



# Lucky Dragon

This mythical and mystic creature is often referred to as Chinese Dragon and while it has most surely originated in Chinese culture and is considered a symbol for Chinese culture, it is too limited to assign it to China as a nation, as it is an important part of the tradition of many other Asian nations. For example it is still the national symbol of Bhutan and Vietnam. A more neutral name for the Chinese Dragon is Loong 龙, based on the Chinese name, but as this is a term little known outside of Asia, the Stahlhart model calls it a Lucky Dragon,

which summarizes its meaning rather than its origin.

While the Loong bears a certain resemblance to reptiles and hence to Dragons from European tradition, it is a totally different creature altogether. Dragons in the European tradition are usually treacherous and malevolent creatures with heavy bodies, which need bat-like wings to fly and breathe fire.

A Loong is quite the opposite: They are powerful beings whose appearance was considered auspicious, they spread good fortune and luck. Their flexible light

bodies don't have wings, but rather glide through the air as fishes glide through water. They are a symbol of control and often connected to water. In Chinese classic stories, Dragons are often used as personified rivers or live in the sea.

Over the millennia, the Loong has been portrayed in different fashion, but typically with a snake-like body and fishlike scales. Other typical elements of its appearance include birdlike claws, two large whiskers that also resemble the fleshy filaments growing from certain fishes mouths (barbels), cow ears,

Antlers, strong bushy brows and birdlike flaps, and often some kind of mane.

The earliest depiction considered to be a Loong dates back to sometime between 4700 and 2920 BCE, a C-shaped jade ring, with a head and mane. More detailed depictions pretty much resembling the common ones that have emerged since then go back as early as the first Chinese dynasties, Xia and Shang, around 1600 BC.

At least since the Han dynasty (206 BCE to 220 CE), the Chinese Dragon was a symbol for the Emperor of China, and therefore the Chinese state. The throne of the Emperor was referred to as the Dragon Throne and only the Emperor was allowed to wear clothing with depictions of a specific type of yellow dragon. The Dragon totem, which is a free-standing column with ornaments that identify it as a Chinese dragon, became a symbol of the power of the state and is still commonly used as such in modern China.

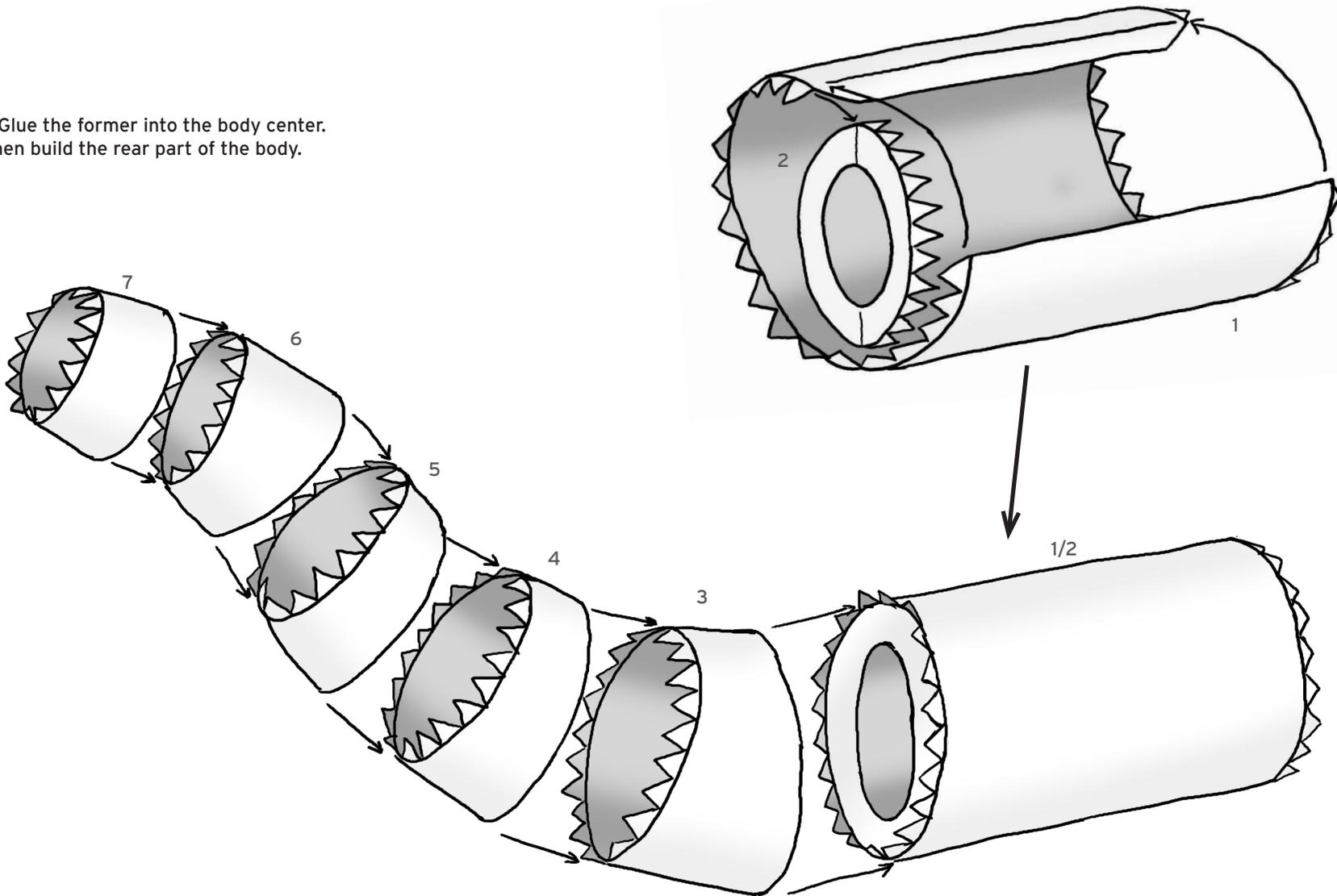
In the Chinese Zodiac, the Dragon is the fifth animal. People born in the year of the dragon are considered to be the most vital and powerful, ambitious and good at dominating others. They are courageous and intelligent, not afraid to face challenges or taking risks to achieve their goals.

One of the most inspiring adaptations of the Loong in Western literature are the Luckdragons in Michael Ende's classic children's novel "The never-ending story", who are gentle and intelligent creatures that largely resemble the classic depiction of Loongs. In the story the luckdragon Fuchur (Falkor in the English translation) is one of the main protagonists and is known to have luck himself but also spreading luck to those who are with him.

