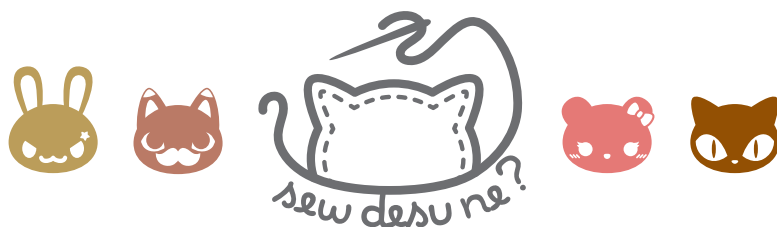


SHIBA CUBE



PUPPY PLUSH

A SEWING PATTERN BY



SHIBA CUBE PLUSH

If you've ever sewn a cube before, this pattern takes it to the next level! The classic geometric shape forms a chubby little puppy body complete with four stubby legs. It also has a contrast muzzle and little curly tail for the complete Shiba look.

This pattern is super customizable and would work well with loads of different animals. Corgis and pugs are just two examples to get you started, but cats, foxes, and other woodland creatures would work too!

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Zigzag stitch
- Sewing inner & outer curves
- Y-seams/sewing cubes
- Ladder stitch
- Sewing curves
- Gathering stitch

DIFFICULTY:



Knowing how to sew a cube is very important in this plush, as you'll be using a lot of the same techniques, but taken to a slightly higher level.

MAKES:

One plush, about 5" wide, 5" long (not including tail), and 6" tall (not including ears)



shiba cube plush

SEWING TUTORIAL

materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. of tan fabric for main body
- ¼ yd. of cream fabric for body accents
- 3" x 3" piece of black applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) for eyes and mouth
- 3" x 3" piece of pink applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) for tongue
- 3" x 3" piece of cream applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) for eyebrows and inner ears
- 4" x 4" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- sewing thread to match main fabric and applique fabrics
- poly-fil stuffing
- basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)
- white fabric paint (optional; see step 19)

SUGGESTED FABRICS:

Thick, plush fabrics such as fleece or minky are suggested. Ones with a little bit of stretch along the crosswise grain will add a nice softness and roundness to your plush, but isn't necessary.

Other non-stretchy options include flannel, cotton, and terry cloth.



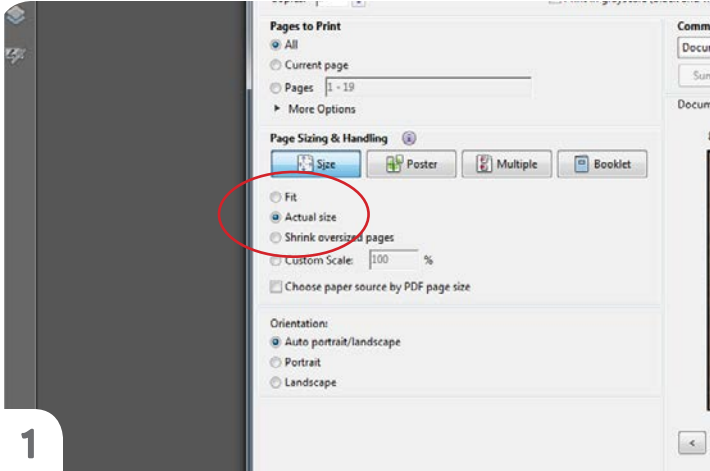
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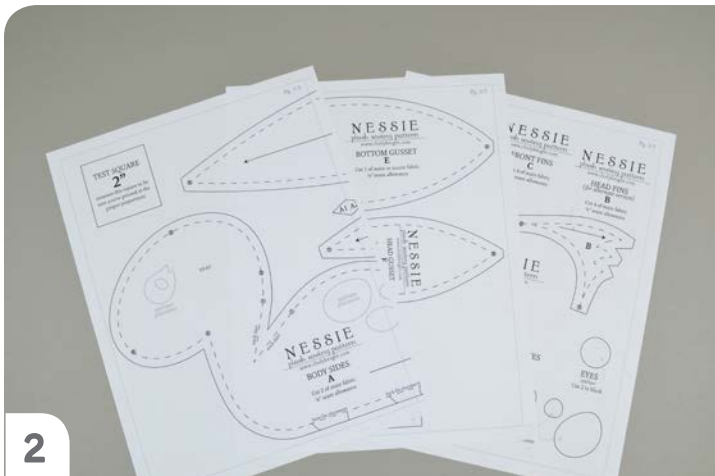
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printing the pattern:

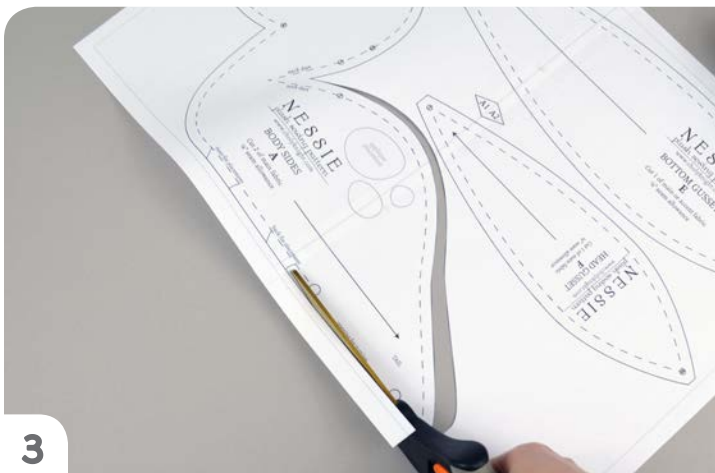
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 16-17**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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.

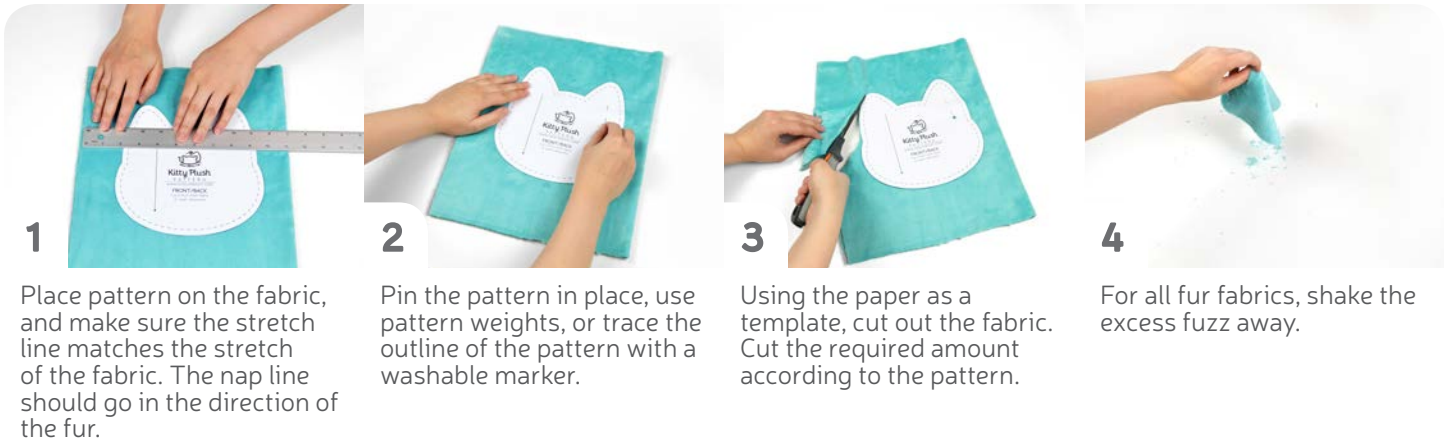


Print the pages needed for the file. You might have one or more. Either way, be sure you have the full collection by noting the page numbers in the corner.

