

# Starfish

This cute starfish is easy to make and is useful as a pincushion as well as a decoration. For this starfish we have used the Creating Memories fabrics in Summer and Ocean Blues.

## **Materials** (for one starfish)

- Five fabrics for the top of the starfish, each 3in x 5in (7.5cm x 12.7cm)
- One fabric for the bottom of the starfish 9in (23cm) square
- Toy stuffing (fibrefill)
- Wooden stick for stuffing

#### Finished size

7½in x 7¼in (19cm x 18.5cm) approx.

### **General Notes**

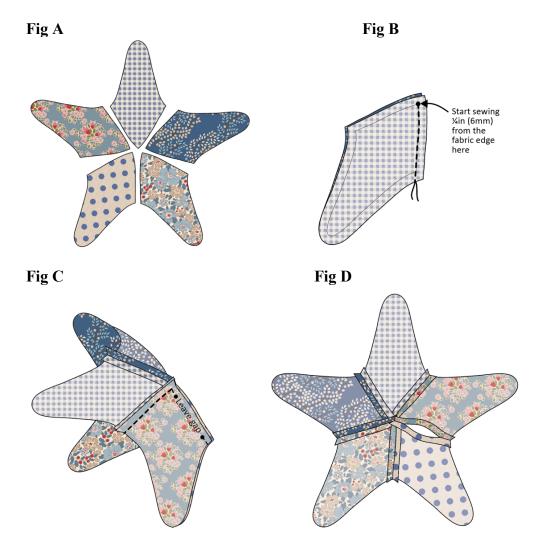
- Read all the project instructions through before you start.
- Use thick paper for copying patterns, ensuring the patterns are full size.
- On the patterns, the solid line is the sewing line. This allows you to add your own seam allowance.
- When sewing the seams, reduce your stitch length to 1.5mm–1.6mm.
- To get a good shape, cut snips in the seam allowance where a seam curves tightly inwards.
- After turning, pull the wooden stick along the inside of the seam to make sure you press out all the creases and folds before ironing.
- Stuff well, using a stick to fill small areas.
- Sew up gaps with matching thread and small slipstitches.

## Making the Starfish

1 Copy the full size pattern pieces onto thick paper and cut out the shapes. Place the starfish top pattern on the wrong side of the first fabric and draw the shape. Mark a ¼in (6mm) seam allowance all around the shape and then cut out the shape. Repeat this for the other four fabrics. Repeat the process for the starfish bottom using the larger pattern and the fabric for the base.

2 When the pieces are cut, place them in the order you like (**Fig A**). Take two of the shapes and place them right sides together. Sew together along one short side, starting ½in (6mm) away from the fabric edge that will be in the centre of the starfish, as shown in **Fig B**. Press the seam open.

3 Repeat this to sew all five shapes together, aligning the seams neatly in the centre of the starfish (Fig C). When sewing the last seam leave a gap for turning through later (Fig D).



- 4 Place the top of the starfish right sides together with the bottom piece. Pin together and then sew a seam all around the edge, following your marked sewing line (Fig E). Sew slowly around the tight curves, pivoting the needle as needed to achieve smooth curves. Trim the seam allowance if necessary. Snip notches in the tight inward curves between each leg.
- **5** Turn through to the right side, using a wooden stick to help turn out the points. Stuff the starfish, using the wooden stick to ensure that the points are well stuff. Sew up the gap with tiny slipstitches and matching thread.

Fig E



