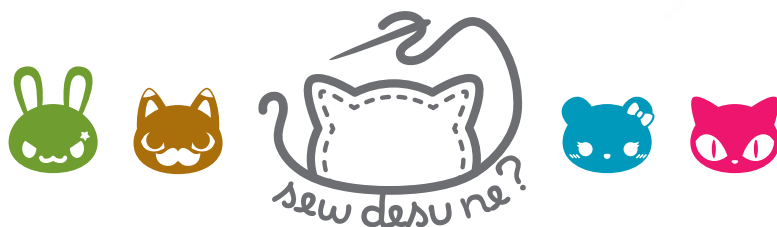


COW PLUSH



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



COW PLUSH

This pint-sized cow looks like it came right off the field! It features a tiny four-legged body and big head that stands on its own thanks to a very large poly-pellet pouch in its hindquarters. It's face has a big lovable muzzle with small ears and horns. It also has an optional leaf to munch on and a cute flower crown to treat us to a taste of spring.

It looks wonderful in classic black and white as well as colorful accents for the spots, like chocolate brown or strawberry pink. It's especially fun in longer-pile faux fur fabrics to give it a highland cow feel!

DIFFICULTY:



The hardest part of this plush is likely sewing the tiny legs into the body. They require a good bit of pivoting. So be sure to stop frequently with your needle in the fabric before turning in new directions.

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Curved sewing
- Basting
- Darts
- Ladder stitch
- Sewing small pieces
- Matching notches and points
- Top stitching

MAKES:

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



**10MM SHANNON
LUXE CUDDLE
ANGORA IN
ROSEWATER**



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materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. of white fabric for main body
- ⅛ yd. of pink fabric for muzzle and inner ears
- ⅛ yd. of dark accent fabric for hooves & horns
- 5" x 10" piece of scrap fabric for poly pellet pouch
- **OPTIONAL:** 4" x 4" of green fabric for leaf
- 3" x 3" piece of black applique fabric (flannel, felt, fleece, cotton, etc.) for eyes and nostrils
- 2" x 2" piece of accent applique fabric for eye highlights
- 2" x 2" piece of white applique fabric for eye shines
- 4" x 4" of accent applique fabric for spots
- 6" x 6" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- sewing thread to match main fabric and applique fabrics
- poly-fil stuffing
- poly pellets
- spoon or funnel for filling poly pellets
- basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)
- **OPTIONAL FLOWER CROWN:**
 - 8" x 10" of felt fabric for flowers
 - 30" of 1" wide scrap green fabric to wrap wire
 - 12" of 12 gauge jewelry wire
 - Jewelry pliers & wire cutter
 - Hot glue



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 crosswise 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

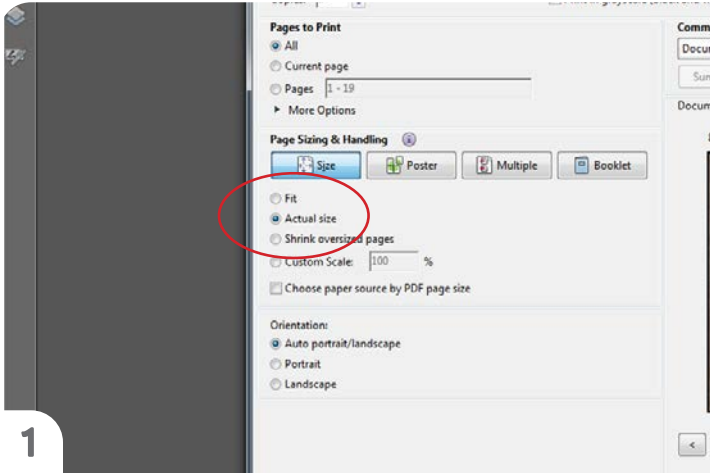


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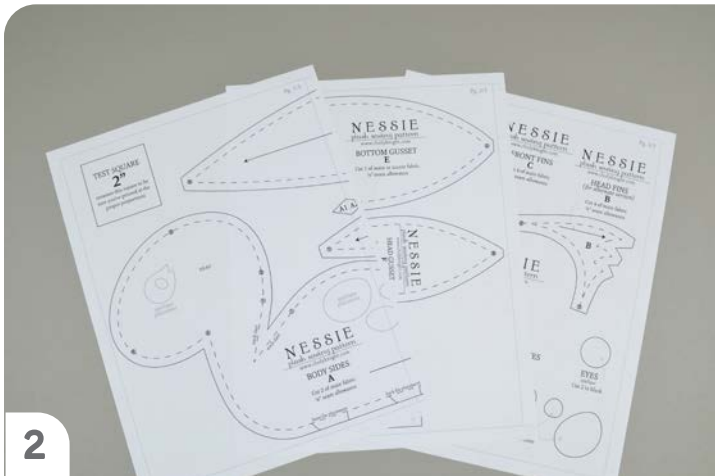
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printing the pattern:

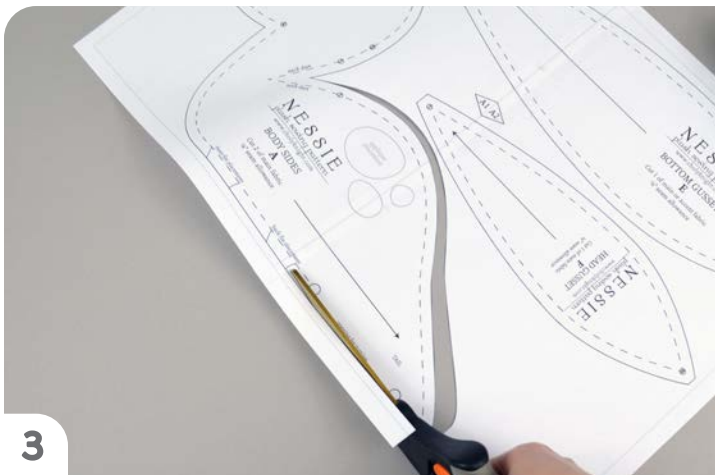
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 28-30**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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.

