

RACCOON & RED PANDA PLUSH



a free sewing pattern by



RACCOON & RED PANDA PLUSH

If your animal infatuation is a little more on the trashy side, you might like this adorable trash panda! It has a cute sitting pose with a very chubby body and a round belly and backside. The ears and head feature cute spiky fluffs for that funny disheveled look. And as a bonus, there are also templates to swap out the face markings and make it a red panda! It uses all the same body templates, just in different colors.

DIFFICULTY:



The most difficult part is likely in sewing the legs. The outer legs have some tricky curves and the body requires some precision in lining up the pieces. The arms, feet, snout, and tail are also sewn on by hand, so give yourself extra time for that.

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Curved sewing
- Basting
- Darts
- Ladder stitch
- Sewing small pieces
- Matching notches and points
- Gathering; gathering stitch

MAKES:

ONE PLUSH: about 7" tall from bottom of body to top of head, 5½" wide from each side of head, and 4" long from nose to back of body.



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MATERIALS & TOOLS:

- 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)
- **FOR RACCOON:**
 - ¼ yd. of gray fabric for head and body
 - ¼ yd. (or 11" x 9") of white fabric for belly and ears
 - 1/8 yd. of dark gray fabric for feet, hands, and tail
 - 4" x 5" scrap of dark gray applique fabric (such as felt, flannel, or cotton) for eye panels and inner ears
 - 3" x 4" scrap of white applique fabric for eyebrow panels and eye shines
 - 3" x 3" scrap of accent applique fabric for eyes
 - 2" x 2" scrap of accent applique fabric for eye highlights
 - 3" x 3" scrap of black applique fabric for eyelids and nose
 - **OPTIONAL** 2" x 2" scrap of pink applique fabric for blush
 - 6" x 6" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- **FOR RED PANDA:**
 - ¼ yd. of rust fabric for head and body
 - ¼ yd. of brown fabric for belly, arms, and legs
 - 1/8 yd. (or 5" x 10") of white fabric for muzzle and ears
 - 1/8 yd. (or 5" x 7") of orange fabric for tail
 - 3" x 4" scrap of white applique fabric (such as felt, flannel, or cotton) for cheeks, eyebrows, and eye shines
 - 3" x 3" scrap of brown applique fabric for inner ears
 - 3" x 3" scrap of accent applique fabric for eyes
 - 2" x 2" scrap of accent applique fabric for eye highlights
 - 3" x 3" scrap of black applique fabric for eyelids and nose
 - **OPTIONAL** 2" x 2" scrap of pink applique fabric for blush
 - 6" x 6" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web

FUSIBLE WEB:

- Fusible web adhesive is a sheet of adhesive with a paper backing. **Not to be confused with fusible interfacing**, which is adhesive attached to a fabric/fiber backing.
- Some common brands are **Pellon** & **HeatnBond**
- In countries outside the US, it may also be known as **bondaweb**
- It comes in **light** and **heavy duty** varieties. Lightweight strength is meant for applique you intend to sew later. Heavy duty versions are for a no-sew bond. If you try to sew them later your machine might have trouble penetrating the glue.



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fabric comparison:



MINKY VS. FELT



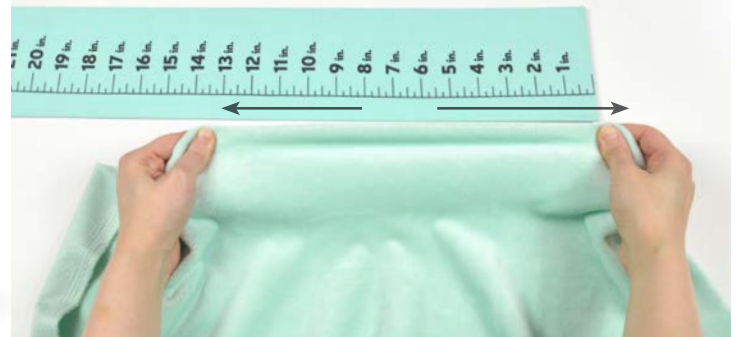
SUGGESTED FABRICS:

MINKY OR FLEECE

Medium weight, plush fabrics with about 20%-30% stretch along the crosswise grain work best for this project. The varieties shown to the left are some good options and names to look for. Try to avoid heavyweight versions of fleece that are intended for outdoor apparel or they may cause trouble for the detailed areas.

You can also use non-stretch fabrics (such as felt), but be aware that the curves will be more difficult to sew and the result will look different. The plush will become more elongated and the edges will look harder.

10" of minky
stretches to 13"
= 30% stretch



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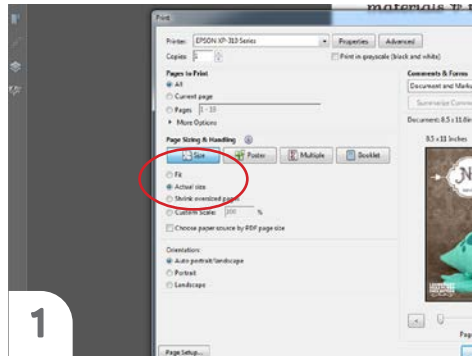
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PRINTING THE PATTERN:

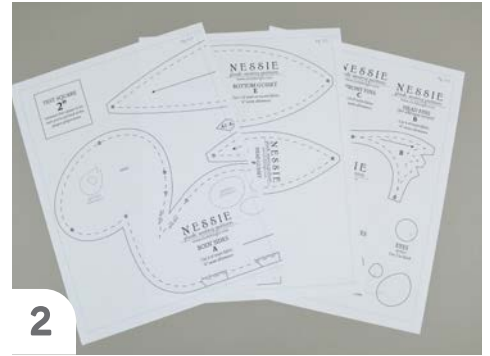
Set your computer to print **PAGES 30-33**.

If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps to follow.

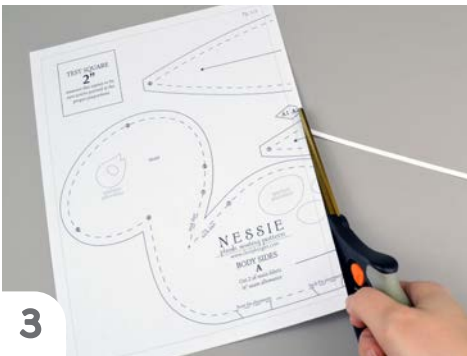
For the best results, use a .pdf reader like **ADOBE READER**. That's what is shown here and will give you the most control over the settings.



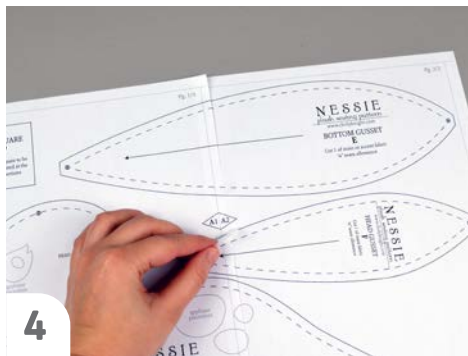
At the print dialog box, check the box that says print at "Actual Size" or 100%. Any other selection (such as "Fit to page") will distort the pattern so it's slightly larger or smaller and we don't want that.



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.

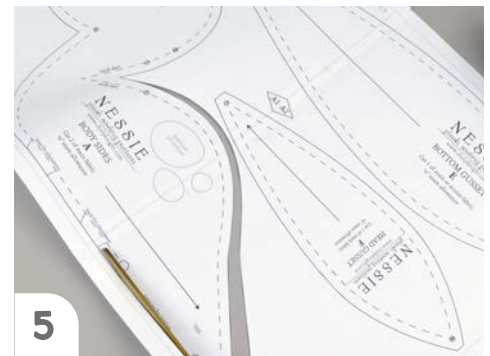


It's likely your printer will have a margin that ensures your image doesn't print to the very edge. Assembly will be easier if you trim off this blank margin edge. This will give you pages that overlap slightly during assembly. If you trim across the gray outline boxes, this will give you pages that don't overlap but rather butt against each other.



To line up the pattern pages, match up the corresponding diamond shapes. Each diamond will have a letter, so it's simply a matter of matching A1 to A2, B3 to B4 and so on. The faint gray lines indicate the border of every page, you should be able to line those up as well. When the diamond goes together, tape it in place.

If you have many pages, it's easier to tape up the pages into rows first. Then tape the rows together into a full block.

