



Cow/Ox

When we speak of a cow today, we usually mean an animal of the species known in latin as *Bos Taurus*, which can refer to any such four-legged horned creature, including its male individuals such as bull and ox. Of course cow and bull are also general terms for the female or male individuals of other species including Moose, Elephants, Sea Lions and Whales, but here we are talking about the species which is also called bovine or in plural, cattle.

Cows have been domesticated by humans some 8000 to 1000 years ago, their wild ancestor was called the Aurochs. The wild Aurochs became extinct

in the 1600s, however the designation Ox for a male individual of domestic cattle has survived. Technically the word Ox today refers to a castrated male although it isn't always used with that meaning.

Buffalos and Bisons are nearer relatives of cattle, while Antelopes, Sheep and Goats are more distant relatives.

Cattle have been domesticated on the outset both as draft animals to pull carts and plows, but also as a source of milk and meat. Cows as domestic animals can be found today wherever humans live and their global population is considered to be close to one billion. There are two main subspecies, with and without

humps, the former being more prevalent in Europe and the latter in Asia.

Typical external characteristics of cows are their split hooves and horns. By nature all cows should have horns, with variations in size, however some races have been bred by humans that no longer have horns, others had their horns removed by humans, which is a very painful operation on the young animal. Another typical characteristic for female cows is the udder with its four teats, the place where we get cow milk from.

Another special characteristic of cattle, although they can't be seen, are their massive four-chambered stomachs,

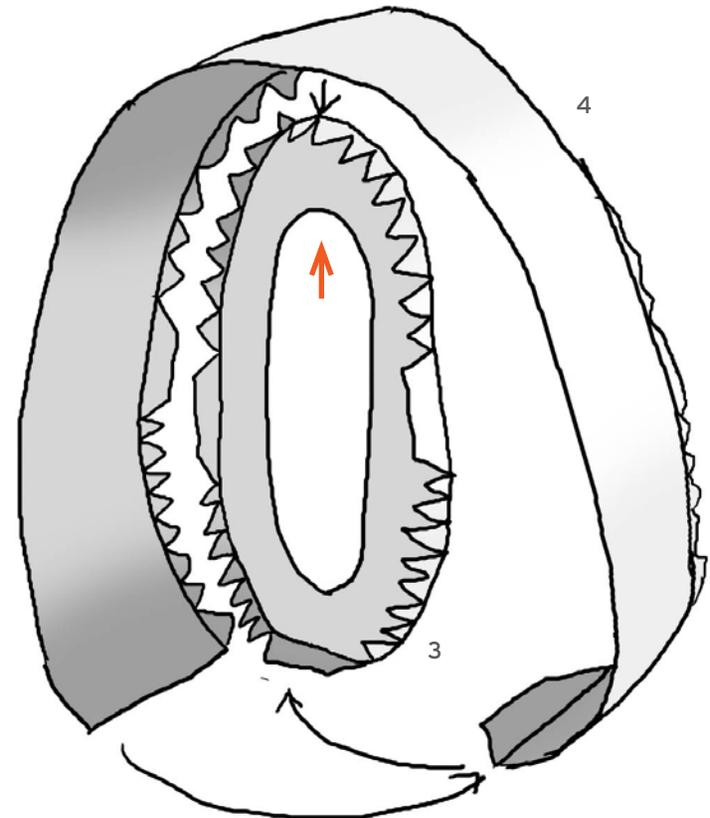
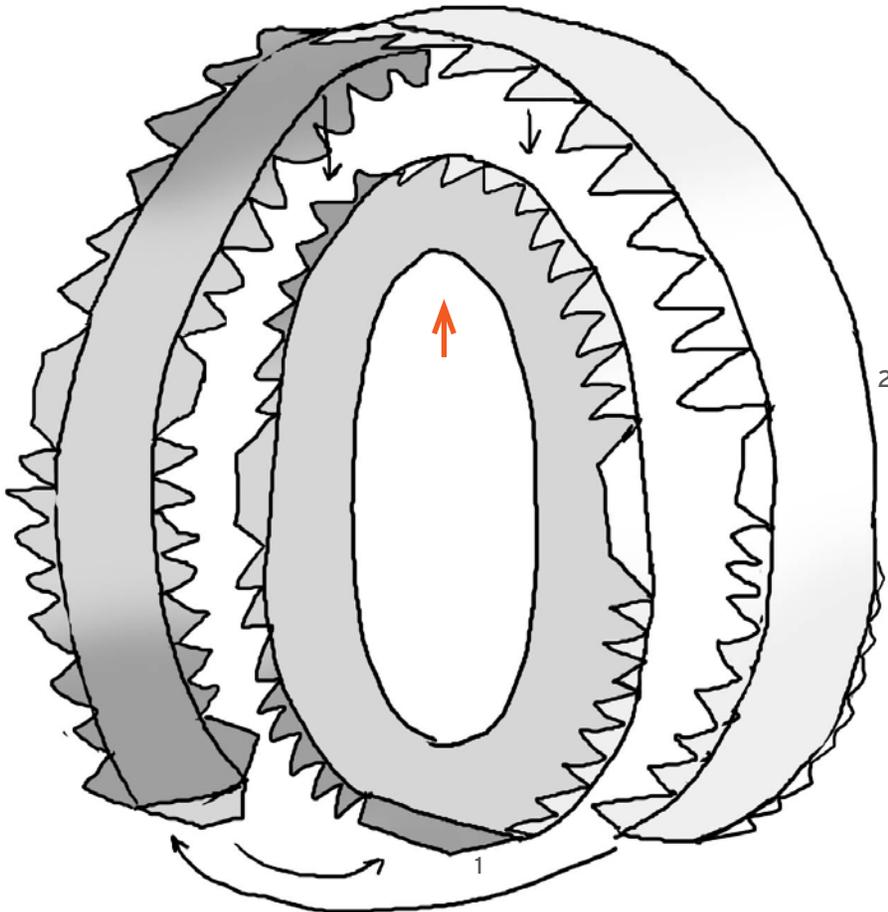
which basically work like a bowl in which the food is fermented. Their digestion system is specialized into first filling up the stomach with a lot of grass that has been chewed only a little or not at all, which is then regurgitated later to be re-chewed. The advantage of this digestion is, that cows need to spend little time in the vulnerable position with their head down and may re-chew their food with head raised, while being watchful for approaching predators. The jaws and teeth of the cow are specialized on chewing grass, moving in a typical circular motion (not unlike humans chewing on chewing gum)

