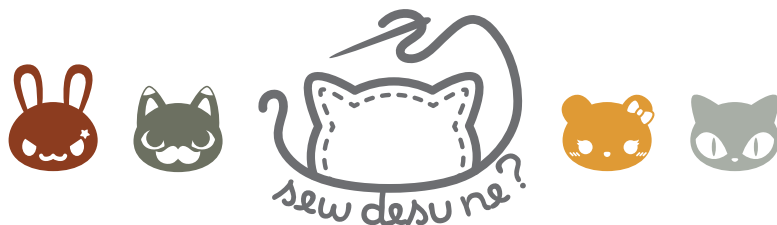


neko atsume



plushies

A SEWING PATTERN BY



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These plushies are of course inspired by the adorable Neko Atsume (kitty collector) kitties -- specifically Pepper, Dottie, and Misty. They're the perfect size for tossing around or leaving by your desk to keep you company.

DIFFICULTY:



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The shape of this plush is based on a classic sphere with a few twists. So if you're used to sewing spheres, you can use this pattern to step up your game a bit.

SKILLS USED:

-
- Darts
 - Curved sewing
 - Sewing inner curves to outer curves
 - Fusible web applique
 - Ladder stitch

MAKES:

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One plush, about 5" wide, 5" long, and 4" tall



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materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. of main fabric
- 3" x 3" piece of applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) -- black for most kitties, additional blue & yellow for pepper
- 3" x 3" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- 5" x 3" piece of accent fabric for stripes on striped kitties like Misty
- sewing thread to match main fabric, applique fabrics, and accent fabric
- 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

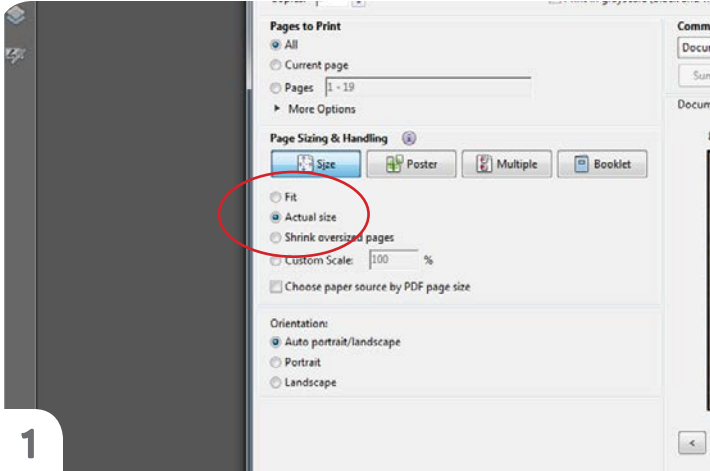


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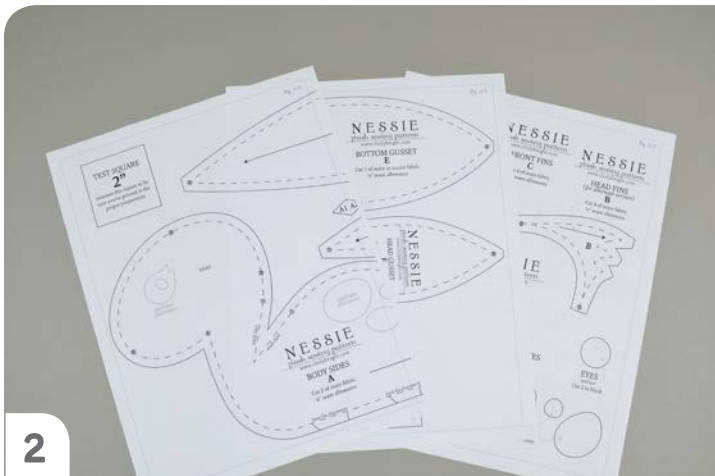
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printing the pattern:

