

PENGUIN PLUSH



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



PENGUIN PLUSH

This sweet little blob-shaped plush is actually a fat little penguin down on its belly! In this cute pose it's ready to slide down some icy slopes, and has a happy smiling face to prove it.

DIFFICULTY:



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The hardest part of this plush is definitely sewing on the bottom, since the piece is so tiny and the curves get a little tight. Those not used to curved sewing might consider this a 4/10. Using lots of pins helps with this part.

MAKES:

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One plush: about 4" tall, 5" wide, and 6" long

SKILLS USED:

-
- Fusible web applique
 - Basting
 - Darts
 - Zigzag stitch
 - Ladder stitch
 - Sewing curves
 - Gathering, gathering stitch



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materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. or 11" x 9" piece of fabric for face and belly
- ¼ yd. or 19" x 7" piece of fabric for body
- ⅛ yd. or 8" x 5" of fabric for beak and feet
- 2" x 2" piece of black applique fabric for eyes
- 2" x 2" piece of pink applique fabric for blush
- 1" x 1" piece of white applique fabric for eye shines
- 4" x 4" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- sewing thread to match main fabric and applique fabrics
- poly-fil stuffing
- basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)



SUGGESTED FABRICS:

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

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

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

MINKY

VS.

FELT

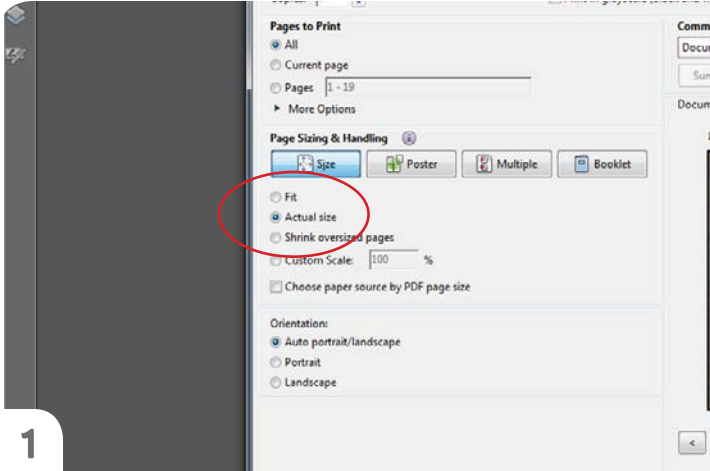


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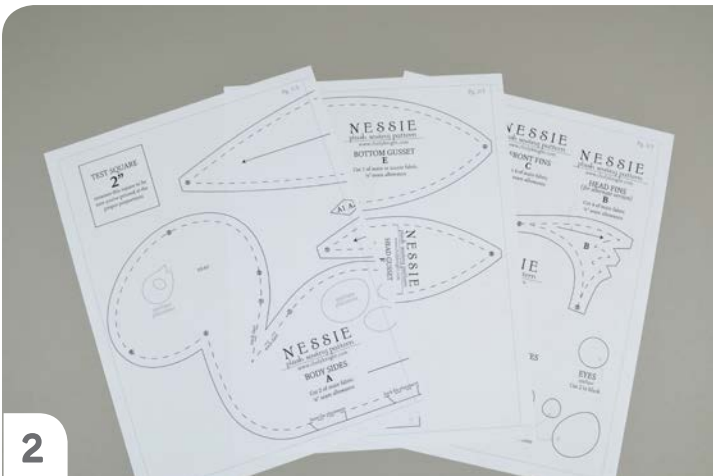
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printing the pattern:

