

IQM Autumn Leaves

Approximate sizes: Oak Leaf, 10" long; Alder Leaf, 9" long

Before you start:

- Make a template from plastic template material or cereal box cardboard.

Tip: Print the leaves on card stock, or if you can't do that, glue them to pieces of card stock.

Materials needed:

- For Oak Leaf: 2 pieces of fabric and one piece batting, 8"x12" each
- For Alder Leaf: 2 pieces of fabric and one piece batting, 7"x11" each
- For Maple Leaf: 2 pieces of fabric and one piece batting, 9"x9" each
- Marking pens — one each Pilot Frixion erasable wide marker and Pilot Frixion erasable pen, or similar
- Elmer's™ all-purpose glue stick or similar
- Good small, sharp scissors

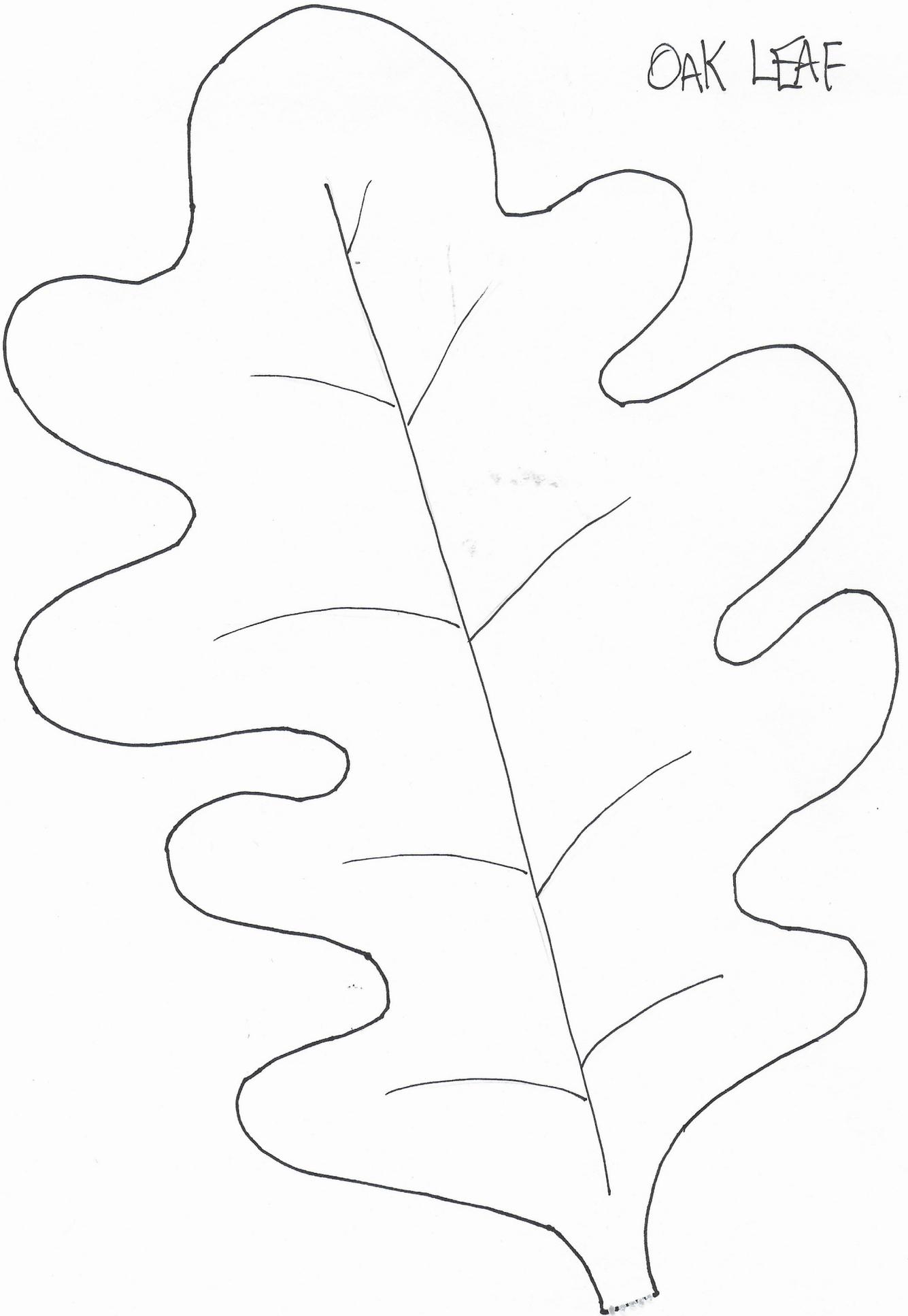
Directions:

1. Trace the pattern onto batting using the larger marker. Cut out the leaf shape, on the inside edge of the tracing line. Apply a little glue stick to the fabric in enough spots to gently adhere the batting shape. With fabric pieces right sides together, lay the batting shape on the fabric.
2. Begin at the right side of the end of the stem, and **with stitch length of 1.5 or 2.0**, sew around the edge of the batting shape, close enough that once in a while you catch a bit of batting in the stitch. Finish sewing at the left side of the stem. Do not sew the stem closed. Cut off the piece of batting on the stem.
3. **Turn the work over**, and carefully trim seam allowance to 1/8" or slightly larger. Clip curves, especially the inner ones on the Oak leaf, and the inner "V"s on the Maple leaf, and snip off the extra fabric at tip of the Alder leaf.
4. Make a vertical slit about 2.5" long in the layer of fabric facing you. Gently pull the stitched leaf shape through the opening and use a tool (such as a chopstick) to push the leaf shapes out. Leave the stem end tucked inside the leaf, and don't sew the little opening shut.
5. Cut a strip of matching fabric 1/2" x long enough to cover the slit made in the back. Dab a bit of glue stick on the strip and insert it into the slit, smoothing it down. Lightly press the leaf with an iron.
6. Mark leaf ribs on the fabric with erasable pen. Beginning near the stem end, stitch along the line to the first rib. Stop, pivot, and stitch along the rib to the end; pivot and stitch back to the center stem. Work the second rib, then continue down the leaf, stitching the ribs as you come to them. Stop 1/2" before the leaf tip, pivot, and stitch back up the leaf to where you began. Make a couple of back stitches to secure. Clip threads.
7. One more light press, and it's done! (Except for any embellishment you want to add.)

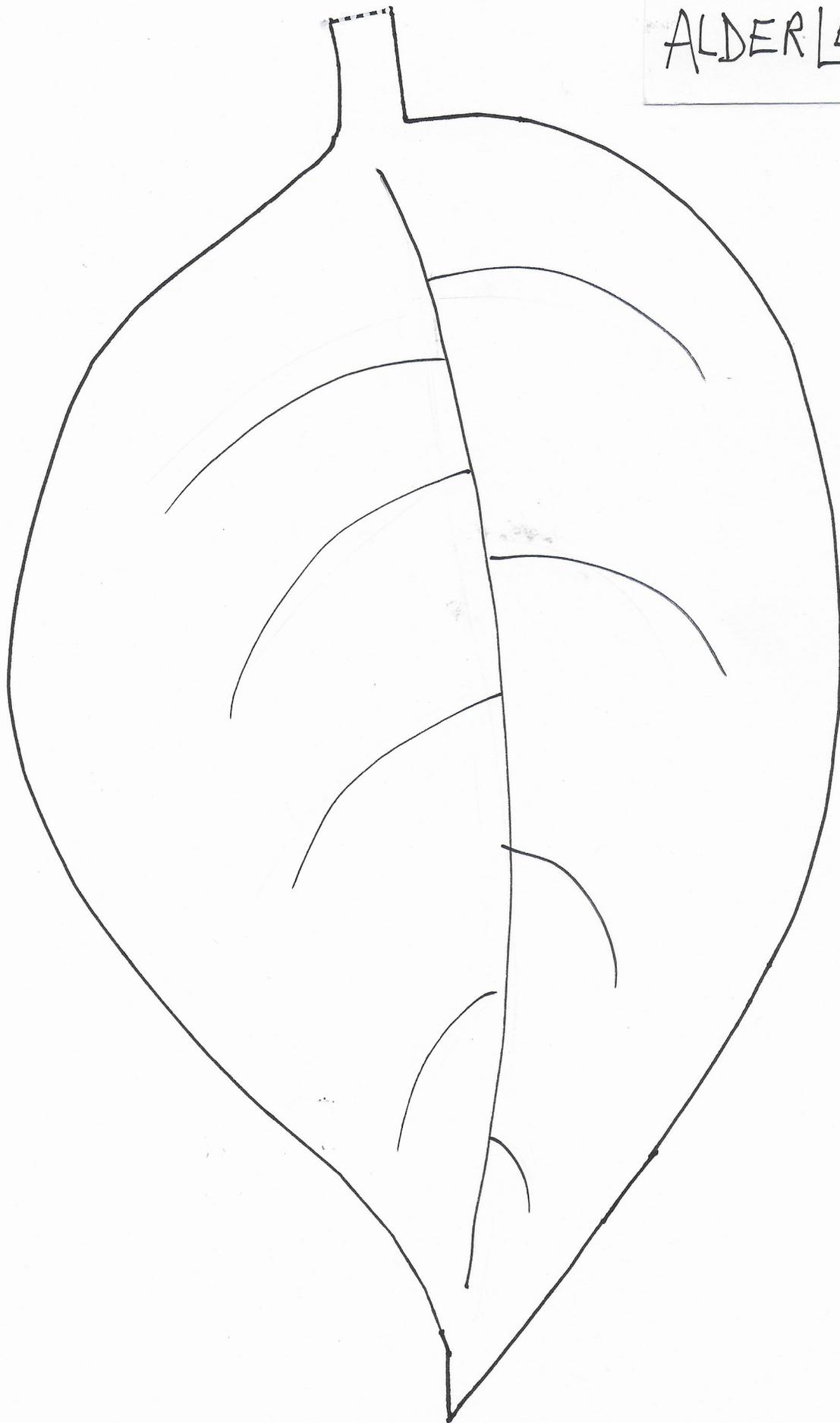
More Tips:

- Try a stitch length of 1.5 for the Oak Leaf because it has so many curves.
- Decide how much you want to clip curves on the Oak Leaf, then multiply that by 1.5! This is especially true for the inner curves.
- Use regular length stitch — 2.5 — to stitch the ribs after the leave is constructed.
- Start the center rib stitching 1/4" to 1/2" below the stem position on the leaves (that little hole that remains at the base of the stem) so that we can attach them to a hanging system.
- If you wish to use a fusible web to tack down the batting or the little strip inserted under the slit, make sure it is really soft and flexible.
- Embellish the leaves any way you wish — beads, fabric paint... so many choices.

OAK LEAF



ALDER LEAF



Maple Leaf

