



# Sunbonnet Sue, Calendar Girl

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Martha G. Michell

## FABRIC REQUIREMENTS

- Assorted fabrics with seasonal themes
- Fat quarters (18" x 22½") or fat eighths of 12 different black and white prints for block backgrounds
- ¾ yard black print for sashing strips
- Assorted bright scraps for border corner stones and sashing squares
- ¼ yard colorful stripe for first border
- 1 yard bright print for second border and binding
- 1¾ yards fabric for backing
- Batting larger than 36" x 48"

## Additional Supplies

- Shades' *SoftFuse* paper-backed fusible web
- The 10-pack will be adequate, but the three-yard roll means you won't have to order as frequently.
- Assorted threads for blanket stitch trim

When Marti Michell was a little girl, she loved playing with paper dolls. This quilt is definitely a cross between playing with paper dolls and quilting. It is also a great way to let your fabrics do the work. All of the motifs shown in this quilt were found in printed fabrics. Chances are that you have been tempted to buy cute seasonal fabrics that would help you start a Calendar Girl quilt. If not, it is never too late to begin collecting calendar quilt fabrics—or perhaps your fabric collection is better suited to another theme such as travel, or hobbies.

Marti made this quilt for a Sunbonnet Sue challenge. The best part of the challenge was its timeline—Marti had time to put sections of the quilt on her design wall and arrange and rearrange the pieces. There was even time to rummage through fabrics to find the perfect bumblebee she didn't even know she needed until she put the sunflower on Sue's hat! Having the project progressing on the wall also meant that Marti could shop for new fabrics to help tell the story.

## Picking the Themes

The 12 months of the year are represented in Marti's quilt in chronological order across the four rows. From upper left to lower right:

- January:* Back to Quilting after the holidays
- February:* Romance



Finished Size: Approximately 35" x 47"

- March:* St. Patrick's Day
- April:* April Showers
- May:* Mother's Day
- June:* Time for the Garden
- July:* Picnic time
- August:* Last days of summer fun
- September:* Back to School
- October:* Halloween
- November:* Harvest and Thanksgiving
- December:* Holidays and gifts

There are many other options you could use to personalize your calendar. June is perfect for weddings or select the month of your own wedding for that theme. July could have certainly been more patriotic. Local festivals, such as Tulip Time or the Apple Festival or the Quilt Shop Hop month in your area can establish the theme for that particular month. Don't forget to feature your own personal favorite pastimes.

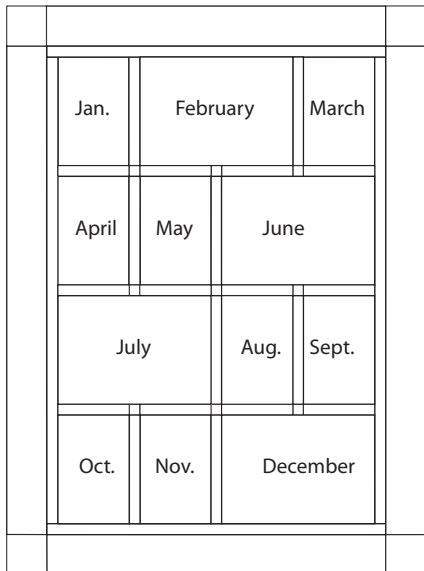
## Cutting The Background And Sashing Pieces

The 8 small rectangles are cut  $6\frac{1}{2}'' \times 9\frac{1}{2}''$ , and the four large rectangles are  $13\frac{1}{2}'' \times 9\frac{1}{2}''$ . You may want to cut background pieces slightly larger than these sizes and trim to exact size when you are through handling.

The sashing strips are cut  $1\frac{1}{2}''$  wide. You will need 12 horizontal strips  $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 6\frac{1}{2}''$  and 8 vertical strips  $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 9\frac{1}{2}''$ .

There are 8 blocks where the sashing strips meet. You can cut  $1\frac{1}{2}''$  squares to match, or use alternate colors (see photo).

Even if you cut all of the background fabrics and sashing strips now, it will be easier to fuse one section at a time and then join the sections.