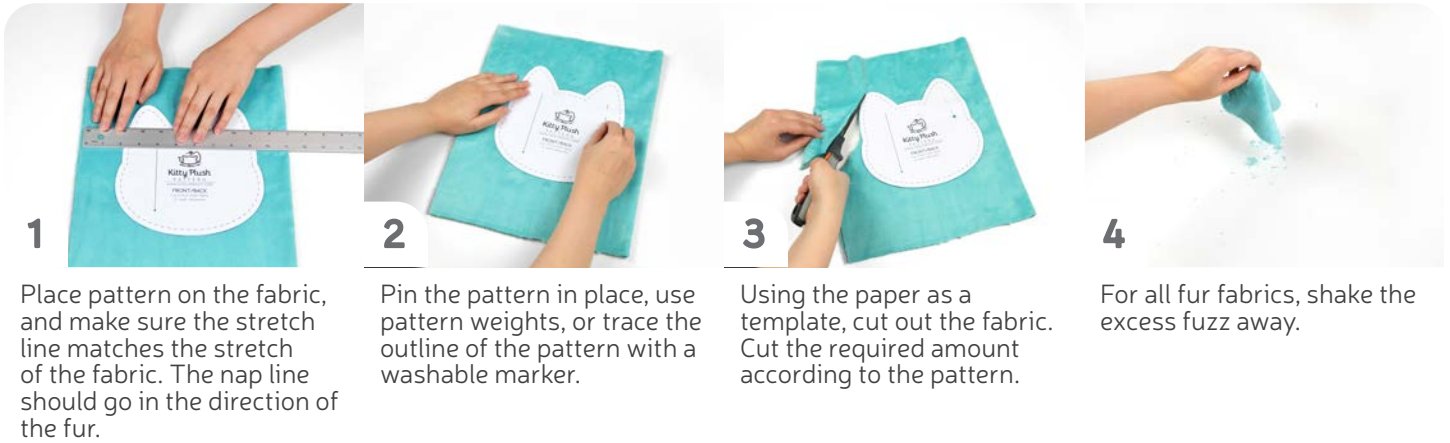


You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper -- be sure that each piece is fully taped together along the joins so they don't fall apart when you cut them.

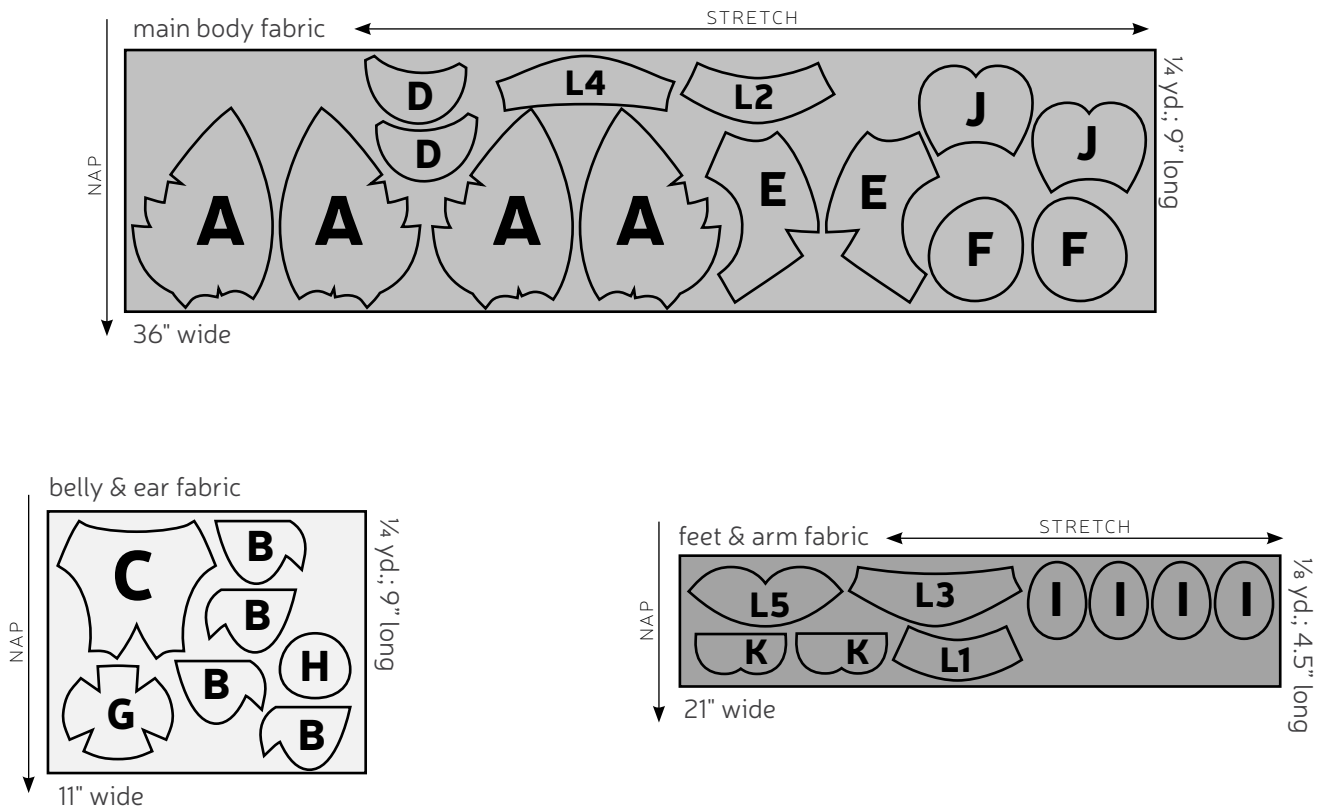
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CUTTING THE FABRIC:



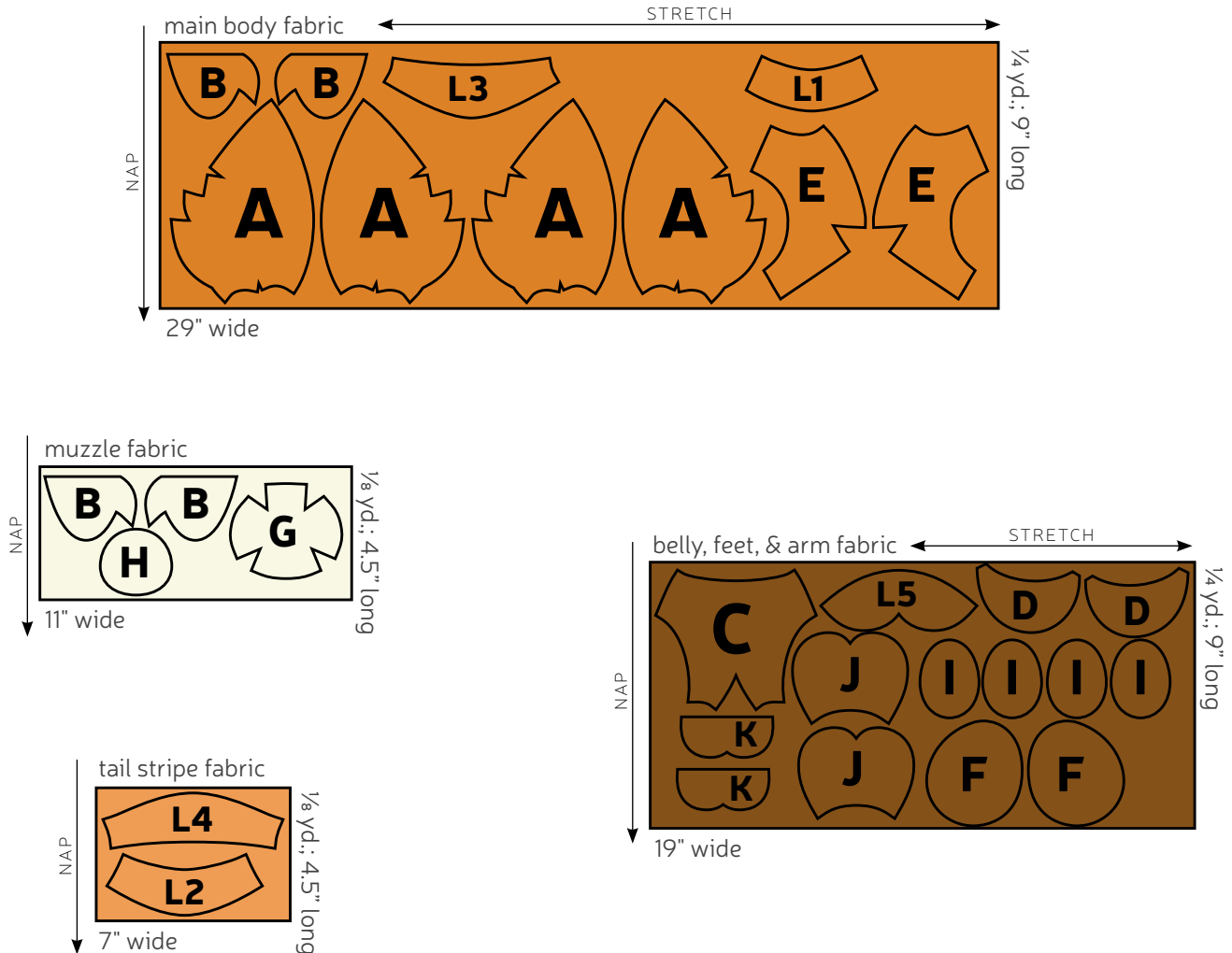
CUTTING LAYOUT: RACCOON



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CUTTING LAYOUT: RED PANDA



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, which is included in the pattern templates.

