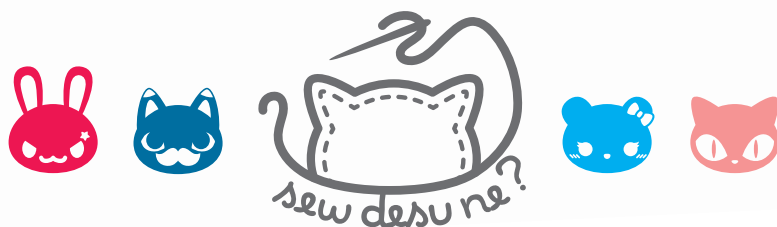




axolotl PLUSH



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



axolotl plush

This cute belly-down plush is a chibi version of everyone's favorite amphibious salamander. It has the same external gills and tail fin as the original, but in a much smaller package. The plush is in a sweet laying pose so the face and tail are highly visible. The pattern comes with templates for two kinds of gills -- either short, cute gills that resemble flower petals, or longer, curved gills that are more accurate to the animal.

DIFFICULTY:



Attaching the head is likely the trickiest part of this plush, which might bump it up to a 4 if you don't have a lot of experience with the ladder stitch.

Overall, there aren't a lot of small details to the animal (besides the gills), so it doesn't take too long.

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Basting
- Darts
- Sewing small pieces
- Ladder stitch
- Top-stitching
- Sewing curves

MAKES:

One plush: about 7" long, 5" wide (not including gills), and 4" tall



sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

// ©2018 Choly Knight // Items made using this pattern may be sold. Credit to "Choly Knight" or "Sew Desu Ne?" is appreciated. You may not reproduce, share, freely distribute, or sell this pattern as your own in digital or printed form.

materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. of fabric for main body
- ⅛ yd. of accent fabric for gills (or use 3 different colored fabrics)
- 3" x 3" piece of accent applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) for eyes
- 1" x 2" piece of black applique fabric for mouth
- 2" x 2" piece of white applique fabric for eye shines
- 5" x 5" 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)

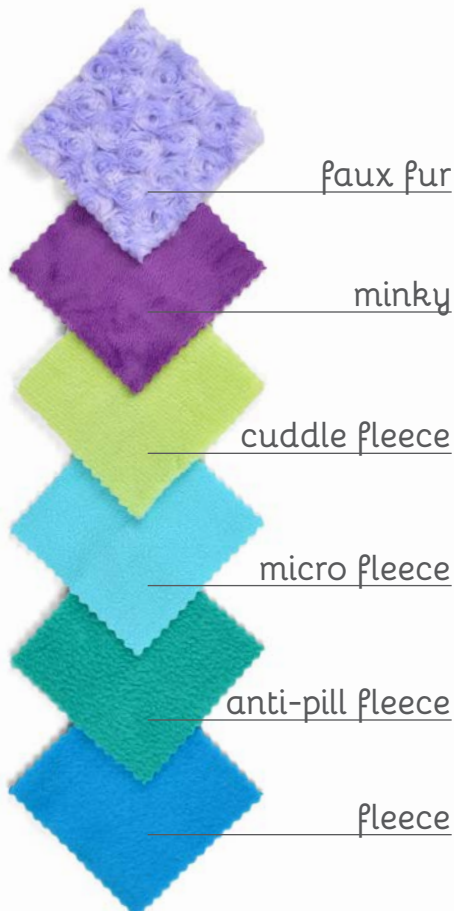


SUGGESTED FABRICS:

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

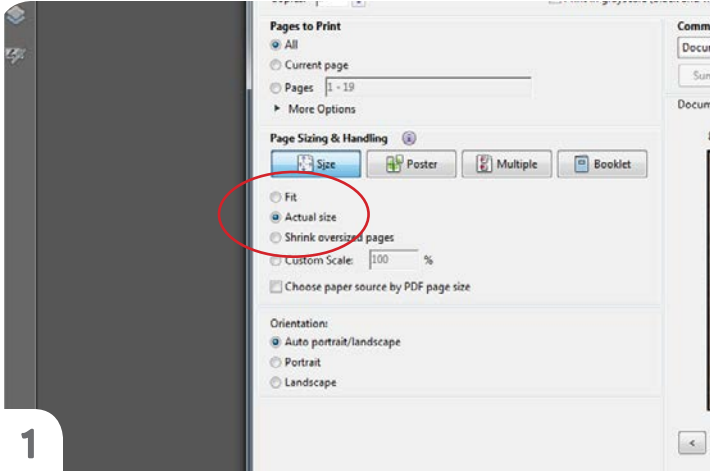


sew desu ne?

