Christmas Cup Keeper

Complete Sewing Pattern

TALL QUILTED BACK / SCOOPED FRONT / RUFFLED BASE



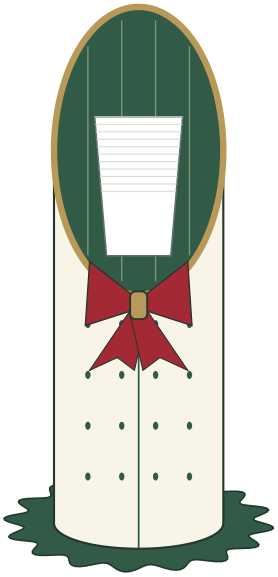
14 1/2"	5"	8" approx.
BACK HEIGHT	BASE SEAM DIAMETER	RUFFLED FOOTPRINT

Sew a festive holder for a nested stack of empty cups. Includes an illustrated construction sequence, a fabric bow, adjustment formulas and full-size printable patterns.

Independent reconstruction from the supplied photograph. Sample dimensions are proposed, not measurements confirmed from the pictured objects.

Size, fit and design features

All instructions make ONE keeper. Double the quantities to make the red-and-green pair shown in the photograph.



The sample size

Back height

14 1/2" / 36.8 cm

Front lip height

7 1/2" / 19.1 cm

Base seam diameter

5" / 12.7 cm

Ruffle width beyond seam

1 1/2" / 3.8 cm

Overall base footprint

About 8" / 20.3 cm

Check your cup stack before cutting fabric

Measure the widest rim and the height of your nested stack. The sample is a starting point for rims up to about **4" (10 cm)**, allowing for 3 mm foam. The stack should reach at least **9" (22.9 cm)** high so that the top cup projects 1 1/2" above the front lip. Check the actual fit with paper first.

Shorter stacks need a lower front

Lower the front lip so the cups remain easy to grasp, or use a stable removable riser inside the keeper. Do not infer cup capacity from a photograph; cup rim sizes and nesting heights vary.

What this pattern can confirm

The pattern geometry, base circumference and print scale are checked. The photo does not reveal the original measurements, hidden construction or maker. This is an independent reconstruction and has not been sewn as a physical sample. Make a paper model and test the first fabric unit before batch cutting.

Choose fabric with enough structure

Use quilting cotton for the print and lining. Firm bag foam gives the tall back its shape; soft batting alone is not the structural layer.

Material	Amount for one keeper
Outer holiday print	1/2 yd (0.46 m), at least 40" usable width
Lining and matching ruffle	5/8 yd (0.57 m), at least 40" usable width
Firm sew-in bag foam, 3 mm	One 18" x 24" piece (46 x 61 cm)
Flexible base insert	One 4 1/2" disc, cut from 0.5-1 mm polypropylene sheet
Top-edge bias binding	36" long x 1 1/2" wide, true bias; about 3/8" finished
Internal seam binding	36" long x 1 1/4" wide, true bias
Bow - choose one option	One fat quarter of plaid cotton OR about 1 yd of 2" ribbon
Tools and notions	Thread, removable basting, ruler, clips, fabric scissors, paper scissors, iron and sewing machine

Red and green variations

Red snowflake lining and ruffle, ivory floral outer, red plaid bow.

Green tree-print lining and ruffle, ivory floral outer, green plaid bow.

Fabric planning

At 40" usable width, the body blank and base circle fit beside each other in a 15 1/2"-deep section of outer fabric. For the lining, reserve the same depth plus a separate 3 1/2" strip across the width for the ruffle. Buy binding separately or allow extra fabric for true-bias strips.

Label every piece

Measurements include 1/4" construction seam allowances, except the shaped top edge, which is bound directly on its cutting line.