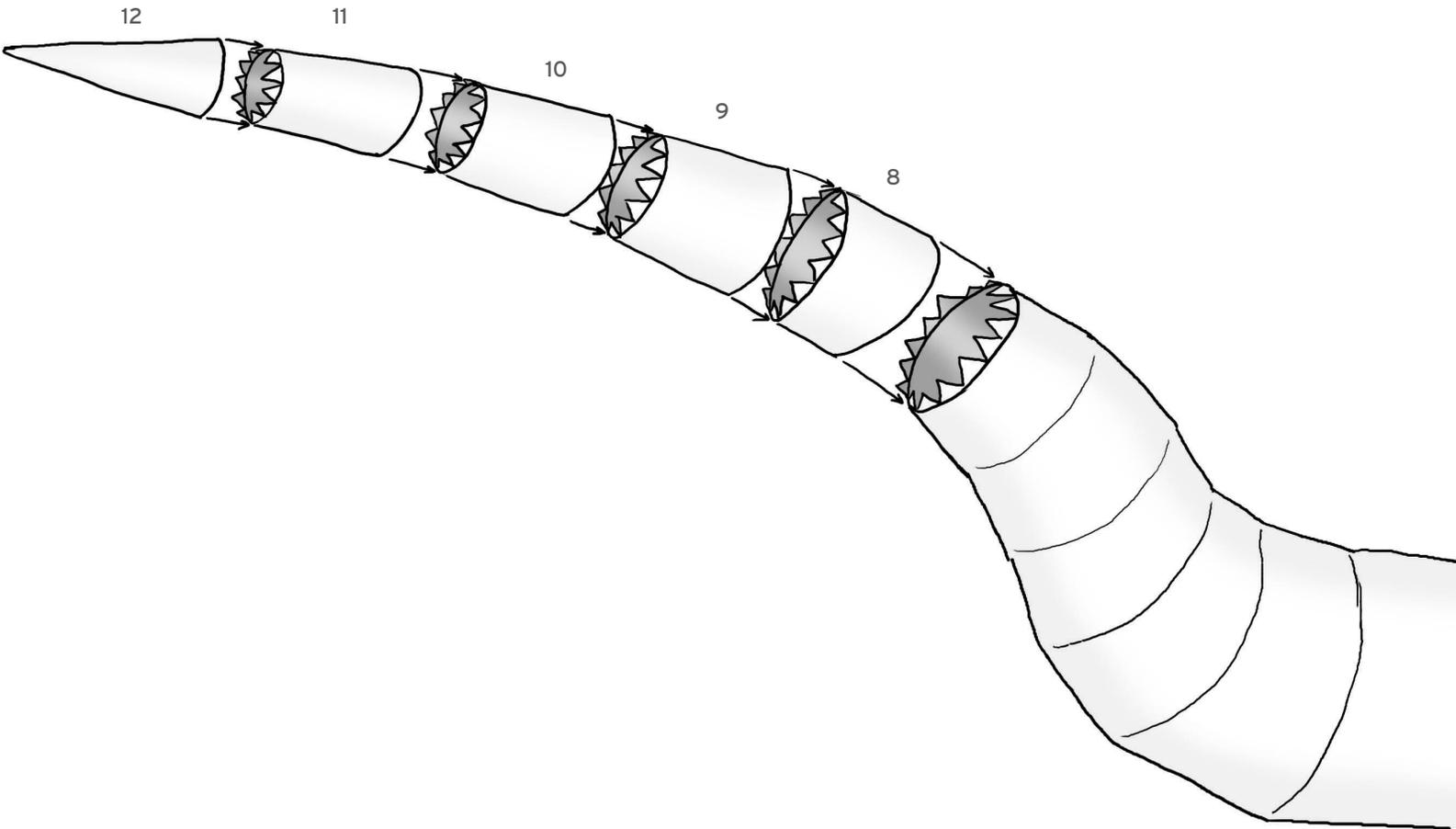
## a small advice:

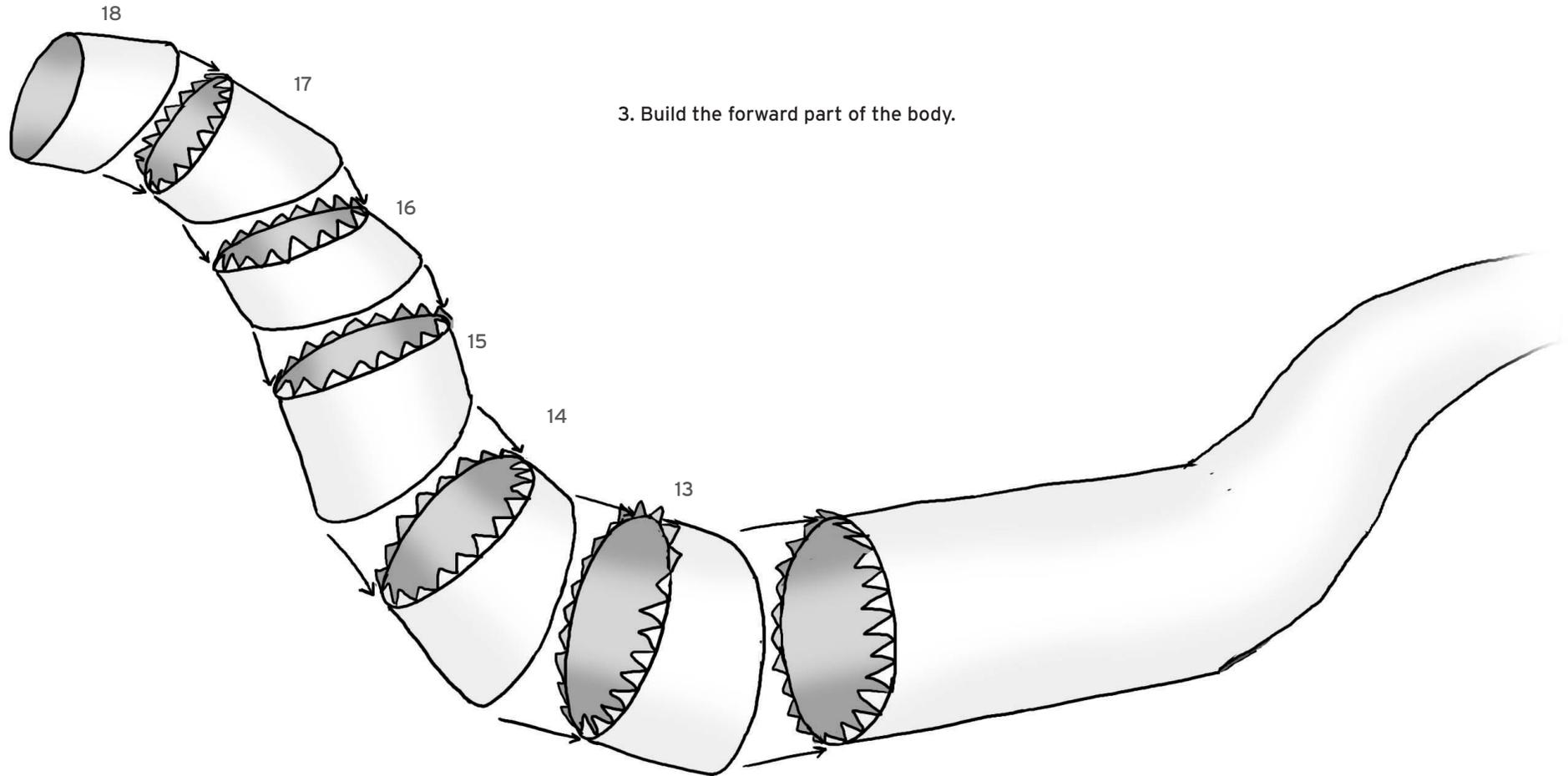
As some body parts are very similar, it helps a lot to note down the number of the parts on the back to avoid mixing them up.

