

OWL BEAR PLUSH



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



OWL BEAR PLUSH

This pattern is a variation of my previous owl plush, an adorable bear version that's an homage to the classic monsters from Dungeons and Dragons and similar to the Moonkin species from World of Warcraft. The simple chubby body design has new features for tiny bear ears, clawed arms with wings, cute bear feet, a feathered face panel, and of course a tiny bear tail to finish it off.

DIFFICULTY:



The main body of the plush is pretty simple, but the rest of the construction is heavy on hand-sewing. So it takes some extra time and careful placement of each element.

MAKES:

One plush: 7" wide, 6" tall, and 5" long (not including ears)

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Basting
- Darts
- Sewing small pieces
- Gathering stitch, gathering
- Ladder stitch

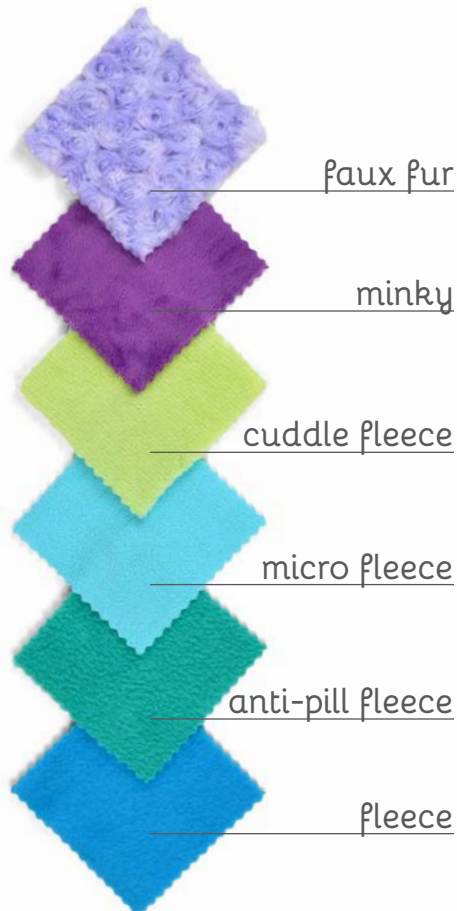


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materials & tools:

- 1/3 yd. of fabric for main body
- 5" x 3" or 1/8 yd. of accent fabric for beak
- 9" x 6" or 1/4 yd. of accent fabric for face panel
- 12" x 4" or 1/8 yd. of accent fabric for claws
- 3" x 3" piece of black applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) for pupils
- 3" x 3" piece of accent applique fabric for eye feathers
- 3" x 3" piece of accent applique fabric for eyes
- 2" x 2" piece of white applique fabric for eye shines
- 6" x 6" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- sewing thread to match main fabric and applique fabrics
- poly-fil stuffing
- basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)



SUGGESTED FABRICS:

Plush, stretchy fabrics such as fleece or minky are suggested. The variations of fleece and minky mentioned to the left would work well, but really any plushy fabric with a bit of stretch on the cross-wise grain would be well-suited.

Stretch fabrics like **FLEECE** or **MINKY** will create a more squat, round shape when stuffed.

Non-stretchy fabrics, like **FELT** or **COTTON**, won't stretch when stuffed so the resulting plush will look elongated as shown.

MINKY

VS.

FELT



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printing the pattern:

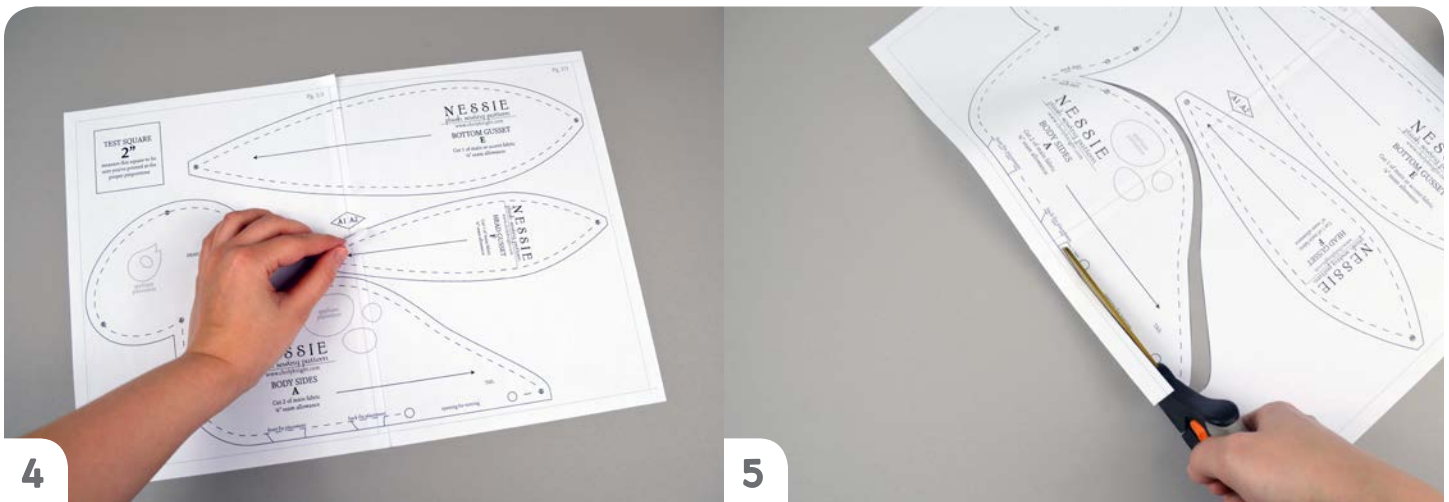
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 19-21**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



At the print dialog box, check the box that says print at "Actual Size" or 100%. Any other selection (such as "Fit to page") will distort the pattern so it's slightly larger or smaller and we don't want that.

