

KOALA PLUSH



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



KOALA PLUSH

My pattern collection was well overdue for some creatures from the Australian continent, and what better animal to start with than a sweet koala!

This plush has cute teddy bear-like features including a big head and tiny body as well as cuddly arms and legs. This would be a great use for furry fabrics to make especially fluffy ears. It also has a classic big nose along with optional claws

MAKES:

One plush: main body measures about 8" tall, 5" wide, and 5" long (does not include arms, legs, or ears)

DIFFICULTY:



The hardest part of this plush is likely fitting all the arms and legs into the body. It gets a bit crowded, so be sure not to overstuff the limbs and sew the body a small bit at a time.

The ears are also sewn in two parts with a steep curve, but you can substitute that for applique if it gives you hard time.

SKILLS USED:

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



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materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. of gray fabric for main body
- ¼ yd. or 7" x 9" of white fabric for belly and inner ears
- ⅛ yd. or 7" x 5" of black fabric for nose
- **OPTIONAL:** 3" x 4" of felt fabric for claws
- 2" x 2" piece of white applique fabric (flannel, felt, fleece, cotton, etc.) for chin and eye shines
- 3" x 3" piece of black applique fabric for eyes
- 1" x 1" piece of gray applique fabric for nostrils
- 6" x 6" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- sewing thread to match main fabric and applique fabrics
- poly-fil stuffing
- basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)

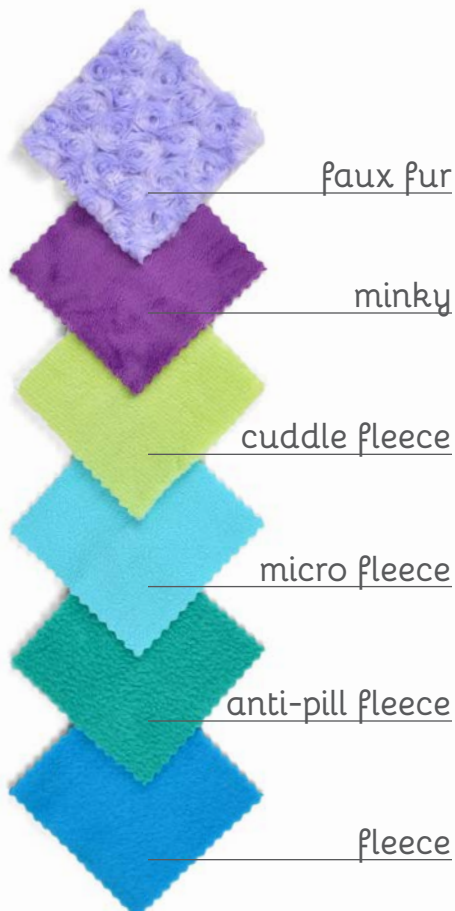


SUGGESTED FABRICS:

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

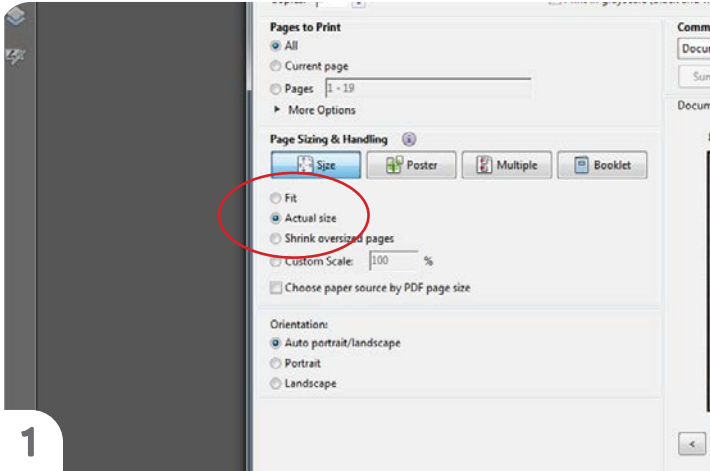


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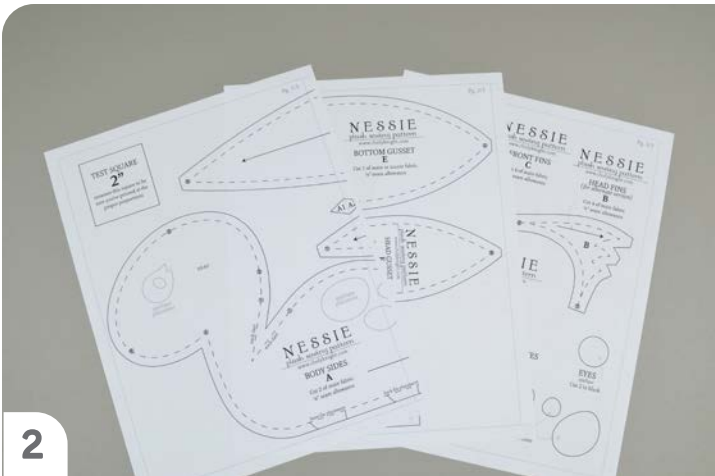
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printing the pattern:

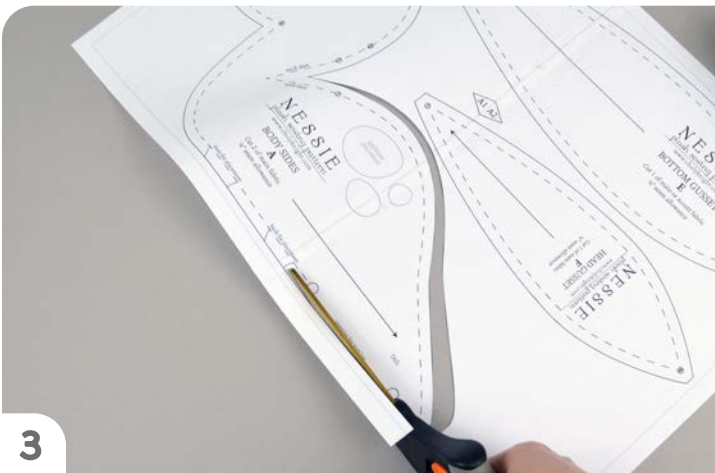
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 22-24**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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.

