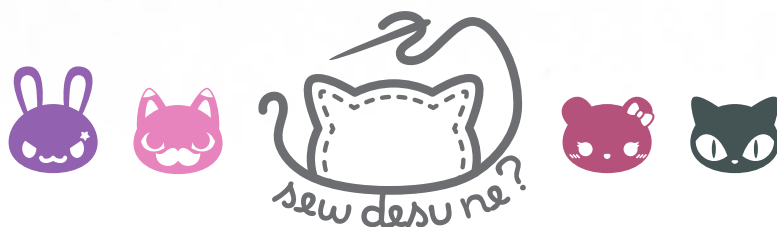


OPOSSUM PLUSH



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



OPOSSUM PLUSH

Everyone's favorite trash-loving marsupial is here! This pattern goes over how to make this sweet and cuddly opossum, complete with a long snout, big ears, tiny fingers, and curly tail.

In order to make this friendly to embroiderers, a smaller version was also designed. Which makes it absolutely perfect for a mama and baby plush duo! The instructions are the same, but keep an eye out for differences in the fabric requirements and cutting layout.

DIFFICULTY: ■■■■■□□□□□□□□

The hardest part of this plush is likely the y-seam used for the forehead, so be sure to mark your points carefully. Also the arms and legs are attached by hand, so give yourself time for those.

SKILLS USED:

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

MAKES:

MAMA SIZE: about 7" tall, 5" wide (from each side of head), and 6" long (from nose to back of head)

BABY SIZE: about 5" tall, 3½" wide (from each side of head), and 4" long (from nose to back of head)

mama size:

baby size:



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materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. of light fabric for face and belly
- ¼ yd. of medium fabric for body and head back
- ⅛ yd. of dark fabric for arms, legs, and ears
- ⅛ yd. of pink fabric for fingers, toes, and tail
- **FOR BABY SIZE:** 2" x 2" of pink felt for fingers and toes
- 4" x 4" piece of black applique fabric (flannel, felt, fleece, cotton, etc.) for eyes and mouth
- 2" x 2" scrap of accent applique fabric for eye highlights
- 2" x 2" scrap of white applique fabric for eye shines
- 2" x 2" scrap of pink applique fabric for nose
- 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)

Shannon brand Luxury Shag faux fur:



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.

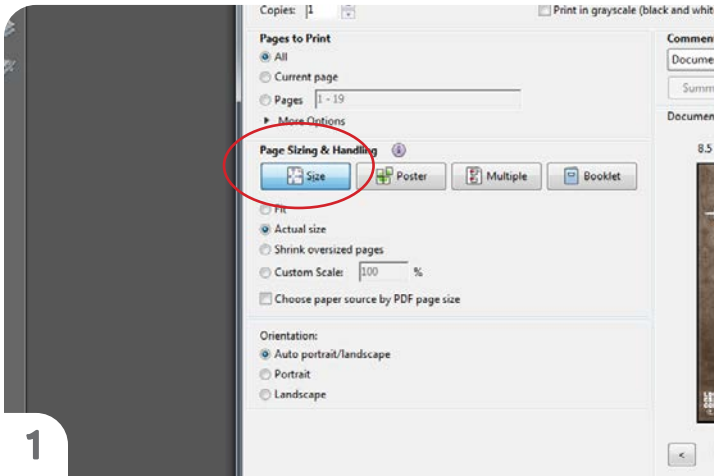
MINKY
VS.
FELT


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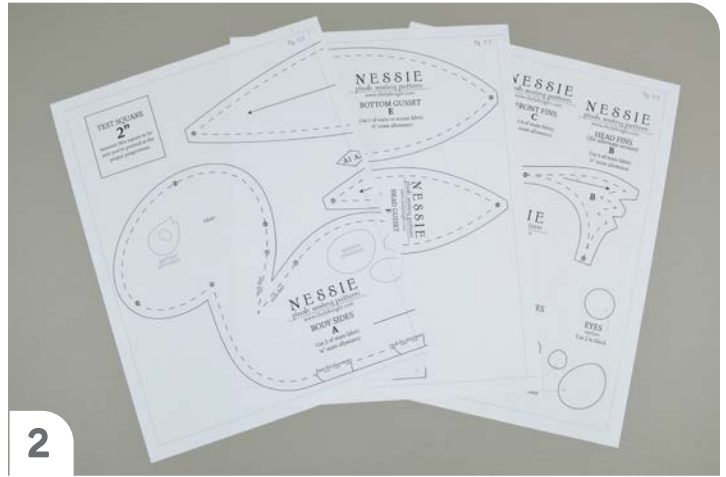
printing the pattern:

To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 21-23** for the **MAMA SIZE**, or **PAGES 24-25** for the **BABY SIZE**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



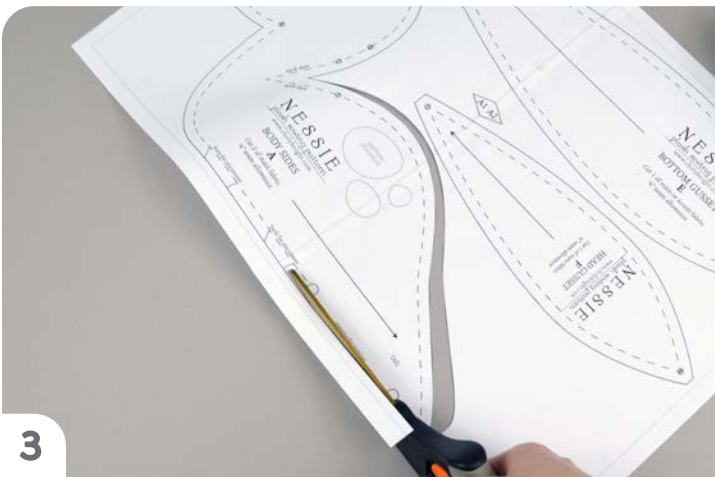
1

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.



2

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.



