

HAMSTER & CHINCHILLA PLUSH



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



HAMSTER & CHINCHILLA PLUSH

Your favorite tiny pets are now in a huggable size! These adorable rodents have big heads and tiny bodies with little arms and legs. The chinchillas are made with a longer pile minky (10mm length) for extra fluffiness while the hamsters have chubby little cheeks and fun sunflower seeds to hold.

DIFFICULTY:



The hardest part of this plush is definitely the curved area of the hamster muzzle. However, there are tips for making it simpler, or alternatives for sewing it differently.

SKILLS USED:

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

MAKES:

One plush: about 6½" tall (not including ears), 5" wide, and 4" long (not including tail).

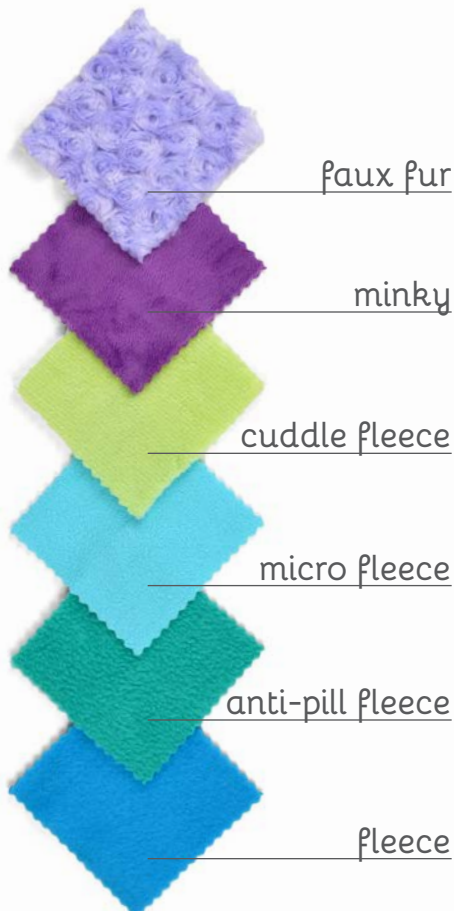


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materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. of fabric for main body
- ⅛ yd. of light accent fabric for inner ears
- **FOR HAMSTER:** additional ⅛ yd. pieces of fabric for feet and sunflower seed
- 8" x 4" piece of scrap fabric for poly pellet pouch
- 3" x 3" piece of black applique fabric (flannel, felt, fleece, cotton, etc.) for eyes
- 3" x 3" piece of white applique fabric for eye shines
- 2" x 2" piece of accent applique fabric for eye highlights
- 2" x 2" piece of pink applique fabric for hamster mouth
- 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
- funnel or spoon for filling poly pellets
- 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

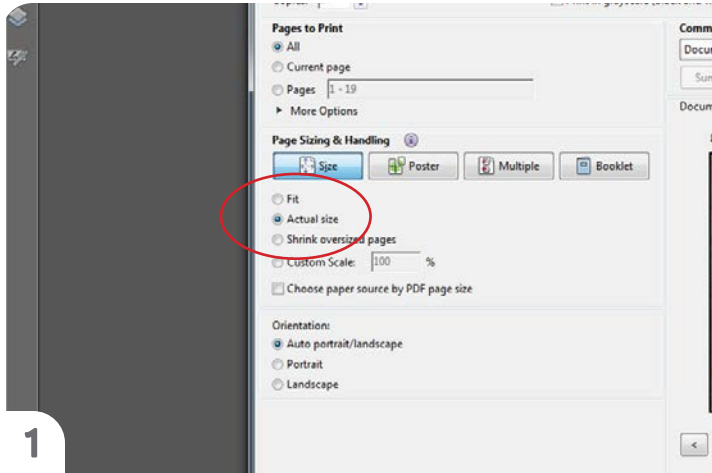


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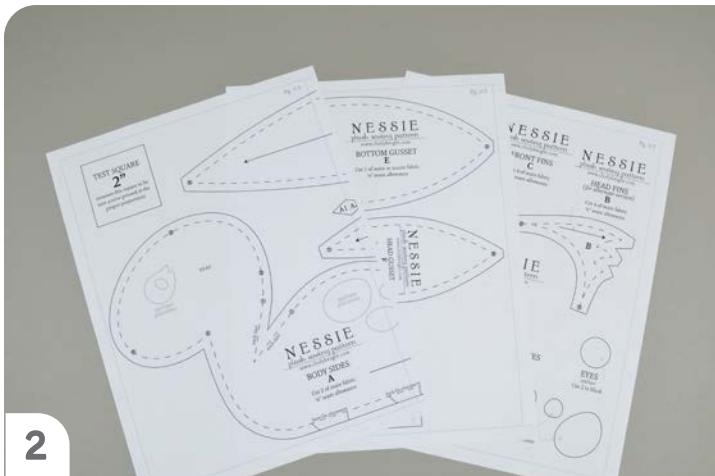
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printing the pattern:

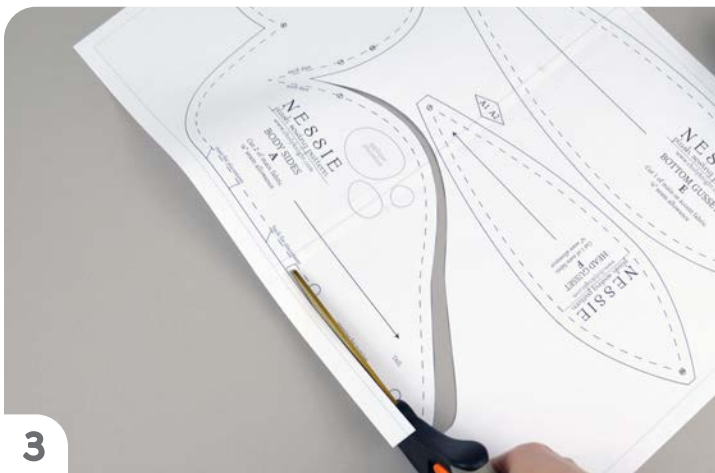
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 23-26**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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.

