

PTERODACTYL PLUSH



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



PTERODACTYL PLUSH

All dinosaur lovers come forward! With this pattern you can make a fun pterodactyl (or pteranodon) that matches my previous T-Rex plush. It has a similar chubby body with legs and tail that help it sit nicely on its own. Meanwhile the head has a big accent beak and cute eyes with tons of character!

MAKES:

One plush: measures about 6½" tall, 3½" wide (from sides of body), and 9" long (from tip of beak to tip of head crest)

DIFFICULTY:



.....
The hardest part of this plush is most likely the gusset in the head. It requires sewing points very precisely so they match up later. Just be sure to take it slow at those parts and watch your needle.

SKILLS USED:

-
- Fusible web applique
 - Darts
 - Y-seams
 - Top stitching
 - Curved sewing
 - Ladder stitch
 - Basting



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materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. of main fabric
- ⅛ yd. (or 5" x 12") of dark accent fabric for beak
- ¼ yd. (or 5" x 5") of light accent fabric for belly
- 3" x 3" piece of black applique fabric (flannel, felt, fleece, cotton, etc.) for pupils
- optional 2" x 2" piece of pink applique fabric for blush
- 3" x 3" piece of white applique fabric for eye whites & eye shines
- 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 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

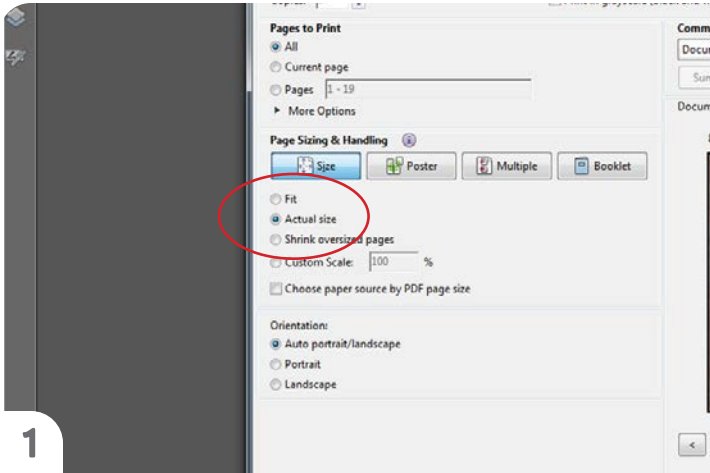


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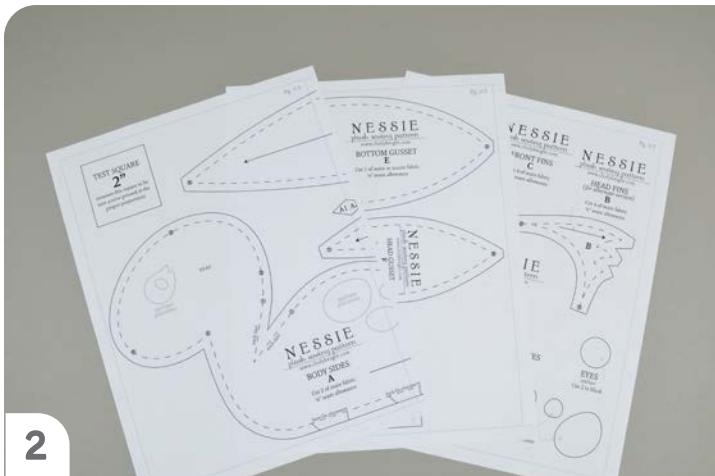
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printing the pattern:

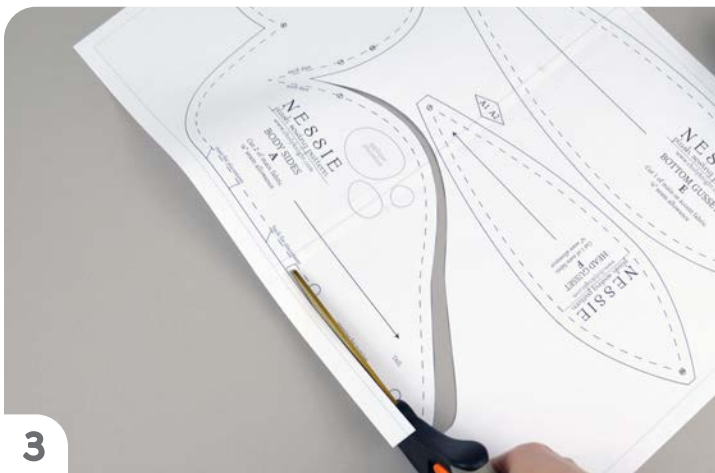
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 17-19**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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.

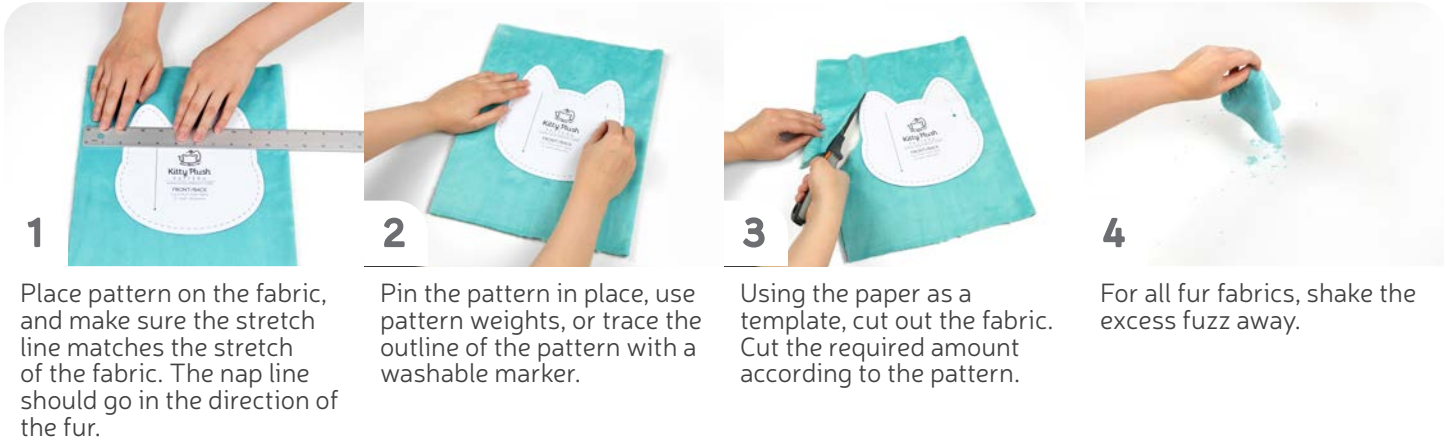


You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper. They might be a little hard to pin through, so you might want to use your longest pins. But you could also use pattern weights or trace the outlines onto the fabric with a washable marker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