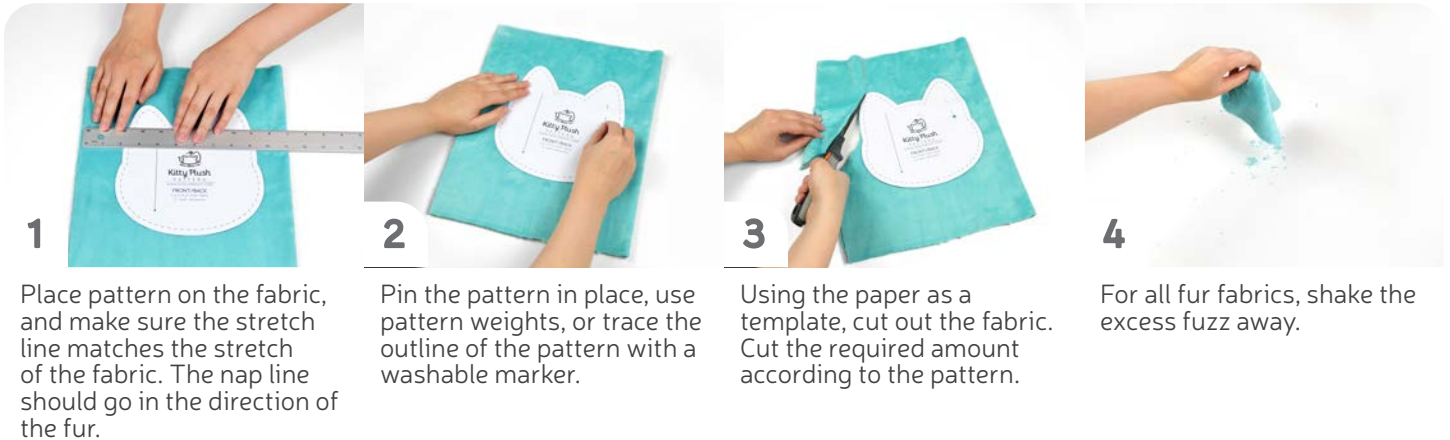
3

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.

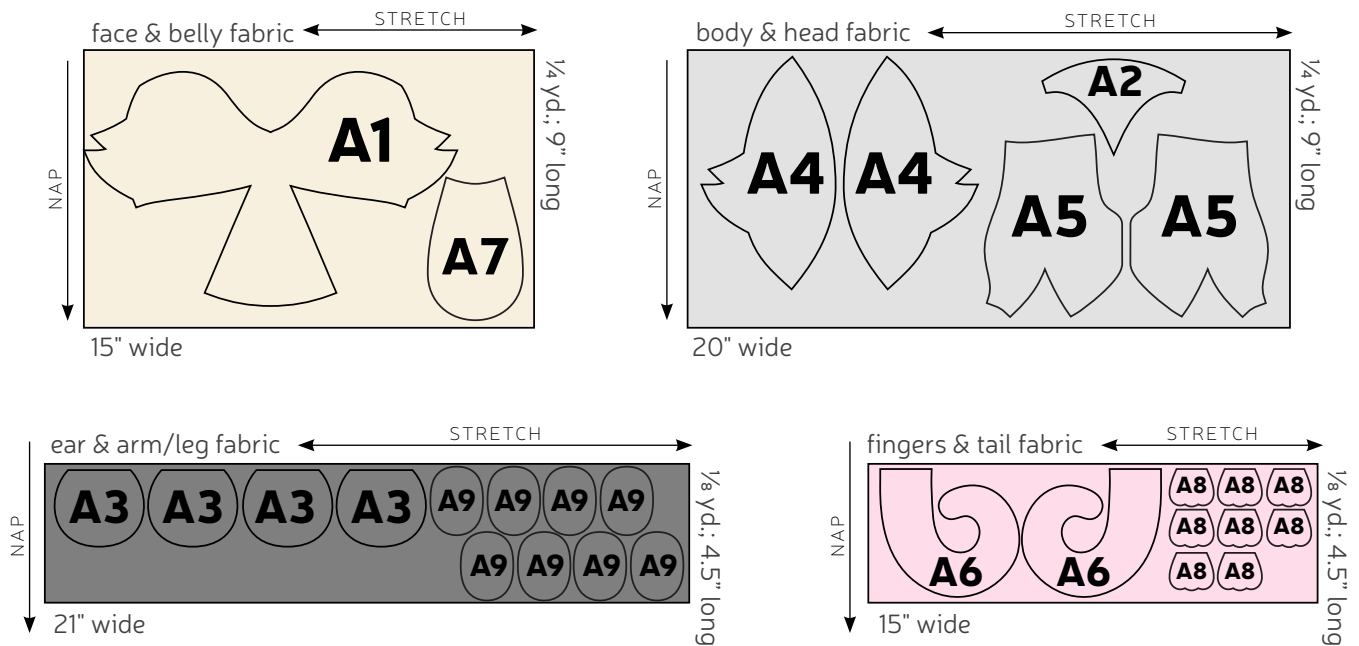
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cutting the fabric:



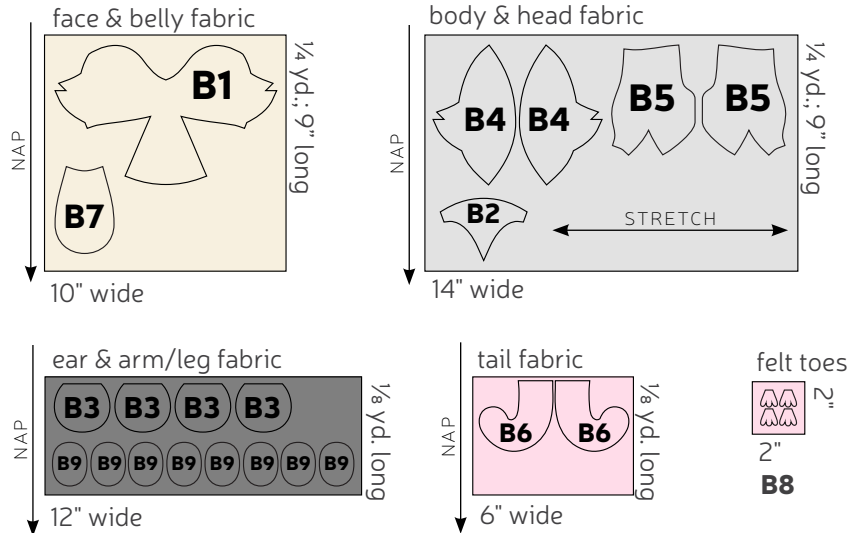
cutting layout: MAMA SIZE (A PIECES)



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cutting layout: BABY SIZE (B PIECES)



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.



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 2 **eyes**, 2 **eye shines**, a **nose**, and a **mouth**. But you can also add **eye highlights**.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The **eyes** and **mouth** should be on black, the eye shines on **white**, and the nose on **pink**.
- Cut out the face pieces and grab your **HEAD FRONT (A)** 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 slide the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.