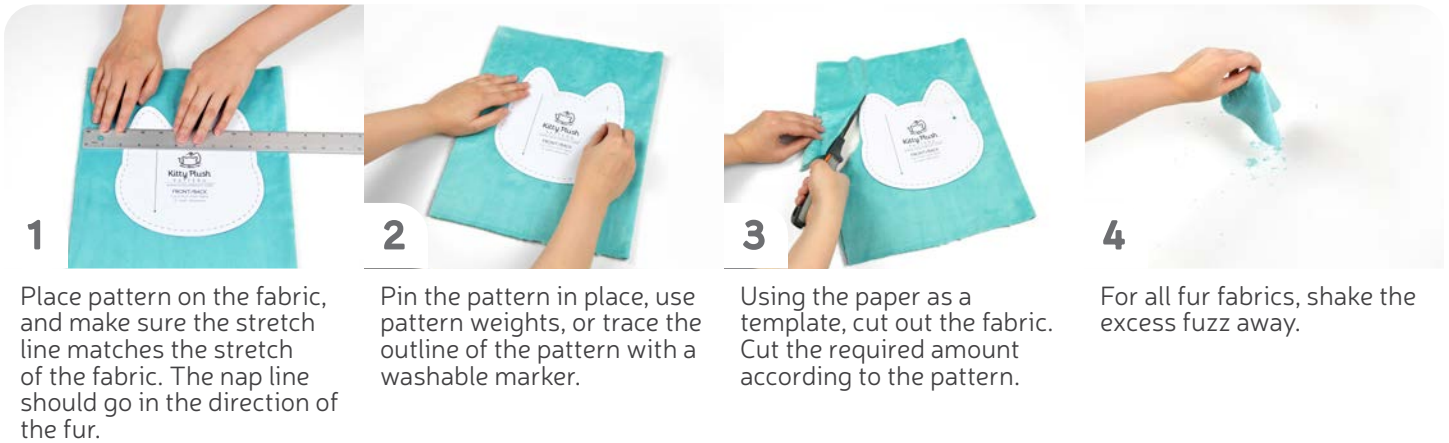


You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper. They might be a little hard to pin through, so you might want to use your longest pins. But you could also use pattern weights or trace the outlines onto the fabric with a washable marker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

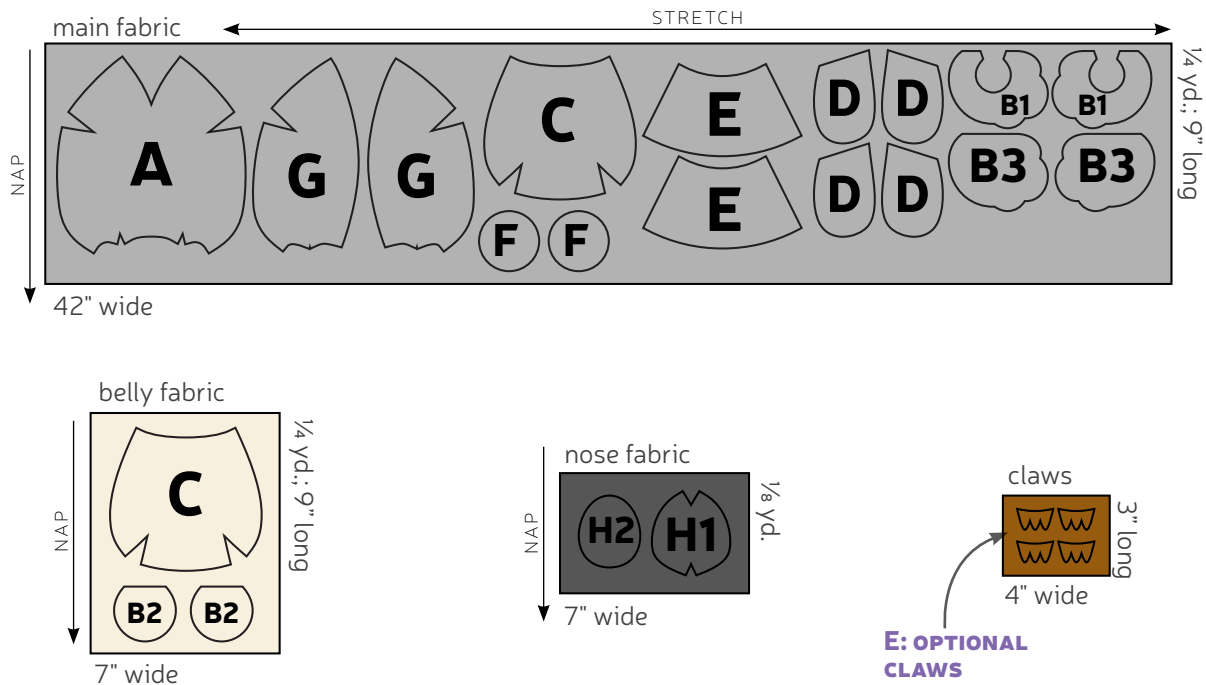
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cutting the fabric:



cutting layout:



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.

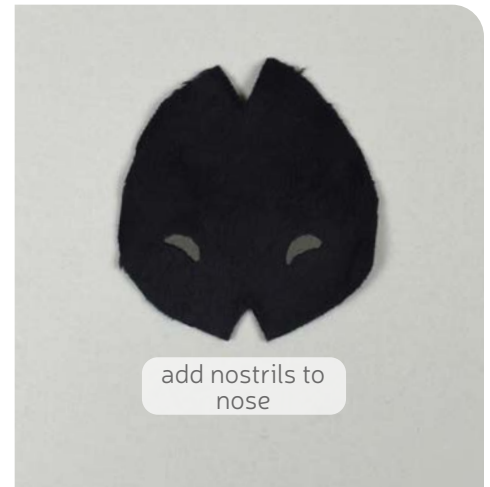
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1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Grab your fusible web and trace all the applique pieces you want onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have at least two **eyes**, two **eye shines**, two **nostrils**, and one **chin**.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The **eyes** should go on black, the **chin** and **eye shines** on white, and the **nostrils** on gray.
- Cut out the **eyes** and arrange them on the **HEAD FRONT (A)** piece. Set your paper pattern on top of the fabric piece (right sides up). Align the **eyes** piece on top where the placement markings are. Then carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.



