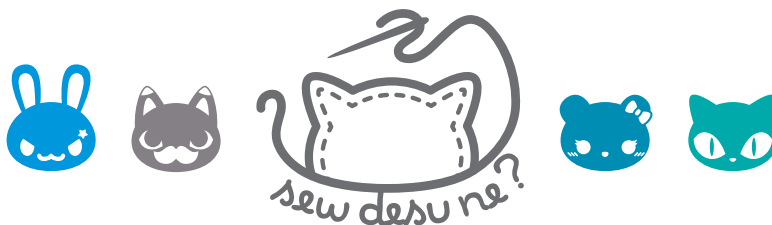


SHARK PLUSH



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



SHARK PLUSH

Don't go in the water! These cute sharks will snag you and make you never want to put them down!

These pudgy little predators have a similar shape to my previous narwhal and dolphin plushies, so they make a great set. But that also means they have very few pieces and are quick to put together.

Included are templates to make a classic baby shark with a simple eye or an anime style eye to copy the tsundere shark meme. Both versions have a big toothy grin.

DIFFICULTY:



The hardest part of this plush is likely sewing the belly, which ends at a point near the tail. This technically makes it a y-seam and a gusset, so if you're new to these techniques, this is a great way to get acquainted with them!

MAKES:

One plush: about 8" long (from nose to tail fin), 4" wide, and 3½" tall (not including side and dorsal fin)

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Curved sewing
- Basting
- Darts
- Ladder stitch
- Sewing curves
- Y-seams; gussets

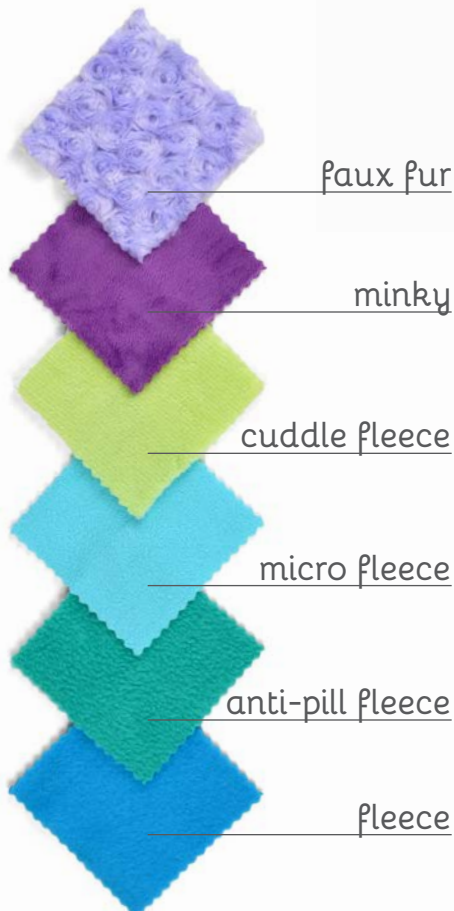


sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

materials & tools:

- 1/3 yd. or 16" x 12" piece of fabric for main body
- 1/4 yd. or 9" x 8" piece of fabric for belly
- 3" x 3" piece of black applique fabric (such as cotton, felt, or flannel) for eyes
- 4" x 4" piece of white applique fabric for teeth and eye shines
- optional 2" x 2" piece of pink applique fabric for blush
- 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

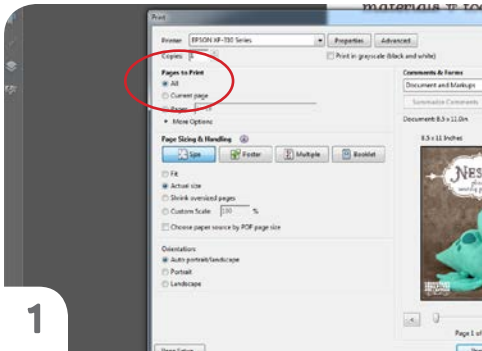


sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

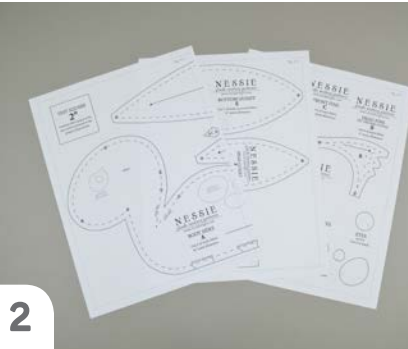
printing the pattern:

To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 14-15**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



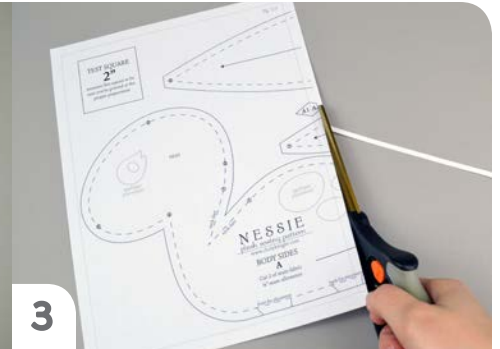
1

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.



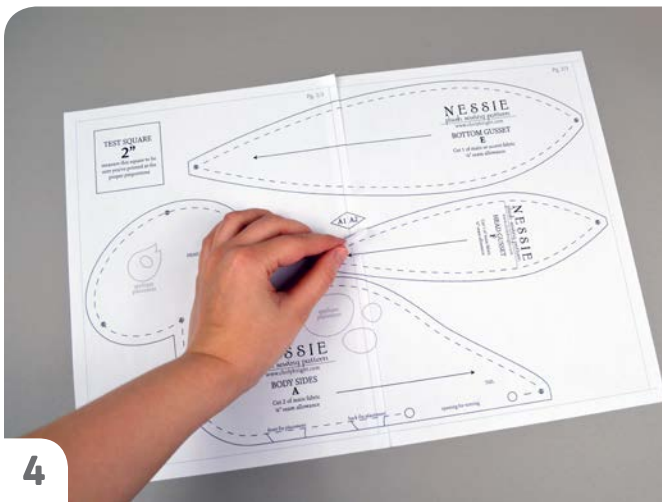
2

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.



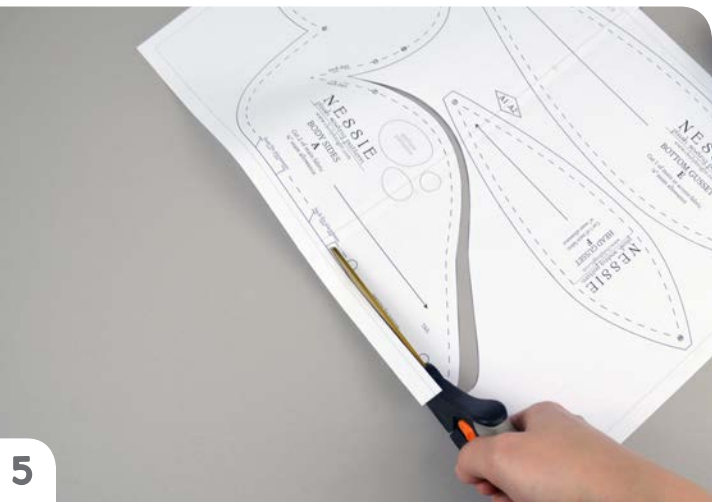
3

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.