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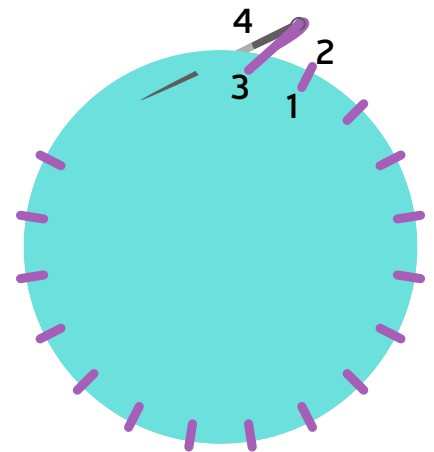
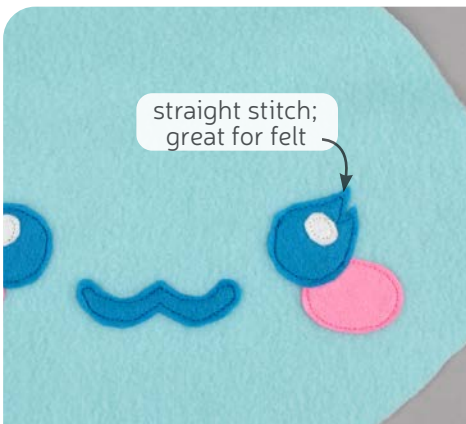


2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the **eyes** in place with your iron. Use a press cloth if you're using a polyester or fuzzy fabric like minky. 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 **mouth, nose, eye highlights, and eye shines**. Fuse them 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.*

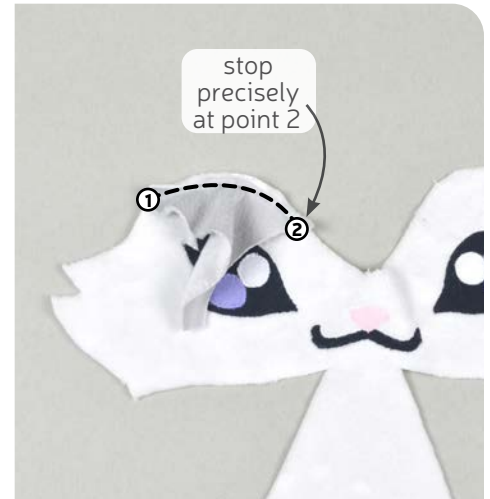
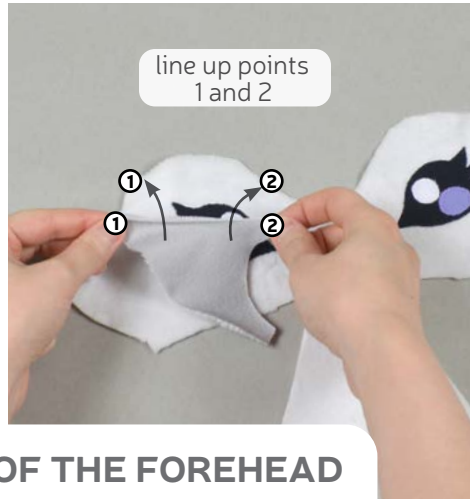
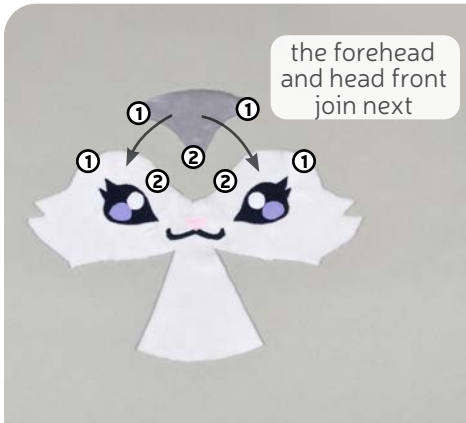


2a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

- 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.

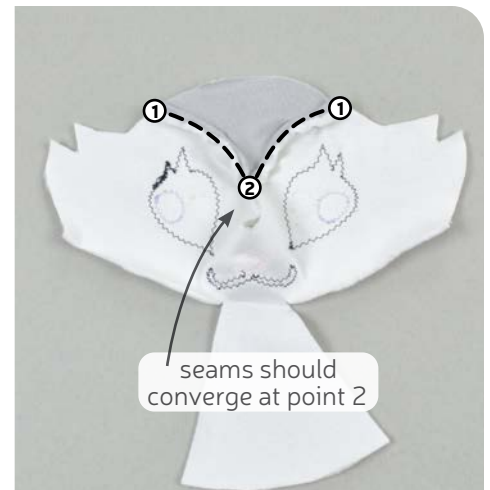
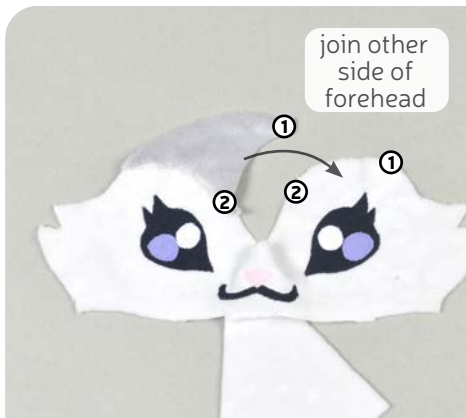
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3. SEW THE FIRST SIDE OF THE FOREHEAD

- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** (1) and **FOREHEAD** pieces (2). The forehead will be joined to the top of the head front between **points 1 and 2** on both sides. So mark those points now if you haven't already.
- Bend the forehead to fit along one side of the head front so **points 1 and 2** match up.
- Sew from **point 1** down to **point 2** and stop precisely at **point 2** as best as you can.



4. COMPLETE THE FOREHEAD

- Open up the pieces when complete, and your head should look something like the first photo.
- Align the other side of the **FOREHEAD** (2) to the other side of the **HEAD FRONT** (1), matching up **points 1 and 2** again.
- Sew from **point 1** down to **point 2** once again, and try to stop exactly at **point 2**. This should match up with your seam from step 3 and create a nice corner at the forehead.

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- a. Fold your **HEAD FRONT** piece (A) in half and set it on its side. This should line up the two raw edges beneath the forehead and above the nose. Sew from **point 2** at the corner of the forehead, down the nose bridge and around the nose into the fold of the fabric.
- b. Turn the nose right side out and it should look something like the second photo.



5. SEW THE NOSE



6. SEW THE CHIN DARTS



- a. Up next we're going to sew the large wedges found along the bottom of the **HEAD FRONT** (A) on each side of the **chin**. These are very large **darts**. Start by folding the fabric along the point of one of the **darts** so the long raw edges match up.
- b. Sew from the opening of the **dart** into the fold of the fabric. Try to blend your stitching into the fold so it makes a smooth transition into the mouth area.
- c. Repeat with the other **dart** on the other side for a **dart** on each side of the **chin**.

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.