## Fusing Instructions

We use Shades' *SoftFuse* ([www.shadestextiles.co](http://www.shadestextiles.co)) because it is the softest fusible available!

Draw patterns on the paper side of the paper-backed fusible web. Leave at least  $\frac{1}{4}''$  to  $\frac{1}{2}''$  between the pieces. Note that the figures will face the opposite direction from what is drawn on the fusible web. The pattern sheets designate which direction the finished images will face. Rough-cut the pieces apart, leaving paper and fusible web at least  $\frac{1}{4}''$  larger than the piece.

Following manufacturer's directions, fuse all shapes to the wrong side of appropriate fabric.

Cut out on the drawn lines.

Arrange the Sue and Sam shapes on background rectangles. We recommend tracing the positioning diagrams on a see-through gridded non-woven fabric (available in the interfacing sections of most fabric stores). Start with shoes about  $\frac{1}{2}''$  from the bottom edge of the background fabric. When the units and sashing strips are joined, you may want to fuse some of the images to overlap onto the sashing strips.

When you are comfortable with the look of the blocks, begin to remove the paper backing and fuse the pieces permanently in place. You may want to stitch around the outside edge of the dress with contrasting quilting or decorative machine stitching thread before fusing the Sleeve or Bonnet in place.

Don't forget to have fun decorating the hats with bands, flowers and decorative machine stitches.

## Finishing The Quilt

Join the blocks and sashing strips as shown. Measure the interior of your quilt. Adjust the following border measurements to match your quilt and cut the number of strips indicated.

### First border

Two  $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 39\frac{1}{2}''$  strips of colorful stripe (sides)

Two  $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 27\frac{1}{2}''$  strips of colorful stripe (top and bottom)

### Second border and corner squares

Two  $3\frac{1}{4}'' \times 29\frac{1}{2}''$  strips (top and bottom)

Two  $3\frac{1}{4}'' \times 41\frac{1}{2}''$  strips (sides)

Four  $3\frac{1}{4}''$  corner squares

The final border shown is a directional fabric. Marti actually cut the top and bottom borders on the crosswise grain and the side borders on the lengthwise grain of the fabric, so that the motifs all go in the same direction.

1. Add the first border to the sides first and then the top and bottom of the quilt.
2. Sew the second border pieces to the sides of the quilt.
3. Add corner stones to each end of the remaining border strips. Add to top and bottom of the quilt.
4. Layer and quilt as desired.
5. Cut binding strips and add using your favorite method.

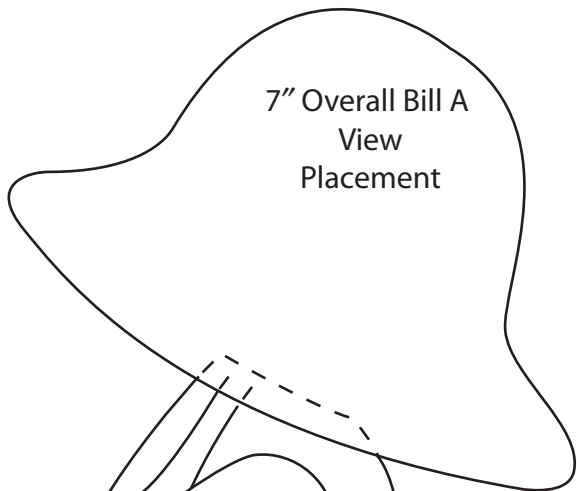
This quilt was originally created for the book *Sunbonnet Sue Is Alive and Well* by ASN Publishing. Sixteen designers participated. The book is now out of print, but Sue and Sam may never go out of style. Have fun as you make your own interpretation!