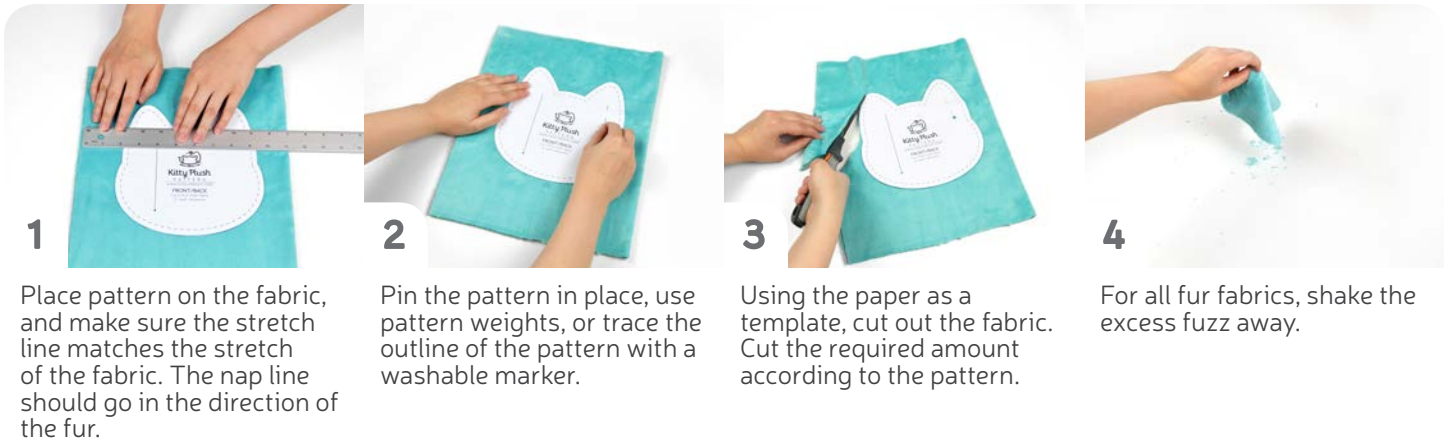
5

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.

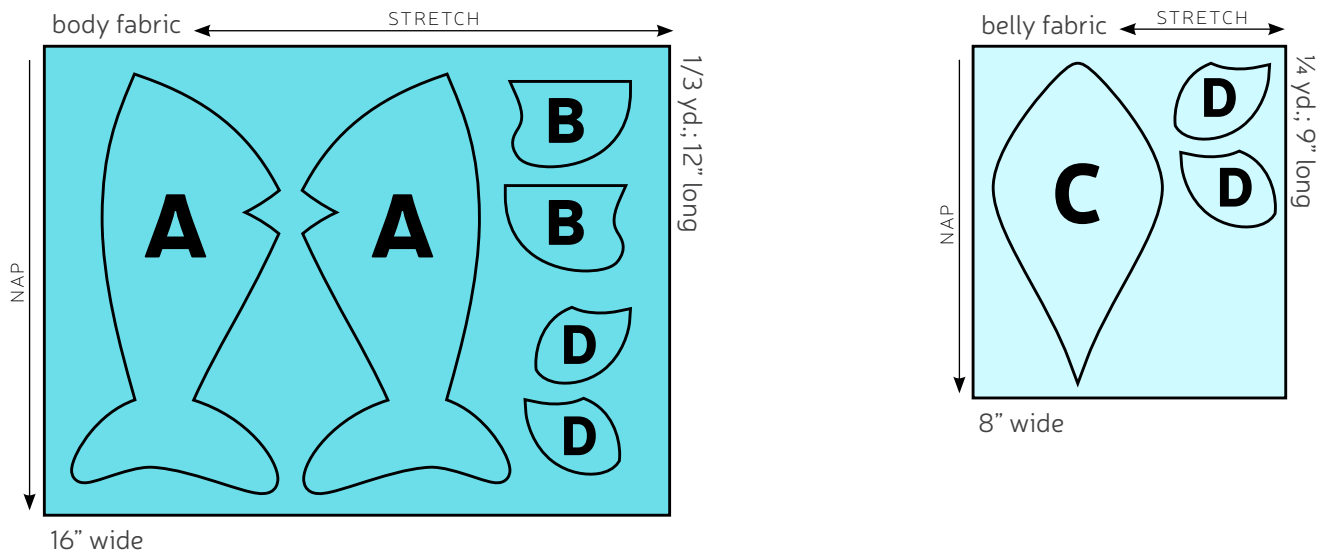
sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

cutting the fabric:



cutting layout:

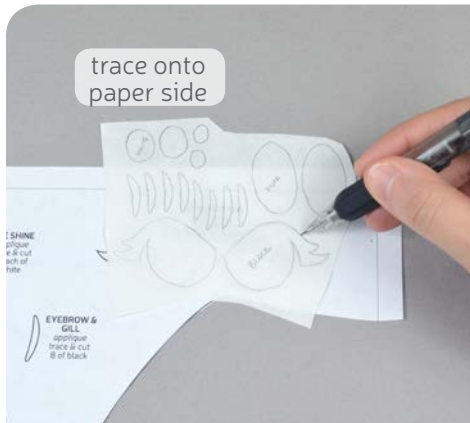


BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- 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.

