

panda MEMORY BEAR plush



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



panda memory bear plush

With this pattern, you can make a sweet memento stuffed animal using old clothes! This adorable plush panda has lots of opportunities to incorporate tiny scraps of cherished fabrics for a beloved toy to keep forever.

They have more shaping than my typical plush designs so they work well in most light to medium-weight fabrics. It's also almost entirely machine-sewn, so it's sure to stand up to lots of love for years to come! You'll find there's an option for a 3D muzzle too, which adds more hand-sewing.

MAKES:

One plush; size can vary depending on the stretch of your fabric. Ranges from 7"-8" tall, 4½-6" wide, and 4-5" long.

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.

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 fabric for main body
- ⅛ yd. of accent fabric for ears, arms, and legs
- **OPTIONAL:** 1/3 yd. of 42" wide lightweight fusible interfacing for added strength and/or structure (see page 7)
- 3" x 4" piece of accent applique fabric (flannel, felt, fleece, cotton, etc.) for eye base
- 3" x 3" piece of black applique fabric for eyes
- 2" x 2" piece of accent applique fabric for eye highlights
- 2" x 2" piece of white applique fabric for eye shines
- 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)

TIP:

Don't forget to also get a needle that matches your fabric. Knit fabrics especially will stitch better with a needle for knits.

The largest piece of this plush is the **HEAD FRONT (A)** at about 7" x 7", so these templates will have no trouble fitting on tiny clothing!

UPCYCLE ALTERNATIVES:

The pieces for this plush would also fit into:

- 2 or 3 baby onesies
- 1 adult button down shirt
- 1 baby blanket
- 1 or 2 children's t-shirts
- 1 adult t-shirt
- sheets or pillowcases



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fabric suggestions:

This pattern was made to work with a large variety of fabrics, but light to medium-weight ones work the best. With the small size, heavyweight fabrics, like thick denim, vinyl, or leather, should be avoided.

Below I break down what to expect in your result when using different fabrics:



QUILTING COTTON

Such as quilting fabric scraps.

PROS: This fabric has a dense weave and tends to last a long time.

CONS: This fabric has the least stretch and is very crisp. Your bear will look less rounded and any little mistake you make will be more noticeable.

NOTES: Use a slightly shorter stitch length for extra durability.

APPAREL FABRICS

Such as a shirt from flannel, cotton, linen, or other fabrics.

PROS: Shirts have fun details you can borrow, like buttons or embroidery.

CONS: This fabric usually has a less dense weave and may fray over time.

NOTES: To help with fraying, you may want to use interfacing (see page 7). Though it will make the fabric more like the quilting cotton.

KNIT FABRICS

Such as t-shirt fabrics like jersey or interlock knit.

PROS: The knit construction doesn't fray, and projects turn out very squishy and plump.

CONS: The thinness of the fabric may look lumpy if not stuffed carefully.

NOTES: Projects will turn out larger due to stretching. Interfacing can be used to prevent stretching if desired (see page 7).

MINKY & FLEECE

Such as anti-pill, cuddle fleece, etc.

PROS: Has a nice balance of fluffiness and stretch that helps cover mistakes.

CONS: Minky can be messy, expensive, and slippery to sew.

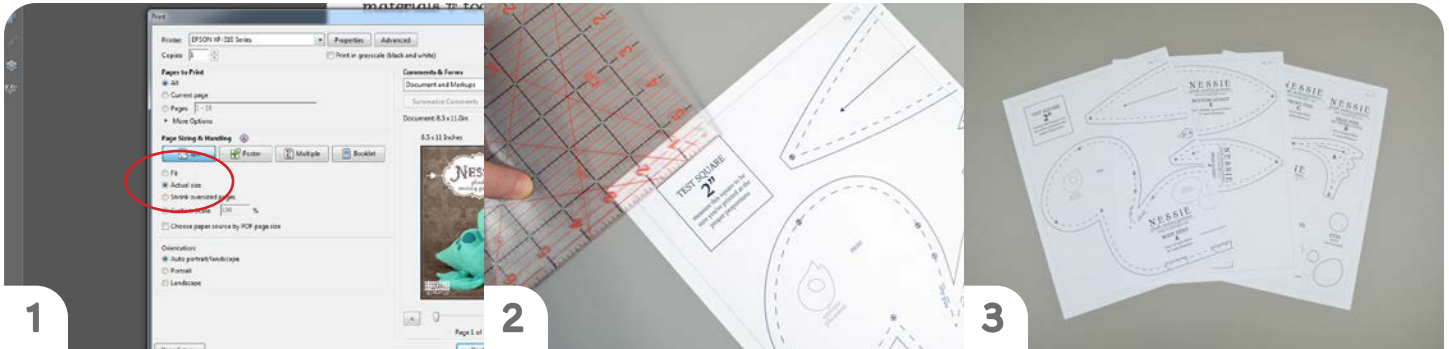
NOTES: Extremely thick versions of fleece or faux fur (such as for outdoor clothing), will be difficult for small pieces.

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printing the pattern:

To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 25-27**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.

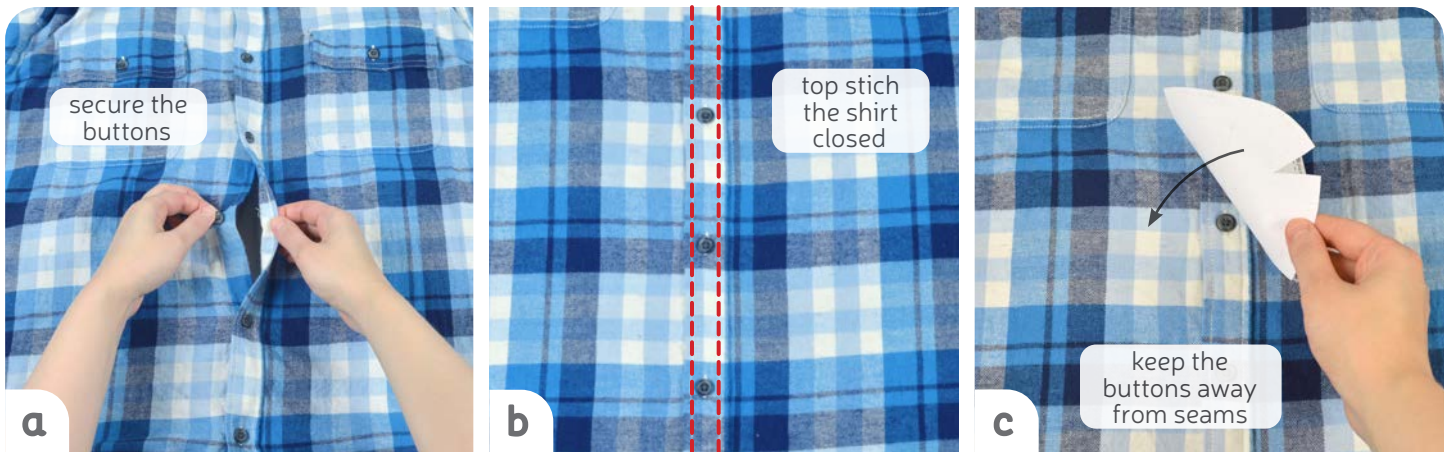


1 At the print dialog box, check the box that says print at “Actual Size” or 100%. Any other selection (such as “Fit to page”) will distort the pattern so it's slightly larger or smaller and we don't want that.

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.

making use of buttons:

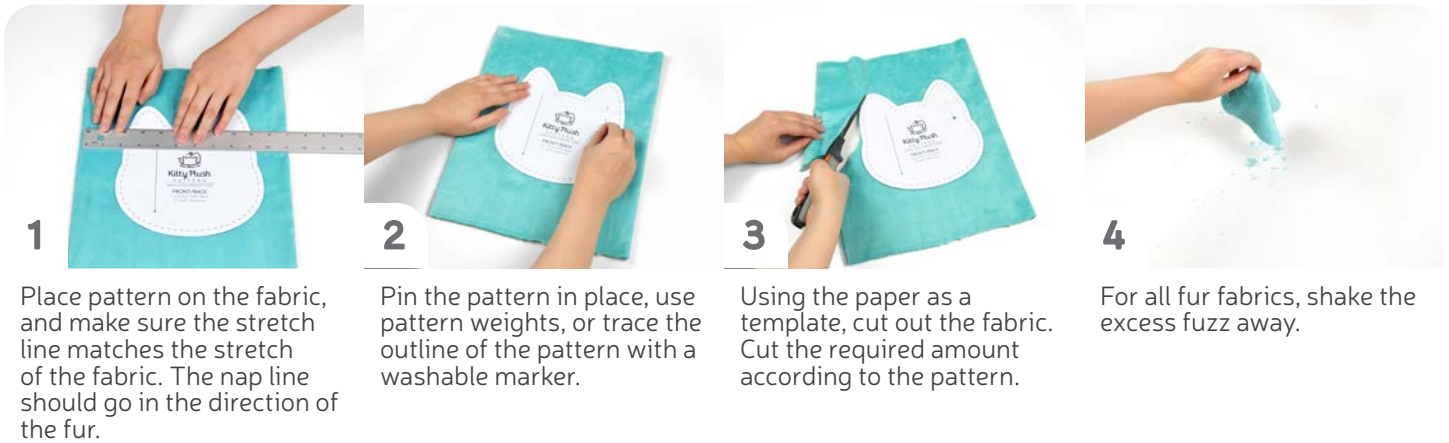


- a. If you would like to incorporate the buttons from a shirt you're repurposing, first, be sure to secure all the buttons shut.
- b. Sew along each side of the button placket to secure the two sides of the shirt together. You can use a regular straight stitch right over the top stitching from your shirt for this.
- c. When cutting out your fabric pieces, align the templates over the buttons. Be sure the buttons don't overlap any seam lines.