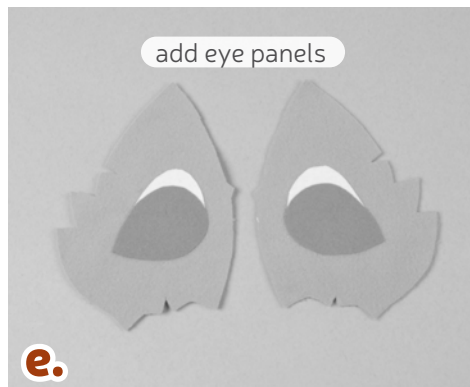
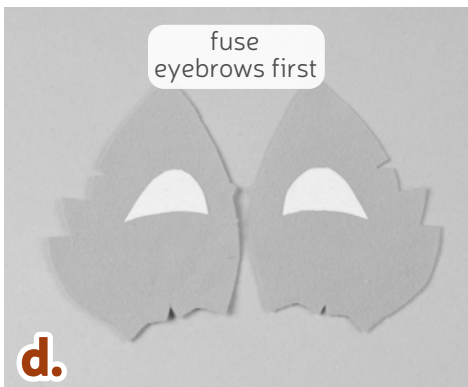
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1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- a.** Grab your fusible web and applique templates. Trace the pieces you want for your animal's face. You can add a lot or a little; for the bare minimum you'll want 2 **eyes**. But here we're building the whole **RACCOON** face. For that, you'll want to trace:
- **eye panels** (2)
 - **eyebrow panels** (2)
 - **blush** (2)
 - **eyes** (2)
 - **eye highlights** (2)
 - **eye shines** (2)
 - **eyelids** (2)
- b.** Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side of the fusible web onto the applique fabrics, following the color guides on the paper templates. For the **RACCOON** there's:
- **eye panels** on dark gray
 - **eyebrow panels & eye shines** on white
 - **blush** on pink
 - **eyes & eye highlights** on accent color
 - **eyelids** on black
- c.** Cut out your applique pieces and grab 2 of your **HEAD FRONT/BACK** pieces (A) These will become your head front pieces now. Grab your first applique layer, here it's the **eyebrow panels**. Set your paper pattern on top of the head front piece. Align the applique piece on top where the placement markings are. Next, carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.



- d.** Fuse the first applique layer (the **eyebrow panels**) with your iron. Use a press cloth, such as a scrap piece of cotton. This will help protect any polyester or fuzzy fabrics from melting or scorching.
- e.** Add the next layer, here it's the **eye panels**.
- f.** Continue building up the eye with the next piece, the **blush**. Arrange and fuse it the same as the other pieces using the paper pattern (and the photo) as a guide. Lastly, add the smallest pieces like the **eye, eye highlights, eye shines**, and **eyelids**. Make sure you have both sides of the head when complete.

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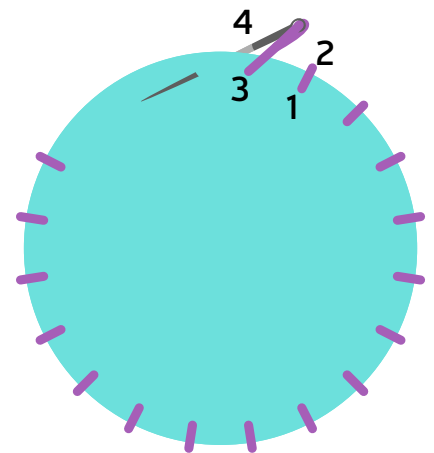
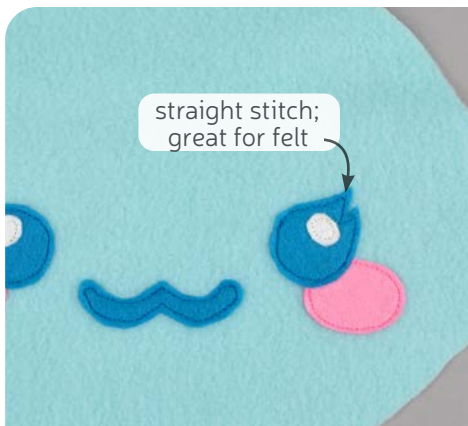


2. APPLIQUE THE OTHER PIECES

- If you have a **RED PANDA**, your face should look something like the first photo. It has **cheeks** and **eyebrows** instead of the **eye panels**.
- Take this time to also applique your other body pieces using the same method. The **MUZZLE** (G) will need a **nose**.
- Two of the **EARS** (B) will need **inner ears**.

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.

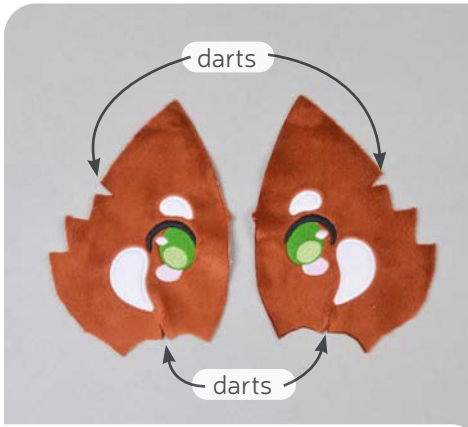


2a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

- 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.

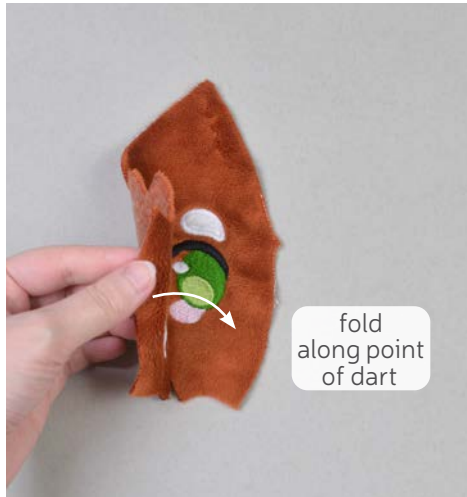
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3. LOCATE THE DARTS

- Grab both of your **HEAD FRONT** pieces that have the faces applied (A). These pieces have a few **darts** around the outside that help form the shape of the head. They're the small wedges cut into the main shape. They're also labeled on the paper pattern for easy identification (and so they're not confused with the side fluff).
- Start by folding the fabric along the point of the **dart** so the right sides are facing and the raw edges match up.



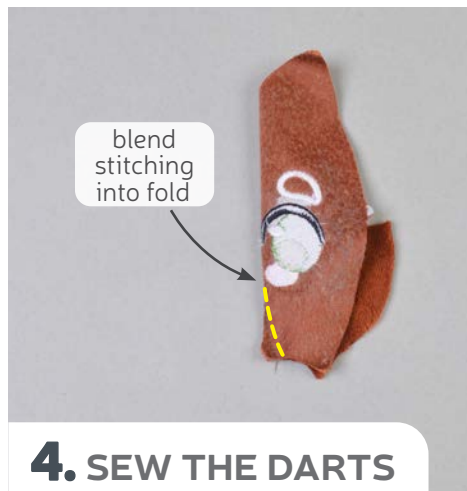
DARTS:

Darts are a v-shaped wedge sewn into a pattern piece that create a 3D shape in the fabric.

The two lines of the darts are sometimes called the **LEGS**. These lead up to the **POINT**.

You can think of darts like a partial seam. One that only goes part-way through the fabric.

- Sew from the opening of the **dart** down to the fold of the fabric. Try to blend your stitching into the fold of the fabric for a smooth transition and a rounder finish to the stuffed plush.
- Repeat with the dart near the upper corner of the **HEAD FRONT** (A). Each head front piece should have 2 **darts** -- one in the upper corner and one near the neck.

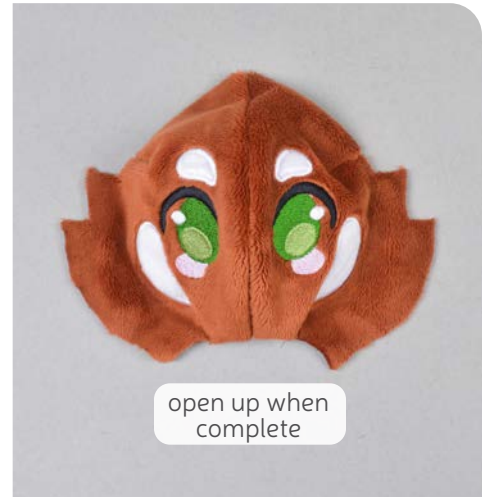
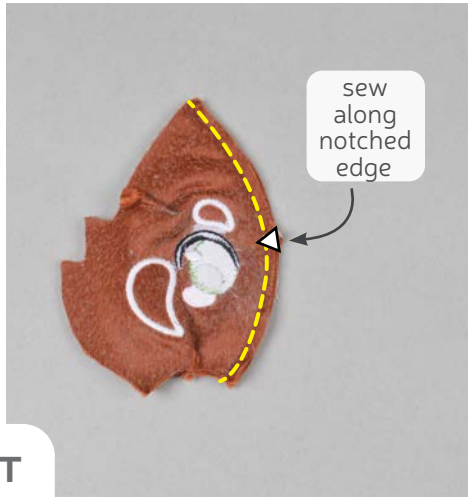
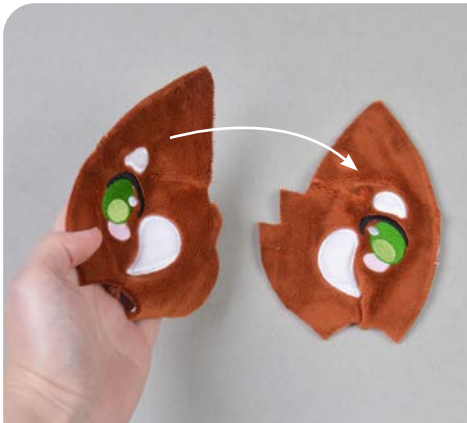


4. SEW THE DARTS



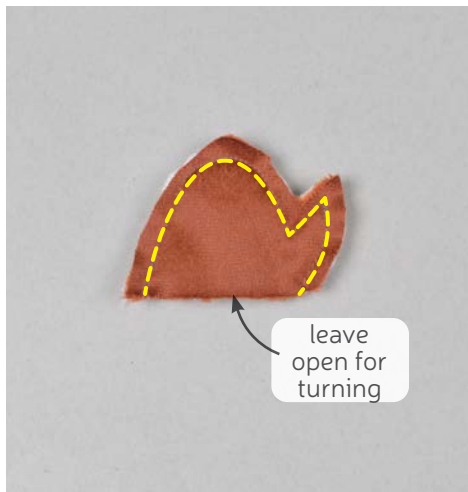
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5. SEW THE HEAD FRONT

- Take one of your **HEAD FRONT** pieces (A) and align it with the other so right sides are facing and the raw edges match up.
- Sew the pieces together along the center edge. This is the edge with **notch marking**. Sew from the top corner down to the bottom corner.
- Open up the pieces when complete.