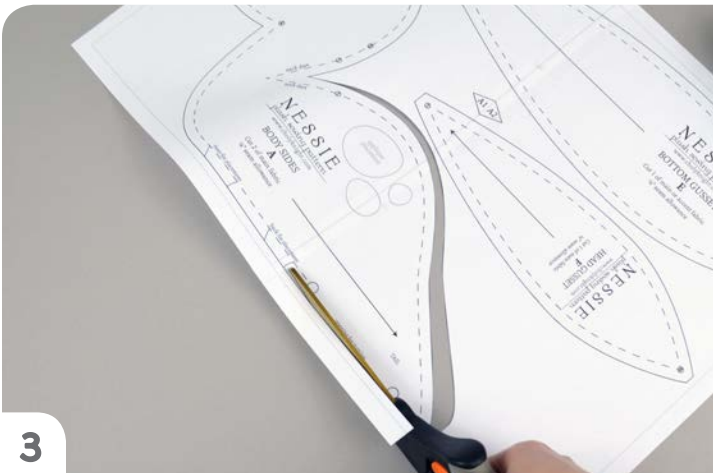
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 15-16**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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



Print the pages needed for the file. You might have one or more. Either way, be sure you have the full collection by noting the page numbers in the corner.

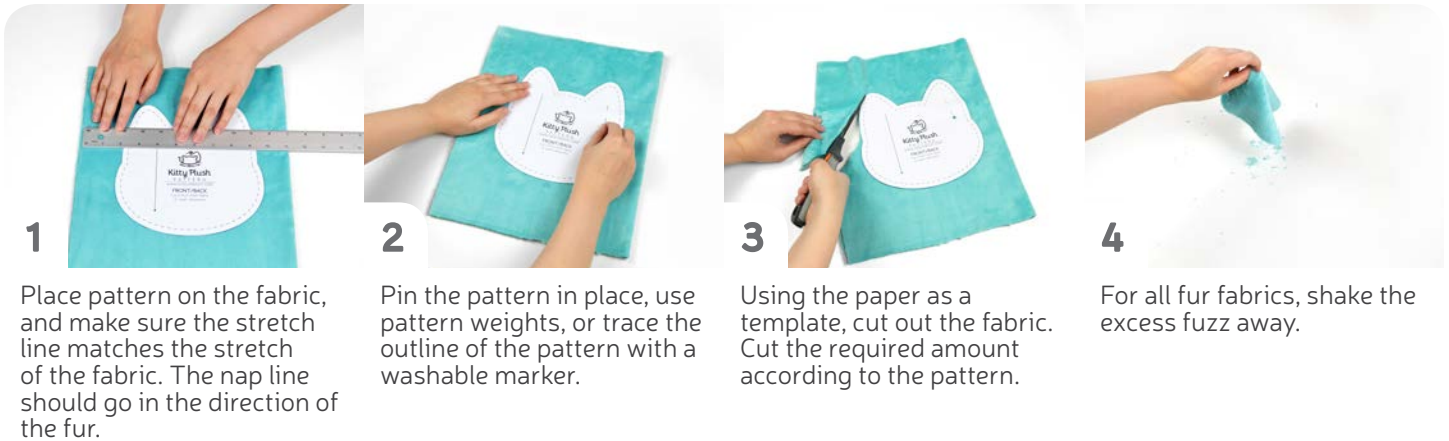


You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper. They might be a little hard to pin through, so you might want to use your longest pins. But you could also use pattern weights or trace the outlines onto the fabric with a washable marker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