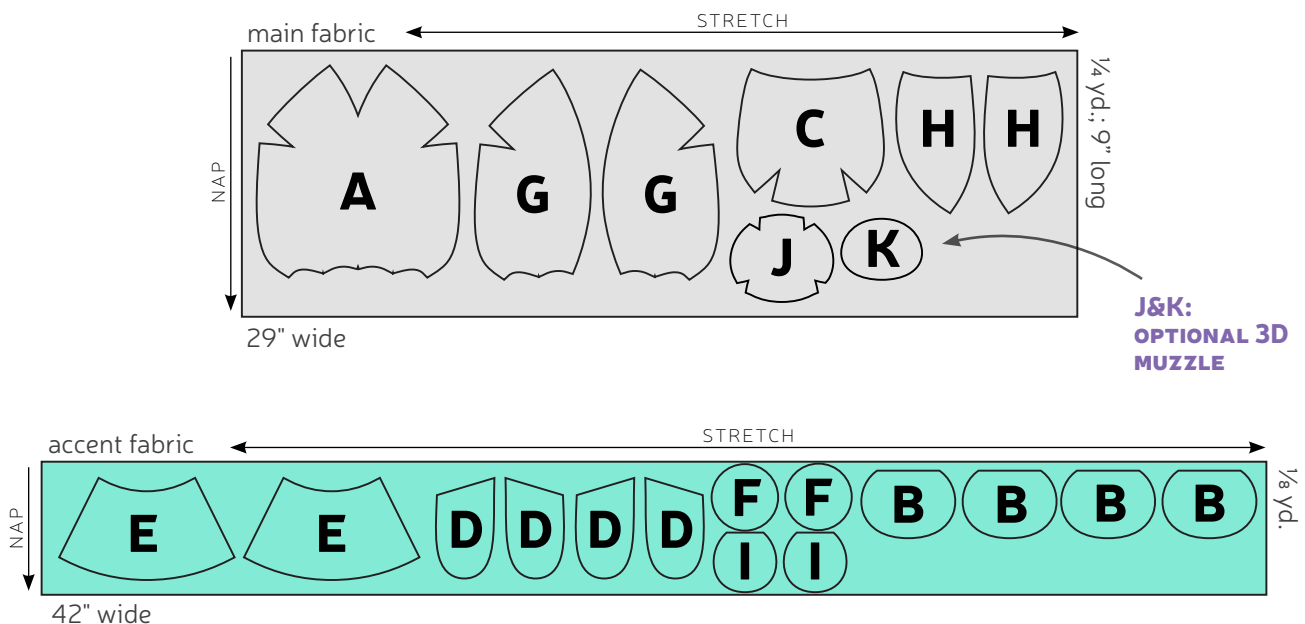
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cutting the fabric:



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.

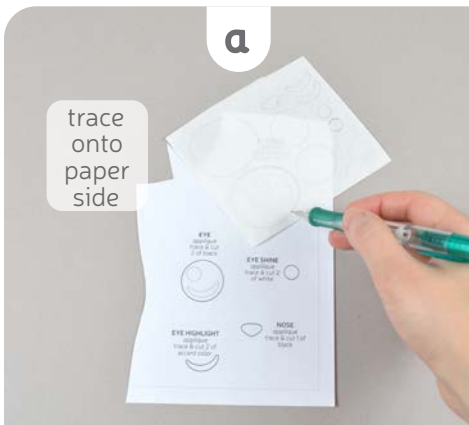
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- If your fabric needs extra stability or strength, you may want to consider adding interfacing. Some examples that can benefit from this include delicate or loosely woven fabrics (like satin or twill fabrics with thick threads) or older fabrics that are showing age. Very stretchy fabrics will also need this treatment if you'd rather not deal with the stretch.
- Cut out all of the pattern pieces once more from your interfacing, and fuse the adhesive side to the wrong side of all of your fabrics following the manufacturer's instructions

1. OPTIONAL: INTERFACE THE FABRIC

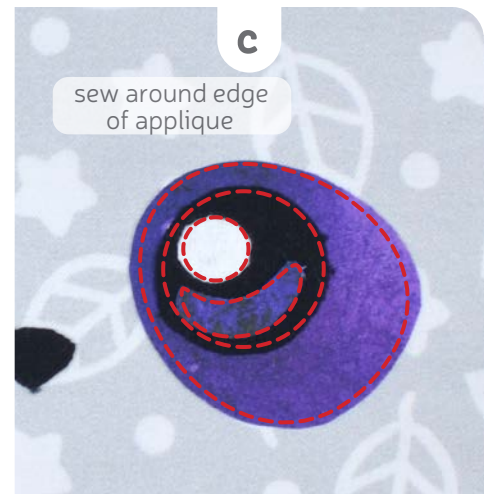


2. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Grab your fusible web and trace all the applique pieces you want onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have at least two **eye bases**, two **eyes**, two **eye shines**, and one **nose**. You can also trace additional **eye highlights**.
 → If you're adding a 3D muzzle later, save the nose for step 31.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The **eyes** and **nose** should go on black, the **eye bases** and **eye highlights** on an accent color, and the **eye shines** on white.
- 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 **eye base** piece on top where the placement markings are. Then carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.

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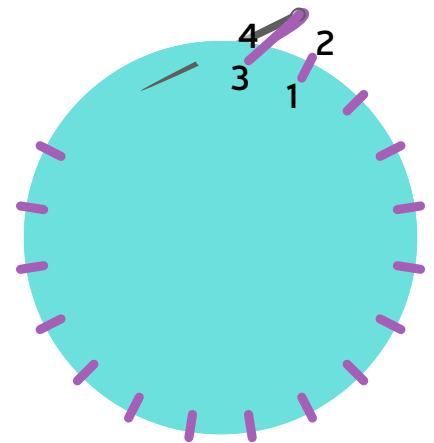
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3. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the **eyes** in place with your iron. Use a press cloth if you're using a polyester or fuzzy fabric like minky.
- Next, move onto the smaller pieces: the **eye highlights**, **eye shines**, and **nose**. Fuse them the same way as you did the **eye bases**, 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.*

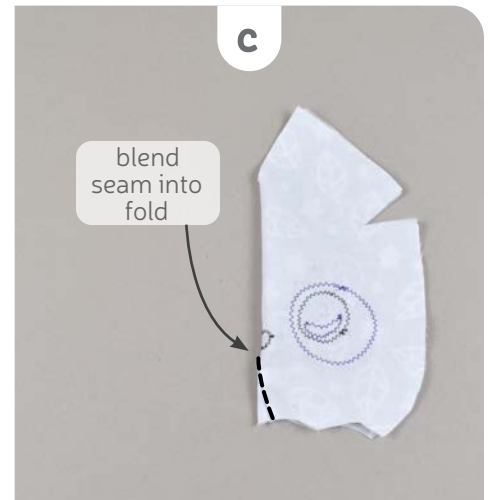
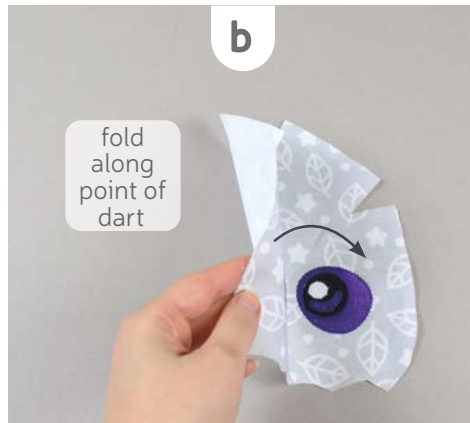


3a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

- 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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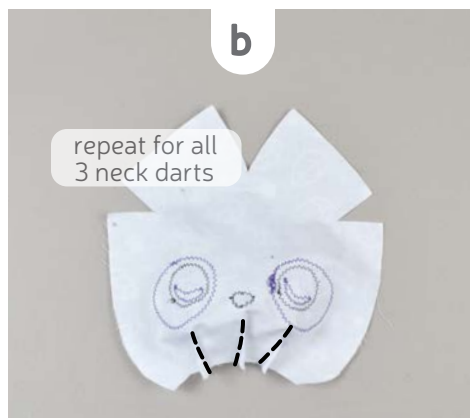


4. SEW THE HEAD FRONT NECK DARTS

- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** piece (A). You'll notice it has many **darts** all over the outside edge. First we'll be sewing the three small **neck (bottom) darts**. Since they are so small, it helps to transfer the stitching lines from the paper pattern. Trim away the paper along the stitching lines, and use it as a tracing template on the wrong side of your fabric.
- Fold the fabric with right sides together along the point of the **dart**, matching up the seam lines you've just traced.
- Sew along the traced line to complete the **dart**. Start at the opening and work toward the point, and try to blend your stitching into the fold of the fabric.

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.

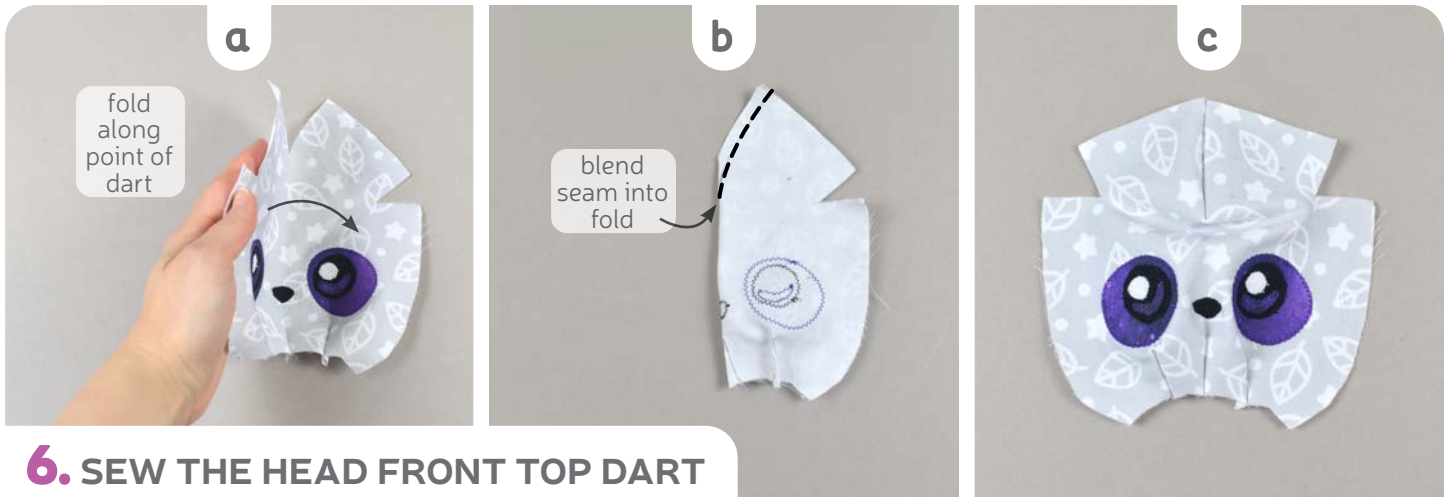


- When complete, this will start to bring in the neck edge of your panda head.
- Repeat twice more with the remaining two neck **darts** located at the bottom.