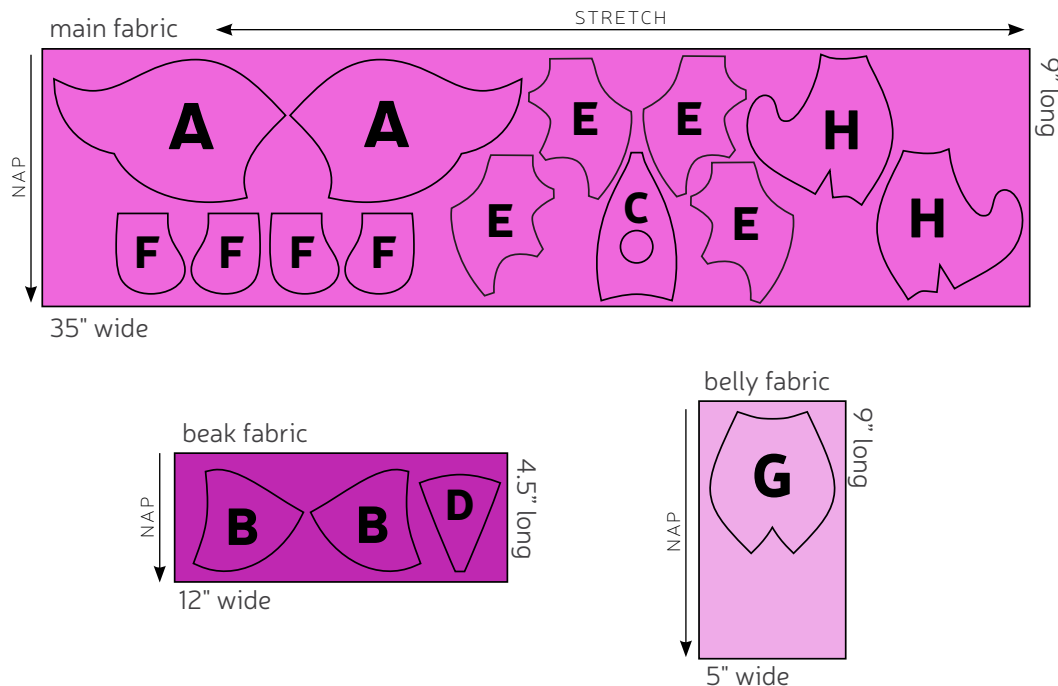
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cutting the fabric:



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 ¼" seam allowance is used throughout the project.

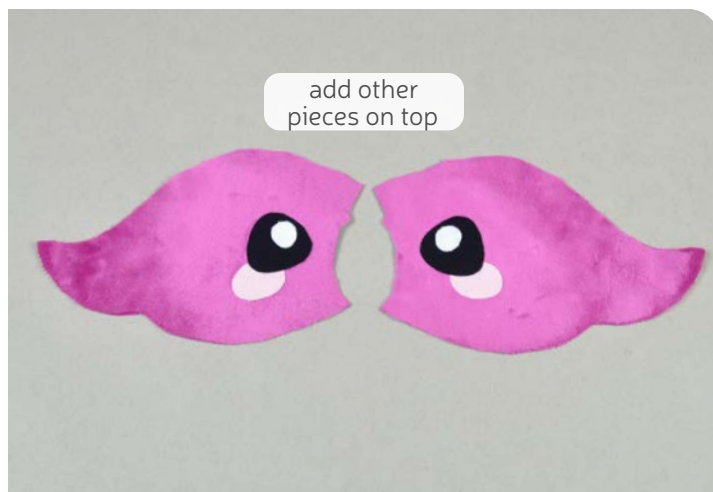
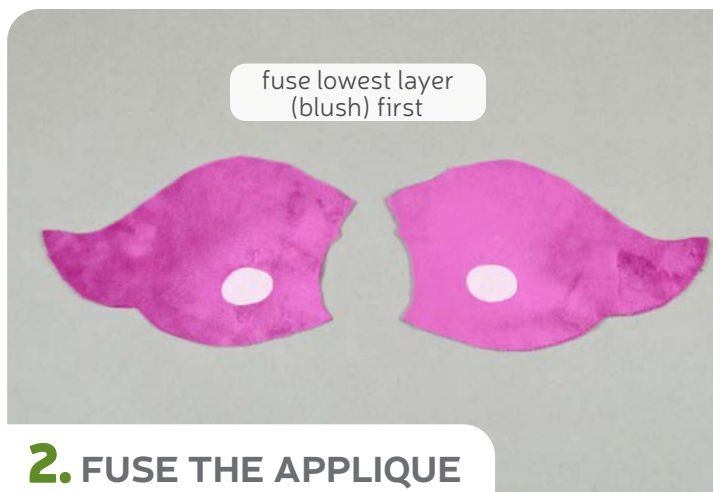
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1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Grab your fusible web and applique templates. Trace the pieces you desire onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have at least 2 **eyes**, and 2 **eye shines**. You can also add **blush** or **eye whites** for the cheeky styled eyes.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side of the fusible web pieces onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. Fuse the **eyes** to black, the **eye shines** and **eye whites** to white, and the **blush** to pink.
- Cut out the lowest layer, in this case the **blush** and arrange it on the **HEAD SIDE (A)** piece. Set your paper pattern on top of the fabric piece (right sides up). Align the **blush** piece on top where the placement markings are. Then carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.



