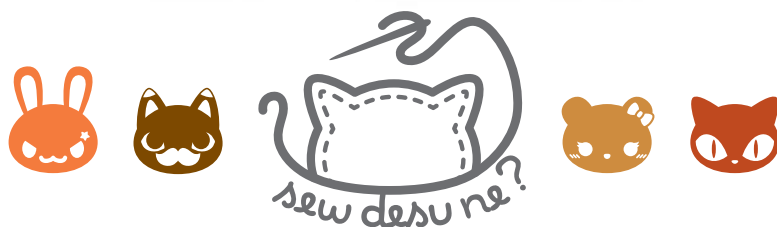


red panda plush



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



red panda plush

This fun and cuddly red panda has a sweet and charming face that's hard not to love! The body has a simple shape that sews up quickly. But the real highlight of this cutie is the big tail, with wide colorful stripes. It can be used to prop up the plush while it sits or just as a fun handle!

DIFFICULTY:



The body of this plush has a simple, flat shape that would be great for a confident beginner.

The curved pieces of the tail are the trickiest part, but they would work well as an introduction to curved sewing.

MAKES:

One plush: body about 12" tall, 7" wide, and 7" long (including tail)

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Basting
- Ladder stitch
- Sewing curved pieces



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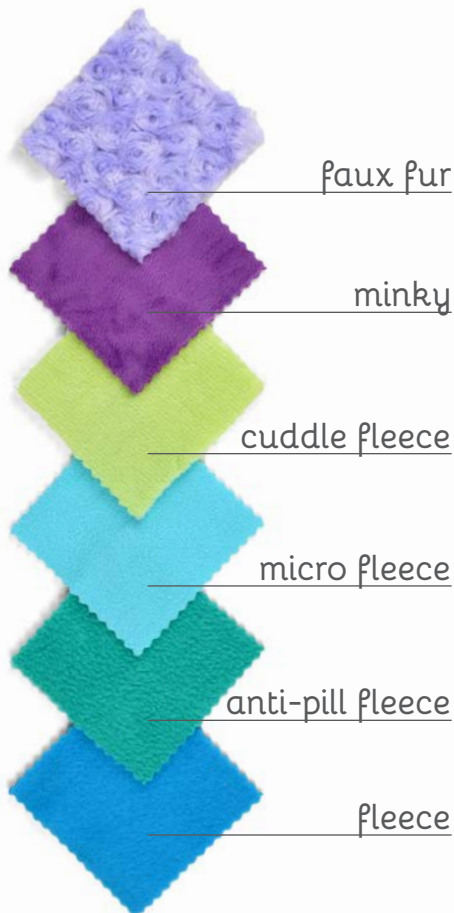
materials & tools:

- 1/3 yd. or 11" x 25" piece of fabric for main body
- 1/4 yd. or 9" x 23" of fabric for dark accents
- 1/8 yd. or 5" x 15" of fabric for light accents
- 1/8 yd. or 5" x 6" of fabric for inner ears
- 3" x 3" piece of black applique fabric for eyes and mouth
- 4" x 4" piece of white applique fabric for markings and muzzle
- 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)
- white fabric paint



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

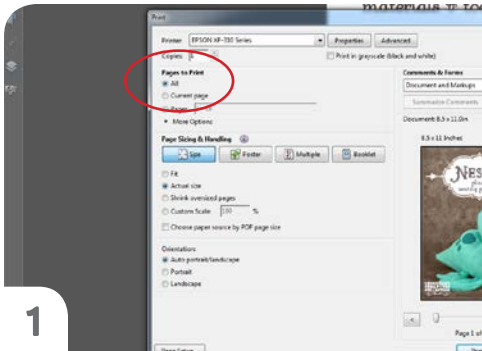


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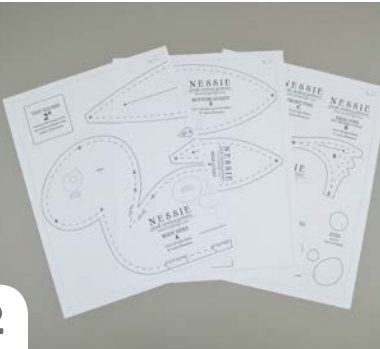
printing the pattern:

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.



