



## Instructions for Poekie Valentine's Balloons (big and small)\*

(Time to complete: about 20 minutes)

### Materials needed:

- Paper for your printer • Ruler • Scissors • Fabric • Marker or pen for tracing • Pin • Needle • Thread
- Fluff for stuffing • Barbecue skewers or other thin sticks • Elmer's glue or any kind of glue

### How to make it:

For an experienced Poekie maker, this is easy. After printing and cutting the pattern,<sup>\*2</sup> just follow the same steps as usual:

- Place the pattern on an edge on the wrong side of your fabric.<sup>\*3</sup>
- Trace around the pattern.
- Cut ON the lines you traced.
- Repeat the tracing and cutting until you have two hearts.<sup>\*4</sup>
- Place the two hearts on top of each other with the right sides facing out, and stick a pin in it.
- Get a thread and a needle.
- Whip-stitch<sup>\*6</sup> almost all the way around, as marked on the pattern with the striped line. Start on the very bottom.
- Stuff your balloon with as much stuffing as it needs to be round. The more the better.
- Finish whip-stitching to the bottom of the heart.
- Do a running stitch around the bottom, as marked on the pattern with the dotted line.
- For the big balloon, use a full length skewer or stick (about 10" long), for the small balloon you can use half a skewer or a stick 5" long.
- Insert it through the little hole at the bottom of the heart, push it all the way to the top of the heart.
- Pull your thread tightly around the stick and do a bunch of stitches back and forth around the stick.
- When it's pretty tight, tie a knot and cut the thread.
- Put some glue around the bottom of the heart, the fabric and the stick.
- Let it dry for as long as it needs to. Don't be tempted to move the balloon up and down the stick! The balloon will not be tightly secured until the glue is dry.

I can't wait to see what you've made at home and let me know if any part of these instructions is confusing!