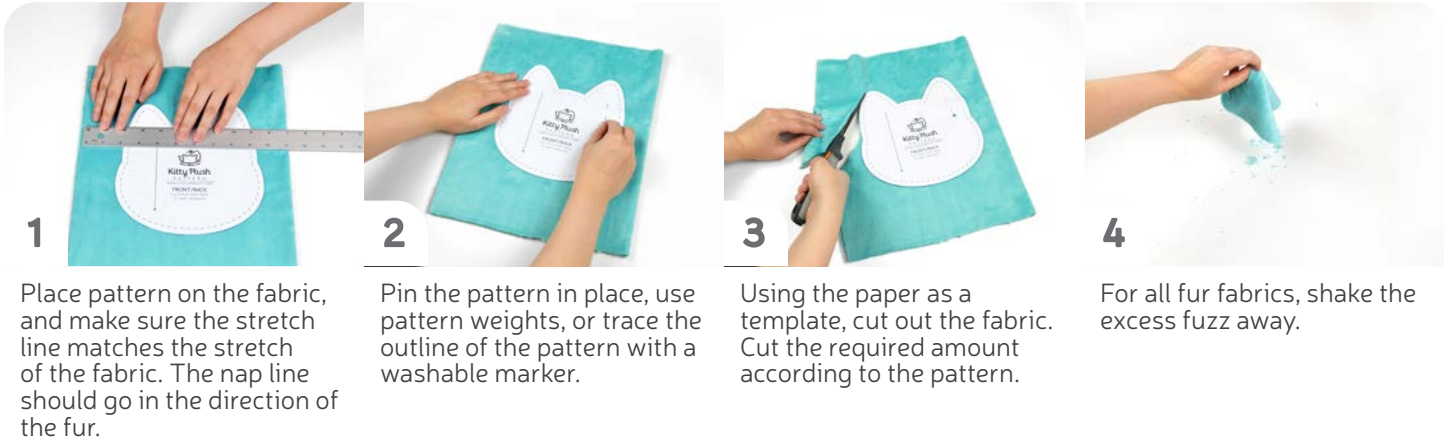


You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper. They might be a little hard to pin through, so you might want to use your longest pins. But you could also use pattern weights or trace the outlines onto the fabric with a washable marker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

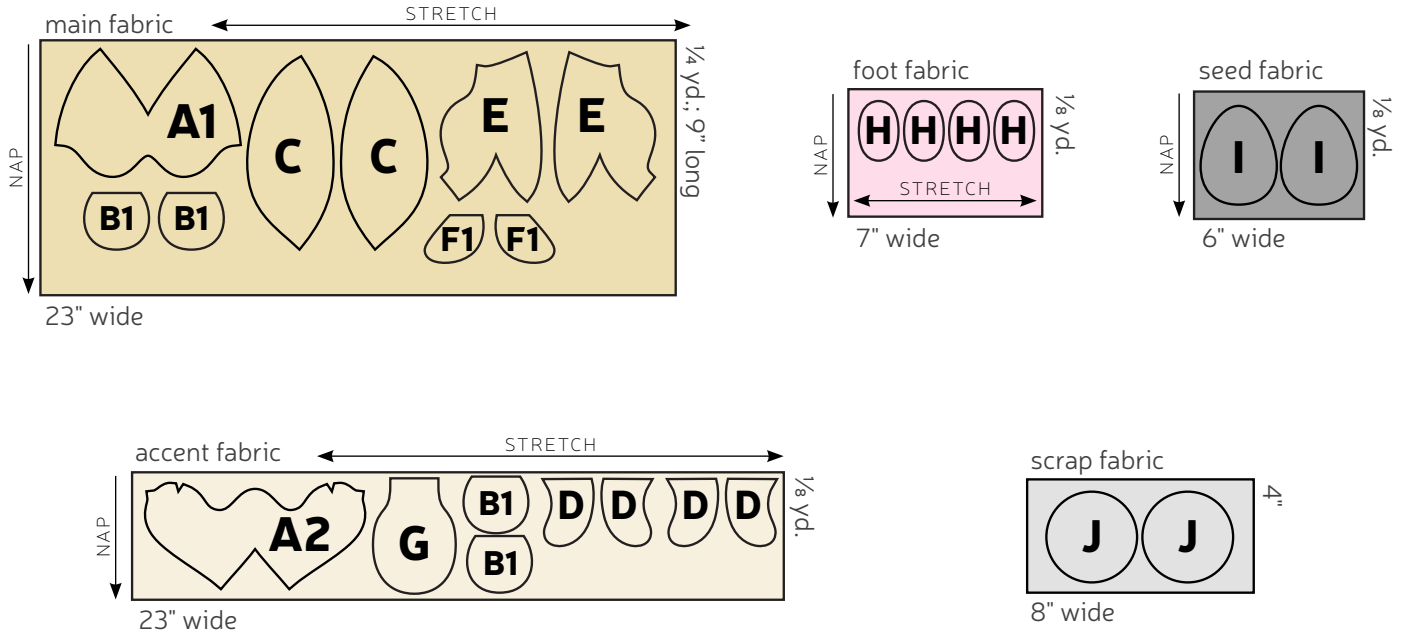
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cutting the fabric:



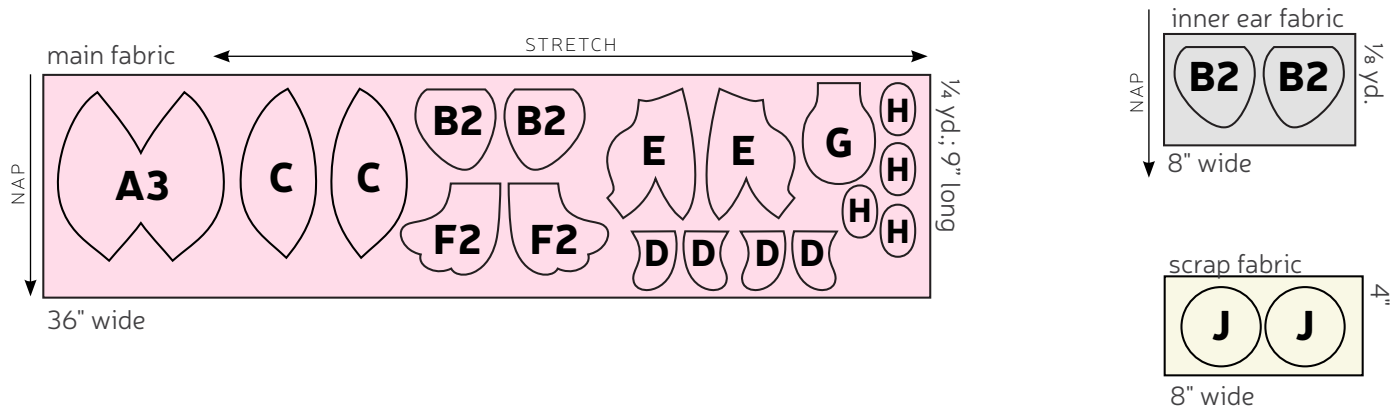
cutting layout: hamster



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cutting layout: chinchilla



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 $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance is used throughout the project.



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**, two **eye highlights**, two **eye shines**, and one **mouth**. You can also trace additional **whiskers**.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The **eyes** and **whiskers** should go on black, the **eye highlights** on an accent color, the **eye shines** on white, and the **mouth** on pink or black.
- Cut out the **eyes** and arrange them on the **HEAD FRONT** (A1 or A3) 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.