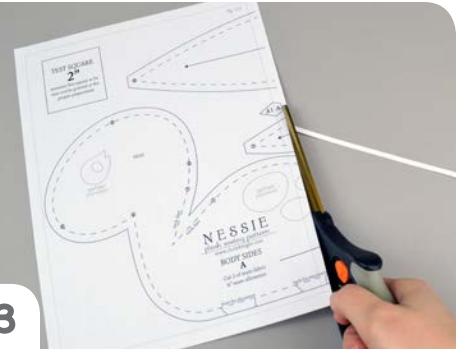
1

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.



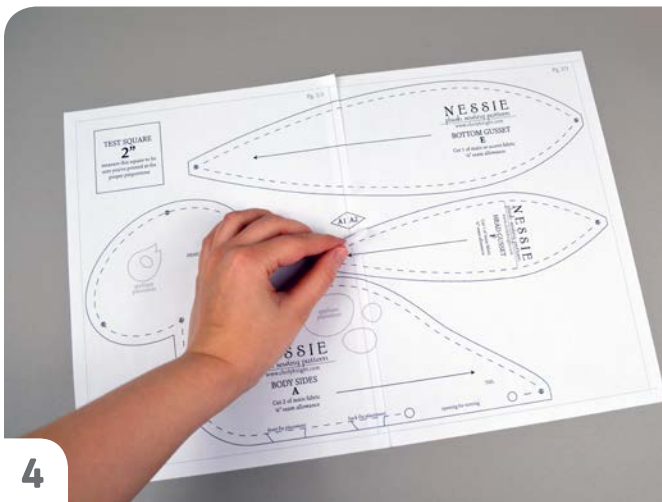
2

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

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.



4

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.



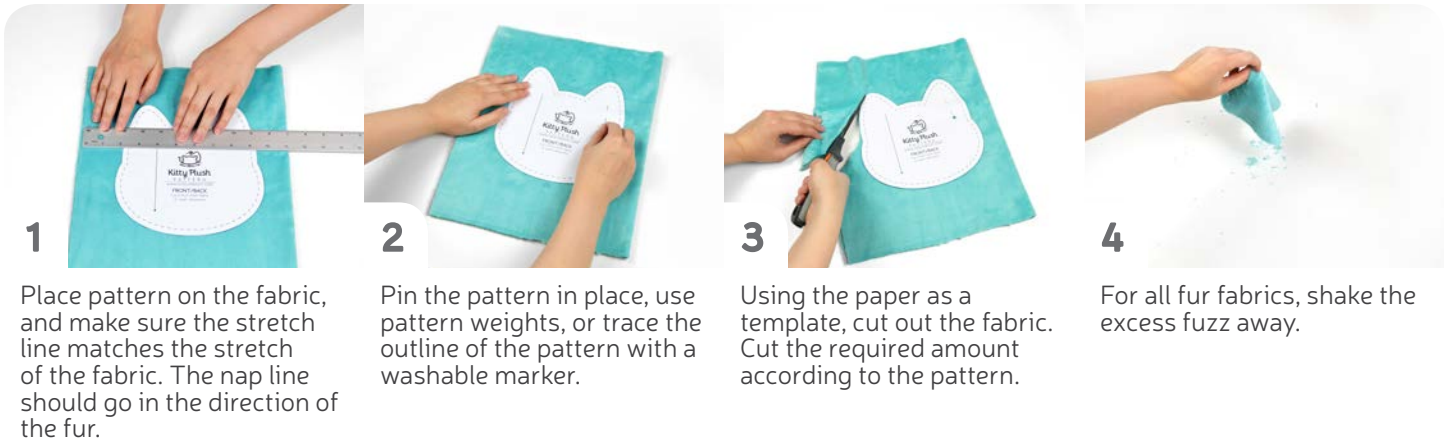
5

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.

