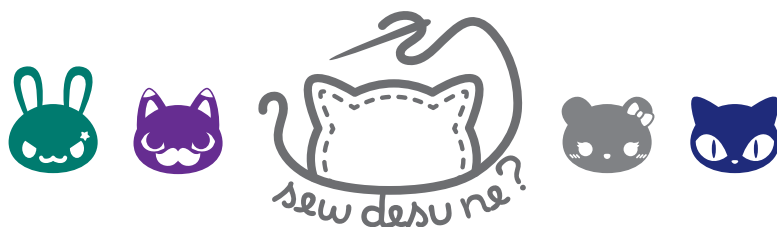


narwhal plush



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



narwhal plush

Make your own 'unicorn of the sea' with this cute pocket-sized narwhal! With just 4 pattern pieces, it sews up quickly and is great for a beginner that's ready to move onto more complex projects.

It features two side fins, chubby body, tiny tail, and of course a spiral horn. It's perfect for any nautical lover!

DIFFICULTY:



If you're new to sewing, the hardest parts of this plush will likely be placing the fins, and sewing the body to the bottom. So be sure to use lots of pins and sew carefully for these parts.

MAKES:

One plush: 4" wide (6" if you include fins), 6" long, and 3½" tall (4" if you include horn)

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Basting
- Darts
- Sewing small pieces
- Gathering stitch, gathering
- Ladder stitch

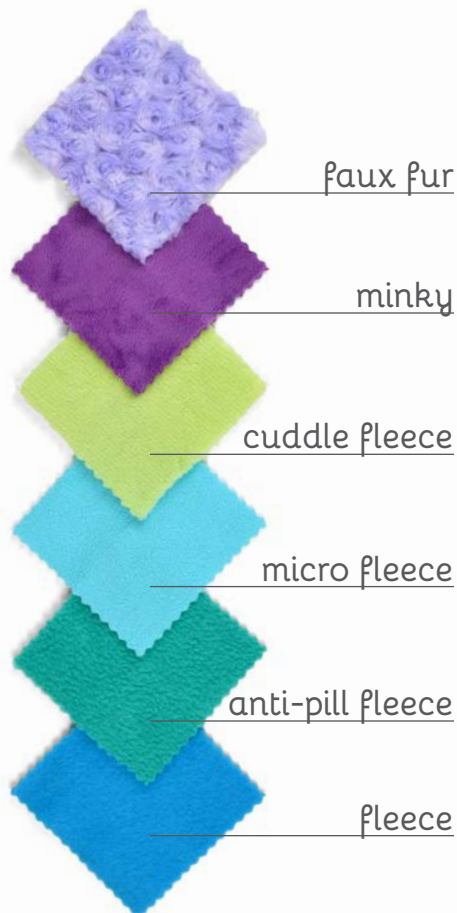


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materials & tools:

- 9" x 16" or ¼ yd. of fabric for main body
- 9" x 10" or ¼ yd. of accent fabric for belly & horn
- 2" x 2" piece of black applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) for eyes
- 1" x 1" piece of white applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) for eye shines
OR: white fabric paint
- 3" x 3" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- sewing thread to match main fabric and applique fabrics
- poly-fil stuffing
- basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)



SUGGESTED FABRICS:

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

Stretch fabrics like **FLEECE** or **MINKY** will create a more squat, round shape when stuffed.

Non-stretchy fabrics, like **FELT** or **COTTON**, won't stretch when stuffed so the resulting plush will look elongated as shown.

MINKY

VS.

