ORIGINAL ELF QUILTED BABY BIB

SEWING INSTRUCTIONS | PROTOTYPE SIZE | 16-PAGE FULL-SIZE TEMPLATE BOOKLET

An ivory quilted bib with two separate fastening straps, a green elf hat, brown hair, pointed ears, a red scalloped/zigzag collar and nine green-and-sage fan wedges. The facial features, berries and four golden bell motifs are flat embroidery; the red hat pom-pom is flat fabric appliqué.

The illustrated reference is a design mockup. The digital template has been checked for geometry, but a sewn sample is still needed to establish actual infant fit and laundering/closure behavior.

Finished outline and fit

Raw body outline: 10 3/4 inches wide × 13 inches long. Binding encloses that edge instead of adding an extra 1/4 inch around it. This is one prototype size, not a graded infant-size pattern. The neck is an open U with two separate, unfastened tabs.

Closure: one 1/2-inch smooth red button on the left tab (front view) and a matching buttonhole on the right tab. The right tab overlaps the left behind the neck. A compatible garment snap can be substituted in place of the button, never added as an extra decoration.

The paper opening is not the same as the closed neck circumference. Make a plain bound muslin with your actual batting and closure, check comfortable overlap on a suitable fitting form, and measure the finished closed opening before cutting decorated fabric.

Materials - prepare and prewash as appropriate

Fabric / supply	Amount and purpose
Ivory quilting cotton	One piece at least 18 × 21 in; cut a 14 × 16 in working front and allow for the separate face appliqué.
Cotton backing	One 14 × 16 in working rectangle, with right side facing outward on the finished reverse.
Washable low-loft batting	One 14 × 16 in rectangle. Optional thin batting for slight face/hat/collar relief; keep bib flexible.
Deep-green cotton	One fat quarter (about 18 × 21 in) for hat K and W1/W3/W5/W7/W9.
Sage-green cotton	One fat quarter for strap overlays T1/T2 and W2/W4/W6/W8.
Peach cotton	Approx. 8 × 9 in for face F and two pointed ears E1/E2.
Red cotton	Approx. 9 × 12 in for zigzag hat trim Z, pointed collar C, and flat hat pom-pom P.
Brown / holly cotton scraps	Brown hair H; olive green leaves L1/L2.
Green bias binding	At least 60 in of prepared true-bias tape. A cut strip width of approximately 1 3/4 in is a starting point; test on the actual quilt sandwich. Binding fabric is additional to applique fat quarters.
Thread, floss and closure	Black, peach, pink, red, gold, green embroidery floss; coordinating sewing thread; one smooth 1/2-in red button or one appropriate garment snap; two 1 × 1 in interfacing patches.
Other	Lightweight sewable fusible web, washable fabric marker, rulers, walking foot (optional), buttonhole foot, basting supplies, press cloth.

Print and piece the full-size pattern

1. Print all required template sheets on US Letter paper at Actual Size / 100%. Disable Fit, Shrink and borderless enlargement. Check BOTH sides of the 1-inch (25.4 mm) test square on every page used.

2. On pages 3-6, arrange tiles A1 | A2 over A3 | A4. Trim the red 5.5 × 6.75-inch frames; butt matching frame edges together and tape with no gap or overlap. Match printed registration marks. The assembled raw body must measure 10.75 × 13 inches.

3. The solid outside line is the bib cutting edge. Thin internal guide lines mark appliqué positions. Do not cut along internal placement lines. Pieces on B and C sheets are printed face up; reverse them only when tracing onto the paper backing of fusible web, then compare the resulting fabric piece right side up against its master outline.

Full cutting inventory - 21 fabric appliqué pieces

Sheet	Piece IDs and color (cut ONE of each)
B1, p. 7	F - peach face; H - brown hair.
B2, p. 8	K - dark-green hat crown; Z - red zigzag trim; P - flat red pom-pom disk.
B3, p. 9	C - red pointed collar; E1/E2 - peach pointed ears; L1/L2 - olive-green holly leaves.
B4, p. 10	T1 - sage left strap overlay; T2 - sage right strap overlay.
C1-C5, pp. 11-15	W1/W3/W5/W7/W9 - dark green; W2/W4/W6/W8 - sage green. Nine wedges total.
E, p. 16	Embroidery and fastening guides only; no extra fabric pieces.

