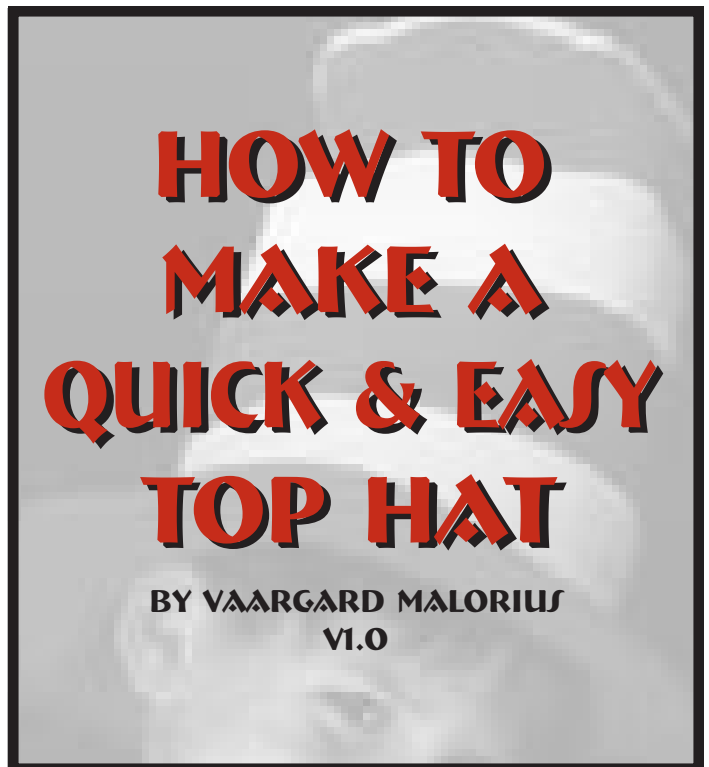


You will need the following supplies to create a single top hat.

- 2/3 yard craft felt (at **least** 24" wide)
- 2/3 yard craft felt of different color complimentary to other felt (at **least** 24" wide)
- 1 Spool of thread (matching darker of 2 colors {brim color})
- Scissors
- **Sewing Machine (recommended but not necessary)
- **An Iron (recommended but not necessary)
- Fabric pencil or 'Map color' pencil (to trace pattern onto felt)

Substitutions can be made at your discretion, but for purposes of this 'how-to', we will assume you have the above materials and are making a single hat with only two colors, about 4 'bands' tall. Feel free to experiment, but unless you use a fairly stiff fabric, your hat will not remain upright. I have had some success with artificial furs and even vinyl upholstery fabric, so feel free to experiment. If you are using heavier fabrics, you may wish to invest in heavier sewing machine needles. These can be purchased at most any store that carries fabric (even Wal-Mart®). The package usually contains 5 needles and is rated for leather or denim. If you intend to make your hat out of felt or similar lightweight material, universal needles work fine. You can easily make the hat taller or shorter by adding bands or removing them as desired. You are only limited by your imagination and your finances! These 'cat in the hat' hats are very easy to make and can compliment most garb nicely, by pulling down the top of the hat, you can even give it an entirely new look that is a lot more 'period' than the 'cat in the hat' straight-up look.

- 1) Cut the brim pieces out of your darker felt (color 1) as shown below. The circles should be about 15" in diameter. (Fig.1)
- 2) Cut out the 2 'flue' pieces (bands) from your darker felt as shown below. The bands should be about 24" ix 31/2". (Fig.1)
- 3) Cut the top piece out of your lighter felt (color 2) as shown below. The circle should be about 8" in diameter. (Fig.1)
- 4) Layer the two pieces of the brim one atop the other. (Fig.2)
- 5) Mark out a circle with your fabric pencil about 6" in diameter (about as big around as your head) in