Piece	Quantity / cut measurement
Body quilting blanks	One outer, one lining and one foam: each 17" x 15 1/2" (43.2 x 39.4 cm)
Final shaped body	After quilting, cut ONE on fold with the joined body template on pages 11-14. The lining is already in this quilted unit.
Outer base circle	One, 5 1/2" diameter (14.0 cm)
Lining base circle	One, 5 1/2" diameter (14.0 cm)
Foam base circle	One, 4 3/4" diameter (12.1 cm)
Flexible base insert	One, 4 1/2" diameter (11.4 cm)
Ruffle	One, 40" x 3 1/2" (101.6 x 8.9 cm)
Fabric bow loop	One, 12 1/2" x 5 1/2" (31.8 x 14.0 cm)
Fabric bow tail band	One, 13 1/2" x 5 1/2" (34.3 x 14.0 cm)
Fabric bow center band	One, 3 1/2" x 2 1/2" (8.9 x 6.4 cm)

Body dimensions are controlled by the template

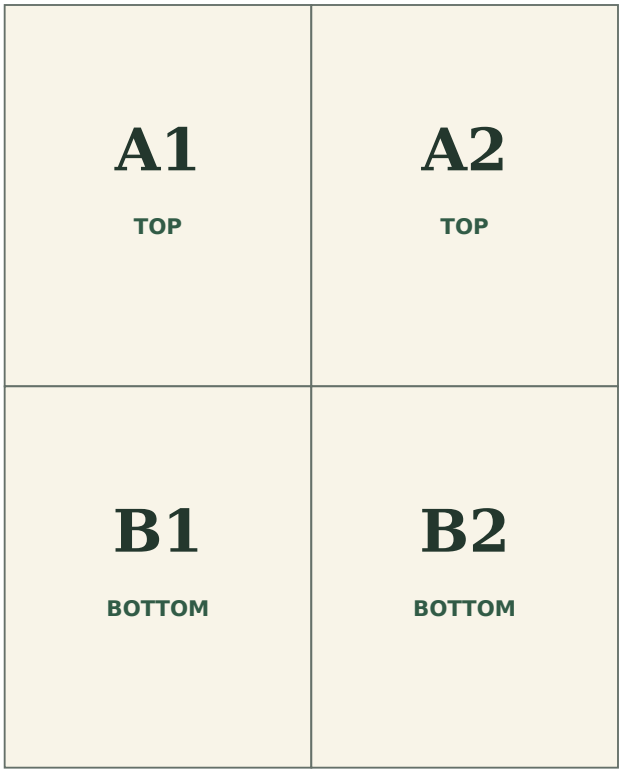
The full shaped body is 16.208" wide at the bottom and 14 3/4" high at center back before sewing. Its bottom seam length after the front seam is sewn is 15.708". Use the printed pattern for this width; rounding it to a convenient fraction changes the fit of the base.

Assemble the full-size body pattern

Only pages 11-15 are full-size cutting templates. The construction drawings elsewhere are reduced illustrations.

Print at 100% / Actual size

Use Letter paper or A4 paper with scaling disabled. Do not choose Fit or Shrink. The 1" calibration squares on the pattern sheets must measure exactly 1" (25.4 mm) in both directions.



A1 + A2 above B1 + B2

1. ### Trim, butt and tape

   Trim each body tile exactly on its 4 1/2" x 7 1/2" outside frame. Butt the matching frame edges without overlap. Match the crosshairs and tape from the back.

2. ### Trace the complete half pattern

   Trace the solid body outline after joining all four sheets. Keep the left edge as a fold line. The dashed front and bottom lines are stitching lines; do not cut on them.

Trace the half pattern on folded paper, unfold and close its front seam on the dashed line. Test your cups and front opening before cutting the quilted fabric.

Quilt, then cut the shape

Quilting happens before final cutting so any small shrinkage from the stitching is removed when you trim to the template.

1

Make the quilted sandwich

Place lining right side down, foam on top, then outer fabric right side up. Baste the 17" x 15 1/2" blanks together. The outer and lining prints must face out on opposite sides.

