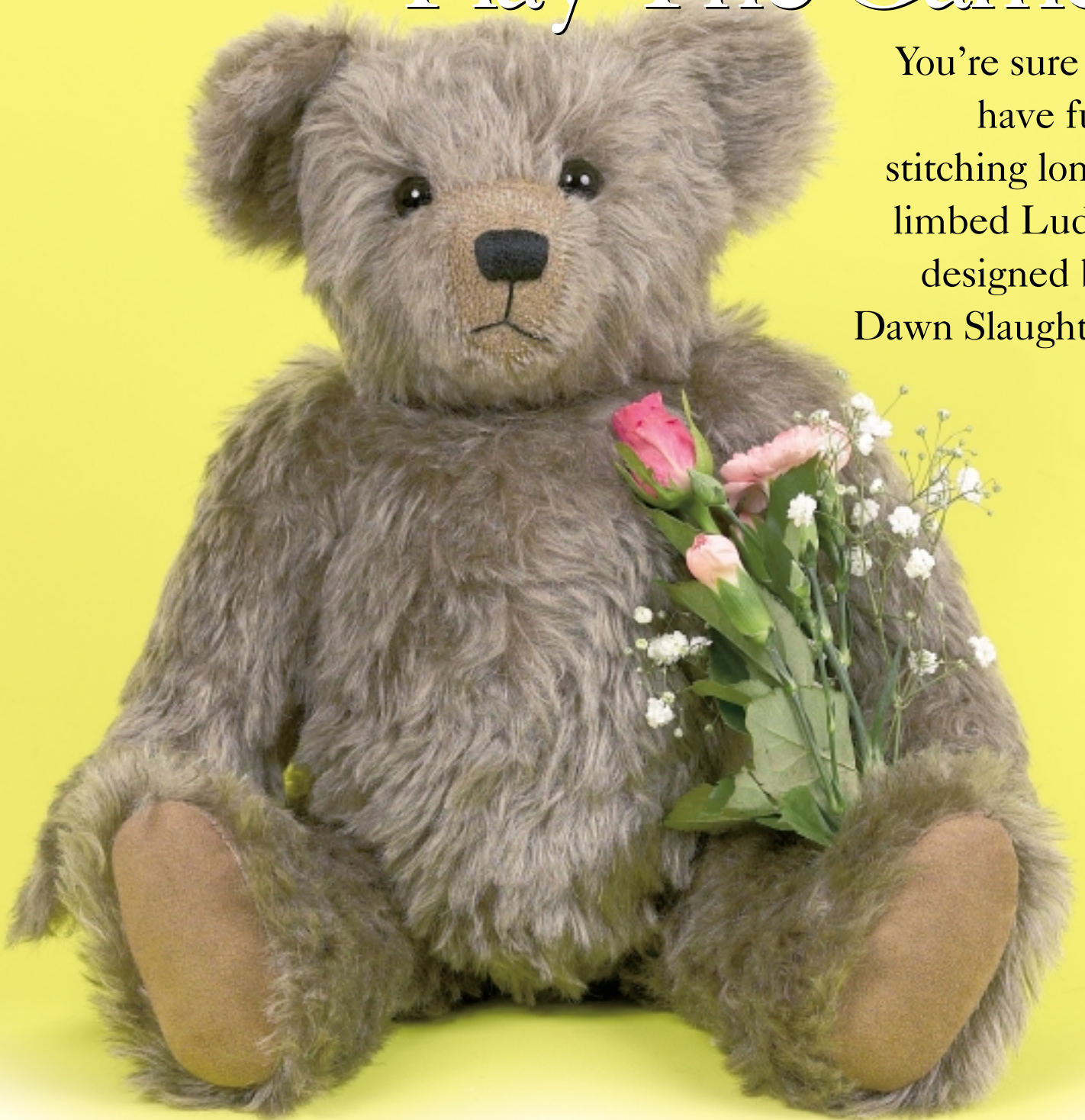# Play The Game

You're sure to have fun stitching long-limbed Ludo, designed by Dawn Slaughter

K nown as Ludo, this lanky chap stands at 48cm (19") tall and he is great fun to be around! He can be made using a variety of mohair types and he also looks good when crafted from alpaca. A kit containing all the materials and instructions that you need to make Ludo is available from Oakley Fabrics, so call them on 01582 424 828 if you would like to know more.

