

SEWING TALES TO STITCH AND LOVE

18 TOY PATTERNS FOR THE STORYTELLING SEWIST

BY KERRY GOULDER

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Casco the Dolphin

Casco is a one-year-old bottle-nosed dolphin born last summer at a nearby aquarium. He loves to do tricks. His two favorites are jumping through hoops and pushing balls down under the water. He tries hard to swim up and break the surface of the water before the ball pops back up. If he beats the ball, Casco gets an extra fish treat each time, and he loves fish!

Today, Casco and his mommy will be released back into the vast wild ocean where they belong. His mommy was injured when she was caught in a fisherman's net. Soon after arriving at the aquarium to get better, she had Casco. He's a little nervous to venture outside of the aquarium, but excited to explore new places and make new friends on the ocean floor.

FINISHED LENGTH: 6" (15.2CM)
AND 10" (25.4CM)

Supplies

Templates (page 9-11) • Fabric: 1 fat quarter, or 2 for variety (makes both Casco and mama) • Stuffing • Thread • Basic sewing tools

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Trace and cut out the dolphin pattern pieces using the fabrics of your choice.

2 Place the dolphin side pieces right sides together and sew the spine from the nose, around the dorsal fin and to the tail, then set aside.

3 Take 2 fin pieces and sew them right sides together, then repeat for the second fin.

4 Clip or notch the edges carefully and turn the fins right side out.

5 Place the dolphin belly pieces right sides together and sew on the straight edge from the nose toward the belly about 2" (5.1cm), or 4" (10.2cm) for mama. Then sew from the tail to the belly about 1½" (3.8cm), or 3½" (8.9cm) for mama. This will leave an opening approximately 2" (5.1cm), or 3" (7.6cm) for mama, in the center for turning and stuffing.

NOTE: If you do not want your dolphin to be a finger puppet, then sew up this seam without leaving an opening and skip steps 6–8.

6 Take the finger pouch pieces and place them right sides together. Fold ¼" (6mm) of the flat edge on only the top piece, and leave the other edge unfolded.



7 Sew from one corner around the finger shape to the other corner, leaving the flat edge open.



8 Place the raw flat edge of the unfolded finger piece to the flat edge opening of the belly, right sides facing. Sew this piece in place on only one side. It will not be connected to the other side until the very end, when the belly is closed after stuffing.



9 Pin the raw edge of the fins on the outside edge of the belly pieces so that the top of the fin is 2" (5.1cm) from the nose tip, or 4" (10.2cm) for mama, and the tips of the fins are pointing down toward the tail.



10 With the belly pieces right side up, place the top of the dolphin right side down. Line up the seams and pin the nose and the tail in place.