Print the pages needed for the file. You might have one or more. Either way, be sure you have the full collection by noting the page numbers in the corner.

It's likely your printer will have a margin that ensures your image doesn't print to the very edge. Assembly will be easier if you trim off this blank margin edge. This will give you pages that overlap slightly during assembly. If you trim across the gray outline boxes, this will give you pages that don't overlap but rather butt against each other.



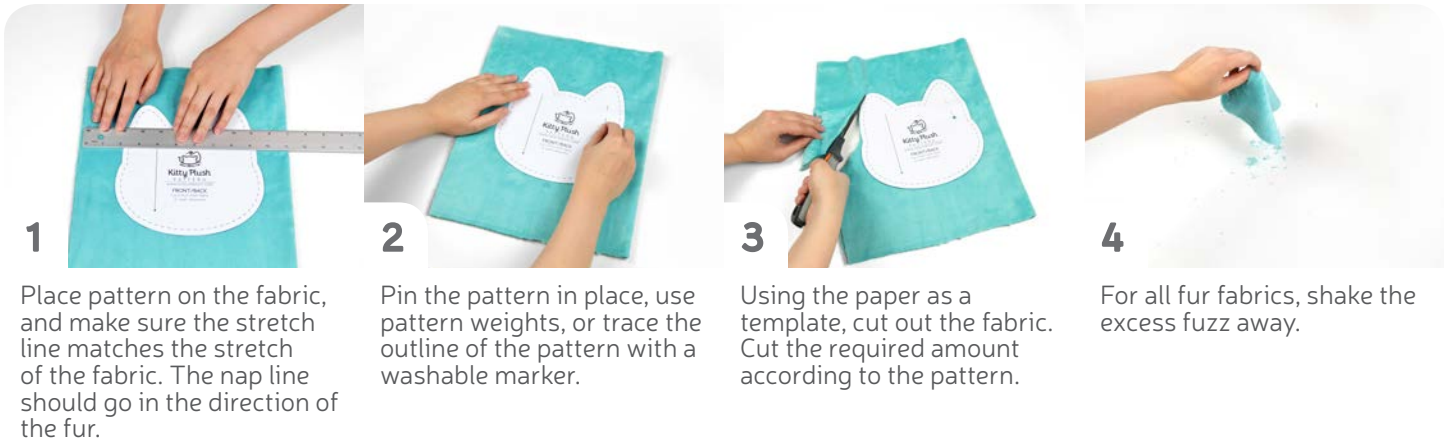
To line up the pattern pages, match up the corresponding diamond shapes. Each diamond will have a letter, so it's simply a matter of matching A1 to A2, B3 to B4 and so on. The faint gray lines indicate the border of every page, you should be able to line those up as well. When the diamond goes together, tape it in place. If you have many pages, it's easier to tape up the pages into rows first. Then tape the rows together into a full block.

You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper -- be sure that each piece is fully taped together along the joins so they don't fall apart when you cut them.

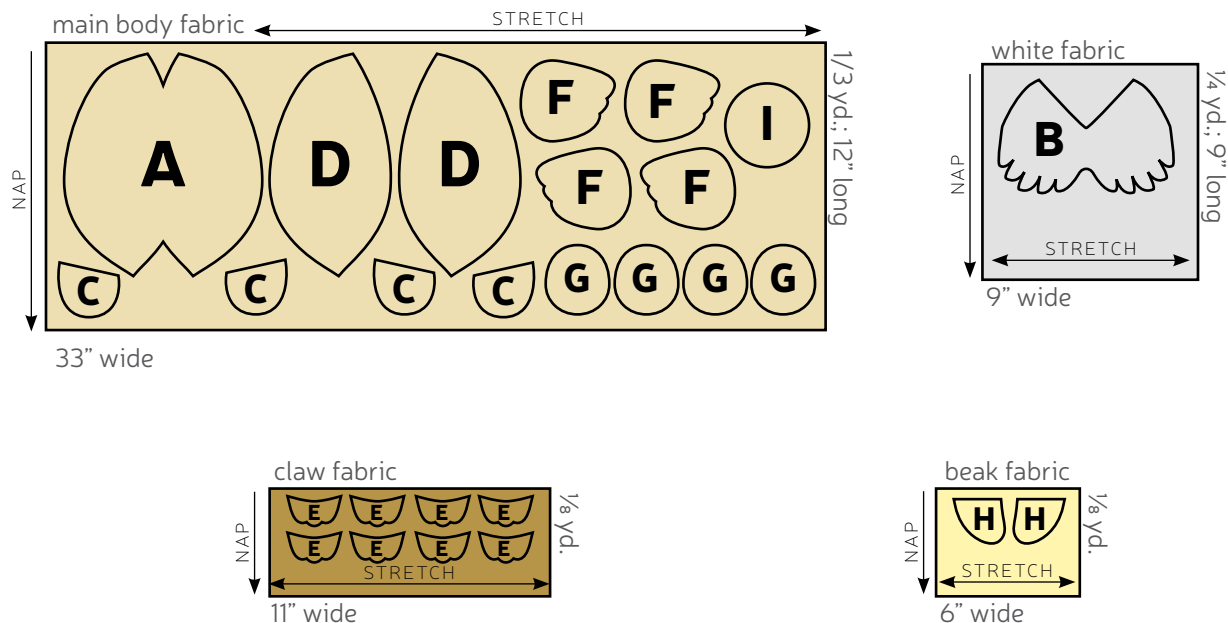
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cutting the fabric:



cutting layout:



BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Briefly read the project instructions so you know what to expect.
- If desired, mark the cut fabric pieces with the markings and symbols from the pattern. Or wait until the applicable step before transferring.
- Note that the seam allowance used is 1/4" throughout the project.