FELT

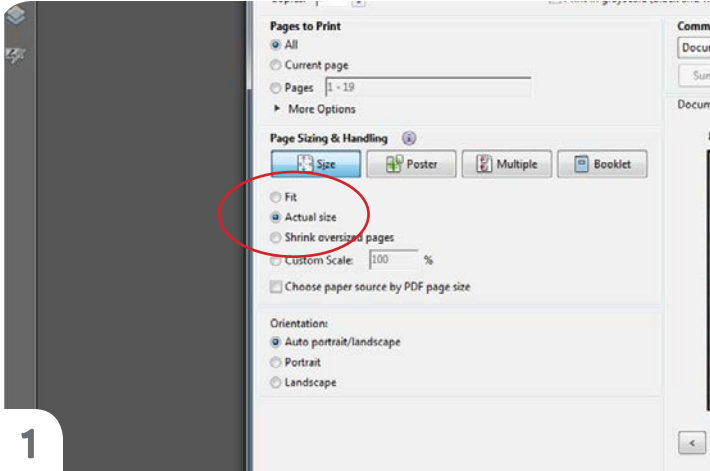


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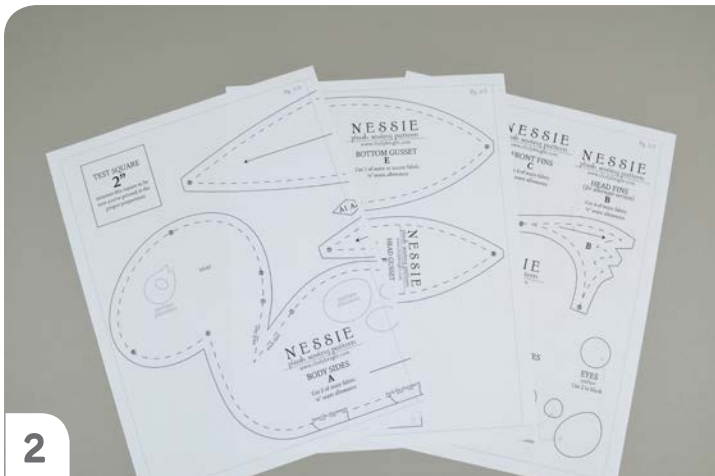
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printing the pattern:

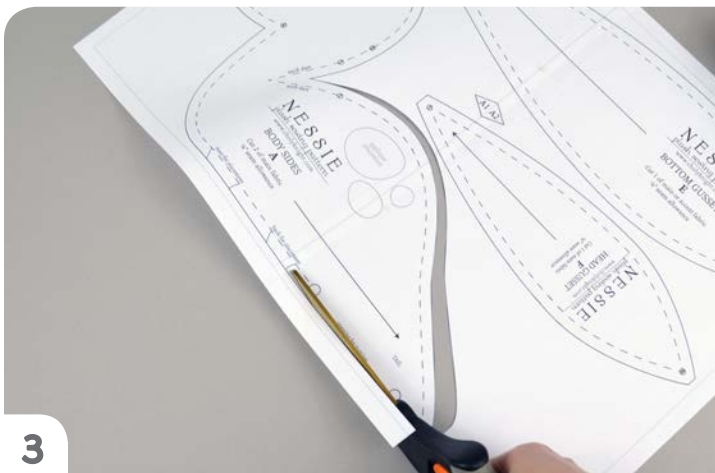
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 13-14**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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.