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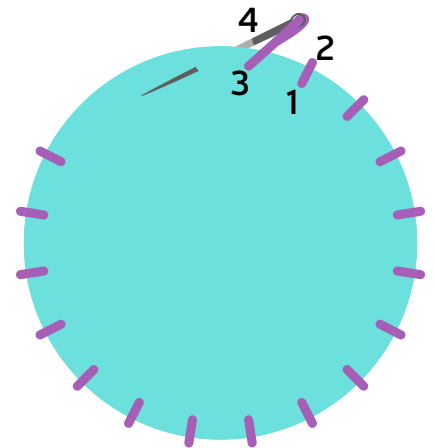
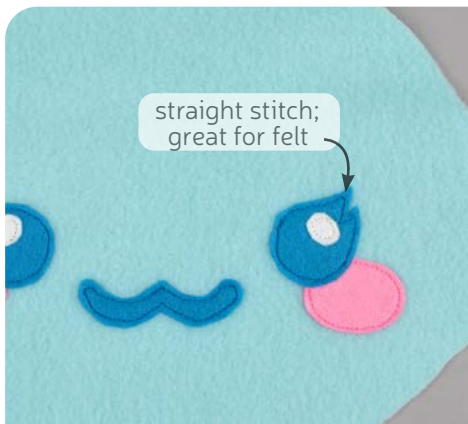
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2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- 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 highlights**, **eye shines**, **whiskers** (if using), and **mouth**. Fuse them the same way as you did the **eyes**, using the paper pattern and photos as a guide.
- For the hamster, fuse the pieces for both the **HEAD FRONT TOP** (A1) and the **MUZZLE** (A2). 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.



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.

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FOR A CHINCHILLA: skip ahead to step 9.
FOR A HAMSTER: continue below with step 3.



for a hamster: 3. SEW THE CHEEK DARTS

- Grab your hamster **MUZZLE** piece (A2). Note the small wedges found along the top of the outer bumps -- these are the **cheek darts**. To sew them, fold the fabric along the point of the **dart**, right sides facing, so the small slanted edges match up.
- Sew the **dart** by starting at the opening and going down to the fold. Try to blend your stitching into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.
- Repeat with the **dart** on the other cheek so you have a pair of finished darts.

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.

Up next is attaching the muzzle, which can be a little tricky. For an easier time, follow step 4. But if you're more adept at curved sewing, try the instructions in steps 5-8.

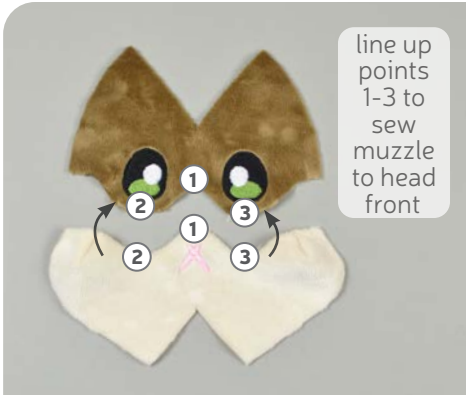


for a hamster: 4. APPLIQUE THE MUZZLE

- To attach the **MUZZLE** via applique, begin by trimming $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the top edge of the muzzle. This is the seam allowance and you'll no longer need it for this method.
- Align the muzzle over the **HEAD FRONT TOP** (A1) so both right sides are facing up. The muzzle should overlap the head top front by $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Pin the fabrics or use a bit of glue stick along the edge only to hold them together.
- Stitch the muzzle to the head front by using a straight stitch close to the edge or a zigzag stitch right over the edge of the muzzle fabric.

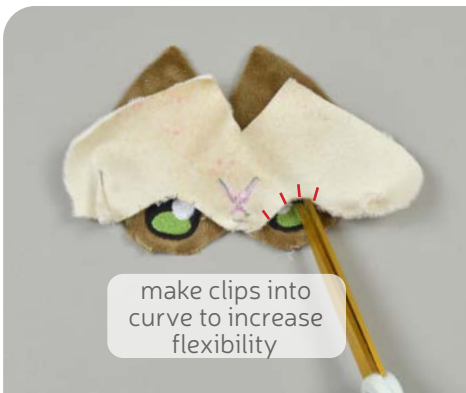
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for a hamster: 5. SECURE THE NOSE POINT

- It's possible to sew the tight curves of the **MUZZLE** (A2) to the **HEAD FRONT TOP** (A1) in one continuous seam, for expert sewers. But the following steps break it down to make it more manageable.
We will be securing the important **points** first so they don't misalign later. Both the muzzle and the head front have **alignment points (1-3)** to help match up the nose and eye area.
- Place the muzzle and head front with right sides facing so **point 1** matches up.
- Sew about ¼" along **point 1** to anchor these points together. Now you can be sure this crucial area will be lined up regardless of how the rest of the sewing goes.



for a hamster: 6. SECURE THE EYE POINTS

- The same process is repeated with **points 2 and 3**. To help the **MUZZLE** stretch a little better, you can make small ⅛" clips into the seam allowance, spaced about ¼" apart.
- Line up **point 2** on the muzzle and **HEAD FRONT** -- the little spot beneath the eye.
- Sew about ¼" along **point 2** to anchor these points together. Repeat this step with **point 3** so **points 1-3** are secure.

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7. for a hamster: SEW THE CHEEK ENDS



- Now we can sew the spaces between the points. Line up the end of the **MUZZLE** with the corner of the **HEAD FRONT**. Shown here it is the space to the left of **point 2**. Bend and twist the fabric to help the edges line up.
- Sew the muzzle to the head front from the end to **point 2**. Repeat on the other side, sewing from the end to **point 3**.



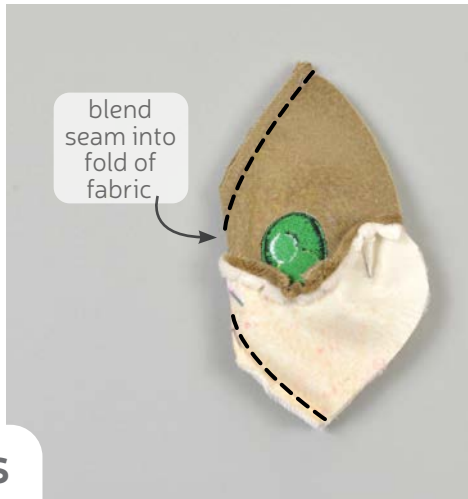
8. for a hamster: SEW BETWEEN THE POINTS



- Next, line up the space between **point 1 and 2**. Bend and twist the fabric to fit it around the curves.
- Sew from **point 1 to 2**. Next repeat the same step but from **point 1 to 3**.
- When complete, the entire **MUZZLE** should be sewn to the **HEAD FRONT**.

