

NO FACE PLUSH



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



NO FACE PLUSH

Fans of Ghibli's Spirited Away are sure to recognize this charming character! This strange creature gets his name from having no face (*kaonashi* in Japanese) and instead wears a mysterious mask.

He befriends the main character, Chihiro, and has notable scenes where he offers her bath tokens and gold. You can recreate the same wonderful moments with all the templates and instructions included in this pattern!

DIFFICULTY:



This plush has some very simple shapes and comes together quite quickly. The hardest part might be hand sewing the various items to his hands, but you can easily skip that and still have an adorable plush.

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Curved sewing
- Basting
- Darts
- Ladder stitch
- Sewing small pieces

MAKES:

One plush: about 7½" tall, 3" wide, and 2½" long.



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materials & tools:

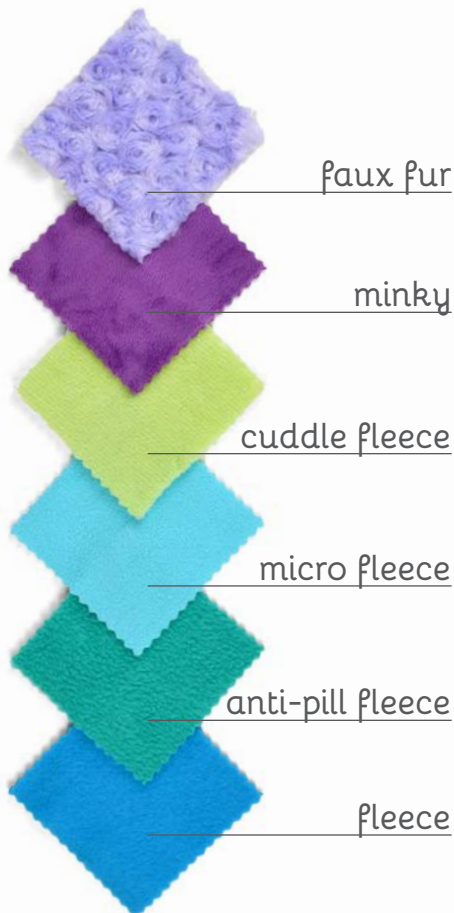
- 1/3 yd. or 15" x 12" of black fabric for main body
- 7" x 4" of scrap fabric for poly pellet pouch
- **APPLIQUE FABRIC (FLANNEL, FELT, ETC.):**
- 4" x 4" piece of white for mask (and teeth)
- 2" x 2" piece of black for eyes/mouth
- 2" x 2" piece of pink for tongue
- 2" x 2" piece of purple for mask markings
- 2" x 4" piece of red for 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 for weight
- spoon or funnel for filling poly pellets
- basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)
- **OPTIONAL:** 1/8 yd. or 7" x 4" of accent fabric for item to hold
- **BATH TOKENS:** 2" x 2" pieces of yellow and black applique fabric
- **KNITTING:** 2 toothpicks (~2 1/2" long), matching embroidery floss, embroidery needle