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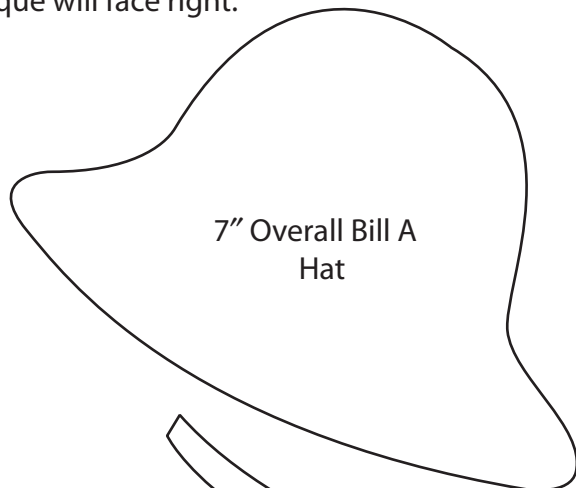


# 7" Overall Bill - A

Trace on paper backed fusible web. Finished appliqué will face right.



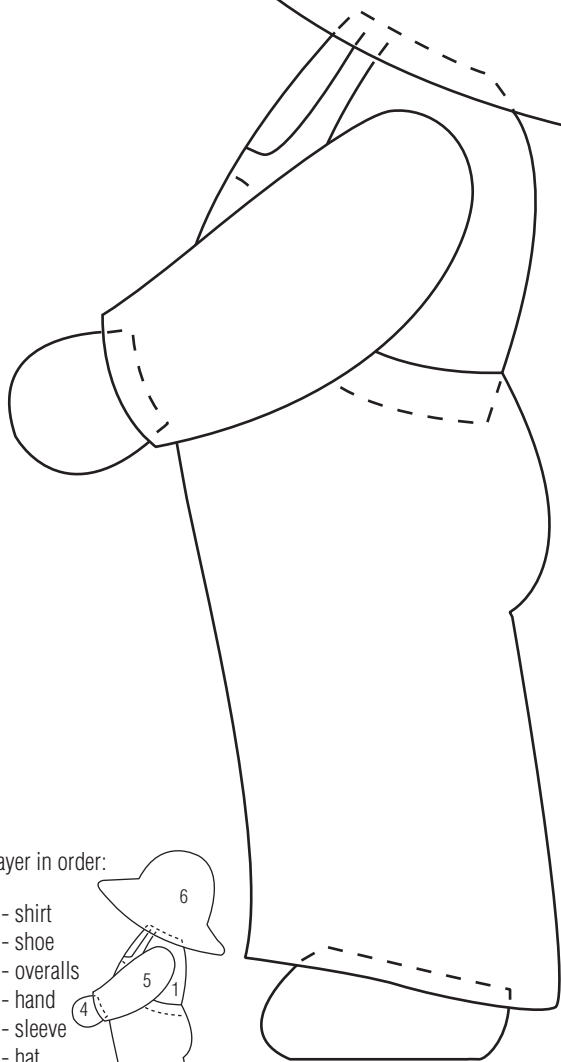
7" Overall Bill A  
View  
Placement



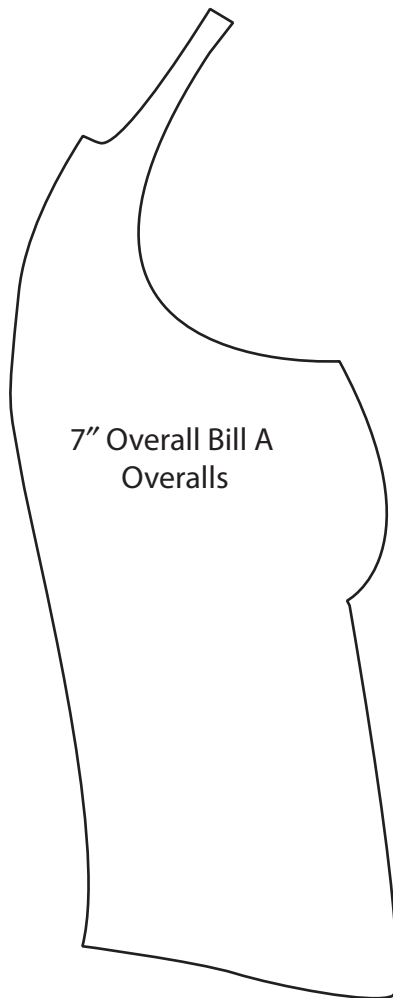
7" Overall Bill A  
Hat



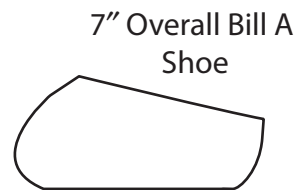
7" Overall Bill A  
Hat Band