11 Sew the dolphin all the way around from the tip of the nose, around the body and back to the nose.

12 Clip or notch all of the edges, and around the tail and the upper fin.

13 Carefully turn the fins right side out and then the nose of the dolphin.

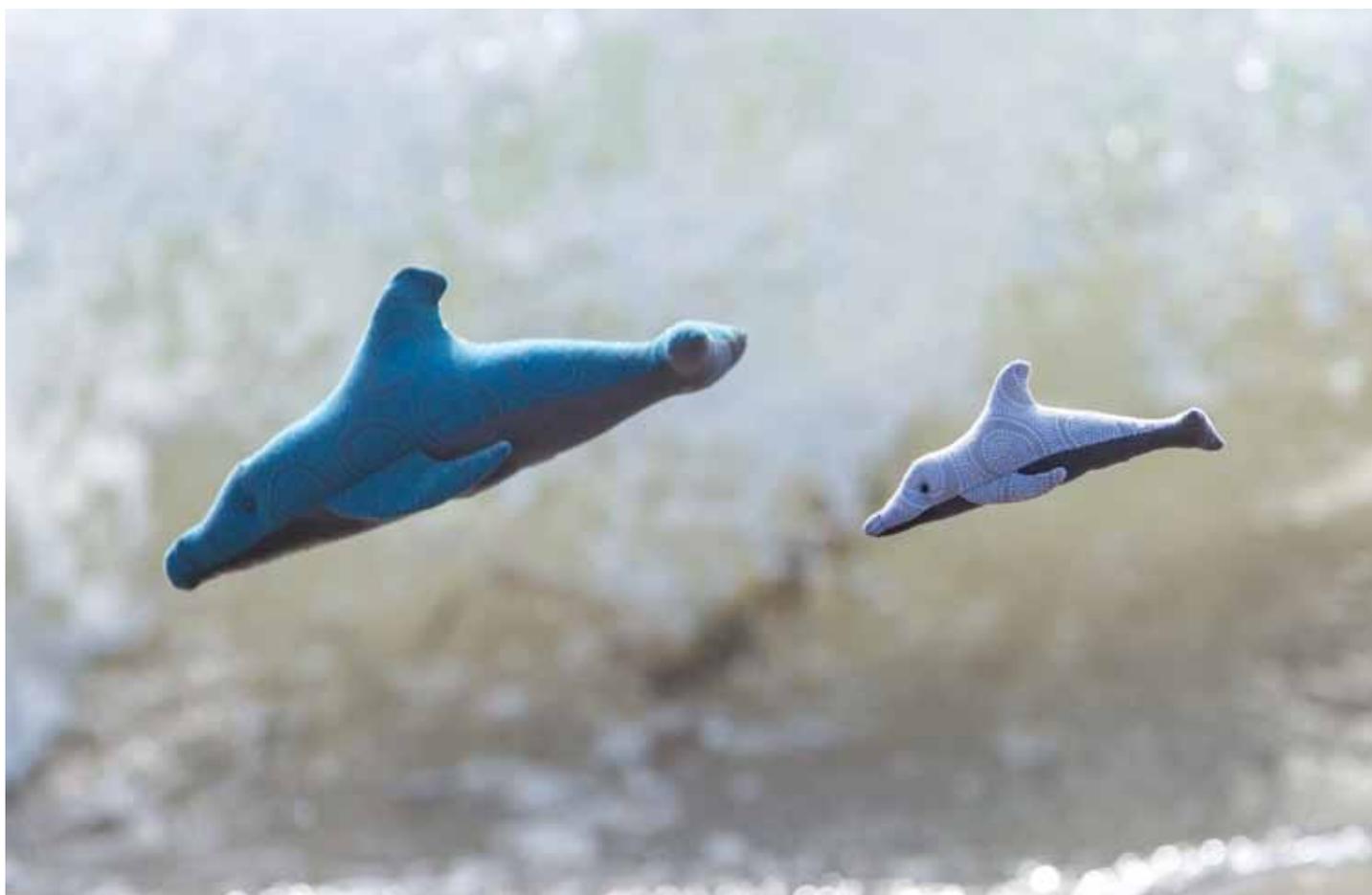
14 Pull the finger pouch out of the inside to keep it out of the way.

15 Stuff the dolphin's nose, upper dorsal fin and tail first. Then stuff the body. Do not overstuff, or the finger pouch will be impossible to use.

16 Poke the finger pouch back into the dolphin, making sure it's not in a bunch.



17 Close the opening by using a ladder stitch. First close one end. When you reach the finger pouch, only sew the edge of the dolphin to the unsewn edge of the pouch. Then sew the other end past the finger edge to close the belly completely.



Basic techniques and stitches

Clipping and notching curves and corners is time-consuming but important to do, so that your fabric isn't too tight along the sewn edges and doesn't appear misshapen once stuffed. After clipping and notching, the fabric will look smoother along all the edges once stuffed.

Inward curves require a $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) straight clip along the edge of the seam, and an outward curve requires a small triangular notch along the outside edge. When clipping and notching, there is a fine balance between cutting the fabric edge and how close you can get to the seam, without the fabric ripping under stress once stuffed. Use caution and leave a little room, with at least three to four threads unclipped.



CURVES AND CORNERS CLIPPED AND NOTCHED.



NOT CLIPPING AND NOTCHING WILL RESULT IN ROUGH, MISSHAPEN EDGES.



CURVED SEAMS LAY NICER AND SMOOTHER IF CLIPPED AND NOTCHED FIRST.

To Sew Embroidery Eyes

When deciding what type of eyes to add, consider the safety and simplicity of embroidery knotted eyes. Embroidery knots for eyes on items intended for small children are ideal, as they are not a choking hazard.

You'll need a standard six-strand, 12" (30.5cm) piece of embroidery floss for each doll or stuffie.



1 Push a threaded doll needle into one side of the head, making sure it's level horizontally and vertically when exiting the other side.



2 Pull it through the other side, leave some floss hanging, and put it back through again.



3 Cut the floss on the looped side so you have two separate pieces on both sides. Tie a knot on each side, pulling tighter each time.