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

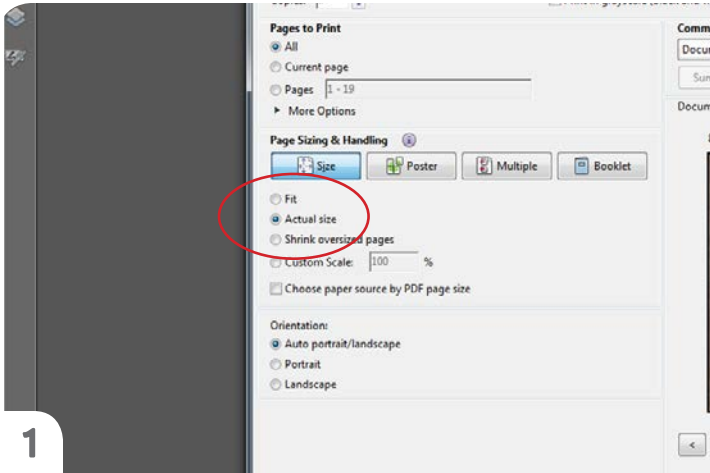


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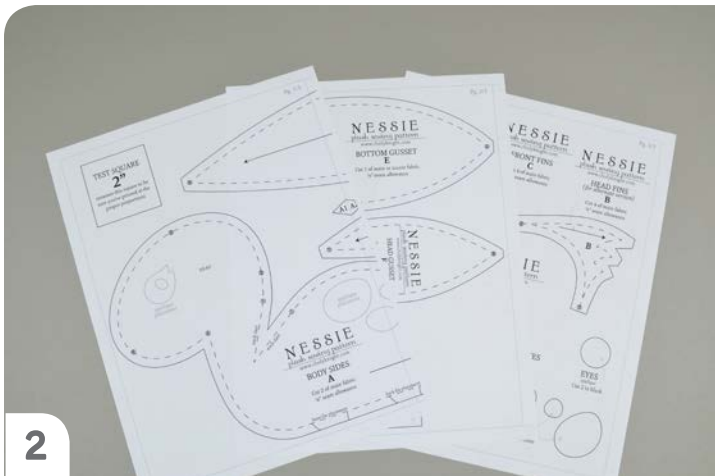
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printing the pattern:

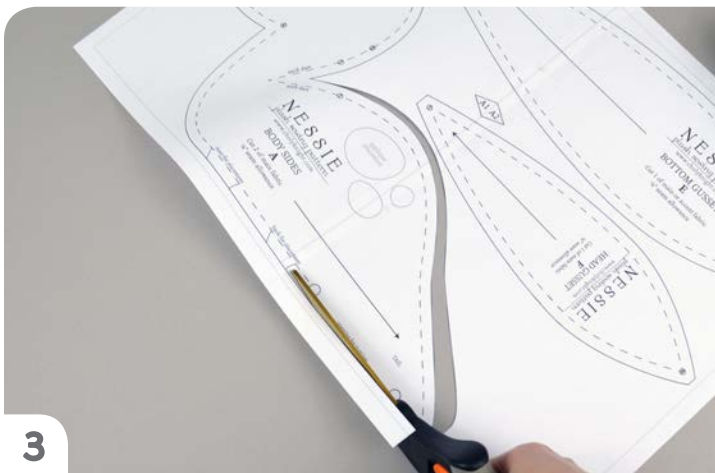
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 18-20**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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.