1. Glue the former into the body center.  
Then build the rear part of the body.



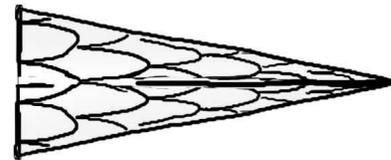
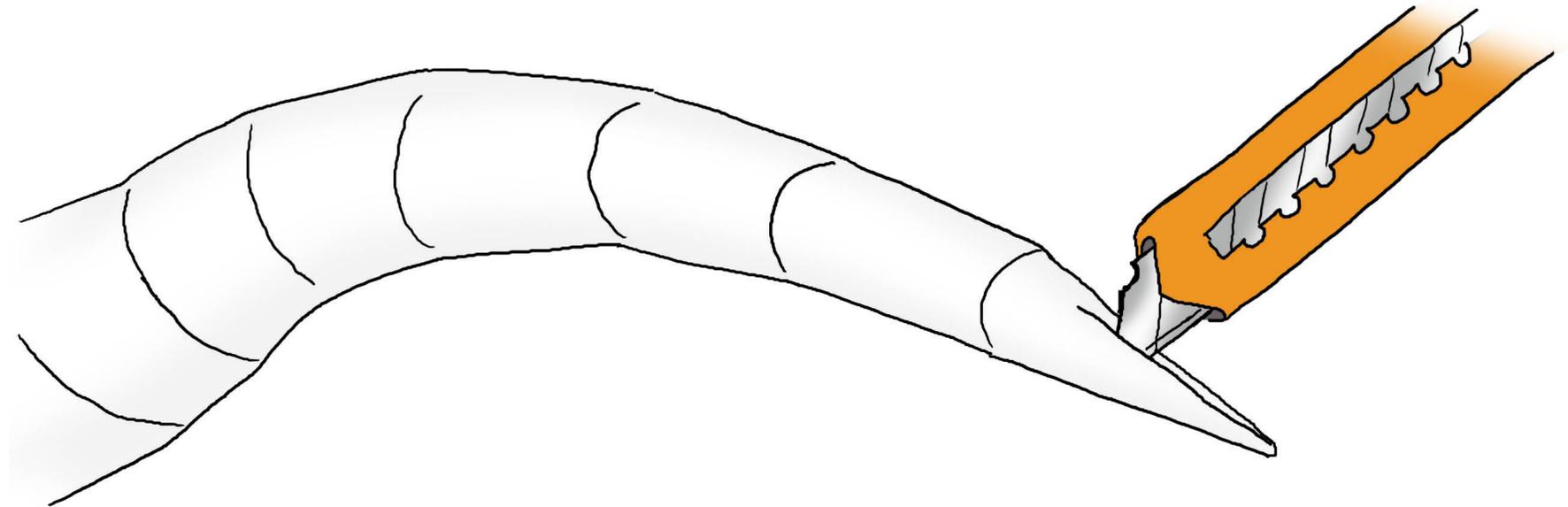
2. Build the tail.



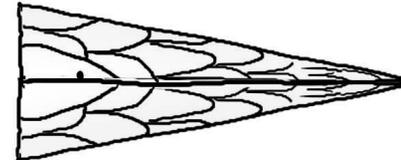


3. Build the forward part of the body.

4. Cut in the tailtip.



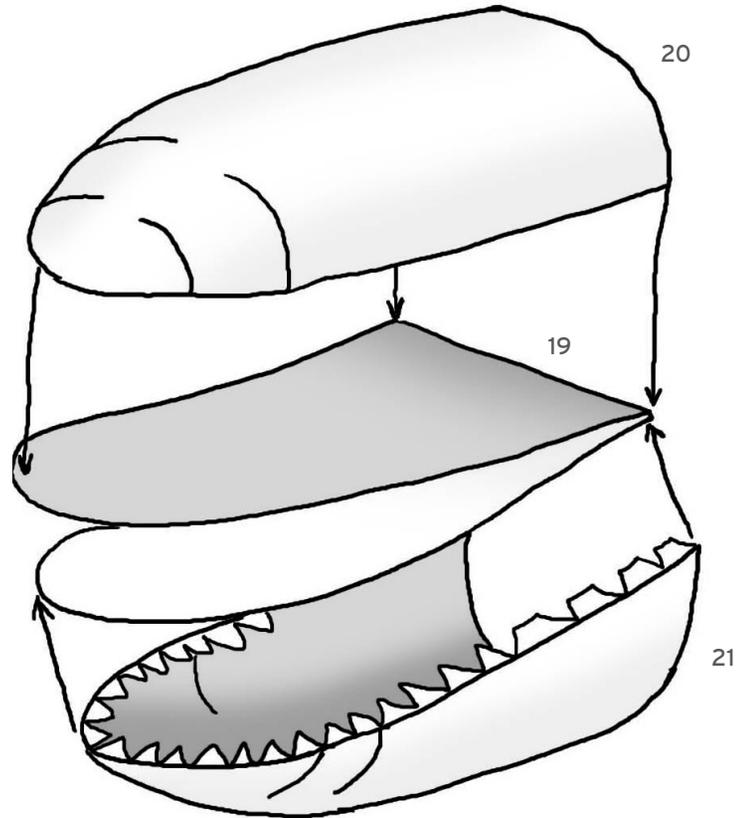
top view: Cut along the line



bottom view: cut in along the seam  
up to the small marker

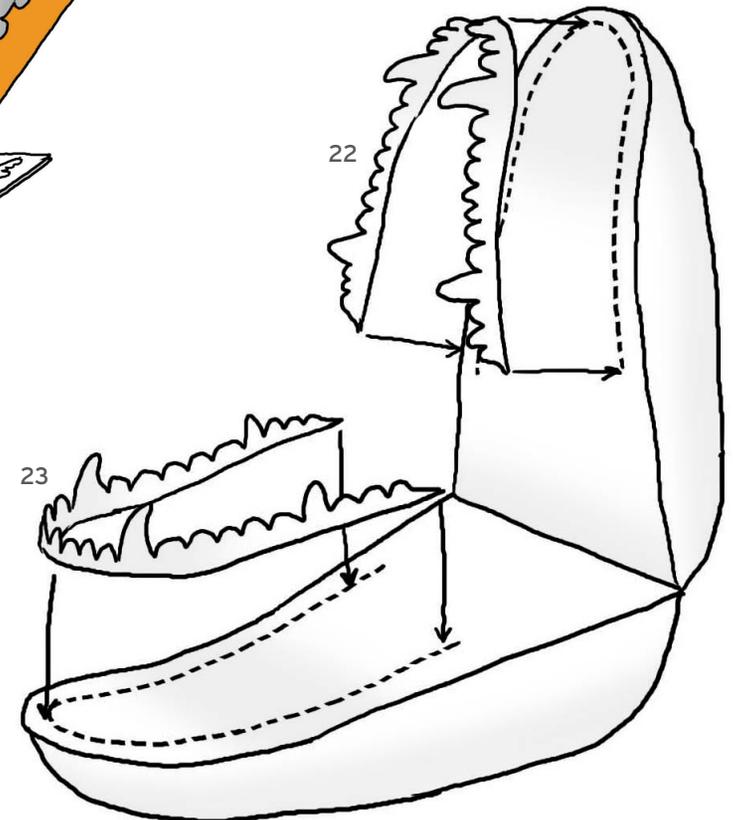
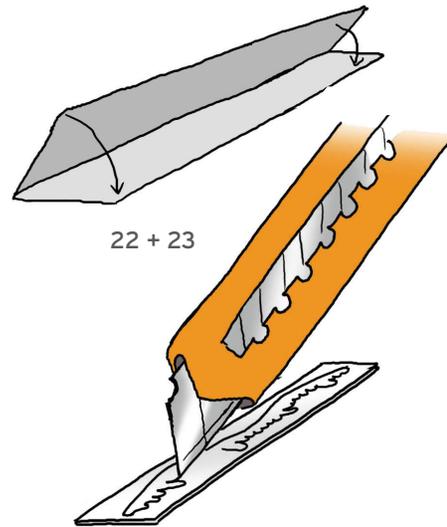
## 5. Build the jaws.