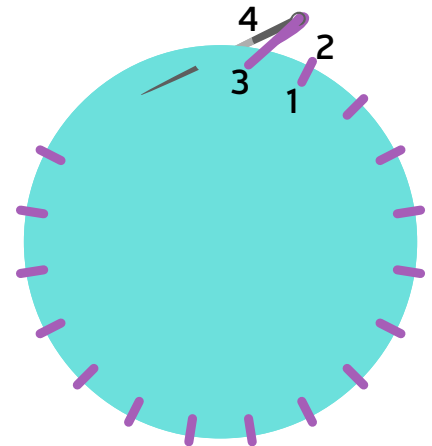
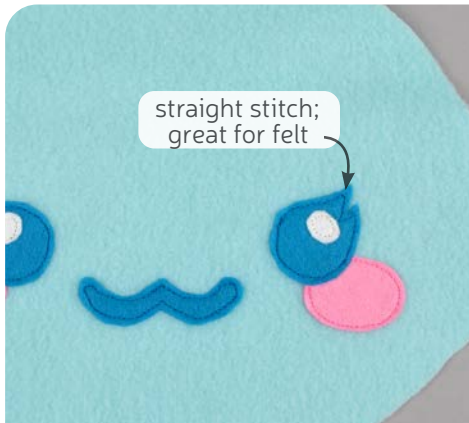
2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the **blush** in place with your iron. Use a press cloth (like a scrap piece of cotton) if you're using a polyester or fuzzy fabric like minky, that will help prevent harming or melting the fabric.
- Next, move onto the smaller pieces: the **eye whites**, **eyes**, and **eye shines**. Fuse them the same way as you did the **blush**, 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 page for some other applique options.

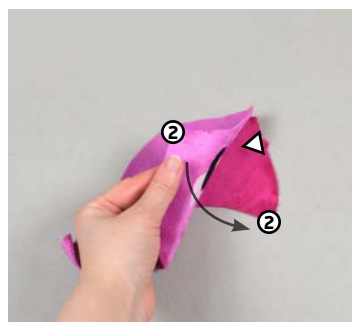
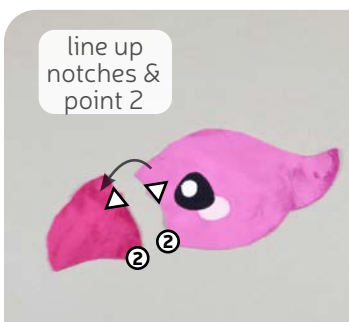
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2a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

- 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.

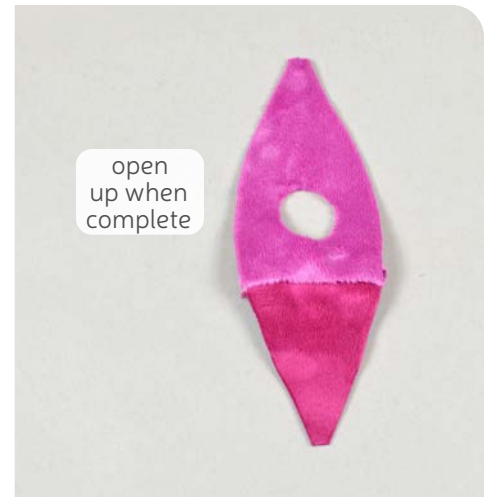
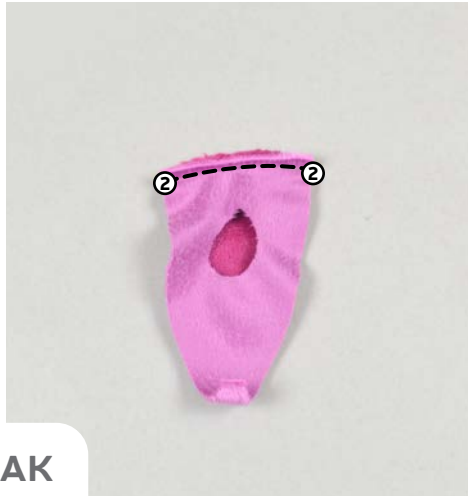
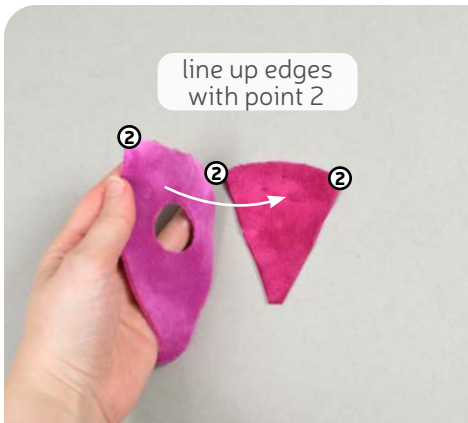


3. ATTACH THE SIDE BEAK

- Grab your **HEAD SIDE** (A) and **SIDE BEAK** pieces (B). We'll join these together next. Both pieces are marked with a **notch** for help with alignment. **Point 2** at the bottom will also match up.
- Align the head over the beak with right sides facing and both the **notch** and **point 2** aligning. You'll need to stretch and bend the head fabric a little to make it fit.
- Sew the head to the beak along the **notched edge**, down through **point 2**.
- Open up the pieces when complete, and repeat with your remaining head and beak pieces for two sides to the head.

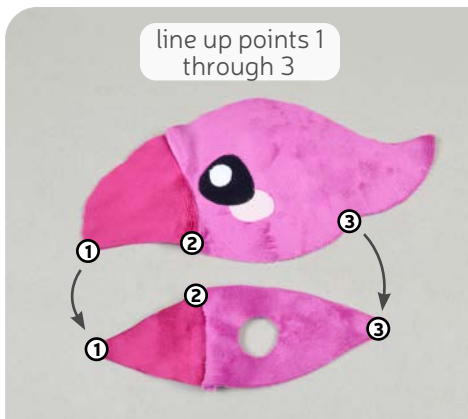
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4. SEW THE BOTTOM BEAK

- Grab your **HEAD BOTTOM** (C) and **BEAK BOTTOM** pieces (D). Align the short curved edges of both pieces together. This is marked with **point 2** on each side for easy identification. Make sure right sides are facing and the raw edges match up.
- Sew the head bottom to the beak bottom through both **point 2** areas.
- Open up the pieces when complete.



