

Balloon Centrepiece

by Gail Armstrong



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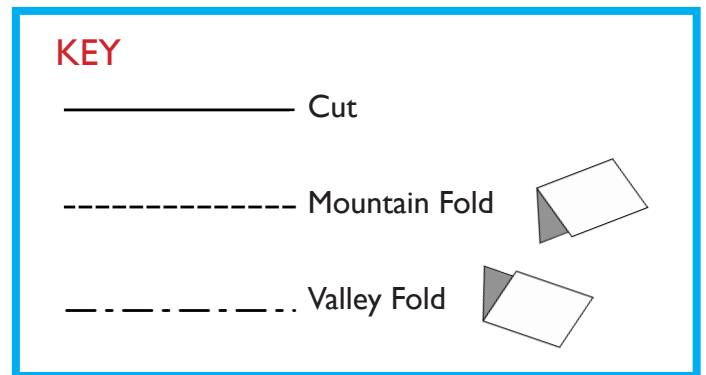
This hot air balloon centre piece is made using a party balloon and can be used purely for party decoration, as a place name by adding the name plaque to the basket, or fill the basket with sweets or party favours.

Tools required:

- For best results use 180gm paper
- Scissors or craft knife
- Glue
- Ruler
- One 12" balloon



Use the ruler and either the back side (ie blunt) of the craft knife or an old ball point pen with no ink to score along the fold lines before folding



METHOD

Balloon cone:

- cut out the 2 balloon cone pieces and cut the 2 slits where marked.
- Glue Tab 1a to the underside of Side 1b
- Glue Tab 2a to the underside of Side 2b to complete the balloon cone
- Cut out the cone base circle and fold the tabs as marked
- Apply glue to the tabs, drop the circle inside the cone and ease into position

Ropes:

- Cut out and score the 4 ropes
- For each rope, fold in and glue first one side, then the other so the rope is formed of 3 layers of paper
- Slide the grey end of each rope upwards through the slit in the balloon cone
- Glue the grey area to the white inside of the cone

METHOD (cont.)

Blow up your balloon.

Once all the glue has thoroughly dried, drop your balloon into the balloon cone and gently ease the knot of the balloon through the hole in the centre of the balloon cone base.

The top part of the hot air balloon is now complete.



Basket:

- cut out the red basket base and fold the tabs as marked
- Cut out the green basket base lining and glue to the white side of the red basket base
- Cut out the paper strip that forms the side of the basket



Before gluing, if you roll up the paper strip that forms the sides of the basket and then release it, the strip will be easier to curve around the tabs of the circular base.

- With the green basket base facing up and the navy edge of the basket sides at the bottom, start from Side A and wrap the strip of the basket sides around the tabs of the base, gluing as you go. Finally glue the two ends of the basket side together.
- Cut out the green basket lining and roll it with the green side facing inwards. Release it and glue it to the inside of the basket sides so that it hides the tabs inside.

To finish:

- Take the balloon cone and glue the ropes into place over the yellow areas of the basket, lining up the rope ends with the bottom of the basket.
- Cut out the red stripe and glue it around the bottom edge of the basket sides, over the ropes.
- Cut out the red bunting and glue it around the top edge of the basket sides, over the ropes. As a finishing touch, lightly curl the curves of the bunting upwards.