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cutting the fabric:



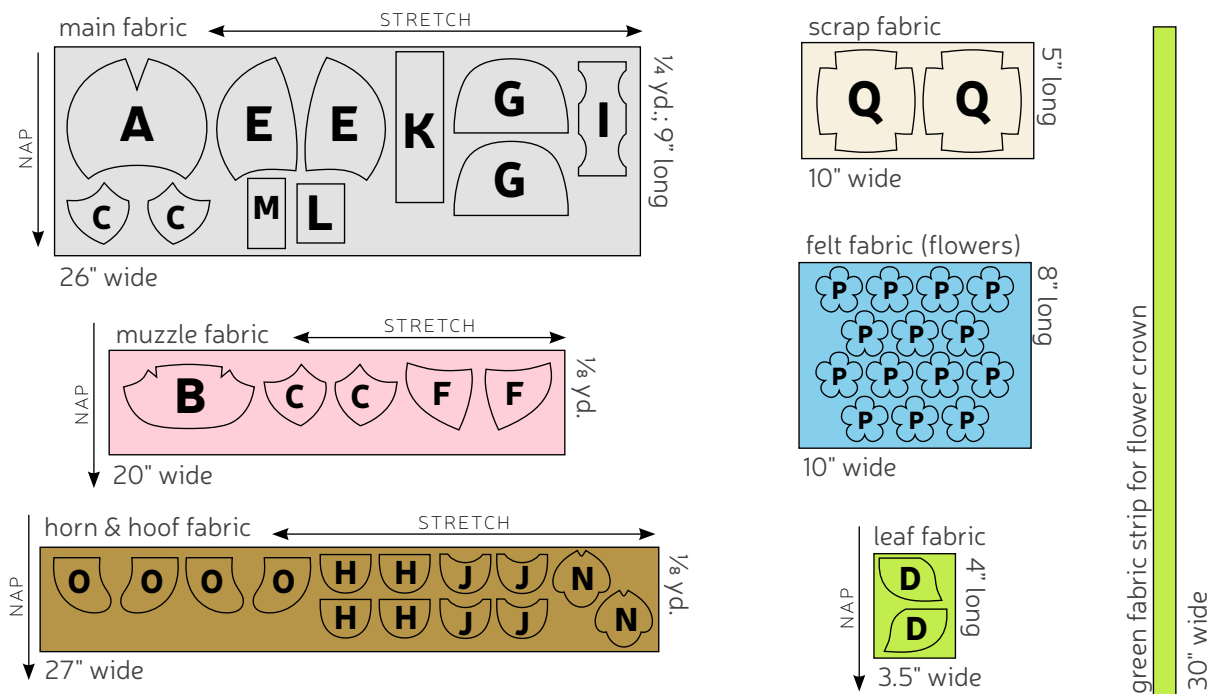
Place pattern on the fabric, and make sure the stretch line matches the stretch of the fabric. The nap line should go in the direction of the fur.

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 1/4" seam allowance is used throughout the project.

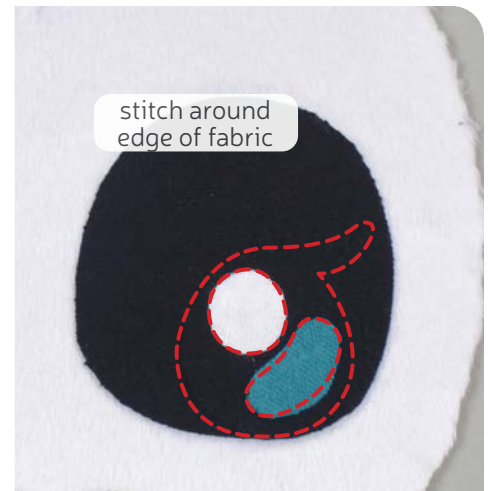
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1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Grab your fusible web and trace all the applique pieces you want onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have at least two **eyes**, and two **eye shines**. You can also add **eye highlights** and **spots**.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The **eyes** should go on black, the **eye shines** on white, and the **eye highlights** on an accent color.
- Cut out the face pieces and grab your **HEAD FRONT (A)** piece. Set your paper pattern on top of the fabric piece (right sides up). Align the **spot** piece (or **eye**, if you're not using spots) on top where the placement markings are. Then carefully slide the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.