**Note:** The side of part 19 with the tongue is the lower side, which is glued to part 21.

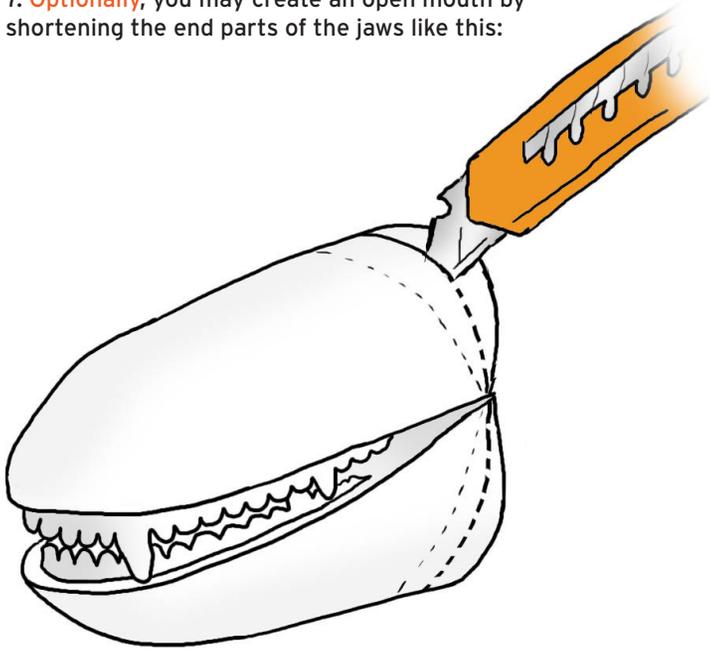


## 6. Fold and glue the teeth parts to double up before cutting them out.

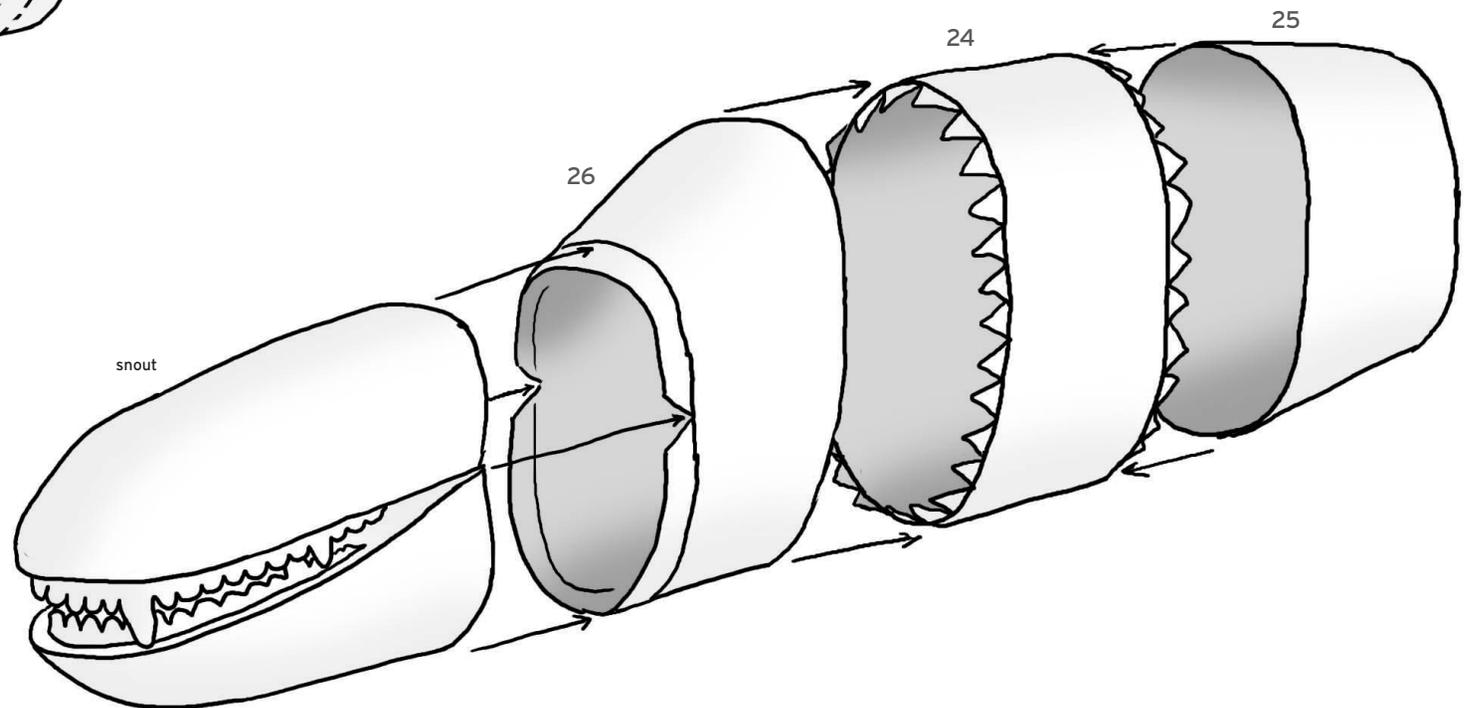
Then glue them onto the jaws, along the line slightly off the edges off part 19.



7. **Optionally**, you may create an open mouth by shortening the end parts of the jaws like this:



8. Build the head.

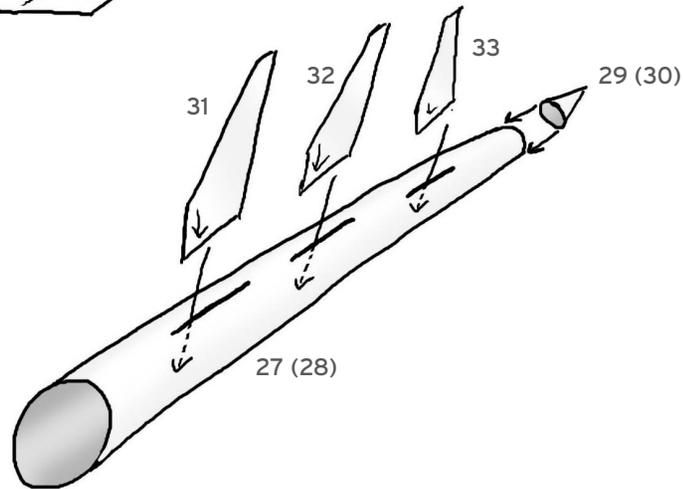
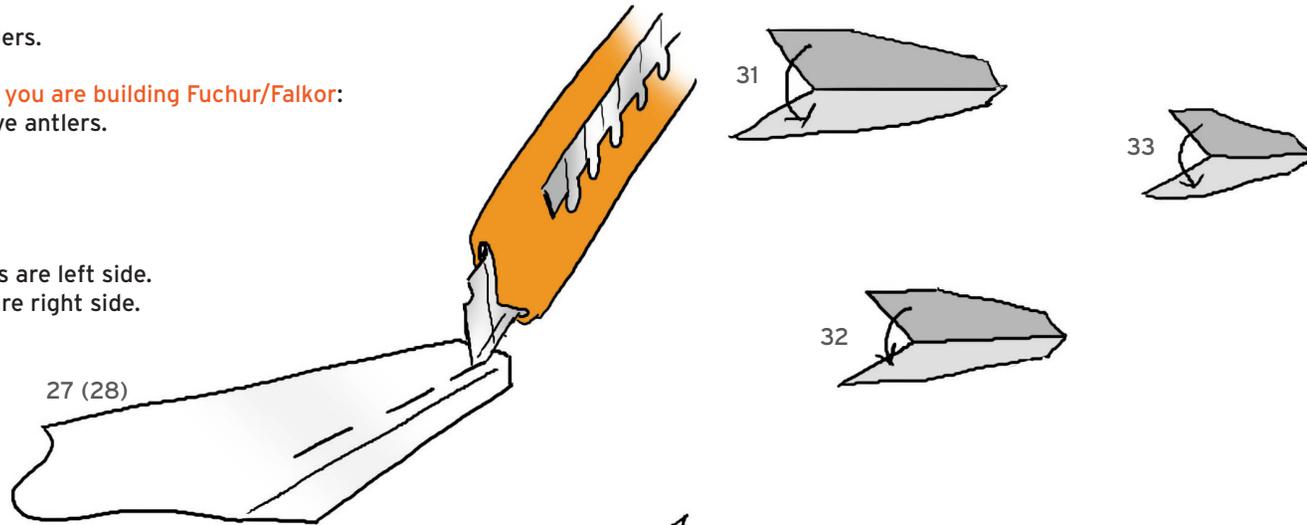


9. Build the antlers.

Skip this step if you are building Fuchur/Falkor:  
He does not have antlers.

