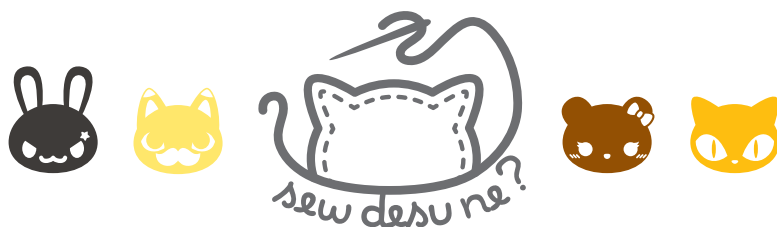


bumblebee plush



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



bumblebee plush

No need to fear stings here! This fluffy bug is a soft, plush version of everyone's favorite springtime pollinator. It has a round, chubby body with detailed wings, antennae, and six tiny legs. And of course it has the distinctive black and yellow stripes to make it unmistakably sweet!

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Curved sewing
- Basting
- Darts
- Ladder stitch
- Sewing small pieces
- Matching notches

DIFFICULTY:



The techniques used in this plush are very simple, but the hard part comes in getting everything lined up properly. Many of the pieces look the same, so be very careful to mark all of your fabrics before starting sewing.

MAKES:

One plush: about 6" long (7" if you include stinger), 4½" tall (not including wings/ antennae), and 5½" wide



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materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. of yellow fabric for face & stripes
- ⅛ yd. of black fabric for legs & stripes
- ⅛ yd. of white fabric for wings
- 3" x 3" piece of black applique fabric (flannel, felt, fleece, cotton, etc.) for eyes
- 3" x 3" piece of white applique fabric (flannel, felt, fleece, cotton, etc.) 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)



NOTE:

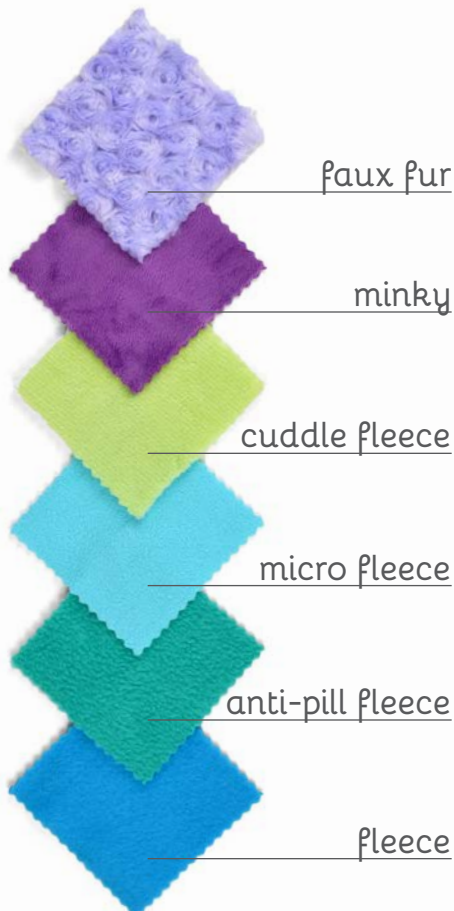
Brown & gold is another good color option, and is what I used in the instructions to follow.

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

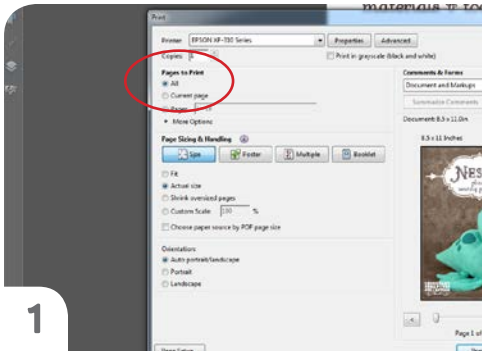


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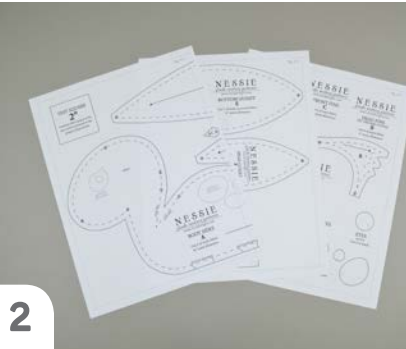
printing the pattern:

To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 20-23**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



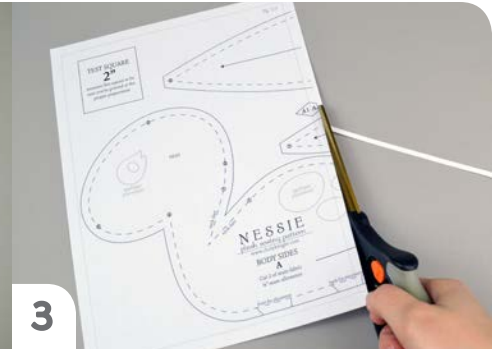
1

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.