2

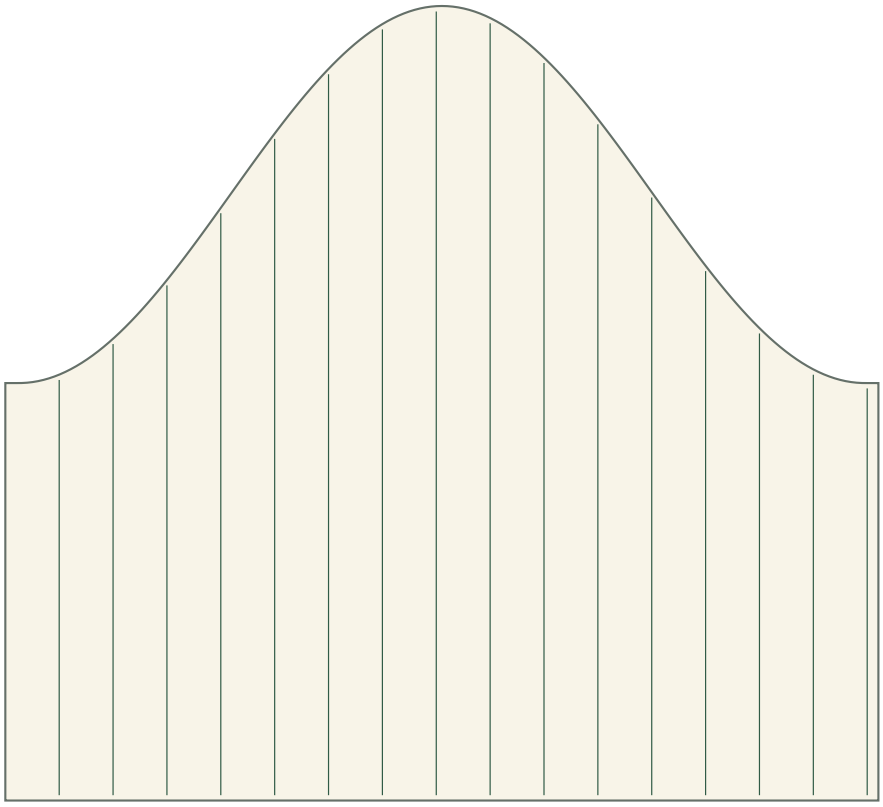
Quilt vertical channels

Mark lines parallel to the 15 1/2" height and stitch through all three layers about 1" apart. Work from the center outward. Keep the sandwich flat without stretching the cotton.

3

Cut on the center-back fold

Fold the quilted sandwich in half vertically, outer print inside. Place the template fold line on this fold, with the bottom edge square to it. Cut through both halves on the solid outline. Unfold to obtain one complete body.



Unfolded body: one lined, quilted unit

Sew the front and gather the ruffle

The short matching edges become the center-front seam. The tall fold becomes the center back.

1

Close the center-front seam

Bring the two short front edges together, outer fabric right sides facing. Match bottom edges and the low front tips. Sew a 1/4" seam from bottom to top and secure the ends.

2

Cover the inside raw seam

Carefully trim only the foam from within the seam allowances, leaving the cotton intact. Press the allowances together to one side. Use a 10" length of internal bias to wrap the raw allowances; fold its raw edges under and stitch close to the fold. Keep this binding inside the keeper.

3

Make the ruffle ring

Join the 3 1/2" ends of the 40" strip, right sides together, using 1/4" seams. The ring is now 39 1/2" around. Press the join open. Fold the ring in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, with raw edges aligned.

4

Gather and divide into quarters

Mark four equal sections on the ring. Sew two rows of long gathering stitches through both raw edges, at 1/8" and 3/16" from the edge. Gather the ring to the body bottom, keeping the gathers even. Its fullness is about 2.5 times the base seam circumference.