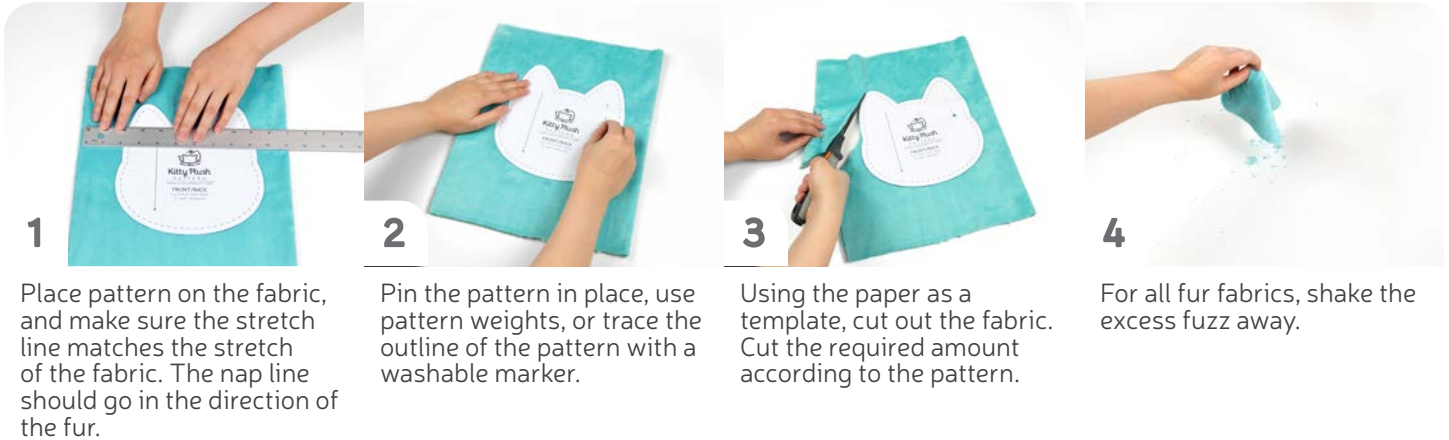


You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper. They might be a little hard to pin through, so you might want to use your longest pins. But you could also use pattern weights or trace the outlines onto the fabric with a washable marker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

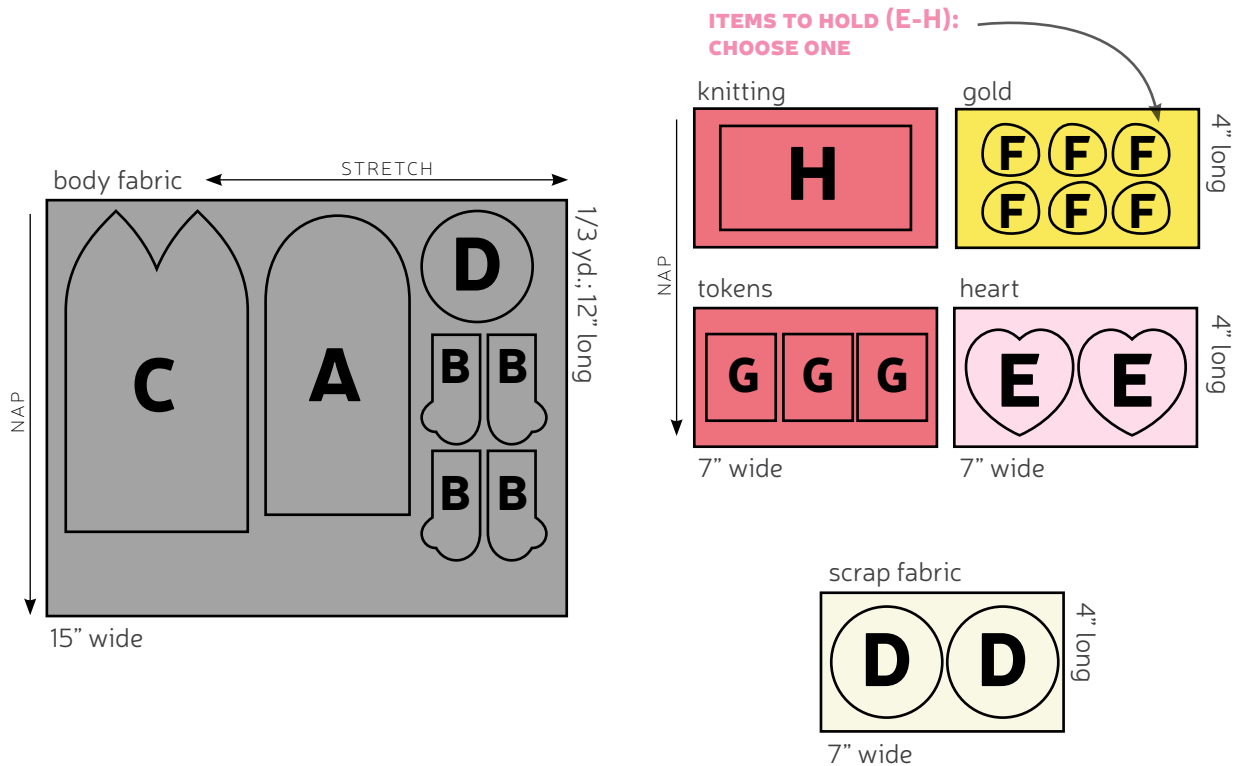
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cutting the fabric:



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 one **mask**, two **eyes**, four **mask markings**, and a **smile**. If you want No Face's mouth, you'll also need one **mouth**, one **tongue**, and seven **teeth**.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The **mask** (and **teeth**) should go on white, the **markings** should go on purple, the **eyes** and **smile** on black, the **mouth** on red, and the **tongue** on pink.
- Cut out the **mask** and arrange it on the **FRONT** (A) piece. Set your paper pattern on top of the fabric piece (right sides up). Align the **mask** piece on top where the placement markings are. Then carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.



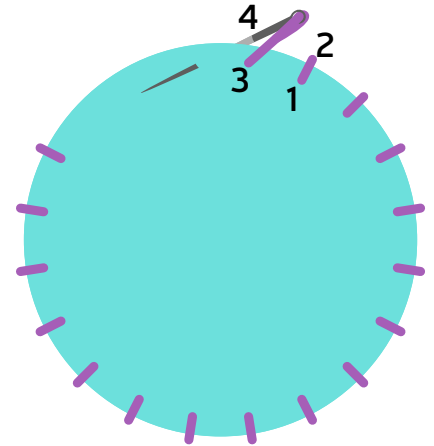
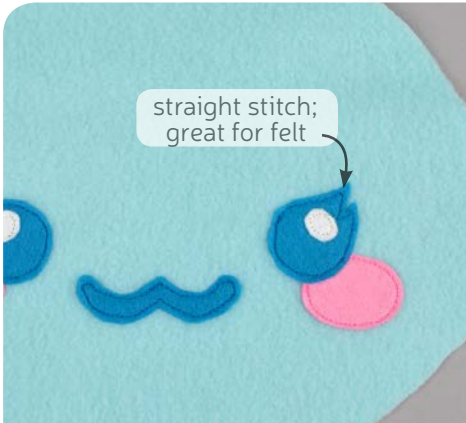
2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the **mask** piece in place with your iron. Use a press cloth if you're using a polyester or fuzzy fabric like minky.
- Next (if you're using it), add the **mouth** beneath the mask in the same manner.
- Finally, move onto the smaller pieces: the **eyes/smile**, **mask markings**, **tongue**, and **teeth**. Fuse them the same way as you did the **mask**, 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.

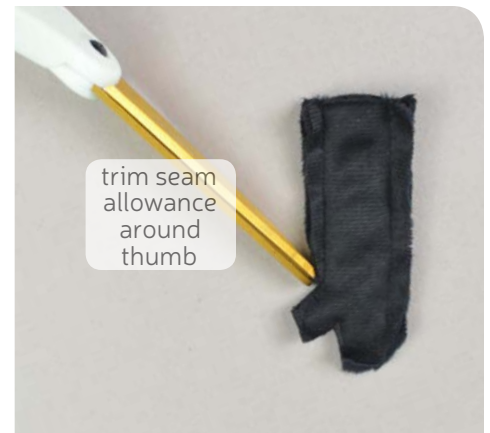
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2a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