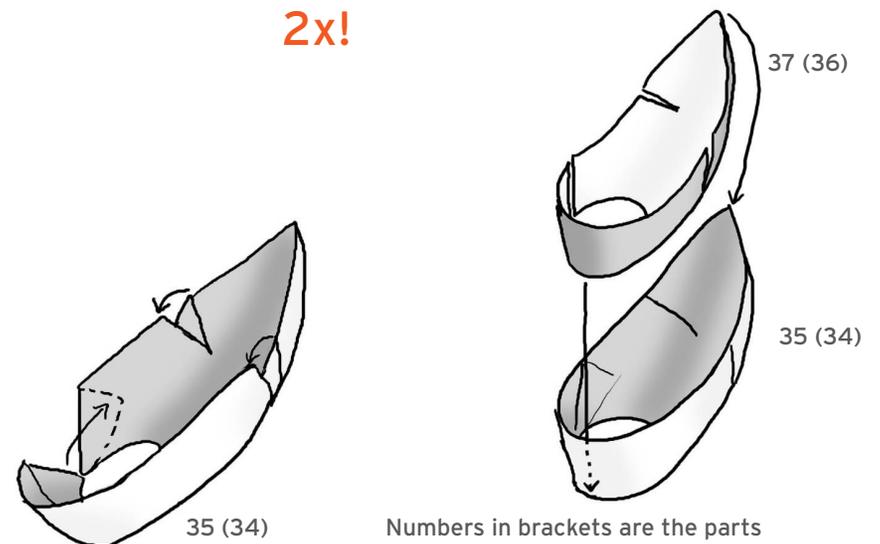
**2x!**

uneven numbers are left side.  
even numbers are right side.



10. Build the ears

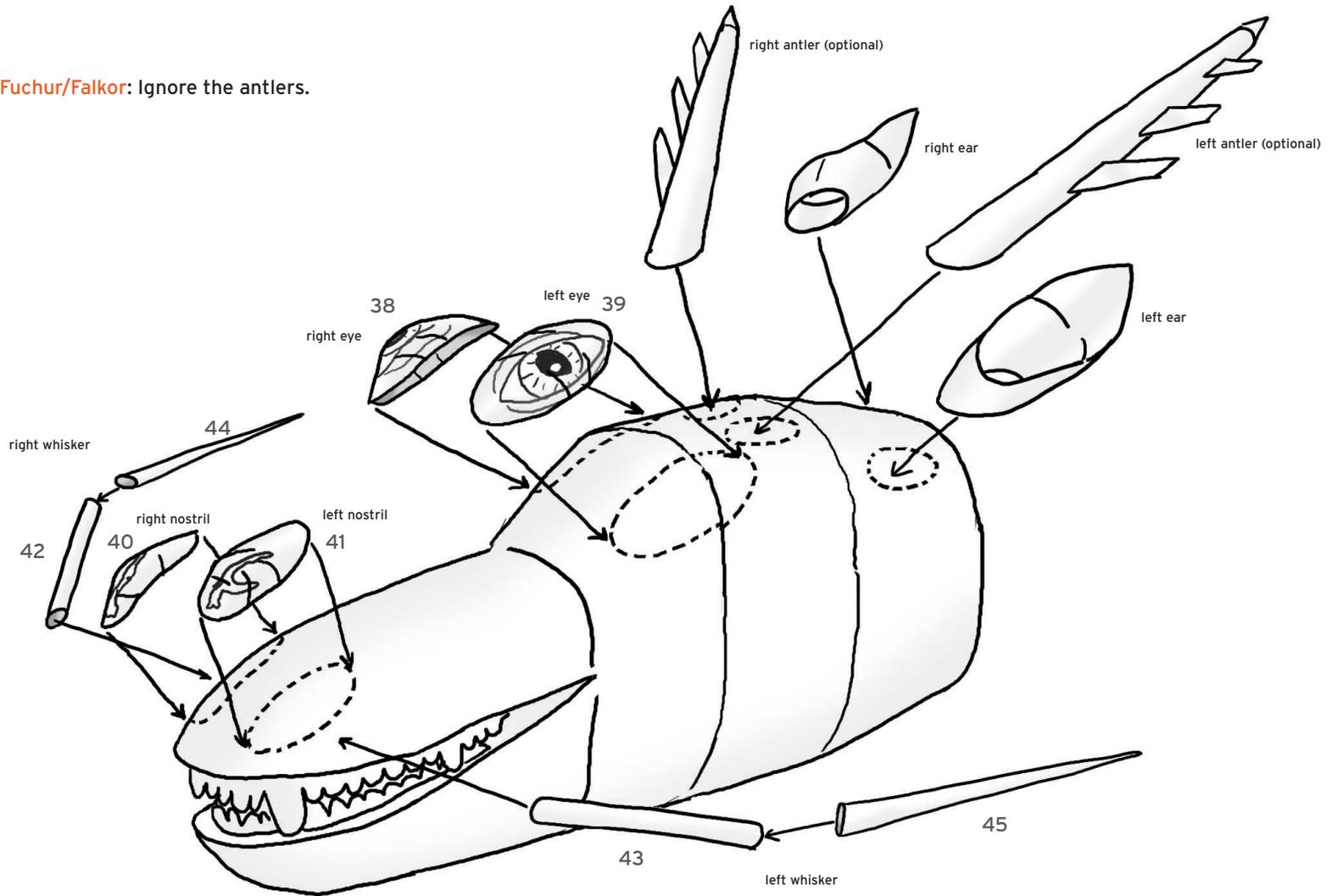
**2x!**



Numbers in brackets are the parts  
for the opposite (mirrored) side.

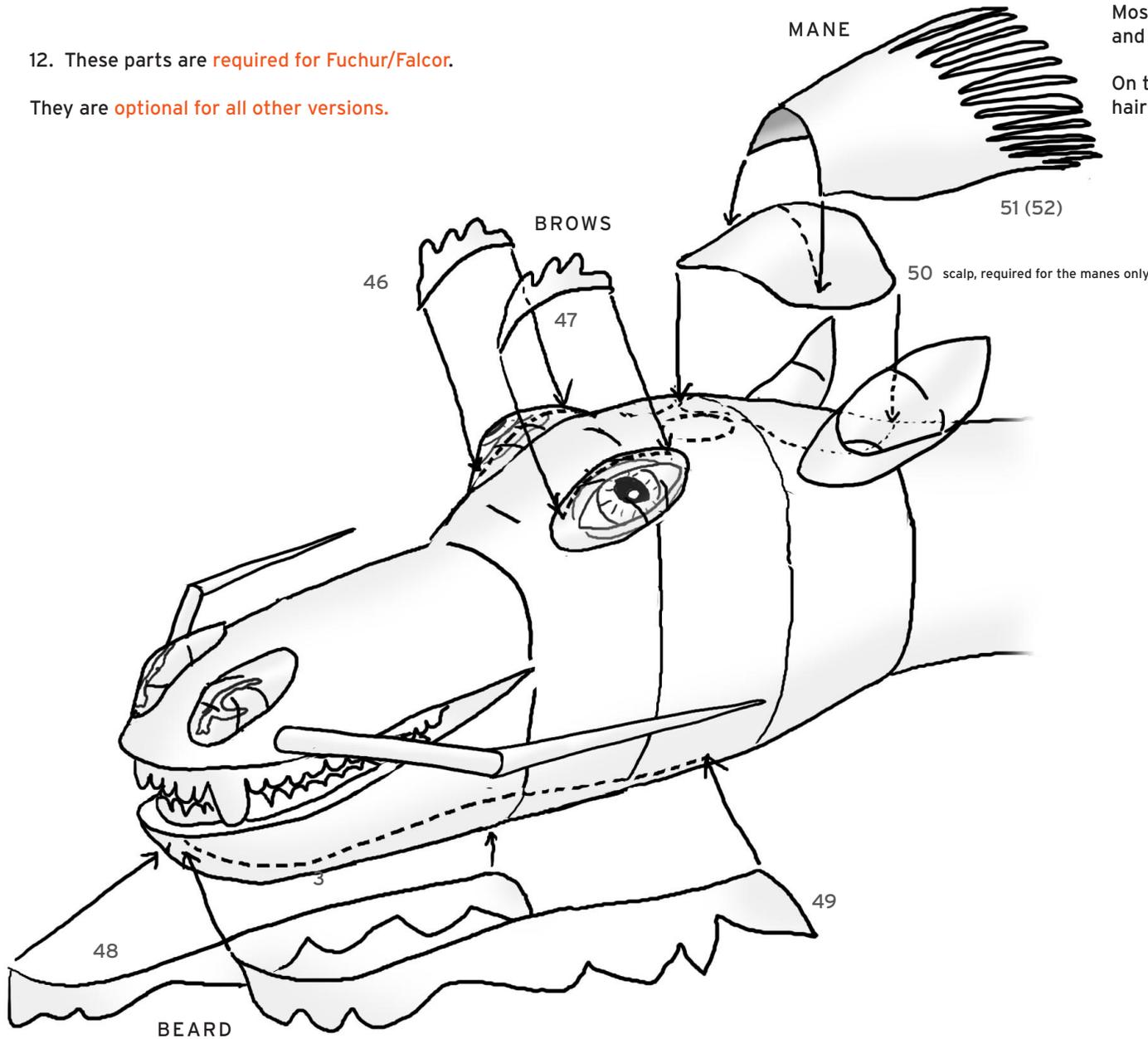
## 11. Head details.