Ruffle before gathering



39 1/2" ring circumference / 1 3/4" folded width

Finished ruffle width

After a 1/4" base seam is sewn, the ruffle projects about 1 1/2" from the seam line. Do not gather the folded edge; it becomes the free outside edge.

Attach the ruffle and circular floor

Work at the marked seam lines. A circular base has more length at its raw cutting edge than at its stitching line.

1

Prepare the base sandwich

Place the outer base circle right side down. Center the 4 3/4" foam circle, then the 4 1/2" flexible insert. Add the lining circle right side up. Baste around the outside edge at 1/8". Keep the insert centered and clear of the 1/4" stitching line.

2

Baste the ruffle to the body

With the tube outer side out, slip the ruffle around its bottom. Align the two gathered raw edges with the body bottom; the folded ruffle edge points UP toward the opening. Match quarter marks, adjust gathers and baste within the 1/4" seam allowance.

3

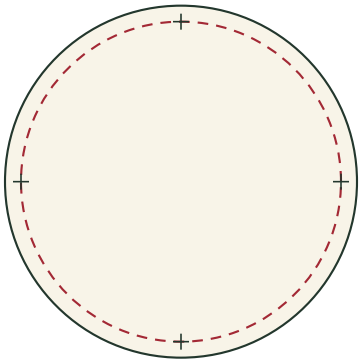
Pin and stitch the floor

Turn the tube lining side out, keeping the ruffle inside it. Position the base at the bottom opening with its OUTER print facing up toward the opening. Match the base quarters to the body quarters on the seam line. Clip only the body allowance where needed, stopping at least 1/8" from the stitching line. Sew slowly around the base at 1/4".

4

Finish the inside base seam

Check for caught folds or gaps. Wrap the joined raw base allowances with about 22" of internal bias, turning its ends under. Stitch the binding securely. Turn the keeper outer side out; the ruffle releases outward and the lining face of the floor faces up inside.



Match four quarter marks

The base stitching circle is exactly 5" in diameter. The ruffle is trapped between the outer faces of the body and base. The flexible insert stays inside the base sandwich.

Ease around the marked seam; do not stretch the whole tube to match the longer raw edge of the circle.

Bind the opening and add the bow

The tall back and low front make one continuous, rounded top edge. Bind it after the body and base are assembled.

1

Reduce bulk at the rim

Trim only the foam about 1/8" below the shaped top edge, leaving both cotton layers full size. Keep the layers together with temporary basting near the edge.

2

Bind the shaped opening

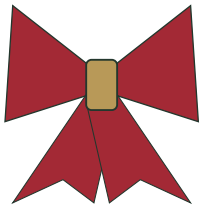
Use the 1 1/2"-wide true-bias strip. Press both long edges toward the center, then fold the strip in half lengthwise. Begin near a side, turn the starting end under 1/2" and encase the raw rim. Ease around the curves without stretching the body. Overlap the final end and stitch close to the folded edge, catching both sides.

Fabric bow option

For each of the three bow rectangles, fold lengthwise right sides together. Sew the long edge with a 1/4" seam, leaving a 2" turning gap, then sew the short ends. Turn, press and close each gap. Finished flat sizes are 12" x 2 1/2" (loop), 13" x 2 1/2" (tails), and 3" x 1" (center).



Fold loop ends to center



Stack loop + folded tail band

Fold the short ends of the loop band toward its center and overlap by about 1/2"; tack them. Fold the long tail band into a shallow V. Stack loop and tail centers, pinch and tack, then wrap the center band around them and secure its ends at the back.

Attach after checking access to the cups

Hand-stitch the bow securely over the front seam, with its center about 7" above the base seam. Adjust its position so that it decorates the scoop without blocking your grip on the cups. A tied ribbon bow may replace the fabric bow.

Make the size work for your cups

The supplied templates make the sample size only. For a different diameter or height, redraft the body and circles; keep the seam allowance at 1/4".