4 On one side, hold both pieces together and tie another knot. Before pulling tight, grab the knot that is already there and guide the floss to tie underneath the knot you are holding. Do this a couple of times, and then repeat this for the other side.



5 Using the doll needle again, thread the floss through the eyes and out the opposite side of the head. This will prevent the eyes from coming undone over time.



6 Carefully trim the ends off without cutting into the fabric.



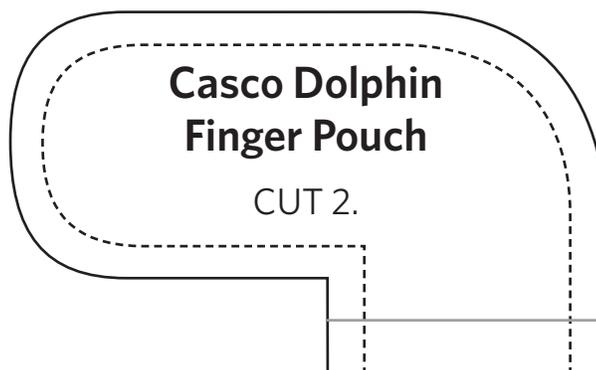
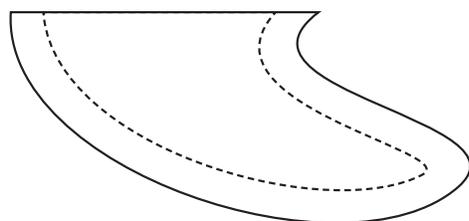
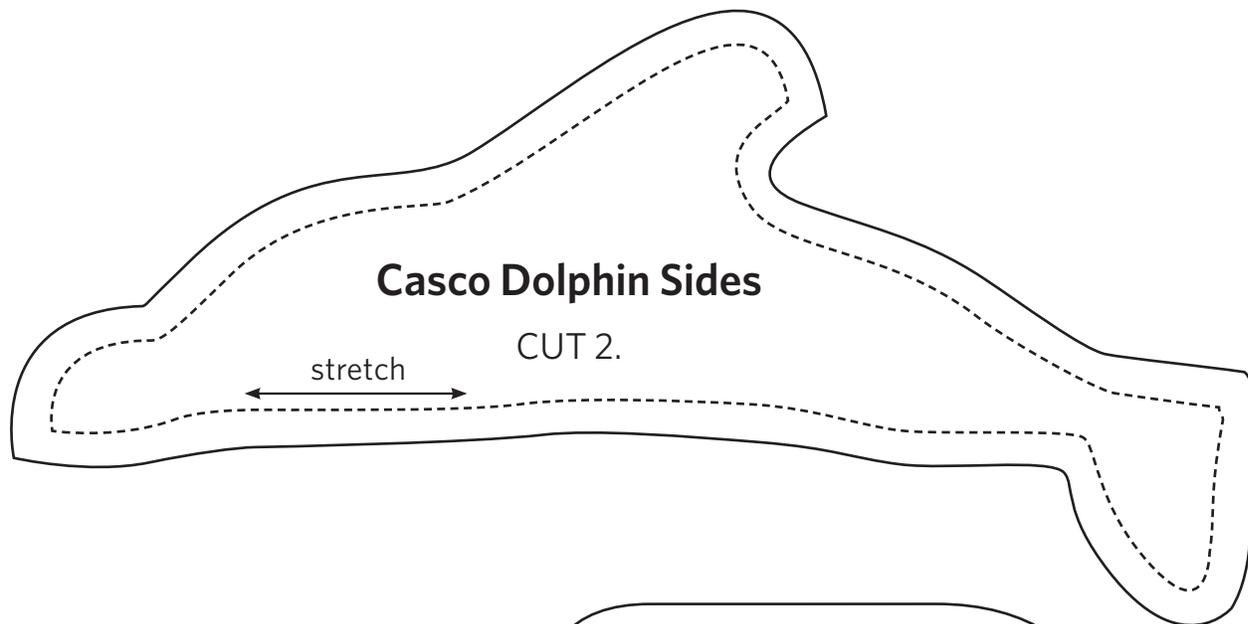
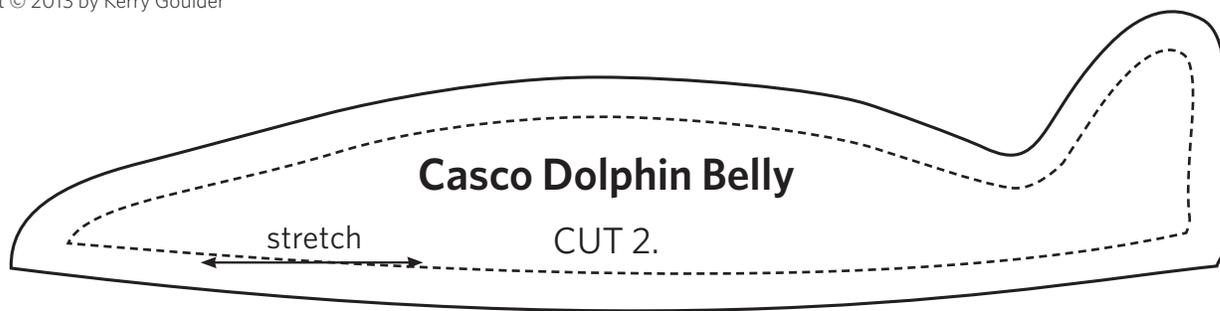
Find these and more adorable toy and accessories patterns in Kerry Goulder's book [Sewing Tales to Stitch and Love](#)