- the center of the sewn-together brim pieces. (Fig.2)
- 6) Stitch the two liner pieces together about 1/8" from the *outside* edge. When finished you'll have a solid disk with a circle drawn into the middle.
- 7) Cut the center of the brim out *INSIDE* the circle you drew in step 5.
- 8) Turn the brim by pulling it inside-out through the opening that was left where you cut the center out. (Fig. 2)
- 9) Iron the liner flat again.
- 10) Sew the turned liner about 1/2" from the outside edge. (Fig. 2)
- 11) Set the brim aside and lay one band of each color felt together. (Fig.3)
- 12) Sew the two bands together about 1/8" from the bottom edge. (Fig.3)
- 13) Unfold the sewn bands and iron flat. (Fig.3)
- 14) Take the next band of color and sew it to the others. (Fig.3)
- 15) Sew the fourth (and last) band to the previous three to complete the 'flue' of the hat. At this point, the flue should be alternating bands of color and about 6 1/2" tall. (Fig.3)
- 16) Set the flue 'wrong side up' atop the top (lid) of the hat you cut out in step 3.
- 17) Sew the flue to the lid of the hat about 1/8" from its edge. *Be sure to start about an inch from the edge of the flue rather than at the edge itself.* Match the points marked in red by an 'X with a

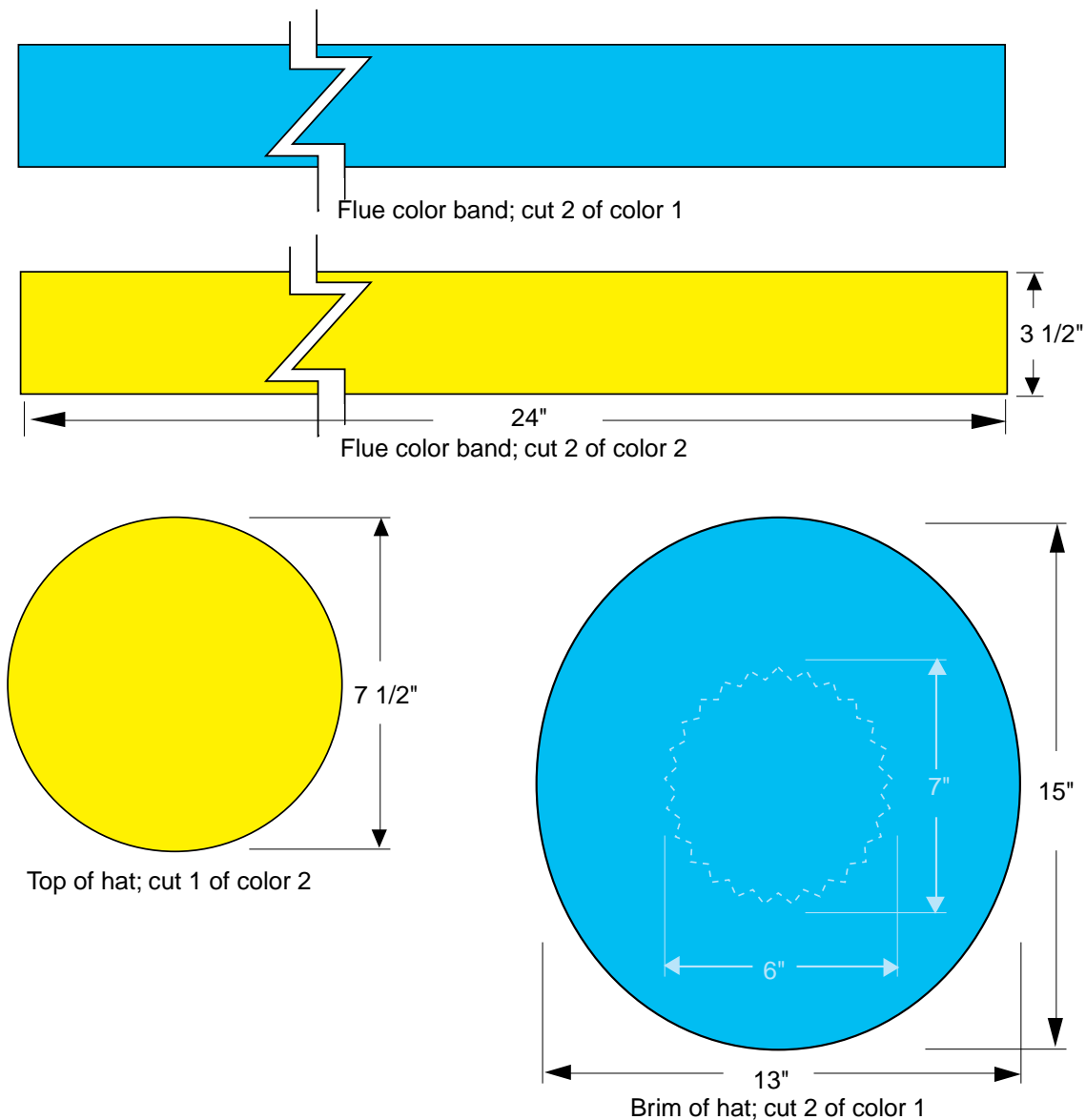


Figure 1: Top hat parts.