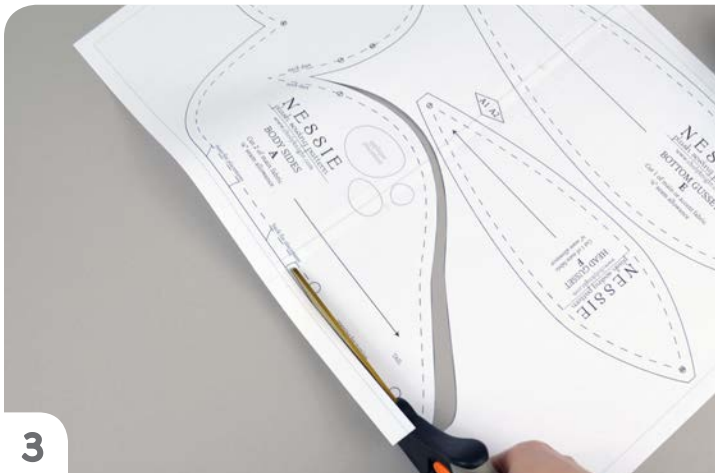
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGE 11**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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.

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.

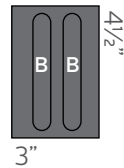
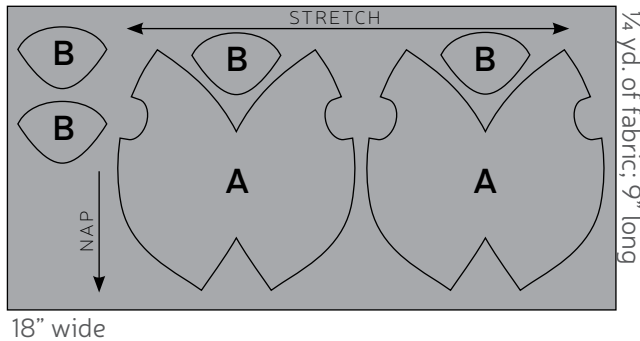


Using the paper as a template, cut out the fabric. Cut the required amount according to the pattern.

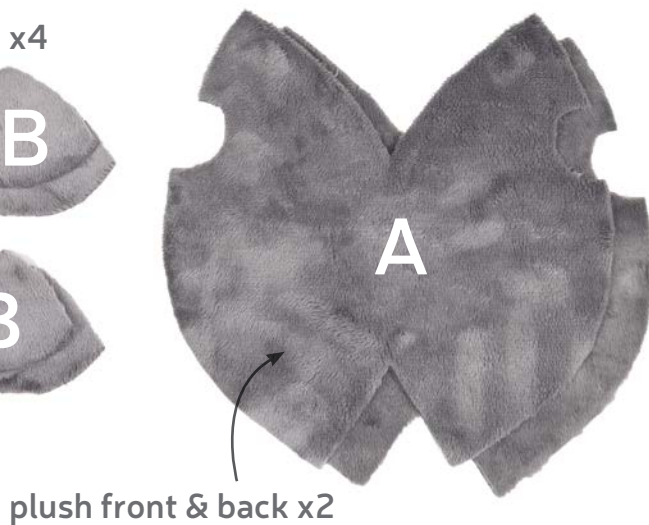
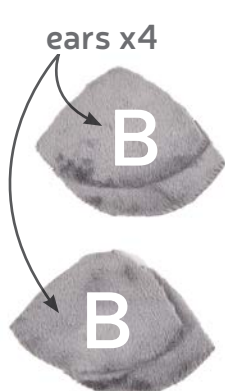


For all fur fabrics, shake the excess fuzz away.

cutting layout:



cut pieces (8 total):



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1. PREPARE THE APPLIQUE

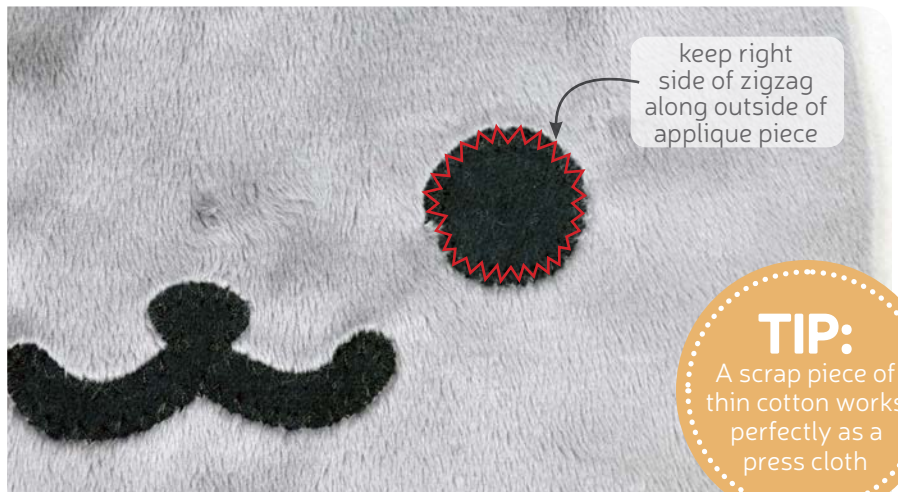
Take your bit of fusible web and trace the eye and mouth patterns onto the smooth (paper) side.

Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric with your iron.

Cut out the shapes and arrange them on one of the Front/Back (A) pieces of your plush. Do this by setting your paper pattern on top of the fabric piece. Align the applique piece on top where the placement markings are, then carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.



2. SEW THE APPLIQUE



TIP:

A scrap piece of thin cotton works perfectly as a press cloth

Repeat this with the remaining applique pieces for two eyes and a mouth.

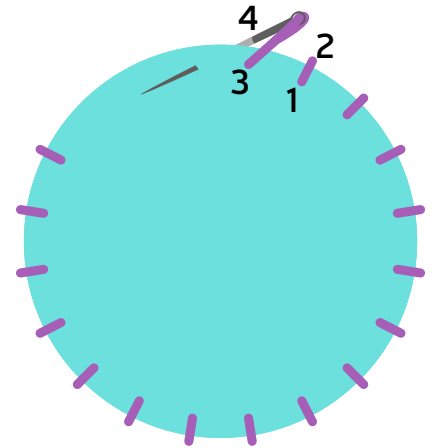
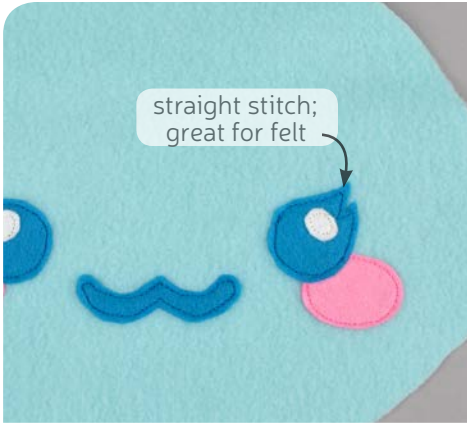
Fuse them in place with your iron (use a press cloth if you're using a polyester or fur fabric like minky).

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.

See the next step for some other options.

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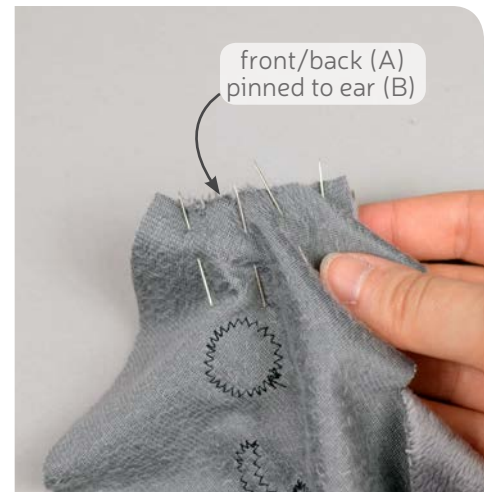


2a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

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. ALIGN THE EARS TO THE BODY

Next up is to attach the ears. This is done by stretching the inner curve of the ear area (found on the Front/Back [A] pieces) to the outer curve found on the bottom of the ear (B) pieces. Fabrics like minky and fleece will stretch significantly and allow you to make these two edges fit together. But if you need some extra help, carefully clip into the inner edge within the seam allowance. This will give you some extra room to stretch.

After you're done, pin the two edges together. If you're new to sewing with curves, lots of pins will be a big help here.

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4. SEW THE EARS



Sew the ears in place along the edge you've pinned. When finished, repeat step 3 with the other side of the front piece so it has two ears. Then repeat all over again with the back piece so both the front and back has two ears.