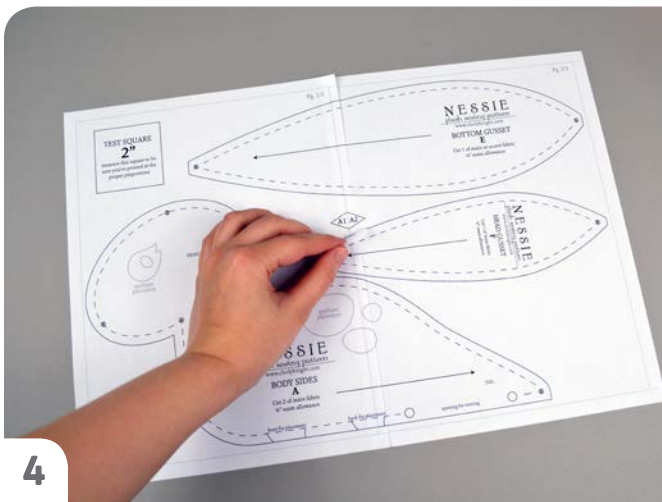
2

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.



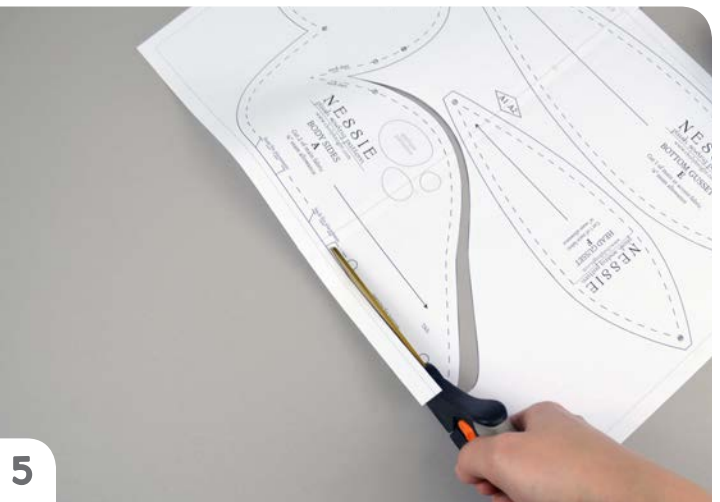
3

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.



4

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.



5

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:



Place pattern on the fabric, and make sure the stretch line matches the stretch of the fabric. The nap line should go in the direction of the fur.



Pin the pattern in place, use pattern weights, or trace the outline of the pattern with a washable marker.

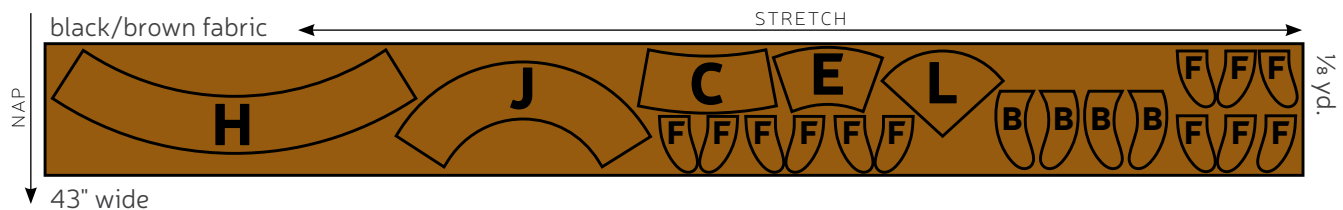
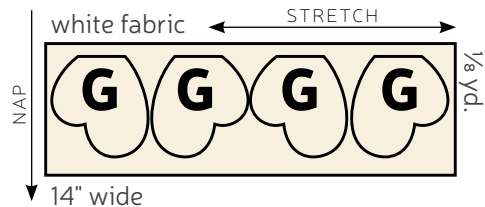
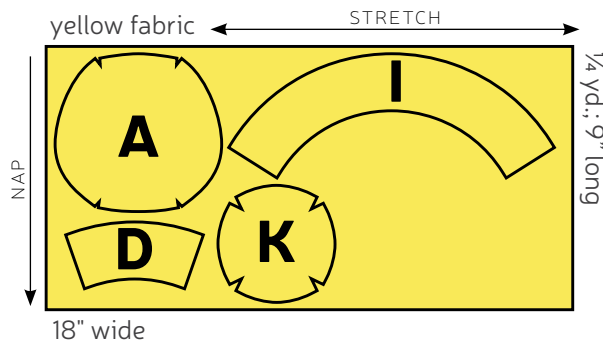


Using the paper as a template, cut out the fabric. Cut the required amount according to the pattern.



For all fur fabrics, shake the excess fuzz away.

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 a ¼" seam allowance is used throughout the project.

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1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Grab your fusible web and trace all the applique pieces you want onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have one **smile**, two **eyes**, and two **eye shines**.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The **eye shines** should go on white, and the **eyes** and **smile** on black (or brown).
- Cut out the **eyes** and arrange it on the **FACE (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.