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9. SEW THE FACE DARTS

- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** so far (A1/2 or A3). Note the large wedges found along the top and bottom of the head -- these are **darts**. To sew them, fold the fabric along the point of the **dart**, right sides facing, so the slanted edges match up.
- Sew the **dart** by starting at the opening and going down to the fold. Try to blend your stitching into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush. Repeat with the dart on the bottom so you have a dart on both the top and bottom of the head front.

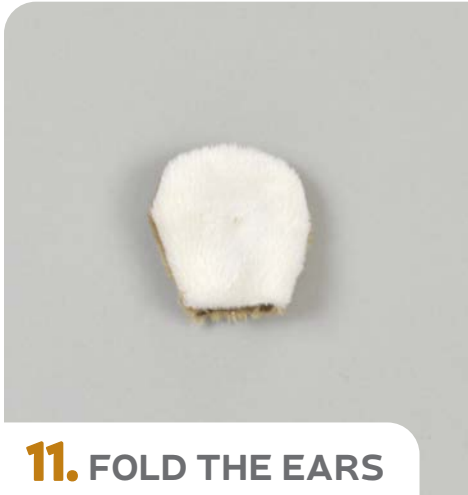


10. SEW THE EARS

- Grab your **EAR** pieces (B1/2). Take one from main fabric and one from your inner ear fabric. Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the curved edge. Leave the straight edge free for turning the ear right side out later.

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11. FOLD THE EARS



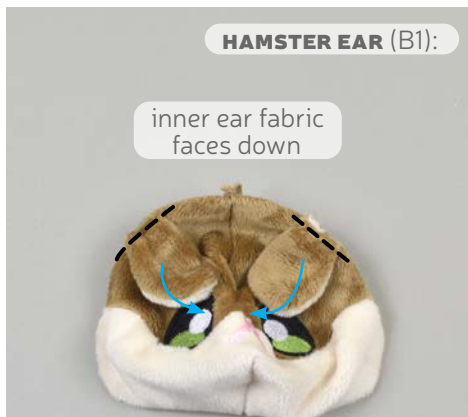
- Turn the **EARS** (B1/2) right side out through the opening along the straight edge.
- If you haven't already, locate the **fold line** found on the paper pattern for the ears. Fold the ears using this line as a guide so the inner ear fabrics are facing each other.
- Baste the open edge of the ear within the seam allowance to hold the fold in place. Repeat with your remaining ear and fold in the opposite direction so you have a mirrored pair.

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).



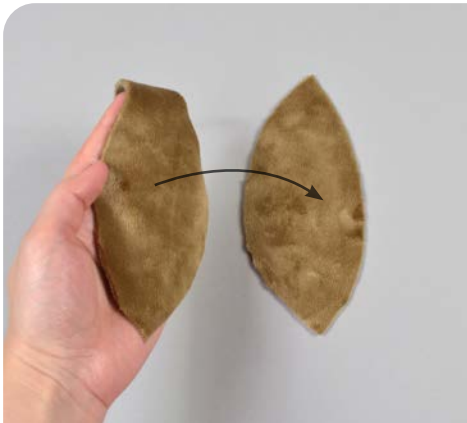
12. BASTE THE EARS



- If you haven't already, locate the **ear placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the **HEAD FRONT** (A1 or A3). Align the open edge of the **EAR** within these placement lines so the inner ear fabric faces up and the folds point toward the middle of the head.
- Flip the ears inward so now the inner ear fabric is facing down. Baste the ears to the head to hold them in place for future steps.

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13. SEW THE HEAD BACK



- Grab your **HEAD BACK** pieces (C). Align them 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 for the head back. Transfer them to the wrong side of the stacked fabrics. Sew the head back pieces along this edge, leaving an opening for turning where you marked.



14. SEW THE HEAD



- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** from before. Align your **HEAD BACK** pieces over it with right sides facing. The **head back seam** should match the head front **top** and **bottom darts**. The head back is also marked with a **circle marking** at the center top so it doesn't get accidentally flipped.
- Sew the head back to the front all the way around the shape.
- Turn the head right side out through the opening in the head back.

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15. STUFF THE HEAD

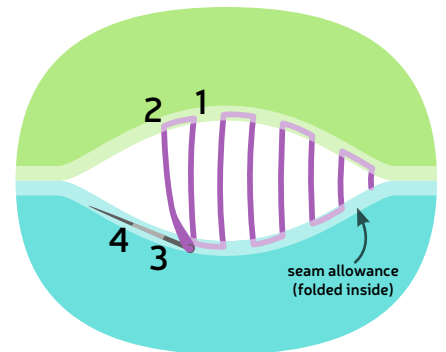
- Stuff the head firmly with stuffing. For the hamster, be sure to get lots in the cheeks to help them fill out and look chubby.
- Also get a lot of stuffing in the nose so it doesn't deflate later. When fully stuffed, the fabric should no longer have wrinkles in the darts or seams.
- Finally, fill up the rest of the head.



16. SEW THE HEAD CLOSED

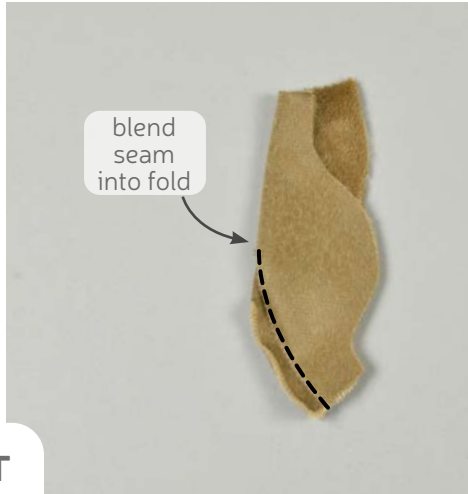
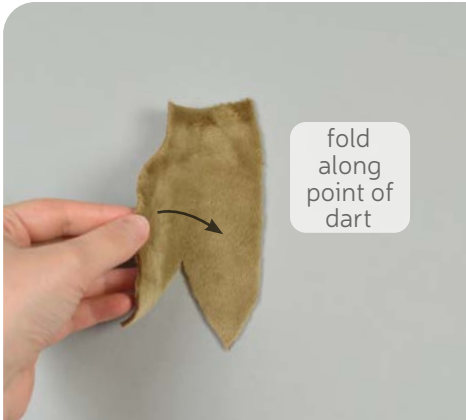
- Thread a hand sewing needle and knot the end. Bring the needle through one edge of the opening from the inside out. This will leave the knot inside the plush.
- Tuck the seam allowances from the opening inside and sew it closed with a ladder stitch. Take a 1/8" stitch into the fold of one side of the 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!

→ *Set the head aside for a moment while we work on the body.*



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17. SEW THE BODY DART

- Grab your **BODY BACK** pieces (E). Take one and locate the **bottom dart**. This is the big wedge shape found along the bottom. Fold it like previous darts: fold the fabric with right sides together along the point and match up the slanted edges.
- Sew the **dart** by starting at the opening and working toward the fold of the fabric. Try to blend your stitching into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush. Repeat this with your remaining body back pieces so you have two **darts** sewn total.