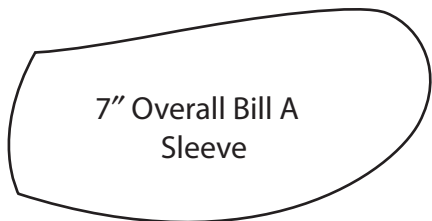
7" Overall Bill A  
Shirt



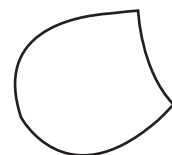
7" Overall Bill A  
Overalls



7" Overall Bill A  
Shoe



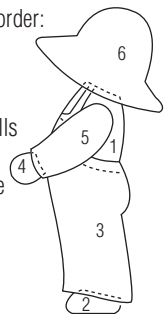
7" Overall Bill A  
Sleeve



7" Overall Bill A  
Hand

Layer in order:

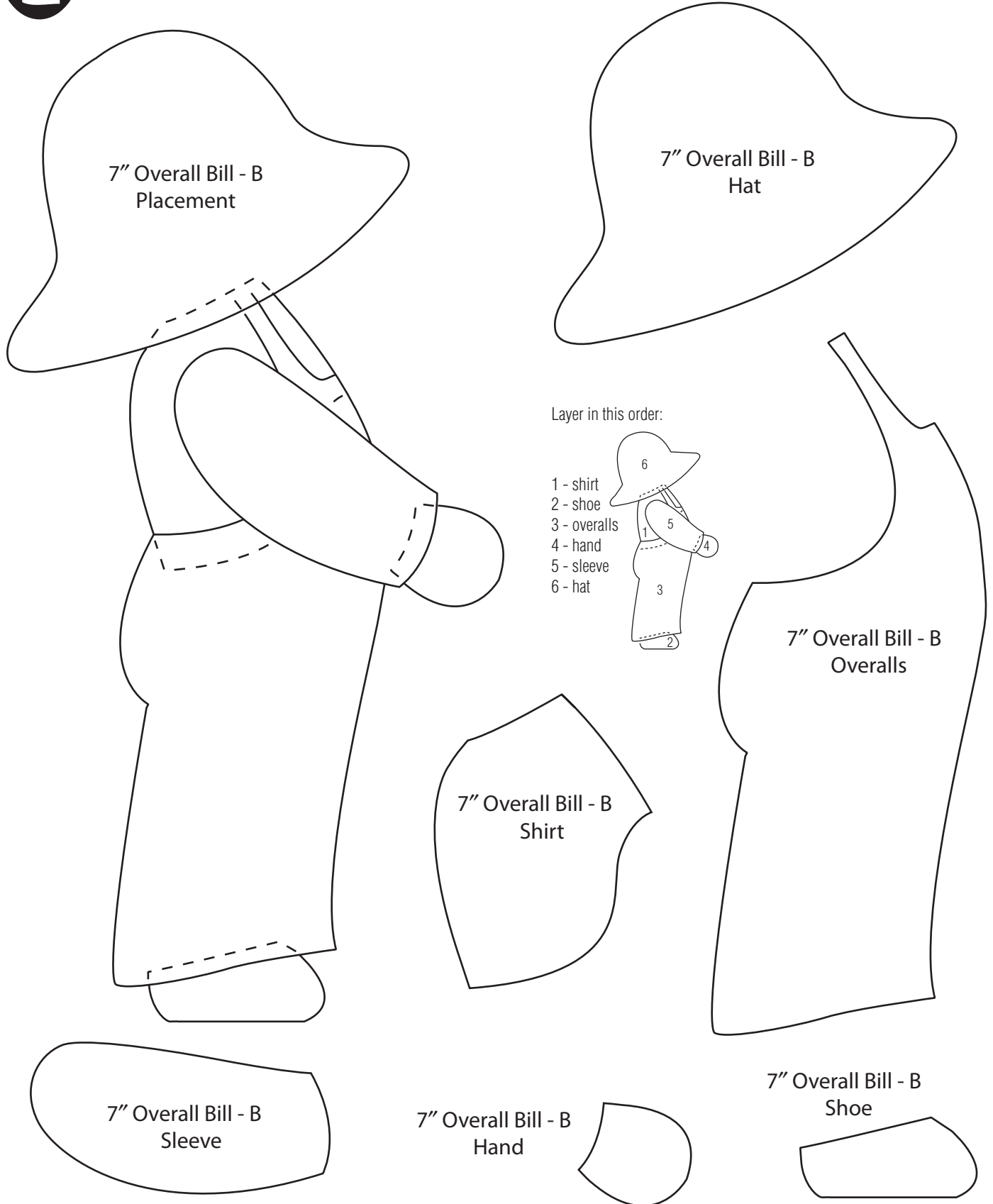
- 1 - shirt
- 2 - shoe
- 3 - overalls
- 4 - hand
- 5 - sleeve
- 6 - hat