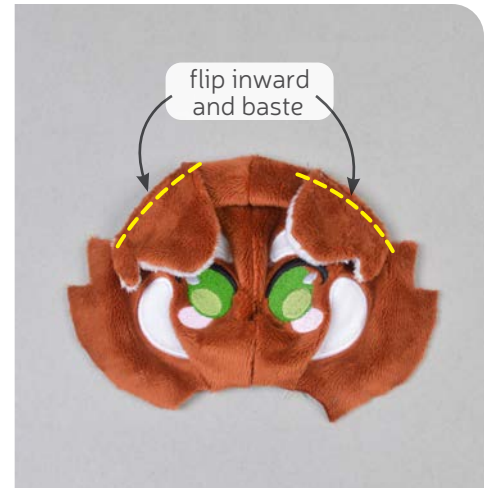
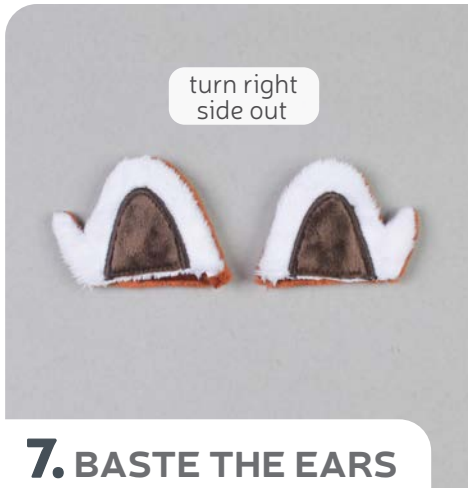


6. SEW THE EARS

- Grab all of your **EAR** pieces (B). Take one with the inner ear fabric applied, and take another blank one. Align them together with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- Sew the ears together along the pointed edge. Leave the straight edge free for turning the piece right side out later.
- Trim the excess seam allowance at the tight corners and curves of the ear. This will help reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned later.

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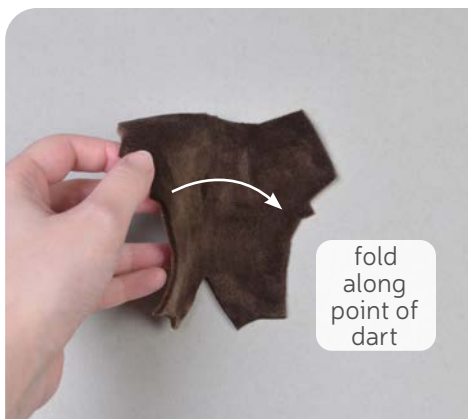


7. BASTE THE EARS

- Turn the **EARS** (B) right side out through the opening in the bottom. You should have a mirrored pair as shown.
- Grab your sewn **HEAD FRONT** pieces so far (A). Align the ears along the top edge of the head, right beside the upper fluff. The inner ears should be facing up. There is also a **placement guideline** on the paper pattern if you need extra help.
- Now flip the ears so they're facing downward and the raw edges of the ears align with the outer edges of the head front. Baste the ears in place to hold them securely for future steps.

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).

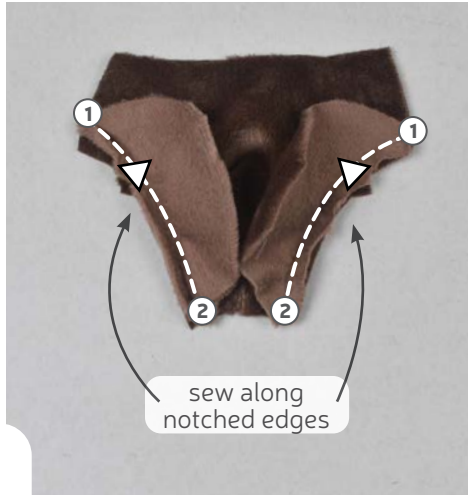
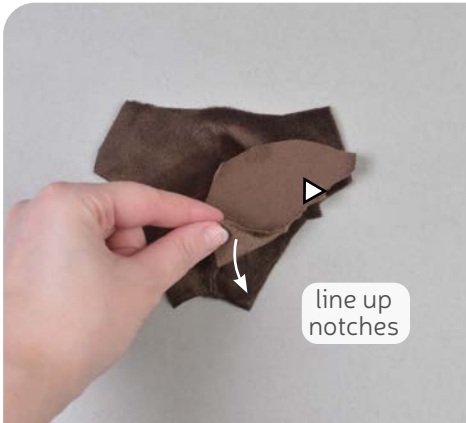


8. SEW THE BELLY DART

- Grab your **BELLY** piece (C). This piece also has a **dart** similar to the **HEAD FRONT** (A). It's what helps give the plush a rounded pot belly. Sew it similar to the others. Start by folding the fabric along the point of the dart with the right sides facing.
- Match up the slanted edges. Sew from the opening of the dart into the fold of the fabric.
- Open up the piece when complete.

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9. SEW THE INNER LEGS

- Grab your **INNER LEG** pieces (D). Align the inner curve of the inner leg with the inner curve of the belly (C). Match up the **notches** on the inner legs with the notches on the belly. They also have **numbered points**, points 1 and 2, which will be helpful later in step 20.
- Sew the inner leg to the belly along the inner curve from **points 1 to 2**. Repeat with the other inner leg piece so both are joined.
- When the pieces are opened up, it should look like the third photo. Shown here for the **RACCOON** version.



10. SEW THE NECK FRONT

- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** piece from before (A) and your **BODY FRONT** so far. The **neck edges** of both of these pieces will be joined next.
The neck edge on the belly is marked with a **circle marking** in the center for easy alignment.
- Layer the head front over the body front, matching up the raw edges and **circle marking** at the center seam. Pin the fabrics together.
- Sew the head front to the body front along this **neck edge**.

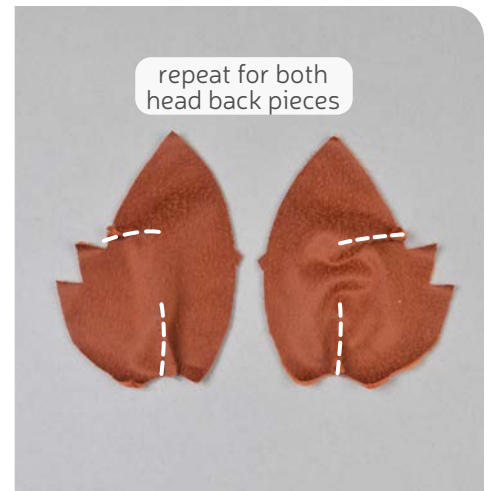
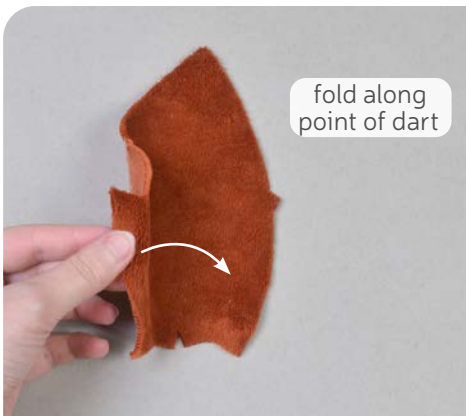
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- a. Open up the head front and body front so far. This completes the front half of the body! Set it aside for a moment while we work on the back of the body.



11. THE FINISHED FRONT

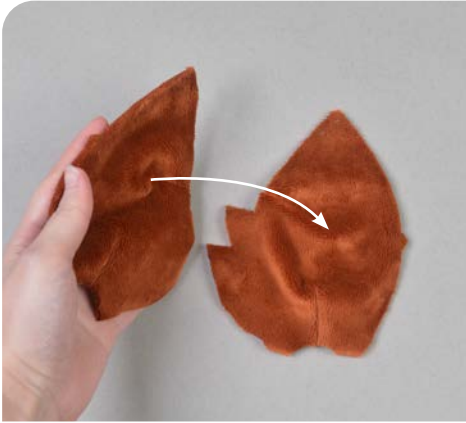


12. SEW THE HEAD BACK DARTS

- a. Grab your remaining **HEAD FRONT/BACK** pieces (A) These last two pieces will become the head back. They also have several **darts** like the head front. Sew them the same way, starting by folding the fabric along the point of the **dart**. This should match up the slanted edges.
- b. Sew from the opening of the dart into the fold of the fabric.
- c. Repeat for both the bottom neck **dart** and the upper corner **dart**. Repeat this for both head back pieces so you have two total.

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13. SEW THE HEAD BACK

- Take both of your **HEAD BACK** pieces (A) and 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.