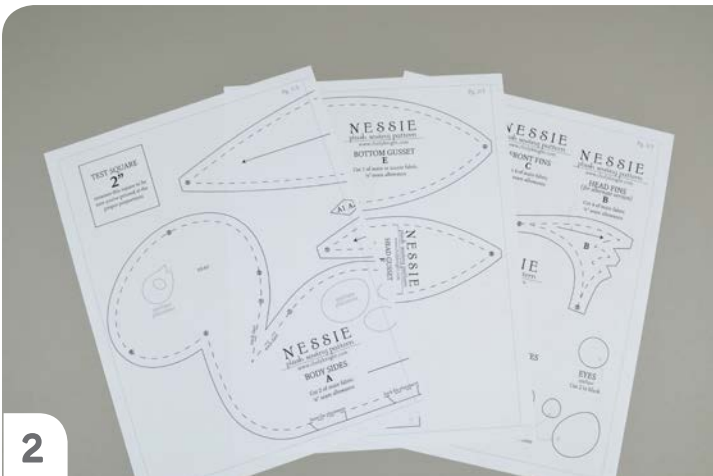
| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

printing the pattern:

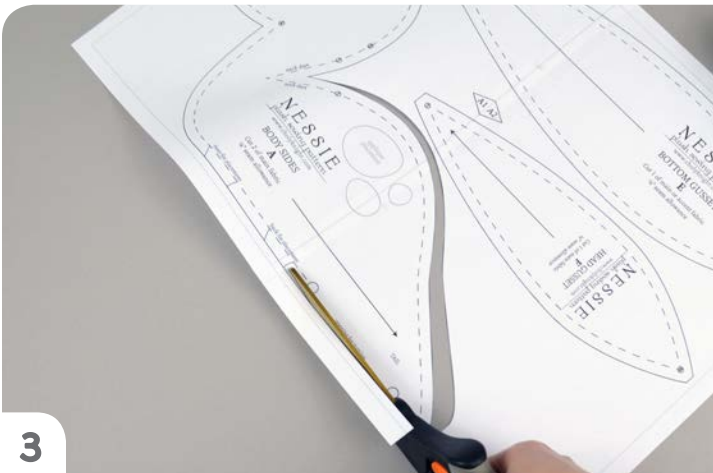
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 14-16**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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.