The herding of cows is an integral part of many cultures, becoming part of the culture, for example in such events as rodeo, but also bullfights and a special kind of human stereotype, the cowboy is a result of this. Cattle have also been worshipped as god-like beings. For example cows have been identified with the Egyptian love goddess Hathor or the Greek-Roman god-mother Hera/Juno. Bulls appear all through mythology, whether it was the king of gods Zeus taking the shape of a bull for abducting the Phoenician princess Europe to Crete, which resulted in the name for that part of the world or the Cretan Queen Pasiphaë bearing a hybrid child between bull and man, the Minotaurus. And of course the hebrews created the golden calf, which Moses had them destroy again. In India, cows are identified with the gods Krishna and Shiva and are venerated as holy animals, they may roam wherever they can get and may not be harmed, which also includes that sincere Hinduists do not eat beef. And then there is of course the exclamation of "Holy cow", which has been coined at some point to avoid swearwords.

1. Glue the formers into the according parts. Pay attention to the **up** arrow.

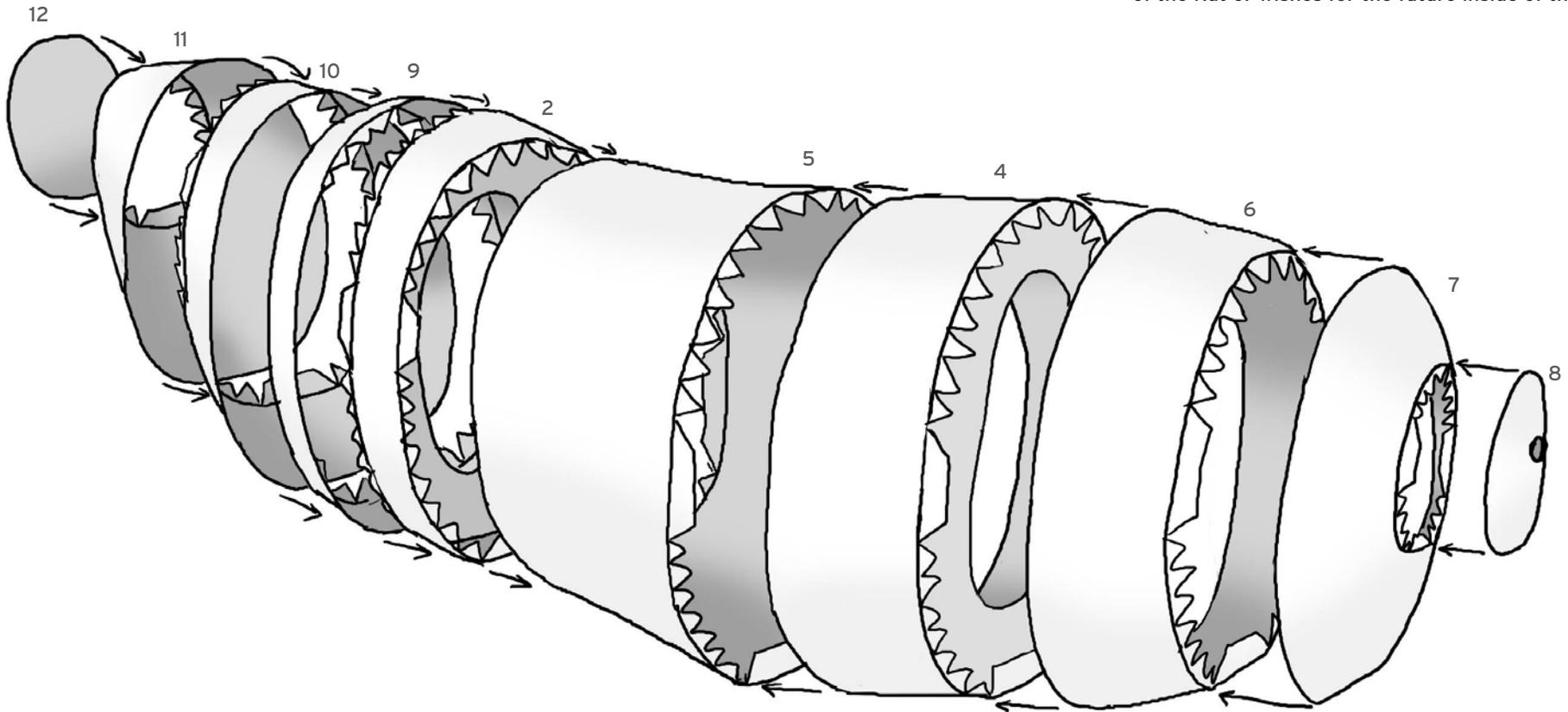
a small advice:

As some body parts are very similar, it helps a lot to note down the number of the parts on the back to avoid mixing them up.

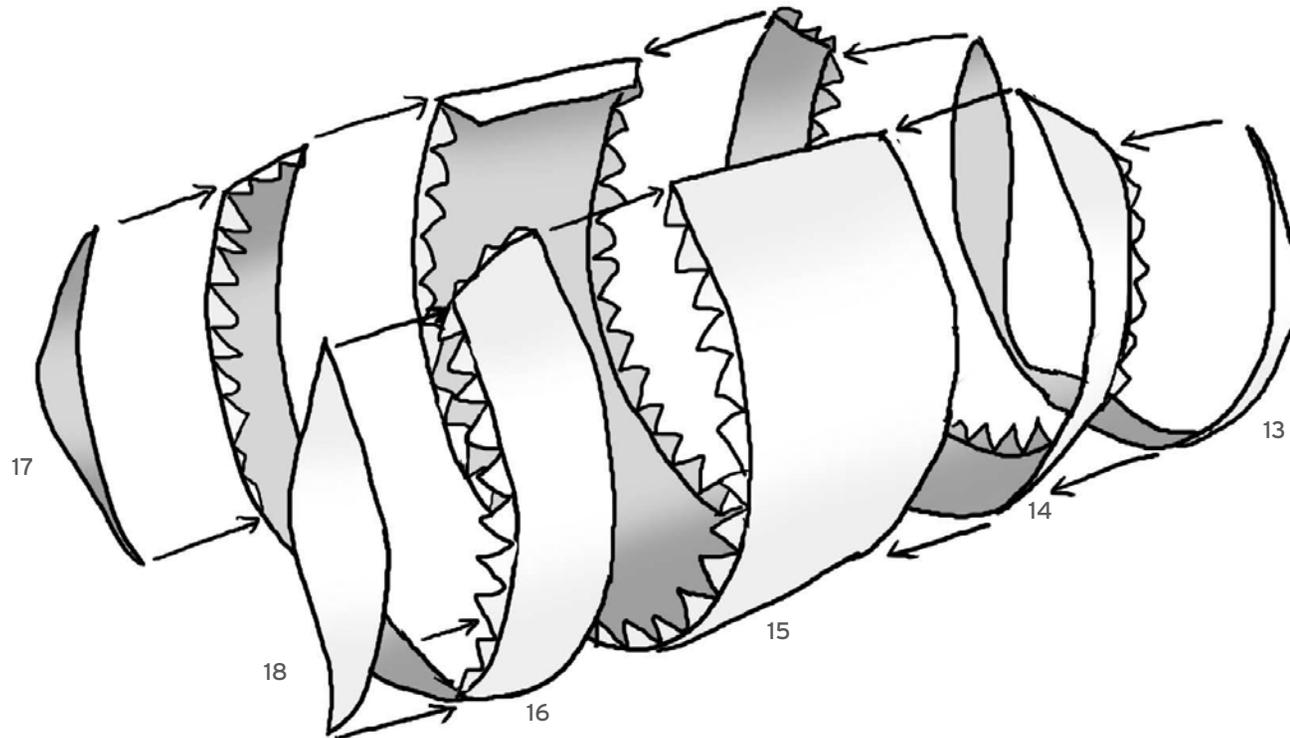


2. Build the body.

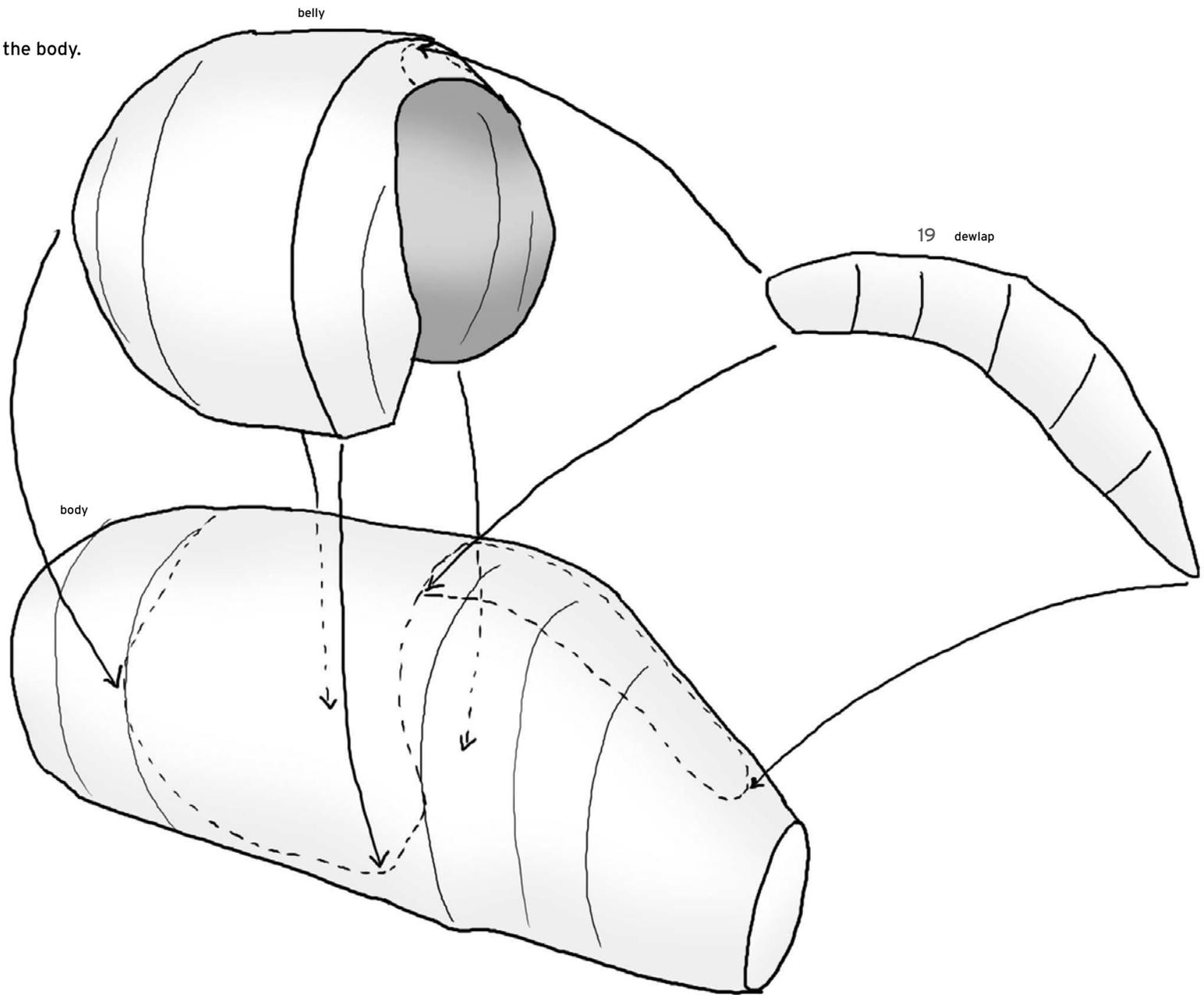
If you are building the Cow/Ox in a version as the Cow/Ox of the Chinese zodiac, you can place a paper with your wishes for the Year of the Rat or wishes for the future inside of the body.