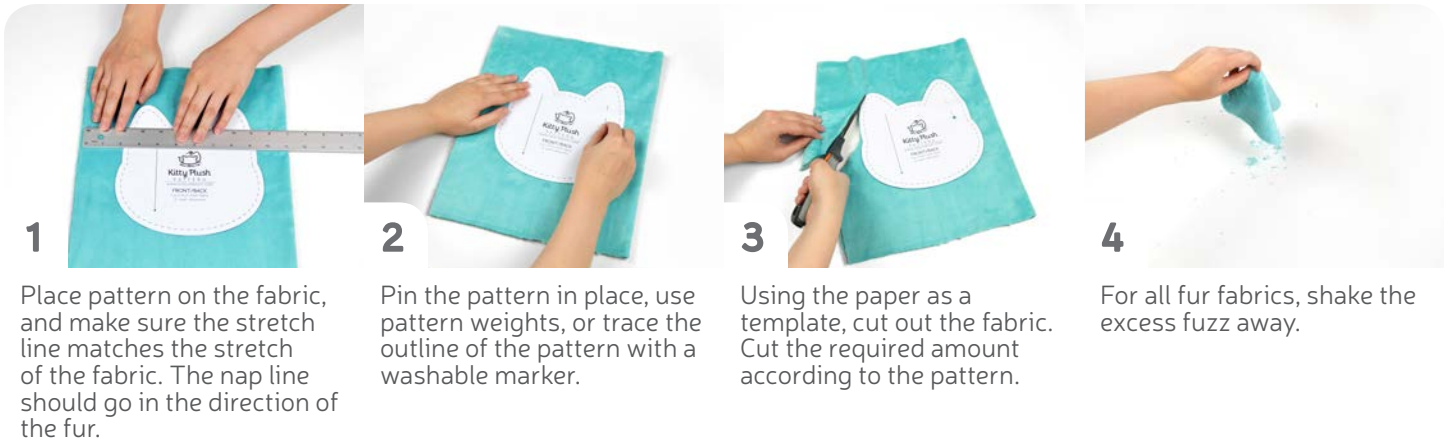


You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper. They might be a little hard to pin through, so you might want to use your longest pins. But you could also use pattern weights or trace the outlines onto the fabric with a washable marker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

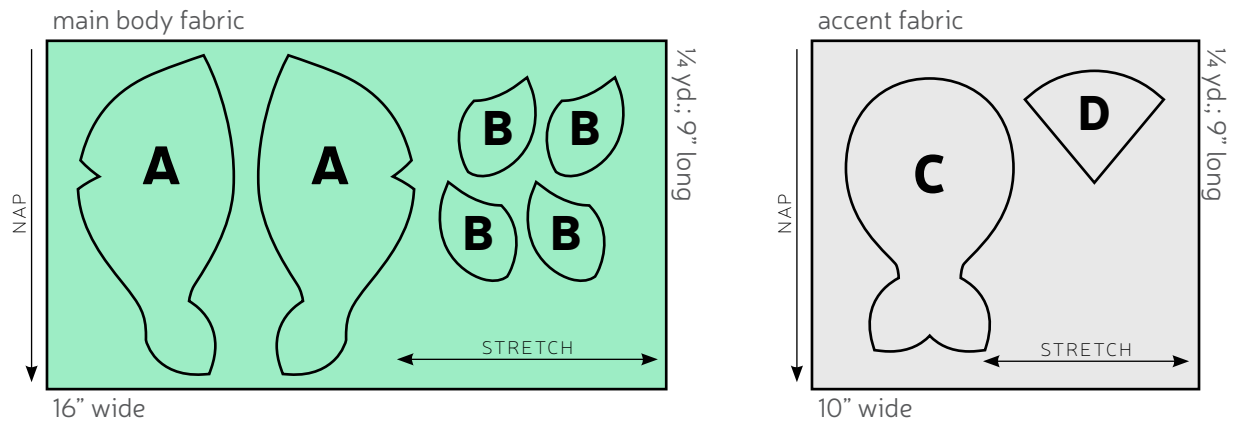
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cutting the fabric:



cutting layout:

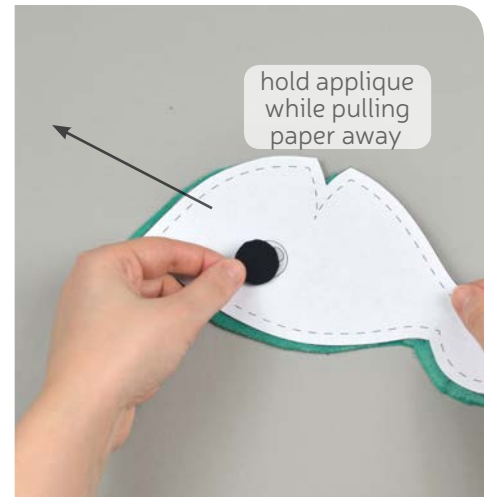


BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

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

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1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Take your fusible web and trace all your applique pieces onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have 2 eyes, and 2 eye shines.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The pupils go onto black and the eye shines on white.
- Cut out the eye pieces and arrange them on the **SIDE** (A) piece of your main fabric. You can do this by setting 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.

tip:

For ease and speed, you could also use safety eyes instead of appliqueing the eyes.