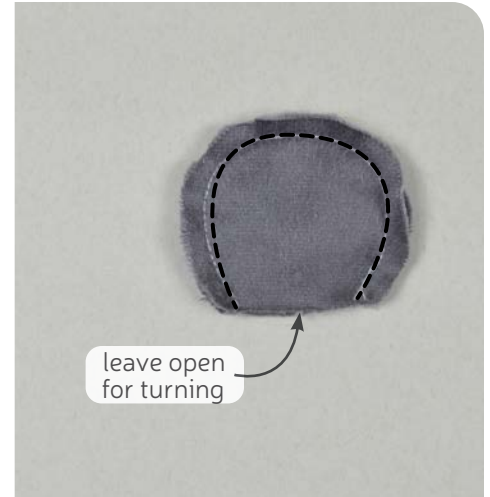
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- a. Grab your **EAR** pieces (3). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- b. Sew them together around the long curved edge. Leave the straight edge free for turning it right side out later.



7. SEW THE EARS



8. FOLD THE EARS



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).

- a. Turn the **EAR** (3) right side out through the opening in the bottom. Take your finished ear and fold it along the bottom, using the **fold guide** found on the paper pattern for help.
- b. Repeat this with your other ear, but folding in the other direction. Baste the ears along the raw edges to hold the folds in place. When complete you should have a mirrored pair.

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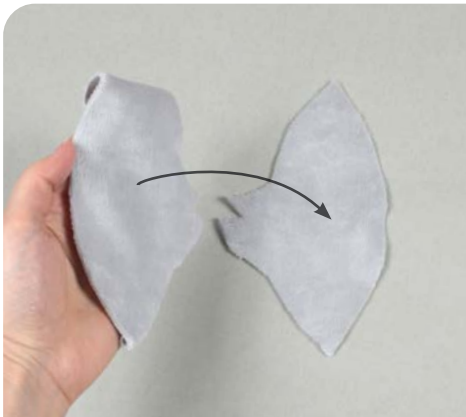
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9. BASTE THE EARS



- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** piece so far and turn it right side out. Lay it on your work surface so the right side is facing up.
- Grab your **ears** so far (3) and align them along the top edge of the head, centered over **point 1**. The folds should be facing up and also pointing toward the forehead
- Now flip the ears inward so the folds are facing down. Baste the ears to the edge of the fabric within the seam allowance to hold them in place for future steps.



10. SEW THE HEAD BACK



- Grab your **HEAD BACK** pieces (4). 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 over to the wrong side of the fabric.
Sew the head back pieces together along this edge, but leave an **opening for turning** in the middle.
- Open up the pieces when complete.

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11. SEW THE HEAD

- Grab both your head front and **BACK** (4) pieces. Make sure both **EARS** are tucked toward the center of the head front, then align it with the head back so right sides are facing. The head back **center seam** should align with the **center top** and **bottom markings** on the **HEAD FRONT** (1). If your head also has little side fur tufts, those should line up too.
- Sew the head front to the back all the way around the shape.
- Trim the seam allowances at the corner of the fur tufts to reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned later.

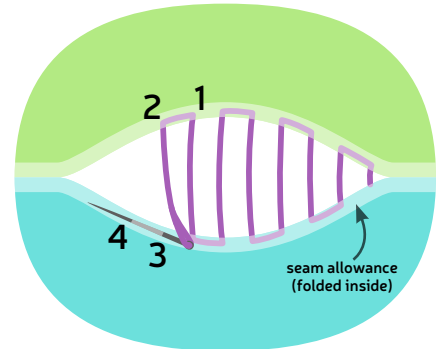


12. STUFF THE HEAD

- Turn the head right side out through the opening in the back of the head.
- Stuff the head firmly with stuffing. Be sure to get a lot in the nose area so the fabric fills out and there are no wrinkles in the seams.
- Lastly fill up the rest of the head.

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13. LADDER STITCH THE HEAD CLOSED

- Tuck the seam allowances from the opening inside. 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.
- Sew the head 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!

→ ***This completes the head! Set it aside for a moment while we work on the body.***



14. CLIP THE THREADS





15. SEW THE BODY DART

- Grab your **BODY** (5) pieces. Locate the wedge shape in the bottom center of the piece. This is also a **dart**. Sew it similarly to previous **darts**. Start by folding it along the point of the **dart** and match up the slanted lines.
- Sew from the opening of the **dart** into the fold of the fabric. Try to blend your stitching into the fold of the fabric for a smooth transition.
- Turn the piece right side out, then repeat with your remaining body piece so they both have sewn **darts**.

- Grab your **TAIL** (6) pieces. If you haven't already, locate the **tail placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the **BODY** (5). Take the straight edge of your tail and align it over the **tail placement area** on the body with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up. Make sure the tail is curving upward.



16. SEW THE TAIL

- Sew the tail to the body along this edge using the regular $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Repeat this with your other tail piece and body piece so you have two sewn tail pieces.

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17. SEW THE BODY HALVES

- Take both of your **BODY/TAIL** pieces (5/6) and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up. Be sure to line up both the tail and the back end of the body. Try to line up the **tail seams** (from step 16) as best as you can.
- Sew the body pieces together along the back and bottom. Start at the upper corner of the back piece, sew all around the tail, then go down through the bottom.
- Trim the seam allowance around the tight curves to reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned next.

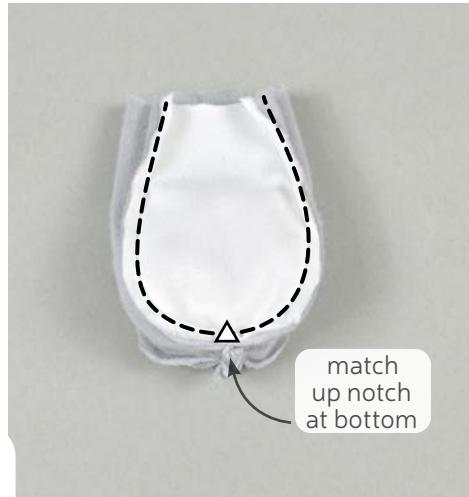
- Turn the body right side out and define the tail with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- Flip the piece so the body is wrong side out again but the tail stays right side out, tucked into the middle of the body. This will make a curved edge for attaching the **BELLY** (7) next.



18. TURN THE BODY

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19. ATTACH THE BELLY

- Grab your **BELLY** piece (7). Align the belly around the outer edge of the **BODY** so far (5/6). The single **notch marking** at the bottom of the belly should align with the **bottom seam** on the body.
- Sew the belly to the body around the long curved edge. Leave the short edge along the top free for the neck.
- Turn the entire body right side out again.



20. STUFF THE BODY

- Begin stuffing the body, starting with the tail. Push stuffing into the tip and work your way out a little bit at a time.
- Next, fill up the rest of the body. Be sure to fill it all the way up to the neck so it can support the head without wobbling.
- Now you can grab your finished head from before. Align it over the body so they're both facing forward.