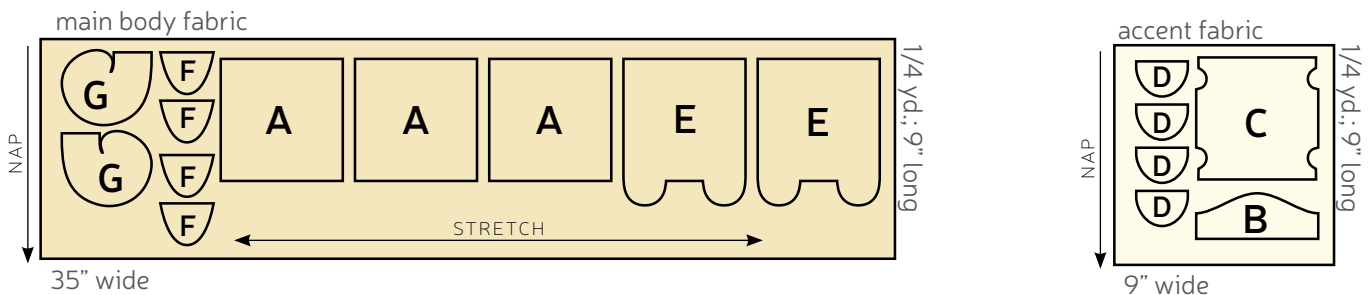


You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper. They might be a little hard to pin through, so you might want to use your longest pins. But you could also use pattern weights or trace the outlines onto the fabric with a washable marker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

cutting the fabric:



cutting layout:

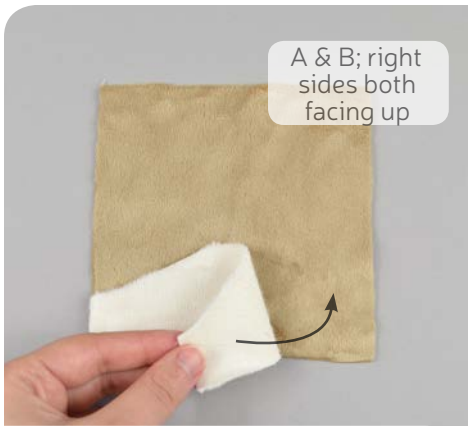


BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- 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.

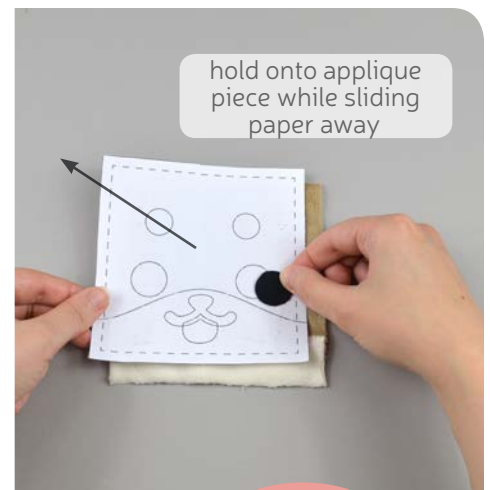
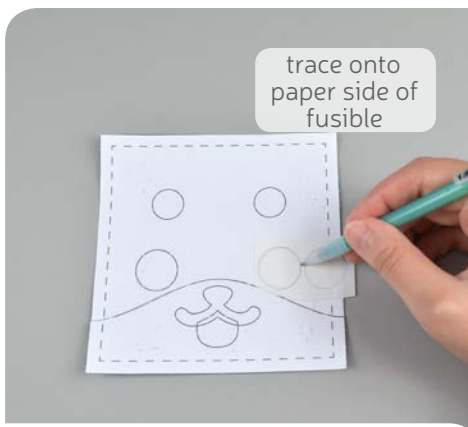
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SEWING TUTORIAL



1. SEW THE MUZZLE

- Gather up one of your Front/Back/Top pieces (A) and the Muzzle piece (B). Align the straight edge of the muzzle against the bottom edge of the square piece, overlapping them with right sides facing up. The paper pattern also has a guide line if you need extra help.
- Set your machine to a medium length and medium width zigzag stitch and sew the muzzle in place along the curved edge. You could also use a straight stitch if you prefer.
- Flip the square over, and trim away the excess tan fabric, about $\frac{1}{8}$ "- $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the seam you've just sewn (to reduce bulk). This square is now the front of your plush.



2. PREPARE THE FACE

- Take your fusible web and trace all your face and ear applique pieces onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have two eyes, one smile, one tongue, two eyebrows, and two inner ears.
- Fuse all the pieces to the wrong side of your appropriate applique fabrics.
- Cut out the face pieces (save the inner ears for later) and arrange them on your front piece (A) from earlier. You can do this by setting your paper pattern on top of the fabric piece (right sides up), align the eyes on top where the placement markings are, then carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.

tip:

For ease, you could also use safety eyes and noses instead of appliqueing the features.