- 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 ARMS

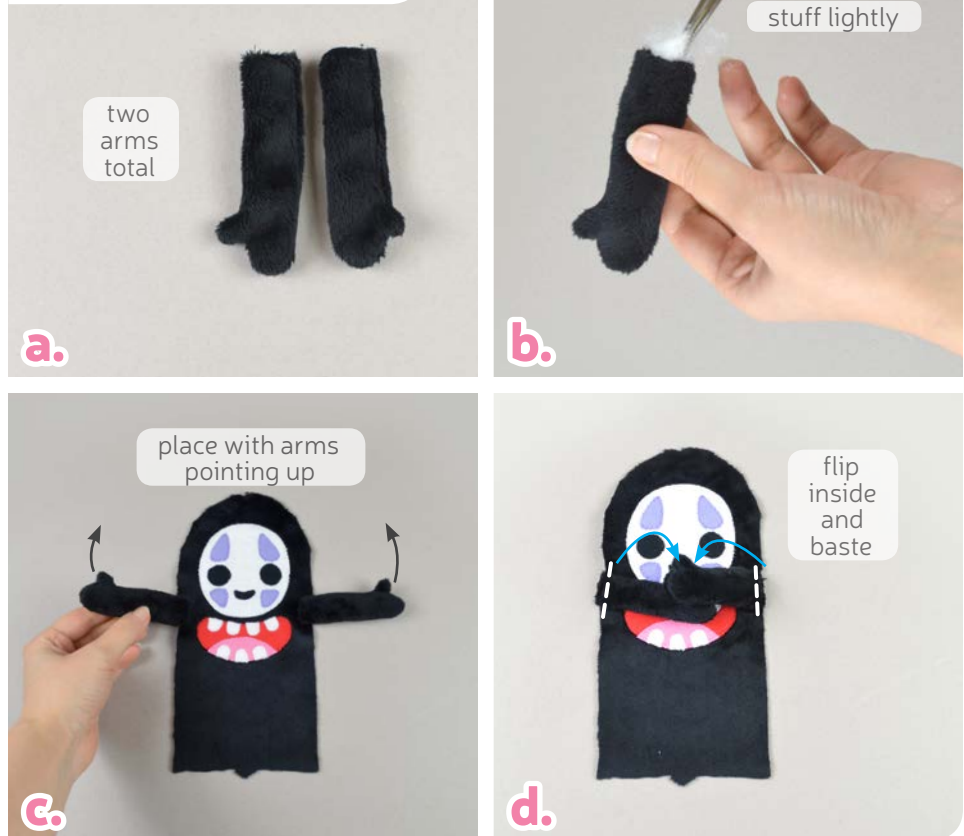
- Grab your **ARM** pieces (B). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the curved edge and around the thumb. Leave the short straight edge open for turning the arm right side out later.
- Trim the excess seam allowance around the thumb to reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the arm is turned later.
Repeat this step with your remaining arm pieces for two sewn arms total.

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- a. Turn both of your **ARMS** right side out through the opening and define the thumbs with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- b. Stuff the arms lightly with stuffing. Keep the opening empty since we'll be attaching it to the front next.
- c. Grab your **FRONT** piece (A) from before. If you haven't already, locate the **arm placement lines** found on the paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open ends of the arms within these lines so the thumbs point up.
- d. Flip the arms to the inside and baste the open edges to the sides of the front piece.

4. BASTE THE ARMS



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).

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 BACK DART

- a. Locate the open wedge found on the top of the **BACK** (C) piece -- this is a **dart**. To sew it, start by folding the back piece in half along the point of the **dart** and match up the slanted lines that make the wedge shape.
- b. Sew the **dart** by starting at the opening and moving down to the point. Blend the seam into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.

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6. SEW THE BODY



- Open up the **BACK** piece (C).
- Align the back piece over your **FRONT** piece so far (A). Note that the **dart** in the back will match up with the **circle marking** in the front for extra help with alignment. Pin the front to the back all the way around the curved edge. Leave the bottom straight edge free.
- If you haven't already, locate the **opening for turning markings** found on the paper pattern for the front. Transfer it over to the wrong side of the fabric, or just estimate a ~2" area between the bottom corner and **ARM**. Sew the back to the front along the curved edge. Leave the straight edge along the bottom (with the **notches**) free for adding the **BOTTOM** piece (D) later. Also leave the opening that you marked in the side for turning the body later.