If you are building Fuchur/Falkor: Ignore the antlers.



12. These parts are **required for Fuchur/Falcor**.

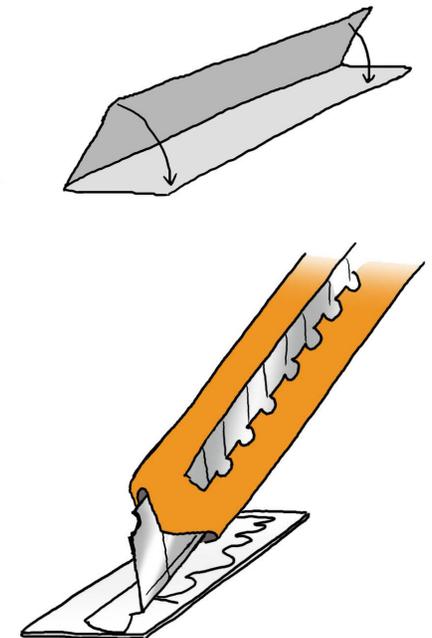
They are **optional for all other versions**.



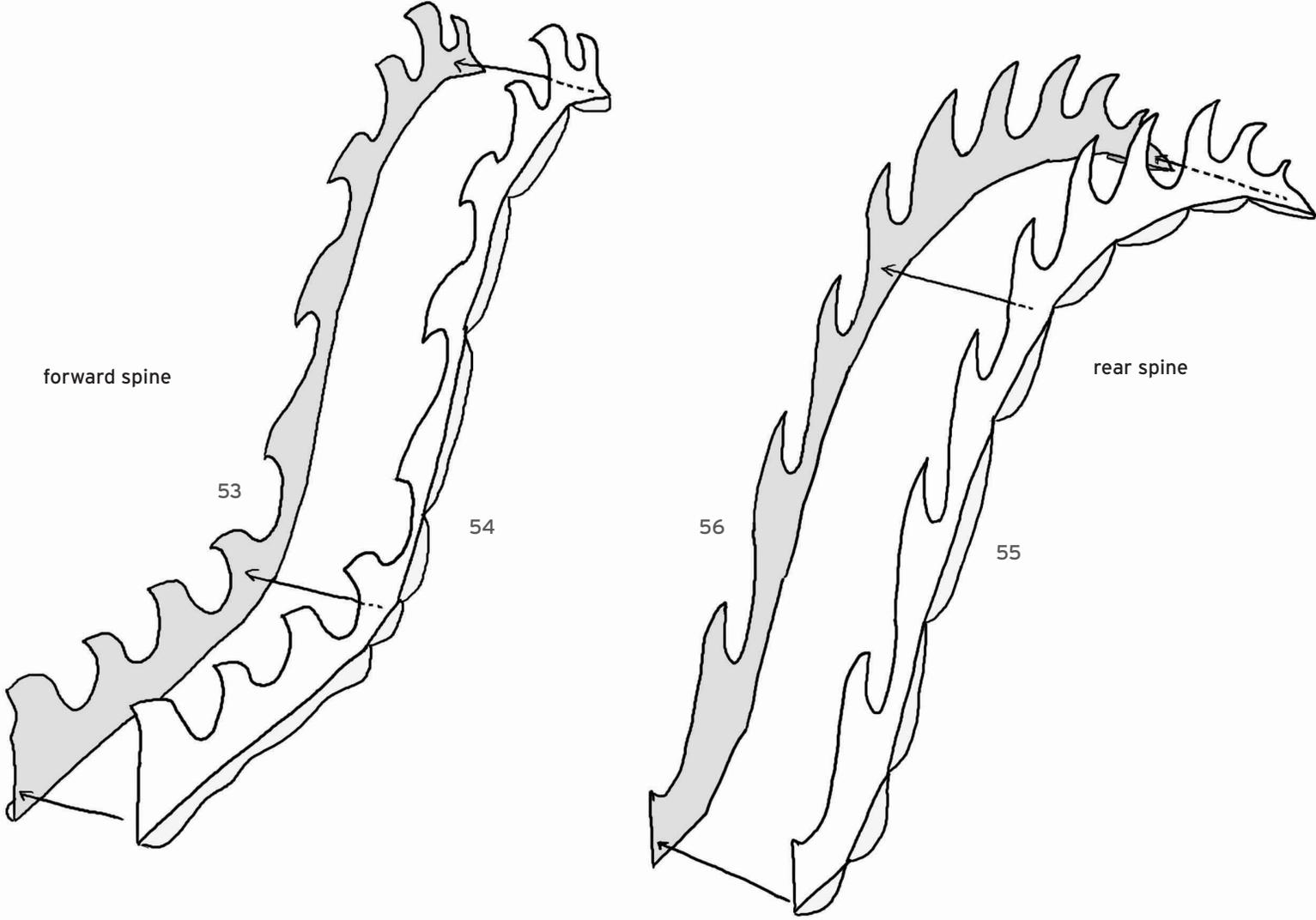
Most versions feature two optional manes, one hairy and one flappy.

On the hairy mane, cut in the lines to create actual hair-like shapes.