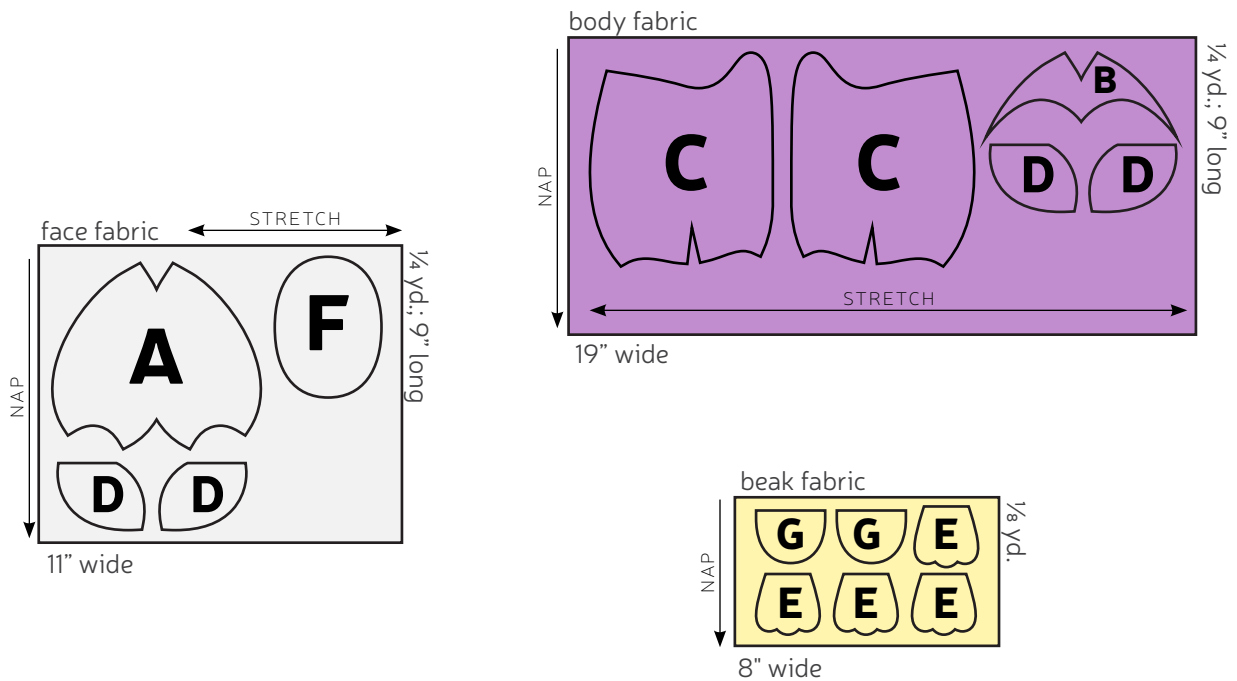
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cutting the fabric:



cutting layout:



BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Briefly read the project instructions so you know what to expect.
- If desired, mark the cut fabric pieces with the markings and symbols from the pattern. Or wait until the applicable step before transferring.
- Note that the seam allowance used is 1/4" throughout the project.

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1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Take your fusible web and trace all of your applique pieces onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have two eyes, two blush marks, and two eye shines.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The eyes go on black, the blush on pink, and the eye shines on white.
- Cut out the eyes and arrange them on the **FACE** (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 pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.

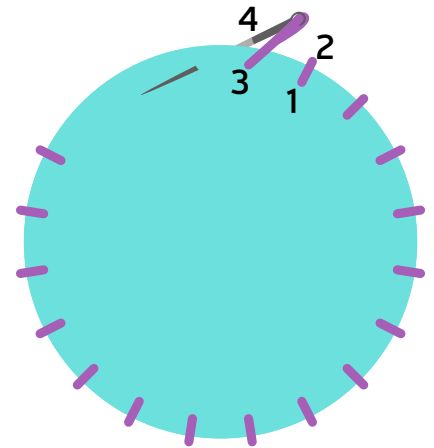
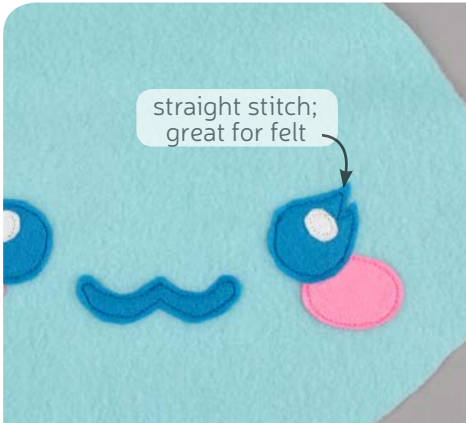


2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

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

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2a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

Other good options for applique include a straight stitch, which involves sewing around the edge of the applique pieces with a straight stitch using matching thread -- about 1/8" in from the edge.