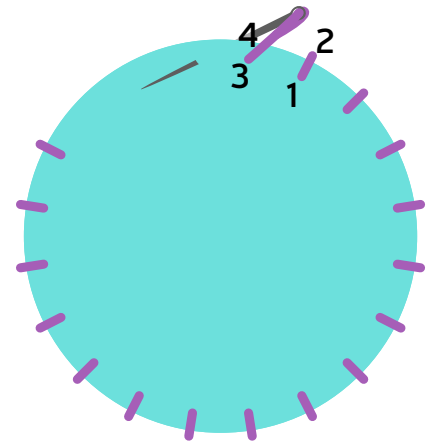
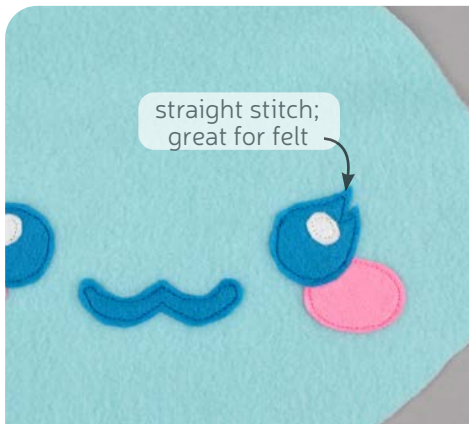
2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the **eyes** in place with your iron. Use a press cloth if you're using a polyester or fuzzy fabric like minky. 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 **chin**. Fuse them the same way as you did the **eyes**, using the paper pattern and photos as a guide. The nose will later cover up the top half of the chin.
- Repeat with the nostrils on the **NOSE** piece (H1).
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.

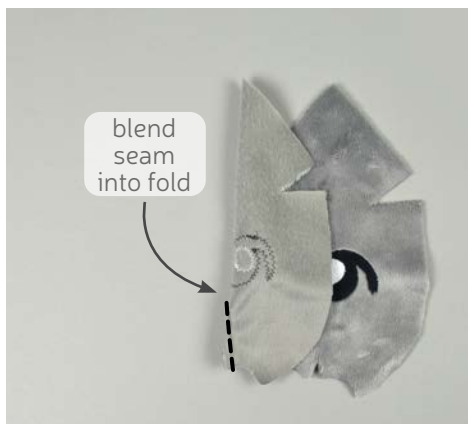
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2a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

- 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. SEW THE HEAD FRONT NECK DARTS

- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** piece (A). You'll notice it has many **darts** all over the outside edge. First we'll be sewing the two small **neck (bottom) darts**.
Fold the fabric with right sides together along the point of the **dart**, matching up the slanted edges.
- Sew along this edge. Start at the opening and work toward the point, and try to blend your stitching into the fold of the fabric.
- Repeat with the other dart along the neck for two darts 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.

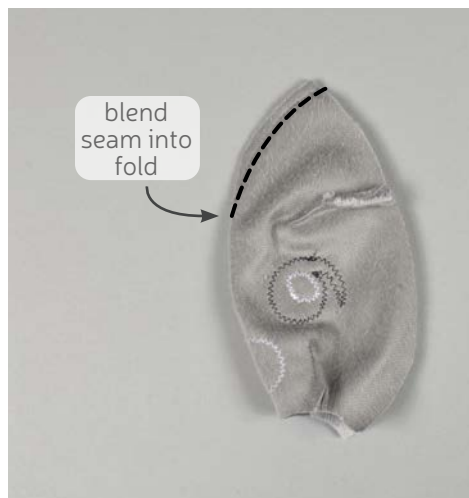
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4. SEW THE EAR DARTS

- Repeat step 3 with the **ear darts** found at the top corners of the **HEAD FRONT**. Fold the fabric with right sides facing along the point of the dart.
- Sew from the opening down to the point, blending your stitching into the fold of the fabric.
- Repeat once more on the other side of the head front for both **ear darts**.



5. SEW THE TOP DART

- For the **center top dart**, fold the fabrics together along the center point of the dart.
- Sew the **dart** by starting at the opening and working down to the fold of the fabric. Blend your stitching into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.
- When complete, the head front will have 5 **darts** total: 2 small ones at the neck edge, and 3 large ones along the top.

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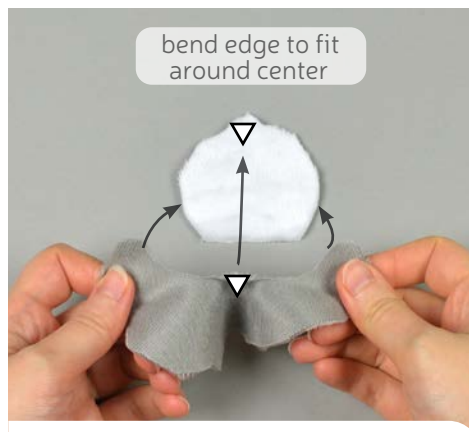
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- a. For the ears, the accent **EAR CENTER** (B2) is sewn inside the curved edge of the **OUTER EAR** (B1). The edges with the **notches** will match up next.
- b. To make this step easier, you can make small $\frac{1}{8}$ " clips into the seam allowance of the outer ear. This will help it stretch more around the ear center.

**TIP:**

If you would rather not do the curved sewing, you can also applique the ear center to the outer ear using the steps on page 6.

- a. Take one of your **OUTER EAR** pieces (B1) and stretch it to fit around the **notched edge** of the **EAR CENTER** (B2). Start by pinning the **notches** together, then pin from the center outward until you get to the corners.
- b. Sew the outer ear to the ear center around this **notched edge**. It will be a tight curve, so be sure to stop and pivot frequently.

**7. SEW THE EAR EDGE**

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8. SEW THE EARS

- Repeat step 7 with your remaining **EAR CENTER** (B2) and **OUTER EAR** (B1) pieces so you have a pair of ears with centers (this is now the ear front).
- Grab your **EAR BACKS** (B3). Take one of your ear front pieces and align it with the ear back so right sides are facing and raw edges match up.
- Sew them together around the curved edge. Leave the straight edge free for turning the ear right side out later.

- Trim the seam allowances at the corners and outer curves to help reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the **EARS** are turned right side out.
- Turn the ears right side out through the opening you left in step 8. Repeat step 8 with your remaining ear pieces so you have two total.