5. SEW THE UPPER & LOWER DARTS

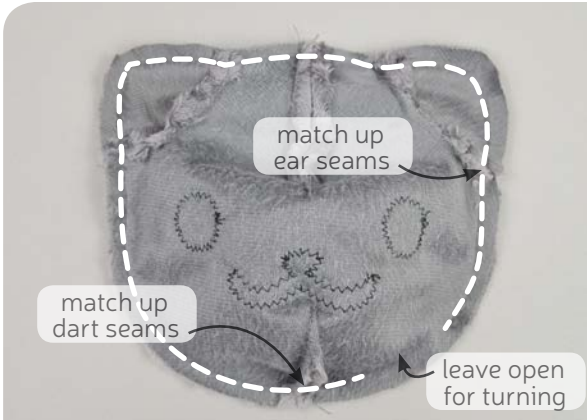


If you haven't already, mark the upper and lower dart legs from the paper pattern. Fold the front piece in half so the dart legs match up, then sew from the opening of the dart down to the point. Ideally, curve the seam towards the end so it blends in with the fold. Make sure to sew both the upper and lower dart.

When complete, repeat for the back so both the front and back of the plush has both darts completed.

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6. SEW THE FRONT TO THE BACK

With the ears attached, line up the front and back together with right sides facing. Match up the seams you've sewn at the ears and also the upper and lower darts.

If you haven't already, transfer the markings from the pattern that show where to turn the plush right side out. It's an opening of a few inches near the bottom dart. This is where you'll want to leave an opening so you can turn the plush right side out later. Once everything is lined up, sew around the perimeter of the plush, being sure to leave an opening as mentioned before.

Once it's sewn, clip the excess seam allowance at the point of the ears.



7. STUFF THE PLUSH

Turn the plush right side out through the opening for turning. Use a turning tool (like a chopstick) to define the tips of the ears. Take a small ball of stuffing and use it to stuff each ear first.

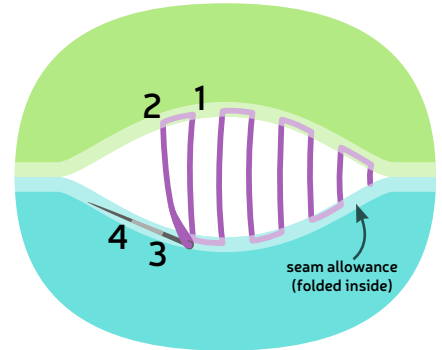
After this, stuff the rest of the plush through the opening by pushing the stuffing to the sides and down until the face looks full and stuffed. Then finally fill in the middle to be sure that the entire plush is full.

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8. STITCH THE PLUSH CLOSED

Once the plush is stuffed, make sure the seam allowances in the opening are tucked inside and prepare to ladder stitch it closed. Thread a hand-sewing needle and knot it at the end. Insert the needle from the inside of the opening and out of the plush near one edge of the opening. This will leave the knot inside the plush.

Continue from here doing a ladder stitch. Take a $\frac{1}{8}$ " 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. Then insert the needle near the finished knot and out of the plush about 1-2" away. Pull the thread through and hold it taught while snipping the thread. The excess thread should sink back inside the plush -- all hidden!



9. ATTACH THE ACCENT STRIPES

If you're doing a cat like Fred, Mack, or Misty, you need some accent tabby stripes going down the head. Lay the accent stripes (C) across the head between the ears as shown. The placement will differ depending on how your plush turned out, but mine are spaced about $\frac{1}{2}$ " apart and go 2" down from the top seam. Pin the stripes in place by sticking pins down through them.

Once the stripes are placed, stitch them in place with a hand-sewn applique whipstitch as done in step 2a.

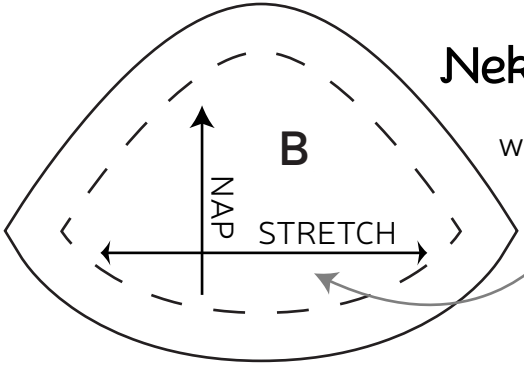
That completes your plush!