dot' in figure 3 and sew around the edge until you meet where you began sewing. There should be about an inch left over on both ends of the flue. (Fig.3)

- 18) Turn the flue inside out so that it is 'right side out' and pull the edge slightly through the hole you cut in the middle of the brim. (Fig.4)
- 19) Line up the middle front of the brim with the **middle** of the flue (opposite the open flaps). It is sometimes easier to fold the brim back against the side of the flue to begin sewing. Start at the middle front of the brim and sew away from the center until you reach the rear center of the brim. (Fig.4)
- 20) Return the sewing machine needle to the middle of the brim and sew the other side of the flue to the

brim. When completed with this step, you should have a nearly finished hat with a gaping hole in the flue. (Fig.4)

- 21) Turn the flue 'wrong side out'.
- 22) Squash the flue flat and line up the places where the circular parts of the hat meet the opening left by the excess flaps of the flue. (Fig. 5)
- 23) Sew between these two points along the line marked A in figure 5 and trim off any excess flaps along the line marked B in figure 5. (Fig. 5)
- 24) Turn the finished hat 'right side out'.
- 25) Go out to the park and show off your new garb! If you like, you can add whatever accents you wish to personalize your top hat. Wear your top hat proudly and have fun!

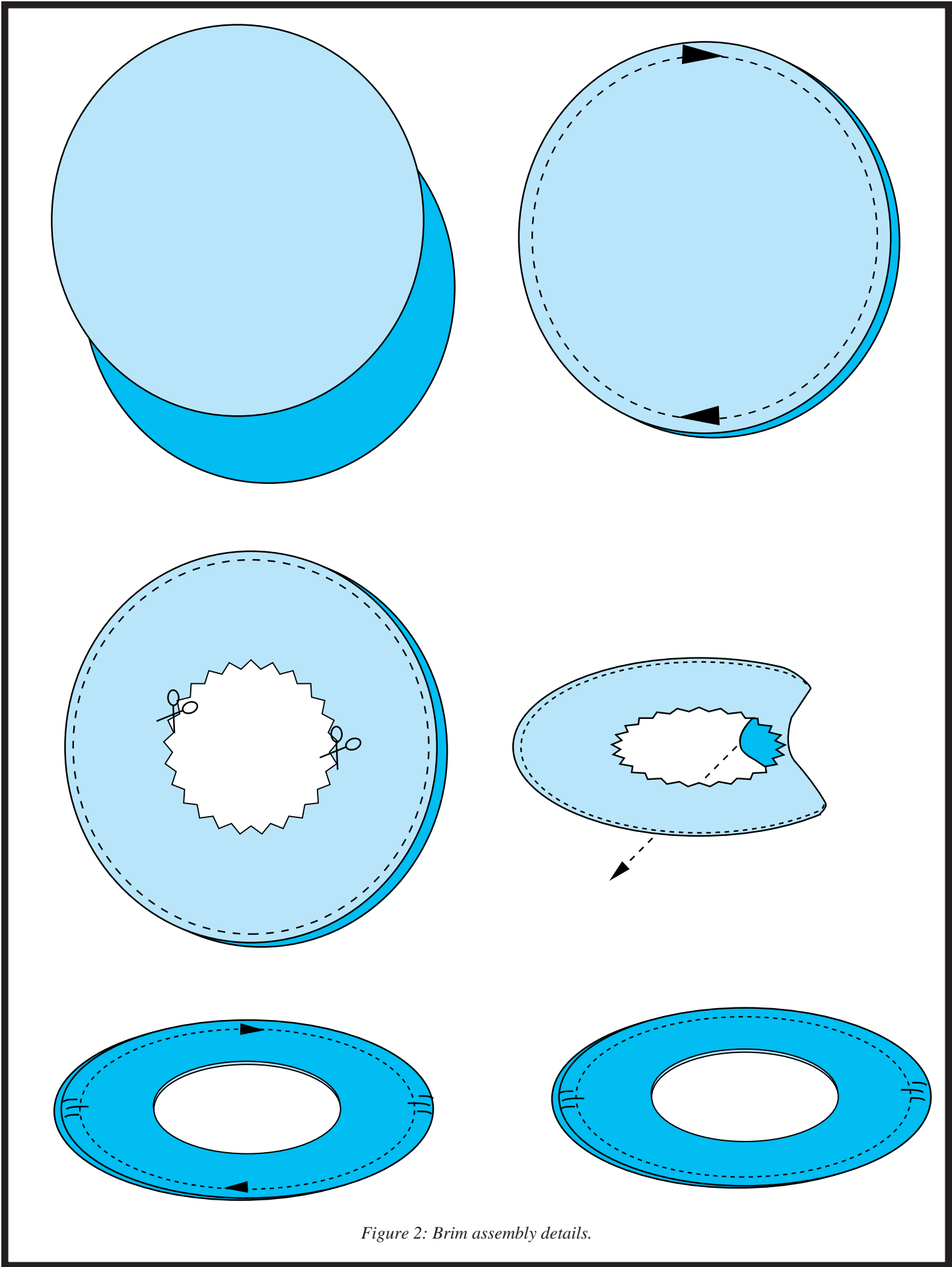
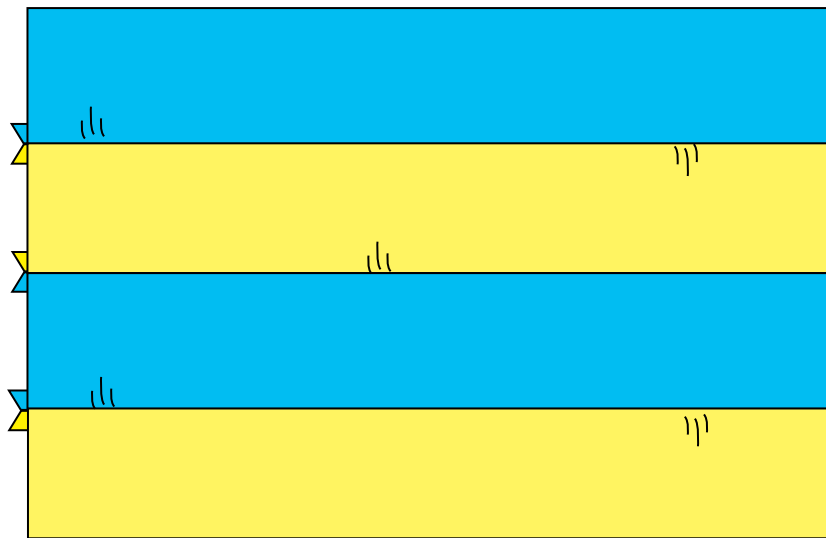
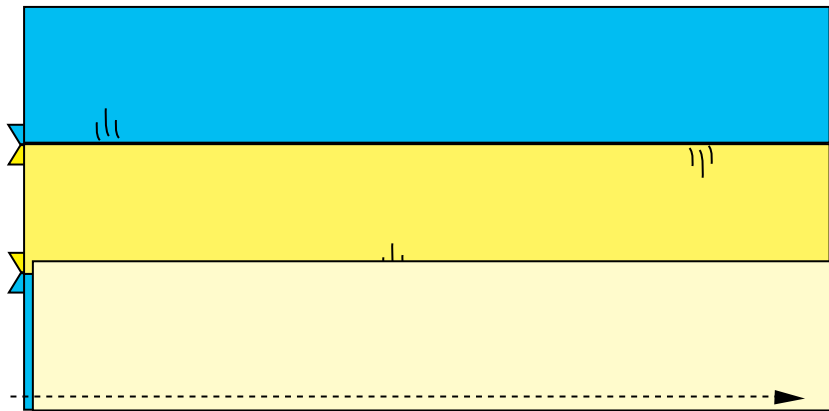
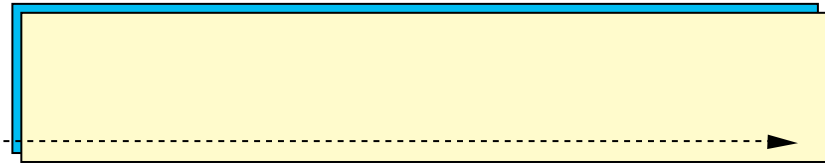





Figure 2: Brim assembly details.