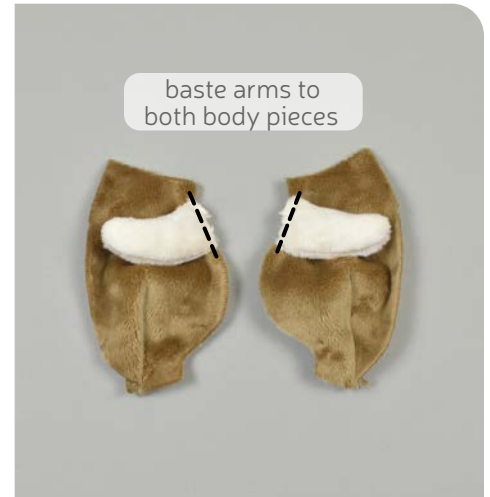


18. SEW THE ARMS

- Grab your **ARM** pieces (D). 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 the arm right side out later.
- Turn the arm right side out and repeat with your remaining arm pieces so you have two complete arms total.

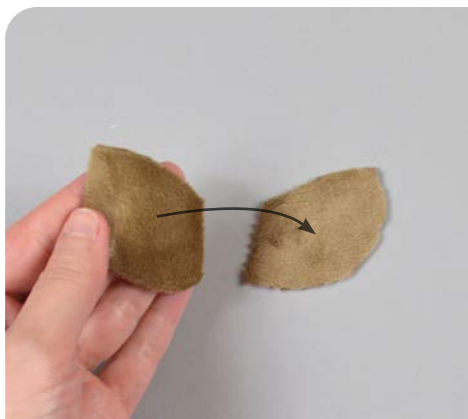
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19. BASTE THE ARMS

- Stuff the **ARMS** lightly with stuffing so they take shape a little. Try not to use too much or step 24 later may be a little difficult and crowded.
- If you haven't already, locate the **arm placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the **BODY BACK** (E). Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open edge of the arm within these **placement lines** so the tip of the arm curves up.
- Baste the arm to the body back within the seam allowance to hold it securely for future steps. Repeat with your remaining arm and body back piece so you have a mirrored pair of bodies.

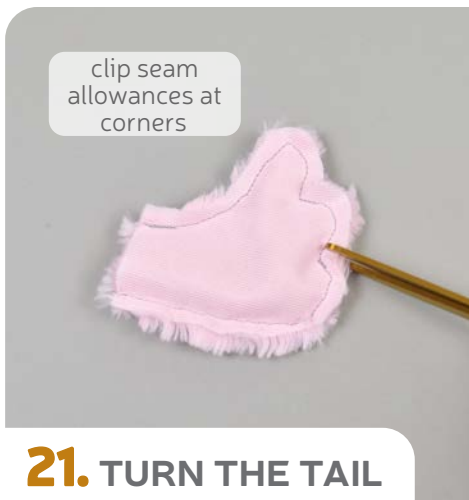


20. SEW THE TAIL

- Grab your **TAIL** pieces (F1/2). 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 the tail right side out later.

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21. TURN THE TAIL

- a. FOR THE CHINCHILLA TAIL:** Clip the inner corners of the tail piece to increase flexibility when the tail is turned right side out.
- b.** Turn the tail right side out through the opening you left.
- c. FOR THE CHINCHILLA TAIL:** Stuff the tail lightly with stuffing so it looks a little puffier. Try not to use too much or step 24 later will be a little difficult and crowded.



22. BASTE THE TAIL

- a.** If you haven't already, locate the **tail placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the **BODY BACK (E)**. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Place the open edge of the tail so it lines up within these **placement marks**.
- b.** Baste the tail to the back edge of the body back within the **placement lines**. This will keep it secure for future steps.

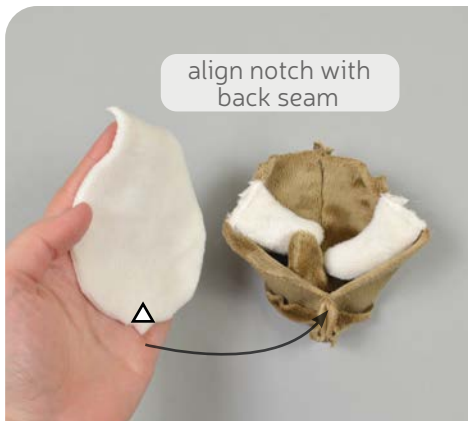
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23. SEW THE BACK PIECES

- Grab your remaining **BODY BACK** piece (E). Align it over the other so the center back edges match up -- this is the edge with the tail attached.
- Sew the body back pieces together along the center back edge. Start at the upper corner and stitch down through the **TAIL** and the **dart** from step 17. Finally stop at the lower corner. Open up the body pieces when complete so the seam you've just completed is facing down.



24. SEW THE BELLY

- Place your **BODY BACK** pieces (E) so the right side is facing up. Grab your **BELLY** piece (G). Align it over your **BODY BACK** pieces so the **center notch** matches with the **center back seam** at the bottom. Pin the belly to the body all around the outer curved edge.
- Sew the body to the belly around this edge. Leave the straight edge at the top open, this is for the neck later.
- Turn the body right side out through the opening in the neck to complete.

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25. SEW THE PELLET POUCH

- Grab your **PELLET POUCH (J)** pieces from your scrap fabric. Align the two pieces together with either side facing (doesn't matter). Sew the pieces together around the edge, leaving a 1"-2" opening (also marked on the paper pattern) for filling the pouch.
- Get your poly pellets and a funnel (I prefer a spoon, but both work). Fill the pouch with poly pellets until it's not quite full.
- 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.



26. STUFF THE BODY



- Place the **PELLET POUCH (J)** into the body through the opening in the neck. The samples have theirs placed just below the tail. This will cause the plush to lean back just a little so the feet are up in the air.
- Stuff the rest of the body firmly with stuffing. This is especially important in the little bumps beneath the arms -- these little bumps are like the legs. Fill the body all the way up to the neck so the head has a firm foundation to rest upon.

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27. ATTACH THE HEAD

- Grab your head so far. For extra help in attaching the head, you can draw a stitching line along the bottom of the plush head. Use a water-soluble marker to draw a 2½" wide circle around the bottom center of the head.
- Align the head over the body so they are both facing forward. Thread a hand sewing needle and knot the end. Attach the head by using a ladder stitch. Start stitching in the opening in the neck, then take a stitch into the stitching guide you've just drawn.
- Continue stitching around the guide. For extra help, use long stitches for this first time around the neck. Check that you like the placement from all angles, then stitch around the neck again using tinier, neater stitches the second time.