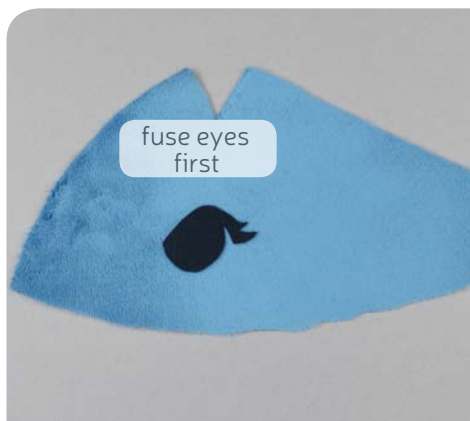
sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Take your fusible web and trace all of your applique pieces onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have at least two eyes and two eye shines. There are also options for an eyebrow, gills, and blush.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The eyes and gills go on black, the blush goes on pink, and the eye shines on white.
- Cut out the eyes and arrange them 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 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 gill pieces (if using). Fuse them much the same way as you did the eyes, using the paper pattern and photos as a guide. Repeat with the other eye and the other **BODY** piece.

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.

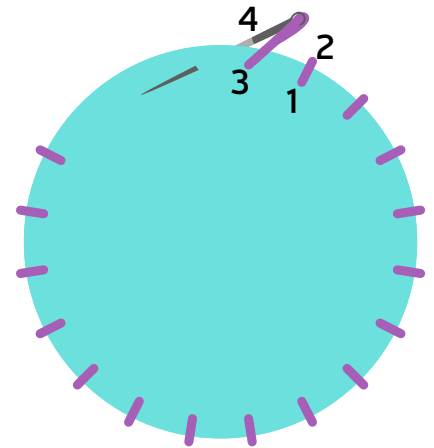
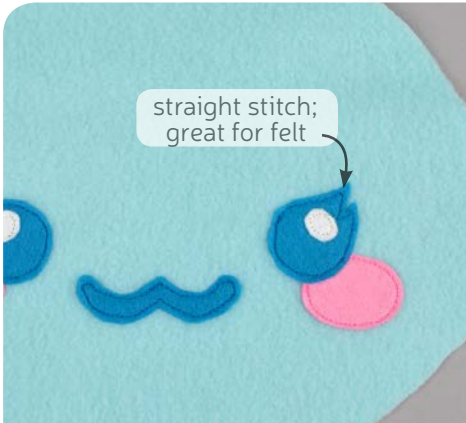
→ Refer to the next step for some other applique options.

TIP:

If the eye shines are too small for you to stitch, you can also use a bit of white fabric paint!

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



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.

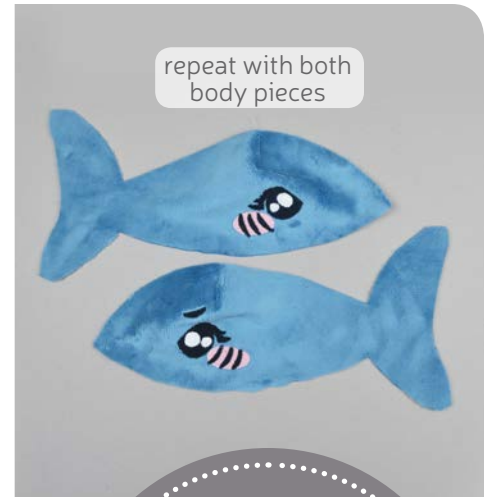
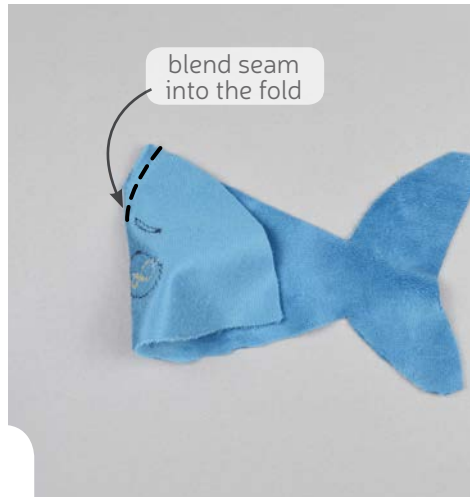


3. APPLIQUE THE TEETH

- a. Repeat the same process from steps 1 & 2 for the teeth. Trace the template and fuse the adhesive it to your applique fabric. Remove the paper and fuse the applique to your **BELLY** (C) fabric following the pattern guidelines.
- b. Top stitch along the tooth lines found on the paper template using black or another contrasting dark thread. This will give your shark a nice row of teeth!
Stitch around the outline of the teeth (just like with the eyes) if desired.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