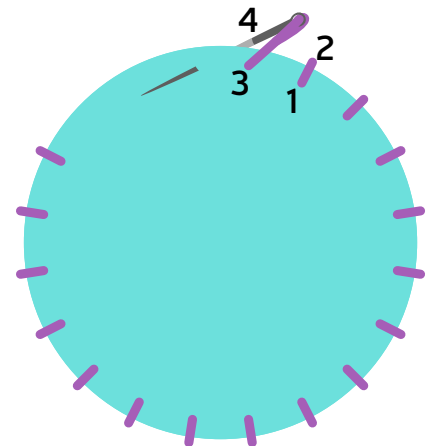
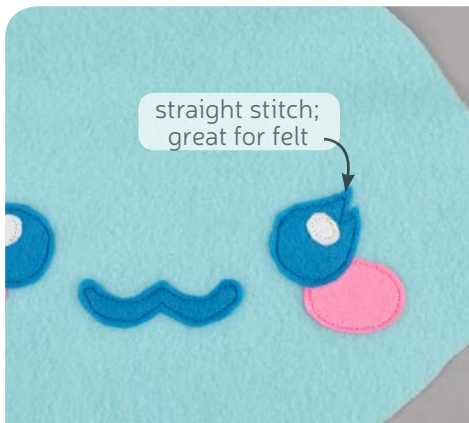
2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the eye pieces in place with your iron (use a press cloth -- such as a scrap piece of cotton -- if you're using a polyester or fur fabric like minky).
- Next, move onto the smaller eye shines. Fuse them much the same way as you did the eyes, using the paper pattern and photos as a guide.
- If you used heavy duty fusible web, you can keep the pieces fused without sewing, or you can sew them in place a number of ways. I've used a zigzag stitch here.

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

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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 TOP DART

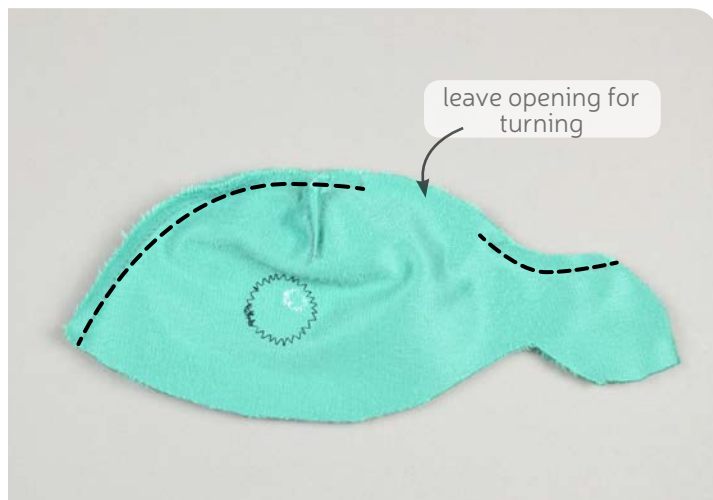
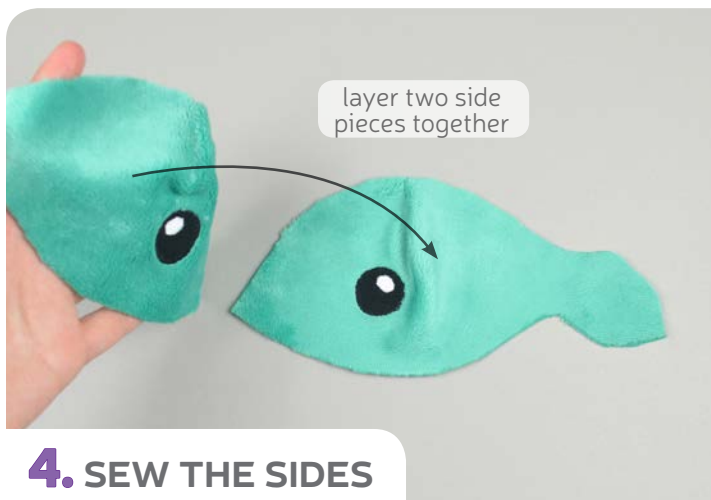
- Locate the open wedge found on the top of the **SIDE** pieces -- these are the darts. To sew them, start by folding the side piece in half along the point of the dart and match up the slanted lines that make the wedge shape.
- Sew the darts by starting at the opening and moving down to the point. When sewing the point, try to blend the seam in with the fold so it makes a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.
- Repeat steps 1-3 for the other **SIDE** piece for two complete pieces 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 SIDES