- Grab your **FEET** pieces (H). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together all around the outside of the oval.
- To turn the foot, make a small vertical clip going through one layer of the fabric. Repeat this step with your remaining foot pieces for two feet total.

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- a. Turn both **FEET** right side out through the opening you cut.
- b. Stuff the feet lightly with stuffing, just enough so they puff up and take shape. Hemostats are very helpful for this part if you have them.
- c. Take one of your stuffed feet and place it cut side down beneath the arm of your plush. Center it along the seam where the belly is attached.
- d. Stitch the foot to the body around the cut you've made using a ladder stitch.

29. ATTACH THE FEET

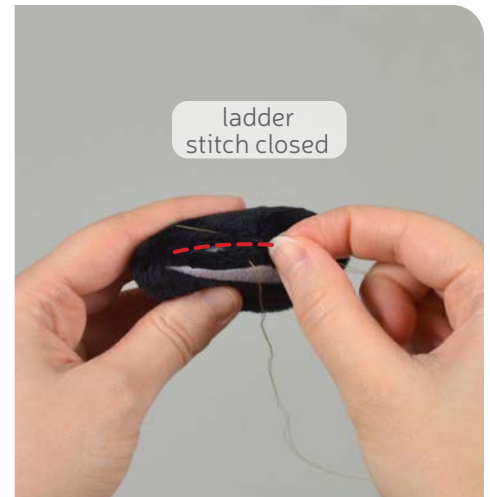


30. SEW THE SEED

- a. Grab your **SEED** pieces (I). Take this opportunity to applique the seed stripes onto one of the seed pieces using the instructions from steps 1-2. Trace the stripes from the paper template onto fusible web, then fuse the adhesive onto white applique fabric. Finally fuse the applique fabric to your seed.
- b. Align your appliqued seed piece to your remaining seed piece with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- c. Sew the pieces together around the perimeter, but leave a small **opening** in one side (also marked on the paper pattern for help). This will be your **opening for turning**.

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31. TURN AND STUFF THE SEED

- Turn the **SEED** right side out through the opening you left.
- Stuff the seed semi-firmly with stuffing. Stuff it enough so it takes shape and looks nicely rounded.
- Turn in the seam allowances from the opening and ladder stitch the seed closed.



- Grab your finished **SEED** and place it between the arms of your hamster.
- Stitch the sides of the seed to each of the hamster's arms so it looks like it's being held.

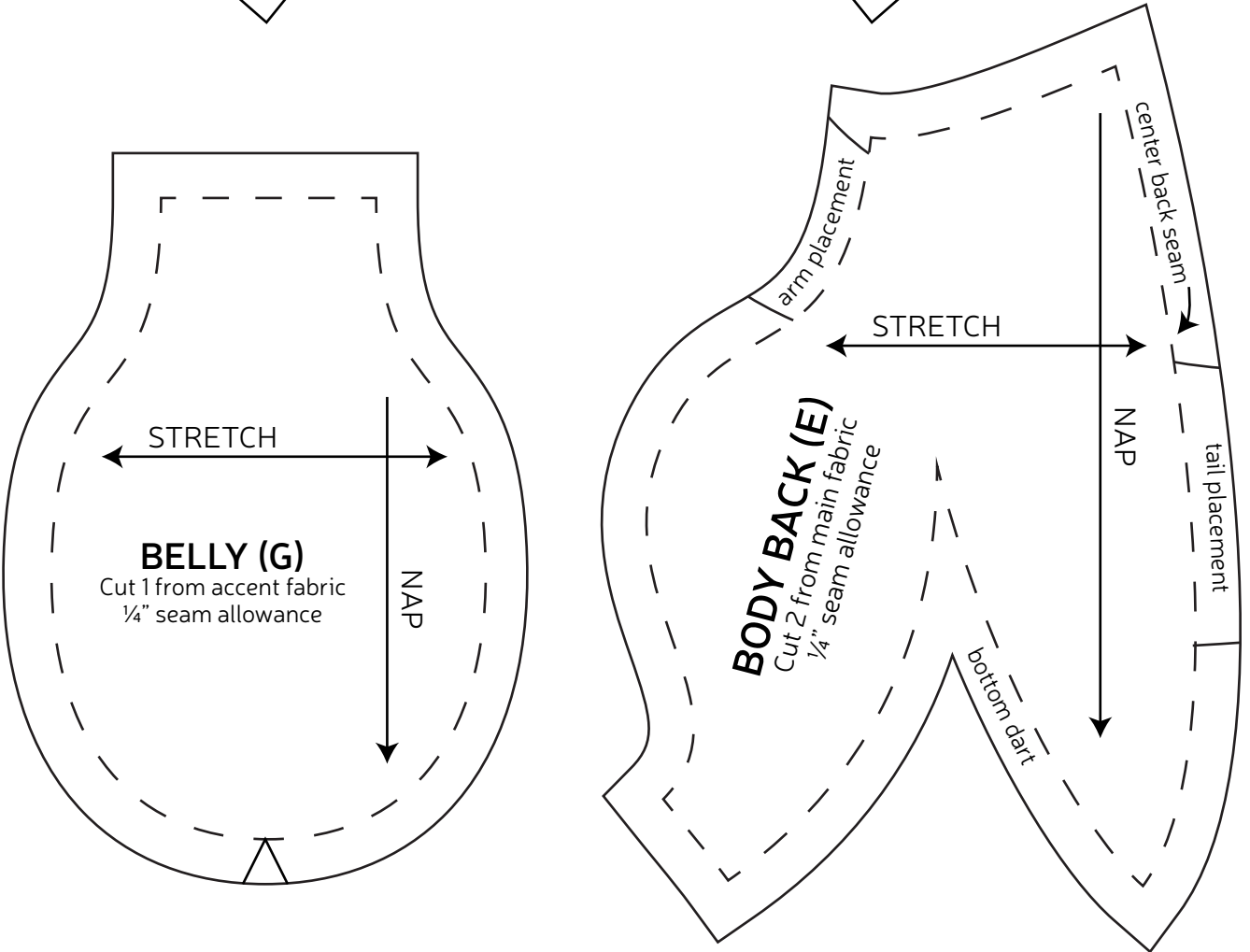
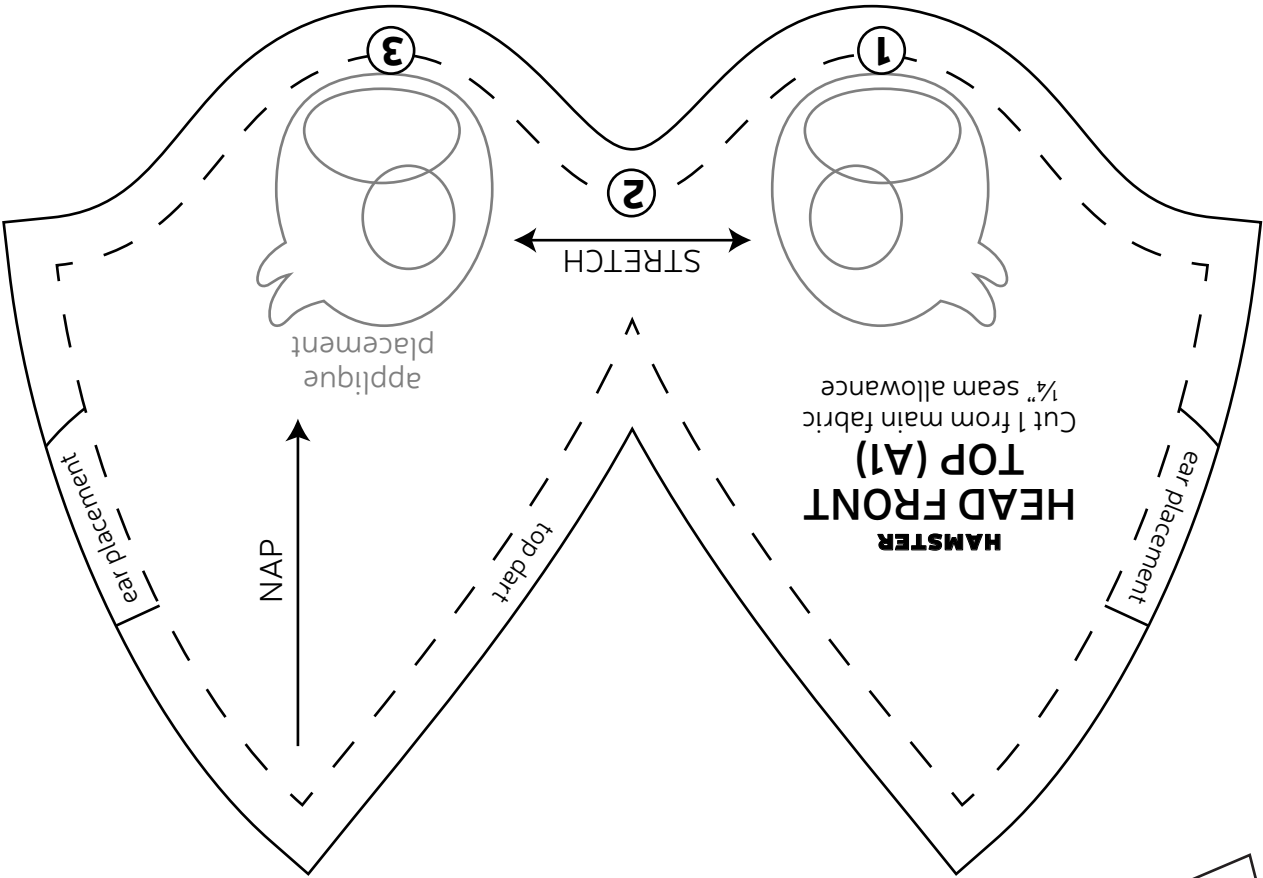
32. ATTACH THE SEED