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1. SEW THE FACE PANEL

- Grab both your **FRONT** piece (A) and your **FACE PANEL** (B). Align the face panel over the front (both right sides facing up) so the edges on the sides match up. You can also use the paper pattern as a guide. Pin the **FACE PANEL** in place, or use a bit of glue stick if you prefer for another alternative.
- Use a medium-width zigzag stitch to sew around the edge of the face panel.



2. TRIM AWAY THE BACK

- Flip the **FRONT** piece over and cut away the excess main fabric behind the face panel, about ½" from the seam you've just sewn. This will reduce bulk and allow your fabric to stretch more. Be sure to cut through the back fabric only, and not the face panel fabric.
- If your fabric has gotten a little warped from the stitching, give it a quick press to smooth it out.

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3. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Take your fusible web and trace all your applique pieces onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have 2 eyes, 2 pupils, 2 eye feathers, and 4 eye shines.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The pupils go onto black, the eyes on the accent fabric, the eye feathers on the second accent fabric, and the eye shines on white.
- Cut out the eye pieces and arrange them on the **FRONT** (A) piece over the face panel. Set your paper pattern on top of the fabric piece (right sides up), align the eye piece on top where the placement markings are, then carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.



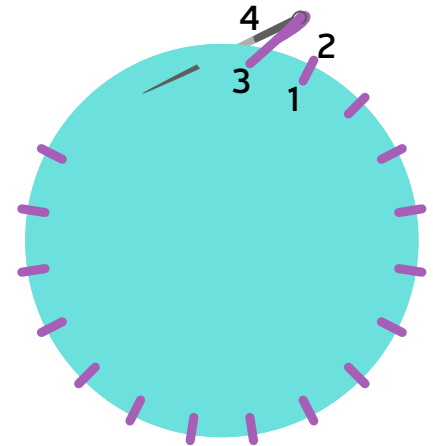
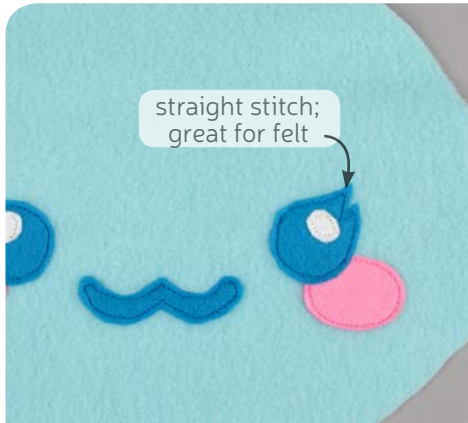
4. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the eye pieces in place with your iron (use a press cloth -- such as a scrap piece of cotton -- if you're using a polyester or fur fabric like minky).
- Next, move onto the smaller pupil and eye shine pieces. Fuse them much the same way as you did the eyes, using the paper pattern and photos as a guide.
- If you used heavy duty fusible web, you can keep the pieces fused without sewing, or you can sew them in place a number of ways. I've used a zigzag stitch here.

➔ Refer to the next step for some other applique options.

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4a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

- Other good options for applique include a straight stitch, which involves sewing around the edge of the applique pieces with a straight stitch using matching thread -- about 1/8" in from the edge.
- You can also applique by hand; I prefer a whipstitch. Thread a hand-sewing needle with some matching thread and knot it. Bring the thread up from the back of the project; about 1/8" in from the edge of the applique shape. Bring it down perpendicular from the curve, just outside of the applique shape. This completes one stitch.
- For the next stitch, bring the needle back up about 1/8" away from the previous stitch and 1/8" in from the edge just as in the first stitch. Once again, bring it down just outside the applique shape. Continue this way until you've sewn around the shape.



5. SEW THE DARTS

- Locate the open wedge found on the top and bottom of the **FRONT** piece -- these are the darts. To sew them, start by folding the front piece in half along the point of the dart and match up the slanted lines that make the wedge shape.
- Sew the darts by starting at the opening and moving down to the point. When sewing the point, try to blend the seam in with the fold so it makes a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.
- Once complete, the darts should blend nicely into the rest of the plush.

darts:

A wedge-shaped gap found in a pattern. When sewn in fabric, it creates a tuck in the fabric and develops a 3D shape. The diagonal sides of the wedge are the **LEGS**; these are matched up and sewn to the **POINT** of the dart.

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6. SEW THE EARS

- Grab your **EAR** pieces (C). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the long curved edge. Leave the short straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Turn the ear right side out. Repeat with the remaining two ear pieces for two complete ears total.



7. FOLD THE EARS

- If you haven't already, locate the ear fold line located on the paper pattern. Transfer the markings over or use them as a guide to fold the ear down the middle.
- Make 1/4" long stitch into the edge of the fold. This will hold the fold in place and create a little tuck in the ear.
- Repeat with the other ear, folding it in the opposite direction so the two finished ears are a mirrored pair as shown.