→ *Set aside your head back for a little while as we work on the body back.*



14. PREP THE OUTER LEGS

- Grab your **BACK** (E) and **OUTER LEG** (F) pieces. The inner curve on the back will join around one half of the outer leg. Because the curves can be tricky, we're going to prep the pieces a little.
- Begin by transferring the **numbered points** from the outer leg piece, **points 1 and 2**. Mark the points on the right side of your fabric, along the edge.
- Next, make small clips into the seam allowance along the inner curve of the back, between **points 1 and 2**. This will help the fabric stretch around the curve better.

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15. SEW THE OUTER LEGS

- a. Flip the **BACK** piece (E) over the **OUTER LEG** (F) so right sides of the fabric are facing. Stretch the back piece to fit around the outer leg. **Points 1 and 2** should match up at the ends and the **single notch** should match up off to one side. This will ensure the leg isn't attached backwards. Pin the fabrics together.
- b. Sew the back to the outer leg from **point 1 to point 2**.
- c. Open up the pieces when complete. The pieces won't lie completely flat. They'll have a little bump, which helps make your raccoon even chubbier!
Repeat with your remaining outer leg and back piece for two sides total.



16. SEW THE BACK DARTS

- a. Grab your **BODY BACK** pieces (E). This piece also has a **dart**, found in the bottom corner. Sew it similar to the others, starting by folding it along the point of the dart and matching the slanted lines.
- b. Sew starting at the opening and work toward the point. Try to blend your stitching into the fold of the fabric. This will create a rounder finish for your plush.
- c. Repeat with your remaining body back piece for two total.

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17. SEW THE BODY BACK

- Take your two **BODY BACK** (E-F) pieces and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the edge with the **dart** from the previous step.
- Open up the pieces when complete.

- Grab your **HEAD BACK** pieces from before (A) and your **BODY BACK** (E-F). The **neck edges** of both of these pieces will be joined next.

- Layer the head back over the body back, matching up the raw edges and the **center seams**. Pin the fabrics together.

- Sew the head back to the body back along this **neck edge**.

- Open up the pieces when complete.

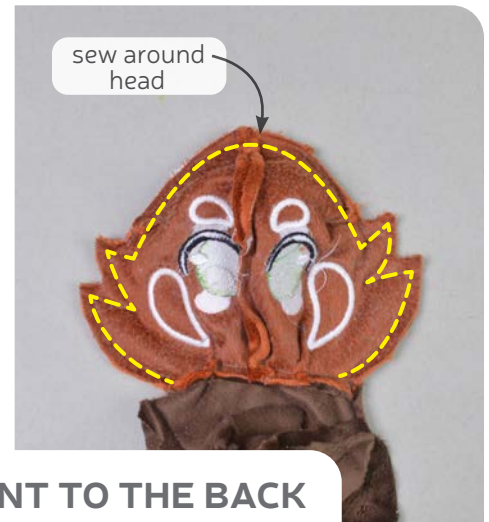
18. SEW THE BACK NECK



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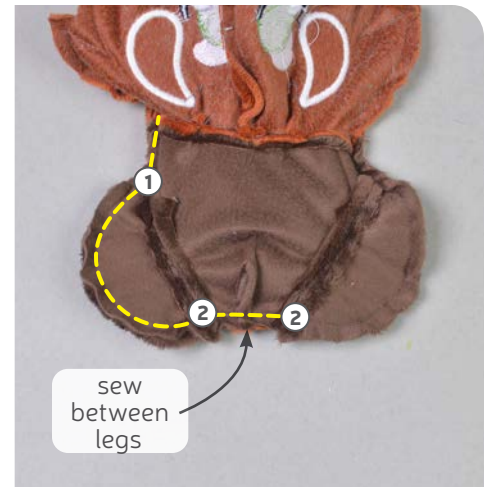
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- a.** Grab both of your front and back pieces so far. Align them with right sides facing. We're going to sew around the entire body. Experts should be able to handle this all in one go, but we're going to break it down into several parts for beginners. Start by aligning the head pieces. Match up the **head front seam** with the **head back seam**. The neck seams (from steps 10 and 18) should also match up.



19. SEW THE HEAD FRONT TO THE BACK

- b.** Sew the head front to the back all the way around, starting at one side of the neck and going to the other. Don't forget to pivot at the little fluffs on the side of the head.



20. SEW THE BODY FRONT TO THE BACK

- a.** Next, line up the **BODY** pieces. This is the edge starting at the neck and going down to **point 1**. Then pin the **INNER LEG** (D) to the **OUTER LEG** (F). It starts at **point 1** and goes around to **point 2**. Repeat on the other side with the other leg. Pin the fabrics together.
- b.** Sew from the neck down to **point 1** at the top of the leg. Next sew around the leg, from **point 1 to point 2**.
- c.** At the edge between the legs, the **center dart** on the **BELLY** (C) will match up with the **back seam** (from step 17). Pin and sew between the legs, from one **point 2** to the other. Lastly, finish up the other side by repeating part B in the other direction. Sew from **point 2 to 1**, then up the side, ending at the **neck seam**.

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- a. When complete, you should have stitching around the entire body. You can check at points 1 and 2 for any gaps. You can also check the neck seam.



- a. Finish by clipping the seam allowances at the corners of the body, particularly at the **neck seam** and **points 1 and 2**. Also trim the seam allowance at the points for the fluff on the sides. This will help reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned later.
- b. Turn the body right side out through the opening in the back of the head.

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23. STUFF THE BODY



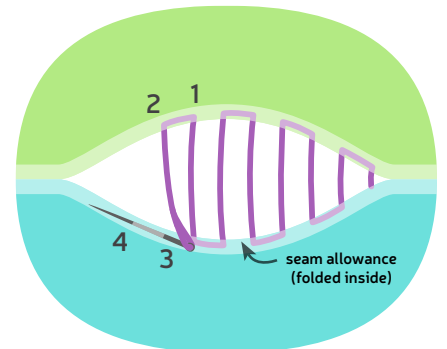
- a.** Begin stuffing the plush. Start by filling up the body halfway.
- b.** Then start sneaking stuffing into the legs until they're firm. Having stuffing already in the body will help keep the leg stuffing in place. Fill up the rest of the body, and sneak extra bits of stuffing into the legs if necessary. Keep filling the body until it's firm before moving onto the head.
- c.** Start stuffing the head. Begin by filling up the sides of the head so the head stretches outwards.



24. SEW THE HEAD CLOSED



- a.** Fill up the rest of the head until it's completely firm.
- b.** 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.
- c.** 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.



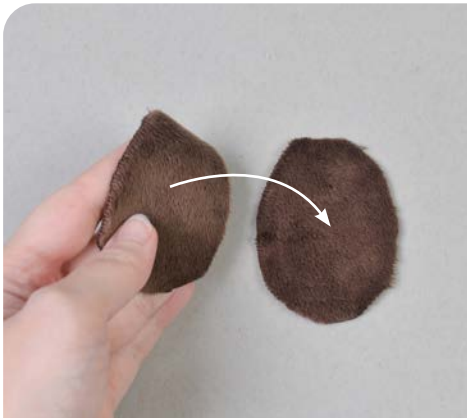
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- a. When you're finished, stitch a knot into the end of the seam. Then insert the needle near the finished knot and out of the plush about 1-2" away.
- b. Pull the thread through and hold it taut while snipping the thread. The excess thread should sink back inside the plush -- all hidden!



25. TRIM THE THREADS



26. SEW THE FEET



- a. Grab your **FOOT** pieces (1). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- b. Sew completely around the feet. Then repeat once more for two feet total.
- c. To turn the pieces, cut a 1" slit through one layer of fabric only, near the base. There's also a **cutting guide** on the paper pattern for extra help.

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27. STUFF THE FEET

- Turn the feet right side out through the opening you've cut.
- Stuff the feet lightly with stuffing.
- If desired, whip stitch the opening closed to help keep any stuffing from falling out during future steps.

- Take one of your **FEET** and align it over the **leg seam** (from step 20). The cut side should be facing down.
- Sew the foot to the leg using a ladder stitch. Go around the cut you made in step 27. Go around with long stitches for the first pass. Check that you like the placement, then go around again with tinier, neater stitches for the second pass. Repeat for both feet.



28. ATTACH THE FEET



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29. SEW THE MUZZLE DARTS

- Grab your **MUZZLE** piece (G). This piece also has several **darts**, just like the head and body.
- Sew them similarly to the other **darts**. Start by picking one **dart**. Fold the muzzle fabric along the point of the **dart** to match up the slanted lines.
- Sew from the opening of the **dart** into the fold of the fabric.



30. SEW THE MUZZLE

- Repeat with the remaining **darts** found all around the **MUZZLE** (G) for 4 total.
- Grab your **MUZZLE BASE** piece (H). Align the outer edge of the muzzle around the muzzle base. To help with alignment, there are **notches** that will match up along the top and **circle markings** that will match along the bottom. Pin the fabrics together.
- Sew the muzzle to the base all around the edge of the piece.

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31. STUFF THE MUZZLE

- To turn the **MUZZLE**, make a small cut into the **MUZZLE BASE** piece only (H). Cut only about 1".
- Turn the muzzle right side out through the opening you cut in the back.
- Stuff the muzzle firmly with stuffing so there are no wrinkles in the darts.