Casco the Dolphin, with Mama (1 of 3)

print all pieces at 100%

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ONE INCH

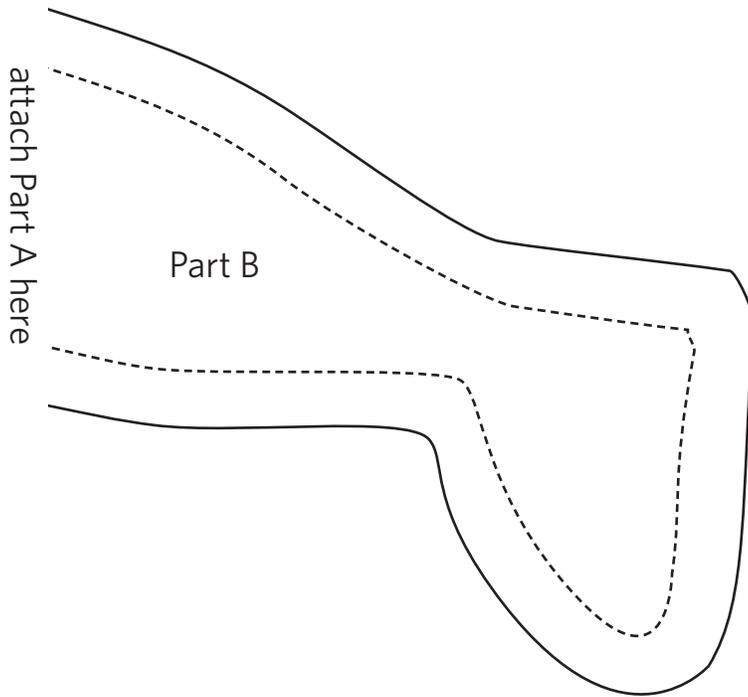
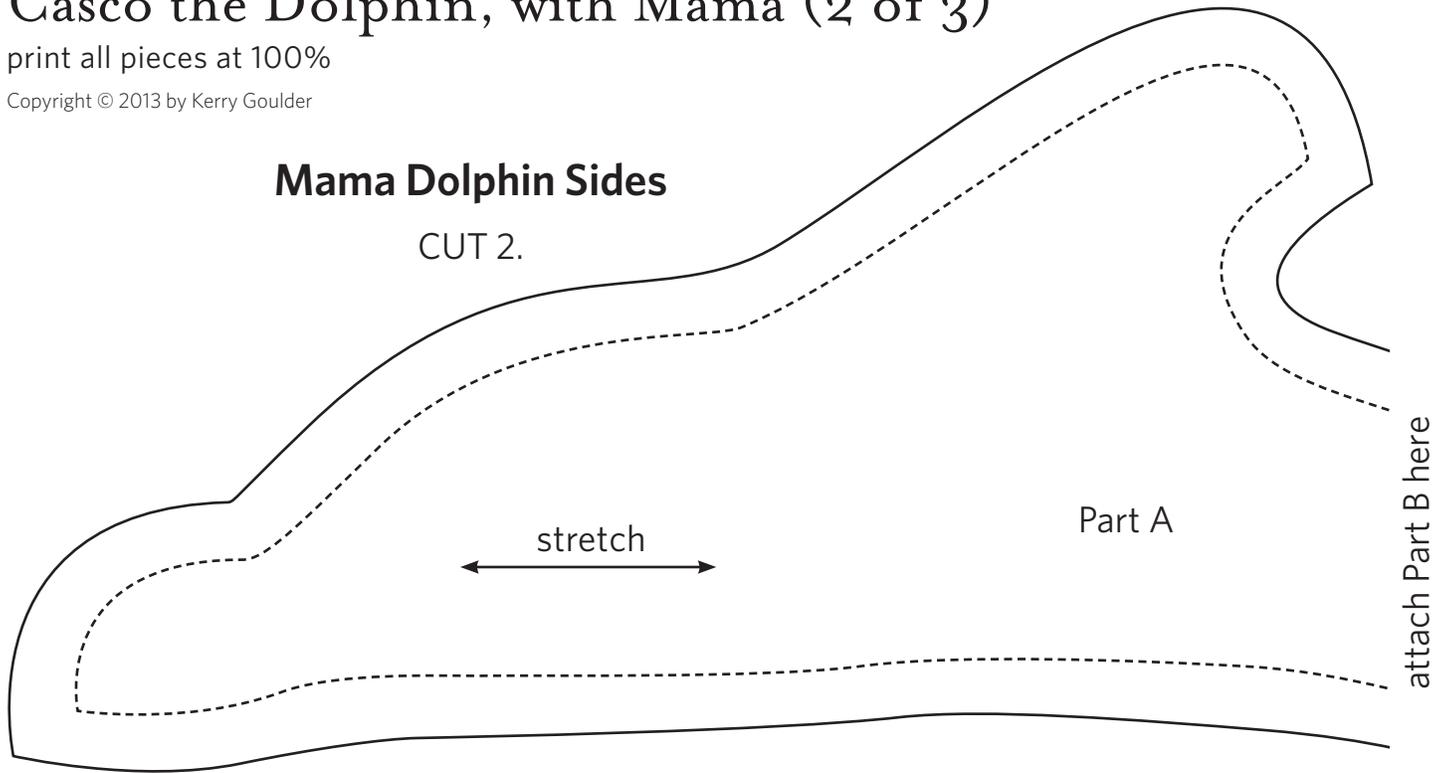
Casco the Dolphin, with Mama (2 of 3)