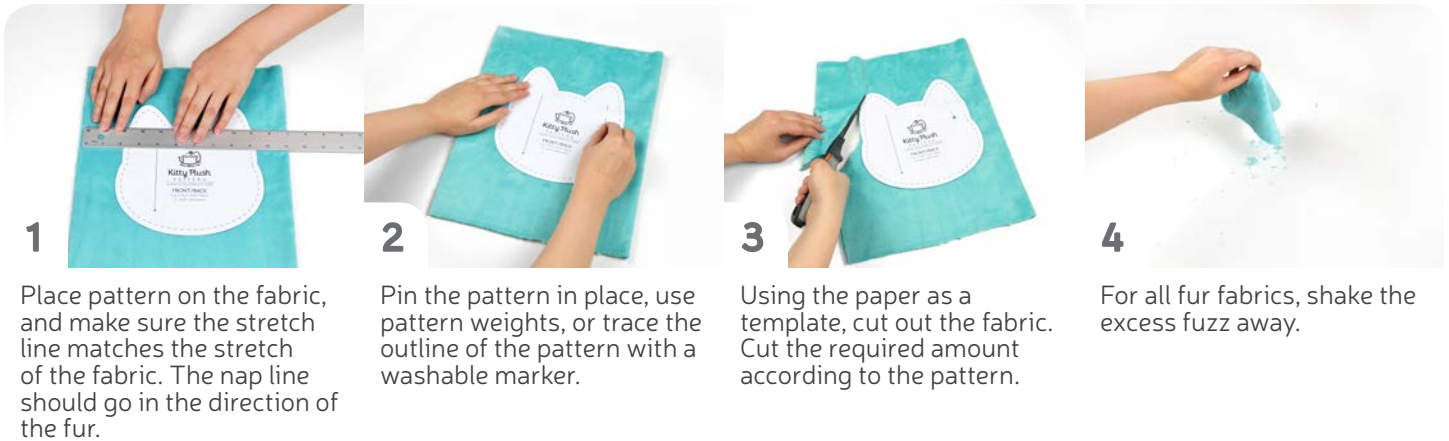


You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper. They might be a little hard to pin through, so you might want to use your longest pins. But you could also use pattern weights or trace the outlines onto the fabric with a washable marker and cut them out from there.

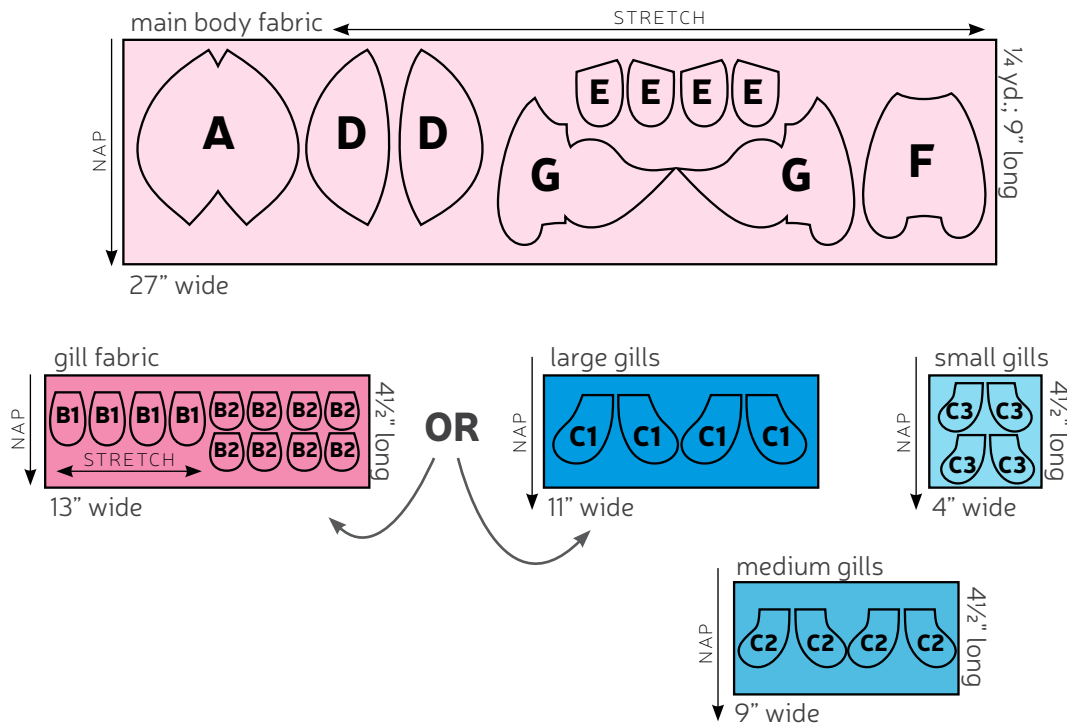
sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

cutting the fabric:



cutting layout:



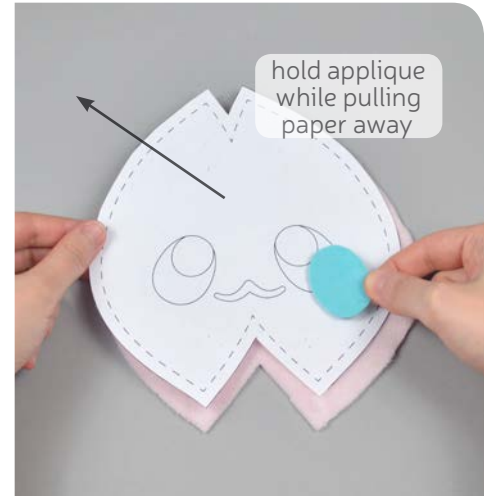
BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- 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.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

// ©2018 Choly Knight // Items made using this pattern may be sold. Credit to "Choly Knight" or "Sew Desu Ne?" is appreciated.
You may not reproduce, share, freely distribute, or sell this pattern as your own in digital or printed form.