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8. BASTE THE EARS

- If you haven't already, locate the ear placement lines found on the **FRONT** paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Place the open end of the ear within these placement lines so the ears point inward (if they're pointing down they're on the wrong side).
- Baste the ears to the front within the seam allowances to hold them in place for future steps.

basting:

A form of temporary sewing meant to hold pieces in place. A long stitch length is often used for this reason. The finished result is not meant to be seen and sometimes is even removed later (depending on your project).



9. SEW THE BACK

- Grab your two **BACK** pieces (D). Align them together with right sides facing and edges matching up. If you haven't already, locate the opening for turning markings found on the paper pattern. Transfer them over to the wrong side of the fabric. Sew along this edge of the **BACK** pieces only, but be sure to leave the opening for turning that you marked.
- Open up your **BACK** piece and grab the **FRONT** piece you have so far. Align them with right sides facing. Be sure the top of the back pieces (marked with a circle symbol) are aligned with the top of the front piece. The back seam should also match up with the top and bottom dart on the front.

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10. SEW THE BODY

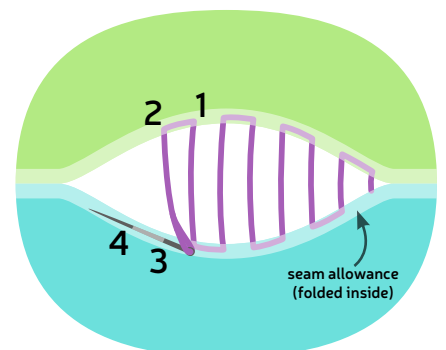


- Sew around the perimeter of the body completely. Turn the body right side out through the opening you left in the back.
- Stuff the body firmly with stuffing, pushing the stuffing towards the bottom until it gets completely full, then focus on the face area until it fills out. Finally work on the sides and center until they're full.
- Once the plush is stuffed, make sure the seam allowances in the opening are tucked inside and prepare to ladder stitch it closed. Thread a hand-sewing needle and knot it at the end. Insert the needle from the inside of the opening and out of the plush near one edge of the opening. This will leave the knot inside the plush.



11. STITCH THE OPENING CLOSED

- Continue from here doing a ladder stitch. Take a 1/8" stitch into the fold of one side of the opening, then go across and take another. Keep going down the opening until you reach the end.
- When you're finished, stitch a knot into the end of the seam. Then insert the needle near the finished knot and out of the plush about 1-2" away.
- Pull the thread through and hold it taut while snipping the thread. The excess thread should sink back inside the plush -- all hidden!



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12. SEW THE CLAWS

- Grab your **CLAW** pieces (E). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the two together along the clawed edge, leaving the straight-ish edge free for turning right side out. Be sure to pivot between the claws as shown on the stitching line in the pattern.
- When complete, trim the excess seam allowance between the claws to increase flexibility. Repeat this with the remaining six claw pieces so you have four complete claws total.



13. ATTACH THE CLAWS

- Turn the **CLAWS** right side out and define the corners with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- Grab your **WING** pieces (F). If you haven't already, locate the claw placement lines on the paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open end of the claws within these placement lines. You'll need to bend the claw piece a little to make it fit around the curve of the wing. Pin the claws in place.
- Baste the claws to the wing within the seam allowance to hold it in place for future steps. Repeat with a second wing piece so you have two wings with claws attached.

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14. SEW THE WINGS



- Grab one **WING** piece with **CLAWS** attached and one without. Align them together with right sides facing and edges matching up.
- To get the detailed points in the feathers, it's best to transfer over the stitching line from the paper pattern. Trim off the seam allowance from the wing pattern and use it to trace onto the wrong side of the fabric.
- Take this to your machine and stitch around the perimeter of the wing, being sure to pivot along the lines you traced. Repeat with the remaining two wing pieces for two wings total.



15. TURN THE WINGS



- Trim the excess seam allowance in the curves of the **WINGS** to decrease bulk. Clip the seam allowance between the feathers to increase flexibility.
- To turn the wings, cut a small clip near the center through one layer of the fabric.
- Turn the wing right side out through the opening and define the feathers with a chopstick. Repeat with the second wing, but be sure to cut through one layer of fabric on the **opposite side** so you have an opposing pair.

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16. CLOSE THE WINGS

- Stuff the **WINGS** lightly with stuffing. Keep most of the stuffing in the feathers and toward the claws.
- Close the opening in the wing with a quick whip stitch. Repeat with the remaining wing so you have two completed wings total.
- Position the wing on the side of the **BODY** about ½-1" below the ears; there's also a guideline on the paper pattern. The feathers should point backward and the whip stitched side should face the body. Stick pins down through the top of the wing to hold it.

whip stitch:

A kind of overhand stitch where the needle is brought from the back of the project to the front. The thread wraps around the fabric edge and the process is repeated for each stitch.



17. ATTACH THE WINGS



- Ladder stitch the **WING** in place around the top of the 'shoulder' area. Refer back to step 11 for info on a ladder stitch. Once you reach the feathers, stop.
- Lift up the feathers and stitch beneath them as shown. This will leave the feathers free and result in a more 3D look. Do the same with the claws. The rest of the wings can be sewn as usual.