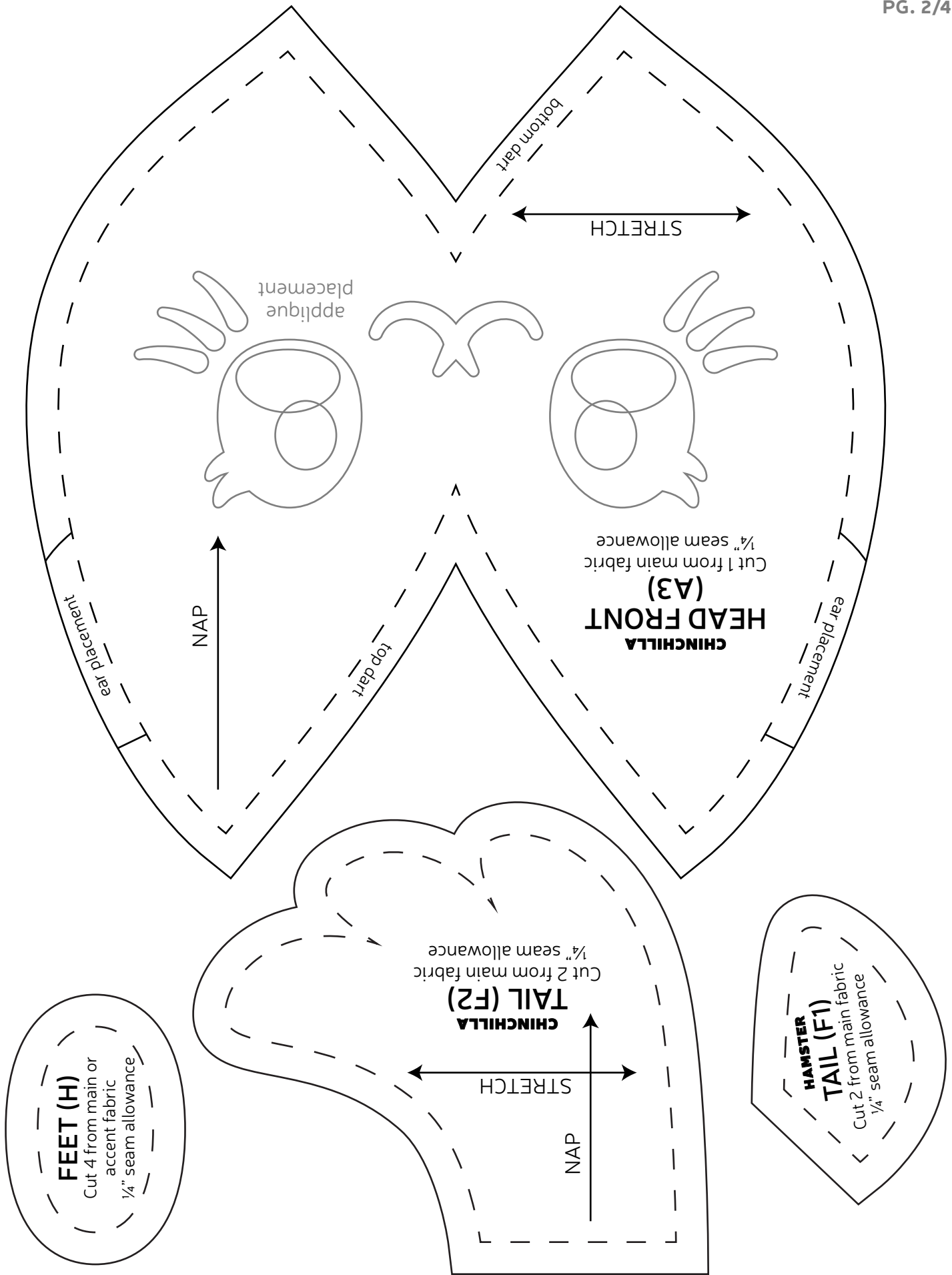
congrats!
this completes
your plush! Now
give it a big
hug!

