

GOOD YEAR BOOKS

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**Nifty,
Thrifty,
No-Sew**

Costumes & Props



Carol Ann Bloom

 GOOD YEAR BOOKS

This book is dedicated to:

My grandmother, Cora Chamberlain, for my very first handmade costumes.
My parents, Richard and Norma Bloom, for their love and encouragement.
And my sister, Sherry, who is my favorite person to dress up with!

Acknowledgments:

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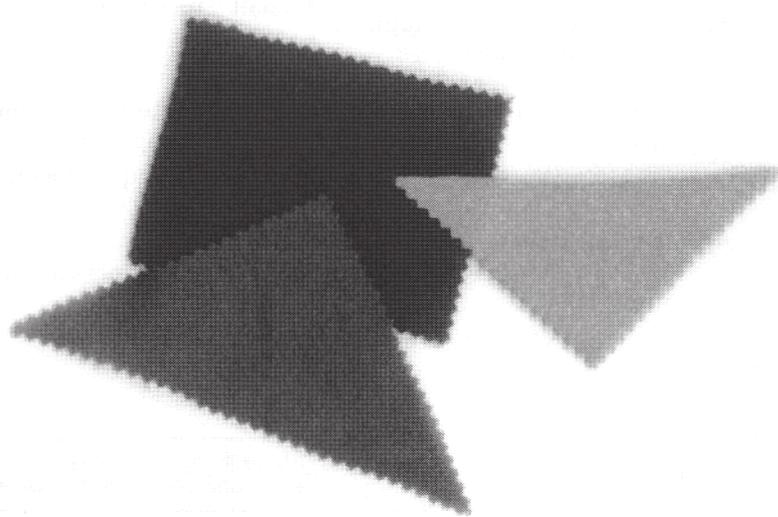
Costume and Prop Reference Guide	174
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Costume Basics: Characters You Can Be, Real and Imaginary



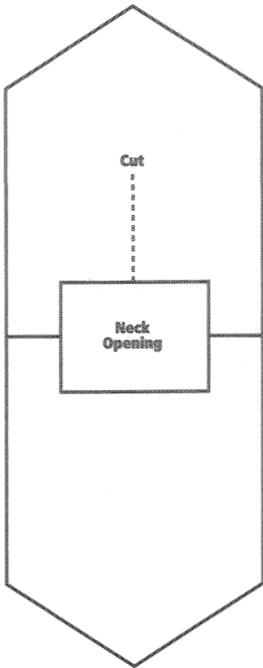
The basic costume style presented in this chapter is the tunic. With just a few simple adjustments to the Basic Tunic pattern, you can make many other items, such as collars, vests, and capes. Also provided in this chapter are easy-to-follow instructions for constructing skirts, pillow-case costumes, and T-shirt costumes. Additionally, you'll find suggestions for embellishing the costumes with a variety of trims and accessories.

Patterns are provided for Tunics, Collars, Vests, and Capes on pp. 147-165.