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18. ATTACH THE CLAWS TO THE FEET

- Grab your **FOOT** pieces (G) and the remaining **CLAW** pieces (E). If you haven't already, locate the claw placement lines on the paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open end of the claws within these placement lines. You'll need to bend the claws a little to make it fit around the curve of the foot. Pin the claws in place.
- Baste the claws to the foot within the seam allowance to hold it in place for future steps. Repeat with a second foot piece so you have two feet with claws attached.
- Grab a blank foot piece. Align it with the claw foot piece with right sides facing and edges matching up.



19. SEW THE FEET

- Stitch around the perimeter of the **FOOT**.
- To turn the feet, cut a small clip down the center of the foot through one layer of the fabric.
- Turn the foot right side out through the opening. Repeat with the second foot for two feet total.

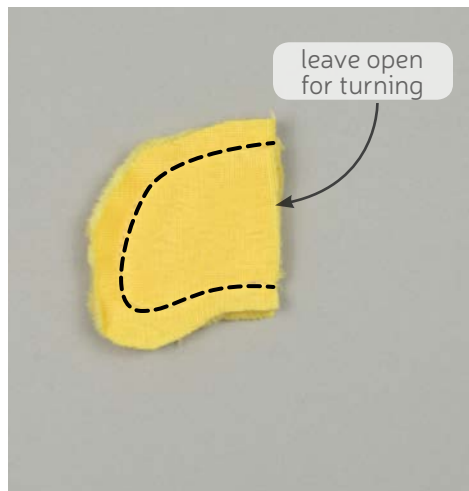
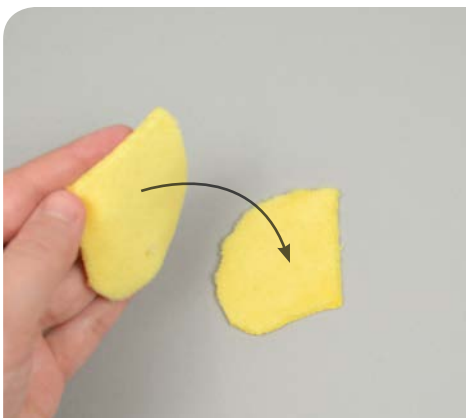
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20. TURN AND STUFF THE FEET

- Stuff the **FEET** lightly with stuffing.
- Close the opening in the foot with a quick whip stitch. Repeat with the remaining foot so you have two completed feet total.
- Take the finished feet and position them on the front of the owl body. Make sure the whip stitched side is facing the body so it isn't seen. The paper pattern has guidelines for help, but they're situated flush with the bottom and between the side seam and bottom dart. Hold the feet in place by sticking pins down through the base of the foot and into the body. Stitch them in place around the base of the foot using a ladder stitch. Then lift up and stitch behind the claws much like you did with the wings.



21. SEW THE BEAK

- Grab your two **BEAK** pieces (G) and align them with right sides facing and edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the curved edge, leaving the straight edge free for turning the beak right side out.
- Trim the excess seam allowance near the curve to reduce bulk.

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22. STUFF AND CINCH THE BEAK

- Turn the **BEAK** right side out and stuff it lightly with stuffing.
- Thread a hand sewing needle with thread and knot the end. Sew a long gathering stitch around the opening of the beak, about ¼" away from the edge.
- Once finished, pull at the thread to gather the fabric and cinch up the opening. Sew a few knots at this opening to hold it closed. If you have a lot of thread left, consider leaving it attached for adding to the face.

gathering:

The process of shortening the length of a piece of fabric by sewing long stitches through it. When the thread is pulled, it forms small folds that ruffle the fabric.

gathering stitch:

A long version of the running stitch, which is a stitch done by weaving the needle in and out of a length of fabric going along a line. The long stitches (about ¼"-½" long) gather the fabric when pulled later.

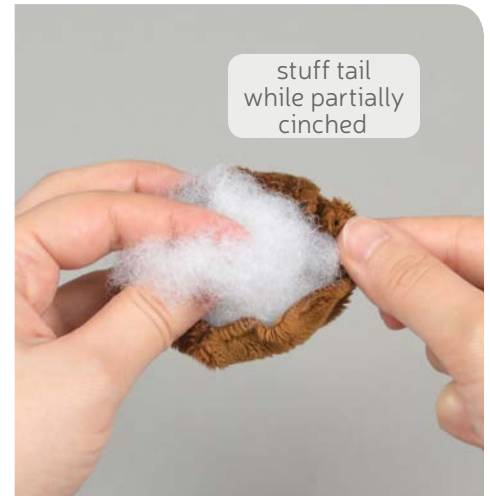


23. ATTACH THE BEAK

- Place the cinched end of the beak on the face of the owl. The paper pattern has a guideline, but it's also slightly below the center point on the eyes. Hold the beak in place by sticking pins down into the base of the beak and into the body of the plush.
- Ladder stitch the beak in place around the base, much like you did back in step 11.