You Will Need

- 50cm mohair
- Ultrasuede for paws
- 1 pair 14mm glass eyes
- 2 x 45mm hardboard joints for arms
- 3 x 50mm hardboard joints for head and legs
- Perle cotton for nose
- Strong thread for securing eyes and closing openings
- 800g polyester stuffing
- Growler (optional)
- 5" needles
- Cotter key for turning joints

Step by Step

1 A 0.25" seam allowance is included in the pattern pieces. When using a sewing machine, set the tension to 5-6, with approximately 12-15 stitches per inch. If you are using backstitch, make sure you use very small stitches and pull up tightly as you go. Cut out the pattern pieces and stick onto thin card. With mohair pile side down, mark the direction of the pile with an arrow on the backing. Draw around all the pattern pieces, aligning arrows and transferring all markings such as openings and joint holes.

2 Double check that you have the correct number of pieces and that they have been reversed as necessary before you cut them out! Draw around paw and sole pieces on ultrasuede and cut out. Trim pile off seam allowances. This means you stitch backing to backing, giving a more professional finish. Pin or tack pieces with right sides together unless otherwise specified. Pick out any trapped fur on the insides after stitching before turning right side out, then repeat on the right side.

3 Sew nose to chin seam twice. Stitch in head gusset, matching A at the nose and B at the back of the neck. It is important that this gusset is stitched in evenly otherwise Ludo could end up with an uneven nose! Turn head right side out. Stitch ears together in pairs and turn right side out. Oversew raw edges together. Sew front body pieces together down the centre front seam. Sew back body pieces together down centre back seam, leaving an opening where marked. Sew backs to fronts all the way around, leaving the neck edge open.

4 Gather neck edge and tie off securely. Check that you've marked the joint positions and then turn the body right side out. Stitch paws to inner arms. Sew the inner arm to the outer arm, leaving an opening where marked. Check the joint markings on the inner arm, then turn right side out. Repeat with the other arm.

5 Stitch the legs together in pairs from the heel around to the toe, leaving the foot open and an opening where marked, making sure there is a joint hole on one side of each pair, only giving you a right and a left leg. Ludo is a good dancer and does not have two left legs! Stitch t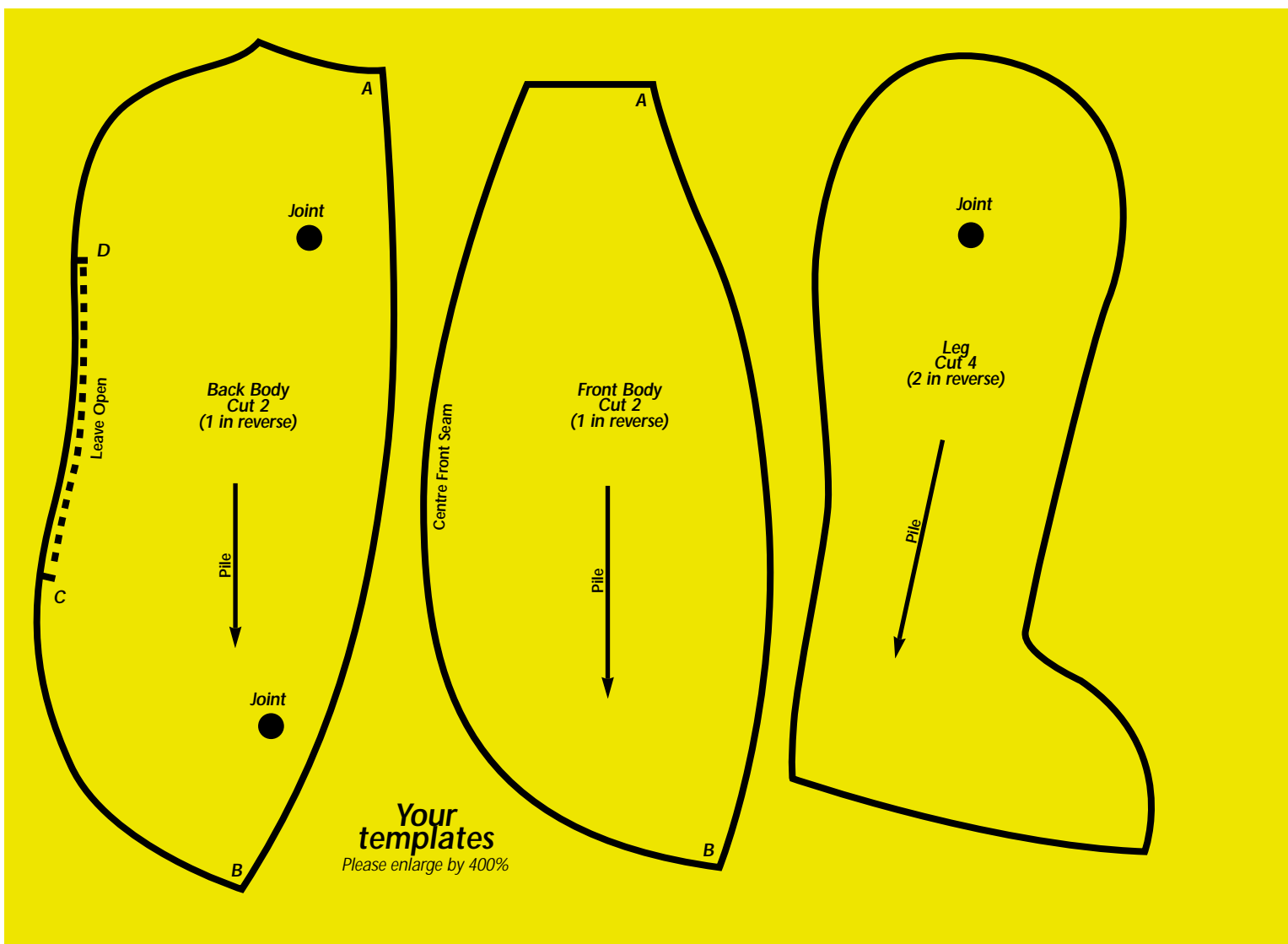he foot pads in place evenly. The easiest way is to hand-sew them first, then machine over the top. Turn legs right sides out.