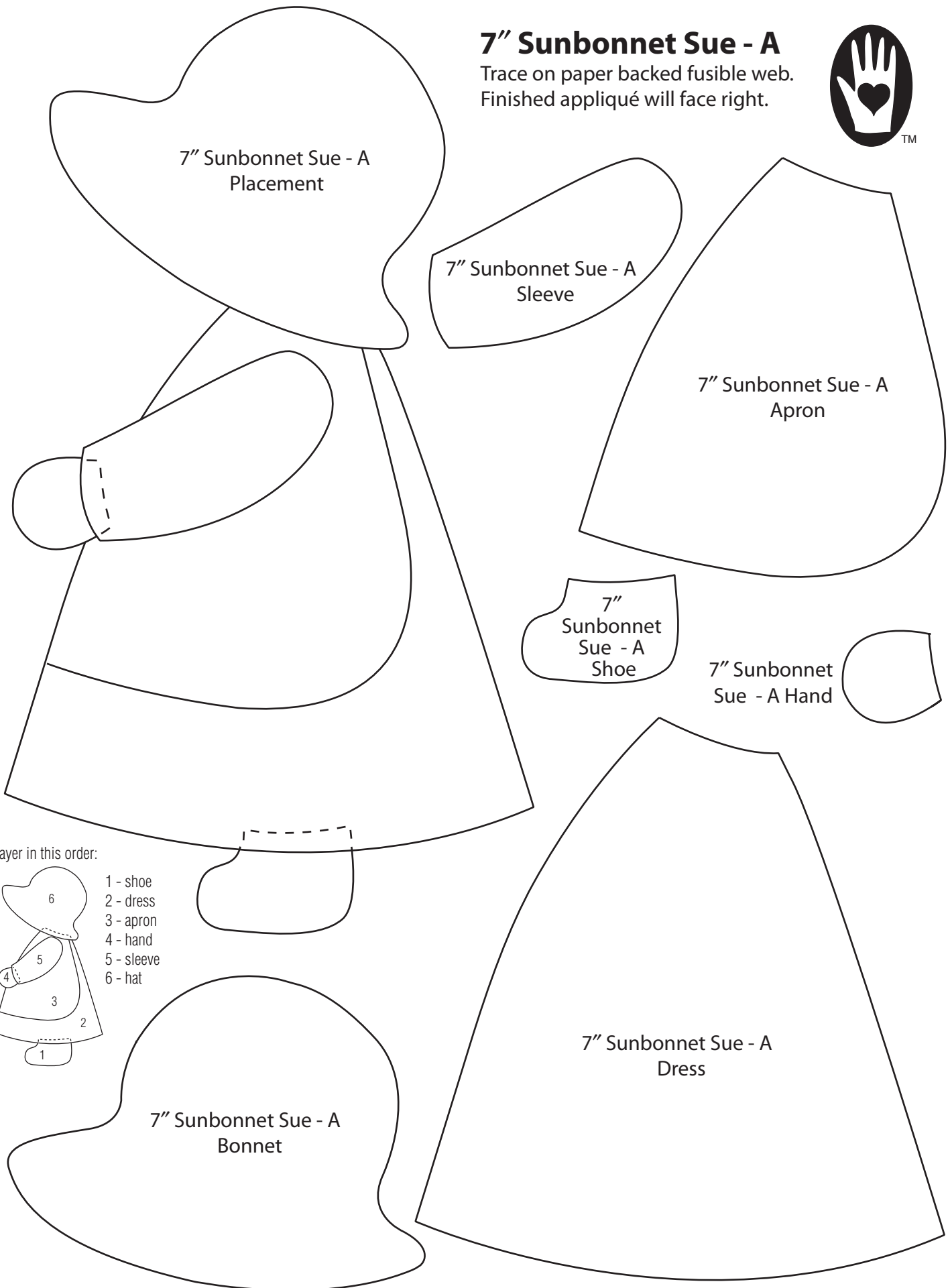
# 7" Overall Bill - B

Trace on paper backed fusible web. Finished appliqué will face left.



# 7" Sunbonnet Sue - A

Trace on paper backed fusible web.  
Finished appliqué will face right.