- Grab both of the **SIDE** pieces you've sewn so far. Align them together with right sides facing and raw edges matching up. Line up the top darts and pin the two pieces along this edge only.
- If you haven't already, locate the opening for turning markings found on the **SIDE (A)** paper pattern. Transfer them over to the wrong side of the fabric. Sew the two pieces together along this edge, being sure to leave an opening where you marked for turning later.



5. SEW THE FINS

- Grab all four of your **FIN** pieces (B). Align two of them together with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the two pieces in place along the pointed end, leaving the short straight-ish edge free for turning right side out later.
- Trim the excess seam allowance near the corner to decrease bulk.

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6. BASTE THE FINS

- Repeat step 5 with the remaining two fin pieces for two completed fins total. Turn them both right side out.
- Grab your **BOTTOM** piece (C). If you haven't already, locate the fin placement lines located on the paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Place the open end of the fin between these lines so the tip of the fin points down toward the tail.
- Baste the fins in place by stitching them within the seam allowance to the **BOTTOM** piece.



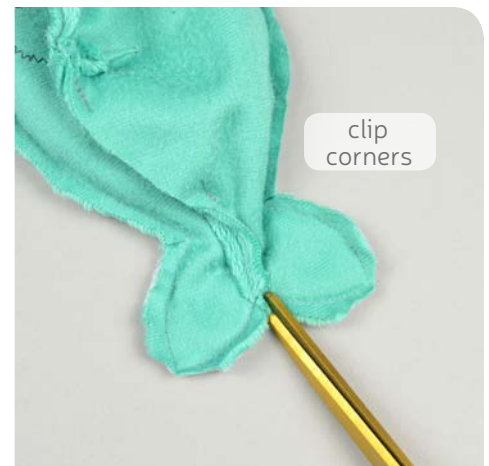
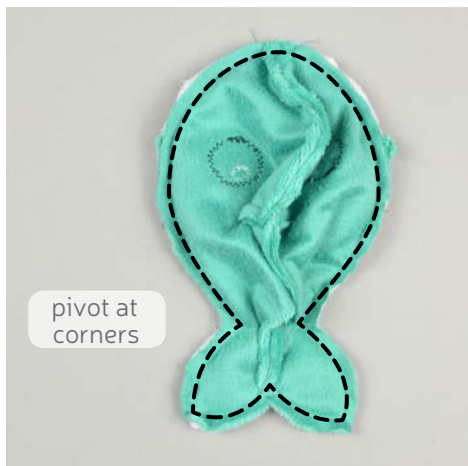
basting:

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).



7. SEW THE BOTTOM

- Grab the **SIDE** pieces you've sewn so far. The open end of the **SIDE** pieces should fit completely around the edges of the **BOTTOM**. Start by locating the notch marking on the **BOTTOM** paper pattern. This should match up with the front seam of the **SIDE** pieces. The circle marking found between the tail fins on the **BOTTOM** should match up with the seam on the tail for the **SIDES**. Once those are matched up, pin around the entire body.
- Sew around the entire perimeter of the narwhal body. Be sure to pivot at the corners near the tail and that the side fins are tucked inside.
- Once complete, trim the excess seam allowance at the outer corners to reduce bulk, and clip the seam allowance inner corners to increase flexibility once the plush is turned.