To change the size	Redrafting rule
Choose base seam diameter D	Start with widest rim + 1" (2.5 cm), then check with your actual foam and paper mock-up.
Body bottom circumference	C = 3.14159 x D
Full body cutting width	C + 1/2"; half pattern on fold = C/2 + 1/4"
Base fabric circles	Cut diameter D + 1/2"; foam diameter D - 1/4"; insert diameter D - 1/2"
Front and back heights	Front = cup-stack height minus about 1 1/2". Sample back is 7" higher than front. Add 1/4" at the bottom only.
Ruffle length and width	Length = about 2.5 x C + 1/2". Cut width = twice the desired finished projection + 1/2".

Redraw the smooth scoop

Divide the half circumference from center back to the FRONT STITCHING LINE into eight equal spaces. At the nine points use these percentages of the rise (back minus front), added to the front height: **100, 96.2, 85.4, 69.1, 50, 30.9, 14.6, 3.8, 0**. Add the 1/4" bottom allowance to every height. Join smoothly; extend the front height level across its 1/4" seam allowance.

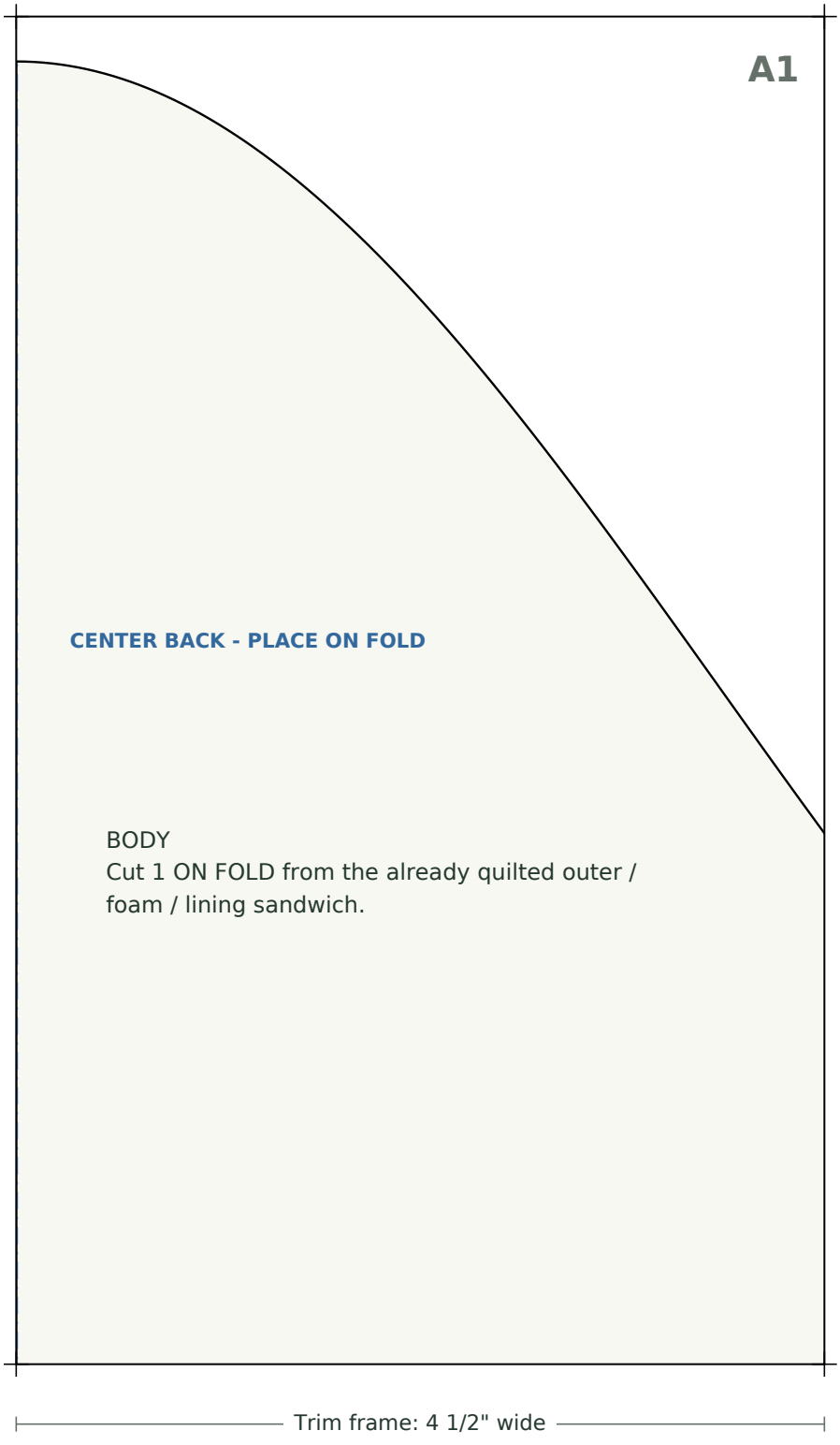
Final check

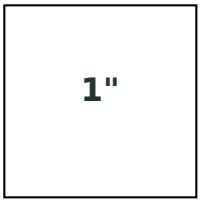
The base should sit flat, the ruffle should spread evenly, and the keeper should stand when filled. The front seam must be secure, the inside raw edges covered and the top cup easy to lift. If your foam is too soft, add firmer support before making more units.

Care: empty the keeper, spot clean and reshape. Wash only if your chosen foam, insert and fabrics allow it. Photo supplied by the user; the original maker and construction are unconfirmed. All diagrams and drafted dimensions in this guide are new.