2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the **eye spot** or **eyes** in place with your iron. Use a press cloth if you're using a polyester or fuzzy fabric like minky. A scrap piece of cotton works as a press cloth, and will help prevent the fabric from melting.
- Next, move onto the smaller pieces: the **eye shines** and **highlights**. 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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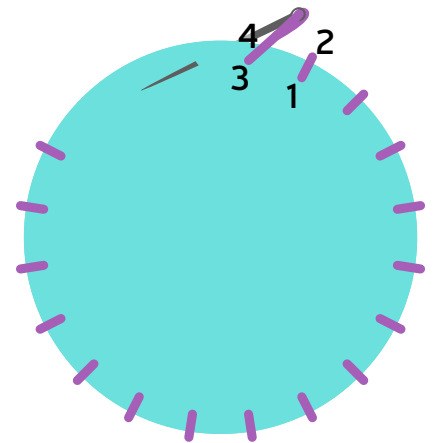
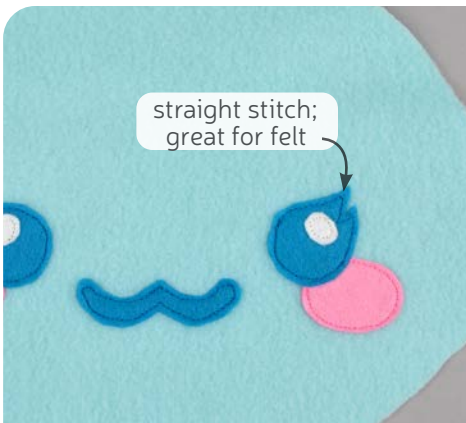
a. Repeat steps 1-2 with your remaining applique pieces for the rest of the cow, including spots for the **BODY** (G).

b. And nostrils for the **MUZZLE FRONT** (B).

→ *Refer to the next step for some other applique options.*



3. APPLIQUE THE REMAINING PIECES

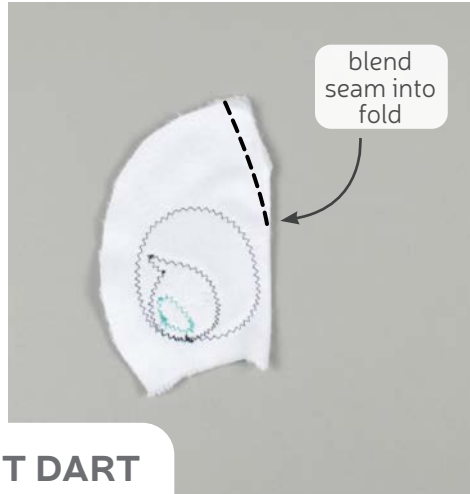


3a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

- 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.

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4. SEW THE HEAD FRONT DART

- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** piece (A). The wedge shape along the center top is a **dart**. We'll be sewing it first by folding the head front along the point of the **dart**. This should make the slanted edges match up.
- Sew the **dart** by starting at the opening and work down to the fold of the fabric. Try to blend your stitching into the fold as close as possible for a smooth transition and a rounder finish.
- Open up the piece when complete.

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.



5. SEW THE MUZZLE DARTS

- Grab your **MUZZLE FRONT** piece (B). This piece has two smaller **darts** along the top edge. Sew them the same way as the previous **dart**, starting by folding the fabric along the point of the dart to match the slanted lines.
- Sew from the opening of the **dart** down to the point. Blend your stitching into the fold as close as you can.
- Repeat with the second dart on the other side of the muzzle for two darts total.

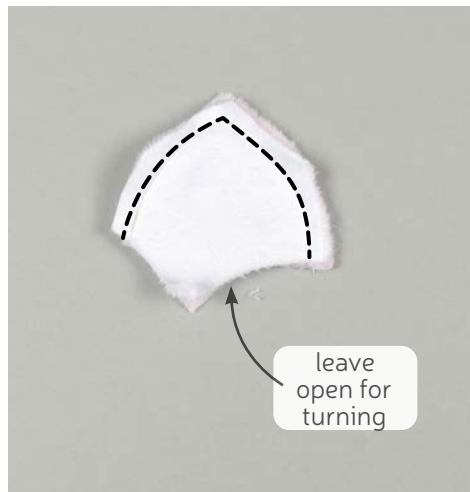
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6. SEW THE HEAD FRONT TO THE MUZZLE

- Grab both your **HEAD FRONT** (A) and **MUZZLE FRONT** (B) pieces. The muzzle will be attached to the bottom of the head front, along the edges marked with **notches**. Align your head front to the muzzle front with right sides together and the **notched edges** matching up.
- Sew the head front to the muzzle along this **notched edge**.
- Open up the pieces when complete.

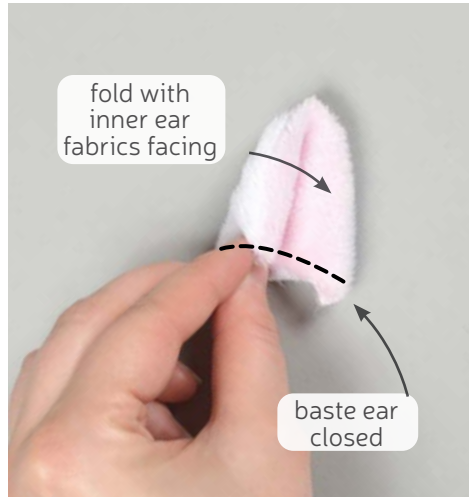


7. SEW THE EARS

- Grab your **EAR** pieces (C). Take one from main fabric and one from inner ear fabric. Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the outer curved edges. The edges with the inner curves should be left open for turning the ear later.
- Trim the excess seam allowance at the tip of the ear to reduce bulk when the ear is turned next.