5. FINISH THE HEAD FRONT NECK DARTS

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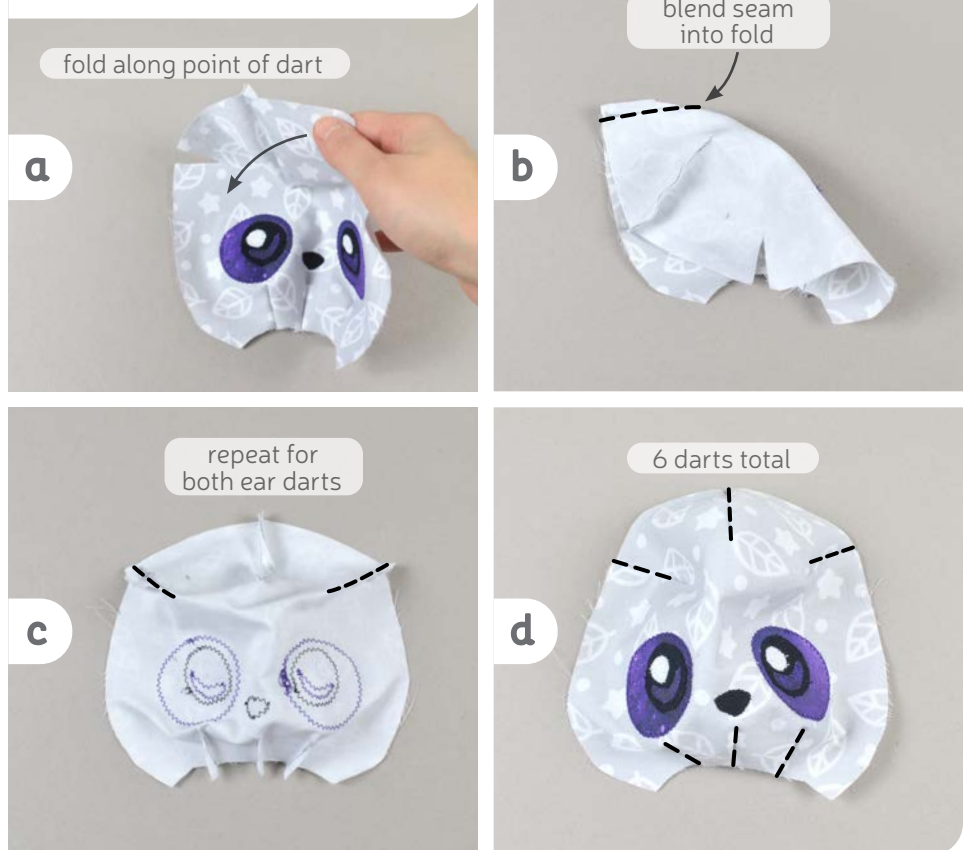


6. SEW THE HEAD FRONT TOP DART

- a.** The remaining **darts** along the upper edge of the **HEAD FRONT** (A) are much larger, so there's not much need to trace the seam line.
For the **center top dart**, fold the fabrics together along the center point of the dart.
- b.** Sew the **dart** by starting at the opening and working down to the fold of the fabric.
- c.** Blend your stitching into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.

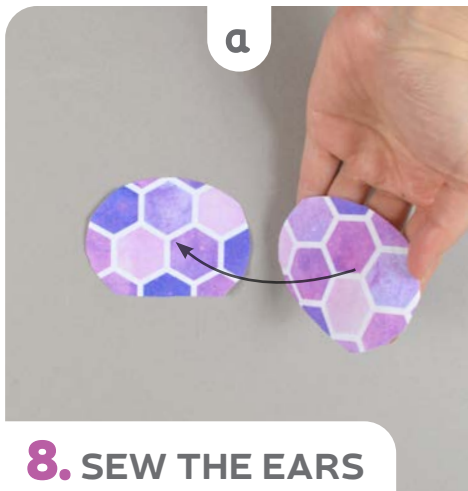
- a.** Repeat step 6 with the remaining **ear darts**. Fold the fabric with right sides facing along the point of the dart.
- b.** Sew from the opening down to the point, blending your stitching into the fold of the fabric.
- c.** Repeat once more for both **ear darts**.
- d.** When complete, the head front will have 6 **darts** total: 3 small ones at the neck edge, and 3 large ones along the top.

7. SEW THE EAR DARTS

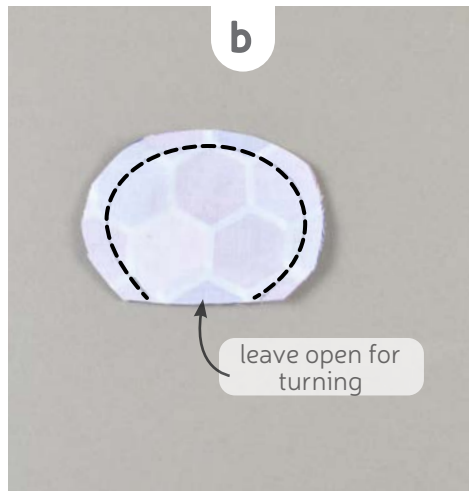


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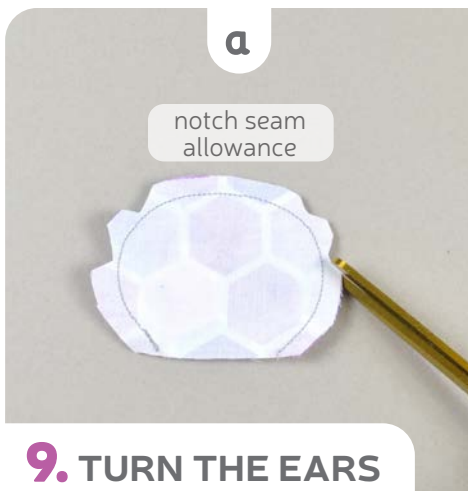
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8. SEW THE EARS



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



9. TURN THE EARS



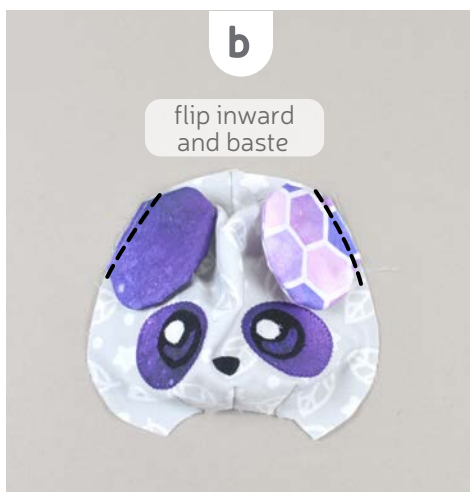
- a. FOR CRISP FABRICS, LIKE QUILTING COTTON, TWILL, ETC.:** You'll want to notch the seam allowances in the curved areas before turning the pieces. This will reduce bulk without weakening the seams too much. Cut small triangles out of the seam allowance at the curved areas.
- b. TIP:** for a faster time, you could also use pinking shears to notch the fabric.
- c.** Turn the ears right side out through the opening you left in step 9. Repeat steps 9-10 with your remaining ear pieces so you have two total.

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10. BASTE THE EARS



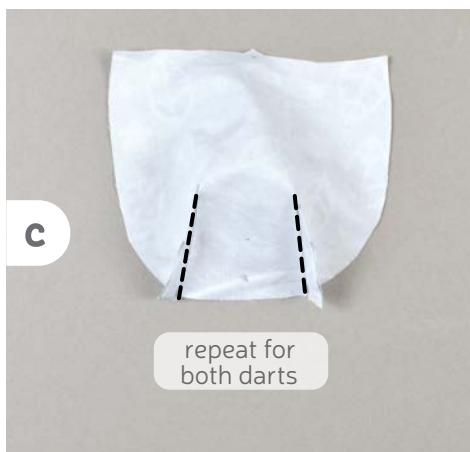
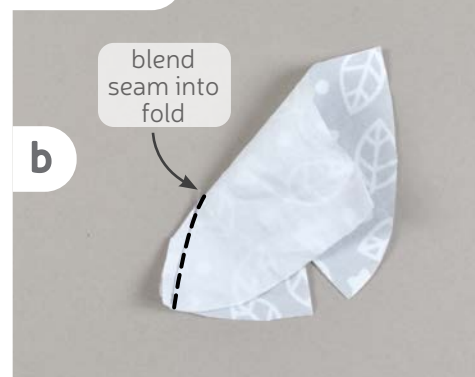
BASTING:

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. 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.
- b. Flip the ears inward so the raw edges align. Baste the ears in place within the seam allowance to hold them securely for later. Set your head front aside for now while we work on the body.