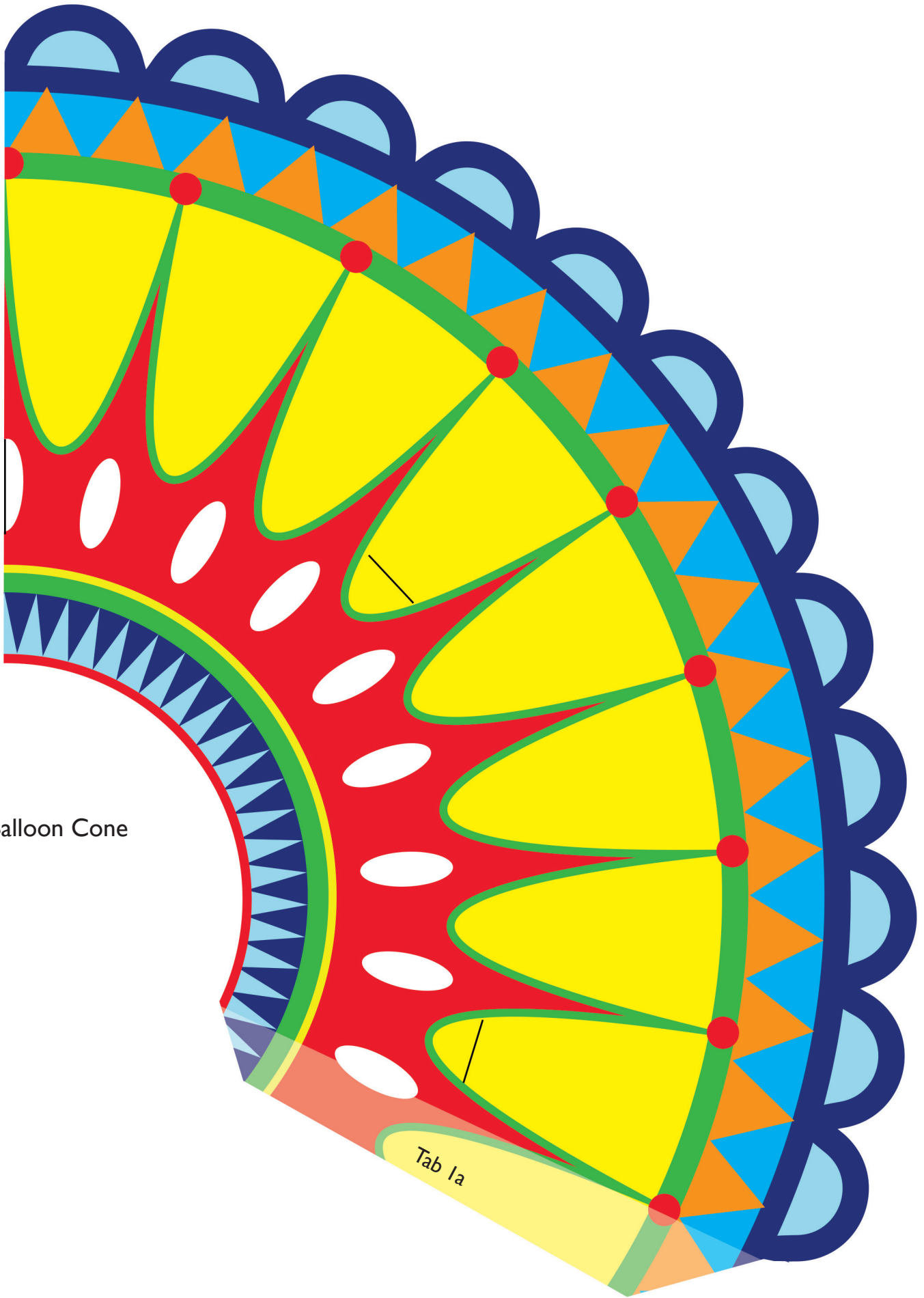
Adding a nameplate:

If you are using the hot air balloon as a place name, write the name on the label and glue it to the front of the basket.