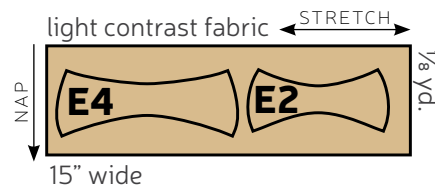
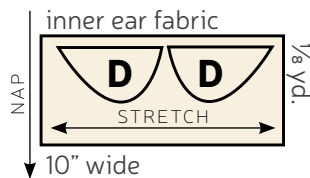
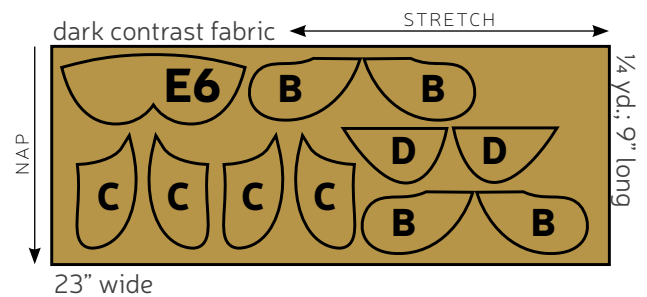
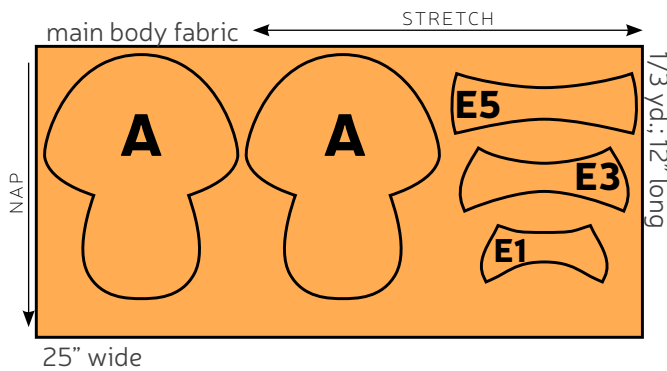
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cutting the fabric:



cutting layout:

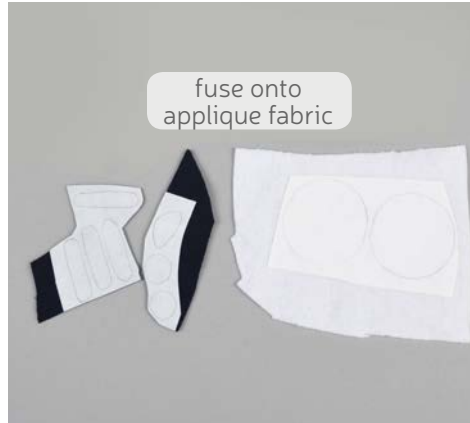


BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- 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 2 eyes, 1 smile, 2 eyebrows, 2 cheeks, and 1 muzzle.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The eyes and smile go onto black, the eyebrows, cheeks, and muzzle go onto white.
- Cut out the muzzle and arrange it on the **BODY** (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.