5. SEW THE HEAD TO THE BOTTOM

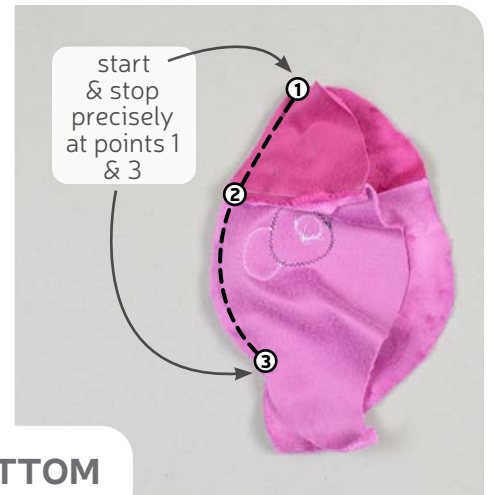
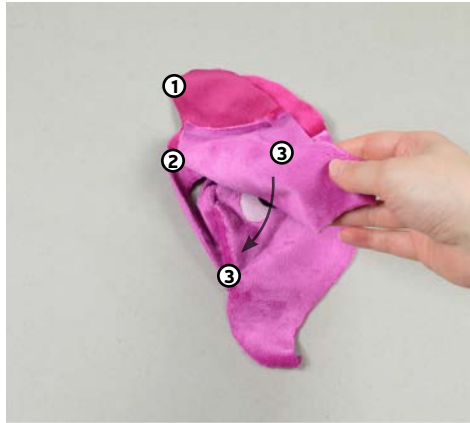
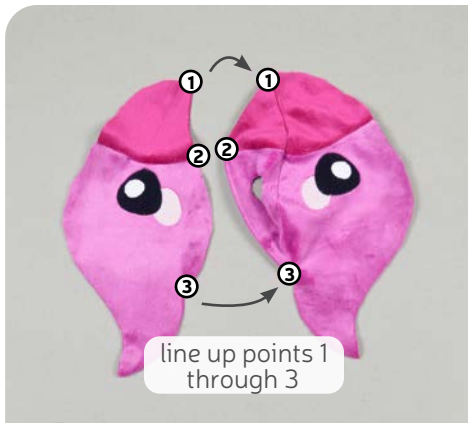
- Grab one of your head side pieces from before. Next we'll be joining the head side to the head bottom from **point 1** (at the tip of the beak) through **point 2** (at the beak seam), and up to **point 3** (just below the head crest).
- Line up the head bottom with the head side, matching up **points 1, 2, and 3**. Also ensure that right sides are facing and raw edges match up.
- Sew the head bottom to the side through **points 1, 2, and 3**.
 → *For best results, start precisely at point 1 and stop precisely at point 3. Don't sew any further into the seam allowance and it will help create a more successful y-seam.*

Y-SEAM:

Also called an inset seam. It is a type of seam where 3 seams come together. Most seams come together in even numbers: 2, 4, 8, etc. Which allows the project to be broken down into halves, quarters, etc. An odd number requires precision sewing because the joined seams don't create a straight line. In plush sewing, y-seams are often seen in head and body gussets.

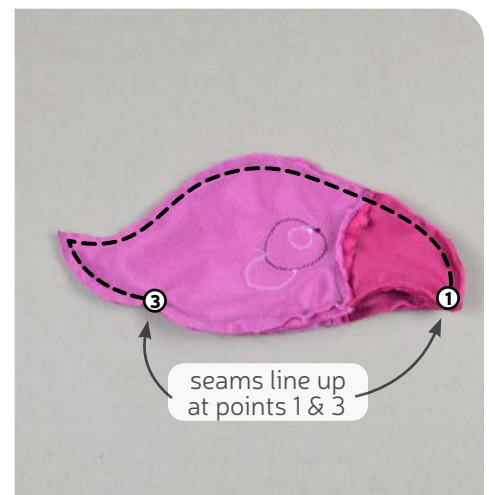
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6. SEW THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HEAD TO THE BOTTOM

- Grab your other head side piece and repeat the same process on the other side of the head bottom. Once again we're lining up **points 1, 2, and 3**.
- Align the head side over the head bottom with right sides facing, raw edges aligning, and matching up **points 1, 2, and 3**.
- Sew the head side to the head bottom through **points 1, 2, and 3**. Try to start and stop your seam exactly where you started and stopped in the previous step. This will help ensure there are no gaps in your stitching. It may help to sew with the head bottom piece on top so you can see more clearly.



7. SEW THE TOP OF THE HEAD

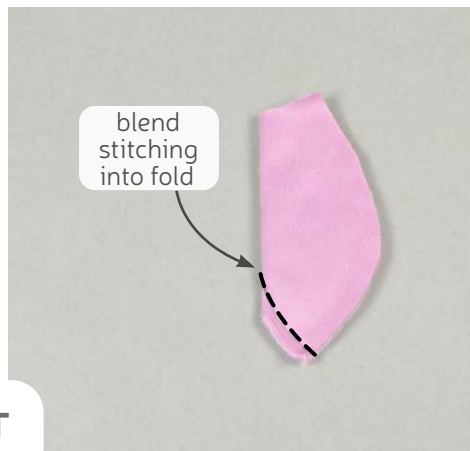
- Open up the pieces when complete, and the head bottom should be neatly secured on each side of the head side.
- Finally, line up the top edge of the head, which should be the remaining raw edges. Ensure that the beak seam in the middle lines up as well.
- Sew the top edge of the head. Start precisely at **point 1** at the tip of the beak, then go around the crest and stop at **point 3** below the crest. For the best results, all 3 seams from the past 3 steps should line up exactly at those points.

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- Trim the excess seam allowance at the tip of the beak and the crest to reduce bulk. Clip the seam allowance at the corners at **point 3** and the top of the beak to increase flexibility.
- Turn the head right side out and define the points with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- Stuff the head starting with the pointy parts. Get small bits of stuffing into the beak and the crest. Be sure to fill those up nice and full so they don't deflate later.
- Fill up the rest of the head until it's completely full and there are no wrinkles in the fabric.

8. TURN AND STUFF THE HEAD



9. SEW THE BELLY DART

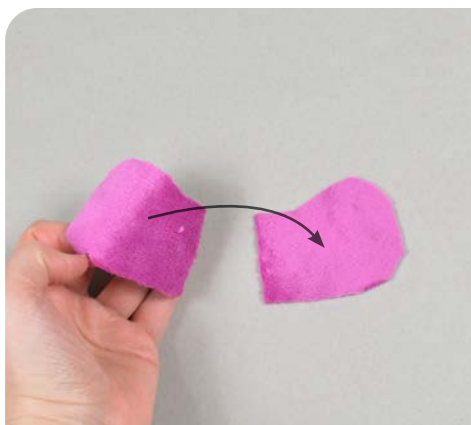
- Grab your **BELLY** piece (G). Find the small open wedge shape along the bottom. This is a **dart**. To sew it, fold the belly along the point of the wedge to match up the short slanted lines.
- Next, sew along this edge. Start at the opening of the dart and move down to the point.
- Try to blend the seam into the fold of the fabric for 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.