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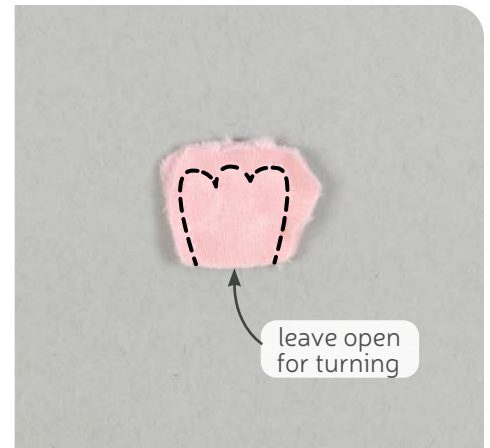
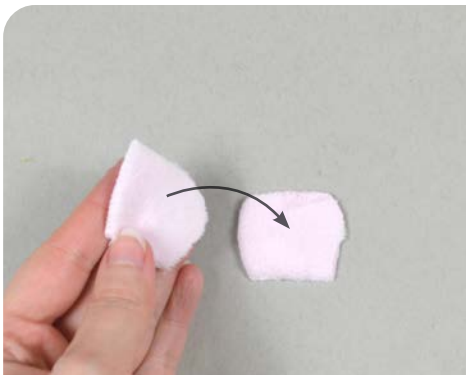
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21. ATTACH THE HEAD

- Begin attaching the head to the body using a ladder stitch (as described in step 13). Use long stitches for the first time around, that way you can get a feel for where you want the head to rest. Before you come all the way around the head, stop and look to see how you like the results. Check that the head isn't twisted or tilted.
- Before joining the head fully, push a bit of extra stuffing into the body to help support the head and prevent it from wobbling.
- Once you have the head exactly how you like, sew around the head once more with tinier, neater stitches to fully secure it.

→ Set the body aside for a moment while we make the **ARMS & LEGS** (9).



22. SEW THE FINGERS & TOES

→ The **BABY SIZE** opossum has felt **FINGERS & TOES** (B8) which don't need sewing. Skip ahead to step 24 to attach them.

- Grab your **FINGERS & TOES** pieces (8). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- To get the really detailed shape of the little fingers and toes, it helps to trace the seam line from the paper pattern. Trim away the seam allowance from the template, then use it as a tracing template onto the wrong side of the fabrics you've just stacked.
- Sew the fingers & toes along the curved edges you've just traced. Leave the straight edge free for turning it right side out next.

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- a. Trim the excess seam allowance around each **FINGER & TOE** (8) to reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned next.
- b. Turn the piece right side out through the opening and define each finger & toe with a chopstick or similar turning tool. Repeat step 22-23 with your remaining finger & toe pieces until you have four complete pieces total.



23. TURN THE FINGERS & TOES



24. BASTE THE FINGERS & TOES

- a. Grab your **ARM & LEG** pieces (9). If you haven't already, locate the **finger & toe placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the arms & legs. Align the raw edge of your fingers & toes within these lines so the raw edges match up.
- b. Baste the fingers & toes to the arms & legs within the seam allowance along the raw edge. Repeat this three more times so all four finger & toe pieces are used.
- c. **FOR THE BABY VERSION:** Because the **FINGERS & TOES** (B8) are felt, the entire outer edge is raw. So instead, align the **straight edge** of the fingers & toes to the arms & legs.

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25. SEW THE ARMS & LEGS

- Grab your remaining **ARM & LEG** pieces (9). Take a blank one and align it over one with the **FINGERS & TOES** (8) attached. Make sure right sides are facing, the raw edges match up, and the fingers & toes don't get too close to the edge.
- Sew the arm & leg pieces together all around the shape. Be careful that the fingers & toes don't get caught in the seam. Leave an **opening for turning** in the side as indicated by the paper pattern.
- Turn the pieces right side out so you have four arms & legs total.

- Stuff the **ARMS & LEGS** (9) lightly with stuffing so they plump up a little.
- Ladder stitch them closed similar to the head back in step 13.



26. STUFF & CLOSE THE ARMS & LEGS

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27. ATTACH THE LEGS



- Begin attaching the **ARMS & LEGS** to the body. Grab your opossum so far as well as one of your leg pieces. Align it along the **belly seam** near the bottom.
- Sew the underside of the leg to the body using a ladder stitch. Repeat with another leg piece on the other side so you have two total.

- Repeat the same process for the **ARMS**. Grab one of your arm pieces and align it along the side of the **belly seam**. I personally like it about $\frac{1}{4}$ " down from the neck.
- Ladder stitch the underside of the arm base to the body, all the way around.



28. ATTACH THE ARMS



CONGRATS!
This completes your plush! Now give it a big hug!