9. TURN THE EARS

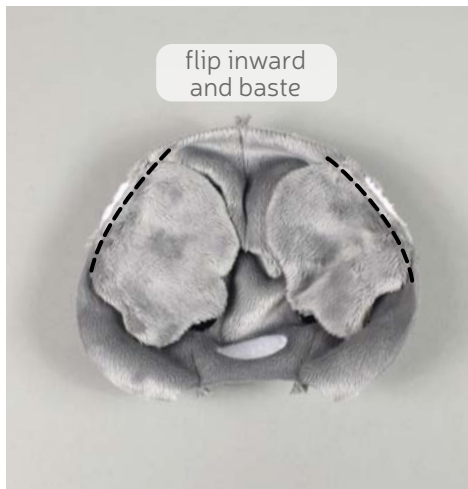
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10. BASTE THE EARS

- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** piece (A) from before. If you haven't already, locate the **ear placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the head front. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Place the ears within these placement lines so the centers are facing up and the side with the rounded puffs are pointing downward.
- Flip the ears inward so the raw edges align. Baste the ears in place within the seam allowance to hold them securely for later.
- When flipped outward, the ears should look something like the third photo. Set your head front aside for now while we work on the body.



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).



11. SEW THE BODY FRONT DARTS

- Grab your **BODY** piece (C) from the white accent fabric. This will become the koala's belly. This piece also has several darts for sewing. Fold the fabrics together along the point of the dart to match up the slanted edges.
- Sew the **dart** by starting at the opening and working down to the point. Blend the stitching into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finish.
- Repeat with both darts along the bottom of the belly.

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- a. Grab your **HEAD FRONT** from before (A). In this step we'll be attaching the head to the body at the neck. The **BODY** piece (C) has a **center notch** along the neck for help with placement -- this will match up to the **center neck notch** on the head front.
- b. Match up the **center notch** on the body front to the **center notch** on the head front. Pin the fabrics together from the center out.
- c. Sew the fabrics together along this edge.
- d. Open up the pieces when complete. Set aside the pieces for a moment while we make the arms.

12. SEW THE NECK



- a. Grab your **ARMS** pieces (D) and two of your **CLAWS** (I). If you haven't already, locate the **claw placement lines** along the end of the arm. Transfer them to the right side of the fabric. Align the curved edge of one of the claw pieces within the **placement lines**.
- b. Baste the claws to the arm within the seam allowance to hold them in place for the next step. Repeat with your remaining claw piece and another arm piece for two arms total.



13. BASTE THE CLAWS



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14. SEW THE ARMS

- Grab your remaining **ARM** pieces (D). Take one with the claw attached and one without and 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 arm right side out later. Repeat with your remaining arm pieces for two total.
- Turn the arms right side out through the opening.



15. BASTE THE ARMS

- Stuff the arms very lightly with stuffing. Don't use too much or it will be difficult and crowded when sewing the body later in step 25.
- If you haven't already, locate the **arm placement lines** on the paper pattern for the **BODY** (C). Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open edge of the arms within the **placement lines** so they're pointing down as shown.
- Flip the arms inward so they're pointing toward the inside of the body and the raw edges match up. Baste the arms to the edge of the body within the seam allowance to hold them securely for later.

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- a. Grab your **LEG** pieces (E) and your last two **CLAWS** (I). Align the curved edge of one of the claw pieces centered over the center **notch** on the leg.
- b. Baste the claws to the leg within the seam allowance to hold them in place for the next step. Repeat with your remaining claw piece and another leg piece for two legs total.



16. BASTE THE LEG CLAWS

- a. Grab your **LEG** pieces (E). Take one of them and fold them in half with right sides facing so the straight edges match up.
- b. Sew the leg piece together along the straight edge. This will leave a small opening at the top and a large opening at the bottom (for the **FOOT**).
- c. Grab your **FOOT** pieces (F). Take one of your sewn legs and open up the larger opening. Align the opening around the foot circle. Both pieces have **notches** for help with alignment. The **center notch** from the leg will match up to one **notch** on the foot, and the **seam** from the leg will match up with the other **notch** on the foot.
- d. Sew the leg to the foot around the circle.

17. SEW THE LEGS



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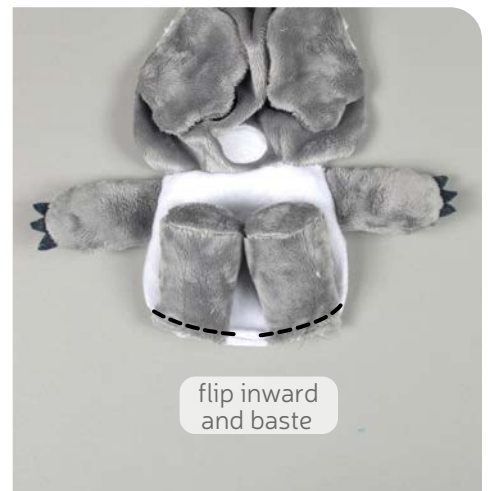
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18. STUFF THE LEGS

- a. Repeat with both leg pieces for two legs total.
- b. Turn the legs right side out through the smaller opening.
- c. Stuff the **LEGS** very lightly with stuffing. Keep most of it at the end to make attaching to the body easier.

- a. Grab your body so far. If you haven't already, locate the **leg placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the body. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Take one of your legs and flatten the opening so the leg seam is in the middle. Align the raw edge of the fabric within these placement lines.
- b. Flip the leg to the inside of the body and baste the opening of the leg to the body within the seam allowance. This will hold it securely when the rest of the body is sewn later.



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20. SEW THE HEAD BACK NECK DART

- Grab your **HEAD BACK** pieces (G). These have small **neck darts** just like the **HEAD FRONT** back in step 3. They're a bit smaller, so to get an accurate seam, trace the seam line from the paper pattern. Trim away the paper along the stitching line and use it as a tracing template on the back of the fabric.
- Fold the fabric in half with right sides together, matching the traced lines.
- Sew the **dart** by starting at the opening, then going down to the fold. Blend the stitching into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finish. Repeat with your other head back piece so both pieces have finished neck darts.