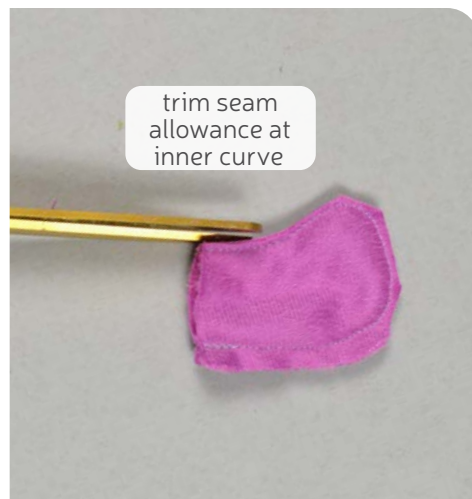
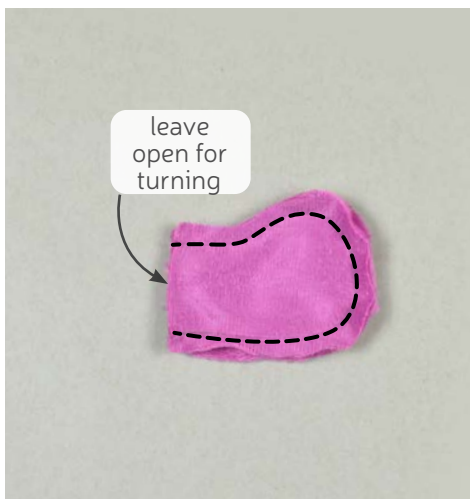
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10. SEW THE LEGS

- Grab your **LEG** pieces (F). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together around the curved edge. Leave the straight edge free for turning the leg right side out.
- Trim the excess seam allowance around the inner curve to help reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the legs are turned next. Repeat with your remaining leg pieces for two legs total.



- Turn the **LEGS** right side out.
- Stuff each of the legs with stuffing. Keep it light near the opening as we'll be sewing it to the belly next.

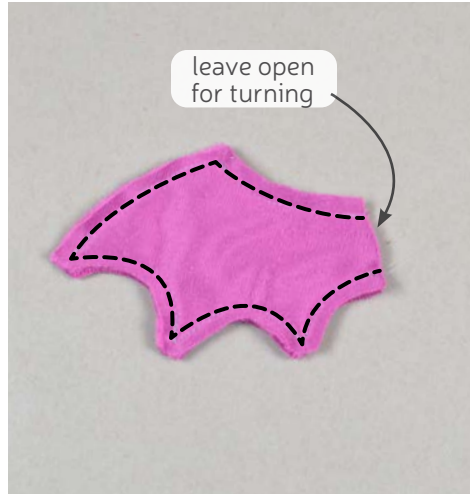
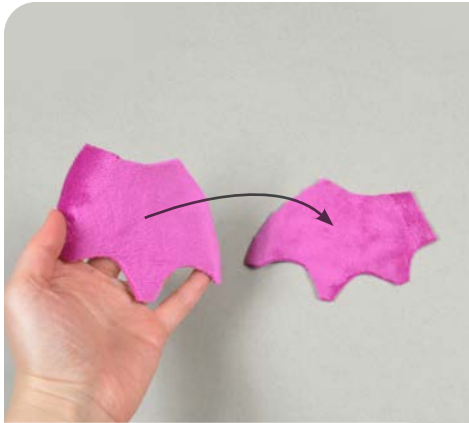


11. STUFF THE LEGS



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12. SEW THE WINGS

- Grab your **WING** pieces (E). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the wings together along the pointed edge. Leave the straight edge free for turning the wing right side out later.
- Trim the excess seam allowance around the inner and outer corners and curves. This will reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned. Repeat this step with your remaining wing pieces for two wings total, then turn the wings right side out.



13. TOP STITCH THE WINGS

- The **WINGS** (E) have extra **top stitching lines** for some more detail. To sew them, start by transferring the lines onto your sewn wings so far. Trim the paper pattern along the top stitching lines and use it as a tracing template onto the fabric.
- Sew along the traced lines to complete the top stitching.

TOP STITCHING:

One or several lines of straight stitching done on the outside of a project to serve a decorative purpose. A longer than average stitch length is typically used so the result is more visible.

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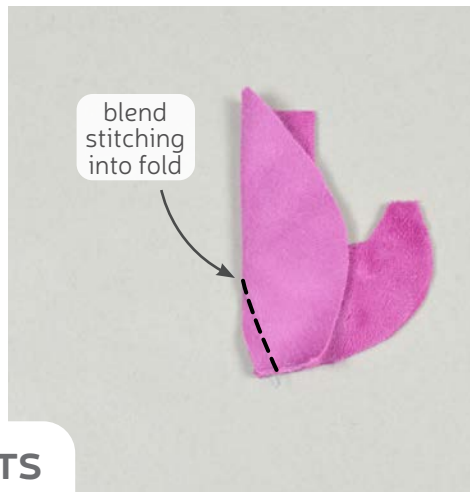
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**BASTING:**

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).

14. BASTE THE WINGS AND LEGS

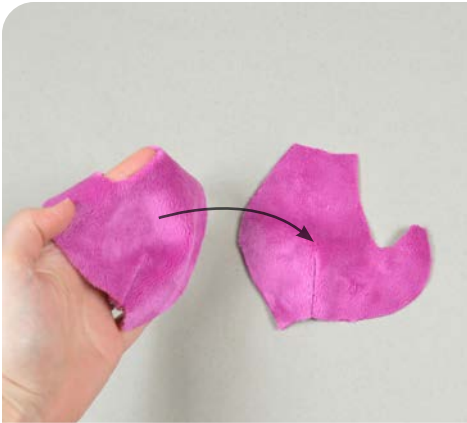
- Grab your **BELLY** (D) piece from before. If you haven't already, locate the *wing and leg placement lines* found on the paper pattern for the belly. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open end of the wings and legs within these placement lines. Note that they should curve upward.
- Flip the arms and legs toward the inside and baste them to the edge of the belly within the seam allowance. This will hold them in place for future steps.

**15. SEW THE BODY DARTS**

- Grab your **BACK** pieces (H). Take one and find the *dart* along the bottom. Sew it the same way as the *belly dart*. Fold the piece along the point and match up the slanted lines.
- Sew starting at the opening of the dart and blend the seam into the fold.
- Open up the piece when complete, and repeat with the remaining back piece for two sides.