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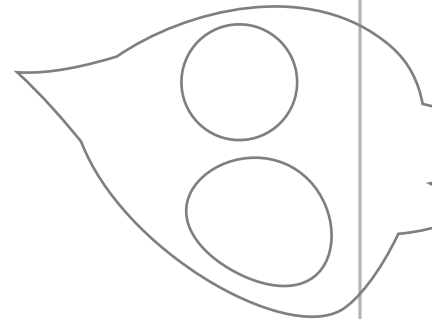
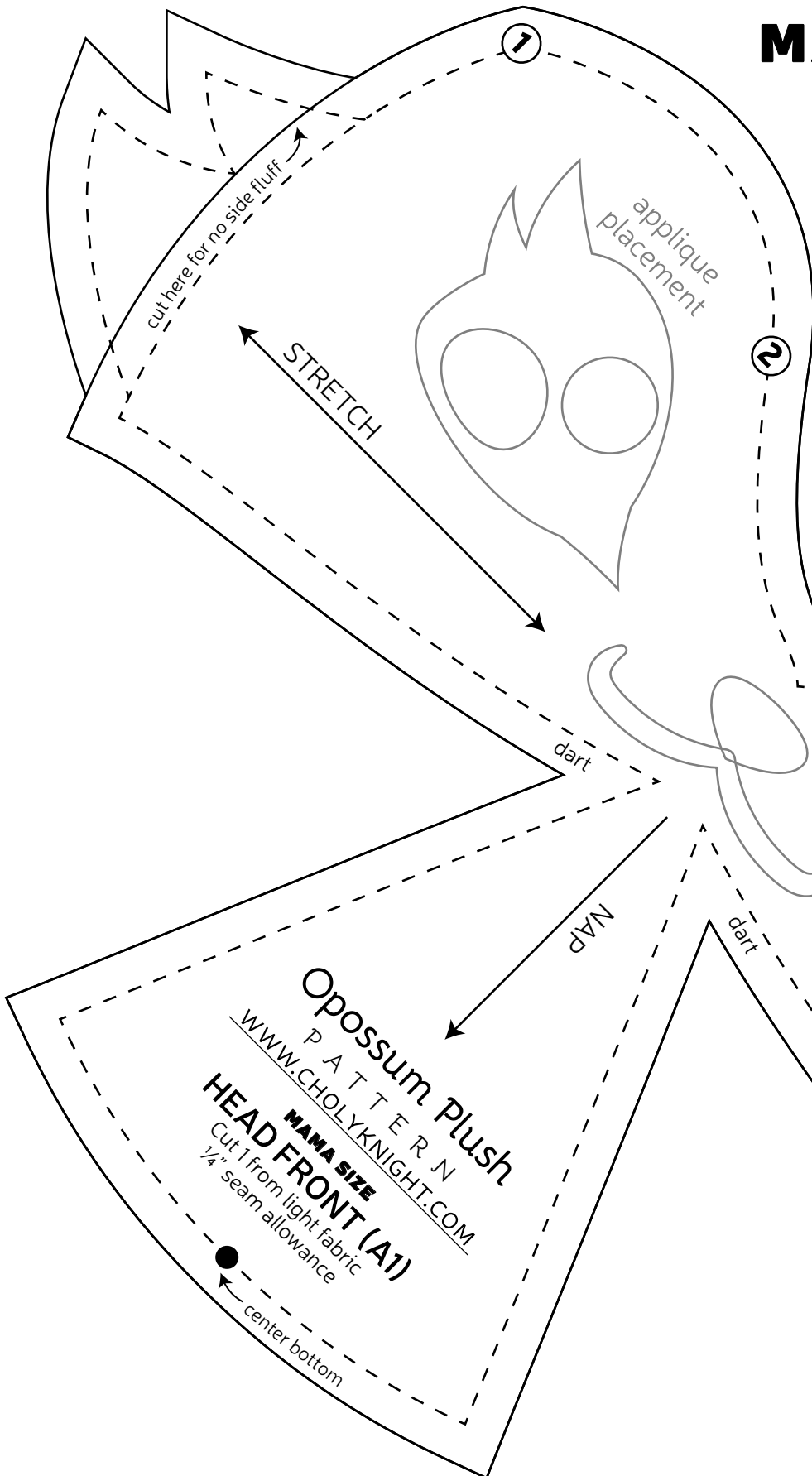
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MAMA SIZE

PG 1-3

MAMA SIZE FINGERS/TOES (A8)

Cut 8 of pink fabric
1/4" seam allowance



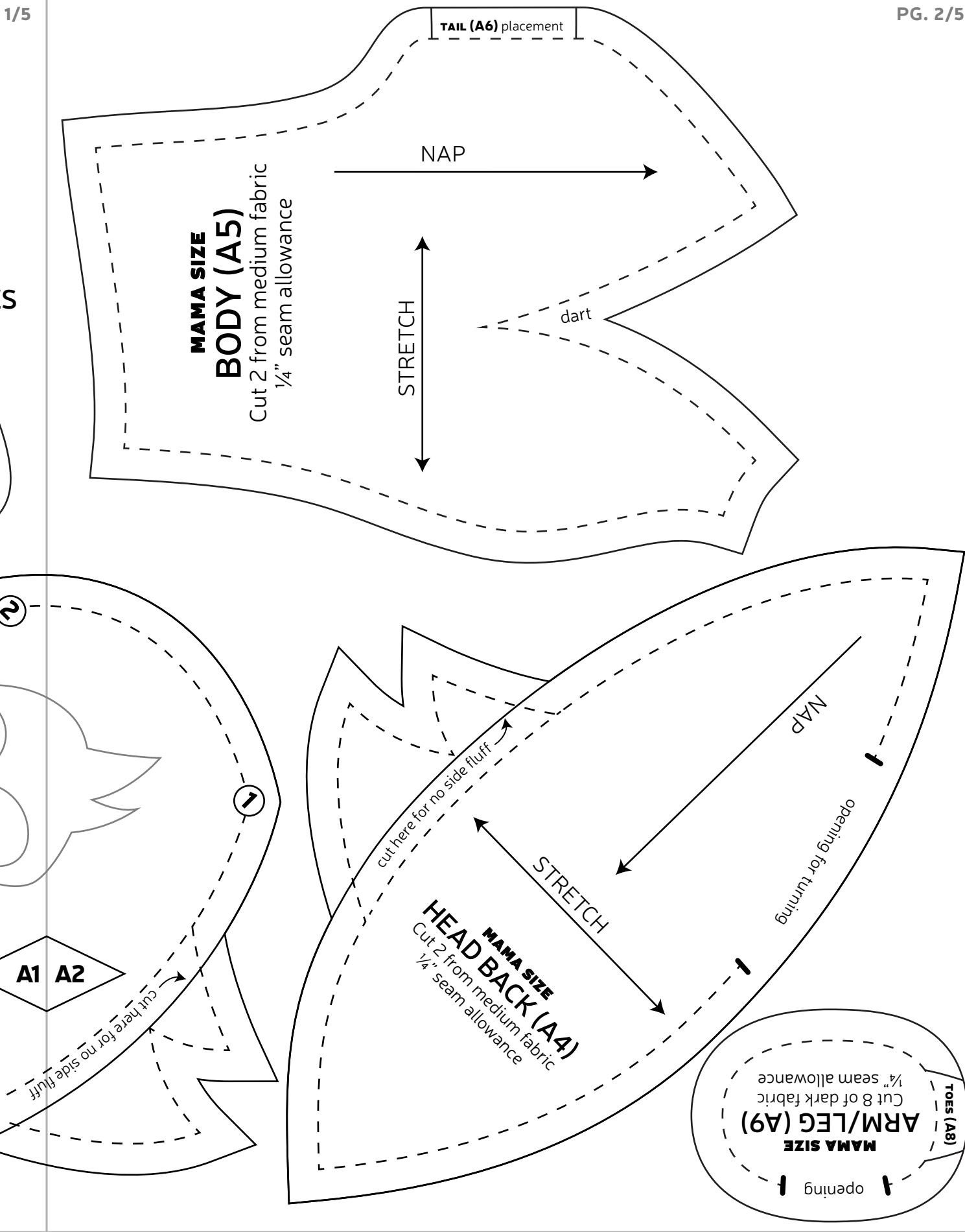
A1 A2

S

2

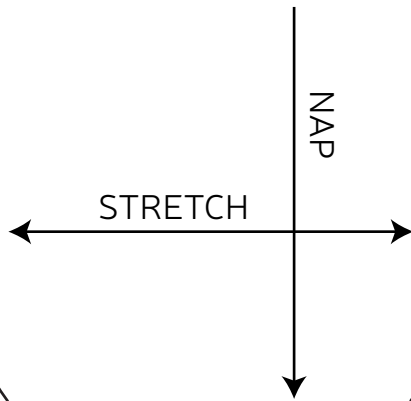
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A1 A2