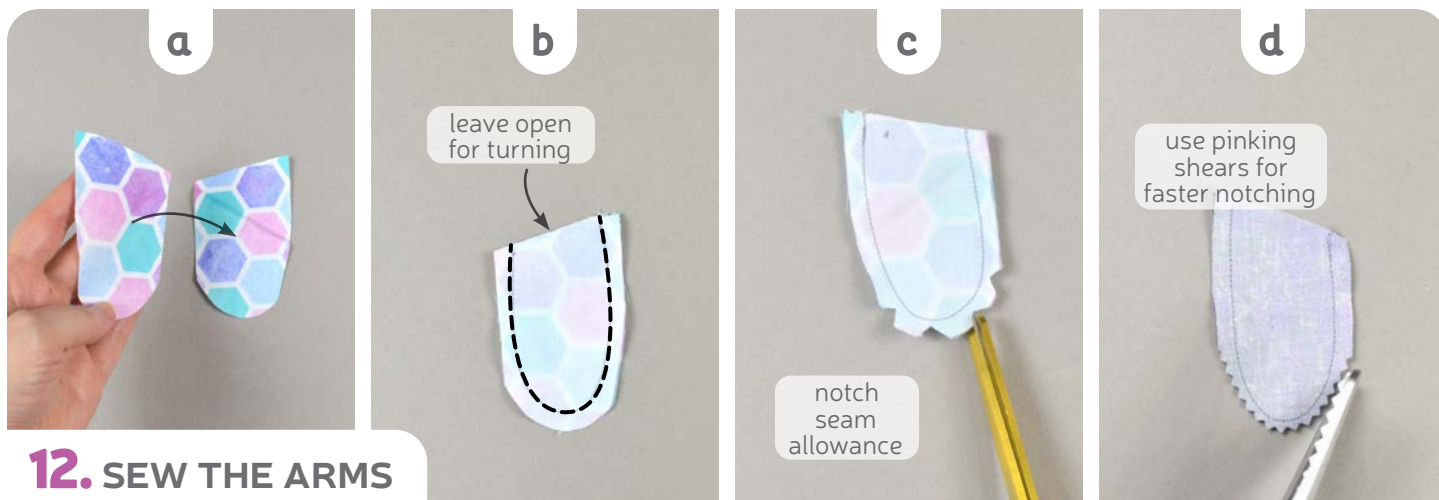
- a. Grab your **BODY FRONT** piece (C). This piece also has several darts for sewing. Fold the fabrics together along the point of the dart to match up the slanted edges.
- b. Sew the **dart** by starting at the opening and working down to the point. Blend the stitching into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finish.
- c. Repeat with both darts along the bottom of the body front.
- d. Flip right side out when complete.

11. SEW THE BODY FRONT DARTS



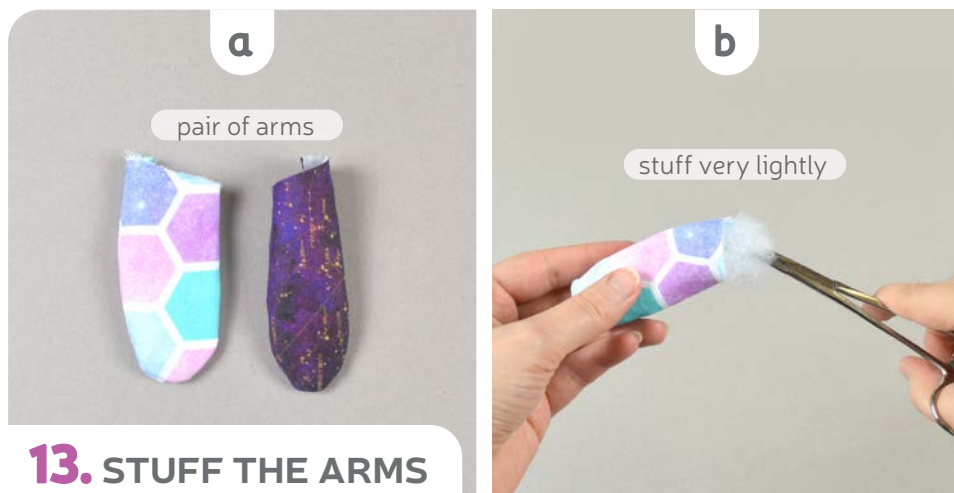
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12. SEW THE ARMS

- Grab your **ARM** pieces (D). Take two of them 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.
- FOR CRISP FABRICS:** notch the seam allowances much like you did with the ear back in step 9.
- TIP:** You can also use pinking shears for a quicker job.



13. STUFF THE ARMS

- Turn the **ARMS** right side out through the opening you left.
- 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 28.

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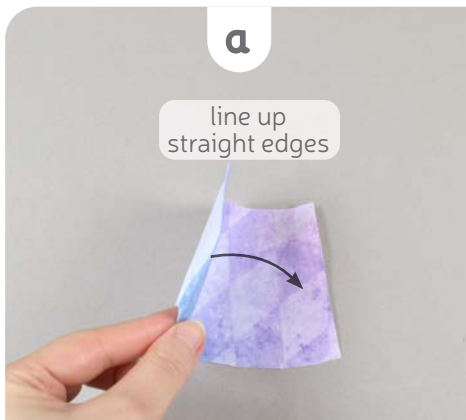
14. BASTE THE ARMS



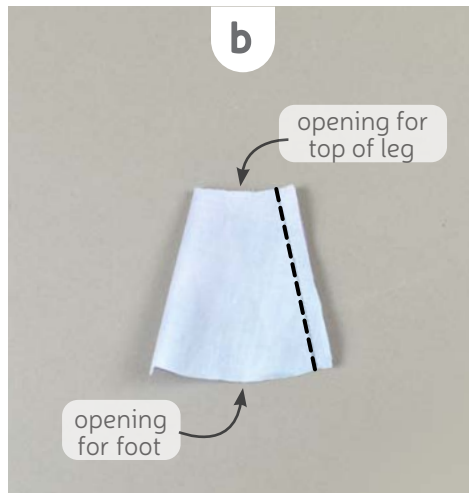
a. If you haven't already, locate the **arm placement lines** on the paper pattern for the **BODY FRONT (C)**. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric.

Align the open edge of the arms within the **placement lines** so they're pointing down as shown.

b. 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.



15. SEW THE LEGS



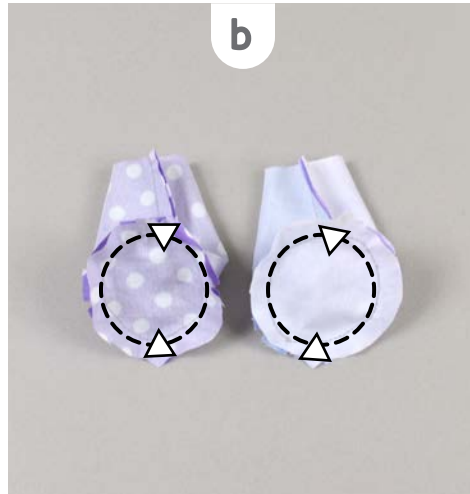
a. Grab your **LEG** pieces (E). Take one of them and fold them in half with right sides facing so the straight edges match up.

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. FOR WOVEN FABRICS: If your fabric doesn't stretch, take this opportunity to make small 1/8" clips into the seam allowance of the large opening. This will help the fabric stretch more when you attach it to the foot next.

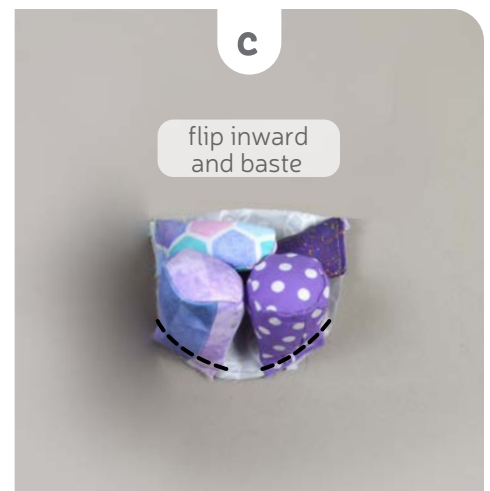
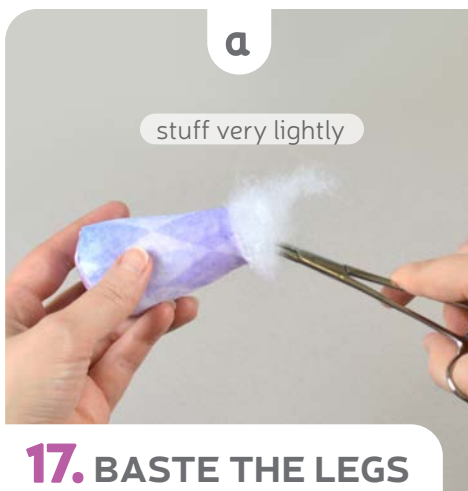
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16. SEW THE FEET

- Grab your **FOOT** pieces (F). Take one of your sewn **LEGS** as well (E). Open up the larger opening and align it 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.
- Sew the leg to the foot around the circle.
- Turn the legs right side out through the smaller opening.



17. BASTE THE LEGS

- Stuff the **LEGS** very lightly with stuffing. Keep most of it at the end to make attaching to the body easier.
- Grab your **BODY FRONT** from before (C). If you haven't already, locate the **leg placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the body front. 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.
- 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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18. CLIP THE NECK EDGE



a. Grab your **HEAD FRONT** from before (A). In the next step we'll be attaching the head to the body at the neck. The **BODY FRONT** piece (C) has a **center notch** along the neck for help with placement -- this will match up to the **center neck dart** on the head front.

b. FOR WOVEN AND INTERFACED FABRICS: The inner curve of the neck might have trouble stretching to fit around the body. Make small 1/8" clips into the seam allowance to help it stretch for the next step.



19. SEW THE NECK



a. Take your **HEAD FRONT** fabric and stretch it to fit along the neck edge of the **BODY FRONT** (C). Match up the **center notch** on the body front to the **center dart** on the head front. Pin the fabrics together from the center out.

b. Sew the fabrics together along this edge.

c. Open up the pieces when complete. This completes the front of the bear.

→ *Set aside your front pieces for a bit while we work on the back.*

TIP:

If the head doesn't quite fit along the neck, that's still okay. (This can happen if the darts were sewn a little too big). Focus on getting the head centered, then trim off the excess body fabric on the sides. If it's 1/4" or less it won't make a large difference in the final plush.

ALTERNATIVE:

You could also sew the full head and full body separately, then sew the neck in a circle if you prefer. I find the head is less likely to twist in the option shown above.