 Front of fabric

 Front of fabric

 Back of fabric


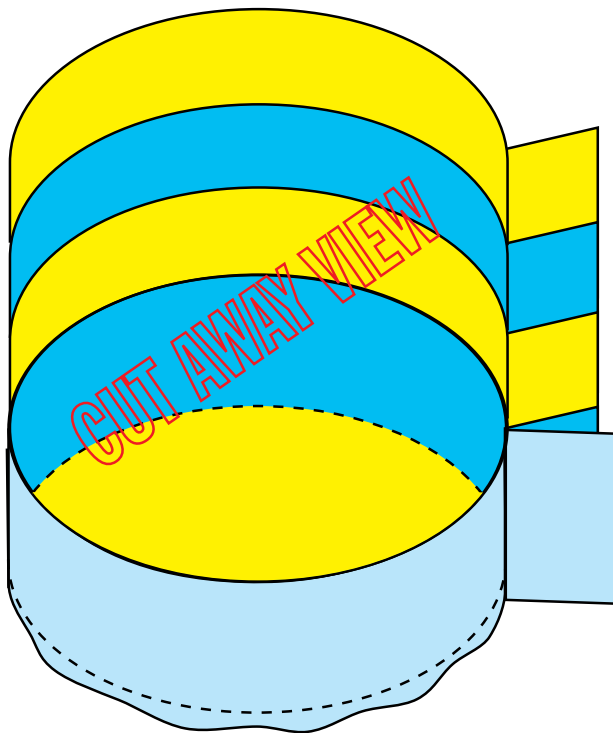
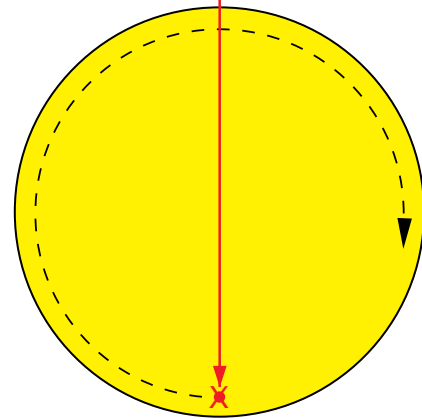
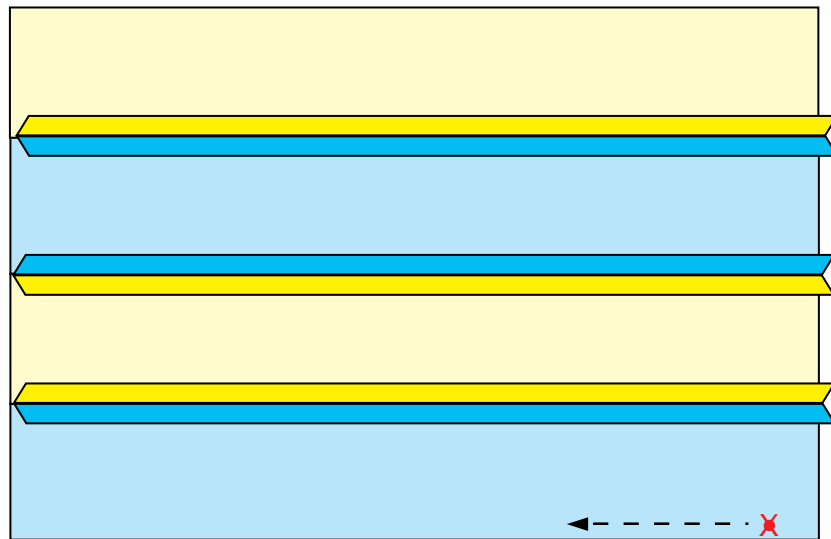
 Back of fabric