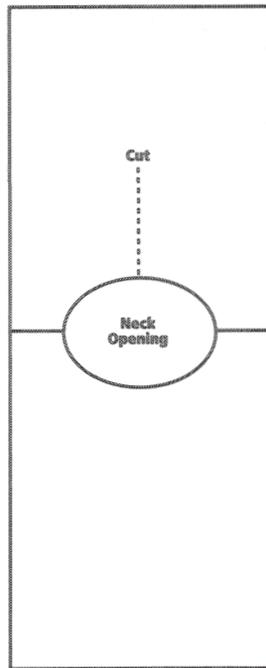


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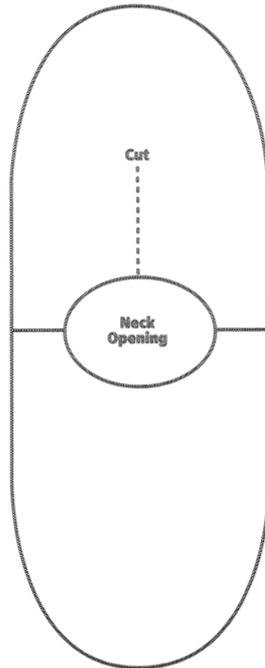
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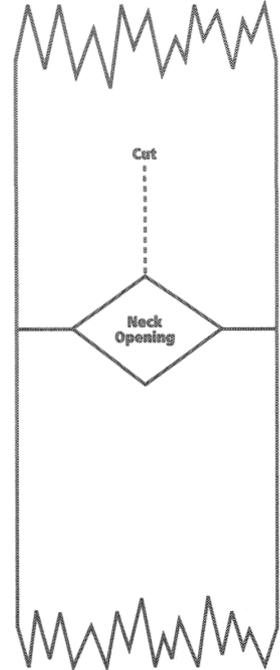
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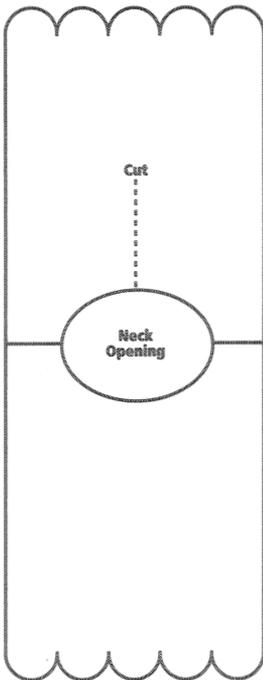
Straight Cut



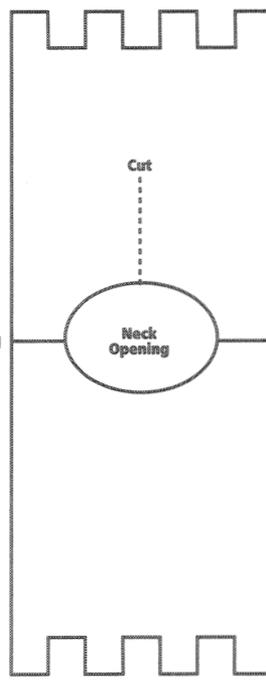
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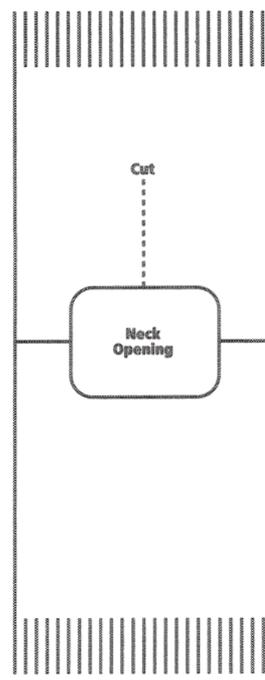
Jagged



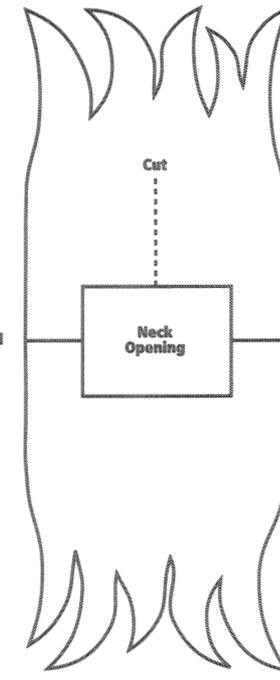
Scalloped



Squared



Fringed

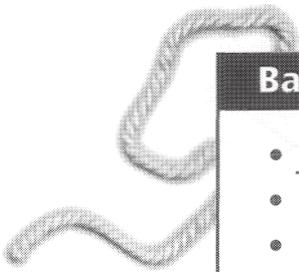


Wavy

The Basic Tunic (DRAWING 1)

Make tunics in a variety of colors. One yard of 36" or 52" wide felt will make several tunics. Save excess felt for accessory pieces, such as hats, shoes, paws, or tails, and decorative pieces, such as flowers, spots, and stripes.

(SEE PATTERNS pp. 147-153.)



Basic Materials

- felt
- hole punch
- yarn or ribbon

Assembly:

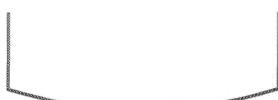
1. Cut a rectangular piece of felt 12"–16" × 32"–40". (Choose the dimensions that best suit your needs or construct costumes in the full range of sizes so as to accommodate a variety of children.)
2. Fold the piece in half, making a 12"–16" × 16"–20". Cut a neck hole opening in the folded side. Leave 2"–3" of felt on either side of the opening to lay across the shoulders (SEE DRAWING 1).
3. Cut a 6" slit from the center of the opening straight down the back. This lets children slip the tunic over their heads more easily.