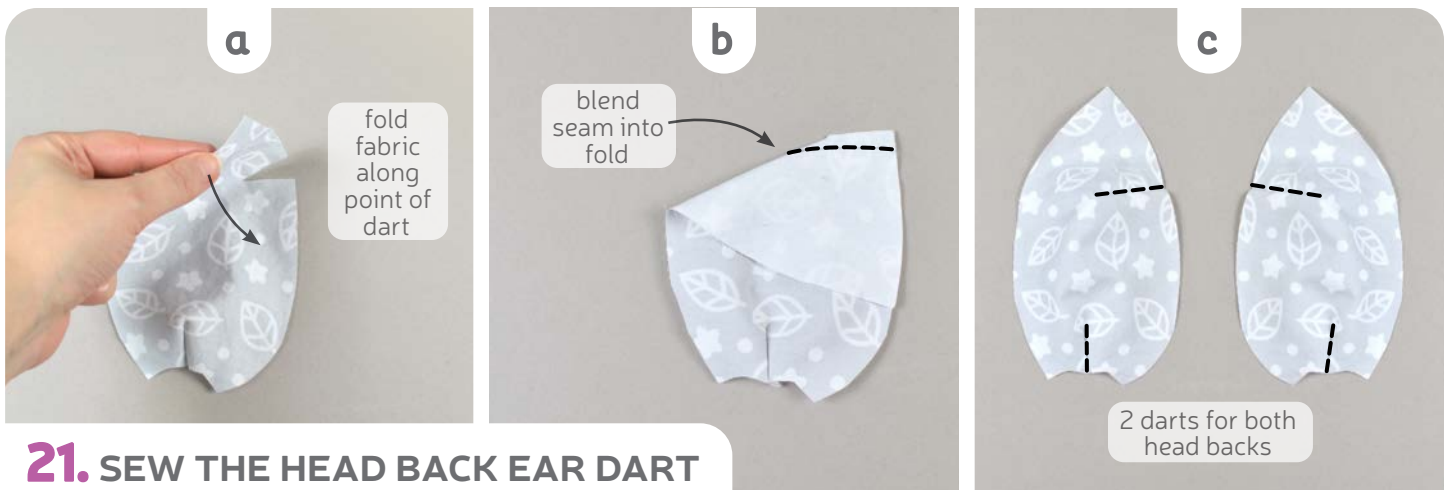
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20. SEW THE HEAD BACK NECK DART

- Grab your **HEAD BACK** pieces (G). These have small **neck darts** just like the **HEAD FRONT** back in step 4. Sew them accurately by tracing the seam line from the paper pattern.
- 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.

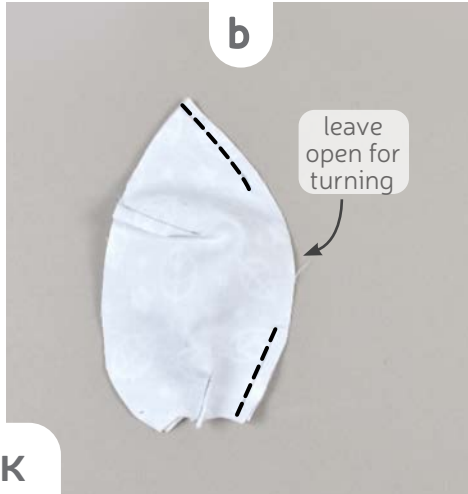
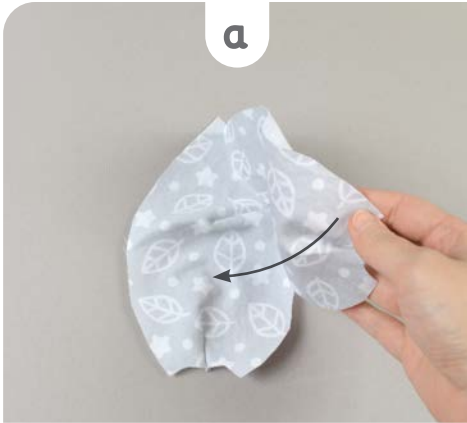


21. SEW THE HEAD BACK EAR DART

- Repeat the process with the **ear darts** (just like with the **HEAD FRONT** back in step 7). 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**.

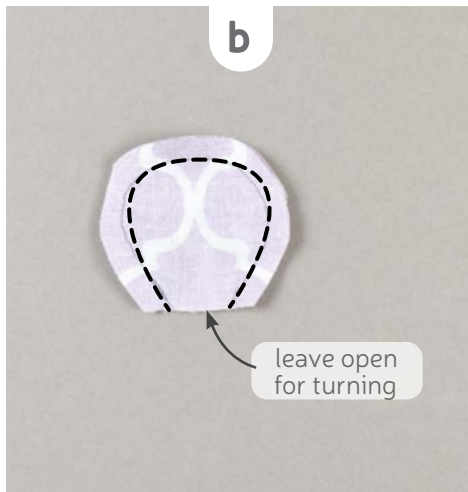
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22. SEW THE HEAD BACK

- Grab both of your **HEAD BACK** pieces (G). 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 only, but leave the opening that you marked.
- Open up the pieces when complete.

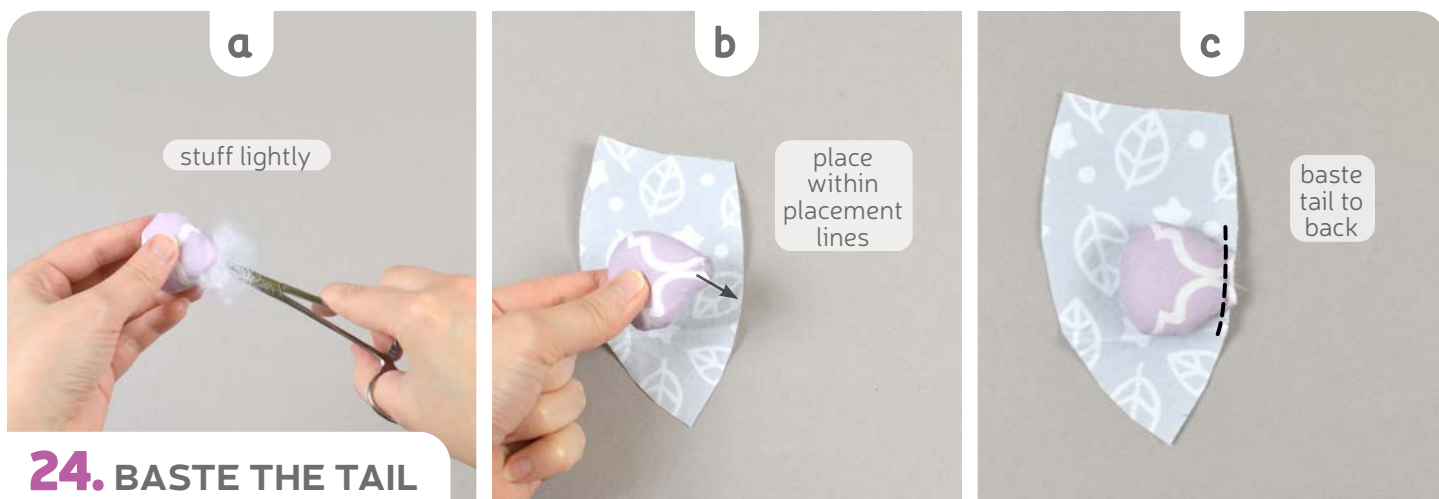


23. SEW THE TAIL

- Grab your **TAIL** pieces (I). Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the curved edge. Leave the short straight edge free for turning the tail right side out later.
- FOR CRISP FABRICS:** notch the seam allowances much like you did with the ear back in step 9. You can also use pinking shears for a quicker job.

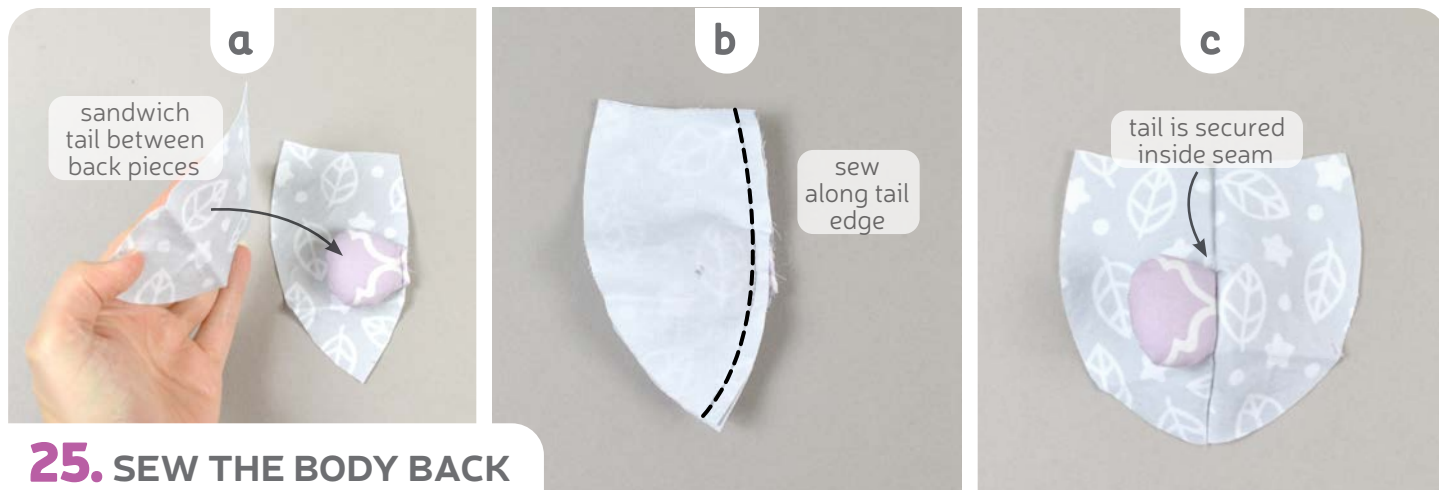
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24. BASTE THE TAIL

- Take your **TAIL** (I) and stuff it lightly with stuffing, just enough so it takes shape.
- Grab one of your **BODY BACK** pieces (H). If you haven't already, locate the **tail placement lines** on the paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open end of the tail within these **placement lines**.
- Baste the tail to the body back within the **placement lines** to hold it securely for the next step.



25. SEW THE BODY BACK

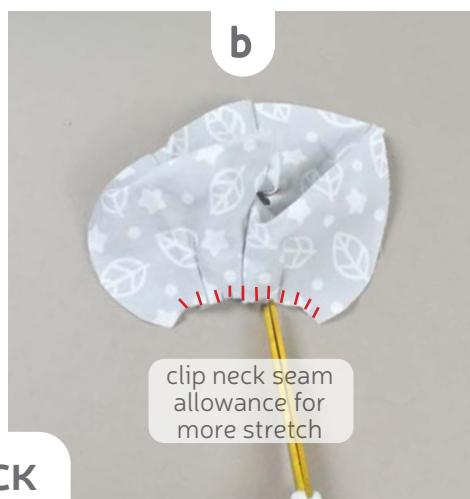
- Grab your remaining **BODY BACK** piece (H) and align it over the first one with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the body back pieces together along the edge with the tail.
- When complete, open up the pieces and the tail should be secured inside the seam.