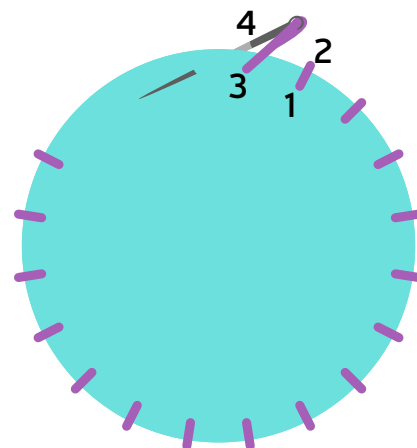
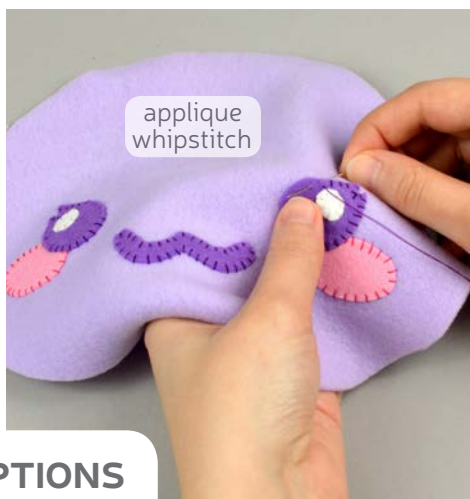
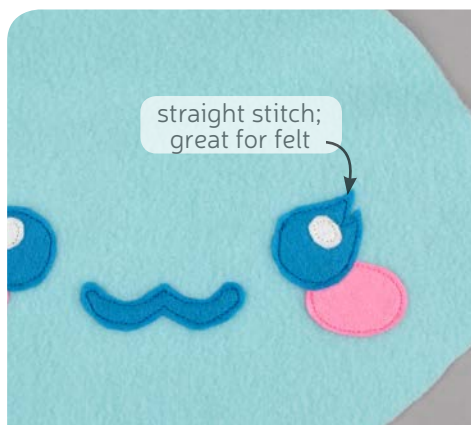
2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the **eyes** in place with your iron. Use a press cloth if you're using a polyester or fuzzy fabric like minky.
- Next, move onto the smaller pieces: the **eye shines**, and **smile**. Fuse them 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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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. TRACE THE DARTS

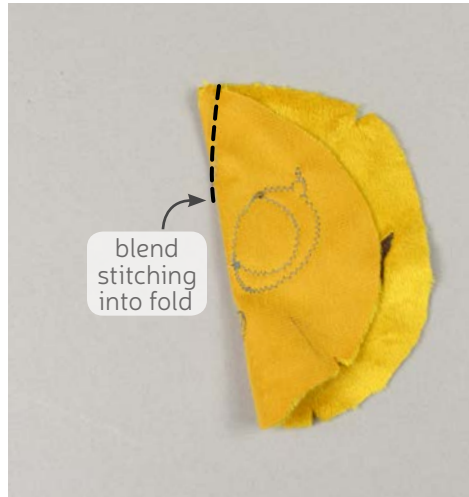
- The **FACE** piece (A) has four **darts** all around the outer edge. They are the tiny wedge shapes found along the top and bottom corners. They look shorter than they are due to not being very wide. So for help sewing them, you may want to trace the seam lines from the paper pattern. Cut away the stitching along each dart and use it to trace onto the wrong side of your face fabric.
- When complete, you should have V-shaped tracings along each **dart**; four total.

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.

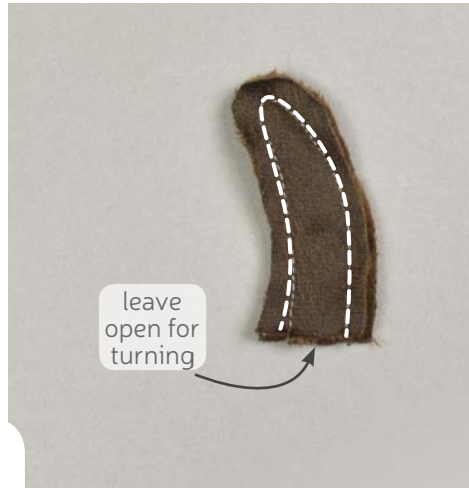
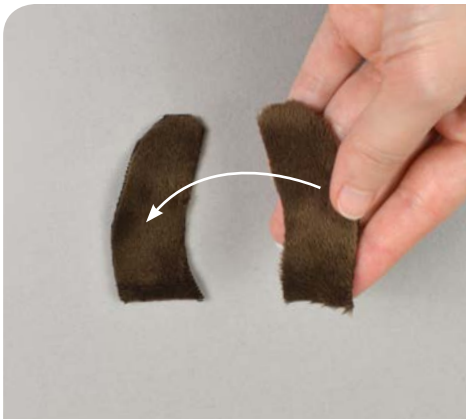
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4. SEW THE DARTS

- Fold the **FACE** fabric (A) with right sides facing along the point of one dart. Match up the traced lines you made on the back of the fabric.
- Sew the **dart** by starting at the raw edge of the fabric, stitching down the traced line, and ending at the point. Try to blend your stitching into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.
- Repeat this step 3 times more for all 4 darts around the outer edge of your face piece.