1. 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 eye shines, and 1 smile.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The smile goes onto black, the eyes on the accent fabric, and the eye shines on white.
- Cut out the eye pieces and arrange them on the **HEAD FRONT** (A) piece. 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.

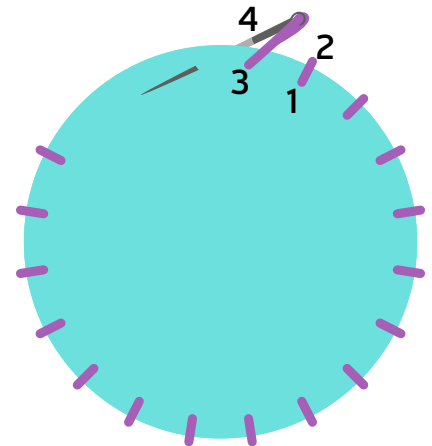
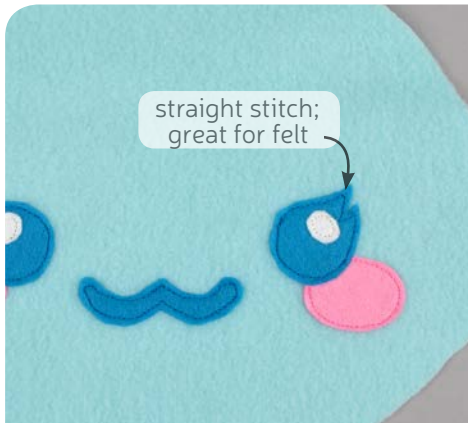


2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- 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 eye shine and smile 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.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

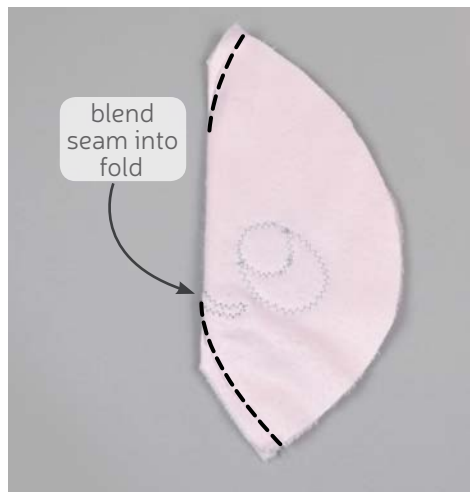


2a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

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.



3. SEW THE DARTS

- Locate the open wedge found on the top and bottom of the **HEAD FRONT (A)** 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.

darts:

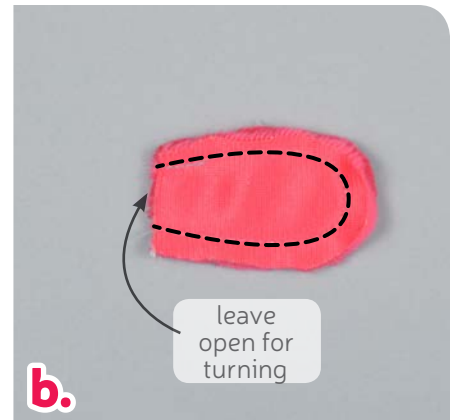
A wedge-shaped gap found in a pattern. When sewn in fabric, it creates a tuck in the fabric and develops a 3D shape. The diagonal sides of the wedge are the **LEGS**; these are matched up and sewn to the **POINT** of the dart.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

- a. Grab your **GILL** pieces (B1/2 or C1-3). Take two matching ones and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- b. Sew them together along the long curved edge. Leave the straight edge free for turning right side out.
- c. Turn the gill right side out. Repeat with the remaining 10 gill pieces for 6 complete gills total.
- d. Arrange the gills according to the photos in preparation for adding to the head.