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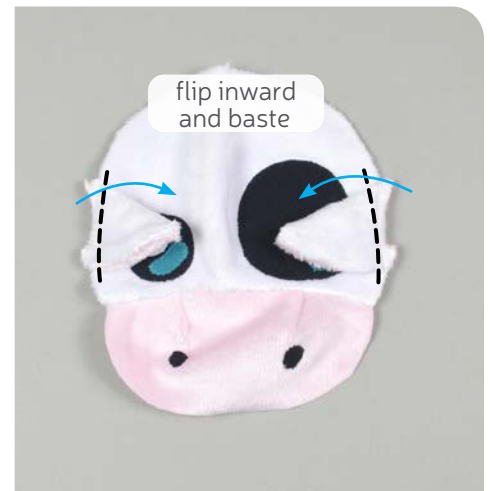


BASTING:
A form of temporary sewing meant to hold pieces in place. A long stitch length is often used for this reason. The finished result is not meant to be seen and sometimes is even removed later (depending on your project).

8. FOLD THE EARS

- Repeat step 7 with your remaining **EAR** pieces so you have two total. Turn the ears right side out.
- Take your finished ear and fold it with the inner ear fabrics facing. Use the **fold line guide** found on the paper pattern for extra help.
Baste the ear along the open edge to hold the fold in place. Repeat with the other ear for 2 ears total.

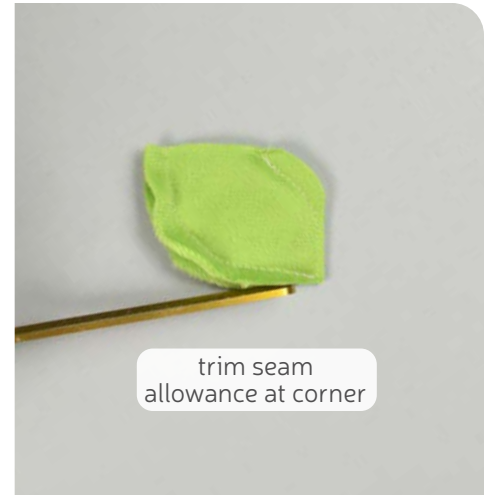
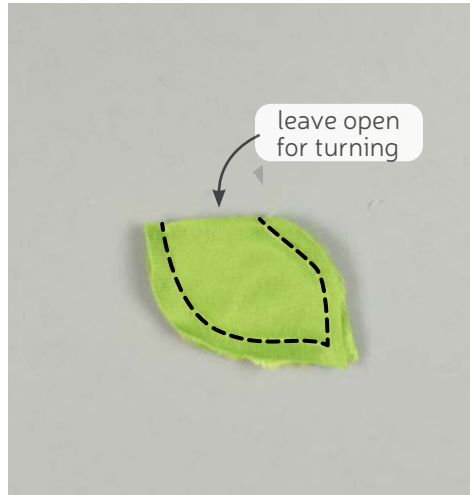
- Grab your head front so far. If you haven't already, locate the **ear placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the **HEAD FRONT (A)**. Align the open edge of the ear within these lines so the inner ear fabric faces up and ear folds point up.
- Next, flip the ears inward so the inner ear fabrics are now facing down. Baste the ears to the side of the head front within the seam allowance to hold them for future steps.



9. BASTE THE EARS

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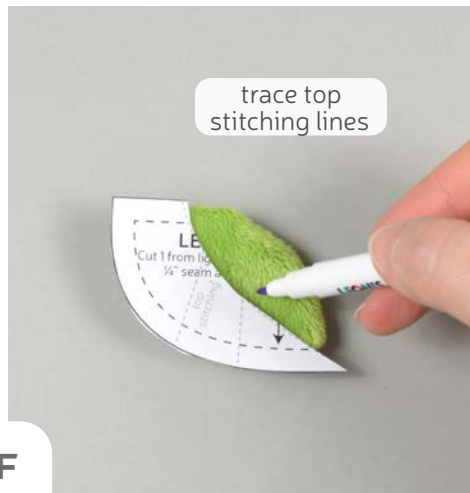
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10. SEW THE LEAF

→ *The leaf is completely optional. If you're skipping it, move on to the next page.*

- Grab your **LEAF** pieces (D). Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the curved edges. Leave the straight edge free for turning the piece right side out later.
- Trim the excess seam allowance at the tip of the ear to reduce bulk.



11. TOP STITCH THE LEAF

- Turn the leaf right side out through the opening. Define the point with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- The leaf has some extra **top stitching lines** for a bit of detail. To sew them, begin by transferring the lines from the paper pattern. Cut the paper pattern along the guidelines and use them as a tracing template onto the fabric.
- Stitch along the traced lines to complete the top stitching.