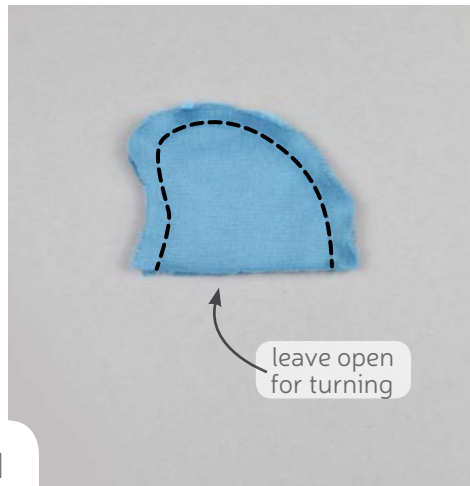


4. SEW THE BODY DART

- Find the small open wedge shape at the top of the **BODY** (A) piece. This is a **dart**. To sew it, fold the body 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.
- Repeat with the other dart on the other body piece for two body pieces total.

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.

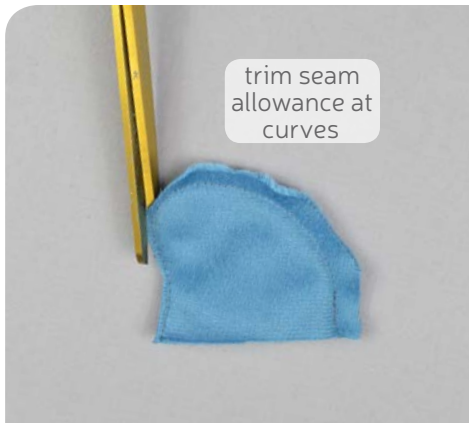


5. SEW THE DORSAL FIN

- Grab your **DORSAL FIN** pieces (B). Take them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the fin along the curved edge, leaving the straight edge free for turning the fin later.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

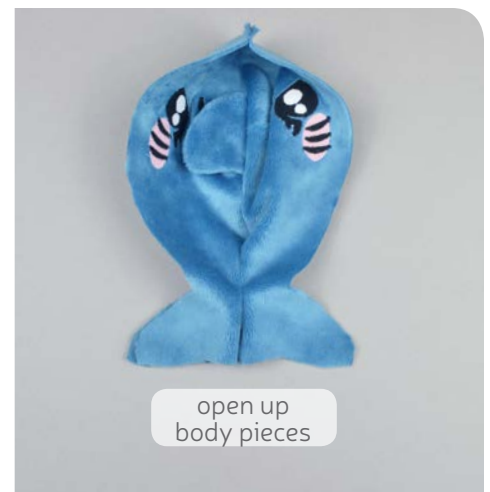
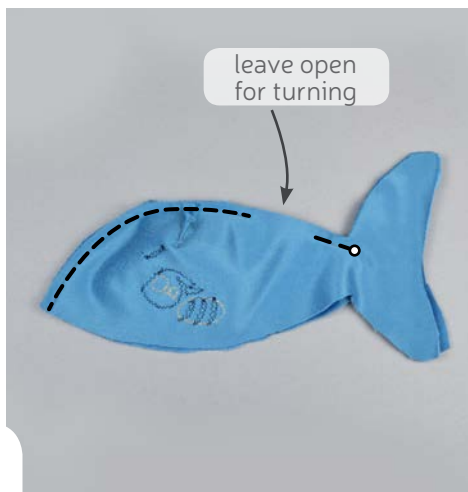


6. BASTE THE DORSAL FIN

- Trim the excess seam allowance at the inner curve and tip of the **FIN**. This will help reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the fin is turned later. Turn the fin right side out.
- Grab one of your **BODY** pieces (A) from before. Center the fin over the **dart** (from step 4) so the open end lines up with the edge of the fabric. The paper pattern also has a guideline if you need more help. The tip of the fin should point toward the tail.
- Baste the fin to the body within the seam allowance to hold it in place for the next step.

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).