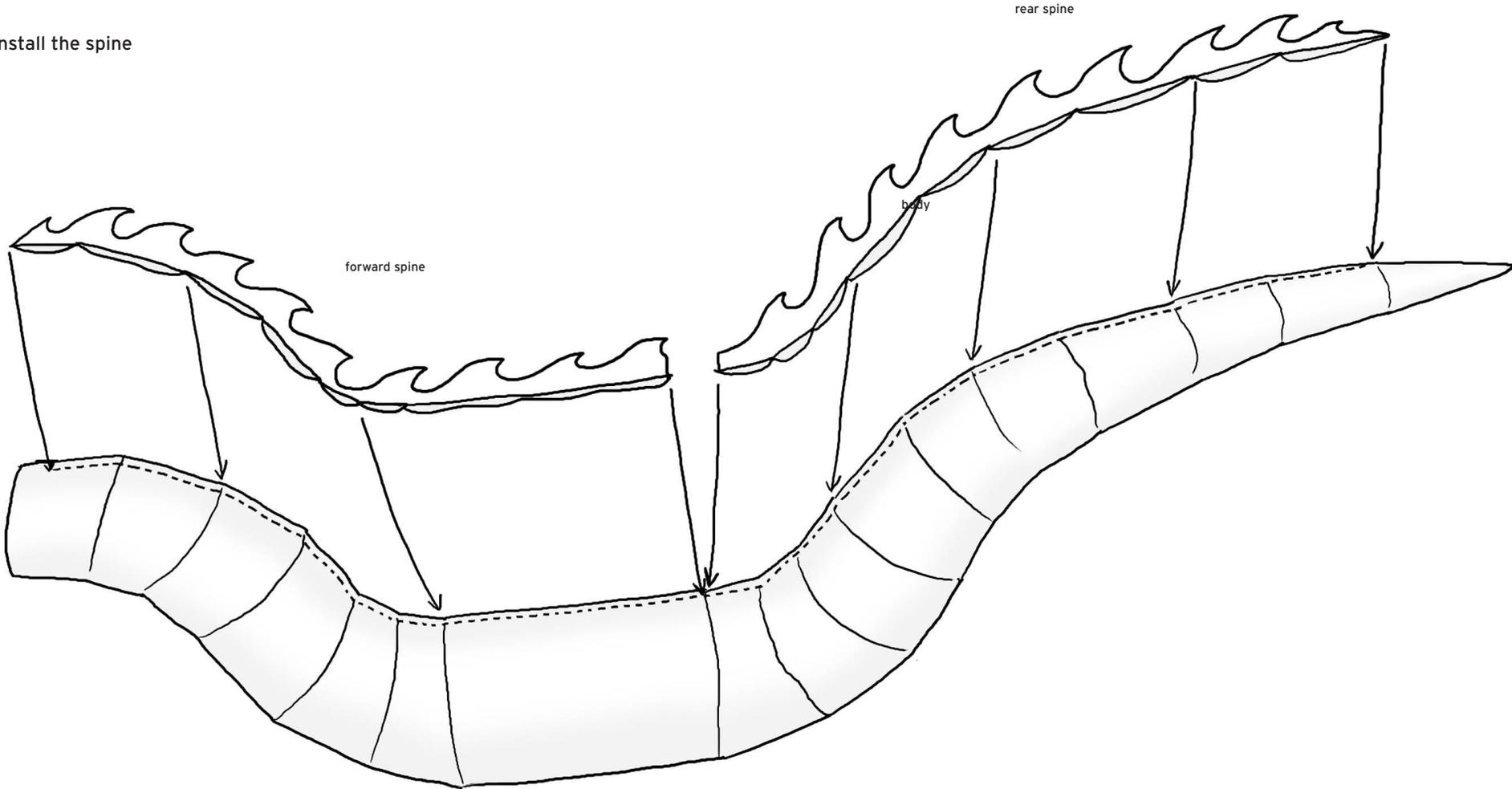
Brows and Beard parts are folded and glued to double up, then cut out, same as the teeth.



13. Glue together the Spines

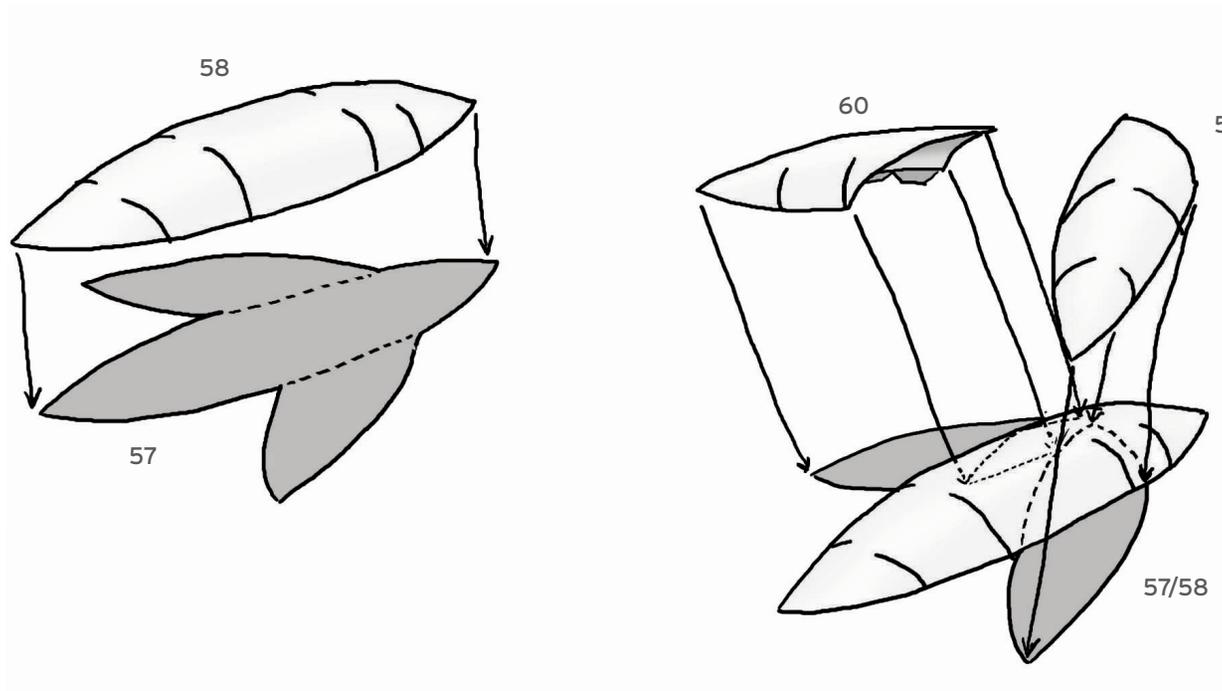


14. Install the spine



15. Build the claws. All claws are exactyl the same, so they and their parts are exchangeable.

4x!

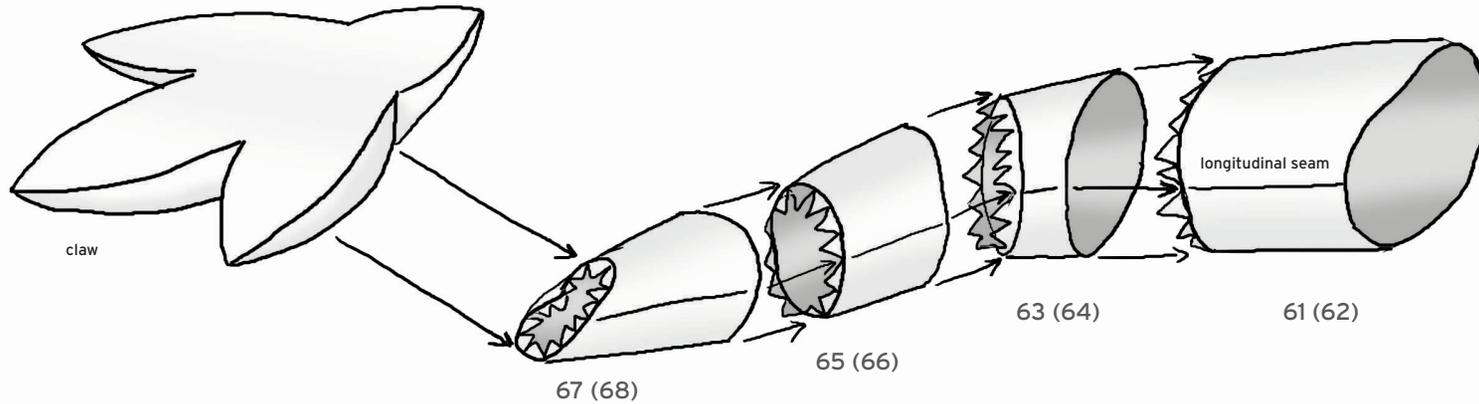


Following steps for the **flying version** only:

If you want to build the **standing version**, jump to 19.