Idea Starter

SET THE SCENE: Add a large scenery prop that relates directly to a group of costumes. Use a large appliance box or several medium size cartons to create a boat for a Pirate (p. 187) or a Skin Diver (p. 180); a space ship for an Astronaut (p. 175); a castle for a King (p. 185), Queen (p. 188), or Wizard (p. 190); or even a fire engine (Firefighter, p. 183), a police station (Police Officer, p. 188), or a dog house (Dog, p. 181). Add a selection of play related portable props (Chapter 8). Painting and decorating the box will add to its realism.

4. Leave tunic as is, or place a fastener on either side of the slit. (Since felt adheres well to other fabrics, fasteners are not necessary.) To fasten, attach a self-stick Velcro dot on both sides of the opening. Or, punch a hole on each side and thread a piece of yarn or ribbon through the holes to tie closed. *Note:* The front and the back of the tunic will look the same except for the slit and fasteners, which will be in the back.

1a Tunics—Bottom Cuts



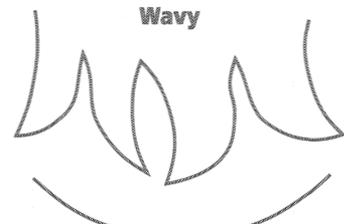
Straight Cut



Squared



Scalloped



Wavy



Pointed



Jagged



Fringed

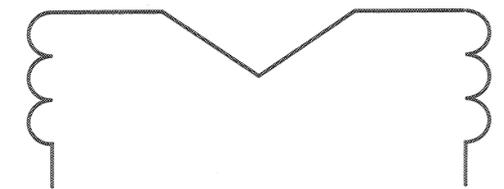
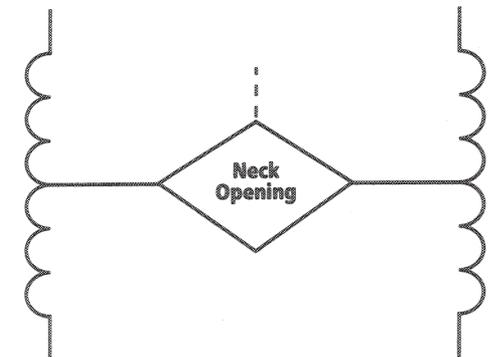
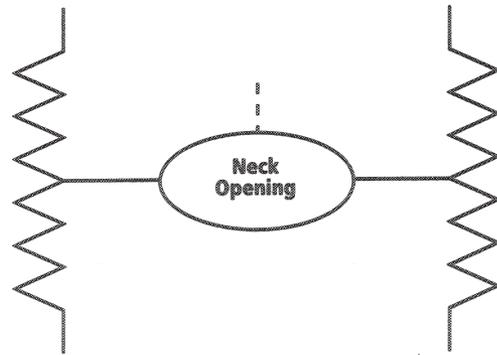
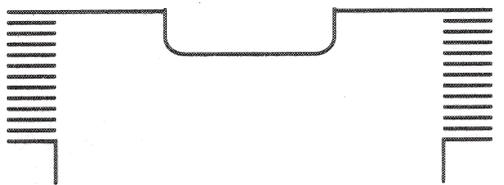
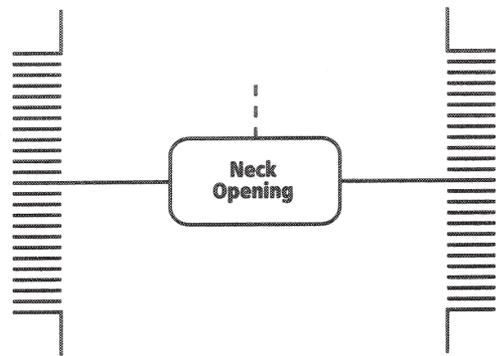
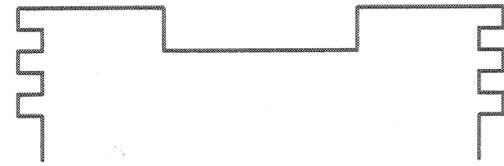
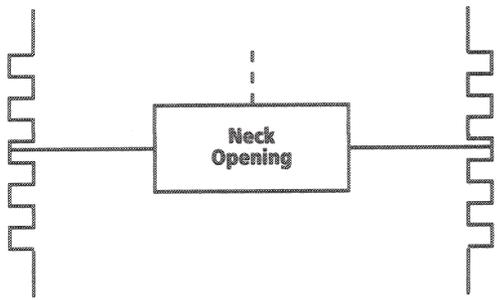