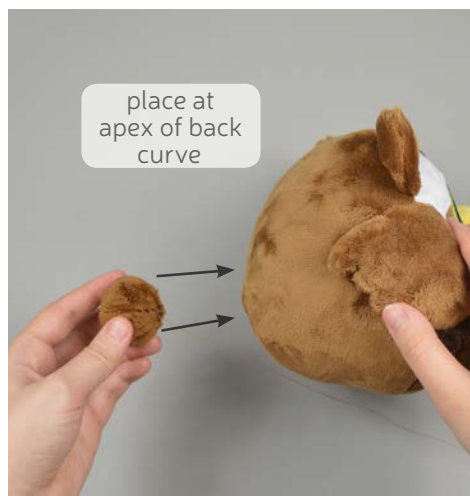
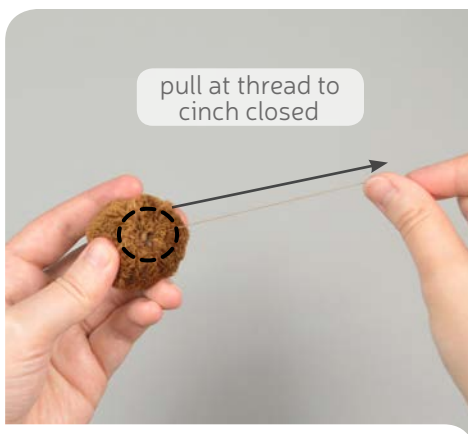
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24. STITCH AND FILL THE TAIL

- Grab your **TAIL** piece (I). Thread a hand sewing needle and knot the end. Sew a gathering stitch around the perimeter of the tail piece, about 1/4" from the edge.
- Pull at the thread to begin to cinch up the tail into a cup shape.
- While the tail is making a cup shape, fill it with a ball of stuffing.



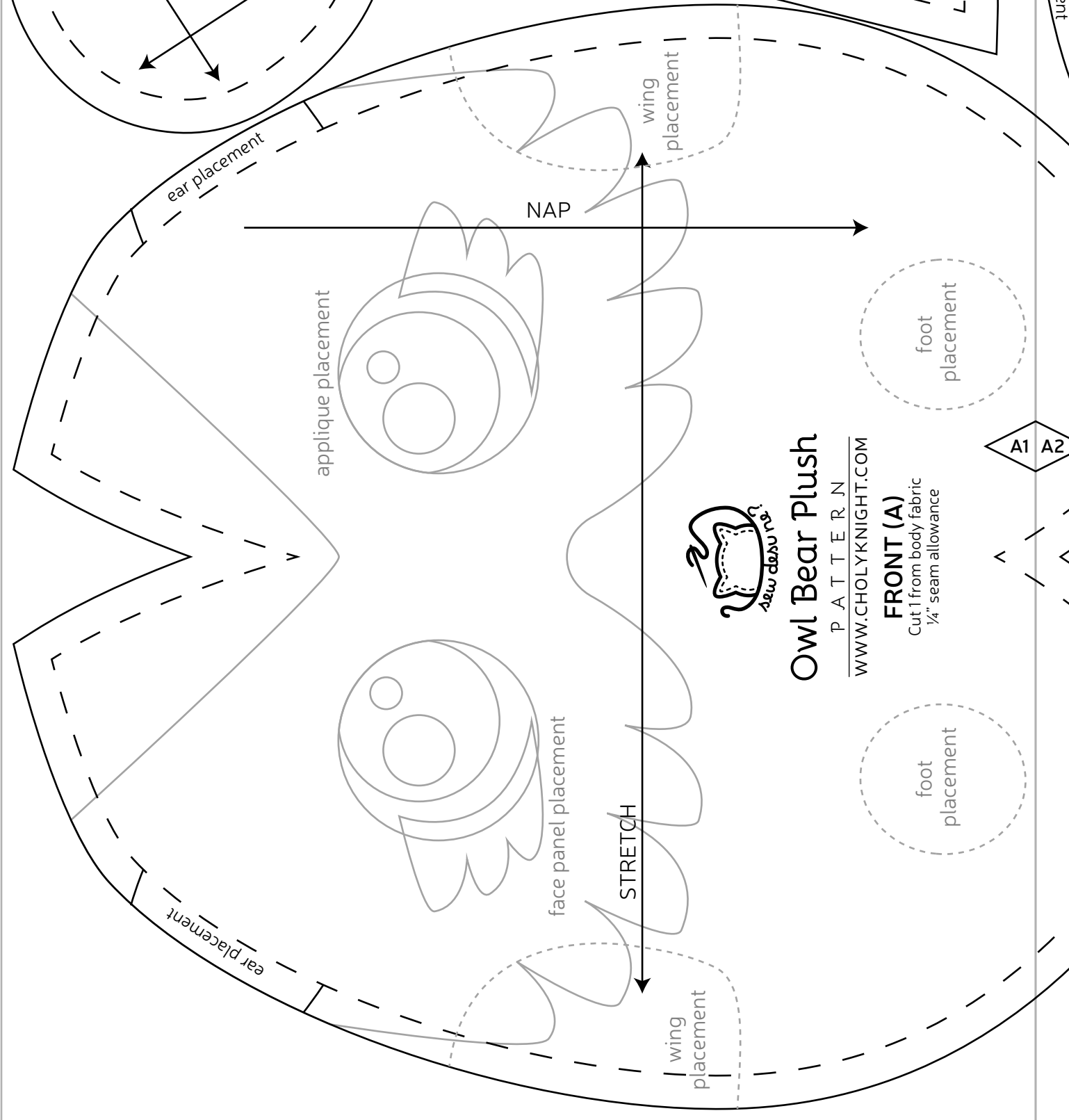
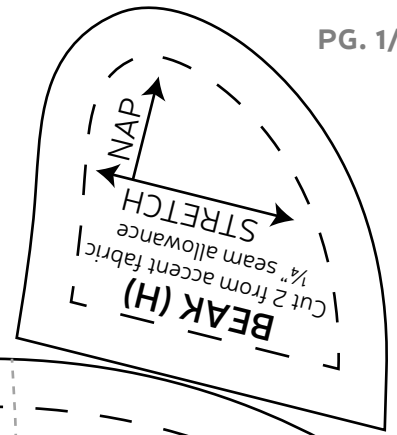
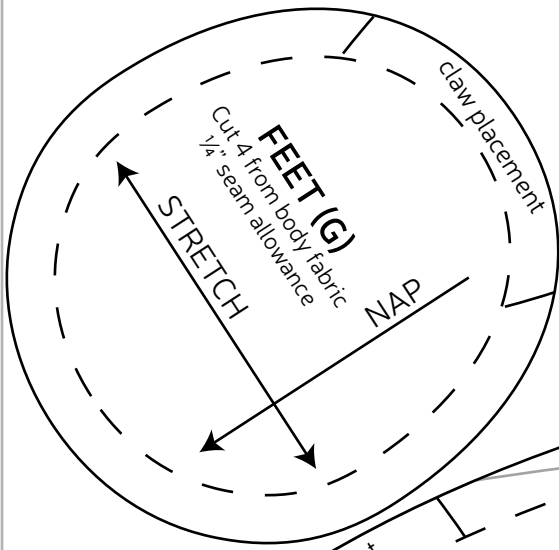
25. ATTACH THE TAIL