You can also applique by hand; I prefer a whipstitch. Thread a hand-sewing needle with some matching thread and knot it. Bring the thread up from the back of the project; about 1/8" in from the edge of the applique shape. Bring it down perpendicular from the curve, just outside of the applique shape. This completes one stitch.

For the next stitch, bring the needle back up about 1/8" away from the previous stitch and 1/8" in from the edge just as in the first stitch. Once again, bring it down just outside the applique shape. Continue this way until you've sewn around the shape.



3. ATTACH THE CROWN

- Grab your and **CROWN** (B) piece. Align the crown over the **FACE** so the top darts match. Make sure right sides are facing up for both. Pin the crown to the face, or use a little bit of washable glue stick on the back as an alternative.
- Stitch the crown to the face. Use either a zigzag stitch over the curved edge, or a regular straight stitch about 1/8" from the edge.
- Flip the face over and trim away the excess face fabric that's behind the crown. This is to reduce bulk for future steps. Trim about 1/4" away from the seam you've just sewn.

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4. SEW THE DARTS



- Locate the open wedges found on the top and bottom of the **FACE** (A) piece -- these are the darts. To sew them, start by folding the face piece in half along the point of the dart and match up the slanted lines that make the wedge shape.
- Sew the darts by starting at the opening and moving down to the point.
- When sewing the point, try to blend the seam in with the fold so it makes a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.

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 BODY DARTS



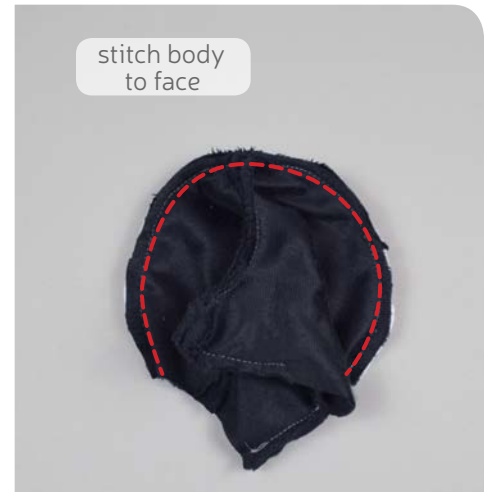
- Grab your two **BODY** pieces (C). Locate the darts at the bottom and sew them much the same as for the face. Fold the body along the point of the dart, matching up the slanted lines.
- Sew the dart by starting at the opening and blending into the fold. Repeat this with your other body piece so you have finished darts on both pieces.
- Align both body pieces together with right sides facing and edges matching up.

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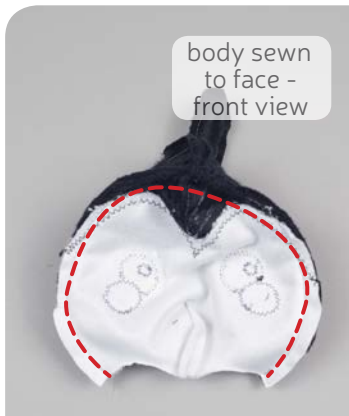
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6. ATTACH THE BODY



- If you haven't already, locate the **opening for turning** markings found on the **BODY** paper pattern. Transfer them over to the wrong side of the fabric. Sew along this curved edge of the body pieces only, across the top, over the tail, and down the back. Be sure to leave the opening for turning.
- Open up your **BODY** piece. The curved edge without the darts goes around the upper edge of the **FACE**. Line up the body seam from **part A** with the **upper dart** of the face and the rest of the edge should line up.
- Sew the body to the face along this edge. Leave the curved area at the bottom open, this is for the **BELLY** later.