Neko Atsume Plush

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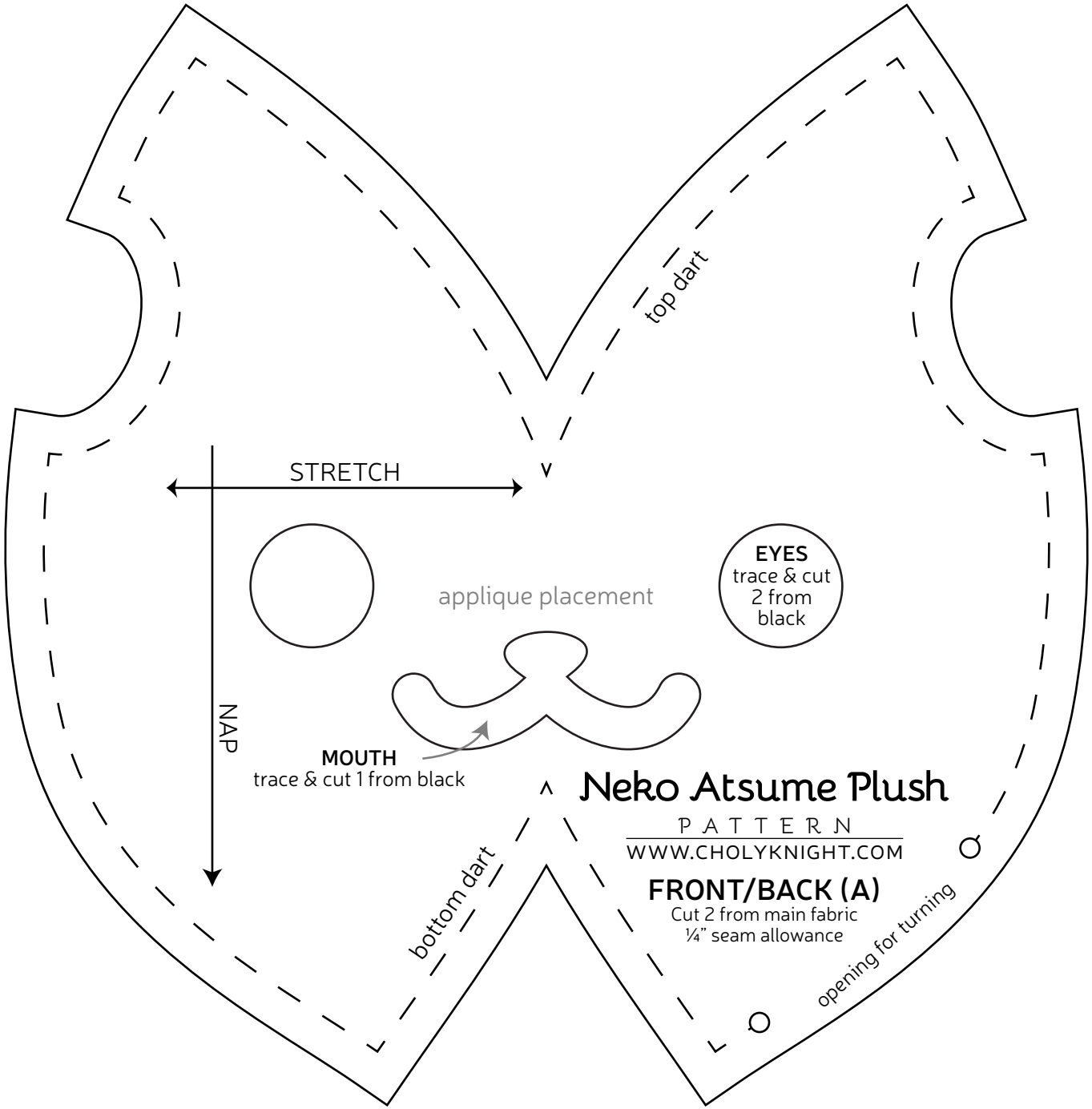
EARS (B)

Cut 4 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance



STRIPES (C)

Cut 2 from accent fabric



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FRONT/BACK (A)

Cut 2 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance

opening for turning