4. SEW THE GILLS



5. BASTE THE GILLS

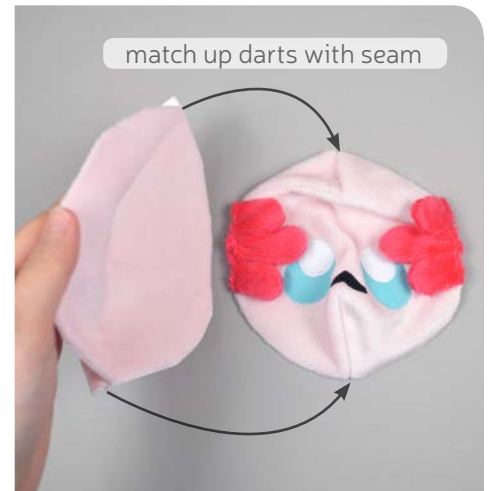
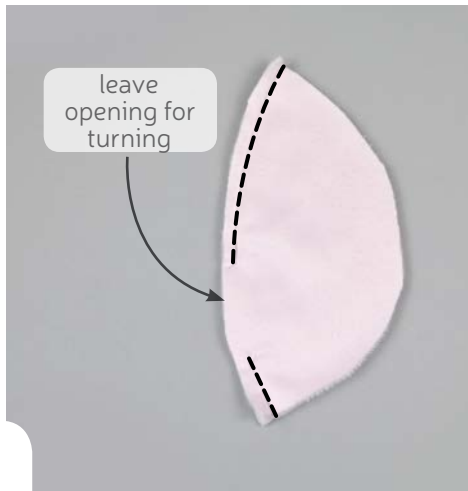
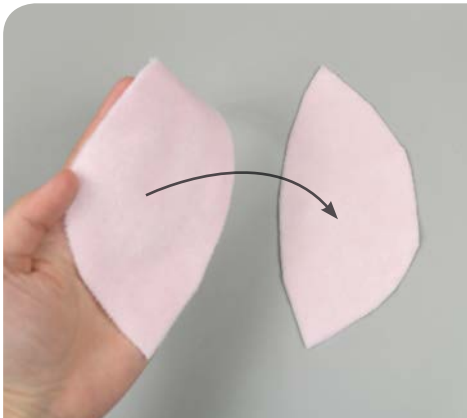
- a. If you haven't already, locate the ***gill placement lines*** found on the **HEAD FRONT (A)** paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Place the open end of the gills within these placement lines. Pin the gills in place.
- b. Baste the gills to the front within the seam 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).

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



6. SEW THE HEAD BACK

- Grab your two **HEAD BACK** pieces (D). Align them together with right sides facing and raw 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 **HEAD BACK** pieces only, but be sure to leave the opening for turning that you marked.
- Open up your **HEAD BACK** piece and grab the **HEAD 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.



- Sew around the perimeter of the head completely. Turn the head right side out through the opening you left in the back.
- Stuff the head firmly with stuffing, pushing the stuffing towards the bottom and face until it gets completely full and there are no wrinkles in the fabric.

7. SEW AND STUFF THE HEAD

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



8. SEW THE ARMS

- Grab your **ARM** pieces (E). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the curved edge, leaving the short straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Turn the arm right side out. Repeat with the remaining two arm pieces for two complete arms total.



9. BASTE THE ARMS

- Stuff the arms lightly with stuffing toward the end. Keep the opening empty so it's easier to sew to the belly next.
- If you haven't already, locate the **arm placement lines** on the paper pattern for the **BELLY (F)**. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open ends of the arms within these placement lines. Note that they should be pointing downward. Pin them in place.
- Baste the **ARMS** (E) to the belly within the seam allowance to hold them for future steps.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

/// ©2018 Choly Knight // Items made using this pattern may be sold. Credit to "Choly Knight" or "Sew Desu Ne?" is appreciated. You may not reproduce, share, freely distribute, or sell this pattern as your own in digital or printed form.