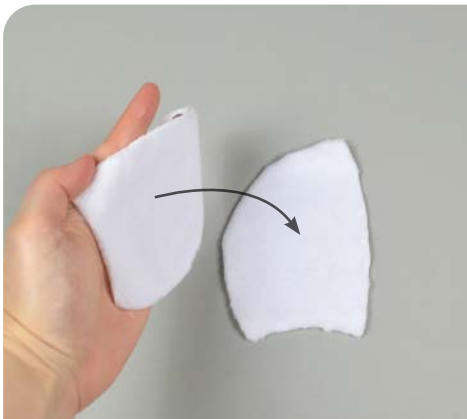
TOP STITCHING:

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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- a.** Grab your head front so far as well as your sewn **LEAF** (D). If you haven't already, locate the **leaf placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the **MUZZLE FRONT** (B). Transfer the lines over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open edge of the leaf within the lines.
- b.** Flip the leaf inward so the raw edges of the leaf and muzzle are aligned. Baste the leaf to the muzzle to hold it in place for future steps.



13. SEW THE HEAD BACK

- a.** Grab your **HEAD BACK** pieces (E). Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- b.** If you haven't already, locate the **opening for turning markings** found on the paper pattern for the head back. Transfer them over to the wrong side of the fabric. Sew the head back pieces together along this edge, but leave an opening for turning in the middle.
- c.** Open up the pieces when complete.

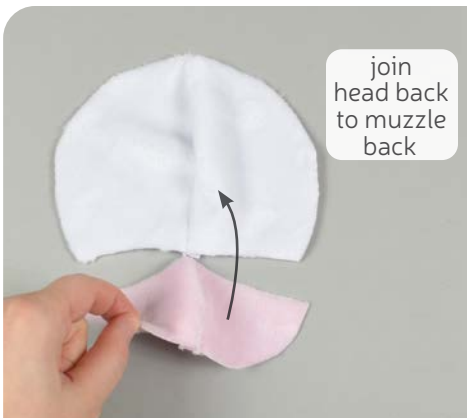
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14. SEW THE MUZZLE BACK

- Grab your **MUZZLE BACK** pieces (F). Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the muzzle pieces together along the **center back edge**. This is marked with a **notch** for easy identification.
- Open the pieces up when complete.



15. SEW THE HEAD TO THE MUZZLE

- Grab your **HEAD BACK** and **MUZZLE BACK** pieces. Just like with the head front, the muzzle will be attached at the bottom. Line up the slightly curved edges of the two pieces with right sides facing and the center seams matching.
- Sew the muzzle back to the head back along this edge.
- Open up the pieces when complete.

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a. Grab both your **HEAD FRONT** and **BACK** pieces. Make sure all the **EARS** and the **LEAF** are tucked inside the head front, then align it with the head back so right sides are facing. The **muzzle seams** should match up. The **center back seam** and **center front dart** should also match.

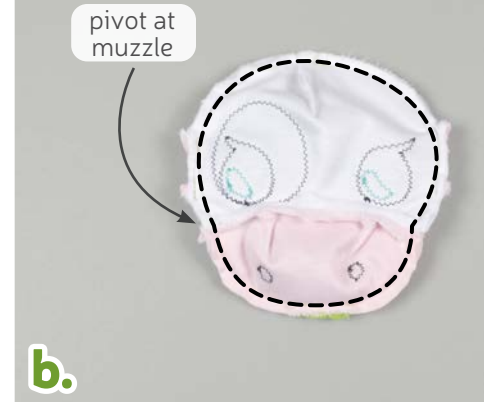
b. Sew the head front to the back all the way around the shape. Don't forget to pivot at the muzzle.

c. Clip the seam allowance at the muzzle corner to help the piece turn cleanly.

d. Turn the head right side out through the opening in the back of the head.

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

16. SEW THE HEAD



17. SEW THE INNER HOOVES

a. Grab your **BELLY** (I) and **INNER HOOF** pieces (J). Line up the short inner curves of both the inner hoof and belly pieces so right sides are facing. The curves are identical, so they should line up very easily.

b. Sew the inner hoof to the belly along just the inner curve.

c. Repeat with all four inner hoof pieces along all sides of the belly.

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- a. Grab your **BODY** (G) and **OUTER HOOF** pieces (H). If you haven't already, locate the **outer hoof placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the body. Use this as a guide for aligning the straight edge of your outer hoof along the bottom edge of your body piece. They should line up right at the corner.
- b. Sew the outer hoof pieces to the bottom edge of the body. Repeat with your remaining two outer hoof pieces and your other body piece for two sides of the cow.



18. SEW THE OUTER HOOVES

- a. Grab your **BELLY** piece so far and one of the **BODY** pieces. Align the **INNER HOOVES** with the **OUTER HOOVES** along the curved edges.
- b. When the pieces are aligned, the seams from the previous two steps should match up at the corners.
- c. Sew the inner hooves to the outer hooves along the curved edges, as well as the short space between them along the belly. You'll need to pivot at the corners to go around each curve. There will be some bulk here due to the previous seams, so take it slowly.
- d. Repeat with your remaining body piece on the other side of the belly, and your completed pieces should look something like **photo D**.



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20. ATTACH THE BACK PIECE

- Open up your **BELLY** and **BODY** piece so far so the belly is in the center and the right side of the fabric is facing up.
- Grab your **BACK** piece (K). Take the short end (without the **notch**) and center it over one end of your belly. (This side will eventually become the front of your cow).
 - *The belly will be a little narrower than the back because the belly has been sewn to the hooves and it no longer has seam allowance.*
- Sew the back to the belly along this short edge, in between the seams from step 19. This will leave about 1/4" of fabric free on each side of the back piece. (This will be attached to the body shortly).