5. SEW THE ANTENNAE

- Grab your **ANTENNAE** pieces (B). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the antenna together around the long curved edge. Leave the short straight edge along the bottom free for turning it right side out later.
- Trim the excess seam allowance along the inner curve and the tip. This will reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned later.
Repeat this step with your remaining antennae pieces so you have two complete antennae total.

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6. TURN THE ANTENNAE

- a. To turn the **ANTENNA**, you can easily get it done with a pair of hemostats. But in case you don't have one, you can also use a straw and a chopstick. Insert the straw into the opening of your antenna until it reaches the end. Then stick the chopstick into the opening of the straw to start turning the piece. Keep pushing the chopstick and the fabric will start to flip (the straw will start to come out). Continue until the whole piece is turned.
- b. Repeat with your remaining antenna so both pieces are turned.



7. BASTE THE ANTENNAE

- a. Take your two **ANTENNAE** (B) and your **FACE** piece (A). Align the open end of the antenna along the top of your face, just outside one of the **upper darts**. There is also an **alignment guide** on the paper pattern for extra help. Place the antennae so they are curved toward the center as shown.
- b. Flip the antennae down so they're pointing toward the center of the face. Baste the open ends of the antennae to the face within the seam allowance to hold them for future steps.

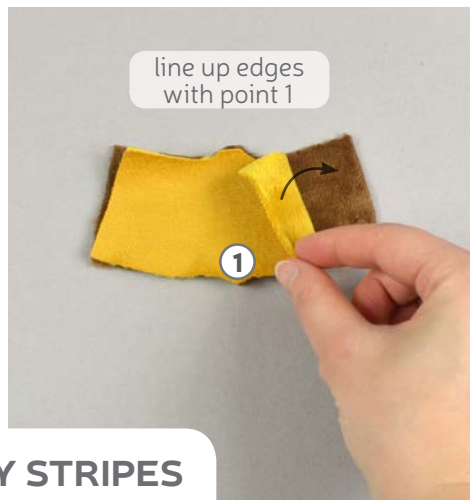
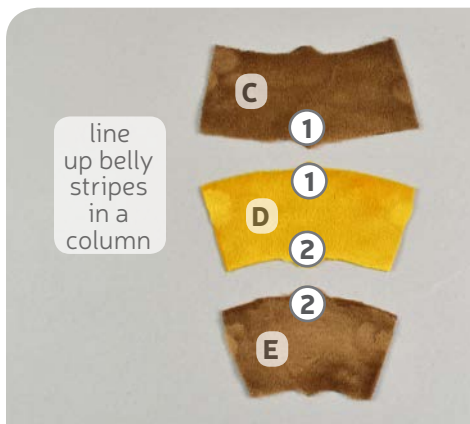
→ *Set the face aside for a moment while we work on the belly.*

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).

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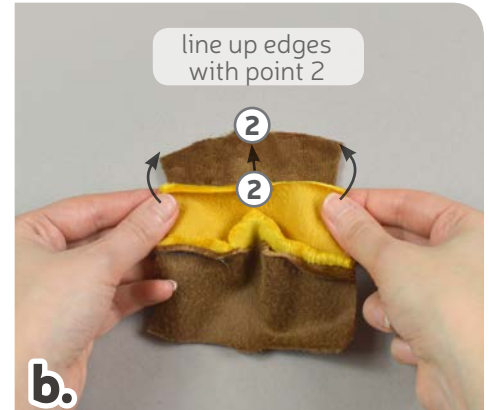
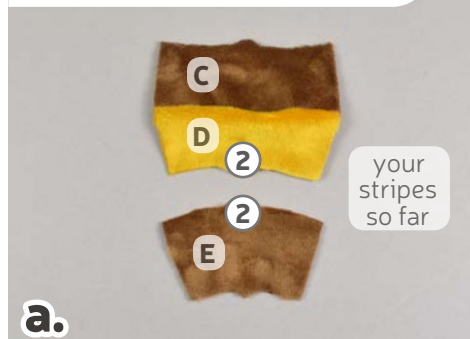


8. SEW THE FIRST BELLY STRIPES

- Grab all of your **BELLY STRIPE** pieces (C, D, & E). Place them on your work surface in alphabetical order from the top down as shown. They have numbered points to help ensure they're sewn in the right order, which we'll start doing next.
- Flip your **SECOND BELLY STRIPE** (D) so it's matched with the **FIRST BELLY STRIPE** (C) with right sides facing. Align the edge that has **point 1**. Match up those points and pin the rest of the edge together.
- This edge is also where we're leaving our **opening for turning**. You can transfer the **opening for turning guidelines** from the paper pattern or just eyeball about a 2"-3" opening in the middle. Sew the first belly stripe to the second along this edge, leaving the opening that you marked.