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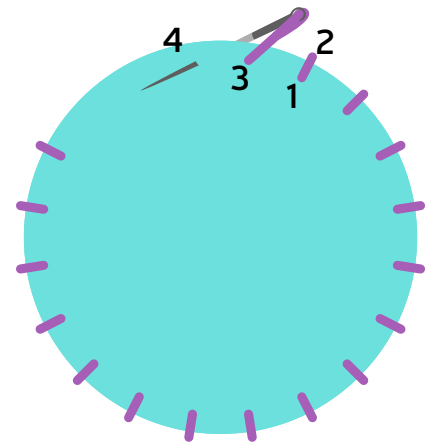
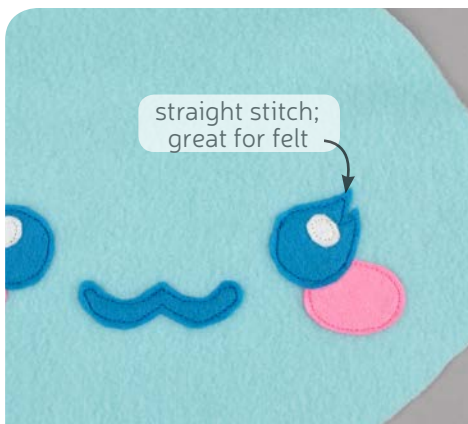
shiba cube plush

SEWING TUTORIAL



3. SEW THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the face pieces 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). Start with the eyes, then add the tongue and the mouth overlapping it. Lastly add the eyebrows.
- 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.
- Set the face aside for the next few steps while we work on the bottom.



3a. 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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SEWING TUTORIAL



4. SEW THE INNER LEGS

- Gather up your Bottom piece (C) and your four Inner Leg pieces (D). The little inner curves found on the bottom piece are going to be sewn to the straight sides of your inner legs. To make these edges match up, cut small clips into the inner curves of the bottom piece, about 1/8" long and spaced 1/4" apart.
- Stretch the inner curve to meet with the straight side of the inner leg. It will be a close fit, so do your best stretching the inner curve. If it doesn't quite fit, you can trim the inner leg a little and it won't make a huge difference.
- Sew the inner curve to this straight edge with the usual 1/4" seam allowance.

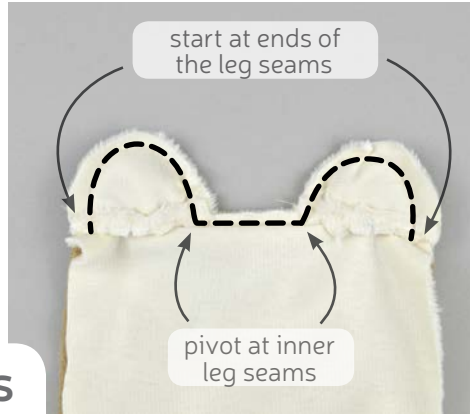


5. COMPLETE THE INNER LEGS

- Repeat the same process with the remaining three inner curves found on the bottom piece and the other three inner leg pieces.
- When complete, it should look something like the photo. Note that the legs won't lie flat but rather stand up a bit due to their shape.

shiba cube plush

SEWING TUTORIAL



6. SEW THE OUTER LEGS

- Grab both of your Side pieces (E). Locate the stubby legs found at the bottom, and line them up with the legs on one side of your bottom piece. Pin the raw edges -- this might take some finessing, since the inner legs are three-dimensional.
- Once the legs are matched up, sew the inner and outer legs together. Start where the first leg seam begins ($\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge), go around the leg, then pivot where the seam ends. Continue between the two legs, pivot again where the second leg seam begins. Finally stop where the second leg seam ends.
- Once complete, repeat with the remaining side piece and the other side of the bottom piece so both sets of legs are sewn.



7. CLIP THE INNER CORNERS

- In the straight area between the stubby legs, clip the inner corners in the seam allowances on each side. Get as close as you can to the stitching without actually cutting it. This will allow the fabric to open up when you turn it right side out.
- When turned, you should have something like what's shown: a row of three squares -- side, bottom, and side.