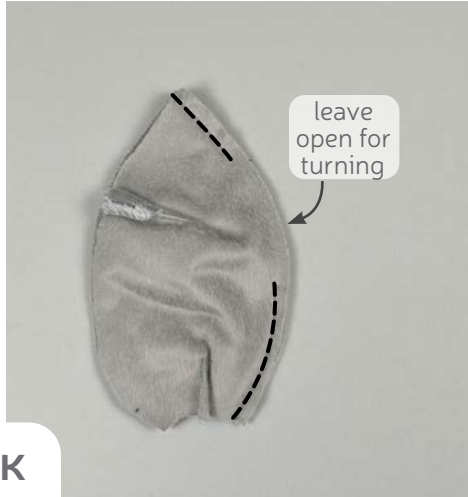
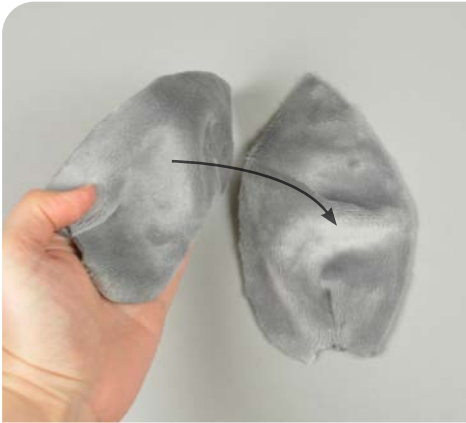


21. SEW THE HEAD BACK EAR DART

- Repeat the process with the **ear darts** (just like with the **HEAD FRONT** back in step 4). Fold the fabric with right sides together along the point of the dart. Match up the slanted lines.
- Sew from the opening of the **dart** down to the point. Blend the stitching into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finish.
- Repeat with your other head back piece so both pieces have finished **darts**.

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22. SEW THE HEAD BACK

- Grab both of your **HEAD BACK** pieces (H). Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching.
- 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 only, but leave the opening that you marked.
- Open up the pieces when complete.

- Grab your remaining **BODY** piece (C). Sew the darts at the bottom just like with the belly from step 11. Fold the fabric along the point and sew along the slanted edge. Blend your stitching into the fold for a smoother finish.
- Repeat with the other dart for two total.



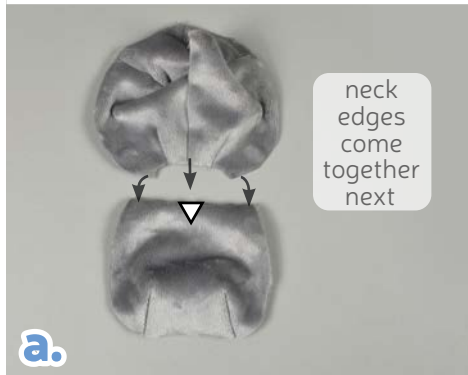
23. SEW THE BODY BACK DARTS

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- a. Grab your **HEAD BACK** from before (G). We'll be attaching the head back to the body back at the neck just like the body front in step 12.
- b. Line up the **BODY BACK** (C) **center notch** with the center seam on the head back. Pin the fabrics together from the center out.
- c. Sew the fabrics together along this edge.
- d. Open up the pieces when complete.

24. SEW THE BACK NECK



25. SEW THE FRONT TO THE BACK

- a. Grab your **FRONT** piece from before. Tuck in all the extra pieces like the arms, legs, and ears. Align the back of the koala over the front, matching up the seams at the neck. The **center top seams** will also match and there are **markings** for the center bottom for alignment as well.
- b. Sew the front to the back all around the shape of the koala. Be sure to pivot at the neck seams.
- c. Turn the koala right side out through the opening in the back of the head.

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- a. Stuff the koala with stuffing by starting in the body. Stuff it firmly so there are no wrinkles in the fabric. Eventually work up to the head and get plenty of stuffing in the nose area so there are no wrinkles.
- b. 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



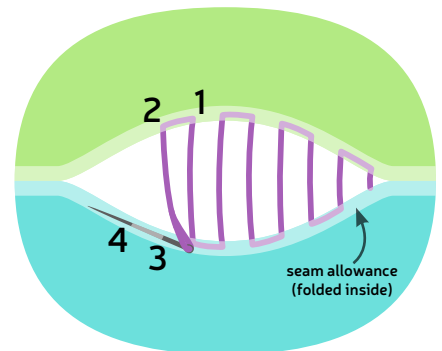
26. STUFF THE BODY



27. SEW THE BODY CLOSED

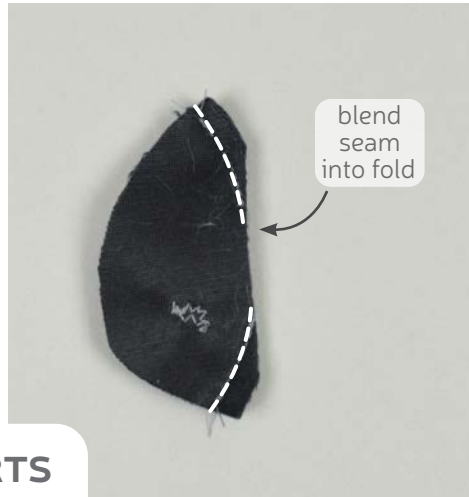


- a. Tuck the seam allowances from the opening inside and sew it closed with a ladder stitch. Take a 1/8" stitch into the fold of one side of the opening, then go across and take another. Keep going down the opening until you reach the end.
- b. When you're finished, stitch a knot into the end of the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



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28. SEW THE NOSE DARTS

- Grab your **NOSE** piece (H1). The nose has a dart along both the top and bottom to help shape it. Sew them the same as other darts from previous steps. Fold the fabric along the point of the dart to match up the slanted lines.
- Sew the dart starting at the opening and work down to the fold of the fabric. Blend your stitching into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finish.
- Open up the pieces when complete.



29. SEW THE NOSE

- Grab your **NOSE BASE** (H2) piece. Align the outer edge of the nose around the base so right sides are facing. You'll find there is a **notch** at the **center top** and a **circle marking** at the **center bottom** for alignment with the dart seams. Pin the fabrics together, matching the markings with the seams.
- Sew the nose to the base all around the perimeter, but leave an opening for turning along one side. There's a guideline for extra help printed on the paper pattern.
- Turn the nose right side out through the opening.