- Open up your stripes and set them up with your **THIRD BELLY STRIPE** (E) as before.
- Flip your **FIRST** and **SECOND STRIPES** to align them with the third stripe. Match up the edges that have **point 2**. Start pinning the fabrics in the middle and work outward.
- Sew the second stripe to the third stripe along the edge that has **point 2**.
- When complete, open up the pieces and they should make a full set of stripes.

9. FINISH THE BELLY



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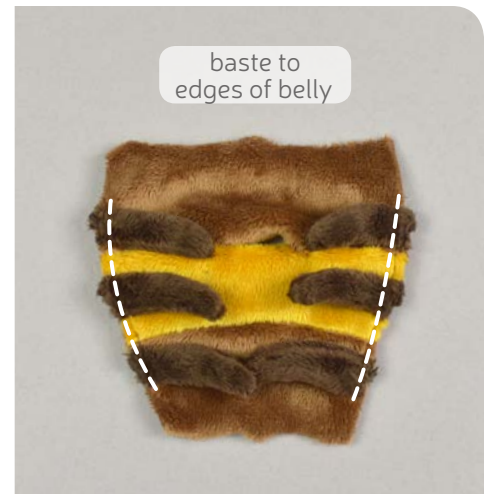
10. SEW THE LEGS



- Grab your **LEG** pieces (F). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the leg together around the long curved edge. Leave the short straight edge along the bottom free for turning it right side out later.
- Trim the excess seam allowance along the inner curve and the tip. This will reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned later.



11. BASTE THE LEGS



- Repeat this step with your remaining leg pieces so you have 6 complete **LEGS** (F) total. Turn them all right side out with hemostats or using the straw technique from step 6.
- If you haven't already, locate the **leg placement lines** found on the paper pattern for all the **BELLY PIECES** (C-E). Transfer them over to the right side of the fabrics. Place the legs so the open edge is within these **placement lines** and the tips are curving downward (toward piece E).
- Flip the legs to the inside and baste them to the edge of the fabric within the seam allowance. This will hold them securely while we sew the rest of the body.

→ *This completes your belly. Set it aside for a moment while we work on the body.*

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12. SEW THE WINGS

- Grab your **WING** pieces (G). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together around the rounded edge. Leave the straight edge along the bottom free for turning the piece right side out.
- Before turning, be sure to clip the seam allowance close into the inner corner of the wing. This will increase flexibility in that area when the wings are turned. Repeat this step with your remaining wing pieces so you have two wings total.



13. TOP STITCH THE WINGS

- Turn both of your wings right side out through the opening in the bottom.
- The wings have extra **top stitching lines** for a bit of detail. To sew them, it helps to transfer the lines from the paper pattern. Trim away the paper along the top stitching line, then trace the lines onto the fabric.
- Stitch along the traced lines to complete the top stitching.

TOP STITCHING:

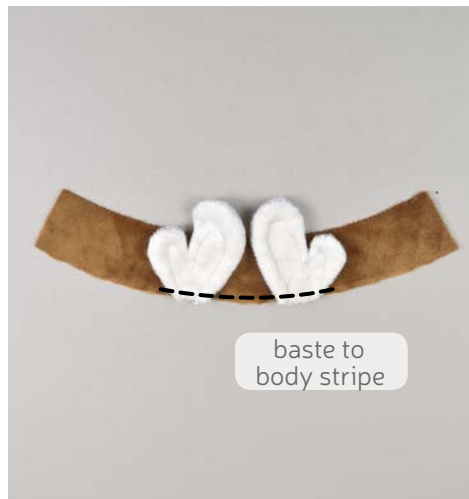
One or several lines of straight stitching done on the outside of a project to serve a decorative purpose. A longer than average stitch length is typically used so the result is more visible.

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14. BASTE THE WINGS



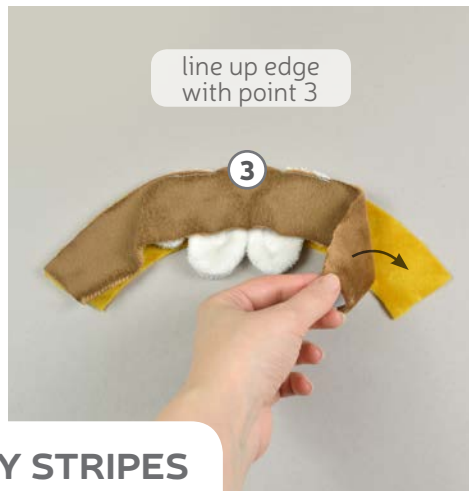
a. Grab your **FIRST BODY STRIPE** piece (H). If you haven't already, locate the **wing placement lines** found on the paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric.

Align the open end of the wings within these lines, matching up the raw edges. The large rounded ends of the wing should point toward the middle of the stripe.

b. Baste the wings to the stripe within the seam allowance to hold them in place for future steps.