Body template A1

100% / ACTUAL SIZE | TRIM ON FRAME | 1/4" SEAMS INCLUDED



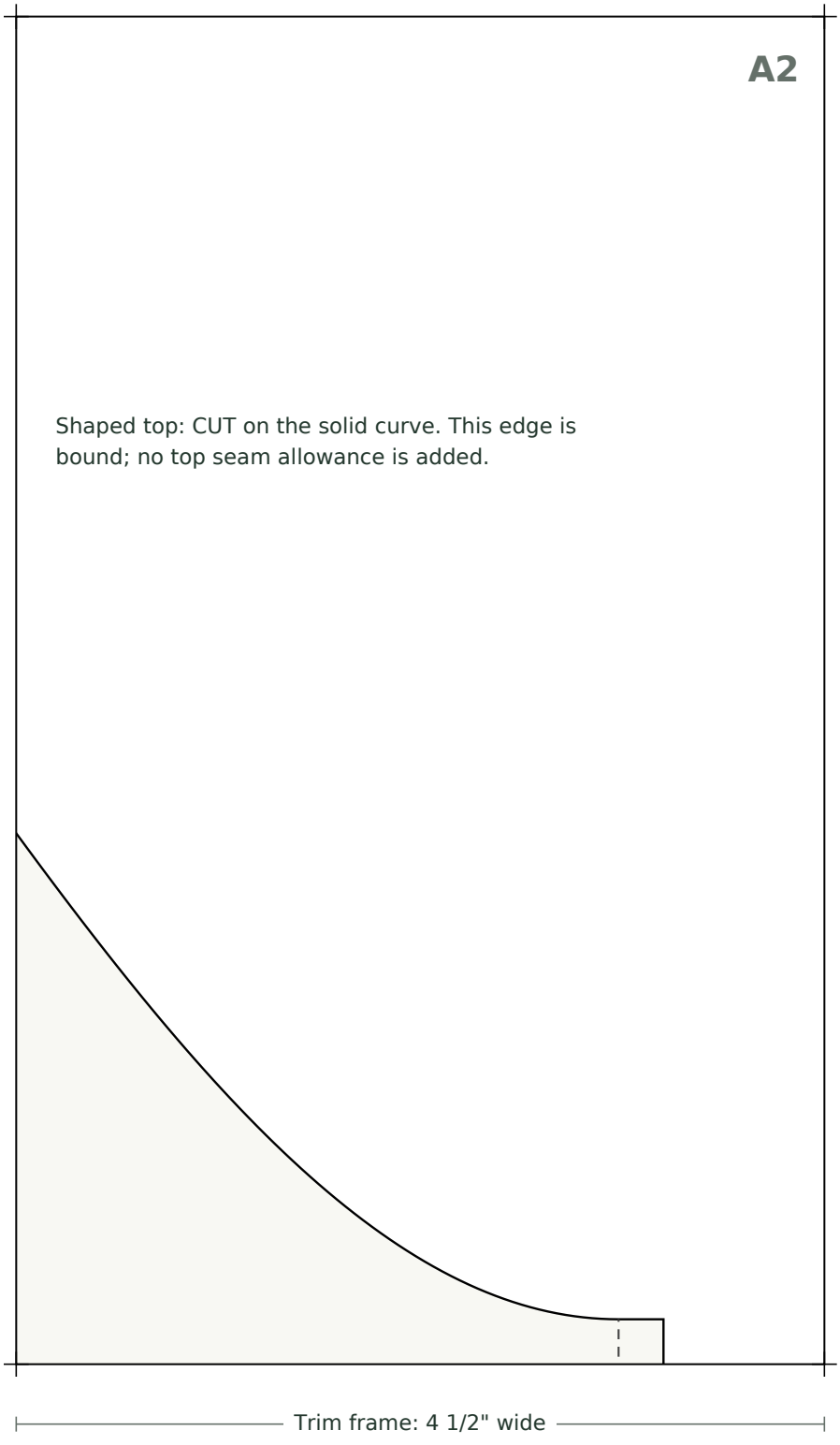


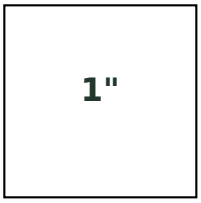
Scale check:
1 inch =
25.4 mm

A1: join its right frame edge to A2. Its lower frame edge joins the matching B tile. Red quarter-mark ticks: mark only; do not cut.

Body template A2

100% / ACTUAL SIZE | TRIM ON FRAME | 1/4" SEAMS INCLUDED





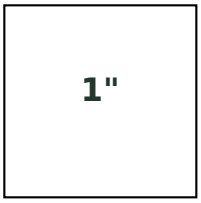
Scale check:
1 inch =
25.4 mm

A2: join its left frame edge to A1. Its lower frame edge joins the matching B tile. Red quarter-mark ticks: mark only; do not cut.