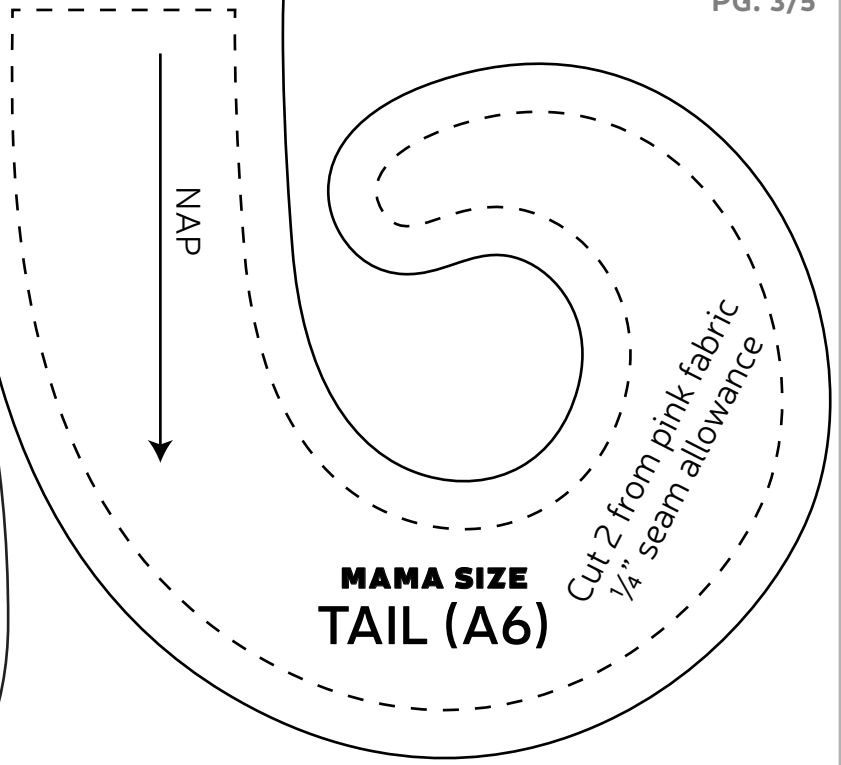
**MAMA SIZE
BELLY (A7)**

Cut 1 of light fabric
1/4" seam allowance



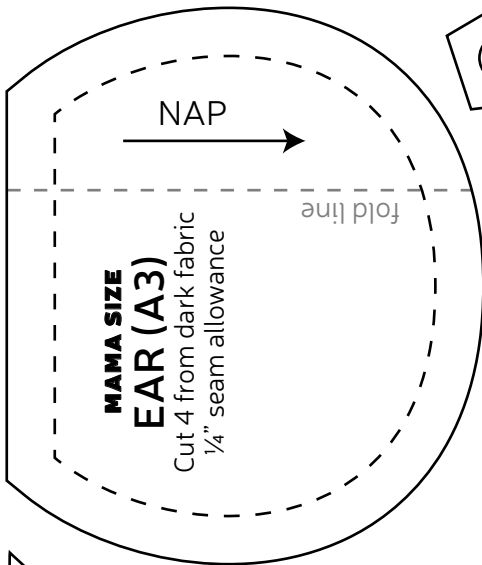
**MAMA SIZE
TAIL (A6)**

Cut 2 from pink fabric
1/4" seam allowance



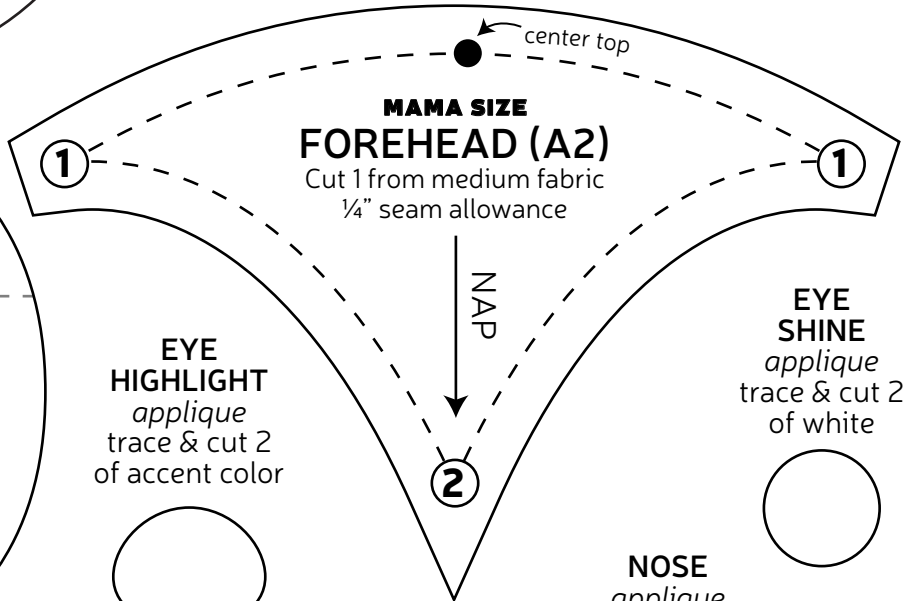
**MAMA SIZE
EAR (A3)**

Cut 4 from dark fabric
1/4" seam allowance

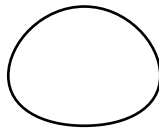


**MAMA SIZE
FOREHEAD (A2)**

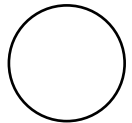
Cut 1 from medium fabric
1/4" seam allowance



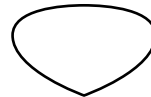
**EYE
HIGHLIGHT**
applique
trace & cut 2
of accent color



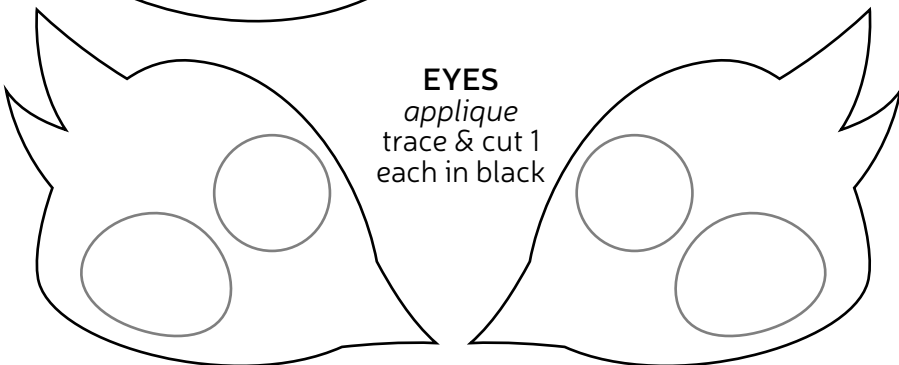
**EYE
SHINE**
applique
trace & cut 2
of white