7. SEW THE BOTTOM



- Grab your **BOTTOM** piece (D) from your main fabric. Open up the opening in the bottom of the body and align it around the circle. For extra help with alignment, the **single notches** found along the bottom of the body will match up with the **notches** on the bottom piece.
- Sew the body all the way around the bottom.
- Turn the body right side out through the opening in the side.

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8. SEW THE PELLET POUCH

- Grab your **BOTTOM** (D) pieces from your scrap fabric. These will become your pellet pouch pieces. 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 by hand for extra safety using a back stitch, 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.



9. STUFF THE BODY

- Stuff the body with stuffing starting at the top working downward. Be sure to stuff it firmly so there are no wrinkles in the fabric at the darts and seams. Stop when you're about 2/3 of the way full so you can add the pellet pouch.
- Grab your **PELLET POUCH** (D) and place it on the bottom of the body so far. Finally fill the rest of the body with stuffing.
- 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.

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10. SEW CLOSED



- 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.
- 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!



11. ANCHOR THE ARMS

- Your No Face is essentially done! If you'd like his arms to hang more naturally, you can bend them downward and ladder stitch them in place along the bottom where it meets the body.

The next steps go over the different items your No Face can hold.



HEART:
Pg. 12



BATH TOKENS:
Pg. 13



GOLD:
Pg. 14



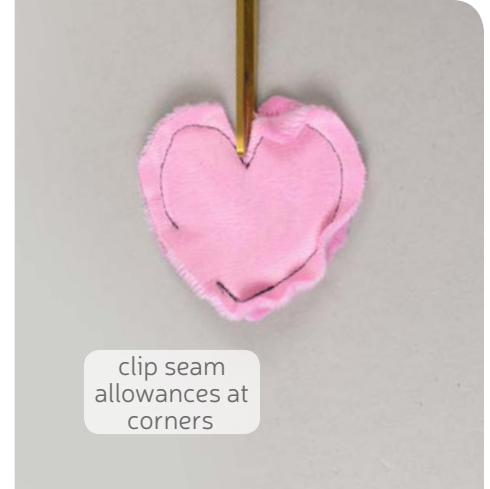
KNITTING:
Pg. 16

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12. SEW THE HEART



- Grab your **HEART** pieces (E). Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together around the perimeter, but leave an opening in the side for turning the piece later. There's also an **opening for turning guide** on the paper pattern for extra help.
- Clip the seam allowances at the inner and outer corners. This will reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned later.



13. STUFF AND CLOSE THE HEART

- Turn the heart right side out through the opening in the side.
- Stuff the heart lightly, just enough so it puffs nicely.
- Turn under the seam allowances and ladder stitch the heart closed.

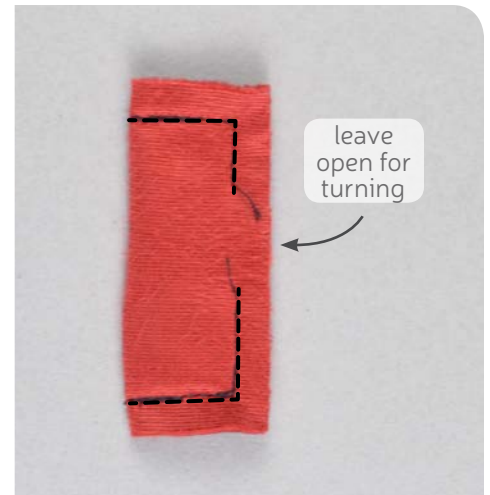
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- a. To attach the heart, bring No Face's arms forward with the thumbs pointing up. Align the palms with the sides of the heart and pin the sides in place.
- b. Ladder stitch each side of the heart to the palms.