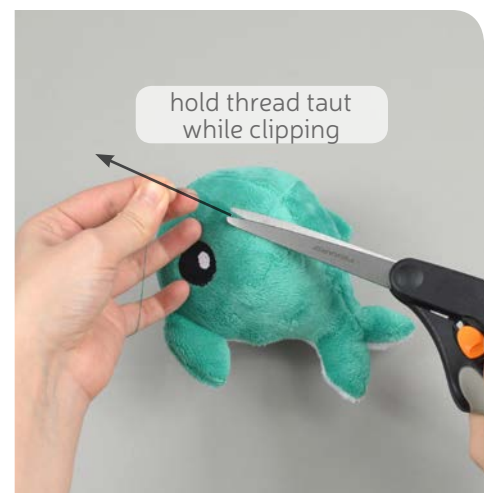
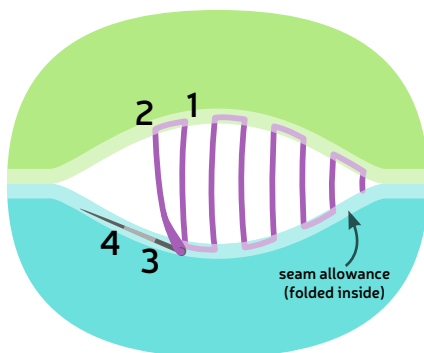
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8. STUFF & SEW CLOSED

- Turn the narwhal body right side out through the opening you left in the back. Stuff it firmly with stuffing, being sure to put small bits in the tail first so those get full.
- 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.
- Continue from here doing 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.
 - For more help, see the illustration below.



9. CLIP THE THREADS

- 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!

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10. SEW THE HORN

- Grab your **HORN** piece (D). If you haven't already, locate the spiral stitching lines found on the paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. I find it's easier to do this by trimming the pattern along the stitching lines and tracing the paper edge.
- Fold the horn in half lengthwise to make it into a skinner triangle. Bring right sides together and align the diagonal edges.
- Sew the horn along this edge, leaving the bottom curved edge free for turning later.



11. TURN AND STUFF THE HORN

- Trim the excess seam allowance near the tip of the horn to reduce bulk.
- Turn the horn right side out and define the point with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- Stuff the horn lightly with stuffing. Be sure to put small bits in the tip to start, then work your way up.

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stitch around
horn opening



pull at thread to
cinch opening closed



stitch around
traced lines

12. CINCH THE HORN CLOSED

- Thread a hand-sewing needle and knot the end. Run a gathering stitch around the opening of the horn.
- Pull at the thread to cinch the horn closed. Tuck in the fabric edges so nothing is poking out.
- Next, sew a gathering stitch along the stitch lines you traced earlier. Start from the bottom working around the horn. Try to make the stitches slightly shorter and more even for the best look. Pull at the thread lightly to form the horn spiral.

→ *Finish the horn in the next step.*

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 ¼"-½" long) gather the fabric when pulled later.