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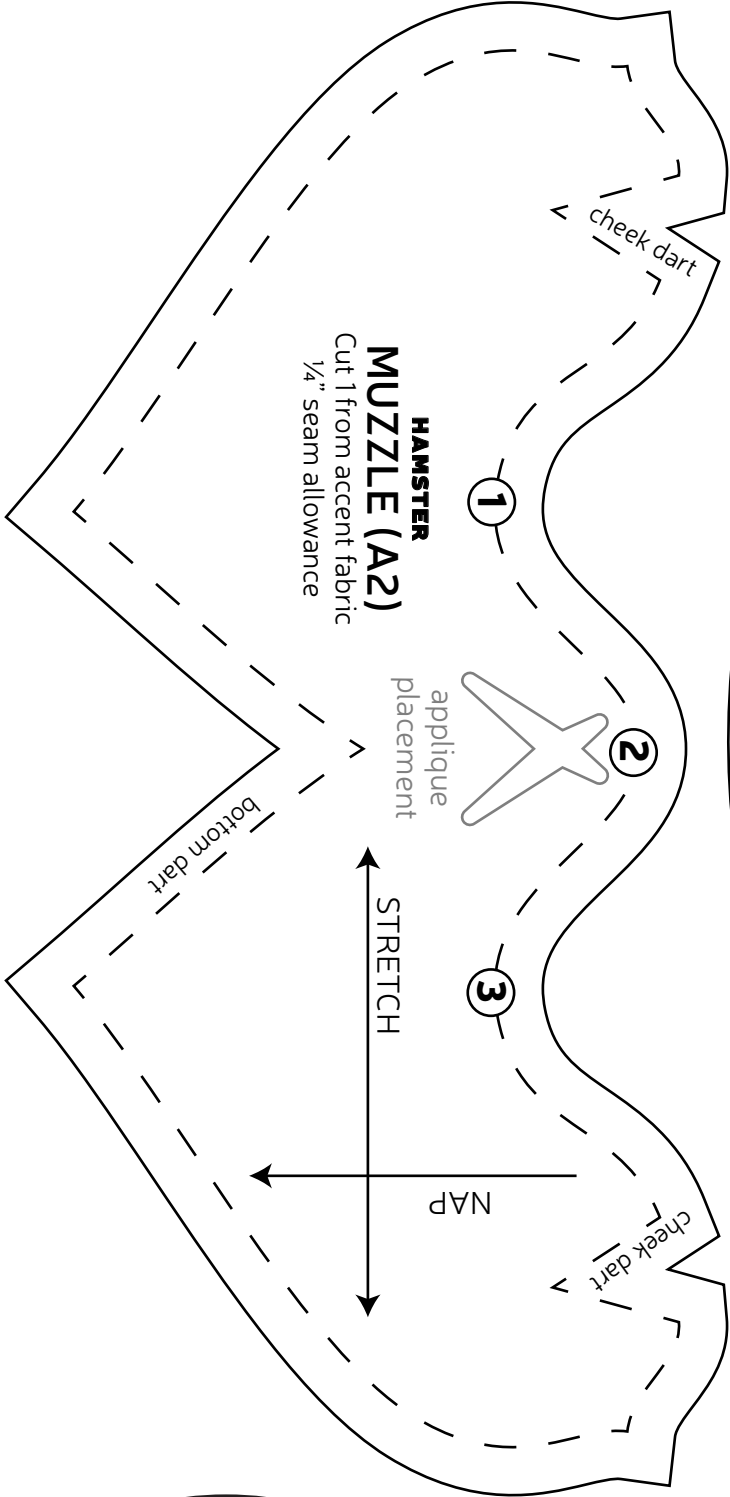
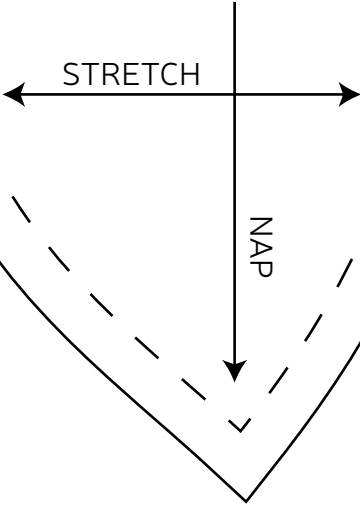


Hamster & Chinchilla Plush

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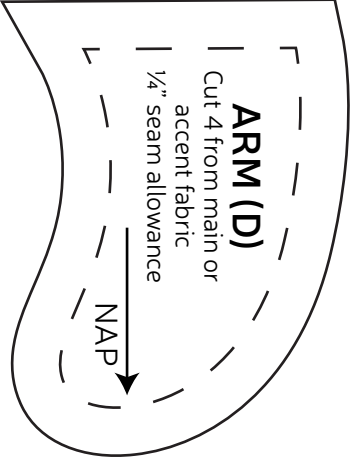
HEAD BACK (C)

Cut 2 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance



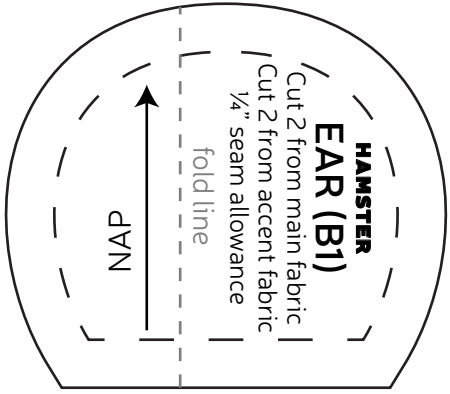
HAMSTER MUZZLE (A2)

Cut 1 from accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance



ARM (D)

Cut 4 from main or
accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance



HAMSTER EAR (B1)

Cut 2 from main fabric
Cut 2 from accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance

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PELLET POUCH (J)

Cut 2 from scrap fabric
1/4" seam allowance

CHINCHILLA EAR (B2)

Cut 2 from main fabric
Cut 2 from accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance

NAP
fold line
STRETCH

SEED (I)

Cut 2 from black fabric
1/4" seam allowance

appliance placement

opening for turning

EYES

appliance
trace & cut 1 each of black

EYE SHINES

appliance
trace & cut 2
of white

EYE HIGHLIGHTS

appliance
trace & cut 2 of
accent color

WHISKERS

appliance
trace & cut 3 each of black

CHINCHILLA SMILE

appliance
trace & cut 1 of black

HAMSTER MOUTH

appliance
trace & cut 1 of pink