature tassels with tufts of ermine fur that move like snow when people dance. Today they are called snow falling parkas.



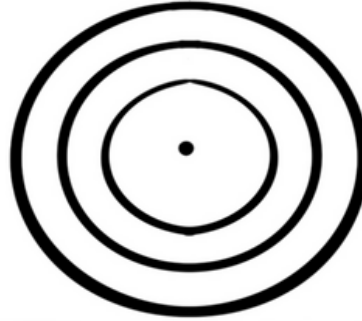
Parka Template

Collar

Cuff

Medallion

Cuff



Accent Strip

(fringe area)

white felt strip

Accent Strip

(fringe area)

white felt strip

Accent Strip

(fringe area)

white felt strip

Print this template on an 8.5 x 11" piece of paper in portrait orientation.