14. ATTACH THE HEART

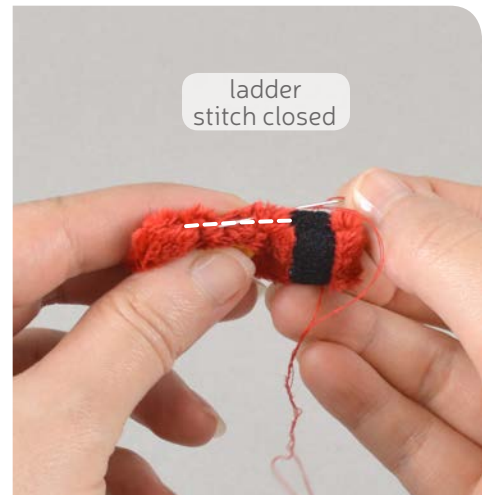


15. SEW THE BATH TOKEN

- a. Grab your **BATH TOKEN** pieces (G). Take this moment to applique the **bath token markings** to your bath token fabric. Follow the steps on page 6 to apply the two yellow **circles** and one black **stripe** following the pattern guidelines.
- b. Once the pieces are appliqued, fold it in half lengthwise so the circles match up.
- c. Sew the token along the raw edges, leaving an opening along the side. The paper pattern has an **opening for turning guide**, but you can also estimate about a 1" area between the stripe and the corner.

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16. TURN AND CLOSE THE BATH TOKEN

- Trim the seam allowance at the corners to reduce bulk when the piece is turned.
 - Carefully turn the token right side out through the small opening.
 - Tuck in the seam allowance in the opening and ladder stitch the opening closed.
- *Skip ahead to step 18 to finish and attach the tokens.*

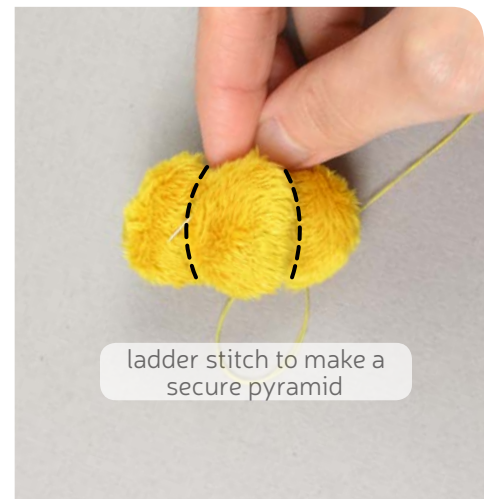
- Grab your **GOLD** pieces (F). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the gold pieces together all around the perimeter, leaving about a 1" opening along one side. The paper pattern also has an **opening for turning guide** if you need help.
- Turn the gold piece right side out and stuff it lightly with stuffing, just enough so it puffs up.
- Tuck the seam allowances inside and ladder stitch the gold piece closed.

17. SEW THE GOLD



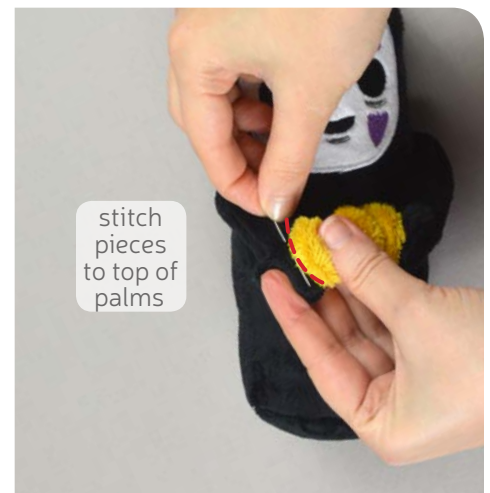
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18. STACK AND SEW THE TOKENS/GOLD

- Repeat steps 15-16 (for the **TOKENS**) or step 17 (for the **GOLD**) twice more so you have either 3 tokens or 3 gold pieces total.
- Take your 3 pieces and stack them so they make a short pyramid.
- Stitch the 3 pieces together where they touch using a ladder stitch so the pyramid set is secure as one unit.