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SEWING TUTORIAL



8. ATTACH THE FRONT

- Grab your front piece from earlier (the one with the face on it). Align it so the side with the **MUZZLE** matches up with one raw edge of the **BOTTOM**. So the bottom of the face should be pointing towards the bottom of the body. And the legs flank the face on each side.
- Sew the face in place starting $\frac{1}{4}$ " in from the edge and stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the other edge. The goal is to start and stop your seam and the end of the leg seams you did in step 6.

y-seams:

A set of 3 or more seams with endings that all converge on one point. Particularly common with fabric pieces that aren't square, or shapes that aren't flat.



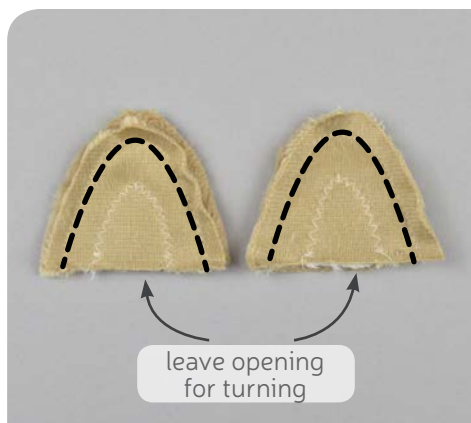
9. SEW THE INNER EARS

- Grab your ear pieces (F) and also the fused inner ear applique from back in step 2. Cut out the applique pieces and align them with the straight edge flush with the bottom edge of the ear. There's also a guide on the paper pattern if you need more help.
- Fuse the ear pieces 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). Repeat with the other applique piece so you have two applied ears total.
- 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.
- Grab one of your blank ears and match it up with an applied ear with right sides facing.

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10. SEW & PLACE THE EARS

- Sew the ears together along the long curved edge, leaving the short straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Turn both ears right side out.
- If you haven't already, locate the ear placement lines from the Front/Back/Top paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the head front. Align the ear within these lines.
- Flip the ear down so the inner ear faces the head, then pin the ear in place.



11. SEW THE EARS & THE TOP

- Baste the ears in place within the seam allowances along the top edge of the face.
- Grab one of your blank Front/Back/Top pieces (A) and layer it over the face, aligning the top edge where you've just basted your ears. This square is about to become the top of your plush.
- Sew the top in place along this edge, starting 1/4" from the edge and stopping 1/4" from the end.

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).

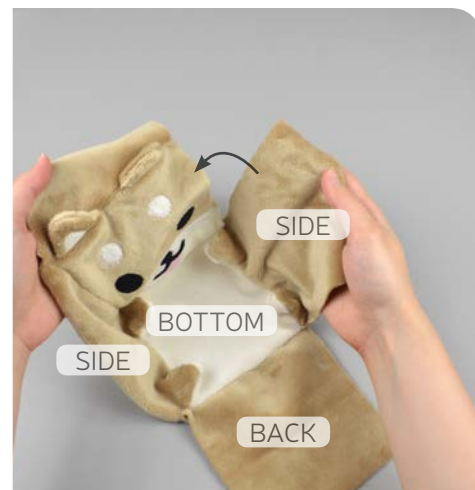
shiba cube plush

SEWING TUTORIAL



12. SEW THE BACK

- Grab your last blank Front/Back/Top piece (A) and layer it over the bottom, aligning along the last empty edge of your bottom piece. This square is about to become the back of your plush.
- Sew the back in place starting $\frac{1}{4}$ " in from the edge and stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the other edge. The goal is to start and stop your seam and the end of the leg seams you did in step 6.
- All six sides of your cube are now in place! We can finally start making it into a 3D shape!



13. SEW THE CUBE SIDES

- Hold the face square in one hand and a side square in the other. Bring them together so the side edges meet up. Pin them in place -- we'll be sewing that edge next. This will form the vertical edges of your plush that makes it 3D.
- Sew along that edge starting $\frac{1}{4}$ " in from the beginning and stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the end. Ideally your seams should start and stop at the points where your previous seams began.
- Repeat with the other side piece and the remaining side of the face. Then with the back and sides as well for four vertical edges total.