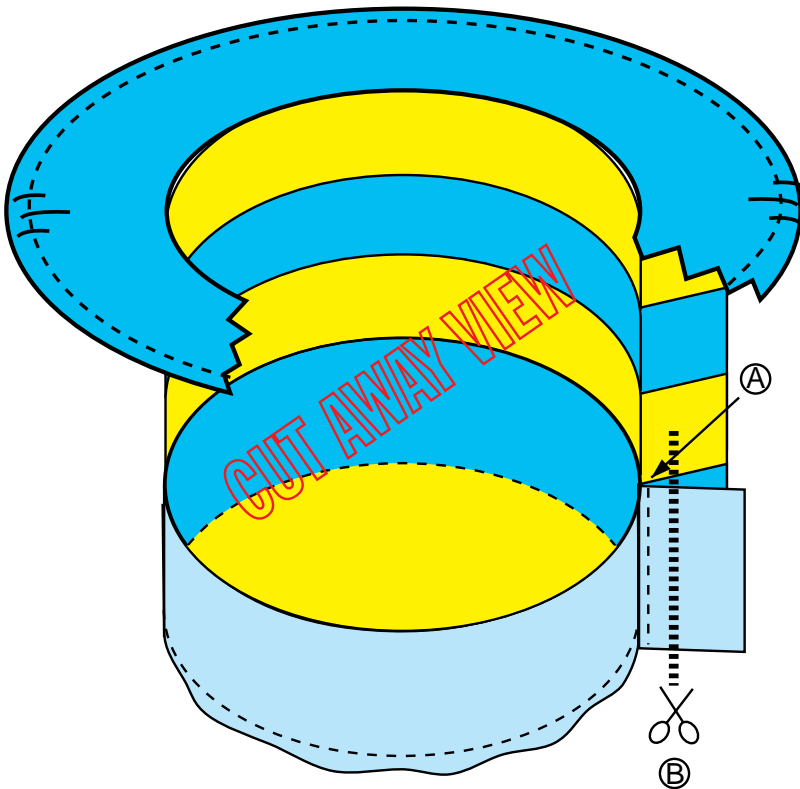
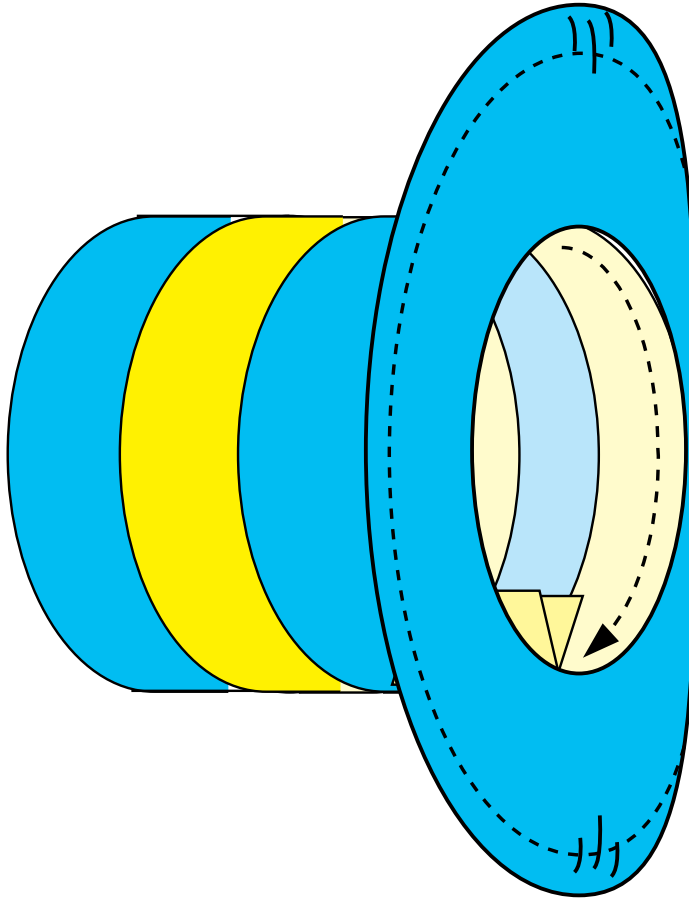
Figure 3: Sewing the flue.



Front of fabric
 Back of fabric

Front of fabric
 Back of fabric

Figure 4: Attaching lid to flue.







-  Front of fabric
-  Back of fabric
-  Front of fabric
-  Back of fabric

Figure 5: Attaching brim and finishing hat.