pull at
thread to form
spirals



place ¼"
below top dart



stitch around
base of horn

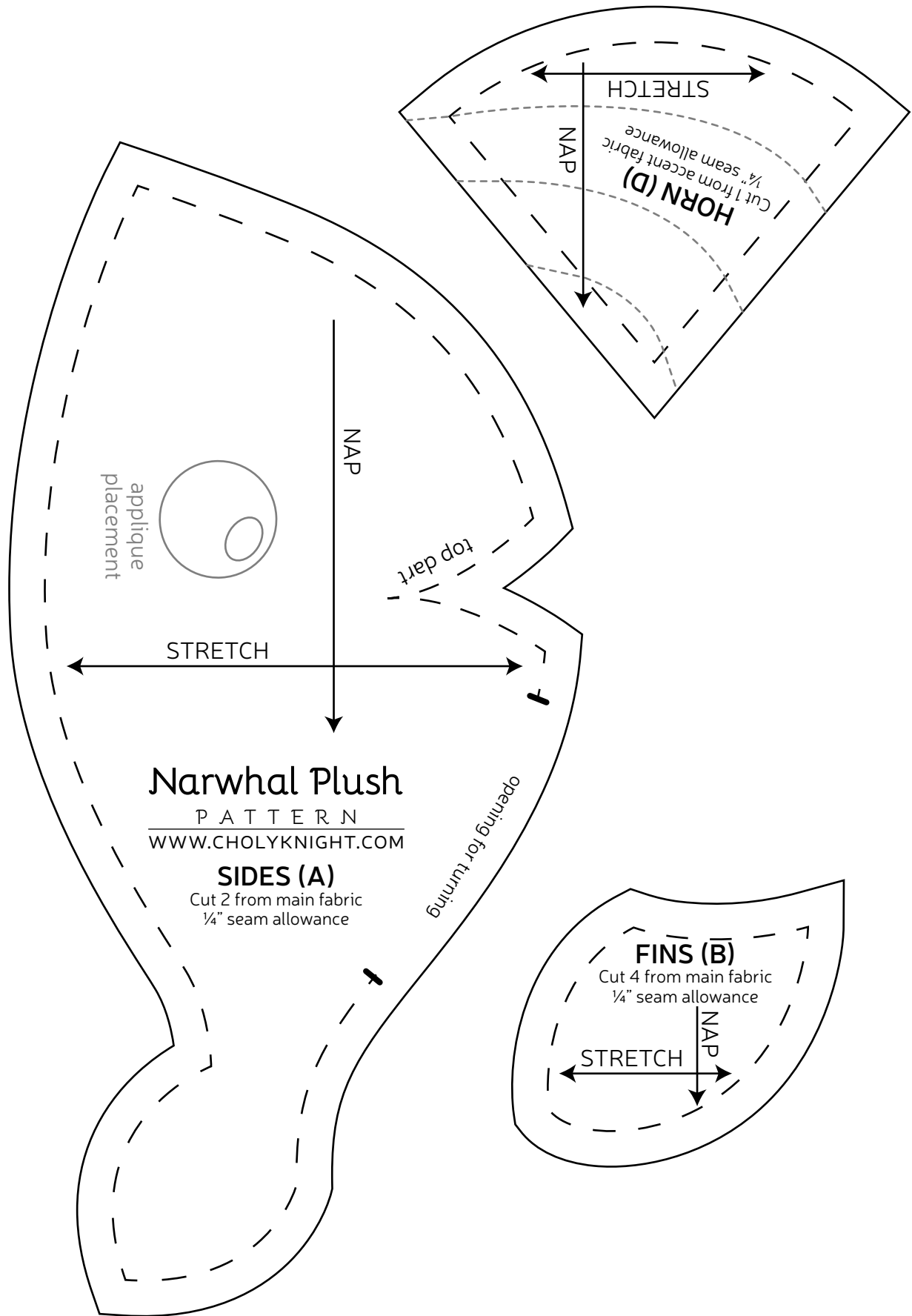
13. ATTACH THE HORN

- Keep working in a spiral making gathering stitches all the way to the top of the horn. Pull at the thread lightly to form the spirals and stitch a knot in the top of the horn while the thread is lightly cinched. Clip the thread like when closing up the opening in the plush; bring the needle out about 1" away and pull while clipping.
- Place the cinched bottom of the horn on the forehead of the narwhal. Some people like it at different heights; mine is ¼" down from the top dart. Pin the horn in place by sticking pins down into the base of the horn into the plush body.
- Stitch around the base of the horn with a ladder stitch similar to how you did back in step 9.

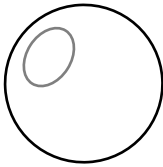
congrats!
this completes
your plush! Now
give it a big
hug!

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EYE
trace & cut 2
from black



EYE SHINE
trace & cut 2
from white