print all pieces at 100%

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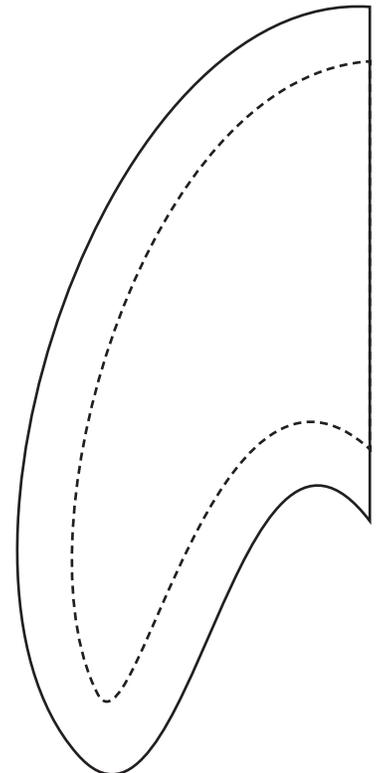
Mama Dolphin Sides

CUT 2.



Mama Dolphin Fins

CUT 4.

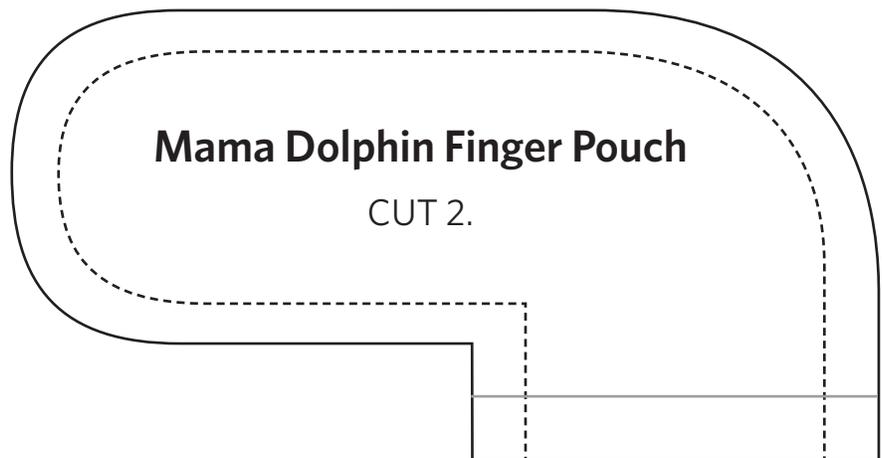