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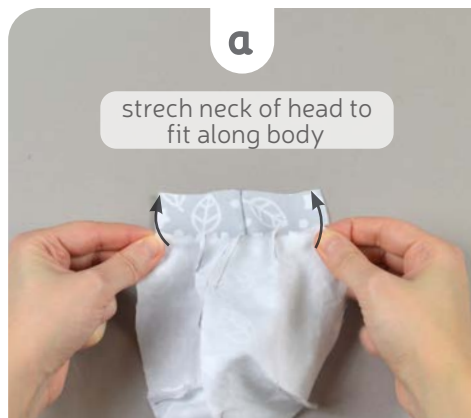


26. PREP THE BACK NECK



a. Grab your **HEAD BACK** from before (G). In the next step we'll be attaching the head to the **BODY** at the neck. The **center seam** of the body back will match up with the **center seam** of the head back.

b. FOR WOVEN AND INTERFACED FABRICS: The inner curve of the neck might have trouble stretching to fit around the body. Make small 1/8" clips into the seam allowance to help it stretch for the next step.



27. SEW THE BACK NECK



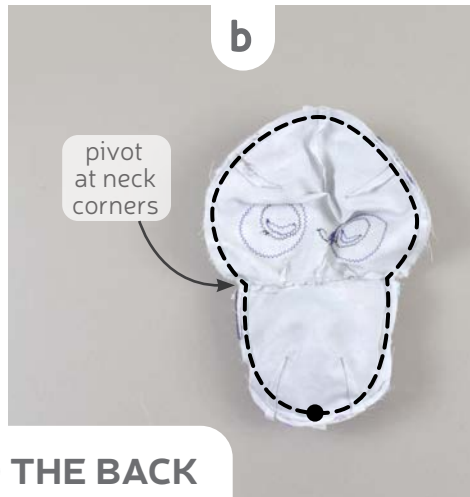
a. Take your **HEAD BACK** fabric (G) and stretch it to fit along the neck edge of the **BODY BACK** (H). Match up the **center seam** on the body with the **center seam** on the head back. Pin the fabrics together from the center out.

b. Sew the fabrics together along this edge.

c. Open up the pieces when complete. This completes the back of the bear.

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28. SEW THE FRONT TO THE BACK

- Grab your **FRONT** piece from before (step 19). Tuck in all the extra pieces like the arms, legs, and ears. Align the back of the panda 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.
- Sew the front to the back all around the shape of the panda. Be sure to pivot at the neck seams.
- Turn the panda right side out through the opening in the back of the head.

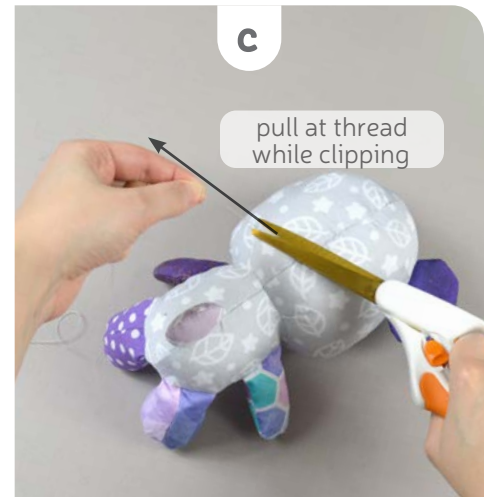


29. STUFF THE BODY

- Stuff the panda with stuffing by starting in the body. Stuff it firmly so there are no wrinkles in the fabric (especially if you're using a woven fabric that doesn't stretch). When stuffing the head, be sure to get plenty in the front nose area to help it pop out from the body.
- Finally fill up the rest of the head.
- 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.

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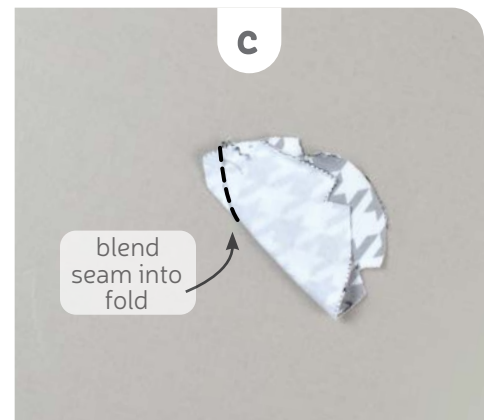
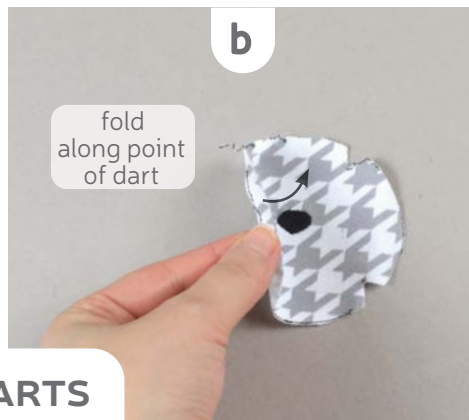
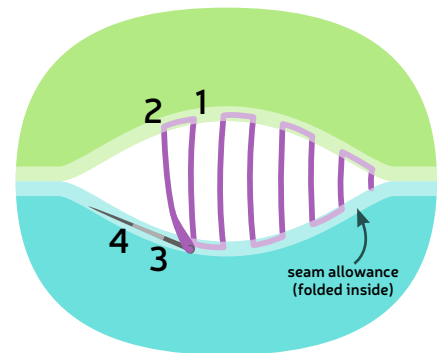
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30. SEW THE BODY CLOSED

- 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.
- 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!

→ If you're not using a 3D muzzle for your plush, it's done! If not move on ahead to step 31.

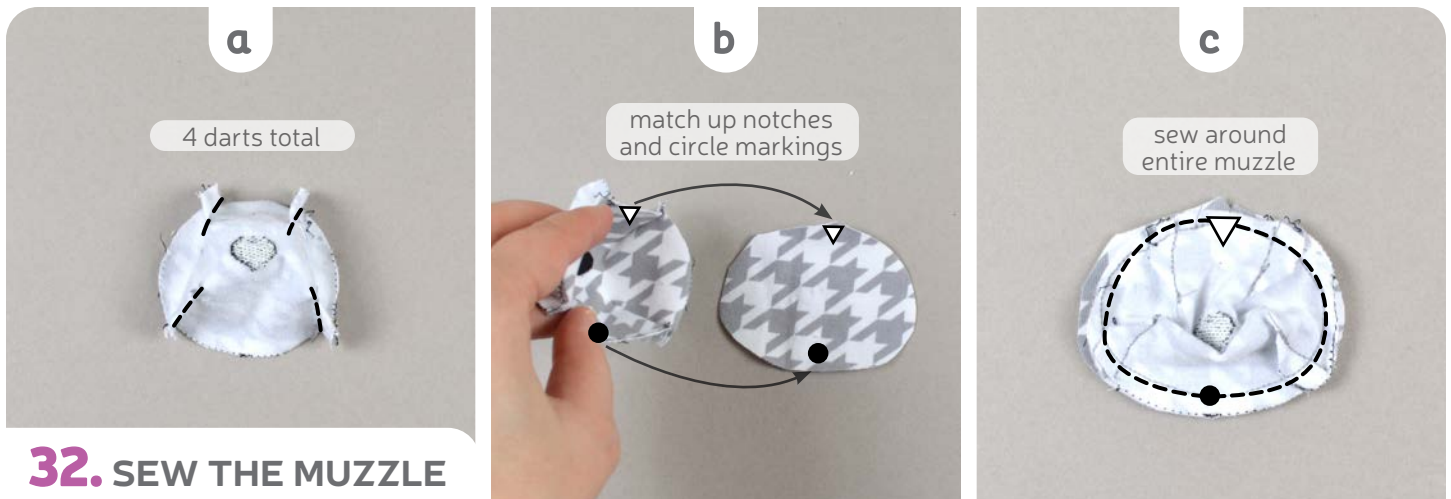


31. SEW THE MUZZLE DARTS

- Grab your **MUZZLE** piece (J). Revisit steps 2-3 to add an applied nose to the muzzle. Trace the templates from the pattern onto your fusible web, cut them out, then fuse them to your fabric following the guidelines.
- The muzzle piece has 4 **darts** around the outside 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.

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32. SEW THE MUZZLE

- Repeat step 31 with the remaining darts on the **MUZZLE (J)** for 4 darts total.
- Grab your **MUZZLE BASE (K)** piece. Align the outer edge of the muzzle around the base. You'll find there is a **notch** at the **center top** and a **circle marking** at the **center bottom** for alignment. Pin the fabrics together, matching the markings.
- Sew the muzzle to the base all around the perimeter.



33. TURN AND STUFF THE MUZZLE

- To turn the muzzle, cut a small slit through the **MUZZLE BASE (K)** fabric only. Make it about 1-1½" long and be sure to cut through only the one layer of fabric.
- Turn the muzzle right side out through the opening.
- Stuff the muzzle semi-firmly, just enough so it takes shape.

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34. ATTACH THE MUZZLE

- a. IF YOU'RE USING A VERY STRETCHY FABRIC:** It will help to close up the muzzle before attaching, so it doesn't stretch out of shape due to the opening. Sew the opening closed with a whip stitch or any other stitch you can do quickly and comfortably, just enough to hold the raw edges together.
- b.** Take the sewn end of your muzzle and place it between the eyes of your panda.
- c.** Ladder stitch the muzzle to your panda's head along the seam from step 32. Use long stitches for the first pass. Check the placement to be sure you like it, then stitch around the muzzle again with tinier, shorter stitches to secure it.