3. Build the belly.

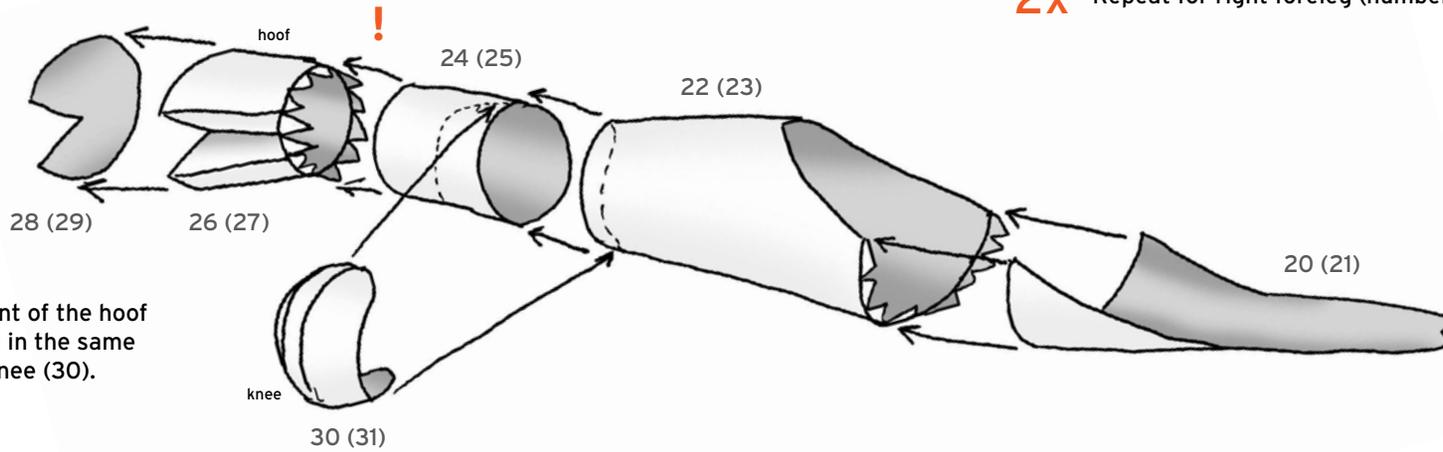


4. Glue belly and dewlap on the body.



5. Build the forelegs - left leg is pictured.

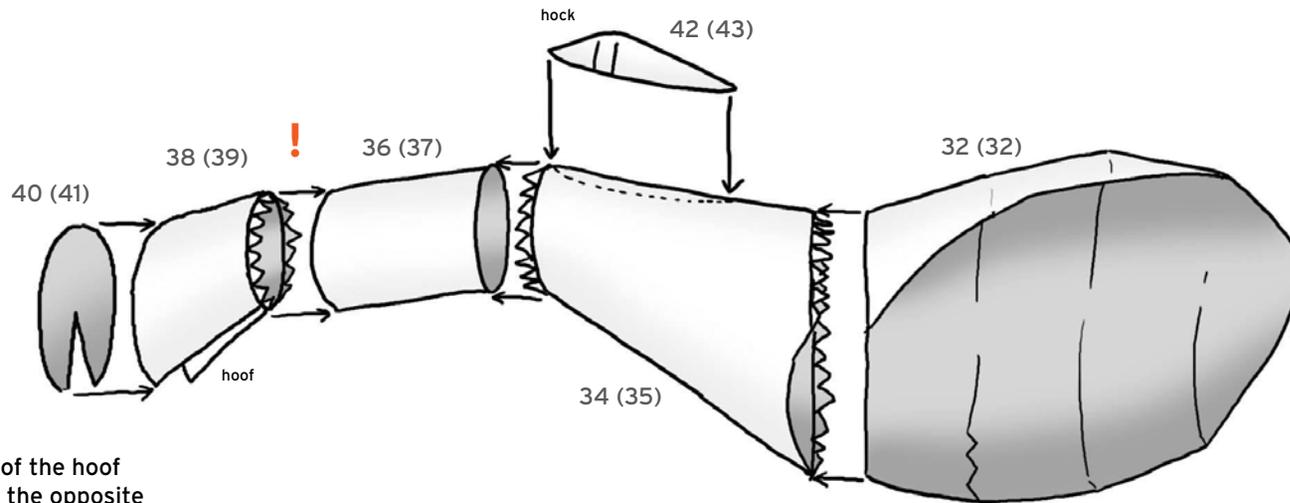
2x Repeat for right foreleg (numbers in Brackets).



! Make sure the front of the hoof (26/28) is aligned in the same direction as the knee (30).

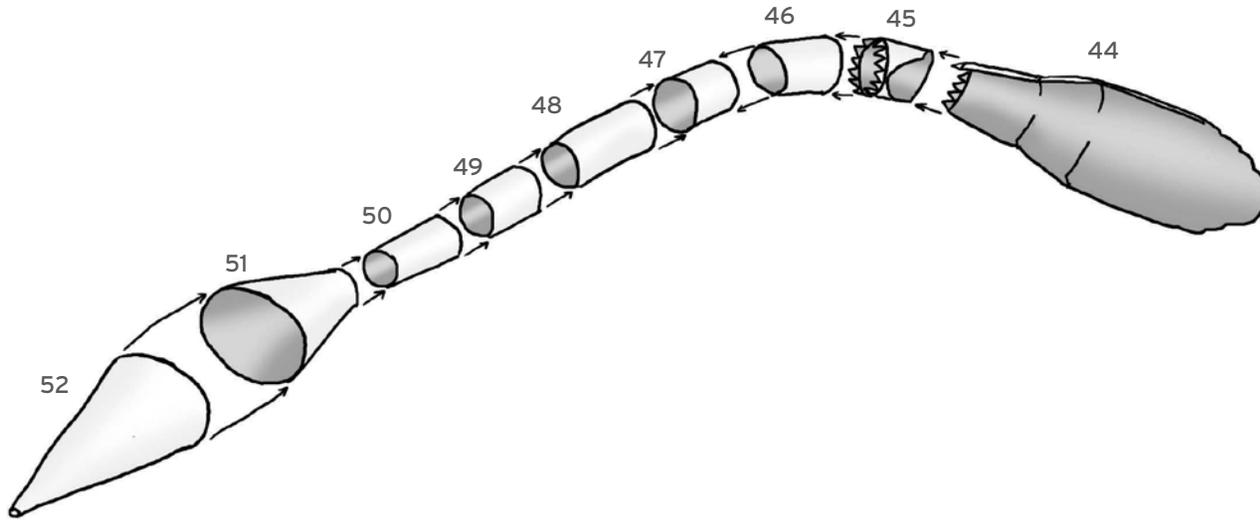
6. Build the hindlegs - left leg is pictured.

2x Repeat for right foreleg (numbers in Brackets).