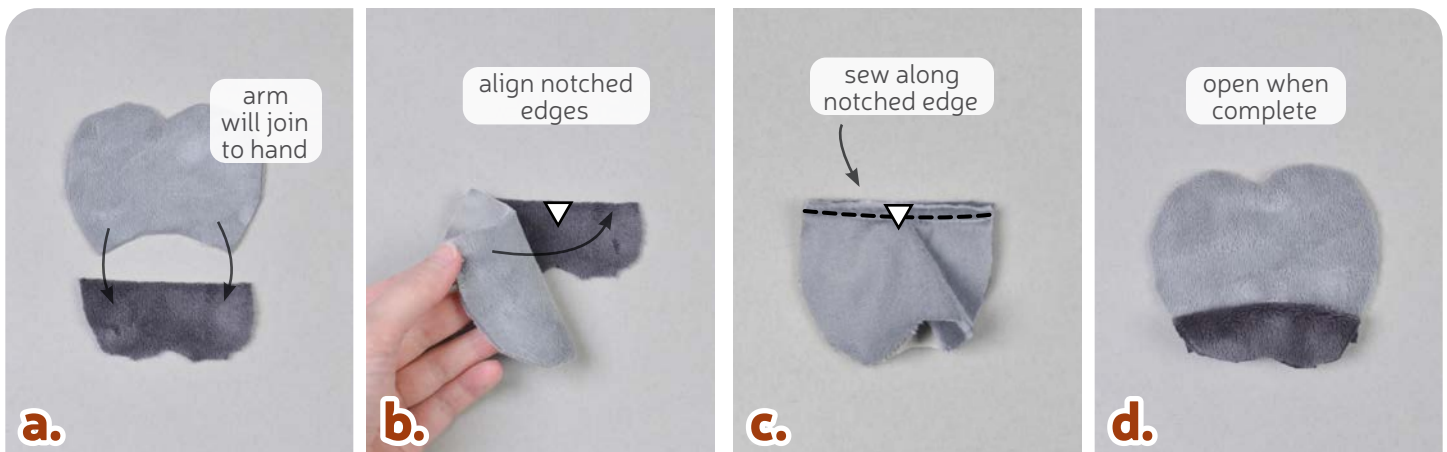
- Align the muzzle over the face of your red panda or raccoon. You can place it however you like, but here in the sample it's centered over the face, just barely covering the corners of the eyes.
- Ladder stitch the muzzle to the face around the edge of the base. Sew it similar to the feet from before. Go around once with basting stitches, then check that you like the placement. Then go around again with tinier, neater stitches.



32. ATTACH THE MUZZLE

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33. SEW THE HANDS

- Grab your **ARM** and **HAND** pieces (J & K). We're going to attach the hand to the bottom of the arm. The inner curve of the arm will join to the straight edge of the hand. They're also marked with **notches** for easy identification.
- Align these **notched edges** together so right sides are facing and the raw edges align.
- Sew the arm to the hand along the **notched edge**.
- Open up the pieces when complete, then repeat with your other arm and hand for two total.

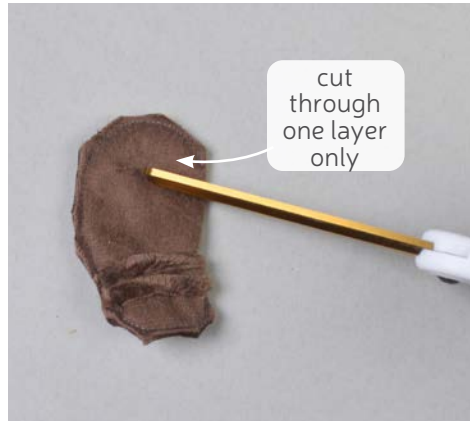


- For a **RED PANDA**: the arms and hands are the same color, so they should look something like the first photo.
- Fold the entire arm in half lengthwise so it becomes even skinnier. Match up the arm seams from the previous step. Make sure right sides are facing and line up the raw edges.
- Sew around the outer edges of the arm. Start at the fold on one side, then work around to the fold on the other side.

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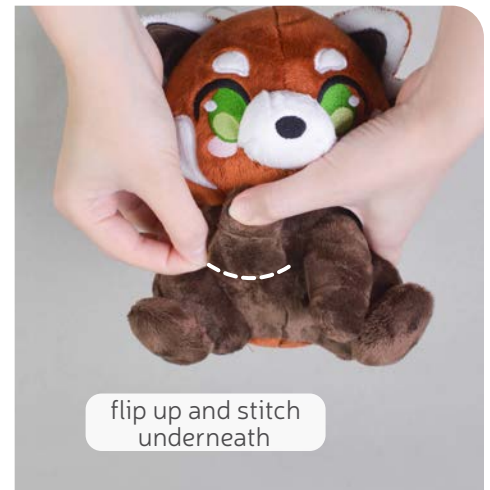
- a.** To turn the arm, cut through one layer only of fabric near the top of the arm. The paper pattern has a **cutting guide** for extra help as well. Repeat with the other arm, but make sure to flip it over so you have a mirrored pair.
- b.** Turn the arms right side out through the openings you've cut. Stuff the arms lightly with stuffing. You may want to keep it light near the top "shoulder" area and fuller towards the hand.



35. TURN THE ARMS



36. ATTACH THE ARMS

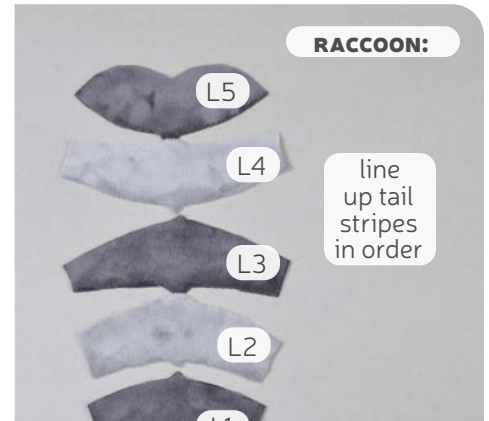


- a.** Align the arms onto the front of your plush. You could place them a number of ways. You could place them between the head and leg and have them pointing forward or down. Here they're placed on the front, pointing down. To replicate the sample, place the arms so the cut side is facing down. The top of the **ARM** is about ½" beneath the neck. The side of the arm should be nestled beside the **INNER LEG (D)**. The folds of the arm are pointing toward the center of the belly.
- b.** Begin ladder stitching the arm to the body similar to the foot from before. For the top of the arm, stitch just above the arm seam.
- c.** Then for underneath the arm, you'll have to flip the arm upwards and stitch to the underside. Continue sewing around the cut you've made. Repeat with the other arm for two arms total.

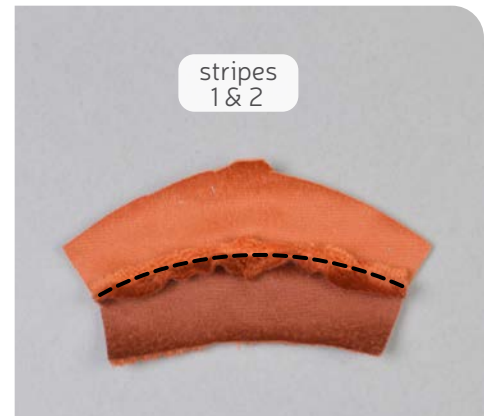
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- a.** Grab all of your **TAIL** pieces (L1-L5). The tail is made up of several stripes of different colors, pieces L1 through L5. We'll be sewing them in that order. But the pieces are also labeled with **notch markings** to help with alignment.

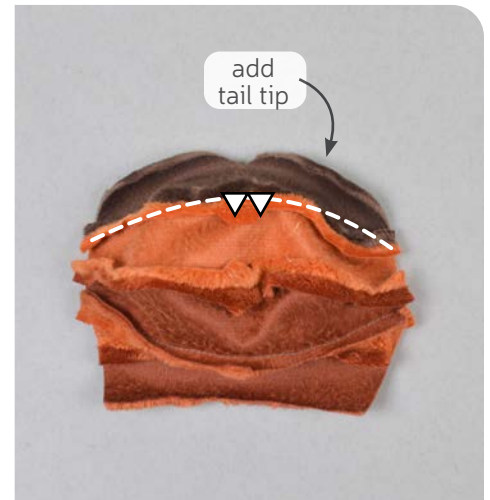


37. ALIGN THE TAIL STRIPES



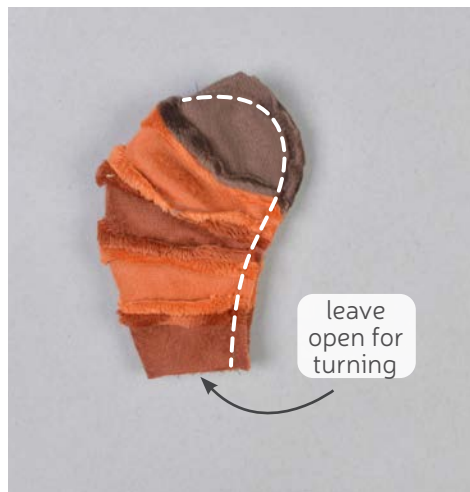
38. SEW THE FIRST STRIPE

- a.** Start with **STRIPES 1 AND 2** (L1-L2). Align them together with right sides facing and the **single notches** matching up.
- b.** Sew the tail stripes together along the **single notched edge**.
- c.** Open up the pieces when complete for the first 2 stripes.