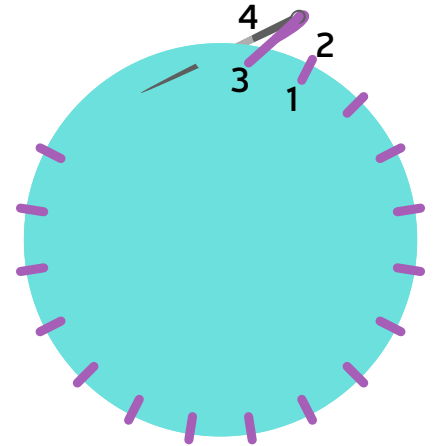
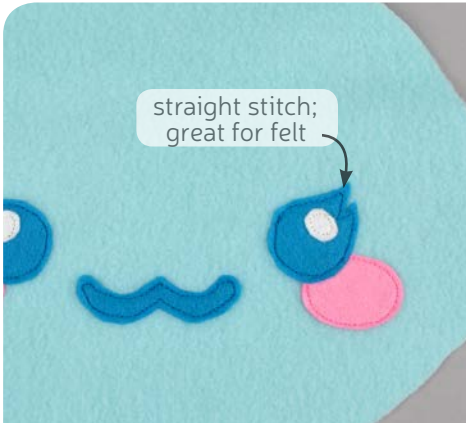


2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the muzzle piece 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 eye, smile, eyebrow, and cheek pieces. Fuse them much the same way as you did the muzzle, 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. SEW THE ARMS

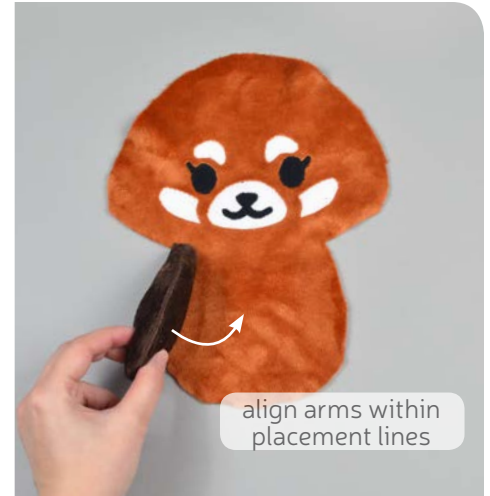
- Grab your **ARM** pieces (B). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the arms along the long curved edge, leaving the short straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Clip the seam allowance at the tight curve beside the open end. This will increase flexibility when the arm is turned later.

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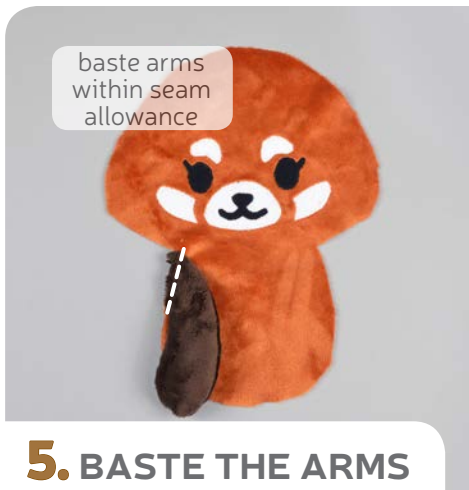
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4. ALIGN THE ARMS



- Repeat step 3 with the remaining **ARM** pieces for two complete arms total. Turn them both right side out.
- Stuff the arms lightly with stuffing. Keep the opening empty so it's easier to sew into the rest of the plush next.
- If you haven't already, locate the **arm placement lines** located on the paper pattern for the **BODY** (A). Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open end of the arm within these lines.



5. BASTE THE ARMS



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).

- Baste the arms to the body within the seam allowance.
- Repeat with the remaining arm on the other side of the body to complete.

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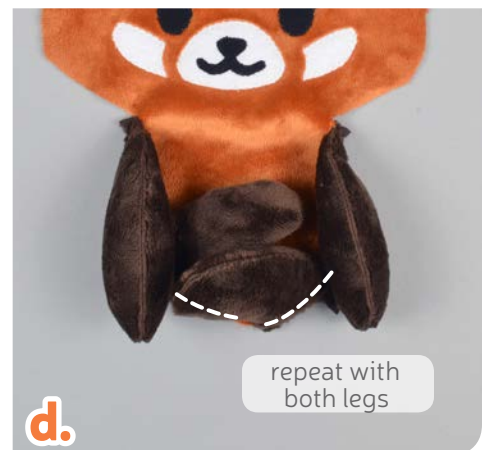
6. SEW THE LEGS

- Grab your **LEG** pieces (C). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the legs together around the long curved edge. Leave the shorter curved edge free for turning right side out.
- Turn the leg right side out. Repeat with the remaining leg pieces for two legs total.