15. SEW THE FIRST BODY STRIPES



→ **The BODY STRIPES are sewn similarly to the BELLY STRIPES (steps 8-9) -- they're just longer.**

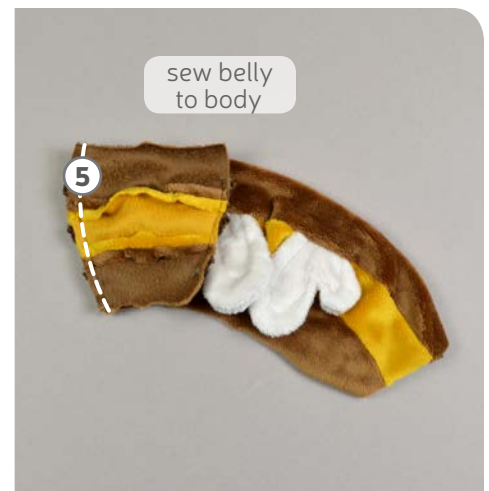
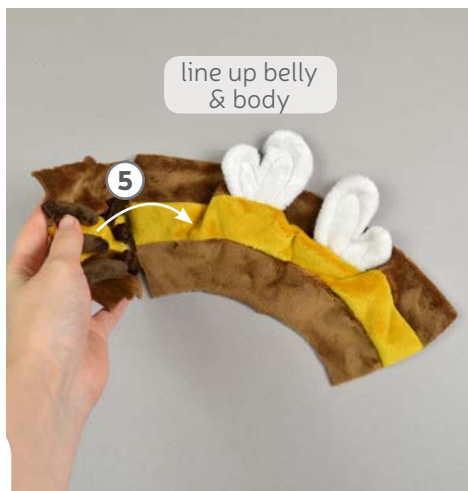
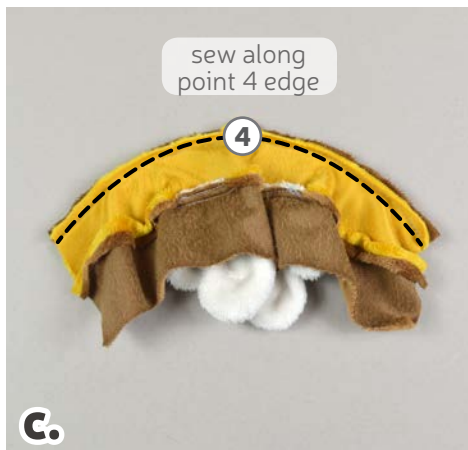
- Grab all of your **BODY STRIPE** pieces (H, I, & J). Place them on your work surface in alphabetical order from the top down as shown. They have **numbered points** to help ensure they're sewn in the right order, which we'll start doing next.
- Flip your **FIRST BODY STRIPE** (H) so it's aligned with the **SECOND BODY STRIPE** (I) with right sides facing. Align the edge that has **point 3**. Match up those points and pin the rest of the edge together.
- Sew the first body stripe to the second along this edge. This should secure the **WINGS** inside.

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- a. Open up your stripes and align them with your **THIRD BODY STRIPE (J)** as before.
- b. Flip your **FIRST** and **SECOND STRIPES** to align them with the third stripe. Match up the edges that have **point 4**. Pin the middle and work outward.
- c. Sew the second stripe to the third stripe along the edge that has **point 4**.
- d. When complete, open up the pieces and they should make a full set of stripes.

16. FINISH THE BODY STRIPES

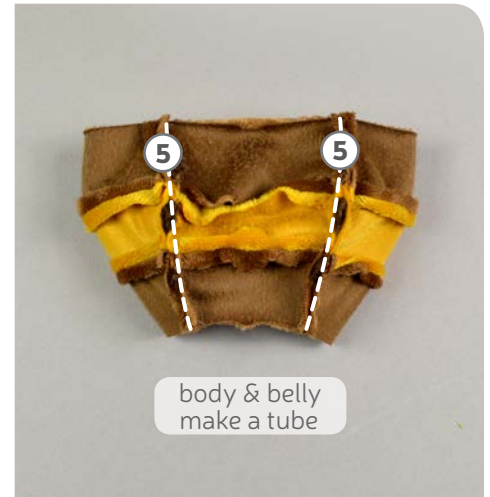


17. ATTACH THE BELLY

- a. Grab your **BELLY** from before. Place it beside your **BODY STRIPES** as shown so they make an arc. For help with alignment, you'll find the **FIRST BELLY** and **BODY STRIPES (C and H)** have a **point 5** on the short sides for matching up. This will help prevent the pieces from getting attached upside down.
- b. Flip your belly so it's facing right sides together with the body. Match up the edges that have **point 5** and match up your stripe seams if you can. Pin the fabrics together with the **LEGS (F)** tucked inside.
- c. Sew the belly to the body along the edge that has **point 5**. This will also secure all the legs inside.

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18. FINISH THE STRIPES

- Open up the pieces when complete. The **LEGS** should be secured inside the seam.
- Repeat for the other side of the **BELLY** and the **BODY**. Match up the other edge with **point 5**, aligning the stripe seams as before. Pin the fabrics together, making sure the legs are tucked inside.
- Sew the belly to the body along this edge that has **point 5**, securing the legs in between.