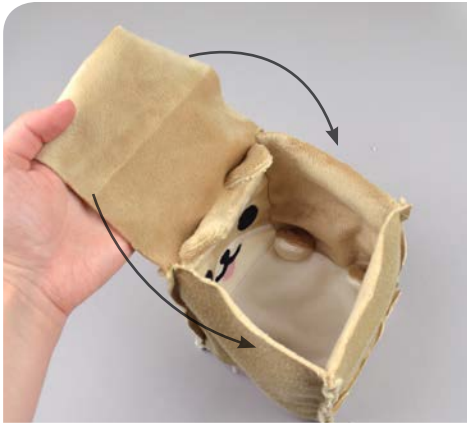
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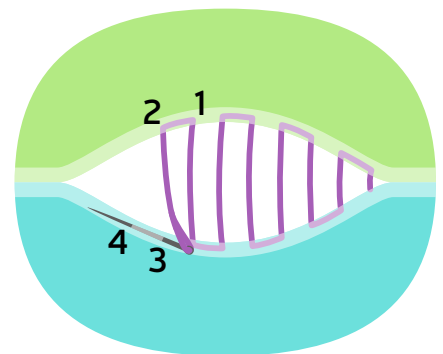
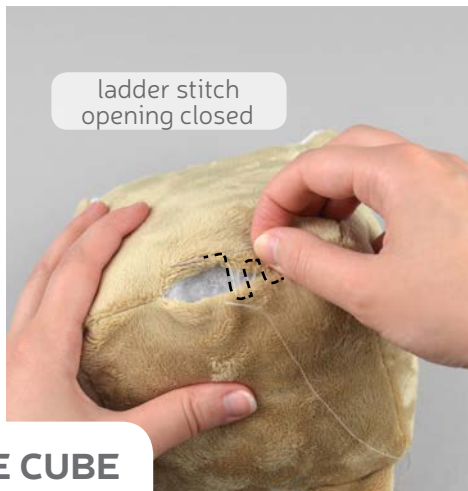
shiba cube plush

SEWING TUTORIAL



14. SEW THE CUBE TOP

- When all of the vertical edges are sewn, you should have something that looks like a box with a lid. All that's left is to sew that lid in place!
- Line up the raw edges of the 'lid' with the raw edges of the 'box' and pin them in place. Sew around these edges, being sure to pivot at the corners. Leave a small 2-3" opening along one side for turning the cube right side out later. Once the top is sewn, clip the excess seam allowance at each corner of the cube to reduce bulk.
- Turn the cube right side out and define the corners and legs with a chopstick or similar turning tool. You might want to check to be sure the legs are sewn to your satisfaction, so you can go back and fix them if you need to.
- Start stuffing the cube by using small balls of stuffing in each leg and each corner of the cube. Then slowly work your way from the bottom towards the opening.



15. STUFF AND SEW THE CUBE

- Thread a hand sewing needle with matching thread and knot the end. Insert the needle into the opening of the cube near one end. Bring the needle out so the knot is now hidden within the plush. Tuck under the seam allowances of the cube opening.
- Continue from here doing a ladder stitch. Take a $\frac{1}{8}$ " stitch into the fold on one side of the cube, then go across and take a stitch into the fold on the other side. Keep going down the opening until you reach the end.

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SEWING TUTORIAL



16. SEW THE TAIL

- Gather up your Tail pieces (G). Align them together with right sides facing.
- Sew around the long curved edge of the tail, being sure to get into the tight corner. This is what gives the tail its curl. Leave the short straight edge free for turning the tail right side out later.
- Cut several clips into the inner corner where the tight curve is. Clip as close as you can to the stitching without cutting the threads. This will give your tail more flexibility when it's turned.



17. TURN AND STUFF THE TAIL

- Turn the tail right side out through the opening and define the curves with a chopstick or similar blunt tool.
- Stuff the tail lightly with stuffing so it takes shape.

shiba cube plush

SEWING TUTORIAL



18. ATTACH THE TAIL

- Thread a hand sewing needle with tan 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. 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.
- Position the tail at the lower back of the cube. It should be centered along the back and about $\frac{1}{4}$ " up from the bottom seam. Make sure the tail is pointing upward as well. Once it's aligned, sew the tail in place with a ladder stitch around the base.