19. ATTACH THE TOKENS/GOLD

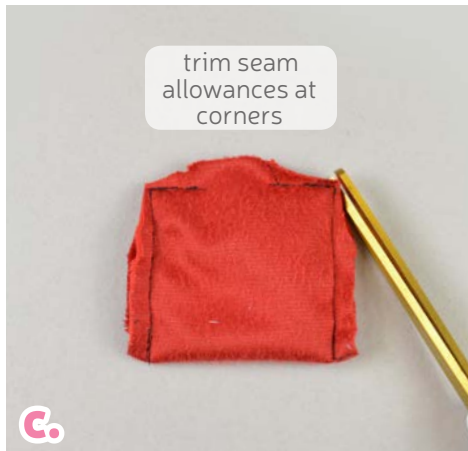
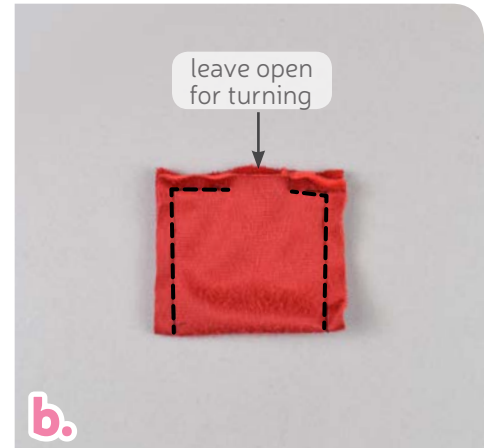
- Grab your No Face's hands and bend them so the palms are facing up and the thumbs pointing outward.
- Place the stack of **TOKENS/GOLD** on top of his palms and pin them in place to hold them.
- Ladder stitch the tokens/gold to his palms to secure.

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- a. Grab your **KNITTING** piece (H). Fold it in half widthwise with right sides facing and the shorter sides matching up.
- b. Sew the piece together along the raw edges, but leave an opening along one side for turning the piece later. There's an **opening for turning guide** on the paper pattern for extra help.
- c. Trim the excess seam allowance at the corners to reduce bulk when the piece is turned later.
- d. Turn the piece right side out through the opening, and define the corners with a chopstick or similar turning tool. Tuck the seam allowances inside and ladder stitch the opening closed.

20. SEW THE KNITTING



21. TRIM THE TOOTHPICKS

- a. Grab your toothpicks. If yours have a sharp point on both ends, take a moment to trim the sharp end on one side.
- b. Make sure each of your two toothpicks has a blunt end. These are going to be No Face's knitting needles.

→ **TIP:** *avoid splinters by lightly sanding the toothpicks with a nail file or sandpaper. Or you could also paint a coat of clear nail polish over the toothpicks and let dry.*

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22. ATTACH THE TOOTHPICKS

- Grab your toothpicks, your **KNITTING** piece (H), and your embroidery floss and needle. Thread the needle with your floss and knot the end. Place one of your toothpicks along the **folded edge** of your knitting. There's less bulk along this edge so it's easier to sew. The blunt end of the toothpick should point toward the outside of the fabric, extending about ½". Start your stitching at one corner of the fabric. Stitch the toothpick to the fabric using your floss, wrapping the thread around the toothpick for each stitch (similar to a whip stitch). Pause when you get halfway across the fabric edge.
- Place your second toothpick against the other half of your fabric with the blunt end pointing out. The pointed ends of the toothpicks should cross in the middle as shown.
- Continue stitching with the floss, but wrap the floss around your second toothpick with each stitch. Keep going until you reach the other end of the fabric. Knot the floss and trim when complete.



23. ATTACH THE KNITTING

- Take your No Face's hands and twist them so the thumbs are pointing upward at an angle and toward each other. Grab your finished knitting and place the toothpicks along his palms with the thumbs resting on the toothpick tips. Note that the toothpicks will point upward in an 'A' shape. Pin the knitting to the palms.
- Stitch the back of the knitting fabric to the palms to secure them.



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