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16. SEW THE BODY BACK

- Take both **BACK** (H) pieces and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the two together along the longer of the two curved edges. This is the center back edge (with the tail). Sew starting at the neck, around the tail, to the bottom corner.
- Before turning the piece, trim the seam allowance of the curve above the tail (behind the neck). This will help increase flexibility when the body is turned right side out later.

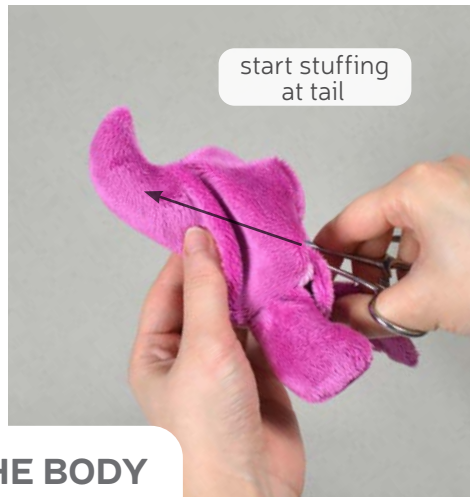


17. SEW THE BODY

- Turn the **BACK** (H) piece right side out.
- Align the back over the **BELLY** you have so far. Make sure the **LEGS** and **WINGS** are tucked inside and pin the edges together.
- Sew the back to the belly around the curved edge. Leave the straighter edge at the top free for turning the body next.

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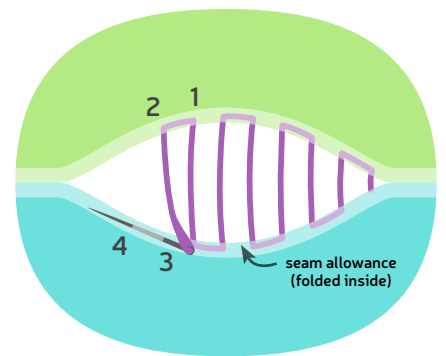
18. TURN AND STUFF THE BODY

- Turn the body right side out through the opening in the neck.
- Stuff the body firmly with stuffing. Start at the tail, making sure it's stuffed firmly.
- As you fill the body, be sure to put plenty in areas near the seams and darts so there are no wrinkles in the fabric.



19. ATTACH THE HEAD

- Grab your head from before. Prepare to attach it to the body. Align the head over the body so both are facing forward.
- Get a hand sewing needle and thread it. Begin ladder stitching the head to the body by taking one stitch into the opening at the head bottom, then another stitch into the center back seam on the body.
- Keep stitching around the neck, using big stitches for the first pass just to hold the pieces in place.



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20. TRIM THE THREADS

- Work around to where you began stitching. Check to be sure you like the placement of the head and it isn't twisted or tilted.
If you like it, go around the head a second time with tinier, neater stitches to ensure the head is secure.
- 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!



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

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Pterodactyl Plush

P A T T E R N

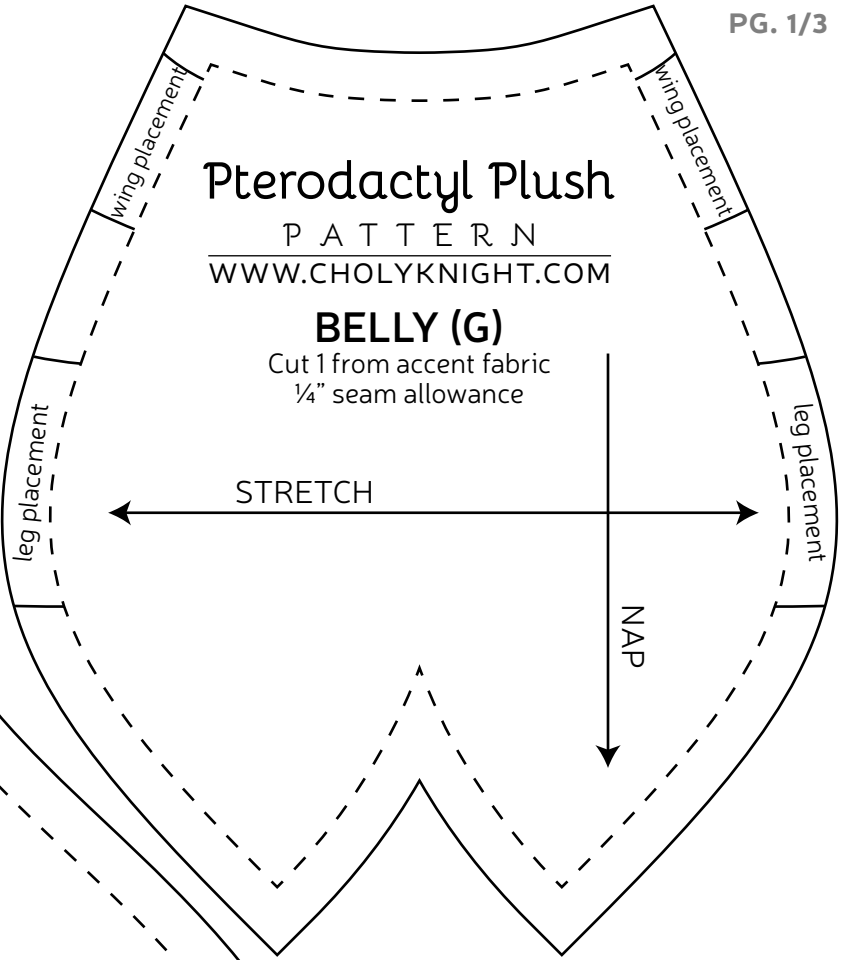
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BELLY (G)

Cut 1 from accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance

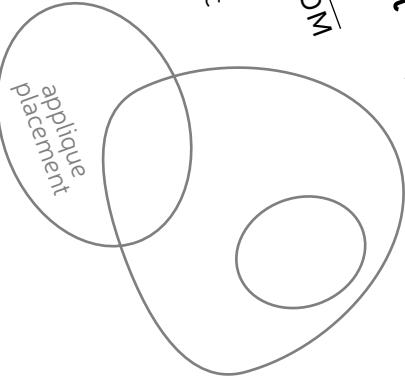
STRETCH

NAP



Pterodactyl Plush
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HEAD SIDE (A)
Cut 2 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance