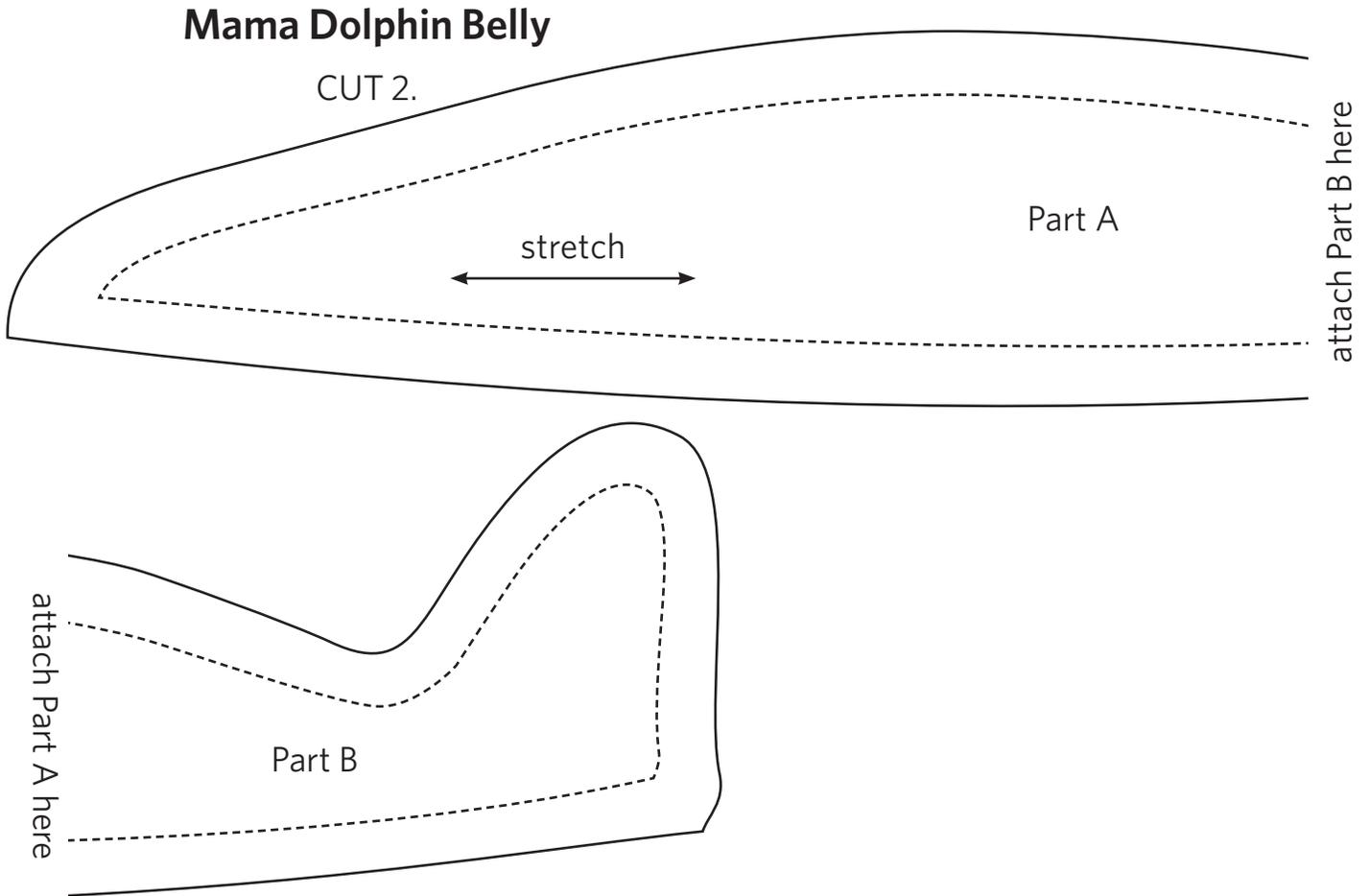


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Casco the Dolphin, with Mama (3 of 3)

print all pieces at 100%

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