19. CHECK YOUR WORK

- When complete, you can turn your work right side out to check it. The wings should be securely sewn between the **FIRST** and **SECOND BODY STRIPES** (H & I).
- Flip it over, and the legs should be securely sewn between the **BODY** and **BELLY**. The whole piece should make a tube.

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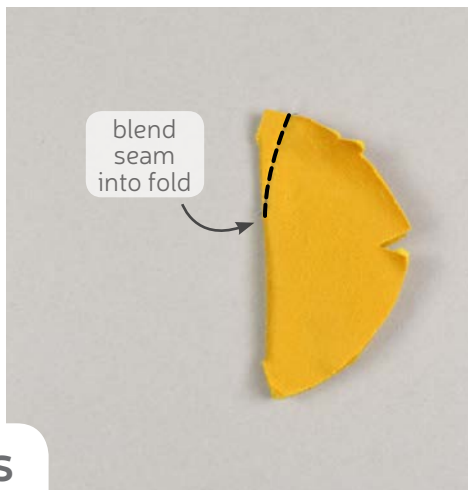
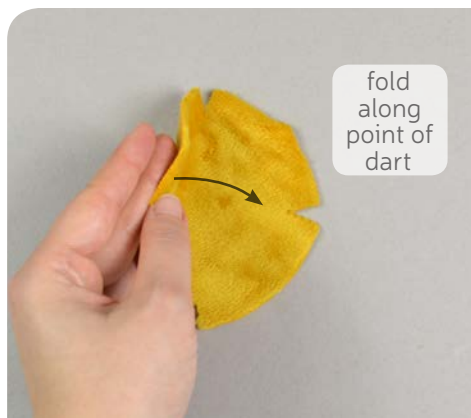
20. ATTACH THE FACE



- a.** Grab your **FACE** piece from before (A). The larger open end of the **BODY** will be sewn all around this face. To get the alignment right, both the body and face have **bottom notches** and a top center **point 6**.

Pin the body to the face at **point 6**, then match up the **double notches** at the bottom and pin here as well. Continue pinning the face to the body in the gaps between.

- b.** Sew the face to the body all the way around.



21. SEW THE END DARTS

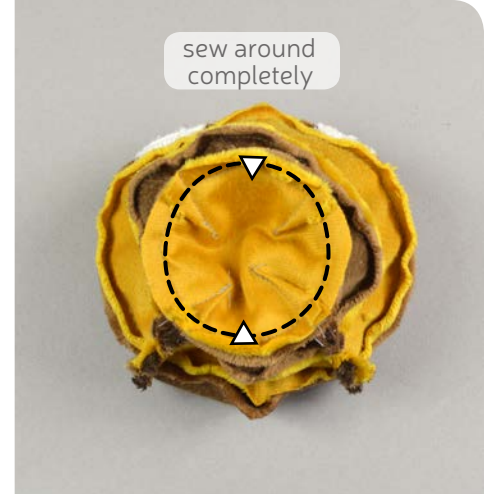
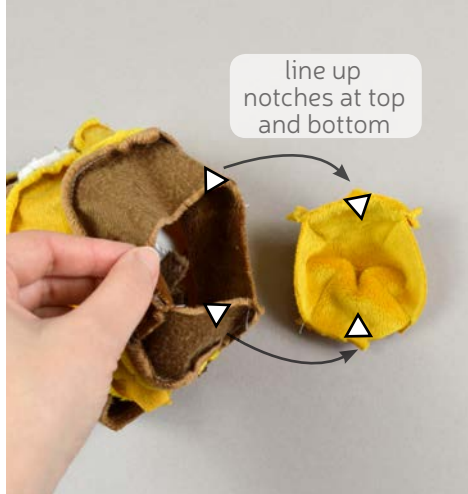
- a.** Grab your **END** piece (K). This piece has 4 **darts** similar to the **FACE** (A). You can trace the seam lines like for the face back in step 3 for extra help.
Fold the end piece along the point of one **dart** to line up the slanted edges.
- b.** Sew the **dart** similar to previous ones, starting at the opening and blending your stitching into the fold.
- c.** When complete, repeat 3 more times so your end piece has 4 complete **darts**.

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22. ATTACH THE END



- When complete, your **END** piece should look as shown with the 4 **darts**.
- Grab your **BODY** piece again, and open up the smaller opening. This small opening will be sewn all around the **END** piece. To get the alignment right, both the body and end have **single notches**. Pin the body to the end at one **notch**, then match up the remaining **notches** and pin there as well. Continue pinning the body to the end in the gaps between.
- Sew the end to the body all the way around.