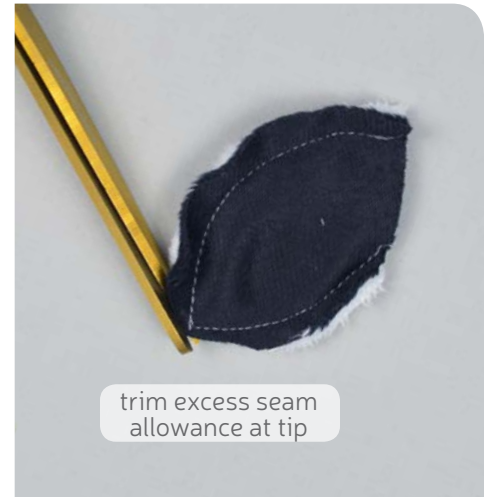
7. TURN THE BODY

- When flipped, the **FACE** should look like this after being sewn to the body.
- Turn the **BODY** right side out through the opening in the bottom.



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8. SEW THE FLIPPERS

- Grab your **FLIPPER** pieces (D). Take one from your body fabric and one from your face fabric. Line them up with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the curved edges. Leave the short straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Trim the excess seam allowance at the point to decrease bulk in the tip of the flipper.



9. BASTE THE FLIPPERS

- Turn the **FLIPPER** right side out. Repeat with the remaining two flipper pieces for two complete flippers total.
- If you haven't already, locate the **flipper placement lines** found on the **FACE (A)** and **BODY (C)** paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric.
Place the open end of the flipper within these placement lines. About 1/3 of the flipper overlaps into the face, the other 2/3 onto the body. Make sure the face fabric is facing up at this point.
- Baste the flipper to the body within the seam allowances to hold it in place for future steps. Be sure the tip of the flipper points toward the tail.

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).

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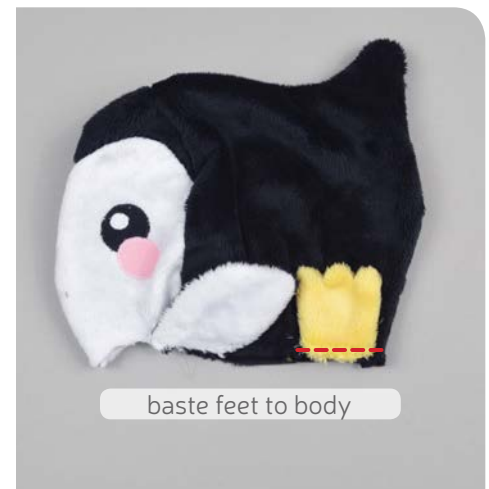
10. SEW THE FEET



- Grab your **FEET** pieces (E). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- To get the detailed little toes for the feet, use the paper pattern as a stitching guide. Trim away the seam allowance from the paper, and use it as a template to trace onto the fabric.
- Sew the feet together along the traced lines. Leave the straight edge open for turning the feet later.



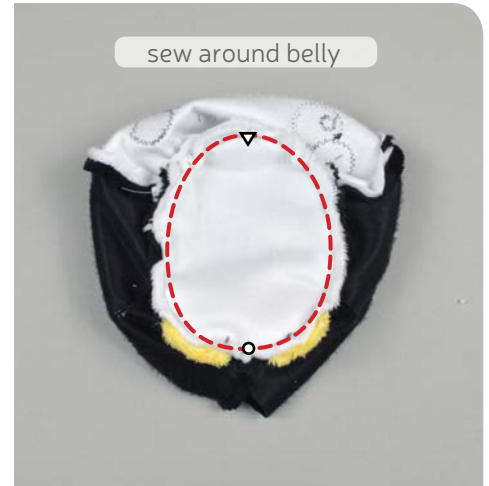
11. BASTE THE FEET



- Trim the excess seam allowance between the toes to decrease bulk.
- Turn the **FEET** right side out and define the toes with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- If you haven't already, locate the **feet placement lines** found on the **BODY (C)** paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Place the open end of the feet within these placement lines. Baste the feet to the body within the seam allowances to hold them in place for future steps.