- Just like the arms, stuff the **LEGS** as well. Stuff them lightly and leave them empty near the top, as that will be sewn next.
- If you haven't already, locate the **leg placement lines** located on the paper pattern for the **BODY** (A). Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open end of the leg within these lines.
- Baste the leg to the body within the seam allowance to hold in place.
- Repeat with the other leg for all the completed limbs.

7. BASTE THE LEGS



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8. SEW THE EARS

- Grab your **EAR** pieces (D). Take two of them; one in inner ear fabric and one in the dark contrast fabric. Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the long curved edge. Leave the straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Turn the ear right side out. Repeat with the remaining two ear pieces for two complete ears total.



- Refer to the **EAR** paper pattern to find the **fold line** for the ears. Use this as a guide to fold the ear with inner fabrics facing. Pin the ear together.

- Baste the ear along the bottom edge to hold the fold in place. Repeat with the remaining ear so you have a mirrored pair.

- If you haven't already, locate the **ear placement lines** found on the **BODY (A)** paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Place the open end of the ear within these placement lines. Be sure that the fold is pointing toward the middle of the front. Pin the ears in place.

- Baste the ears to the body within the seam allowances to hold them in place for future steps.

9. BASTE THE EARS



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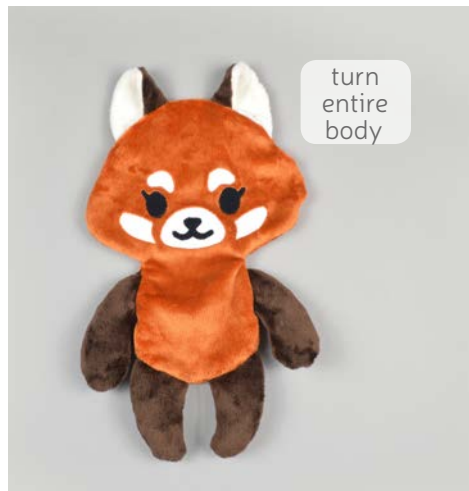
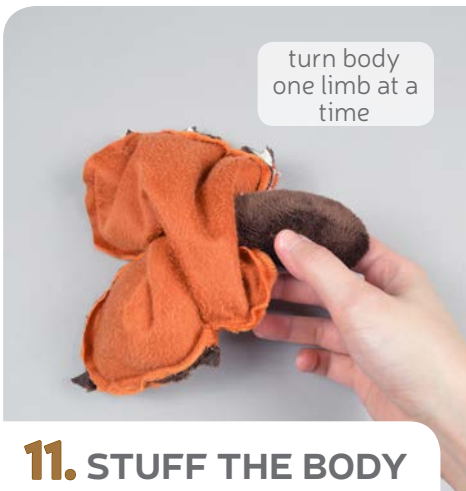


10. SEW THE BODY

- With the arms, legs, and ears attached, you can finally complete the body. Take your other body piece and layer it over the front you have so far. Tuck all the limbs and ears inside so they're out of the way. If you haven't already, locate the opening for turning marking on the paper pattern for the body. Transfer it over to the wrong side of the fabric.
- Sew around the perimeter of the body, but leave the opening for turning area open.
- Once complete, clip the seam allowance at the corner of the face to increase flexibility when the body is turned next.

tip:

The lower body is a little crowded with all the arms and legs. To make it more manageable, focus on pinning & sewing one limb at a time. When that one is done, push the others out of the way so you can focus on the next one.