21. ATTACH THE BEHIND PIECE

- Grab your **BEHIND** piece (L). Repeat the same process as for the **BACK** (K) but on the other side of the **BELLY**. Take the short end of the behind without the **notch** and align it over the opposite end of the belly.
- Sew the behind to the belly in between the seams, leaving 1/4" free on each side.
- Open up the pieces when complete.

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22. SEW THE TAIL TIP



- Grab your **TAIL TIP** pieces (N). Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together starting at the tight curve at the top, going along one edge on the side for about 1" (there's a guide on the paper pattern for help as well).
- Open up the tail pieces when complete, and the joined pieces should make a curve in the middle. This will be attached to the tail next.



23. ATTACH THE TAIL TIP

- Bend the curve of the **TAIL TIP** to fit around one short end of the **TAIL**.
- Sew the tail tip to the tail along this curved edge.
- Open up the pieces when complete.

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24. SEW THE TAIL



- Take your tail so far and fold it in half so the **TAIL TIP** edges match up again and the **TAIL BASE** makes an even skinnier rectangle.
- Finish sewing the tail by starting where you left off on the tail tip in step 22. Sew around the rest of the tail tip, then down the tail base. Leave the short straight edge at the end open for turning the tail.
- Clip the seam allowance at the corners of the tail tip to reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the tail is turned right side out.



25. BASTE THE TAIL

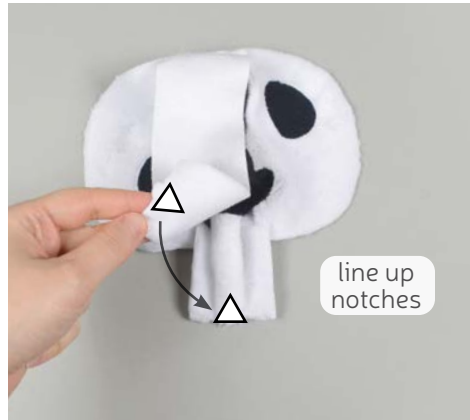


- Turn the **TAIL** right side out through the opening. Stuff the tail tip with stuffing so it puffs up. The base of the tail doesn't really need stuffing.
- Take your finished tail and align the open edge along the **notched edge** of the **BEHIND** piece (L). Center it on the notch and pin it in place.
- Baste the tail to the behind along the **notch**.

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- a. Grab your **BACK** piece from before (K) and align it over the **BEHIND** piece (L). Line up the **notches** so the tail is sandwiched in between.
- b. Sew the back to the bottom along this short edge to secure the tail inside.



26. SEW THE BACK TO THE BEHIND



27. SEW THE BACK TO THE BODY

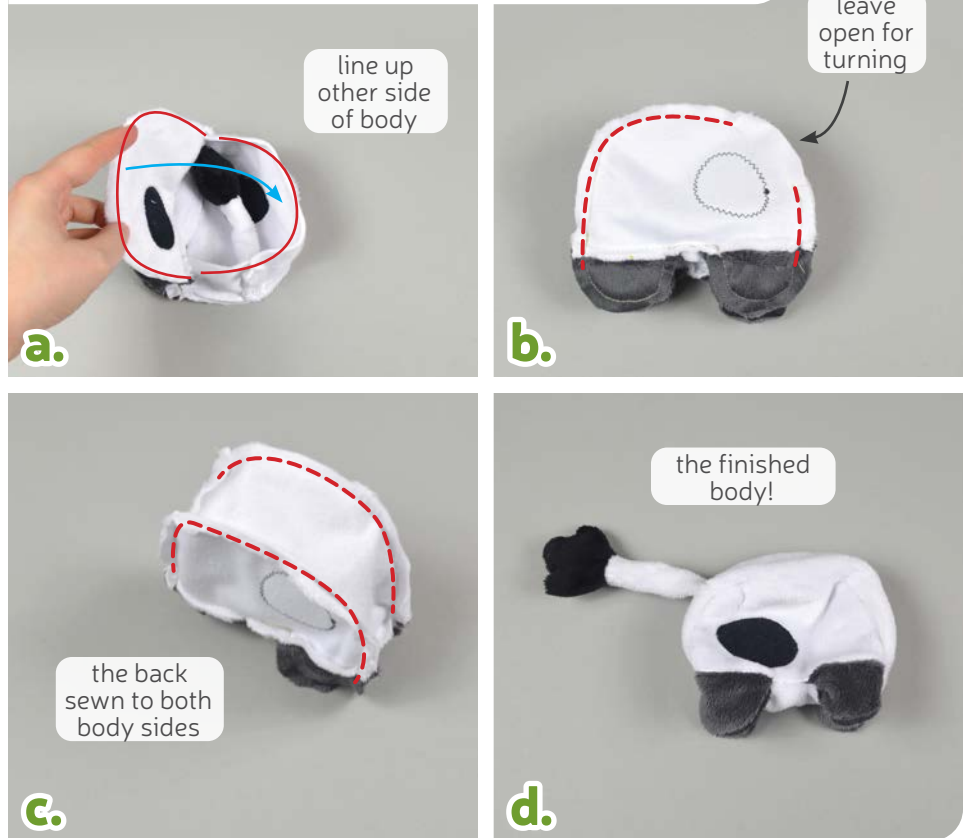
- a. Take your newly joined **BACK/BEHIND** piece. One edge of this piece will be joined around the curved edge of the **BODY**. For help with alignment, the body has a **circle marking** that should match up with the **back seam** from step 26.
- b. Take your back/behind piece and align one edge around the curve of the body. Pin from corner to corner and match the circle marking to the back seam.
- c. Sew the back/behind to the body along this edge. Note that you can sew a little beyond the corner into the hoof pieces to ensure there are no holes there later.