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.



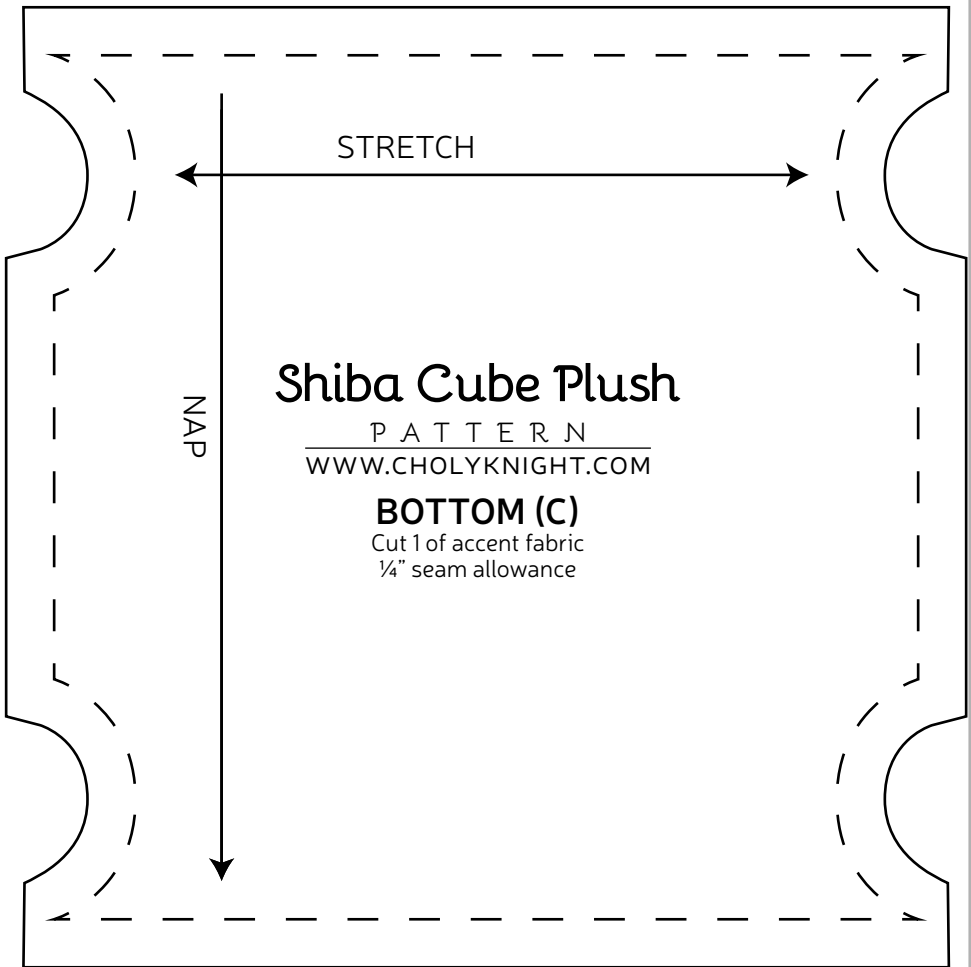
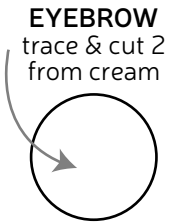
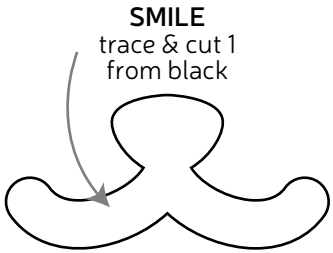
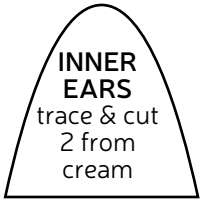
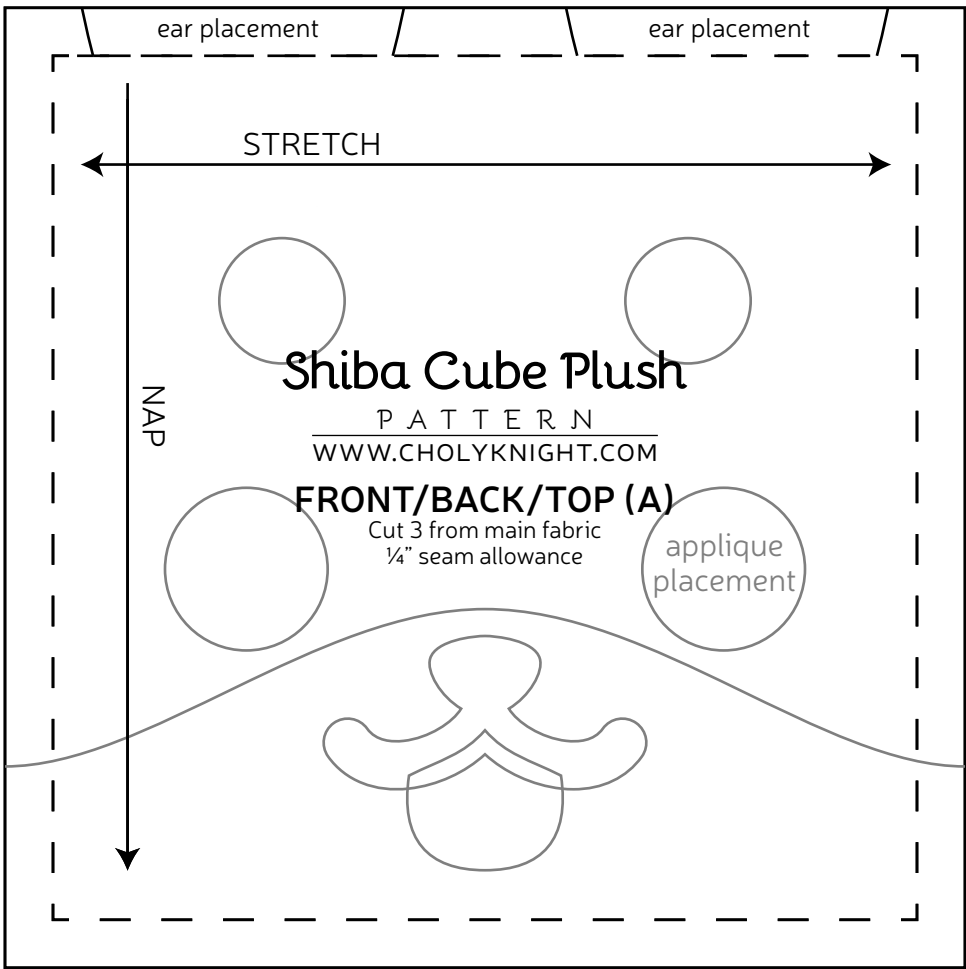
19. ADD THE EYE SHINE