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12. SEW THE BELLY

- At this time, repeat steps 9 & 11 with your remaining **FLIPPER** and **FEET** pieces on the other side of the penguin body -- if you haven't done so already. When complete, you should have a flipper and a foot on each side of the bottom of the penguin. Turn the body wrong side out.
- Grab your **BELLY** piece (F). If you haven't already, locate the alignment notch and circle marking on the belly paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. The notch on the top aligns with the face dart, and the circle marking aligns with the body back seam. Pin the body to the belly, matching up these points.
- Sew the body to the belly around the perimeter of the oval.



13. STUFF THE BODY

- Turn the body right side out through the opening in the back. Stuff the body firmly with stuffing. Focus most of it on the face area until it fills out and has no wrinkles in the fabric.
- After the face looks full, make sure the tail has been stuffed. Then fill the rest of the body firmly, working your way toward the opening.
- 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.

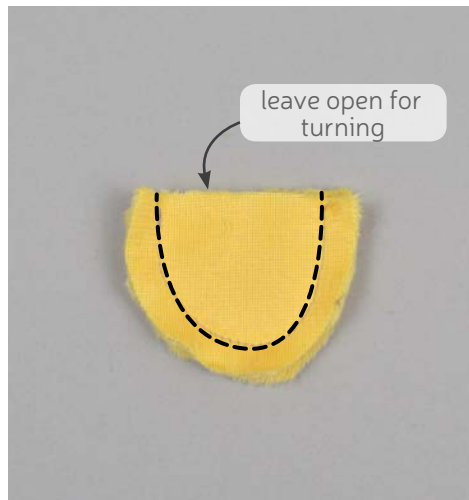
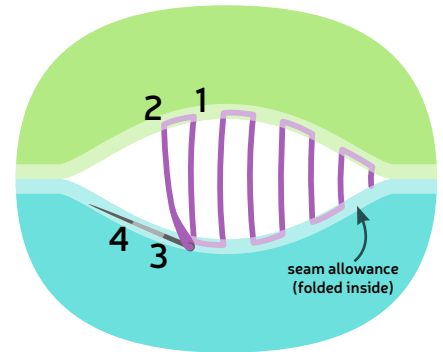
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14. CLOSE UP THE PLUSH

- Continue from here doing a ladder stitch. Take a 1/8" stitch into the fold of one side of the opening, then go across and take another. Keep going down the opening until you reach the end.
- 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!

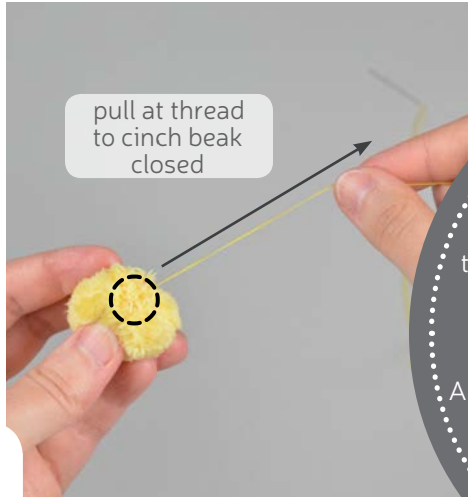


15. SEW THE BEAK

- Grab your **BEAK** pieces (G). Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the beak pieces together along the curved edge. Leave the straight edge free for turning the beak right side out. Turn the beak right side out.
- Stuff the beak lightly with stuffing.

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16. CINCH UP THE BEAK

- a. Thread a hand sewing needle with thread and knot the end. Sew a long gathering stitch around the opening of the **BEAK**, about $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the edge.
- b. Pull at the thread to cinch the beak closed. Sew a few knots into the center to keep it closed. If you have thread left over, use it to attach to the face of the penguin next.

gathering:

The process of shortening the length of a piece of fabric by sewing long stitches through it. When the thread is pulled, it forms small folds that ruffle the fabric.

gathering stitch:

A long version of the running stitch, which is a stitch done by weaving the needle in and out of a length of fabric going along a line. The long stitches (about $\frac{1}{4}$ " - $\frac{1}{2}$ " long) gather the fabric when pulled later.