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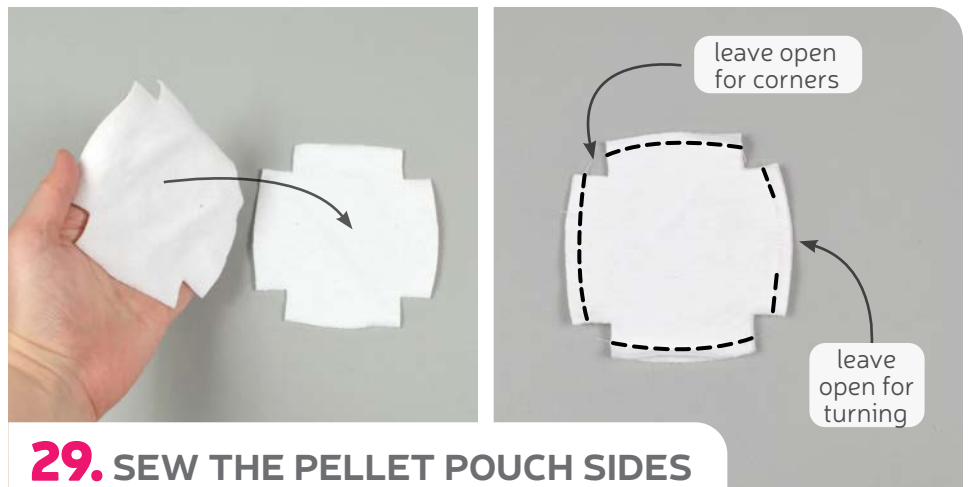
- a. Repeat step 29 with the other side of the **BACK** and the other **BODY** piece. Line up the edges around the curve of the body.
- b. Sew the other side of the back to the body along this edge, but this time leave an **opening for turning** as indicated on the paper pattern.
- c. When complete, it should make a 3D shape as shown in **photo C**. Clip the seam allowances at the corner of each hoof to increase flexibility when the piece is turned.
- d. Turn the body right side out through the opening in the side that you left previously. Check the corners at the hooves to ensure there are no holes left in the shape.

28. SEW THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BODY



→ *The cow has a rather large head that offsets the tiny body, so this plush needs an extra large pellet pouch to outweigh it. This pouch has a few extra steps than the typical pouch to really get the maximum pellets in a small space.*

- a. Grab your **PELLET POUCH** pieces (Q). Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.



29. SEW THE PELLET POUCH SIDES

- b. Sew the pieces together along the longer, slightly curved edges. Leave an **opening for turning** in one side. Also leave the corners open for sewing the **darts** next.

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- a. Grab one of the open corners of the pellet pouch and pinch it so the side seams (from step 29) match up.
- b. Flatten and line up the raw edges and this will be the corner of the pouch.
- c. Sew along this edge as if it were a **double-ended dart**. It doesn't need to be pretty since the finished dart won't be seen.
- d. Repeat this step with the other three corners of the pouch so it has four sewn corners total.

30. SEW THE PELLET POUCH CORNERS



- a. Get your poly pellets and a funnel (I prefer a spoon, but both work). Fill the **POUCH** with poly pellets until it's just about full. Leaving a small amount of empty space will make closing it easier. Stitch the pouch closed using a backstitch (for extra safety), or take it to your machine. Stitch it closed very slowly, using only the hand wheel if necessary. Sewing over a pellet will very likely break a needle.



31. STUFF THE PELLET POUCH

- b. Stuff the pouch into the body of your cow through the opening left earlier. Push it into the back end of your cow so it takes up the entire hindquarters.

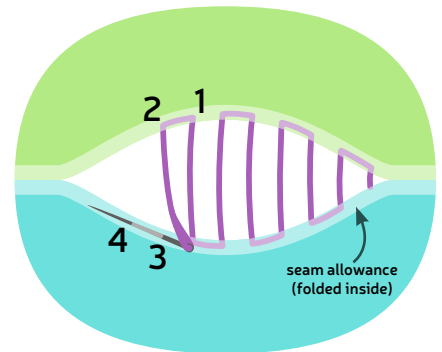
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32. STUFF THE BODY

- a. Stuff the back legs from beneath the pellet pouch. Be sure to get lots of stuffing so they're very firm; they need to support the weight of both the body and the head.
- b. Fill up the rest of the body with stuffing so there are no longer wrinkles in the fabric. Be sure both back and front legs are very firm.
- c. Thread a hand sewing needle and knot the end. Bring the needle through one edge of the opening from the inside out. This will leave the knot inside the plush.



33. CLOSE UP THE BODY & HEAD

- a. Tuck the seam allowances from the opening inside and sew it 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!

- b. Repeat step 32 with the head of the cow, stuffing it firmly then ladder stitching the opening closed.