Side 2b

Balloon Cone

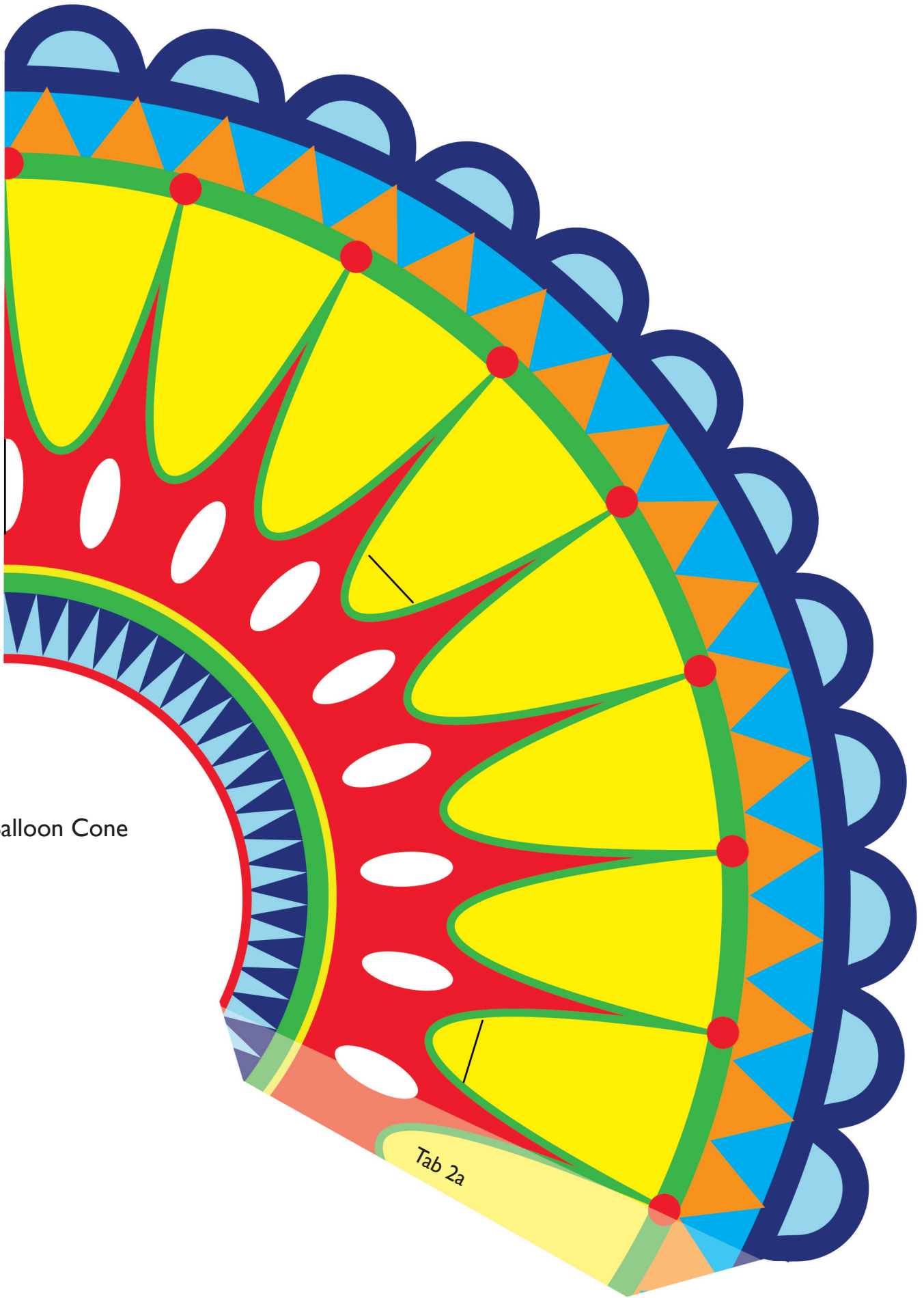
Tab 1a



Side 1b

Balloon Cone

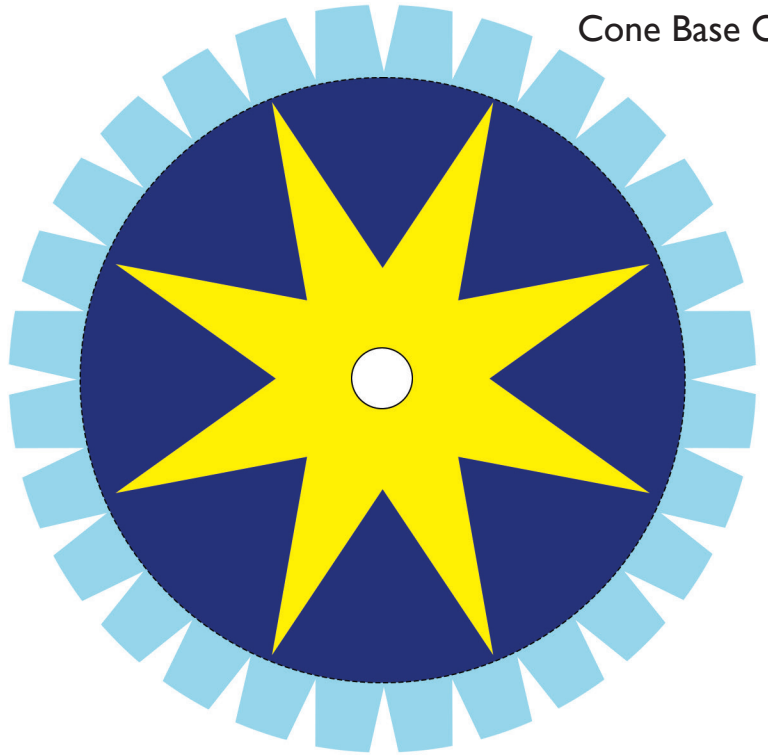