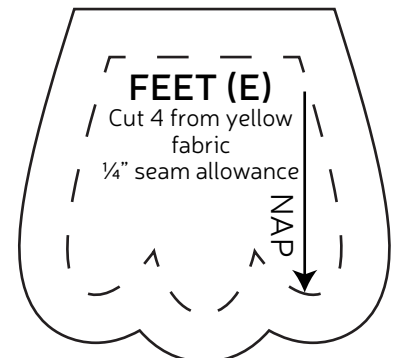
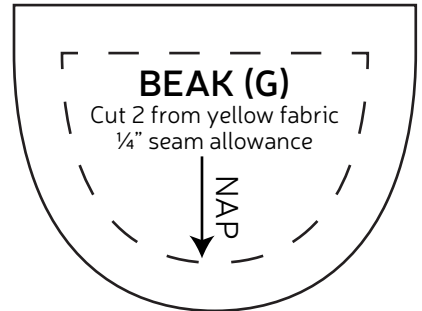
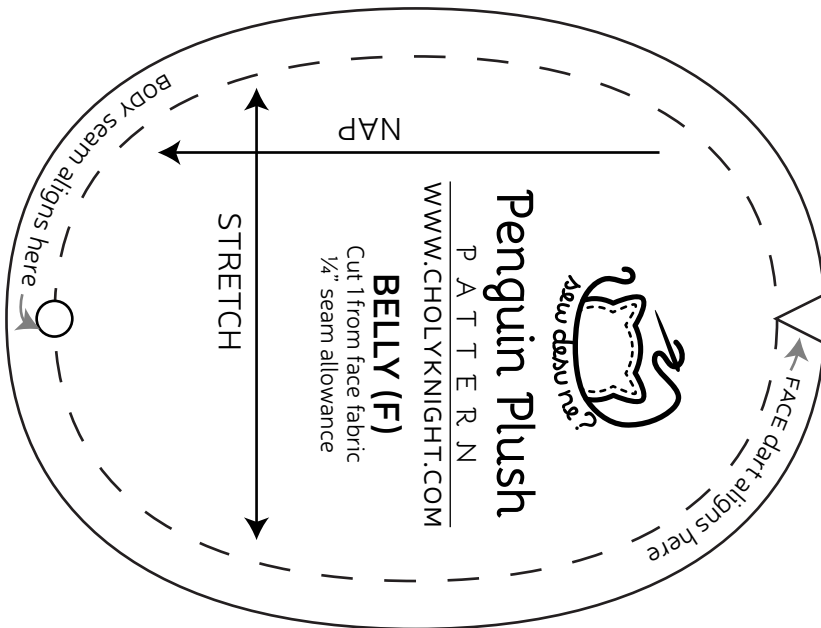
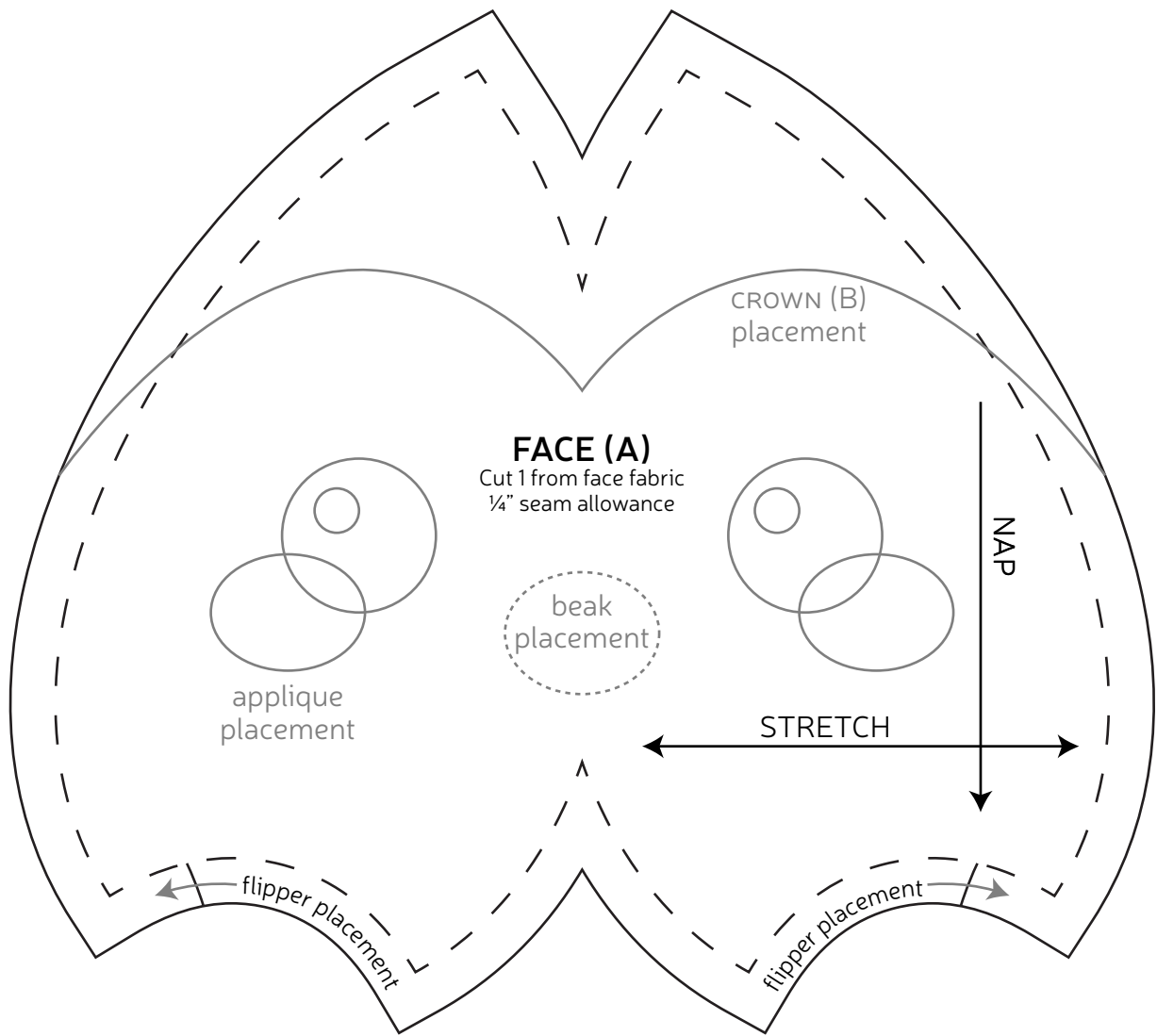
17. ATTACH THE BEAK

- a. Take the cinched side of the **BEAK** and align it over the face of the penguin. The seam (from step 15) should go horizontally across the face. Place the beak just above the **bottom face dart**. To hold the beak, stick pins down into the beak and through the body of the plush.
- b. Ladder stitch the beak to the face of the penguin, similar to how you did back in step 14.

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

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FLIPPERS (D)

Cut 2 from face fabric
Cut 2 from body fabric
1/4" seam allowance

NAP

CROWN (B)

Cut 1 from body fabric

NAP

BLUSH

applique
trace & cut
2 of pink

EYE

applique
trace & cut
2 of black

EYE SHINE

applique
trace & cut
2 of white

STRETCH

NAP

opening for turning


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BODY (C)

Cut 2 from body fabric
1/4" seam allowance

flipper placement

foot placement