NAP



BEAK SIDE (B) placement

2

3

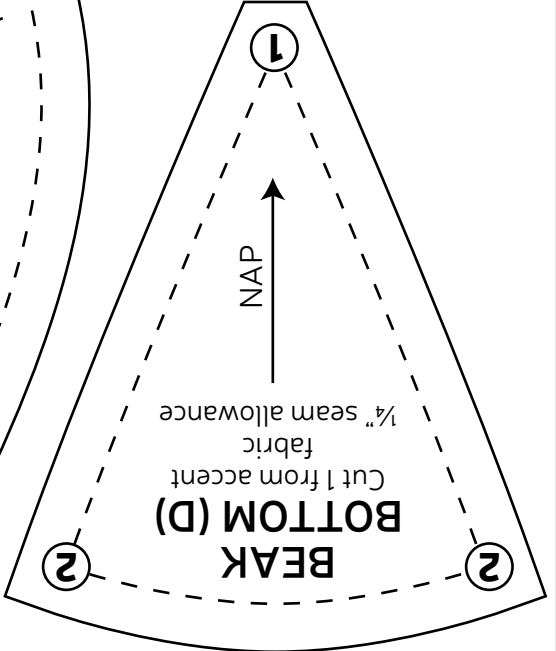
BEAK
BOTTOM (D)
Cut 1 from accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance

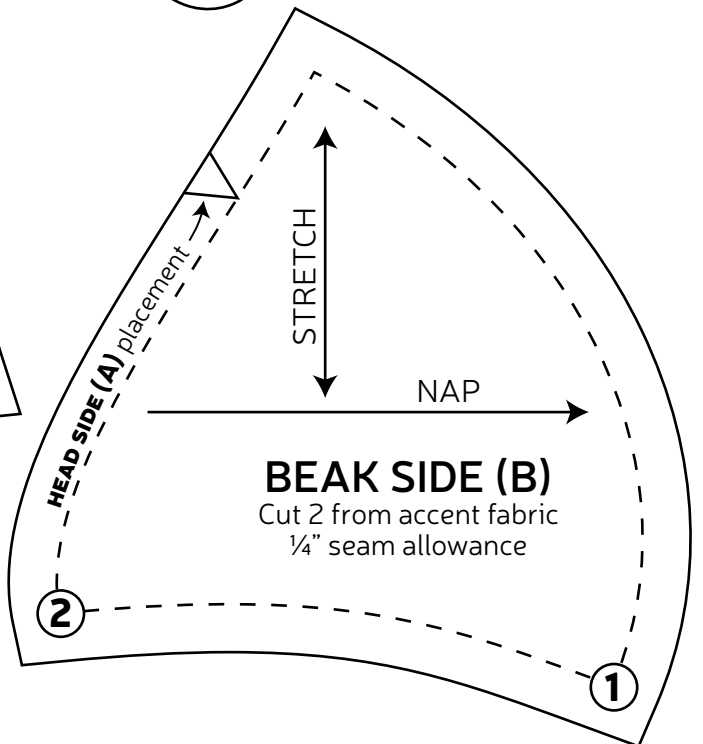
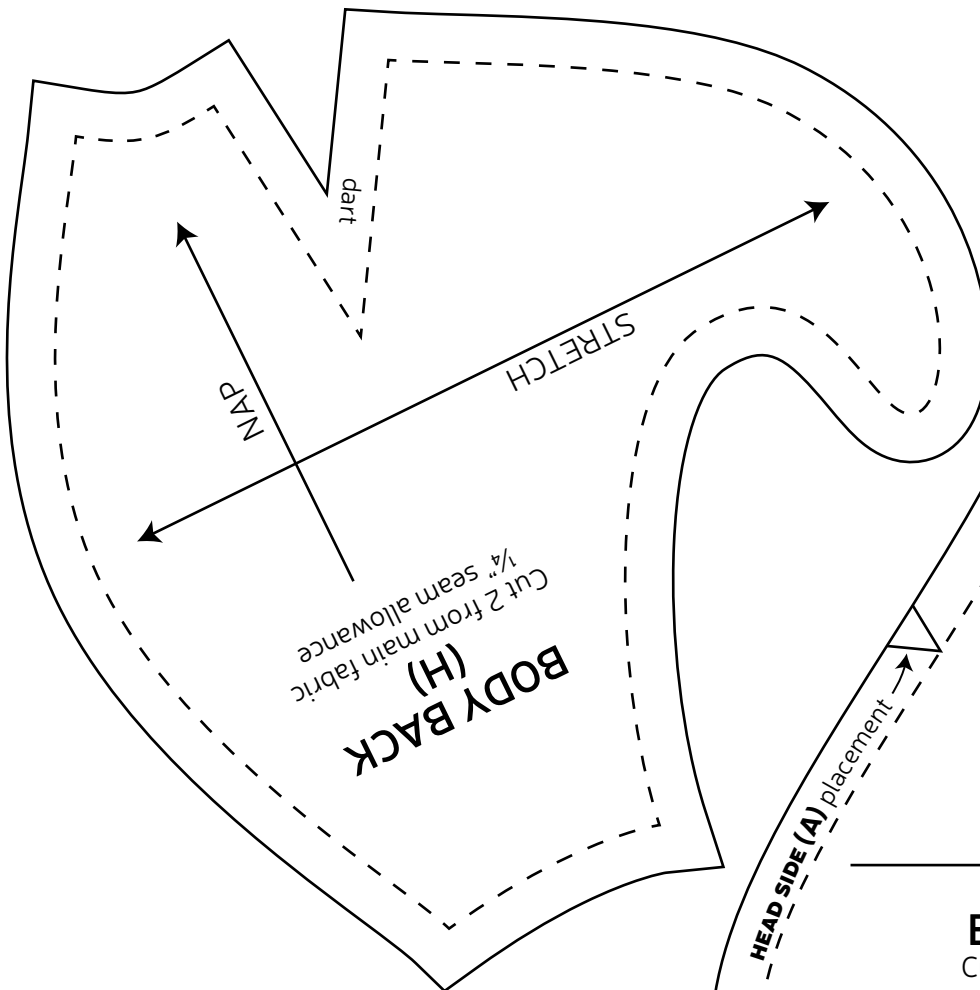
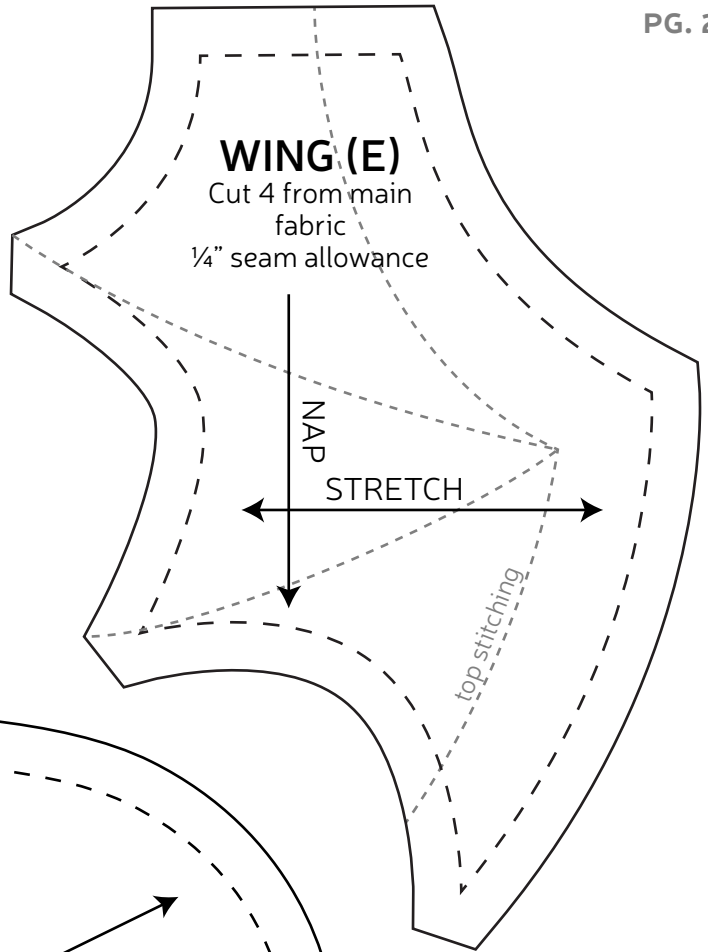
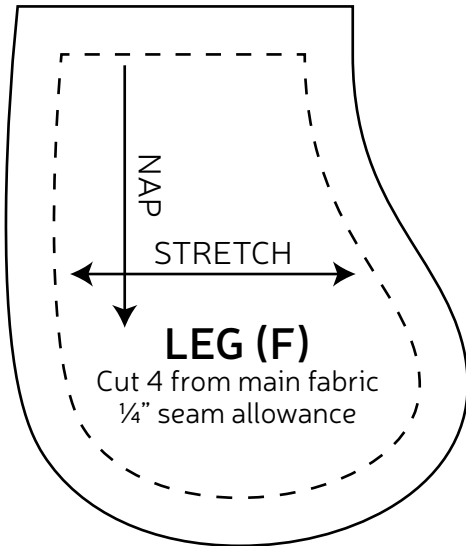
NAP