The front, backing, batting, interfacing, binding and embroidered embellishments are not counted among these 21 fabric appliqué pieces. No seam allowance is added to any appliqué outline because this project uses securely stitched raw-edge appliqué, not traditional piecing.

Construction

Step 1 - Mark the front without trimming its outline

Cut the ivory front, backing and batting as separate 14 × 16-inch working rectangles. Align the assembled A1-A4 template with the front grain, then mark the entire solid bib outline and its dotted appliqué, fan, collar, ear, hat, closure and facial placement guides onto the right side of the ivory front. Keep extra fabric around the cutting line to allow for quilting take-up. Do not cut the shaped body yet.

Step 2 - Reinforce and appliqué both independent strap overlays

On the wrong side of the front, fuse one rounded-corner 1 × 1-inch lightweight interfacing patch under each printed closure center. Place T1 on the left shoulder and T2 on the right, matching their printed outlines. Secure the visible sloping lower edges with a narrow zigzag or blanket stitch. Baste outer and inner raw edges within approximately 1/8 inch of the bib outline; the final binding will enclose them. Do not join or bridge the strap ends.

Step 3 - Lay out the nine fan wedges

Place W1 through W9 on their same-numbered placement outlines, from the left lower side to the right lower side. Use five deep-green wedges (W1, W3, W5, W7, W9) and four sage wedges (W2, W4, W6, W8). The templates were turned on their C pages to fit printing: rotate each fabric piece to its master outline, but do not flip the visible fabric face.

Each long curved wedge end precisely follows the raw lower bib edge. Each short curved inner end stops before the center, avoiding a nine-layer point; that portion is later concealed by the elf face/collar. Keep the ivory front continuous beneath every wedge. Adjacent wedge edges should butt together without overlap. Temporarily fuse, then secure all exposed edges with narrow zigzag or blanket stitching; baste outer ends inside the future binding line. There is no separate skirt or pieced fan section.

Step 4 - Layer, quilt and trim the main bib

Layer the backing wrong side up, batting, then decorated ivory front right side up. Smooth and baste from the center outward. Quilt the ivory background lightly using a loose meander or open diagonal grid, staying clear of marked elf-face/hat areas and fastening centers. Quilt green and sage wedges with spaced lengthwise lines and optional tone-on-tone stitched snowflakes. Avoid dense stitching in the two flexible straps.

Place the assembled A1-A4 body outline back on the quilted sandwich; verify all edges and fan tips still register. Make any needed positioning corrections BEFORE trimming. Now cut the front, batting and backing together on the printed solid raw bib contour, removing the entire U cutout to leave two independent tabs.

Step 5 - Work facial and collar embroidery on separate fabric pieces

Transfer the face features from the master and full-size E guide to peach face F. Use black stem/satin stitches for two rounded open eyes, short eyelashes and the curved smile. Add pink stitched cheeks and a small peach stitched nose. Secure all thread ends on the back of F so they are hidden under its appliqué. Do not use plastic eyes, beads or separate fabric cheek buttons.

Before fixing collar C to the bib, embroider four flat gold circles at the E-guide sizes and the four placement marks; finish each with a black embroidered X. These represent little bells without any metal or sewn-on objects. Likewise, work the three red satin-stitched berry dots and holly veins on their fabric pieces before those pieces are enclosed.

Step 6 - Attach elf appliqué in a reliable layer order

Follow the A1-A4 placement outlines, checking the approved mockup as the visual reference. Attach each layer with a narrow zigzag or blanket stitch before covering any of its edges:

1. Attach green hat crown K on the upper ivory bib, below the neck cutout. Use the master to preserve clearance.

2. Stitch two green holly leaves L1/L2 and flat red pom-pom P on the upper right part of K. Stitch red berries and green leaf veins securely.