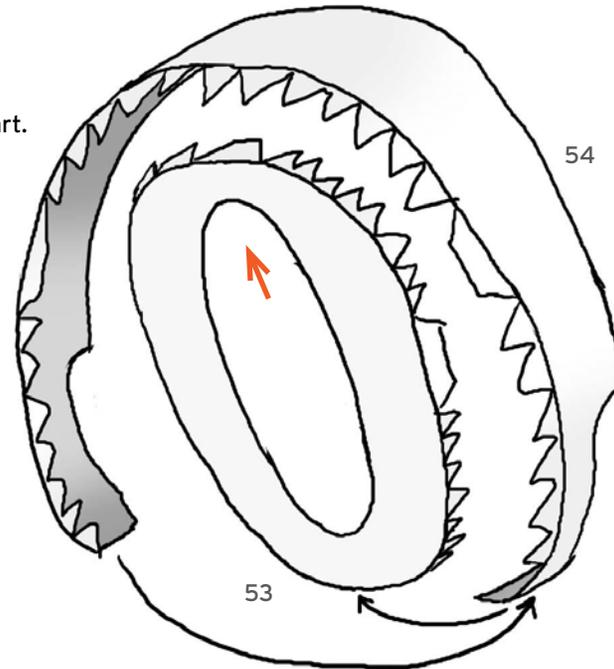


! Make sure the front of the hoof (26/28) is aligned in the opposite direction as the hock (42).

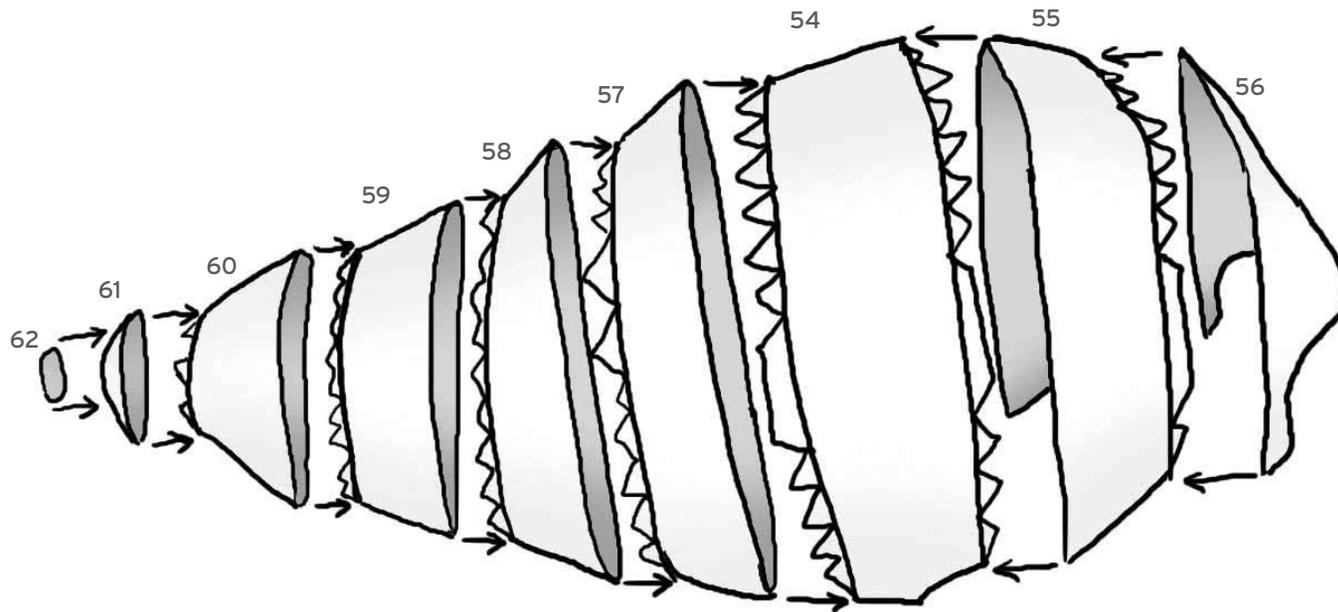
7. Build the tail.