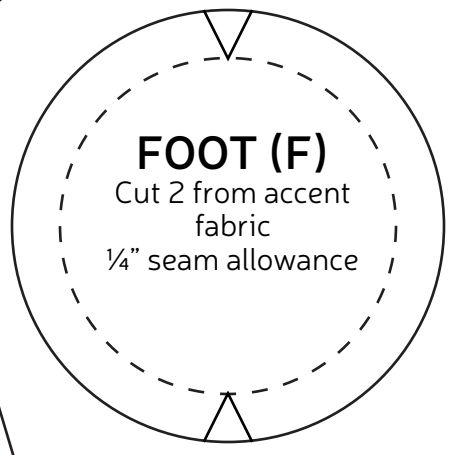
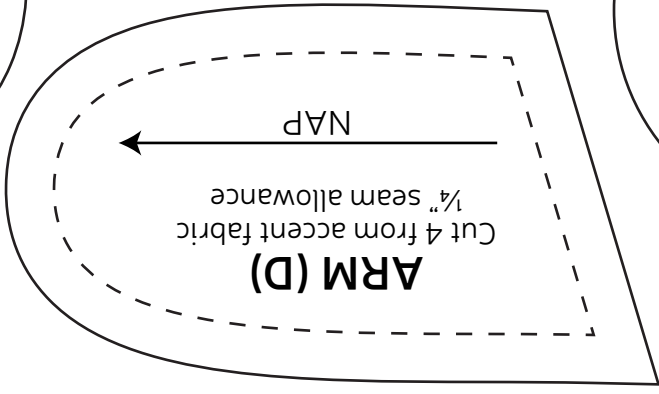
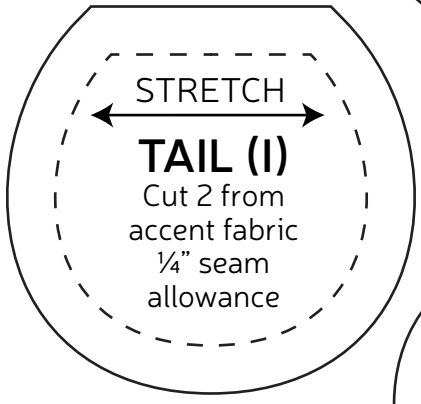
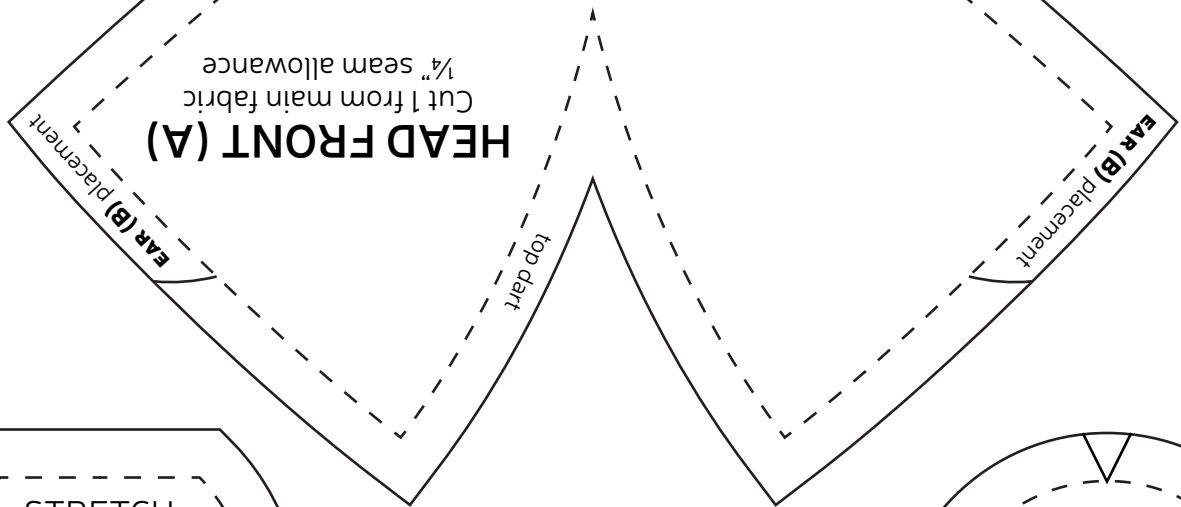
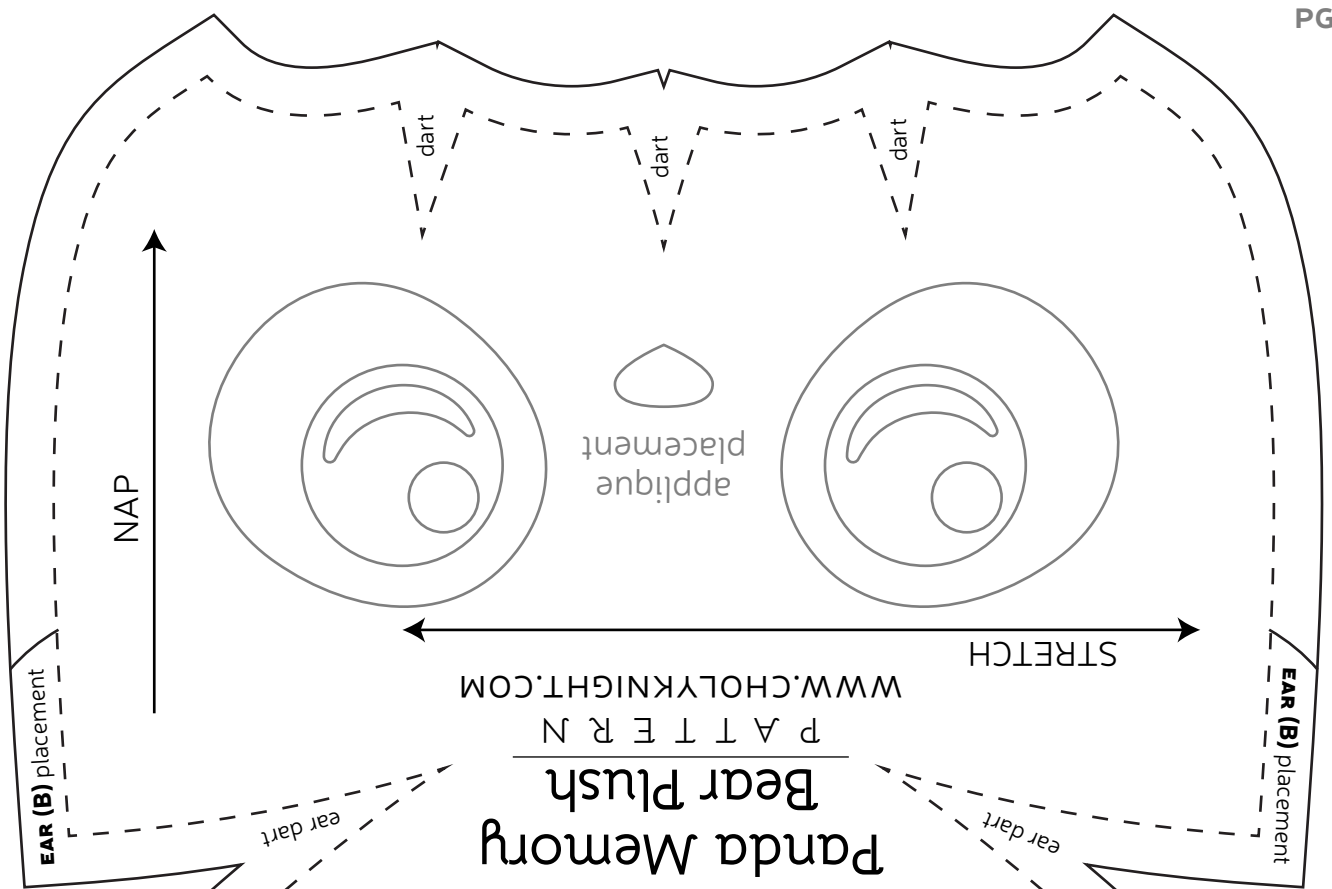
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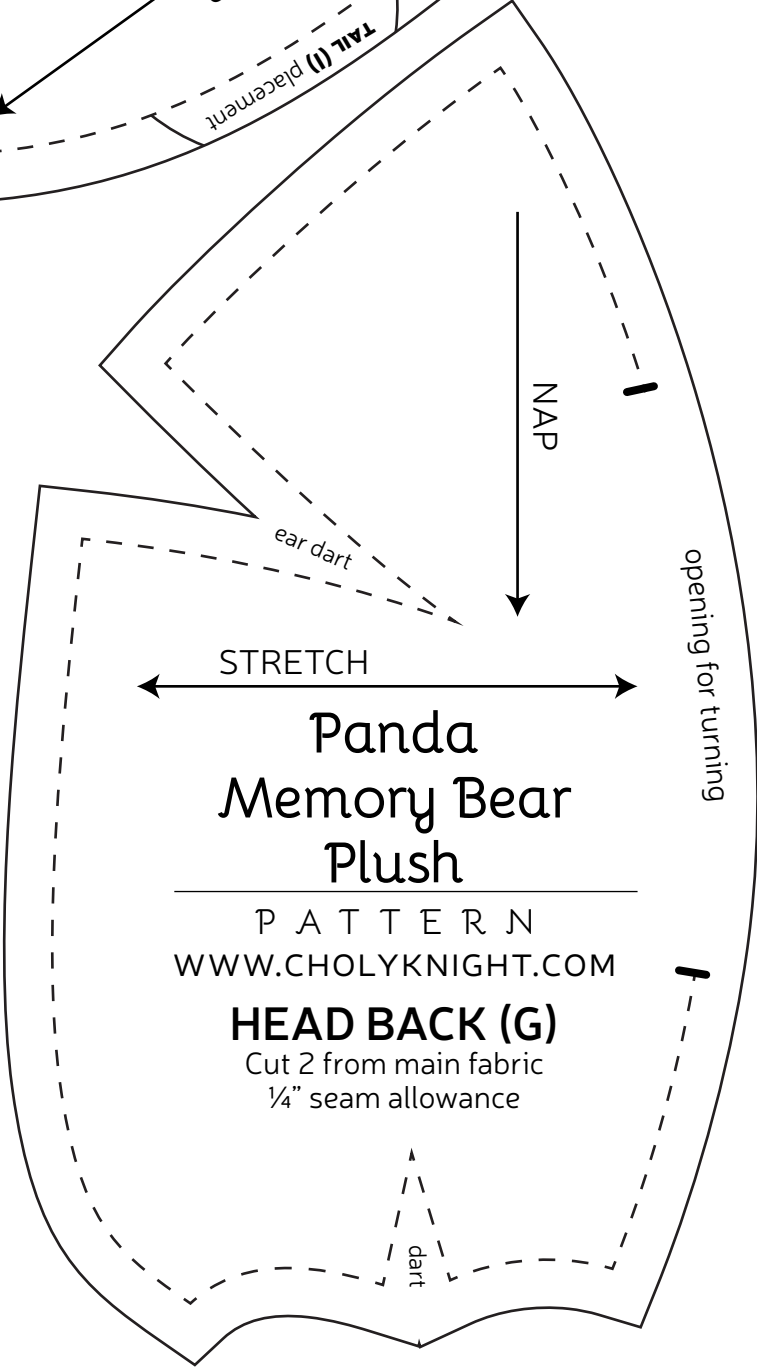
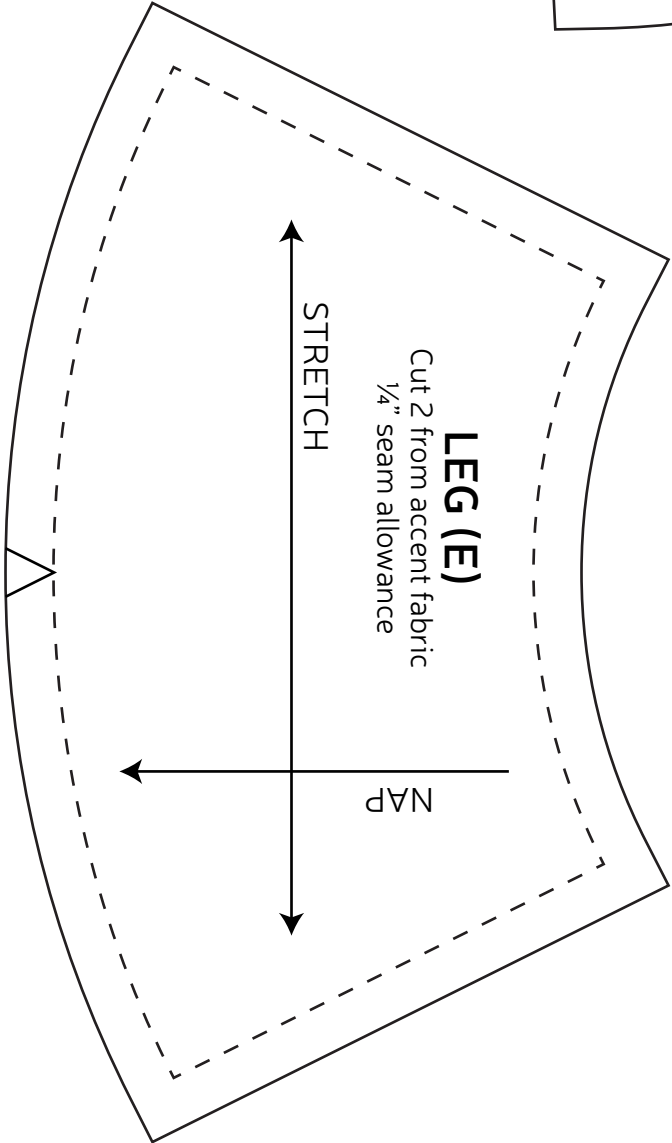
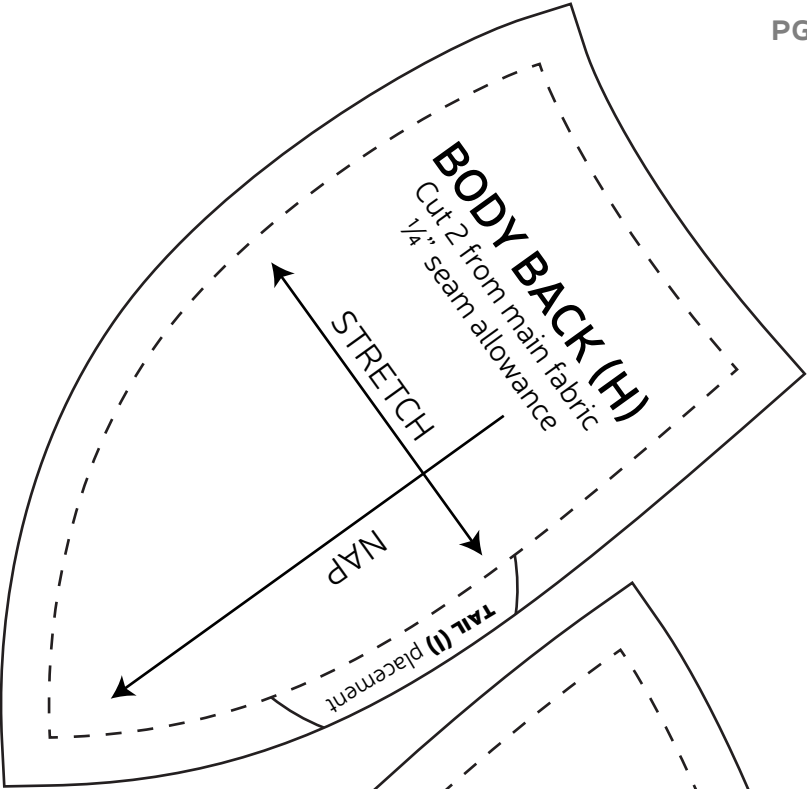
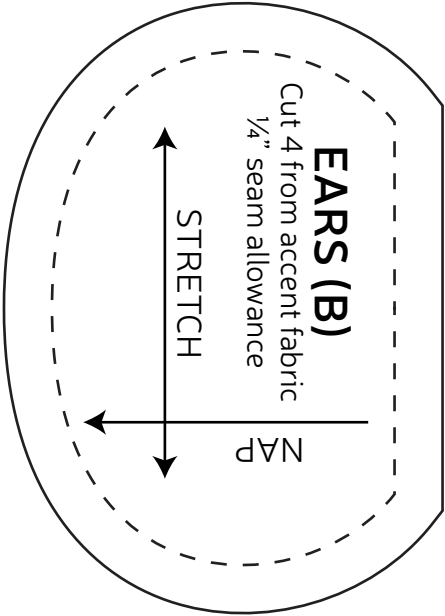
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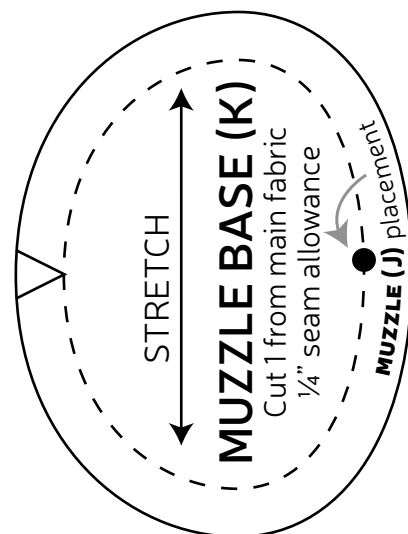