3. Place and secure left ear E1 and right ear E2 with their pointed tips outward.

4. Position and attach the embroidered face F over the ear roots and lower hat region. Keep its eyelids, cheeks and nose visible.

5. Attach brown hair H across the top of F with its curved bangs resting over the forehead.

6. Lay red zigzag trim Z over the lower hat edge and the upper edge of H. Secure each pointed peak and the full lower edge.

7. Attach red pointed collar C at the face base, covering the inner fan ends and collar root. The pre-embroidered gold bell details remain visible.

Quilt the hat crown with loose horizontal rows and the face with light, open curves if you want subtle relief. Add optional very thin insets beneath the large face, hat and collar only, trimmed approximately 1/8 inch inside appliqué edges; do not pad small pieces, strap ends, holly or fan tips. Maintain a flexible, low-loft bib front.

Step 7 - Bind the full open outline

The measured raw outline perimeter is approximately 47.2 inches, including the neckline and BOTH separate strap ends. Start with at least 60 inches of prepared true-bias binding to allow easing and joining. Test the tape width on a matching quilt sandwich; the intended finished binding covers roughly 1/4 inch on both front and back.

Starting on a relatively straight outside edge, sew the opened binding fold to the front at approximately a 1/4-inch seam allowance. Ease around the rounded bottom, both free tabs and the concave U without stretching the fabric or bridging the gap between straps. Fold binding to the back, turn the raw fold under and secure continuously, enclosing every fan wedge tip and both strap overlay edges. Join the tape ends with a diagonal seam and check the entire contour for missed layers or puckers.

Step 8 - Fit and install the button (or optional snap)

Fit a plain bound sample first. Bring the right tab over the left behind a suitable test form, with both right sides facing outward. Confirm a comfortable closed neck opening and mark the overlapping closure centers on the bound sample. The printed button and buttonhole marks are a starting guide, not proof of fit.

For the 1/2-inch red button, a stitched buttonhole near 5/8 inch is a starting estimate. Test the button on a scrap of all the same layers. Sew the buttonhole along the right-tab guide, away from binding, then open it carefully. Sew the actual button securely through the reinforced left tab at the matched position, with repeated strong thread passes, buried thread ends and no fabric distortion. A detached button can become a choking hazard; physical attachment testing is essential.

Optional snap: omit the button and buttonhole entirely. Set one manufacturer-compatible garment snap at the matching reinforced centers, with the appropriate tool and post length. Confirm that it fastens right-tab-over-left. Do not add a decorative button on top of a snap.

Step 9 - Inspect and wash the sewn test sample

Record the finished width and length, actual fastened neck opening, strap overlap, and how the bib hangs on a suitable form. Examine the button/snap, every embroidered feature, holly/pom-pom, all collar points, fan edges, and binding for loose parts or threads. Wash and dry using the intended care routine and check again for shrinkage, dye transfer, comfort, stiffness, loose stitching and closure security.

For supervised feeding only; remove bib for sleep. Stop using it if any button, snap, appliqué or embroidery comes loose. No digital check can certify physical fit or accessory safety.

Pattern fidelity checkpoints

Approved detail	Digital template implementation
Generous open neck	Single continuous U-shaped raw bib outline, two unconnected tabs; T1/T2 cover top portions.
Closure	Red button on left, buttonhole on right; optional snap substitution.
Pointed-ear elf face	F peach oval, E1/E2 distinct peach ears, embroidered eyes/nose/cheeks/smile.
Elf hat	K green curved cap, Z red zigzag trim, H brown hair, L1/L2 holly, P flat red disk.
Red elf collar and bells	C pointed red collar; four flat embroidered gold X-marked bell shapes.
Lower patchwork fan	W1-W9 alternating green and sage raw-edge wedges, cut to exact curved bib hem.

All pattern measurements above are calculated from printable vector geometry and remain subject to actual printing and sewn-prototype verification.