6 Stuff the head very firmly, particularly the snout area - it makes it so much easier when embroidering the nose. Insert the cotter pin joint in the opening. Gather around the neck opening with a strong doubled thread and pull up the stitches tightly so that only the cotter pin is protruding, then tie off securely. Place glass-headed pins where you want to position the eyes. Adjust so that they look symmetrical. Remove pin, make a small hole with the point of the scissors (do not snip) and trim fur away from the hole area. Take a long piece of strong thread, double it and then tie the wire loop on the eye in the middle.

7 Using the long needle, thread the loop and push the needle into the eye-hole and out under the opposite chin. Remove the needle and re-thread on the remaining loose ends. Push the needle back through the same eye-hole but out 2-3mm from the looped ends. Tie off with a right-over-left and another right-over-left, pull tight and check that the eye doesn't wobble in its socket. Tie a reef knot to secure tightly and then lose the threads in the head. Repeat with the other eye.

8 Pin the ears to the head, then sew in place up and down both sides of the ear using ladder stitch. This is the most secure way of attaching the ears. Bears don't have handles so they sometimes get picked up by the ear - ouch! Taking about a metre of perle cotton, thread onto long needle and embroider nose and mouth. Try outlining the nose with a few horizontal stitches, then use two or three layers of vertical stitches over the top, adding the mouth at the centre.

A

Joint

D

Leave Open

C

**Back Body
Cut 2
(1 in reverse)**

Pile

Joint

B

Your
templates
Please enlarge by 400%

A

Centre Front Seam

**Front Body
Cut 2
(1 in reverse)**

Pile

B

Joint

**Leg
Cut 4
(2 in reverse)**

Pile

9 Insert cotter pin from head into gathered neck area of the body, add another hardboard disc and metal washer, then finish joint off by curling the ends of the cotter pin with a cotter key or needle-nosed pliers. Insert the cotter pin joint into each limb where marked (again checking that you have one right and one left arm, one right and one left leg!). Stuff limbs firmly, making sure there is plenty of filling around the top of the legs and arms over the joint. It helps to keep the joints firm. Ladder stitch the openings together, securing the ends by adding 5-6 very small backstitches and losing the thread through the limb.

10 Check hole placements on the body (particularly for the arms) as they may need lowering down a bit if you have used a different sized joint or taken in mohair where you have gathered at the neck. Attach limbs to the body in the same way as the head. Stuff body firmly, particularly around the upper chest and joint areas - this stops Ludo from sagging prematurely. Add a growler if you like. Close the opening with ladder stitch as before, then enjoy your finished creation!

Bear Facts

A
Nose

Head Gusset
Cut 1

Pile

B

Foot Pad
Cut 2 felt
or suedette

Your
templates
Please enlarge by 400%

Joint

Inner Arm
Cut 2
(1 in reverse)

Pile

A

B

Paw Pad
Cut 2 felt
or suedette

B   A

Pile

Ear
Cut 4
(2 in reverse)

Leave Open

Arm
Cut 2
(1 in reverse)

Pile

Eye

Side Head
Cut 2
(1 in reverse)

A

Pile

B   B