NOSE
applique
trace & cut 1 of pink



EYES
applique
trace & cut 1
each in black

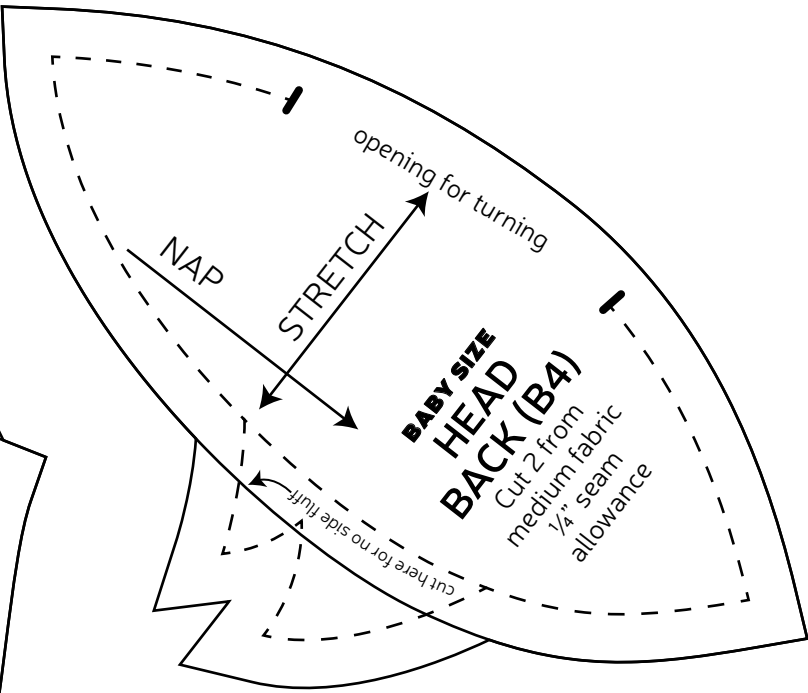
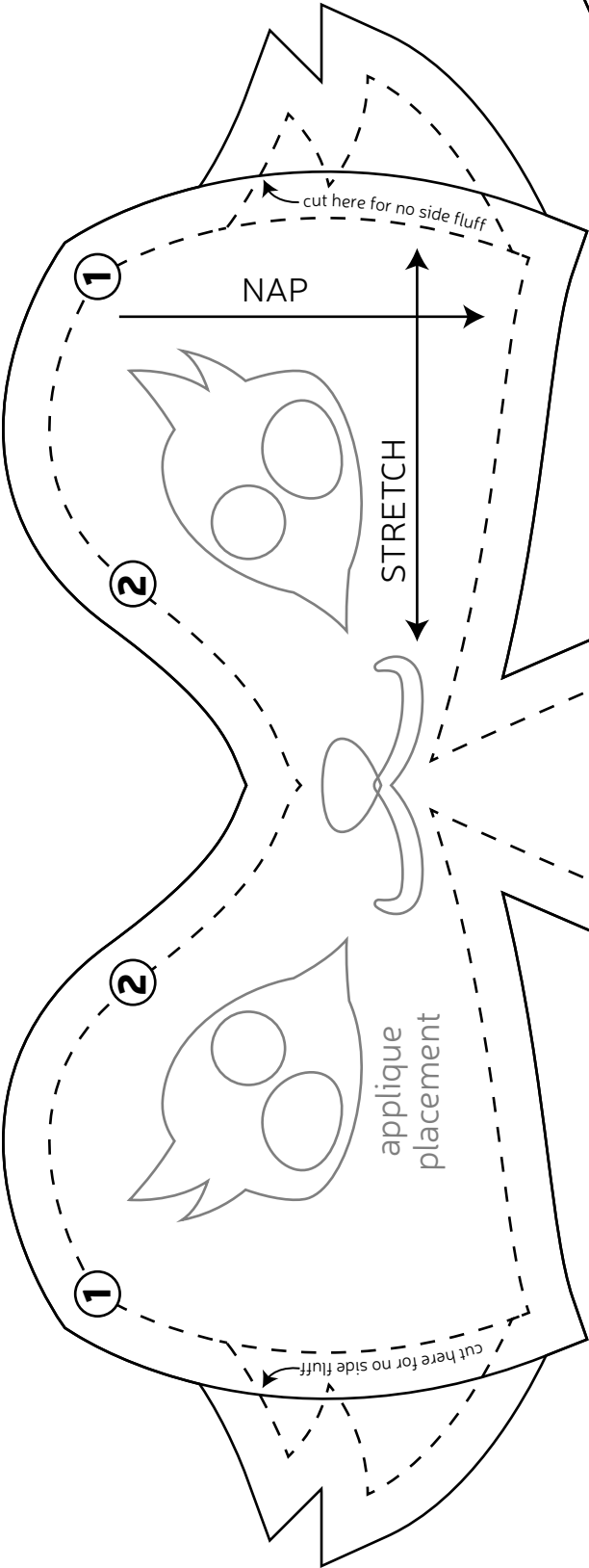


MOUTH
applique
trace & cut 1 of black



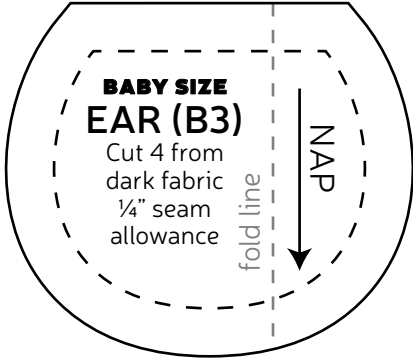
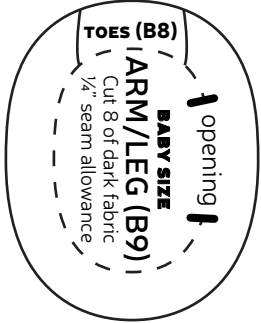
BABY SIZE

PG 4-5



BABY SIZE HEAD FRONT (B1)
Cut 1 from light fabric
1/4" seam allowance

center bottom



BABY SIZE EAR (B3)
Cut 4 from dark fabric
1/4" seam allowance

fold line

NAP