7" Sunbonnet Sue - A  
Placement

7" Sunbonnet Sue - A  
Sleeve

7" Sunbonnet Sue - A  
Apron

7"  
Sunbonnet  
Sue - A  
Shoe

7" Sunbonnet  
Sue - A Hand

7" Sunbonnet Sue - A  
Bonnet

7" Sunbonnet Sue - A  
Dress

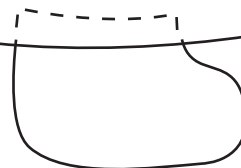
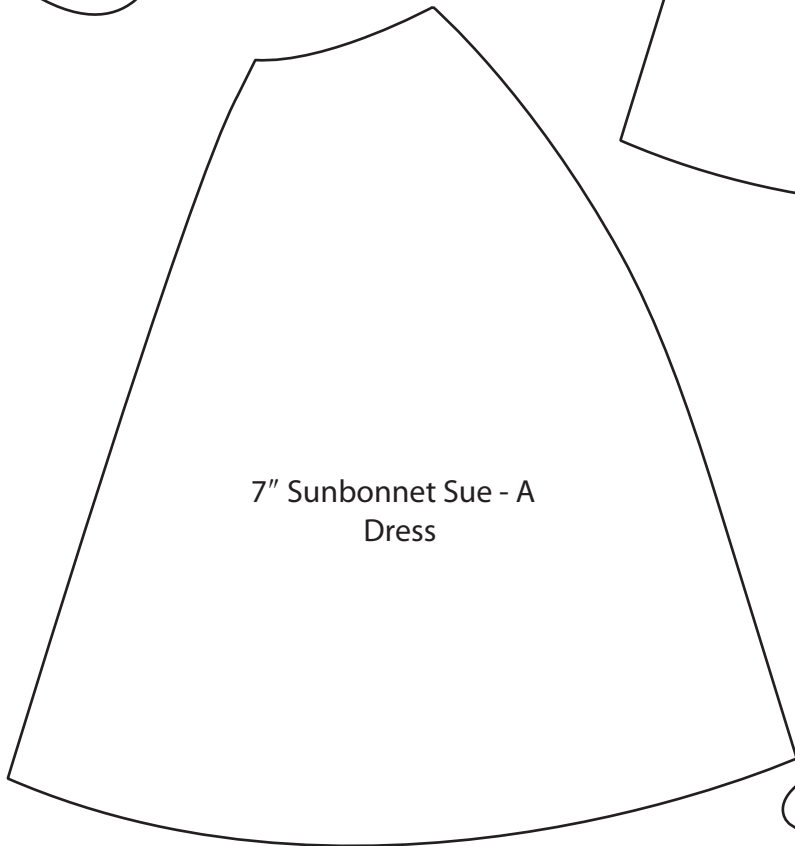
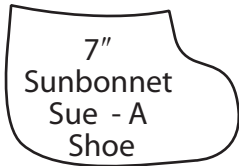
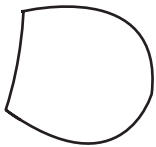
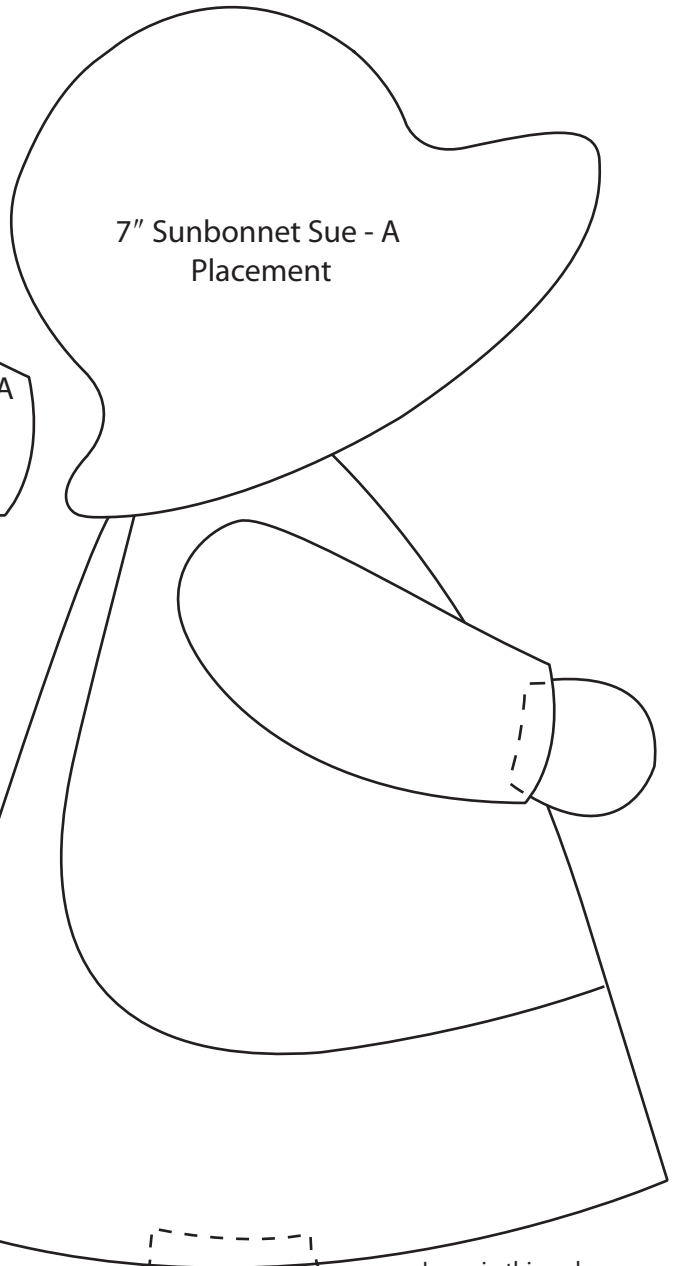
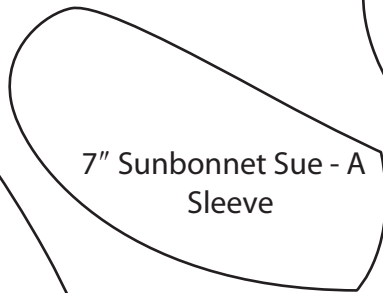
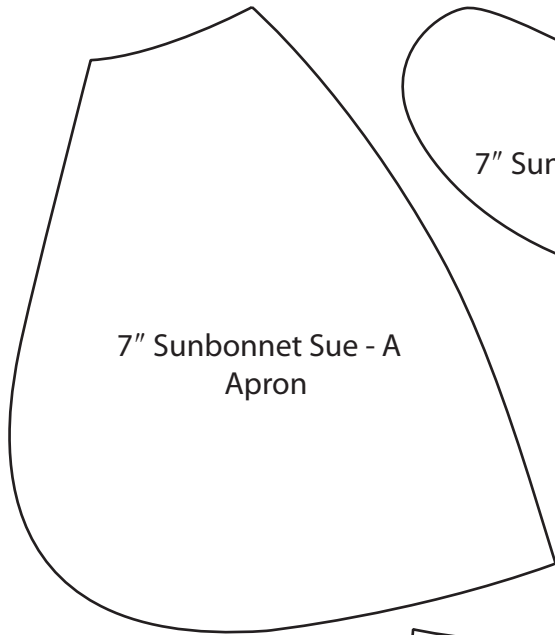
Layer in this order:





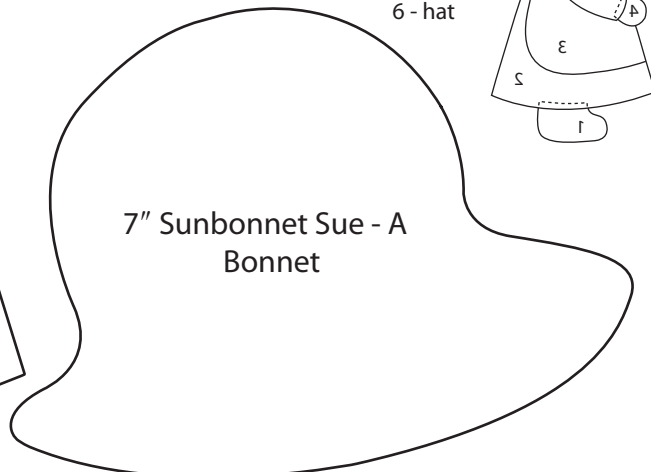
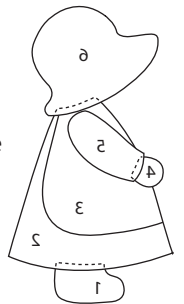
## 7" Sunbonnet Sue - A

Trace on paper backed fusible web.  
Finished appliqué will face right.



Layer in this order:

- 1 - shoe
- 2 - dress
- 3 - apron
- 4 - hand
- 5 - sleeve
- 6 - hat

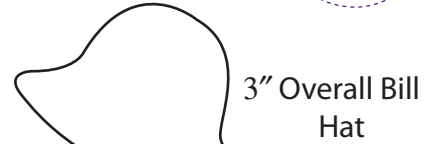
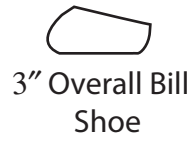
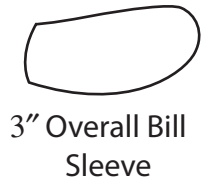
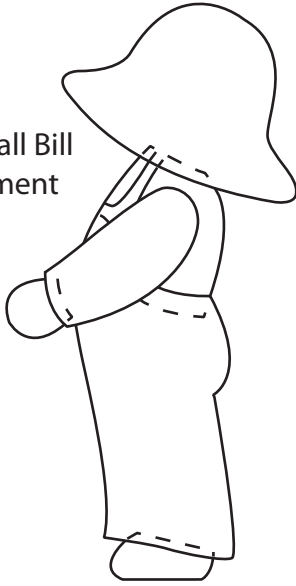




Trace on paper backed fusible web. Finished appliqué will face right.

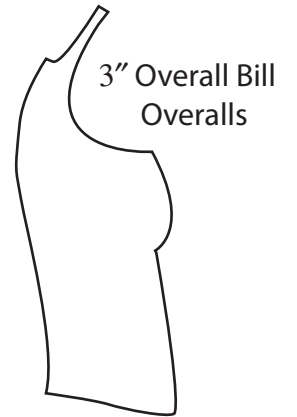
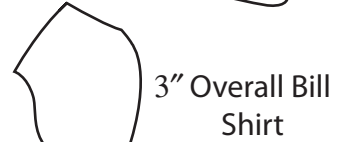
### 3" Overall Bill

3" Overall Bill Placement



Layer in order:

- 1 - shirt
- 2 - shoe
- 3 - overalls
- 4 - hand
- 5 - sleeve
- 6 - hat



### 3" Sunbonnet Sue

3" Sunbonnet Sue Placement

