

Molennium Mole Pattern

October 23 is that special day of the year when all good chemists gather together to celebrate the most elemental day of all the days of the year — Mole Day!!! There are many activities associated with Mole Day like eating guacamole and chips for lunch and drinking a toast to Avogadro at 6:02 (am or pm – it's your choice).

One of the most popular activities is to have our students make a stuffed mole and write a story about their mole. Sometimes we require that they include science and/or chemistry facts in the story. Other times we have the students perform puppet shows using their stuffed moles.

For years we have all used the same old pattern to guide the students in making their mole. A cleaned up copy of the old pattern was created by Richard Furlough of the Tidewater Chemistry Teachers Association and it was also published in this very newsletter.

With the coming 21st century and the Second Millennium a new mole pattern has been developed by the National Mole Day Foundation. This one appears more like a 'teddy bear' instead of the old 'football' pattern. The new pattern was shared with ACT₂ by Kathleen Holley of N. Crowley HS. I'm including the new Molennium Mole pattern so we can all start the new millennium with new moles! The Molennium Mole pattern is on the addendum pages in the middle of this issue of *the reACTant*.

So make copies and give them to your students — Let's get some new moles to show off!

Sewing Directions

Parts: 2 body pieces, 1 body front, 4 paw pieces, 2 washers for eyes, yarn for nose

General Info: Lay out all pieces and identify them according to the pattern diagram. Allow $1/8"$ (4mm) for seams and push fur between pieces as you sew. Use a good quality clean filler material.

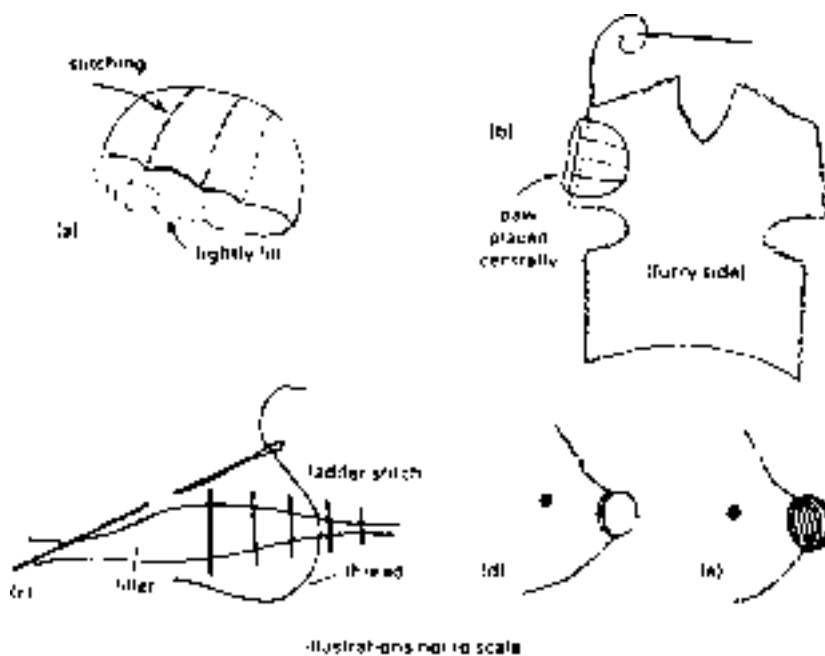
Paws: Fold one paw piece reverse side out down the middle along line A-B. Sew along the round edge leaving an opening for the stuffing. Turn to the right side and lightly stuff with filling. Sew the paw closed. Sew three lines of stitching into paw, see illustration (a). Repeat with all paws. Position paws against *furry side* of **Body Front** as shown in illustration (b) and sew in place.

Body: When cutting **body sides** be sure to cut along line E-D-F. Match body sides together, with furry sides in and sew along the head area from C to D. With furry sides together match edge E-D-E of **body** to edge E-D-E of **body front**. Tack pieces together and sew. With furry sides together pin **body front** to **body sides** at points arms F-G and legs H-J. Tack **front of body** on both sides from E to J, including paws. Remove tacking pins and sew from E to J on both sides. Sew around the back of the mole from C to K. Leave an opening at J-K-J to allow you to turn the furry side out (turn the mole right side out) and to stuff the mole with filling.

Eyes: Attach washers for eyes in the appropriate locations.

Filling: With mole now right side out begin filling with stuffing material. Make sure the nose and tail are pushed completely out. Use a little filling at a time. Give a smooth rounded shape to the head. Push a little filling into the tail and close body with ladder stitch. See illustration (c).

Nose: Trim fur lightly around tip of nose. Use yarn to bind tip of nose, see illustration (d). Fill in nose by stitching yarn from top to bottom, see illustration (e). Do not pull stitches too tight. Finish the mole by teasing out any fur trapped in the seams and lightly brush the fur.



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