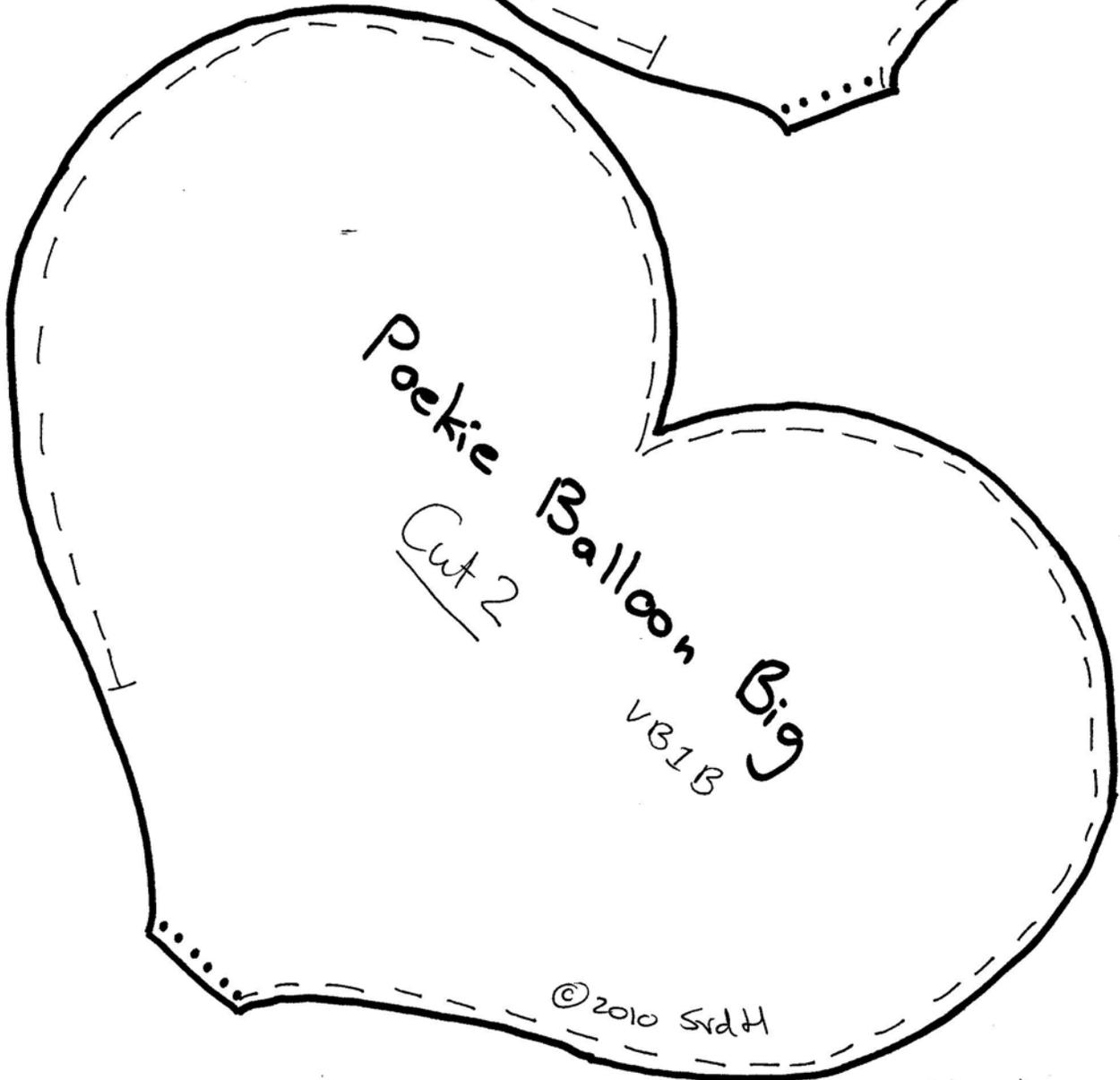
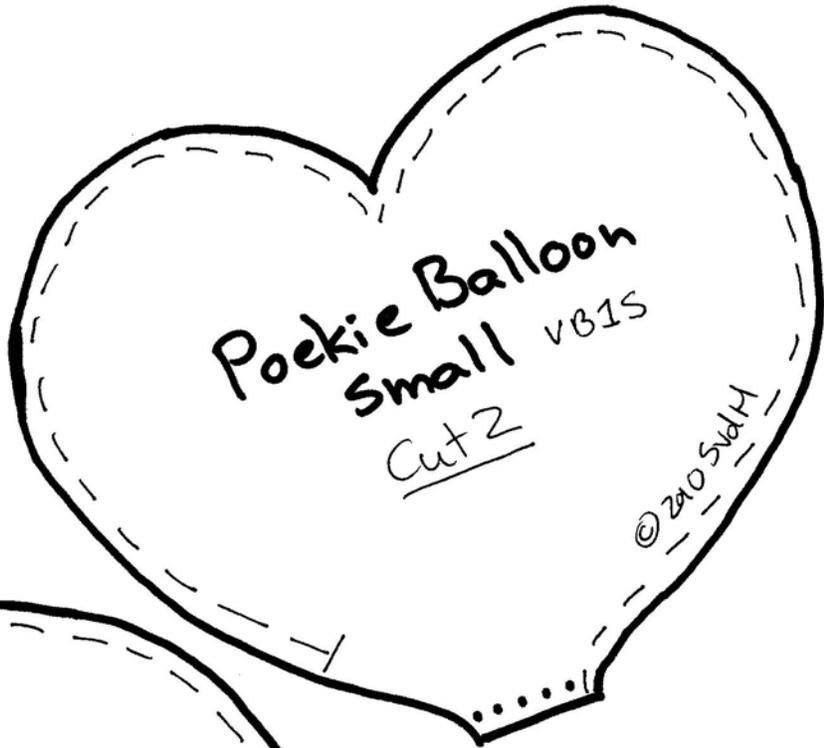
With love from the Poekies,  
sophia

\* For children age 8 and up, with parental guidance.

Warning: 1. Pins and needles' mission in life is to poke, and scissors only know how to cut. You must be careful and make sure that they poke and cut only the things that you want them to! 2. None of the materials used belong in a person's mouth, so be careful when you make this while little children are around you. ©2010 Sophia van der Harst



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