V-shaped

1b Tunics—Shoulder Cuts

(overhead view)

(front view)



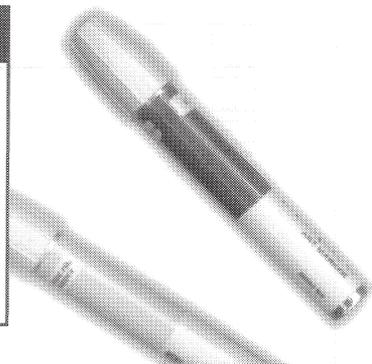
- Cut the bottom edge of the tunic straight across or make a decorative cut (SEE DRAWING 1A). Correlate the cut to the character or animal being depicted. A decorative edging can also be cut on the shoulder area, where the tunic will meet the upper arms (SEE DRAWING 1B). Cuts should extend 4"–6" down on either side. Attach decorations permanently or temporarily to suggest a variety of characters and animals.

Animal Tunics (DRAWING 2)

This felt tunic is constructed following the same procedure as the Basic Tunic, with the addition of a tail extending from the back panel. (SEE PATTERNS P. 154.)

Basic Materials

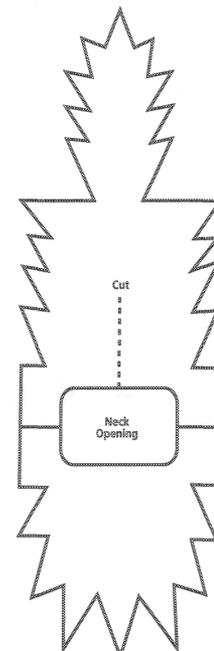
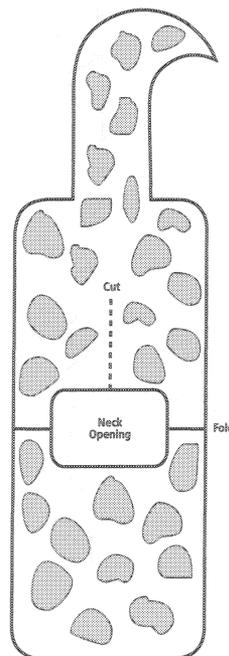
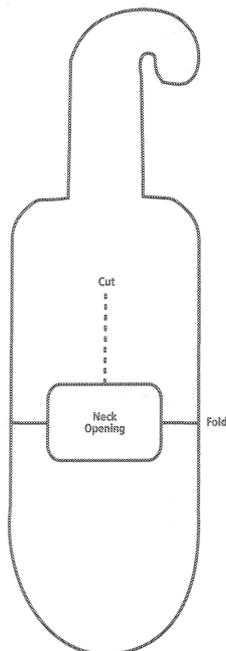
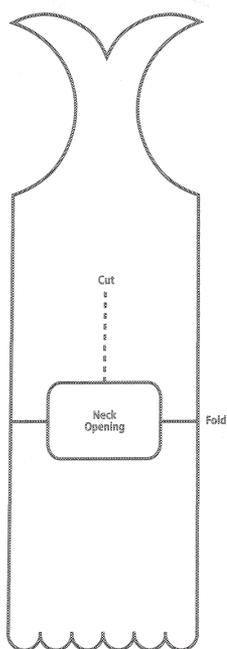
- felt
- hole punch
- yarn or ribbon
- chenille stems
- fabric glue



Assembly:

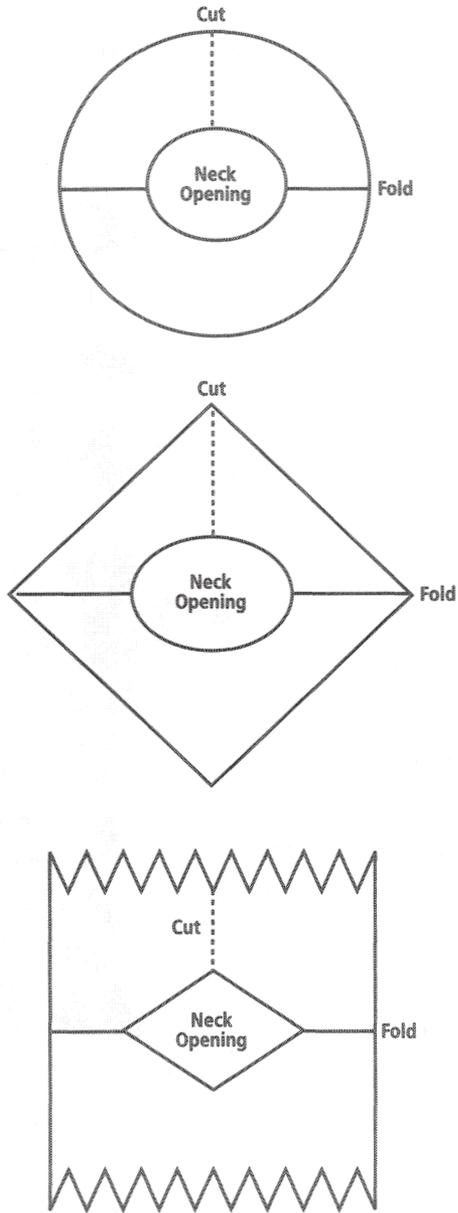
- Cut a rectangular piece of felt 12"–16" × 40"–45".
- Fold the piece in half, making a 12"–16" × 15" rectangle in the front and a 12"–16" × 25"–30" rectangle in the back. Cut a neck hole as described in step 2 of the Basic Tunic (p. 18).
- Cut a 6" slit as described in step 3 of the Basic Tunic.
- Attach fasteners as needed (SEE BASIC TUNIC).
- Select bottom cuts and shoulder cuts as appropriate (SEE BASIC TUNIC).
- To form the tail, start at the fold and measure down 15"; this is where the tail will begin. Make two (horizontal) cuts into both sides of the felt, each 3"–4" in length (SEE DRAWING 2).
- Cut the tail shape (SEE DRAWING 2), making it 4"–6" wide and 10"–15" long. Adjust the length of the tail to suit the size of the children who will wear the costumes. Longer tails can be curled and bent with the addi-