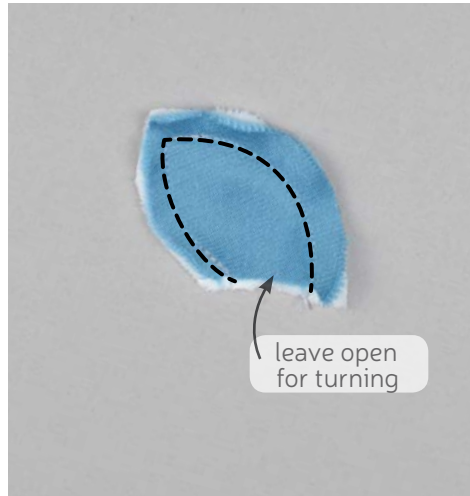
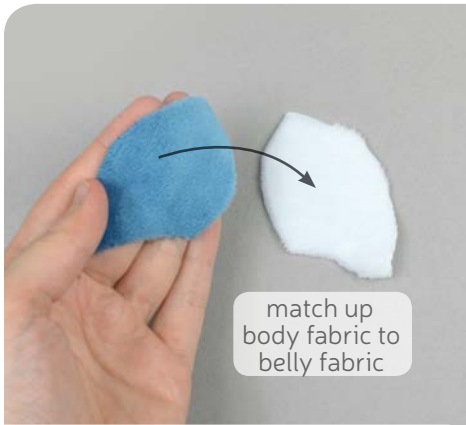


7. SEW THE BODY BACK

- Grab your remaining **BODY** piece (A). Align it over the first with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- If you haven't already, locate the **opening for turning marking** on the paper pattern for the **BODY** (A). Transfer it over to the wrong side of the fabric -- or just mark a 2-3" area between the **DORSAL FIN** and the **tail**. Sew the body pieces together from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail. This is marked with a **circle** on the pattern if you need help. Skip over the area you marked so the body can be turned later.
- When complete, open up the body pieces so it can be sewn to the belly next!

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



8. SEW THE SIDE FINS

- Grab your **SIDE FIN** pieces (D). Take one from the belly fabric and one from body fabric. Match them up with right sides facing and raw edges aligning.
- Sew them together along the pointed edge. Leave the short edge free for turning the fin later.
- Trim the seam allowance near the outer corner to reduce bulk. Turn the fin right side out. Define the corner with a chopstick or similar turning tool. Repeat with the remaining fin pieces for two complete fins total.



9. BASTE THE SIDE FINS

- If you haven't already, locate the **side fin placement lines** on the paper pattern for the **BELLY**. They're basically right below the corners of the teeth. Transfer them over to the right side of the belly fabric for extra guidance. Align the open end of the **FINS** within these lines so the belly fabrics are facing and the tips of the fins are pointing away from the teeth.
- Baste the side fins to the belly within the seam allowance to hold them for the next step.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



10. SEW THE BELLY

- Take the sewn **BODY** pieces (A) and align the open edge around the **BELLY**. Start by matching the **body seam** with the tip of the **nose** on the belly. This is labeled on the paper pattern for extra help. Pin the body to the belly along one side until you reach the tail end of the belly. The end points (marked with **squares** on the paper pattern) should match up.
- Sew from the nose down to the tail end of the belly and stop at the **square marking**.
- Repeat part A with the other side of the body and the other half of the belly. Both sides of the body should converge on that tail end of the belly with the **square marking**. Sew the other side of the belly like the first. Your seam should end where the previous seam ended.

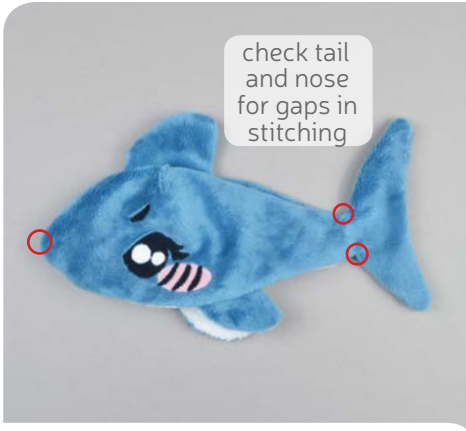


11. SEW THE TAIL

- That should just leave the tail open. Line up the raw edges of the tail so everything aligns.
- Sew the tail starting at the **circle** (from back in step 7) and ending at the **square** (where you stopped in step 10.) This should complete all the sewing!
- Before turning the plush, clip the seam allowances at the inner corners and curves. This includes the corners at the base of the tail, and the tight curves near the tail tips. This will reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the plush is turned.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



check tail
and nose
for gaps in
stitching



stuff tail
first



stuff
nose so it's
pointy

12. STUFF THE SHARK

- a.** Turn the shark right side out through the opening in the back seam. Take this moment to check the points at the base of the tail and the nose so there are no gaps in your seams.
- b.** Stuff the tail of the shark first so it takes shape.
- c.** Next most important is to stuff the nose so it looks nice and pointy in the finished product.



stuff rest
of body



bring needle
out near edge
of opening

13. FINISH STUFFING

- a.** Keep stuffing the nose until you work back to the opening of the shark. Then stuff until the whole body is full and there are no more wrinkles in the fabric.
- b.** 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.