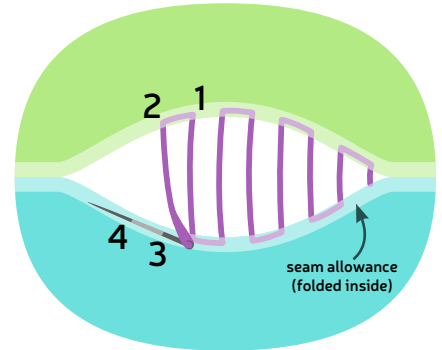
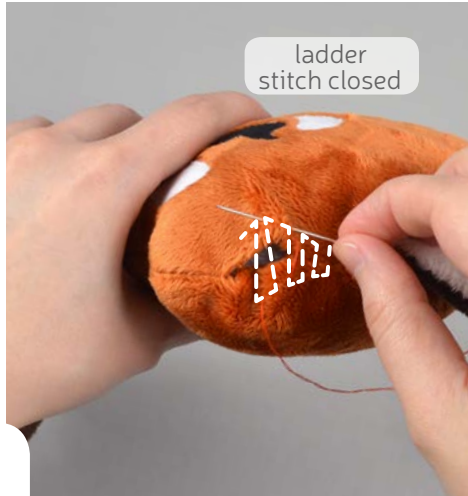


11. STUFF THE BODY

- Turn the body right side out through the opening in the head. Pull out one limb at a time to make it easier.
- Define the points in the head to completely turn the body.
- Fill the body with stuffing. The plush doesn't need a lot, especially in the neck area. Give it just enough so the body takes shape and the fabric has no wrinkles.

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12. CLOSE UP THE BODY

- 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.
- Continue from here doing a ladder stitch. Take a $\frac{1}{8}$ " 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.



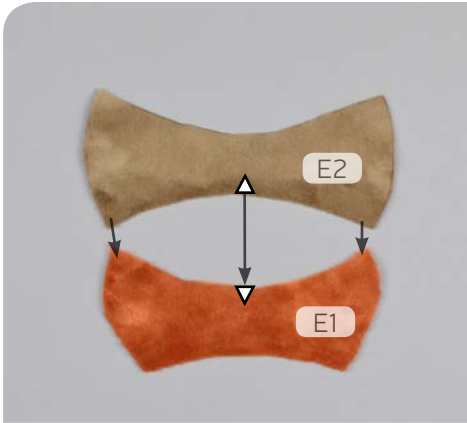
13. CLIP THE THREADS

- 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!



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- a. Grab your first 2 **TAIL STRIPE** pieces (E1 & E2). You'll see on the paper pattern that these two edges have triangular notches. Focus on the edges that have single notches. These will be sewn together first.
- b. Align the two pieces with right sides facing and the notched edges matching up. Sew the pieces along this edge.

14. SEW THE FIRST AND SECOND STRIPE

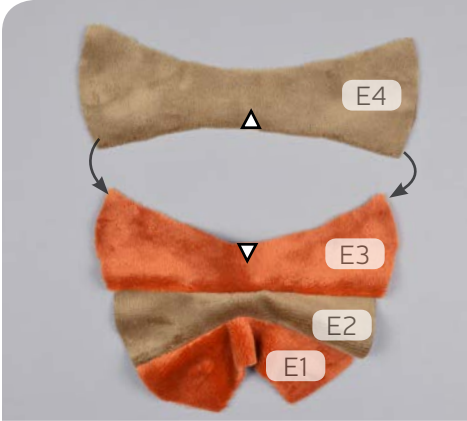


15. SEW THE THIRD STRIPE

- a. Open up the stripes so far. The **SECOND STRIPE** should be on top of the stack. Grab your **THIRD TAIL STRIPE** piece (E3). Next up is joining the edges from E2 and E3 that have double-notches.
- b. Align the third stripe (E3) over the second (E2) matching up the double-notches.
- c. Sew the third stripe to the second along this edge.