Tab 2a



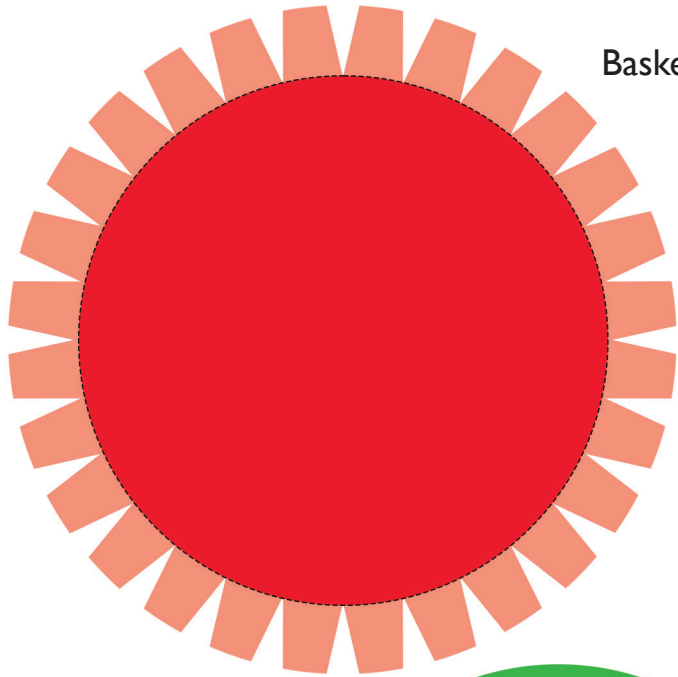
Basket Lining



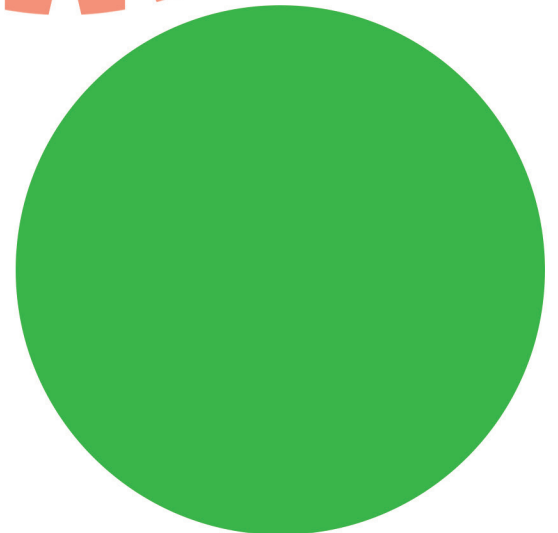