8. Glue the head former into the according part.
Pay attention to the **up** arrow.

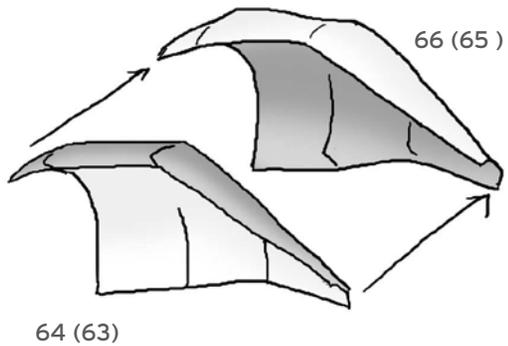


9. build the head

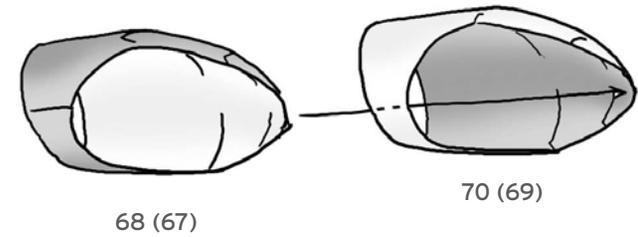


10. You can choose between two ears – Left ear pictured respectively, right ear numbers in brackets.

Ear A

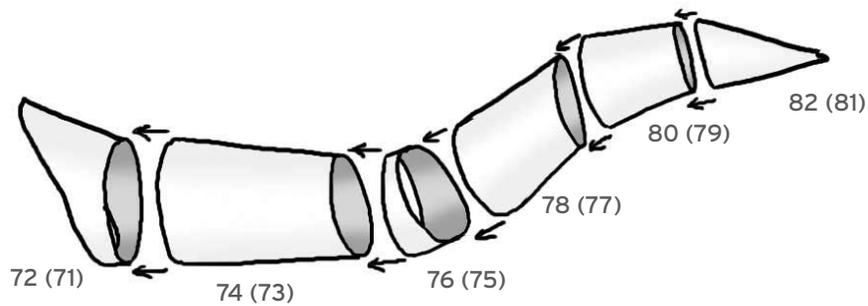


Ear B

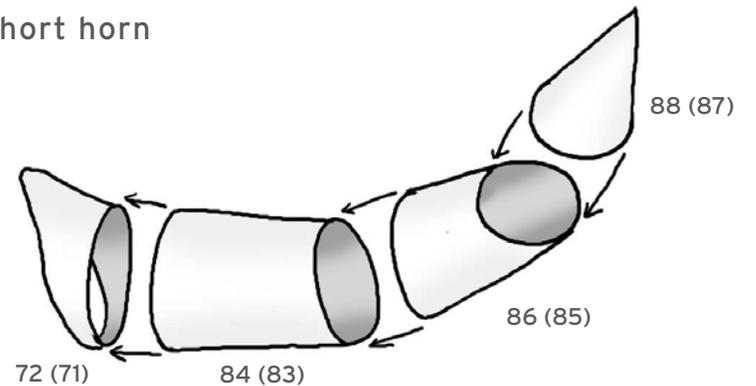


11. You can choose between two horns – Left horn pictured respectively, right horn numbers in brackets. Be sure to align the seams of each part along one line to get the correct shape.