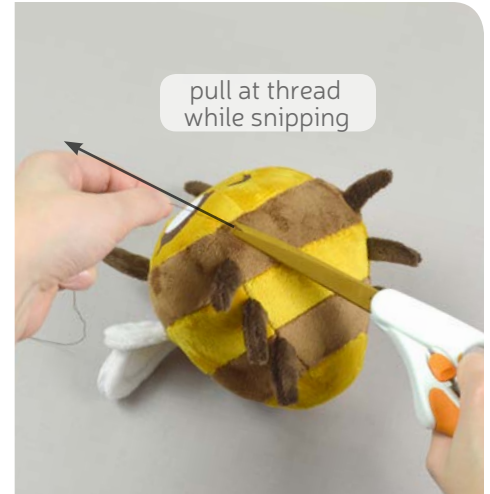
23. STUFF THE BEE



- Turn the bee right side out through the opening in the belly.
- Begin stuffing the bee firmly with stuffing. Be sure to get a solid amount in both the face and the end piece. Ensure that there are no wrinkles in the seams or the darts when it's fully stuffed.
- 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.

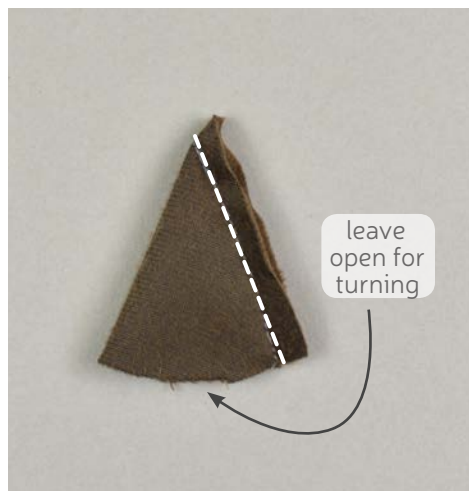
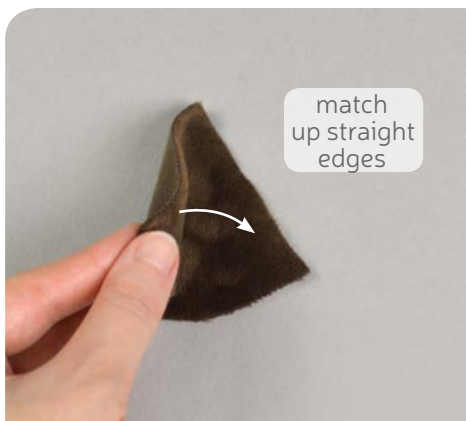
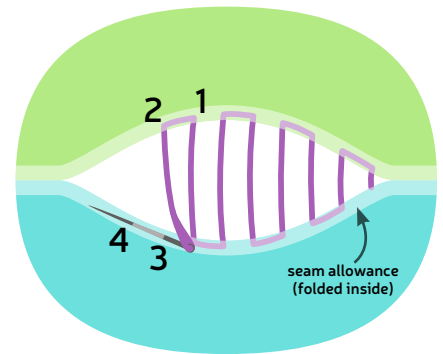
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24. SEW THE BEE CLOSED

- Sew the opening closed with 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!



25. SEW THE STINGER

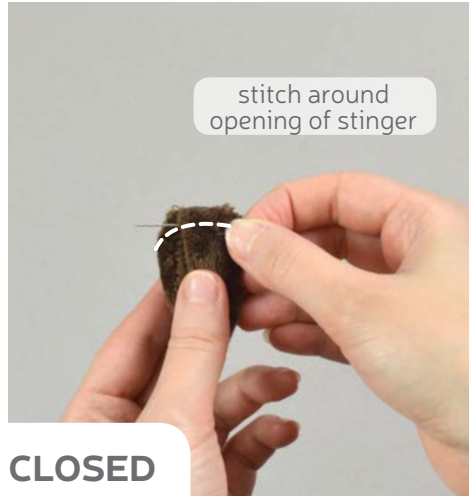
- Grab your **STINGER** piece (L). Fold it in half with right sides together and straight sides aligning so it makes an even skinnier triangle.
- Sew the stinger along the straight edge. Leave the bottom curved edge open for turning the stinger next. Trim the excess seam allowance near the tip to reduce bulk.
- Turn the stinger right side out through the opening in the bottom.

sew desu ne?

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stuff
semi-firmly



stitch around
opening of stinger

26. CINCH THE STINGER CLOSED

- Stuff the **STINGER** semi-firmly with stuffing. Be sure to get small bits in the tip.
- Thread a hand sewing needle and knot the end. Sew a gathering stitch around the opening of the stinger. Pull at the thread of the gathering stitch to cinch the stinger completely closed. Sew a few knots into the opening to hold it shut. If you have thread leftover, keep it attached for joining the stinger to the bee next.

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 $\frac{1}{4}$ "- $\frac{1}{2}$ " long) gather the fabric when pulled later.



center on
end of bee



ladder stitch
in place

27. ATTACH THE STINGER

- Take your **STINGER** (L) and align the cinched end onto the **END** (K) of your bee. Center it over the end. Hold it onto the bee by sticking pins down into the base of the stinger and through the body of the bee.
- Sew the stinger to the bee using a ladder stitch all around the base.

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

sew desu ne?

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