39. SEW THE REMAINING STRIPES

- Add **STRIPE 3** (L3) to **STRIPES 1 AND 2** (L1-L2). Match up and sew the *double-notched edge*.
- Repeat with **STRIPE 4** (L4). This time you'll be matching and sewing the *single-notched edge*.
- Lastly add the **TAIL TIP** (L5). Align and sew the *double-notched edge*.
This should complete all the stripes and they should all be joined in a column.



40. SEW THE TAIL

- Take your entire **TAIL** and fold it in half lengthwise with the right sides facing and the outer edges matching up. This should make the tail skinnier than it was before. Try to match up the stripe seams as close as you can.
- Sew the tail by starting at the bottom corner, then sewing up and around the curved end of the tail. Sew into the fold at the end, similar to the **ARM** from before.
- Turn the tail right side out through the straight edge opening in the bottom.

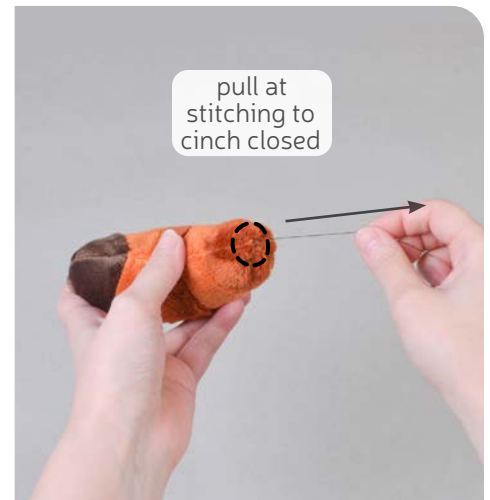
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41. STUFF THE TAIL

- Stuff the **TAIL** semi-firmly with stuffing, enough so it takes shape and there are no wrinkles near the seams.
- Grab a hand sewing needle and thread it. Sew a gathering stitch around the open edge of the tail, about $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the edge.
- Pull at the thread to cinch the **TAIL** closed. Sew a few knots into the center of the tail to hold it closed.



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.

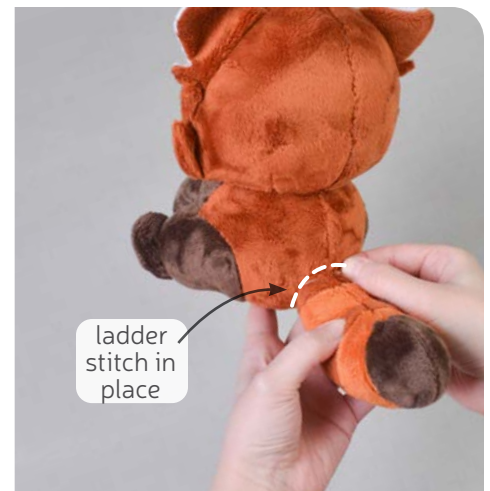
GATHERING STITCH:

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.

- Take your tail and align it onto the back of your plush so the cinched end is above the back **darts**. Make sure the tip of the tail is pointing up.
- Ladder stitch the tail to the plush around the base.