16. Build the forelegs, be sure to align the longitudinal seams.

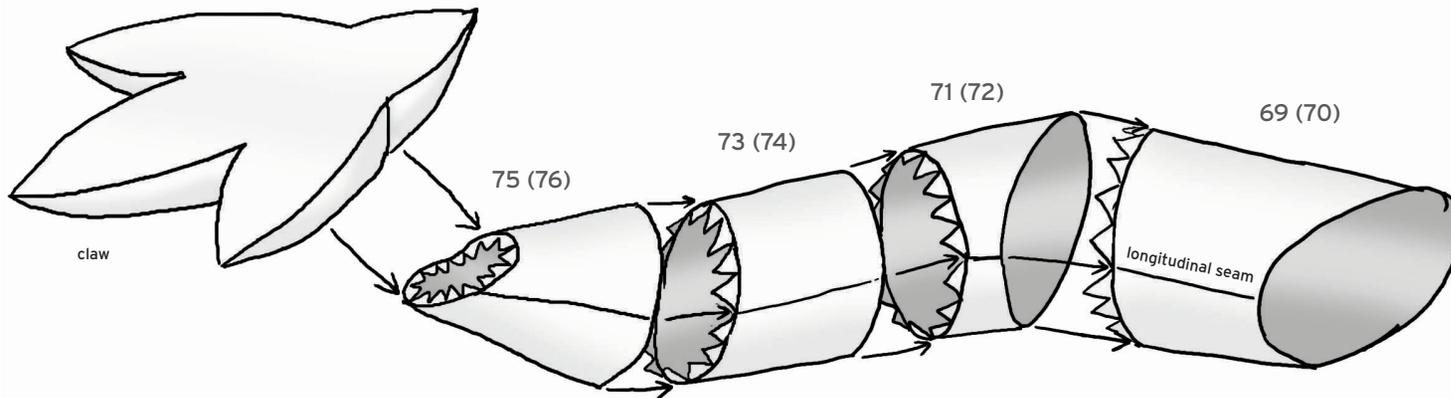
2x



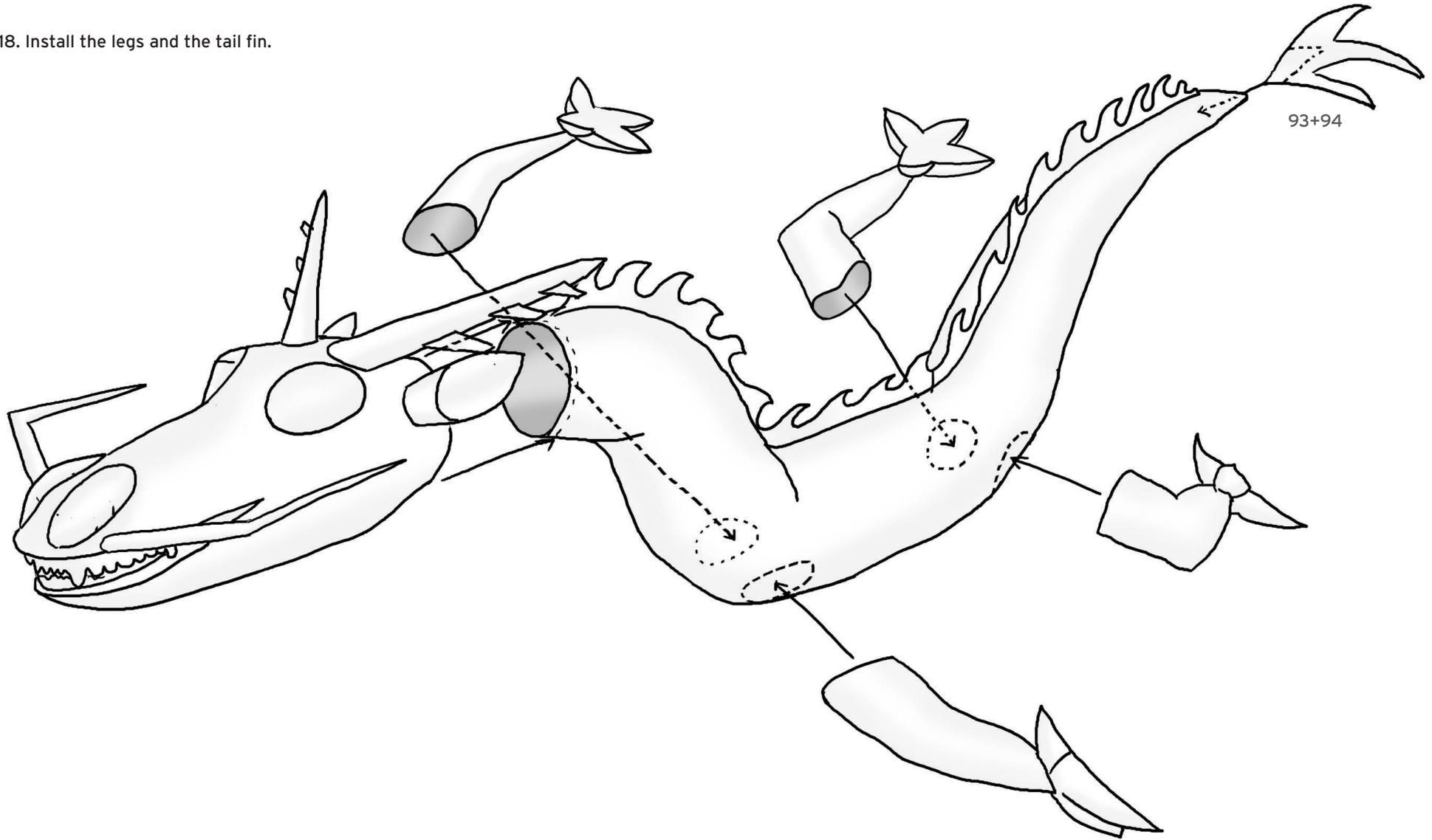
Numbers in brackets are the parts for the opposite (mirrored) side.

17. Build the hindlegs, be sure to align the longitudinal seams.

2x!



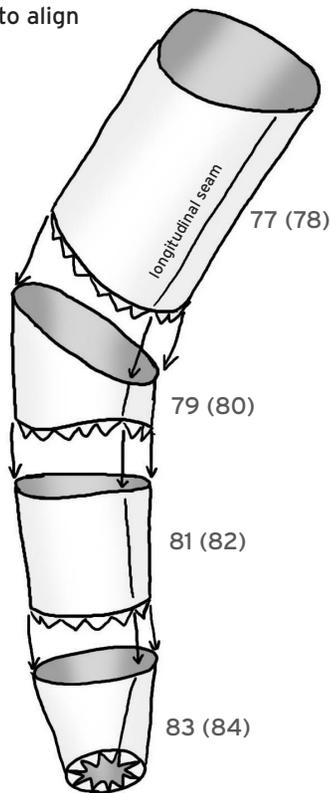
18. Install the legs and the tail fin.



Following steps for the **flying version** only.

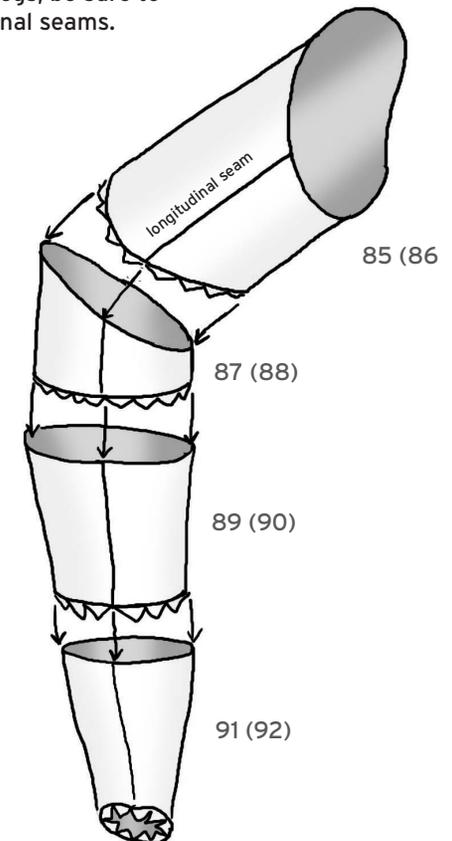
19. Build the forelegs, be sure to align the longitudinal seams.

**2x!**



20. Build the forelegs, be sure to align the longitudinal seams.

**2x!**



Numbers in brackets are the parts for the opposite (mirrored) side.

21. Install the legs first. Then place the claws on a flat surface and glue the legs on top of them. Make sure the claws are oriented parallelly to the body.

Install the tail fin.