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30. ATTACH THE NOSE

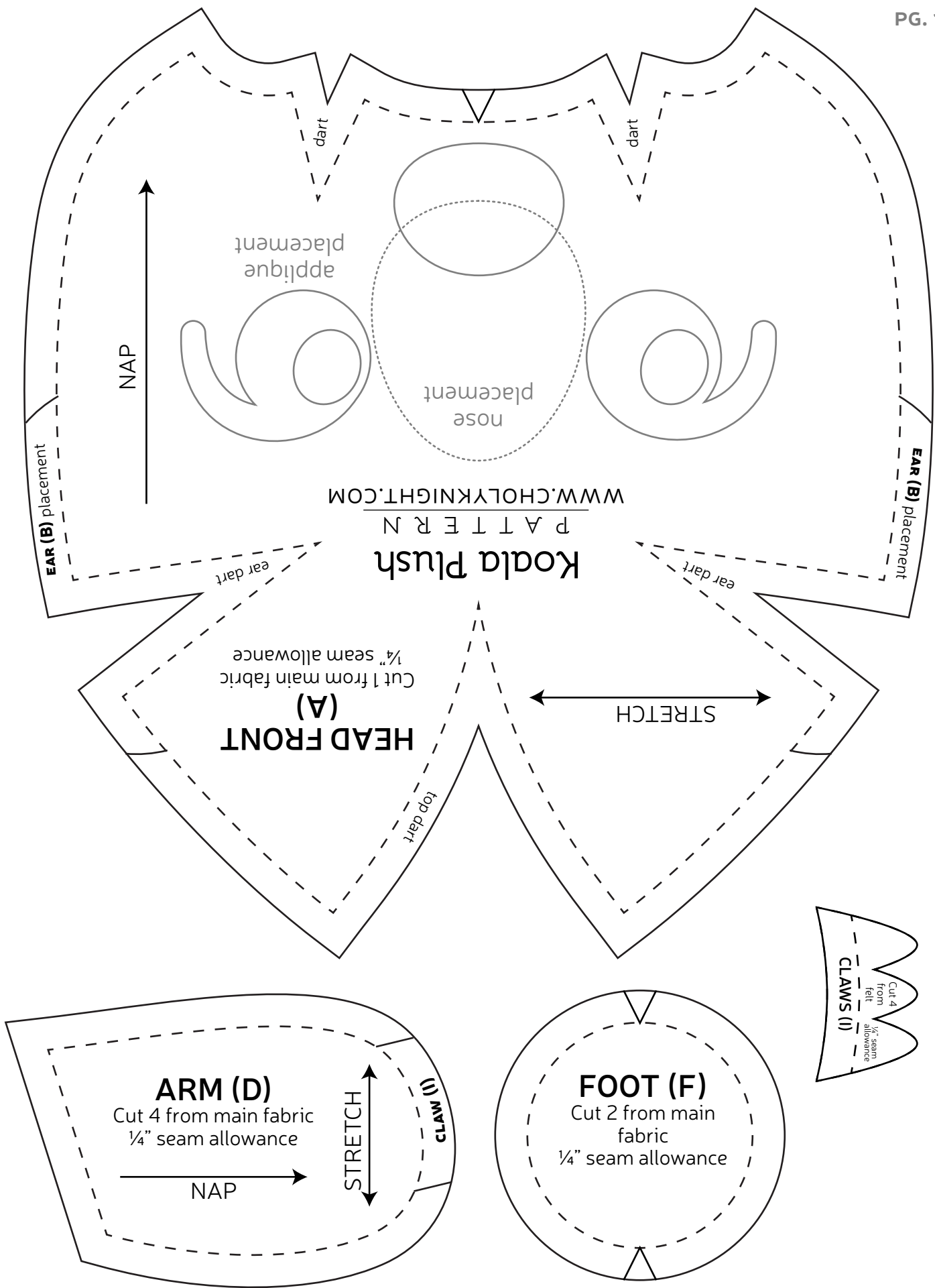
- a. Take your sewn nose and stuff it firmly with stuffing. Ladder stitch the opening closed similar to back in step 27.
- b. Take the flat side of your nose and place it onto your koala. The nostrils should be pointing toward the feet. Center it between the eyes so it covers the top half of the chin.
- c. Ladder stitch the nose to your koala's head along the seam from step 29. Use long stitches for the first pass. Check the placement to be sure you like it, then stitch around the nose again with tinier, shorter stitches to secure it.