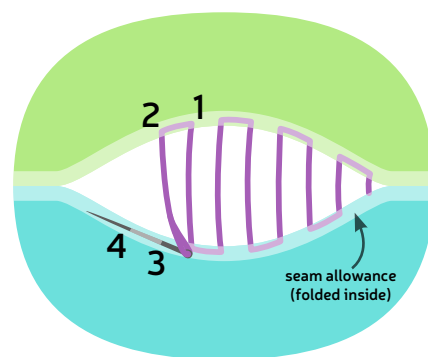
sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



14. SEW THE SHARK CLOSED

- 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. (See illustration at the right). 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!



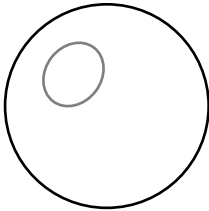
congrats!
this completes
your plush! Now
give it a big
hug!



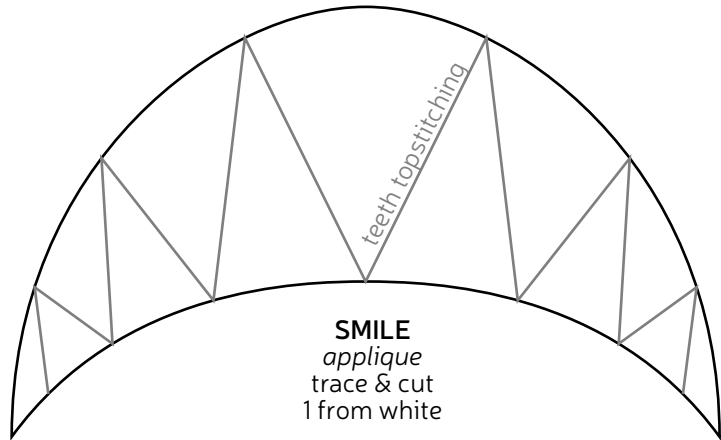
sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