Body template B1

100% / ACTUAL SIZE | TRIM ON FRAME | 1/4" SEAMS INCLUDED



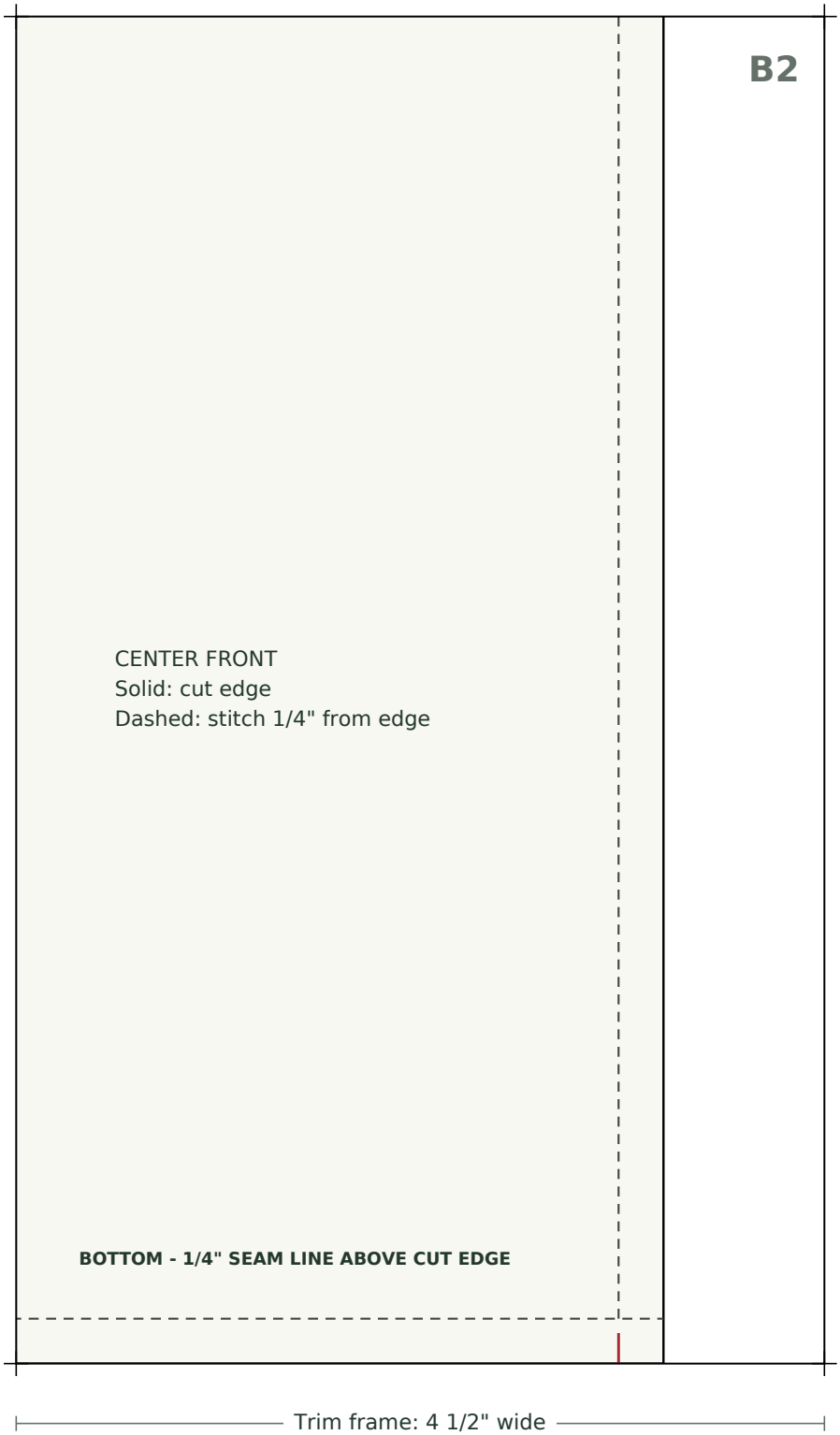


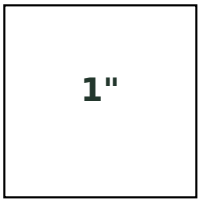
Scale check:
1 inch =
25.4 mm

B1: join its right frame edge to B2. Its upper frame edge joins the matching A tile. Red quarter-mark ticks: mark only; do not cut.

Body template B2

100% / ACTUAL SIZE | TRIM ON FRAME | 1/4" SEAMS INCLUDED





Scale check:
1 inch =
25.4 mm

B2: join its left frame edge to B1. Its upper frame edge joins the matching A tile. Red quarter-mark ticks: mark only; do not cut.

Base cutting templates

Print at 100% / Actual size. Trace each required circle separately. All four circles are concentric; their line styles identify their purpose.



Line	Use / diameter
Solid black	CUT fabric: 5 1/2" - one outer + one lining
Long-dash gray	STITCHING circle: 5" - do not cut fabric here
Short-dot green	CUT foam: 4 3/4" - one
Dash-dot red	CUT flexible insert: 4 1/2" - one