2 Animal Tunics

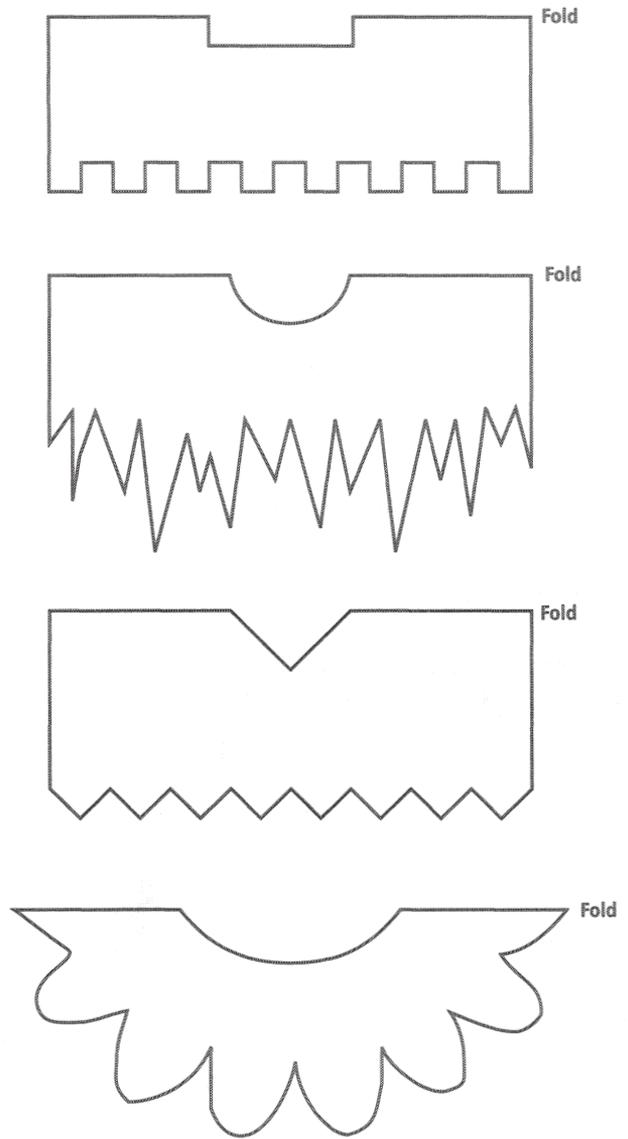


3 Collars

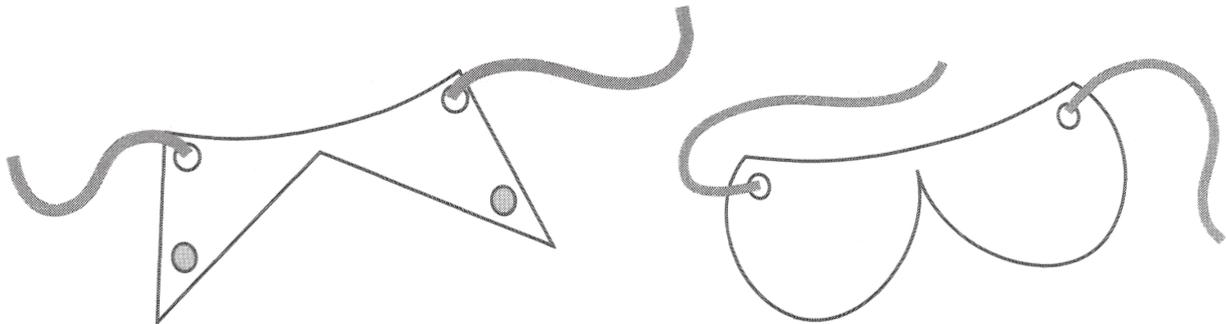
(overhead view)



(front view)



Shirt Collars



tion of chenille stems. Attach chenille stems to the middle of the underside of the tails by running a line of fabric glue down the center and placing the stems on top of the glue. Chenille stems can also be applied to the edges of the tails or just the tip in the same way. After the glue has dried, bend and curve the tails.

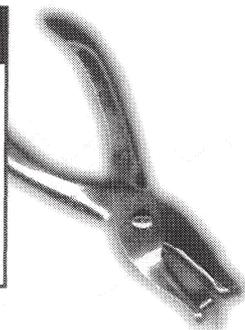
Use fabric glue to add felt spots, stripes, scales, and feathers to the Animal Tunics or color them on with fabric paint or permanent markers.

Collars (DRAWING 3)

Use the fanciful collars described in this section on their own or wear them over a tunic costume. Coupled with hats, ears, shoes, or tails, a complete character or animal costume can be created in no time. (SEE PATTERNS pp. 155–158.)

Basic Materials

- felt
- paper
- hole punch
- yarn or ribbon



Assembly:

1. Cut a rectangular piece of felt or colored construction paper 12"–14" wide but only 16"–18" long.
2. Fold the material in half and use the same procedure for cutting a neck opening.
3. Cut a slit from the center of the opening all the way down the back or front of the material, straight to the bottom (SEE DRAWING 3).
4. For fasteners, punch a hole on either side of the slit and lace yarn or ribbon through the holes to tie closed. For a more decorative

look, punch holes all the way around the neck opening and lace the tie through each hole. Cut the bottom edge of the collars, following the Basic Tunic directions, p. 18 (SEE DRAWING 3).

Add decorations and embellishments to the finished collars, either permanently or temporarily.

SHIRT COLLAR: To make a collar similar to one on a shirt or blouse, cut a collar shape (pointed, rounded, etc.) from felt. Punch a hole in both ends and attach yarn to tie the collar around the neck.

TIE-ON COLLAR:

Follow the general directions for making collars to create a collar that ties on, except cut only a front panel. Punch a hole on either side of the neck opening. Thread a piece of yarn through each hole so that the collar can be tied behind the neck. Shape the bottom of the collar and decorate to correspond to the character and costume. Tie-on Collars are especially good for animal costumes, because you can cut and fringe them to resemble fur. Tie-on Collars are not only comfortable and quick to make, they require half the material of other collars.

REVERSIBLE COLLAR: Shirt and Tie-on Collars can be made so that they are reversible. Decorate each side differently so that the collars augment more than one costume or character, depending on which side is worn in front.