Cone Base Circle



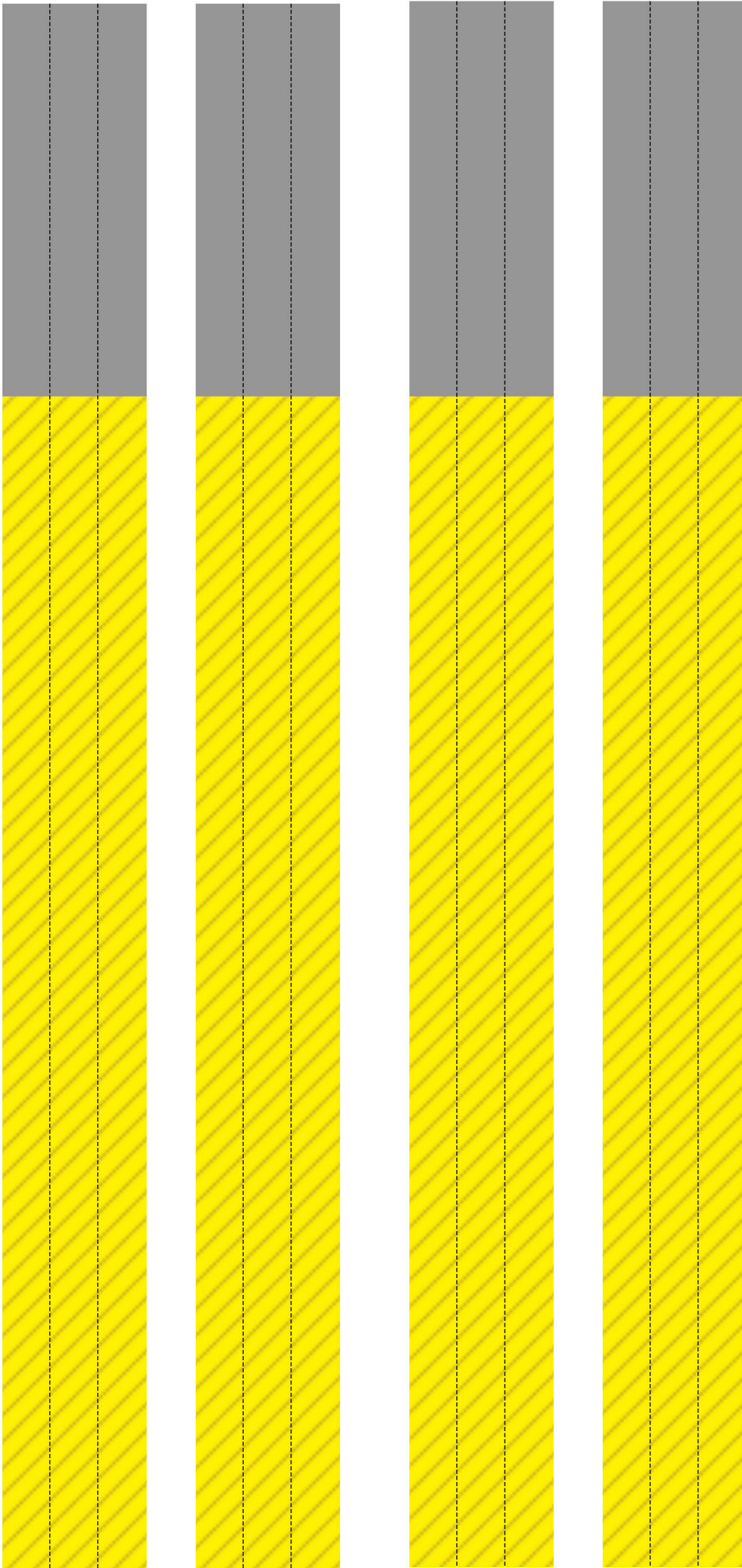
Basket Base



Basket Base Lining

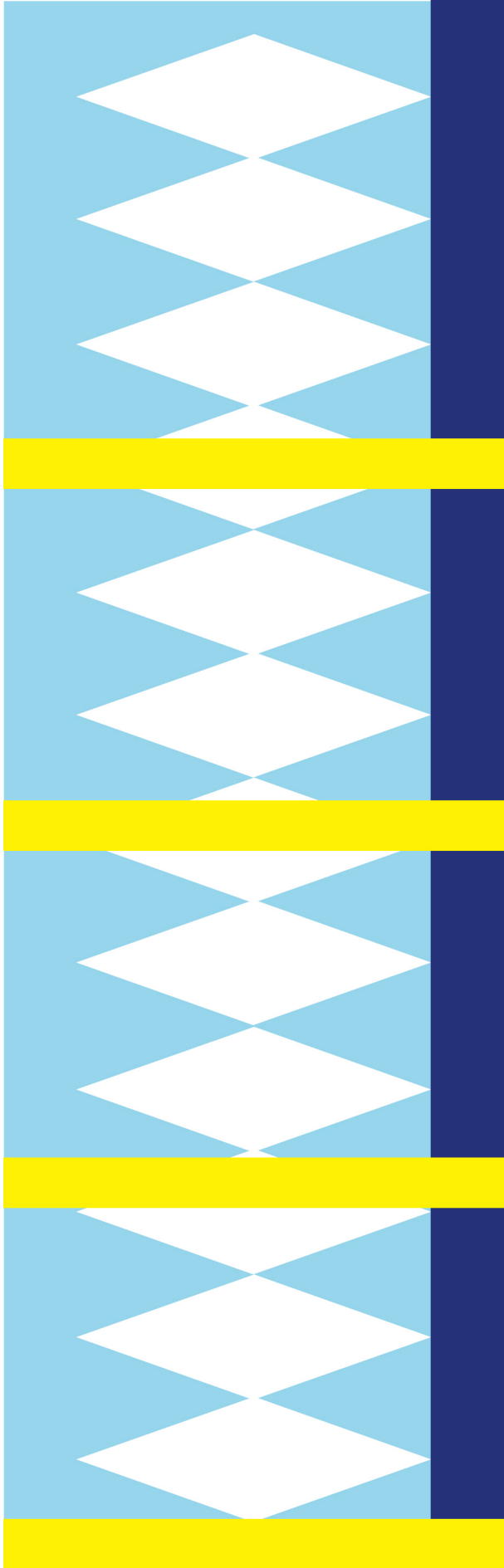


Ropes

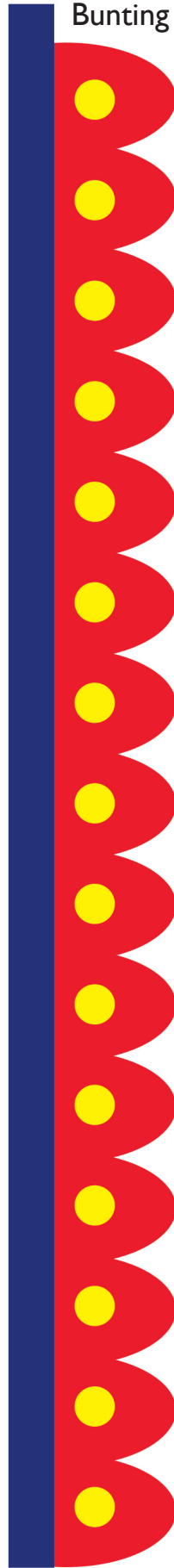


Basket Sides

Side A



Bunting



Red Stripe



Nameplate