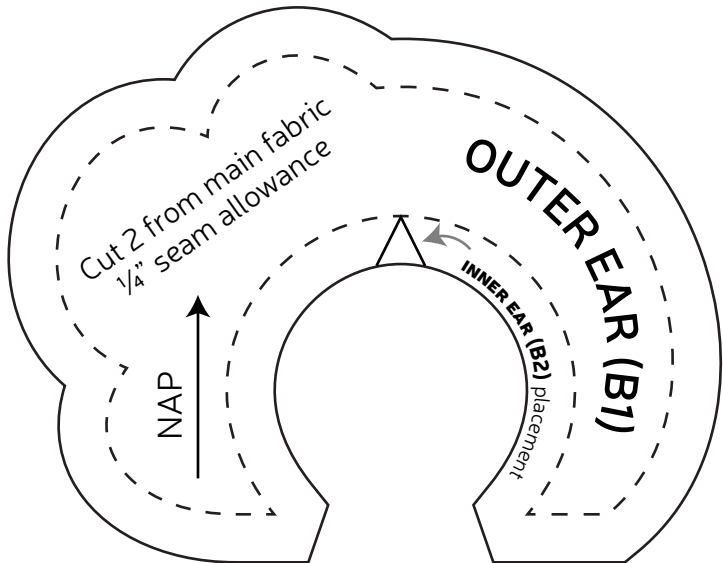
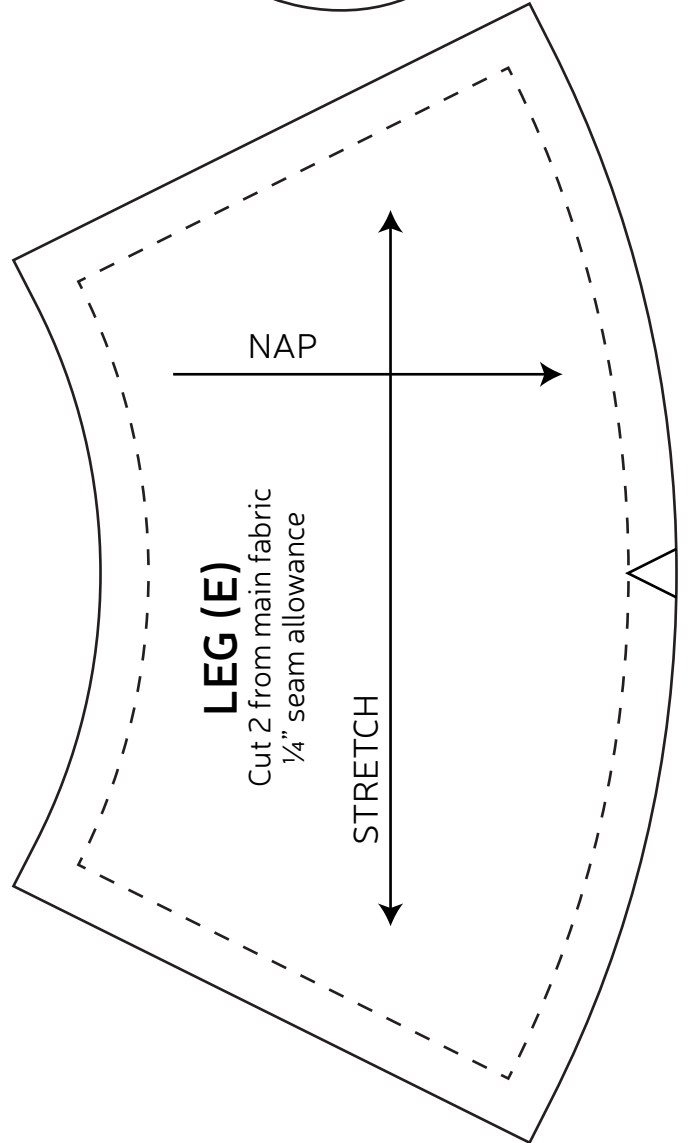
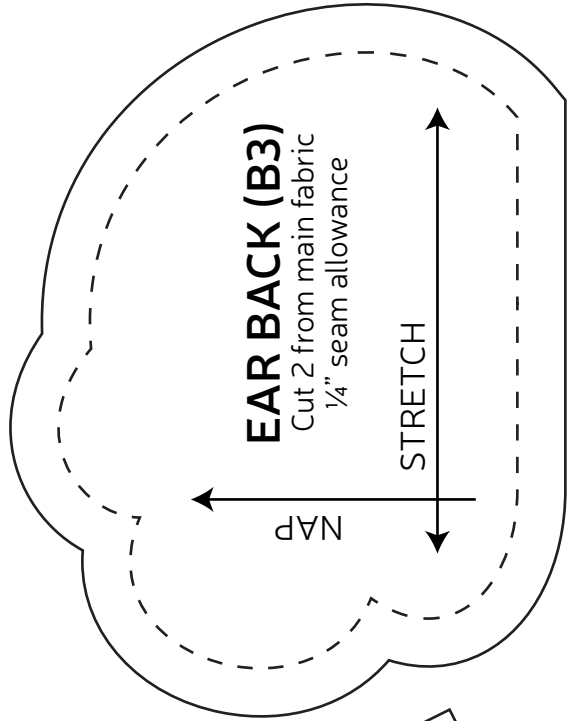
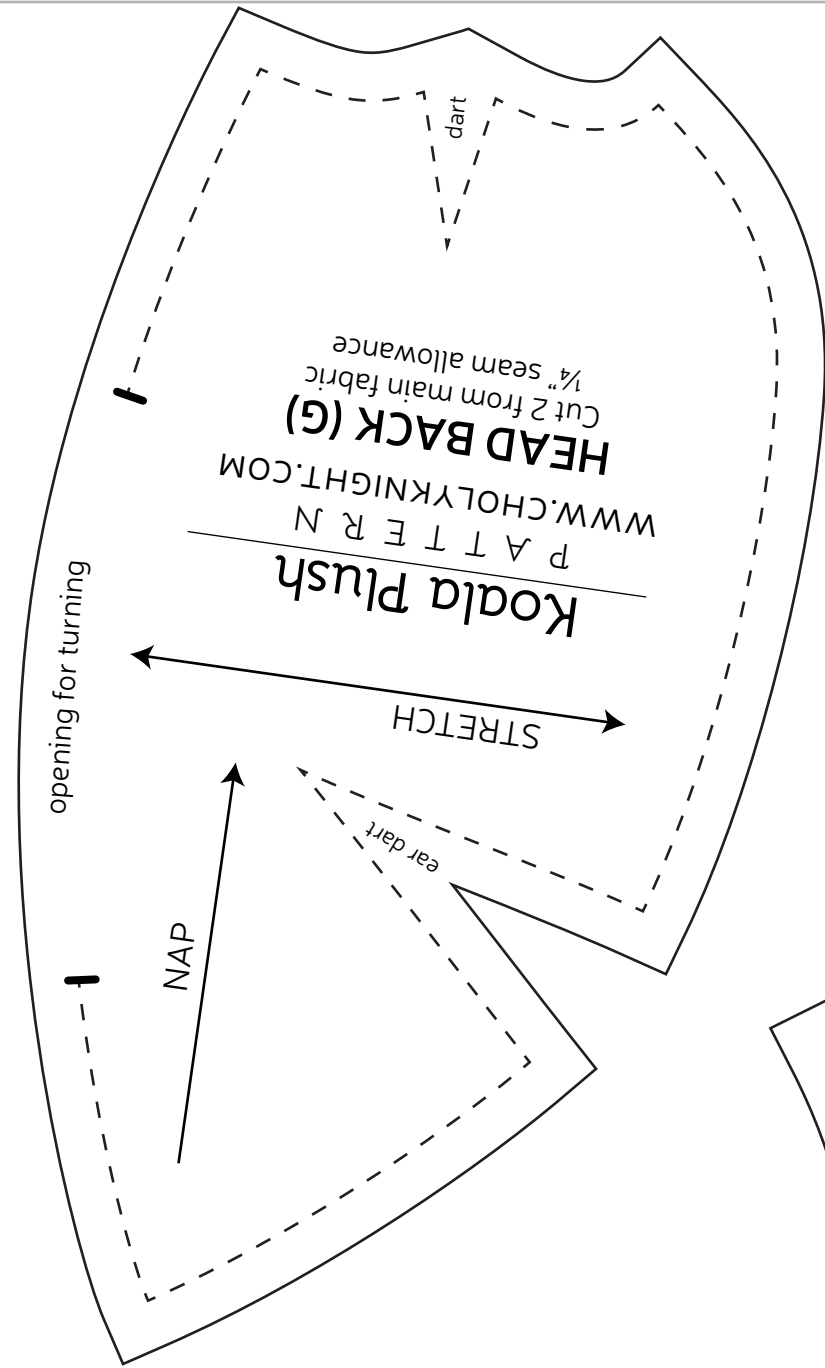
congrats!
this completes
your plush! Now
give it a big
hug!