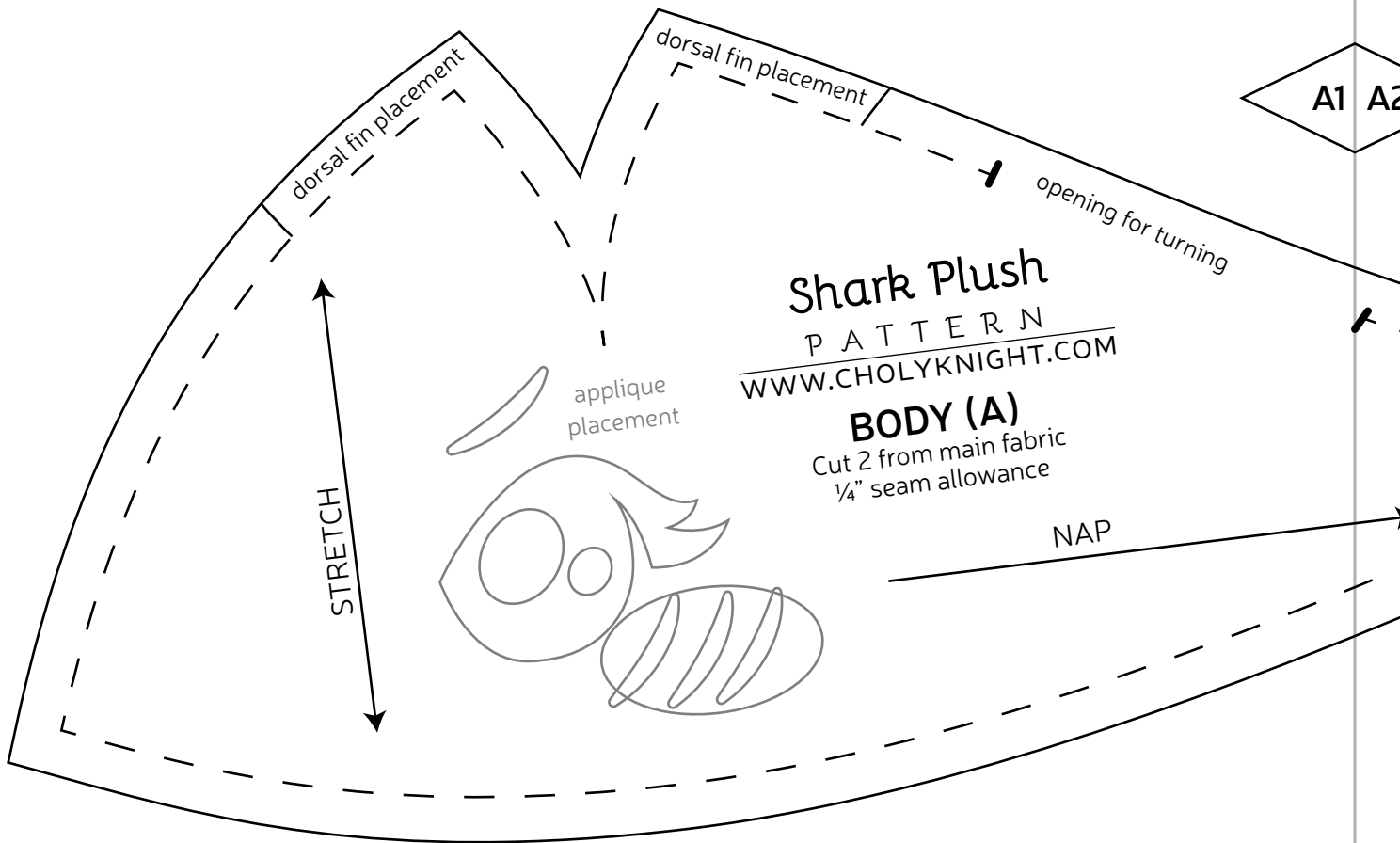
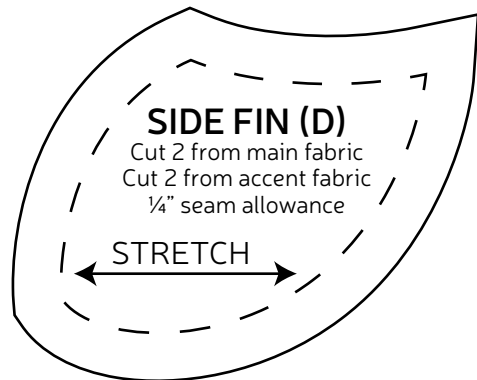
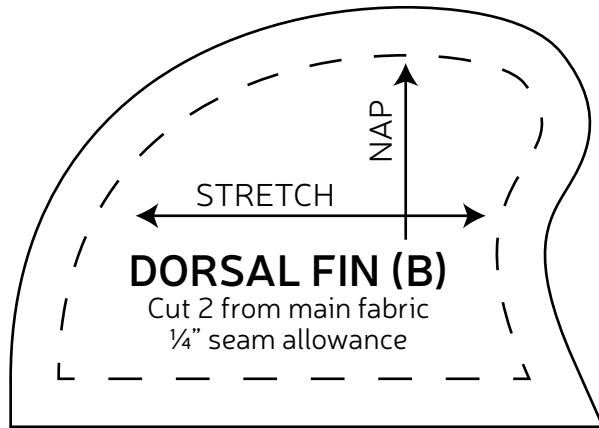
EYE
applique
trace & cut
2 of black



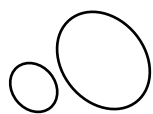
EYE SHINE
applique
trace & cut
2 of white



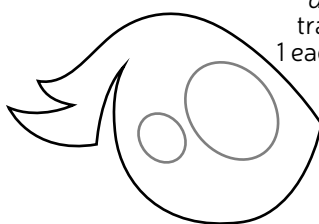
SMILE
applique
trace & cut
1 from white



A1 A2

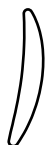
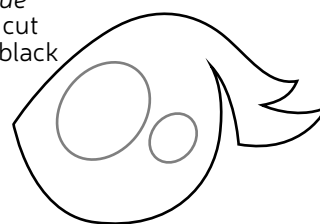


EYE SHINE
applique
 trace & cut
 2 each of
 white



LASHED EYES

applique
 trace & cut
 1 each of black



**EYEBROW &
 GILL**
applique
 trace & cut
 8 of black



BLUSH
applique
 trace & cut
 2 of pink