- Pull at the thread more so the entire tail cinches up into a ball. Stitch a few knots into the tail to hold it shut. If you have a lot of thread left over, leave it attached to sew it to the back next.
- Place the cinched side of the tail against the back of the owl bear body. Center it where the curve sticks out the most -- this is near the bottom when the owl bear is sitting. Hold it in place by sticking pins down into the base of the tail and through the owl bear body.
- Stitch around the base of the tail with a ladder stitch much like you did back in step 11.

congrats!
this completes
your plush! Now
give it a big
hug!

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Owl Bear Plush

P A T T E R N

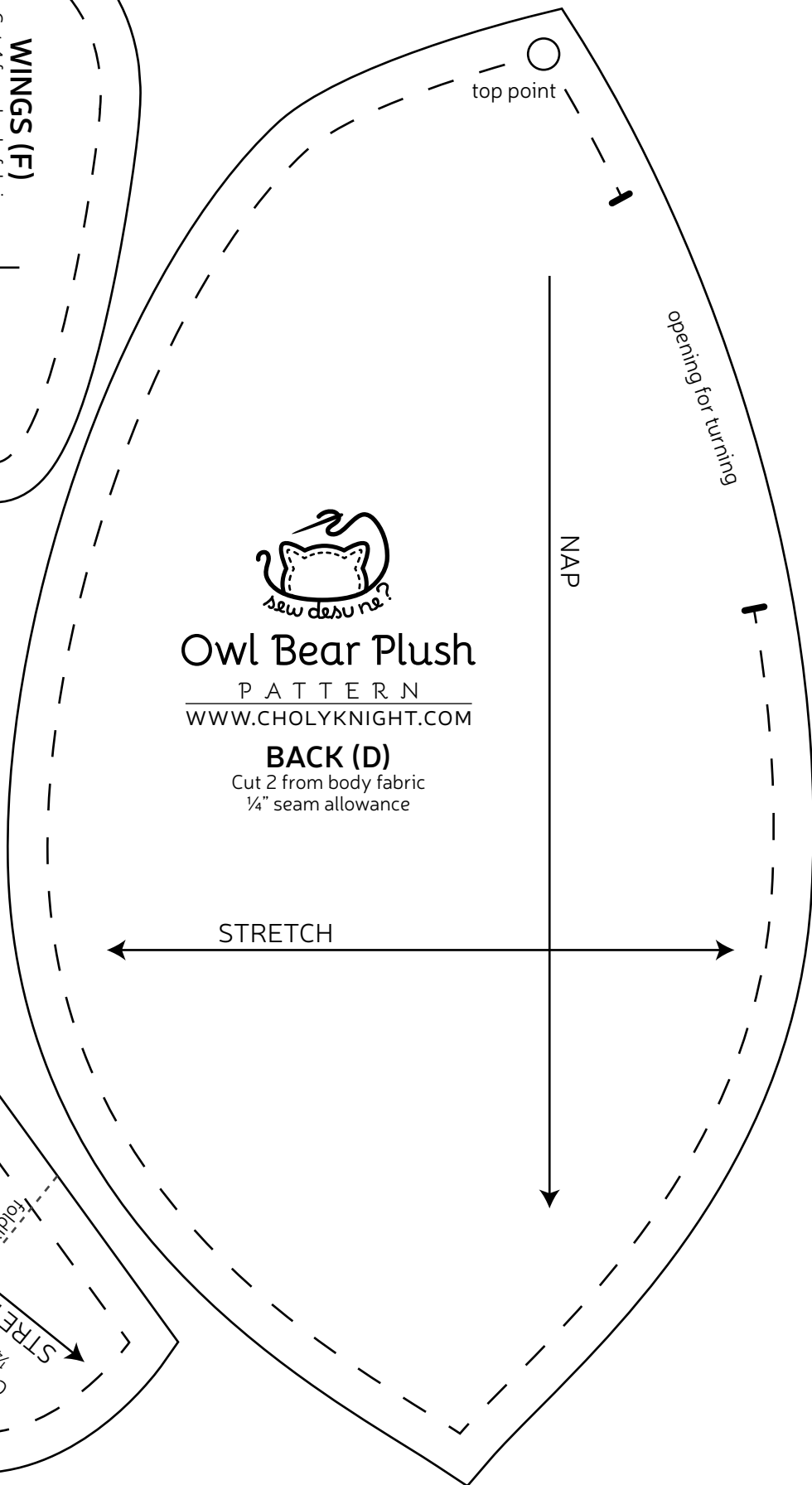
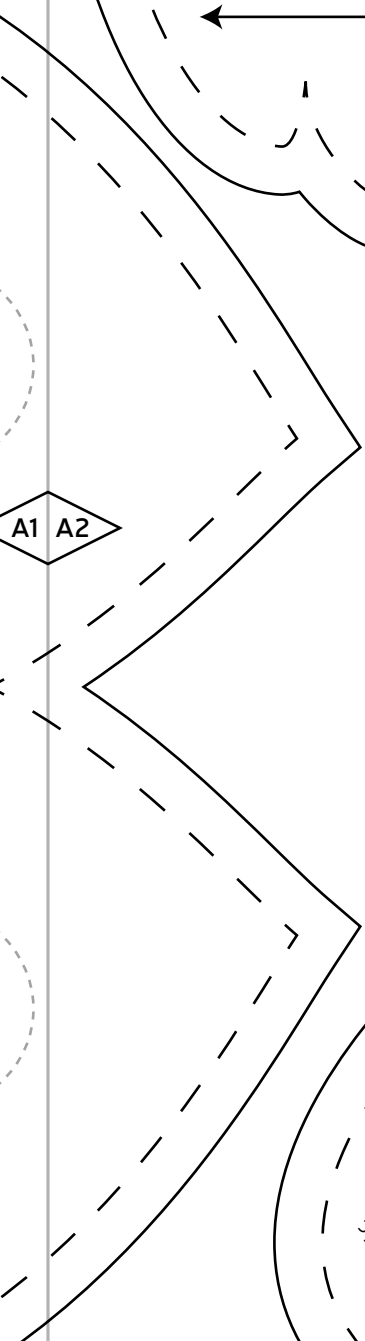
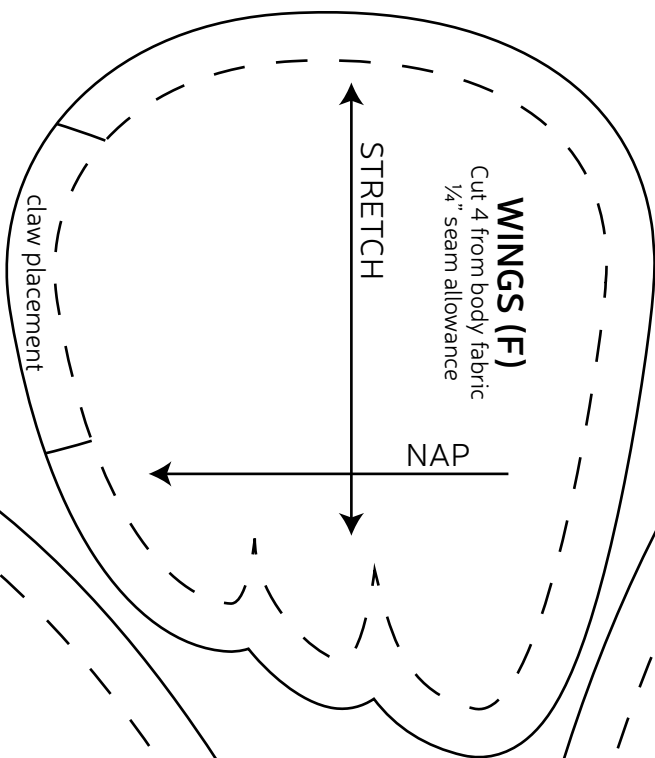
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FRONT (A)