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→ *Joining the head of the cow to the body can be a little awkward, so the paper pattern has some stitching guides for extra help. Transfer them over by cutting them out of the paper pattern and using them as a tracing guide onto the plush.*



34. TRANSFER THE STITCHING LINES

- For the **BODY**, the **stitching guide** is transferred from the **BACK** piece (K) and traced onto the front half of the body.
- For the **HEAD**, the **stitching guide** is transferred from the **HEAD BACK** piece (E). One half of the **stitching guide** can be drawn at a time on each half of the **HEAD BACK**.

- Take your **HEAD** and align it over the **BODY**, matching up the **stitching guides**. Make sure the cow's head is facing forward. The stitching guides have **top, bottom, left, and right markings** to help keep everything from twisting.
- Attach the head to the body by taking big stitches into the guide on the head, then another into the guide on the body.



35. SEW THE HEAD TO THE BODY

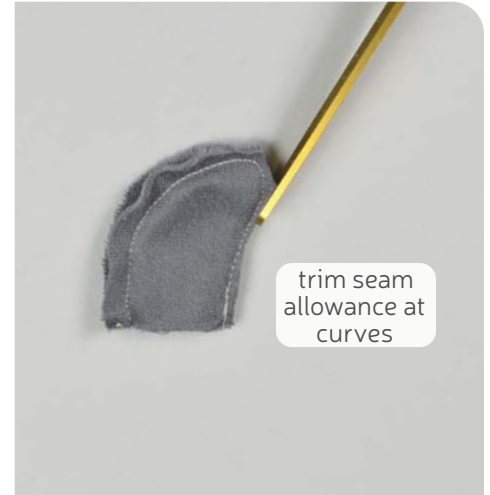
Keep going around taking big stitches and ensuring that the markings match up. Once you've gone around once, check that you like the placement and the head isn't tilted or twisted. Then go around the guide again with tinier, neater stitches to secure the head for sure.

sew desu ne?

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36. SEW THE HORNS



- Grab your **HORN** pieces (O). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together around the curved edge. Leave the straight edge free for turning the horn right side out later.
- Trim the seam allowance at the inner curve of the horn to make it turn more cleanly later. Repeat this step with your remaining horn pieces for two horns total.



37. STUFF THE HORNS



- Turn the **HORN** right side out through the opening and stuff it lightly with stuffing.
- Thread a hand sewing needle and knot the end. Sew a gathering stitch around the opening of the horn, about $\frac{1}{4}$ " in from the edge.

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.

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38. ATTACH THE HORNS

- Pull at the gathering thread to cinch the **HORN** closed.
- Place the cinched end of the horn onto the cow's head, just above the ear. Center it on the head seam and ensure that the horn tips are pointing up.
- Ladder stitch the horn to the head around the base.

→ *Your cow is all done! If you'd like to make it a flower crown, follow the steps below.*



39. WRAP THE WIRE

- Grab your wire, your jewelry pliers, your hot glue gun, and the strip of green fabric. Begin by bending over the ends of the wire with the pliers to eliminate the sharp ends. Bend the wire onto itself by about 1/2" on both ends.
- Next, use the hot glue to wrap the green fabric around the wire. Begin with a dollop of glue on the end of the fabric strip. Then press the wire into the glue about 2" down from the end of the wire and so the strip is at an angle as shown.
- From there, cover sections of the fabric in glue, then carefully wrap it around the wire. Keep the fabric strip at an angle so it wraps down the length of the wire. Continue until about 2" is left on the other end of the wire.

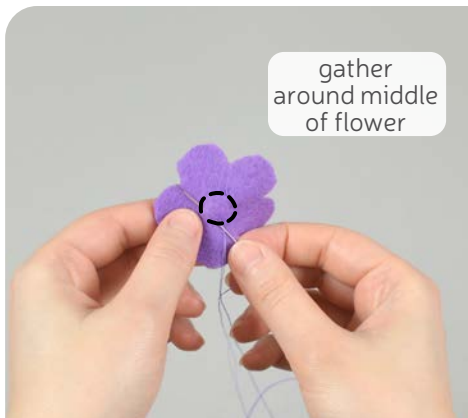
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40. FORM THE CROWN

- Form the crown by bringing together the blank ends of the wire into an oval shape. Overlap the blank ends to form a connected oval.
- You might want to test the crown on your cow at this time to see that you like the size and that the wire is overlapped enough.
- Use the last of the fabric strip to wrap around the overlapped wire. Continue gluing it and wrapping until all of the wire is covered.



41. ATTACH THE FLOWERS

- Grab your **FLOWER** pieces (P). Thread a hand sewing needle with some matching thread, and sew a gathering stitch in a small circle around the middle of the flower. The paper pattern has a stitching guide as well for extra help.
- Pull at the thread to cinch up the flower so the petals make a nice wavy shape.
- Take the cinched end of the flower and attach it to your crown with a few ladder stitches, going around the center where you stitched in part A.

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continue adding flowers until crown is full



bend to fit onto cow's head

42. FINISH THE CROWN

- a. Continue adding flowers to the crown. The ones in the sample use 14 flowers, each spaced about 1"-1½" apart. You can add more or fewer flowers depending on your taste or how full you want the finished crown to look.
- b. When complete, it's ready to rest on your cow's head! The one here is actually bent a little in the middle so it curves around the top of the head and rests very snugly.



CONGRATS!
This completes your plush! Now give it a big hug!

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