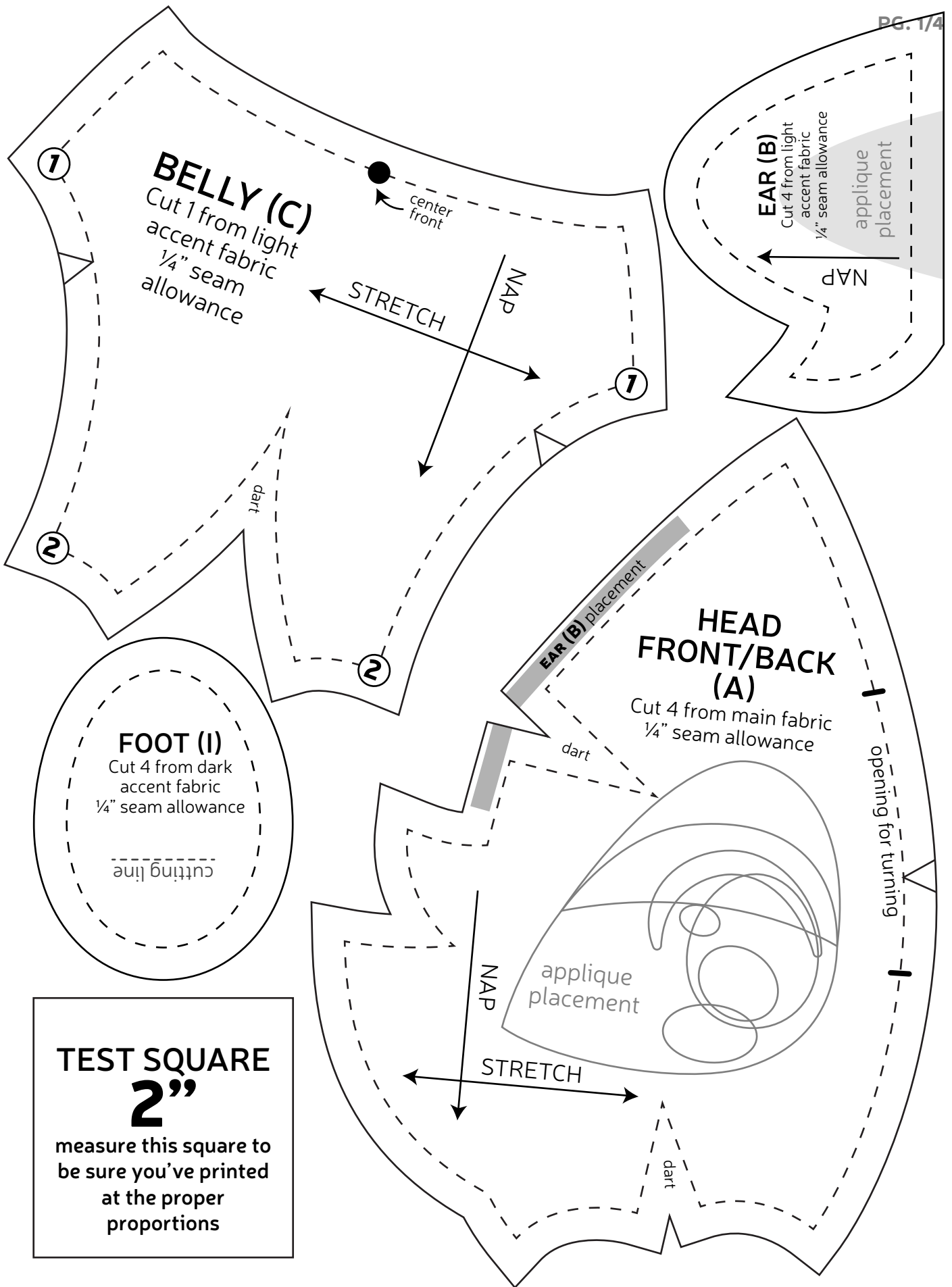
42. ATTACH THE TAIL

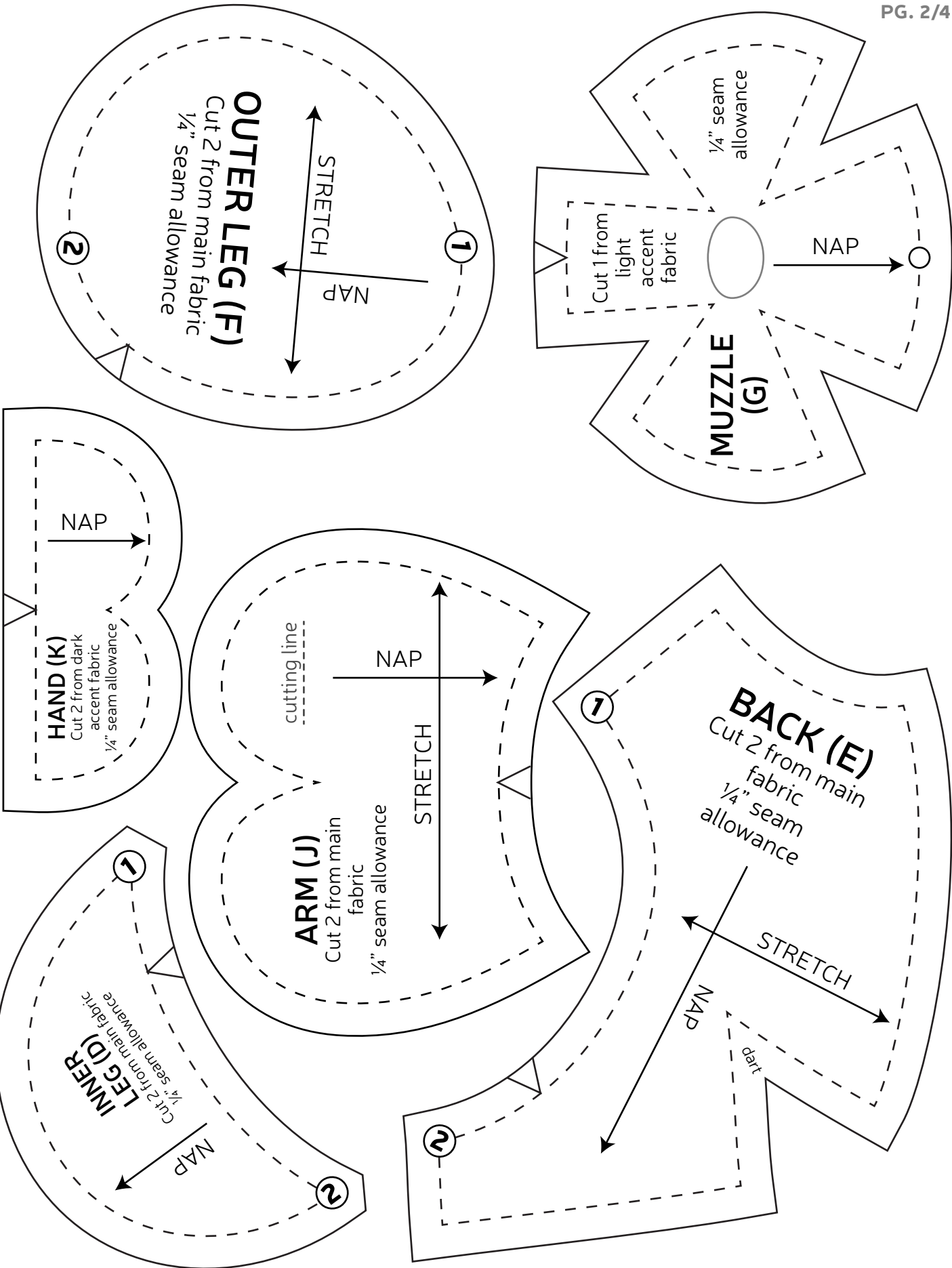


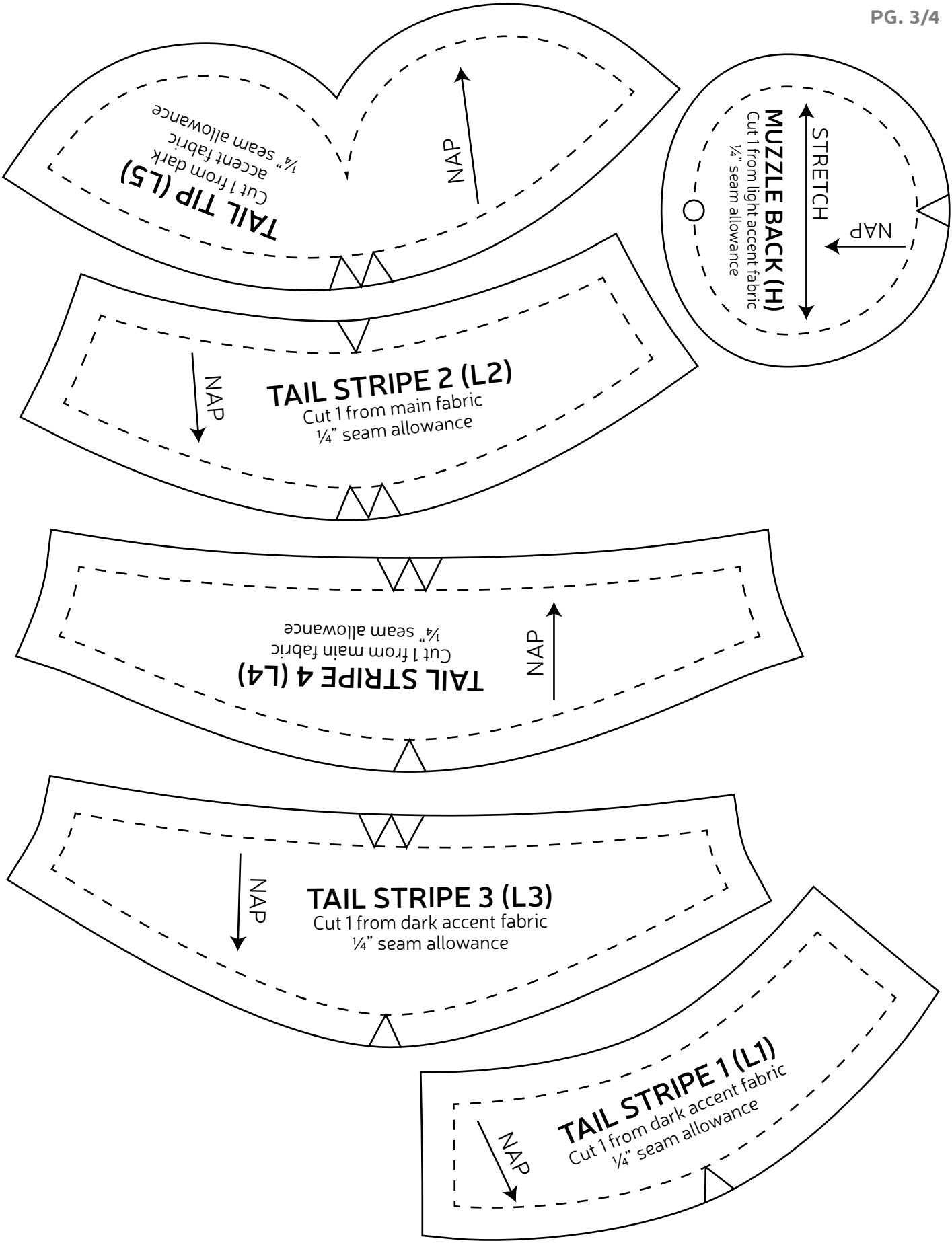
CONGRATS!
This completes your plush! Now give it a big hug!

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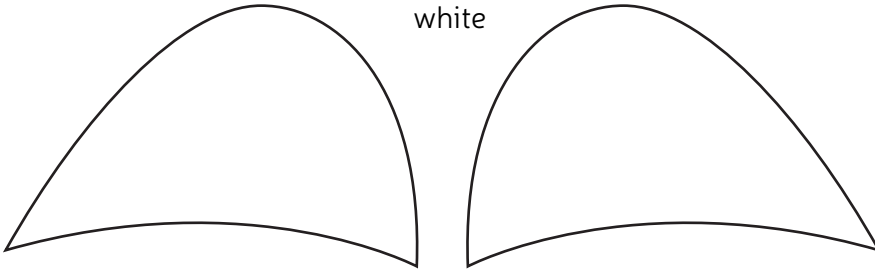
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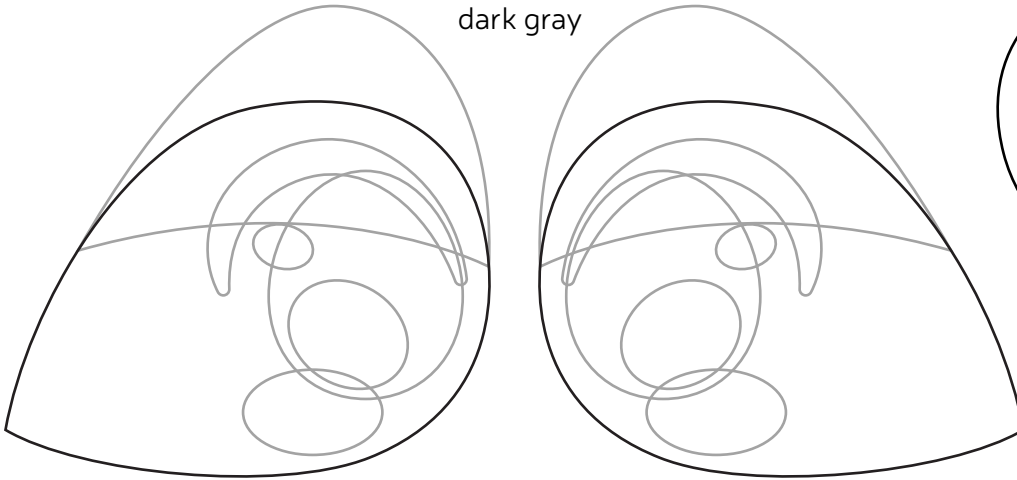
RACCOON
EYEBROW PANELS
aplique
trace & cut 1 each in
white



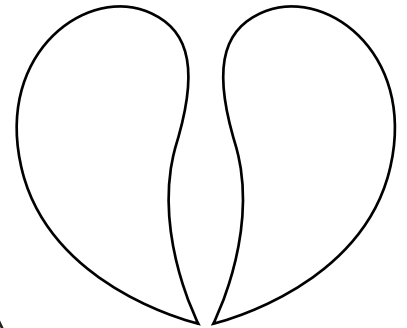
RED PANDA
EYEBROW
aplique
trace & cut 1
each in white



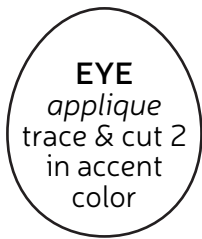
RACCOON
EYE PANELS
aplique
trace & cut 1 each in
dark gray



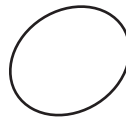
RED PANDA
CHEEK
aplique
trace & cut 1
each in white



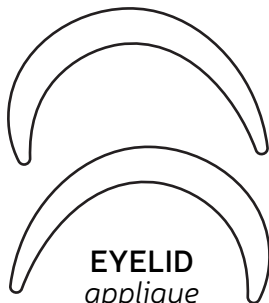
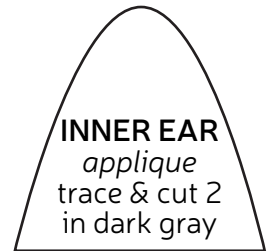
EYE
aplique
trace & cut 2
in accent
color



EYE HIGHLIGHT
aplique
trace & cut 2 in
accent color



INNER EAR
aplique
trace & cut 2
in dark gray



EYELID
aplique
trace & cut 1
each in black

EYE SHINE
aplique
trace & cut 2
in white



BLUSH
aplique
trace & cut 2
in pink