Cut 1 from body fabric
1/4" seam allowance



A1 A2



Owl Bear Plush

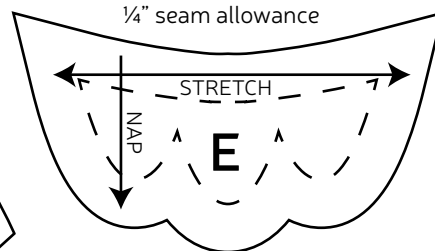
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BACK (D)

Cut 2 from body fabric
1/4" seam allowance

CLAWS (E)

Cut 8 from accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance



appliance placement

beak
placement


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TAIL (I)

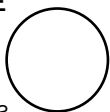
Cut 1 from body fabric
1/4" seam allowance



FACE PANEL (B)

Cut 1 from white fabric

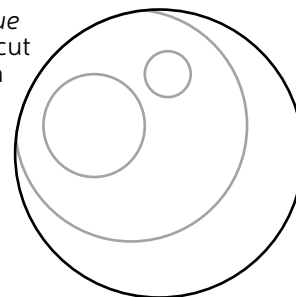
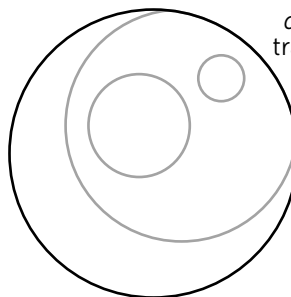
LARGE EYE SHINE
appliance
trace & cut
2 from white



SMALL EYE SHINE
appliance
trace & cut
2 from white



EYE
appliance
trace & cut
1 each



EYE FEATHERS
appliance
trace & cut
1 each



PUPIL
appliance
trace & cut
1 each from
black