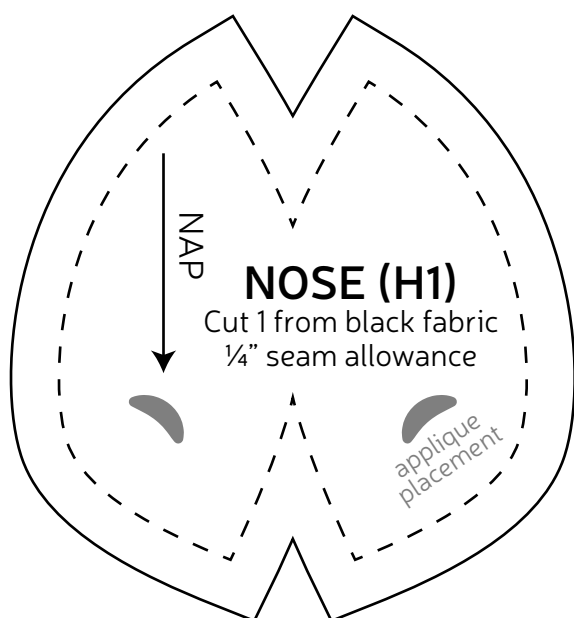
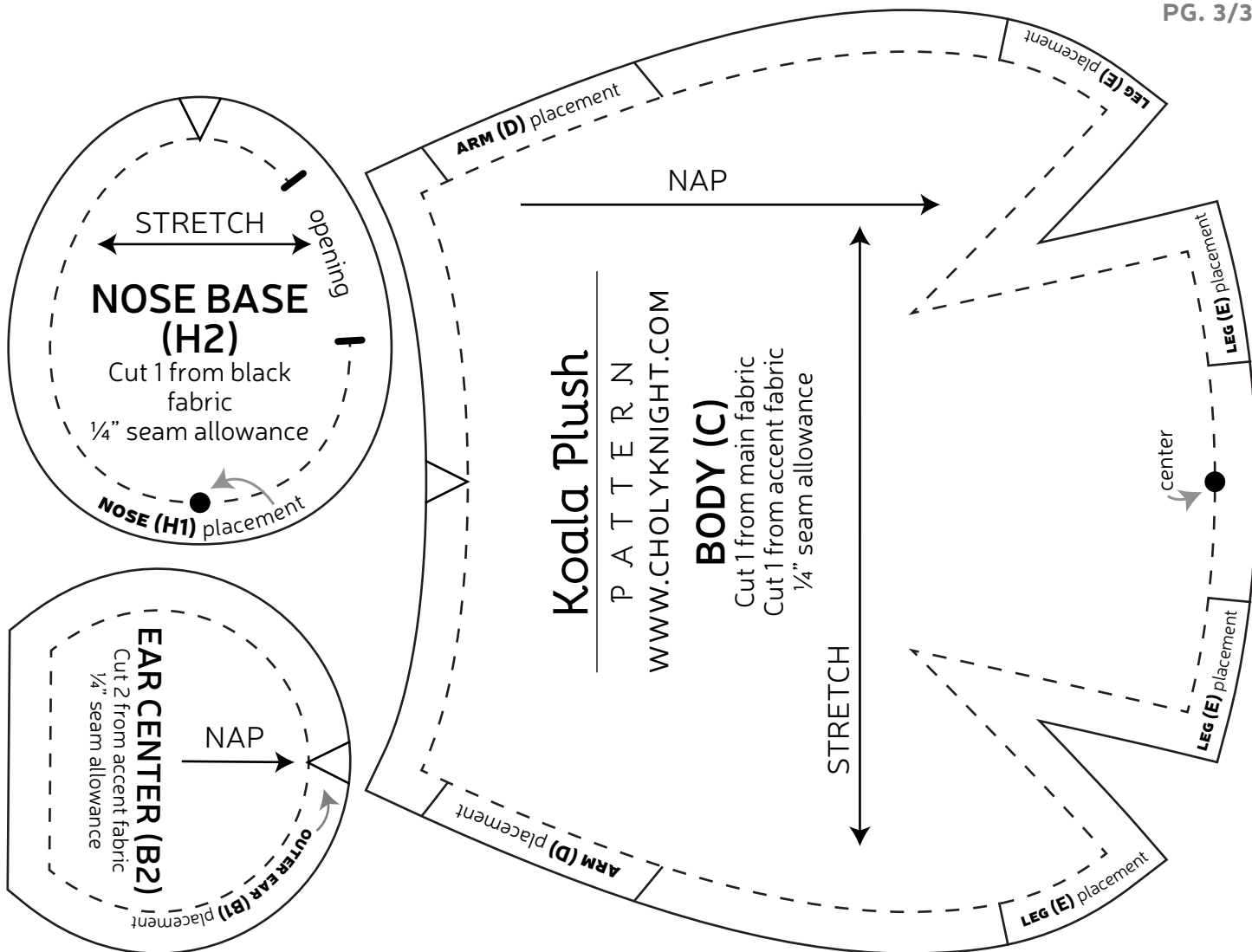


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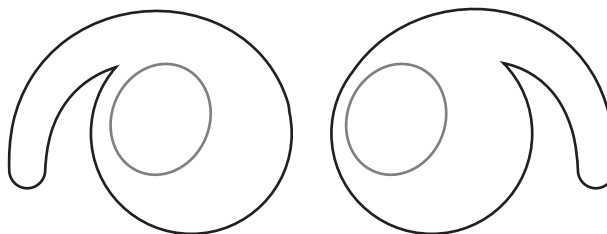






EYE
applique
trace & cut 1
each of black

EYE SHINE
applique
trace & cut 2
of white



CHIN
applique
trace & cut 1 of
white

NOSTRILS
applique
trace & cut 1
each of gray