10. SEW THE BACK

- Grab your **BACK** pieces (G). Take them both and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the two pieces together along the tail edge only. Be sure to pivot at the corners where the tail starts and begins.
- Once complete, trim the seam allowance near the tip of the tail to reduce bulk. Clip the seam allowance at the inner corners to increase flexibility when the back is turned later.



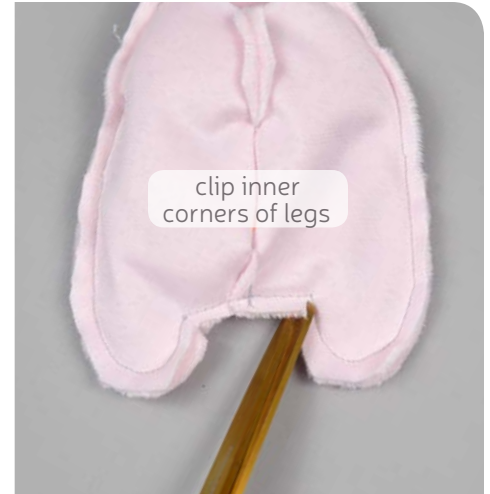
11. TOP STITCH THE TAIL

- Turn the **BACK** right side out. Define the point of the tail with a chop stick or similar turning tool.
- To transfer the tail outline, I suggest trimming the paper pattern along the **stitching line for the tail**. Use it as a template to trace that line onto the right side of the fabric along the tail.
- Take this to your machine and stitch along the traced lines.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

/// ©2018 Choly Knight // Items made using this pattern may be sold. Credit to "Choly Knight" or "Sew Desu Ne?" is appreciated. You may not reproduce, share, freely distribute, or sell this pattern as your own in digital or printed form.



12. SEW THE BELLY TO THE BACK

- Grab your **BELLY** piece (F) from before. Tuck the tail from your **BACK** piece (G) into the center and out of the way. Align it over the belly with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the belly to the back along the edge with the legs. Leave the short curved edge (the neck) open for turning right side out.
- Before turning, be sure to clip the small inner corners near the legs.

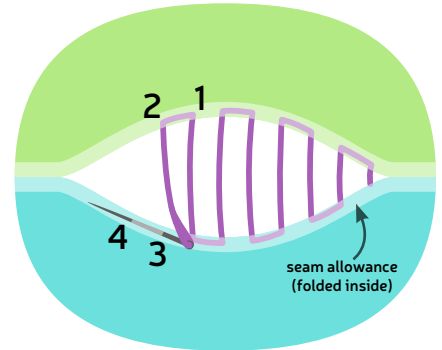
- Turn the body right side out through the opening in the neck.
- Stuff the body by starting with the tail, be sure it's nice and full before moving on. Next, fill up each leg with balls of stuffing.
- Finally, move onto filling the rest of the body with stuffing. Once complete there should be no wrinkles in the fabric.
- Align the opening in the head over the opening in the neck. The neck opening is larger than the head opening, so arrange them so the neck opening covers the head opening.

13. STUFF THE BODY



sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



14. ATTACH THE HEAD

- Thread a hand-sewing needle and knot it at the end. Insert the needle from the inside of the neck opening and out. This will leave the knot inside the plush.
Continue from here doing a ladder stitch. Start by taking a 1/8" stitch into the back seam of the neck and another into the top edge of the head opening.
- Continue working around the head toward the front. To make things easier, take big basting stitches just to be sure you have the placement right.

tip:

If you need help placing the head, try drawing a 1½"-2" wide circle around the head opening. Use that as a stitching guide when attaching to the body.



15. FINISH THE HEAD

- Keep stitching around the belly. The center of the belly should line up with the bottom edge of the head opening. Make sure these points are joined.
Continue stitching to the back of the head to finish. If you took big stitches the first time, go around again with tinier, neater stitches for extra strength.
- 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!

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

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

// ©2018 Choly Knight // Items made using this pattern may be sold. Credit to "Choly Knight" or "Sew Desu Ne?" is appreciated.
You may not reproduce, share, freely distribute, or sell this pattern as your own in digital or printed form.