Long horn

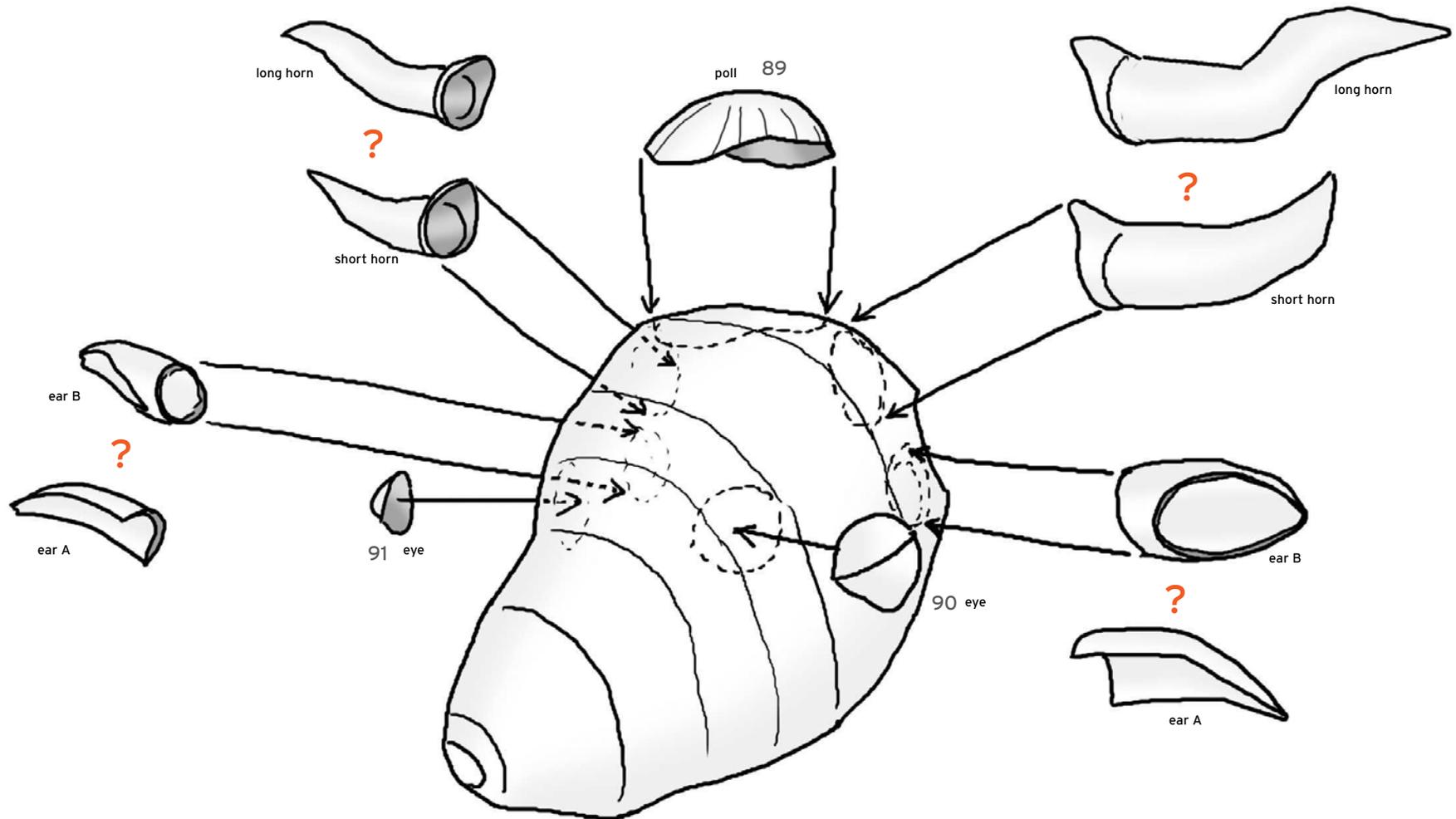


Short horn

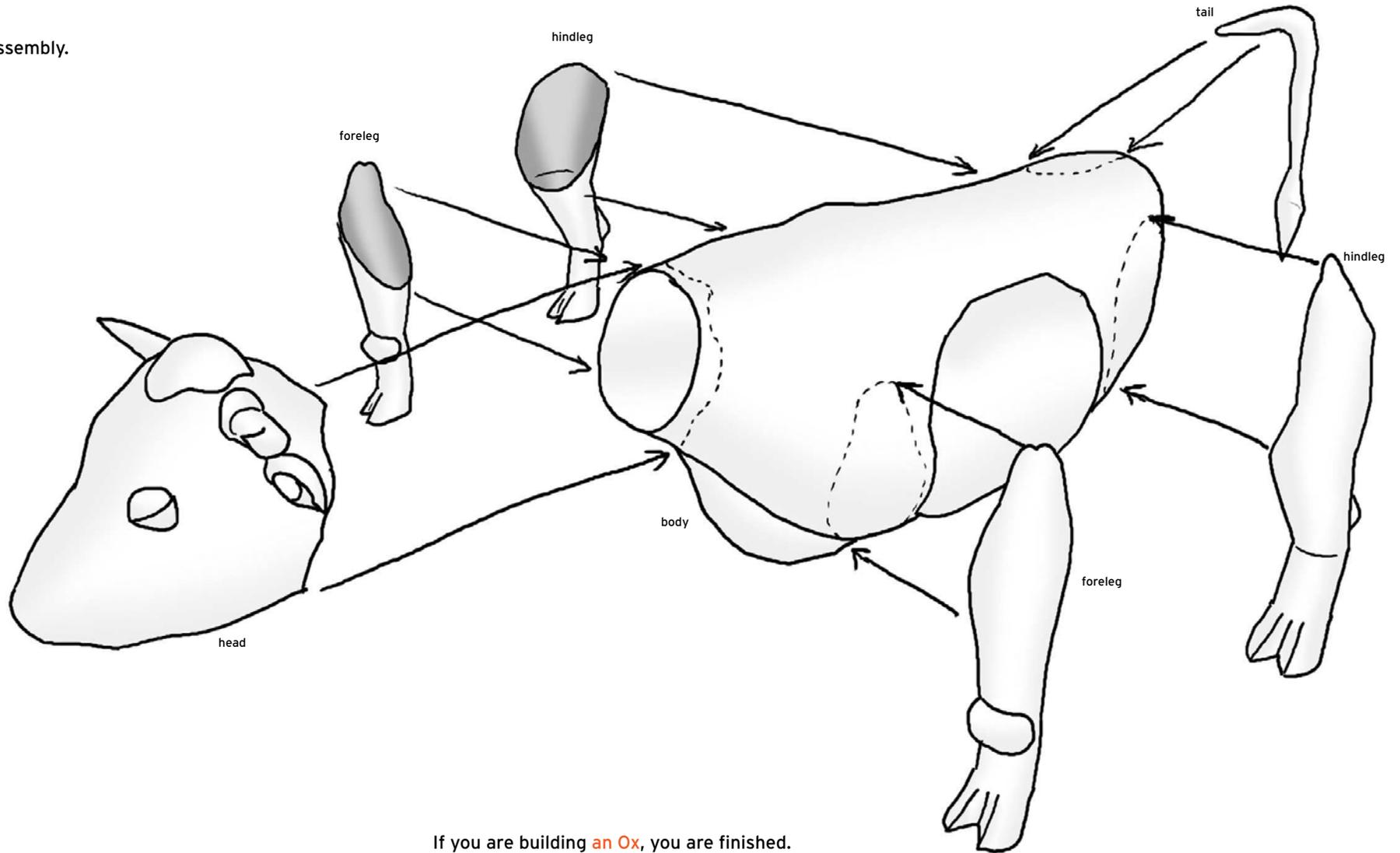


12. Glue the ears and horns you chose to the head, glue eyes and poll on the head.

? optional



13. Main assembly.



If you are building an Ox, you are finished.

14. If you are building a cow, glue the teats on the udder and the udder to the rear par of the lower side. Be sure to get the orientation of the udder correctly, see front-arrow.