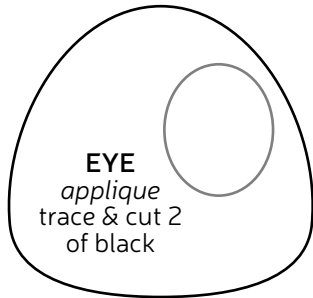
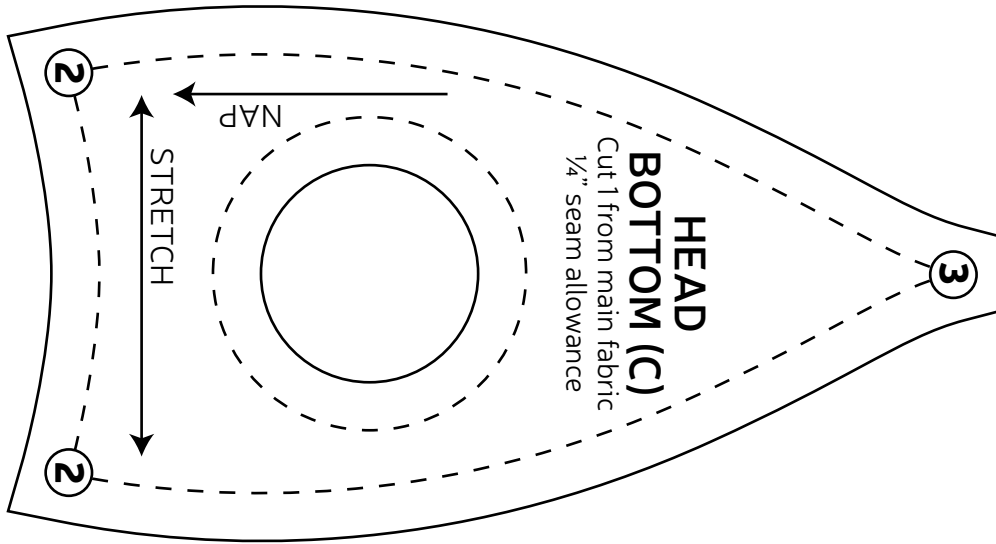
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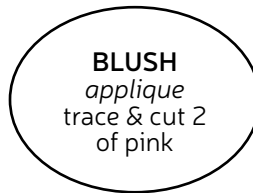
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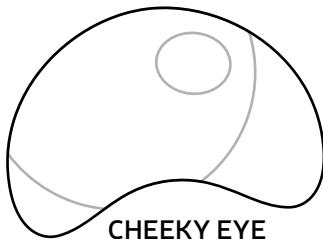
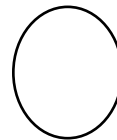


EYE
applique
trace & cut 2
of black

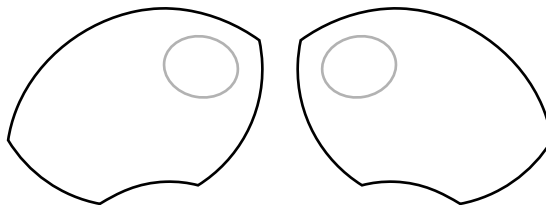


BLUSH
applique
trace & cut 2
of pink

EYE SHINE
applique
trace & cut 2
of white



CHEEKY EYE
applique
trace & cut 2 of white



CHEEKY PUPIL
applique
trace & cut 1 each
of black

EYE SHINE
applique
trace & cut 2
of white