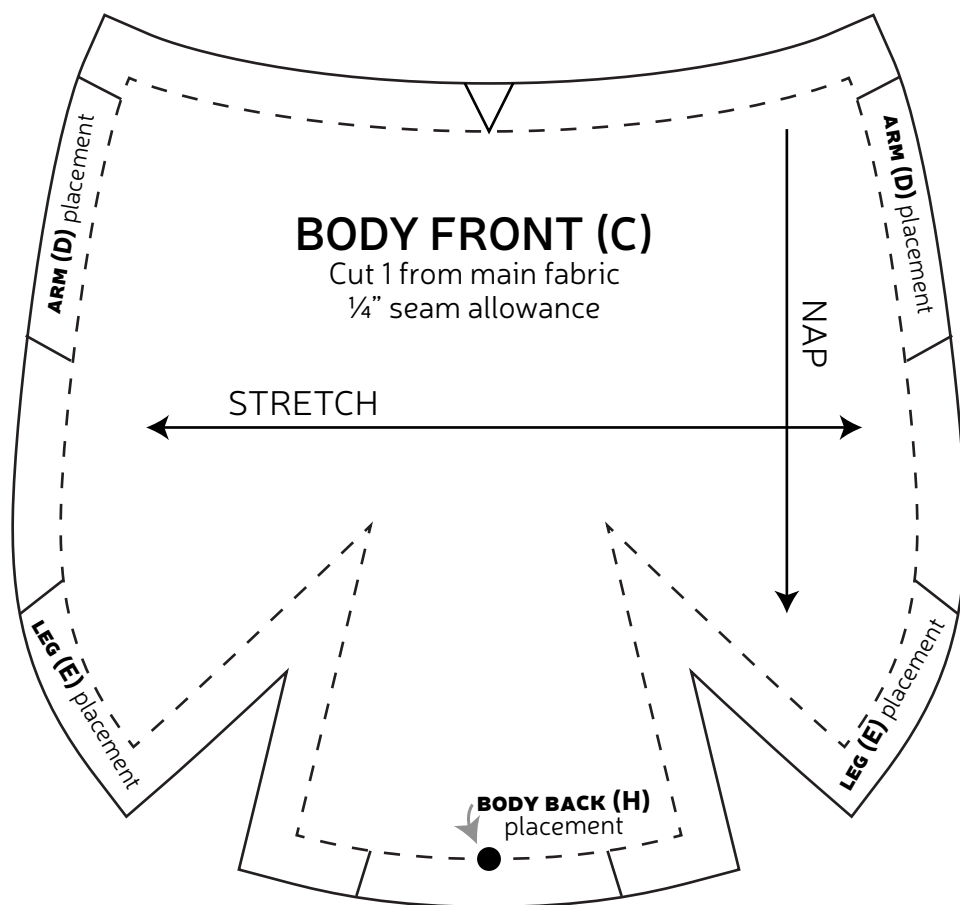
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Bear Plush**

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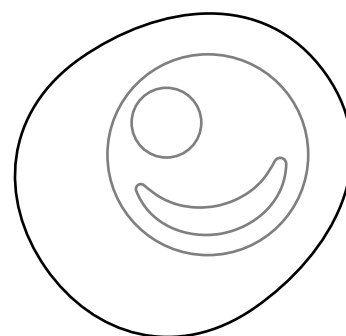
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EYE BASE
aplique
 trace & cut 2 of
 accent color



EYE
aplique
 trace & cut
 2 of black



EYE SHINE
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EYE HIGHLIGHT
aplique
 trace & cut 2 of
 accent color



NOSE
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