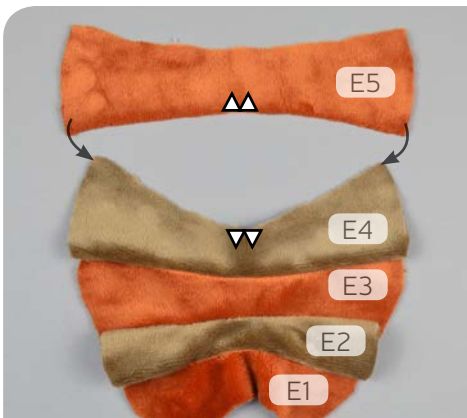
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16. SEW THE FOURTH STRIPE

- Open up the stripes so far. The **THIRD STRIPE** should be on top of the stack. Grab your **FOURTH TAIL STRIPE** piece (E4). Next up is joining the edges from E3 and E4 that have single notches.
- Align the fourth stripe (E4) over the third (E3) matching up the notches.
- Sew the fourth stripe to the third along this edge.



17. SEW THE FIFTH STRIPE

- Open up the stripes so far. The **FOURTH STRIPE** should be on top of the stack. Grab your **FIFTH TAIL STRIPE** piece (E5). Next up is joining the edges from E4 and E5 that have double-notches.
- Align the fourth stripe (E4) over the fifth (E5) matching up the double-notches.
- Sew the fourth stripe to the fifth along this edge.

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18. SEW THE TAIL TIP

- Open up the stripes so far. The **FIFTH STRIPE** should be on top of the stack. Grab your **TAIL TIP** piece (E6). Next up is joining the edges from E5 and E6 that have a single notch.
- Align the tail tip (E6) over the fifth stripe (E5) matching up the notches. Sew the tail tip to the fifth stripe along this edge.
- Open up the complete tail!



19. SEW THE TAIL

- With all the layers of the tail complete, you can now turn it into a proper tail! Fold the tail in half lengthwise with right sides facing to make it skinnier. If possible, try to match up the seams from all the stripes you've sewn.
- Sew the tail along the striped edge, turning into the fold near the tail tip. Try to blend your stitching into the fold for a rounder finished result.
- Turn the tail right side out.



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20. CINCH UP THE TAIL

- Stuff the tail firmly with stuffing. When complete the fabric should have no wrinkles.
- Thread a hand sewing needle with thread and knot the end. Sew a long gathering stitch around the opening of the **TAIL**, about $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the edge.
- Once finished, pull at the thread to gather the fabric and cinch up the opening of the **TAIL**. Sew a few knots at this opening to hold it closed. If you have a lot of thread left, consider leaving it attached for adding to the body.

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.



21. ATTACH THE TAIL

- Align the cinched end of the **TAIL** at the back of the body. Center it about $\frac{1}{2}$ " above the bottom seam. You can have the tail pointing up or curling off to the side. Hold it in place by sticking pins into the base of the tail and into the body.
- Stitch the tail in place along the base with a ladder stitch.



22. ACCENT THE EYES

- For a finishing sparkle, paint a bit of white fabric paint into the corner of each eye.

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

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A1 A2

applique
placement

opening for turning

arm placement

leg placement

leg placement



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BODY (A)
Cut 2 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance

TAIL STRIPE 1
(E1)
Cut 1 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance

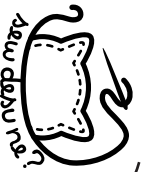
STRETCH

NAP

TAIL STRIPE 2
(E2)
Cut 1 from light accent
fabric
1/4" seam allowance

STRETCH

NAP



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TAIL TIP (E6)
Cut 1 from dark accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance

STRETCH

NAP

TAIL STRIPE 3 (E3)

Cut 1 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance

STRETCH

NAP

ear placement

STRETCH

NAP

ear placement

ARM (B)

Cut 4 from dark
accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance

NAP

STRETCH

EAR (D)

Cut 2 from dark accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance
Cut 2 from inner ear fabric
1/4" seam allowance

NAP

STRETCH

fold line

A1 A2