- This part is optional, but to give your plush that extra finishing touch, I like to dab a bit of white fabric paint in the corner of each eye for that little something. Let it dry fully before cuddling!
- You could also do a French knot in white thread or glue on a rhinestone for the eye shine as well.

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

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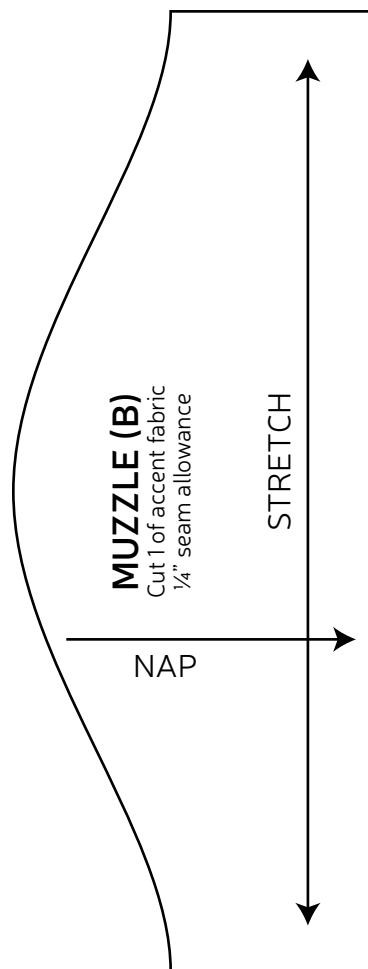
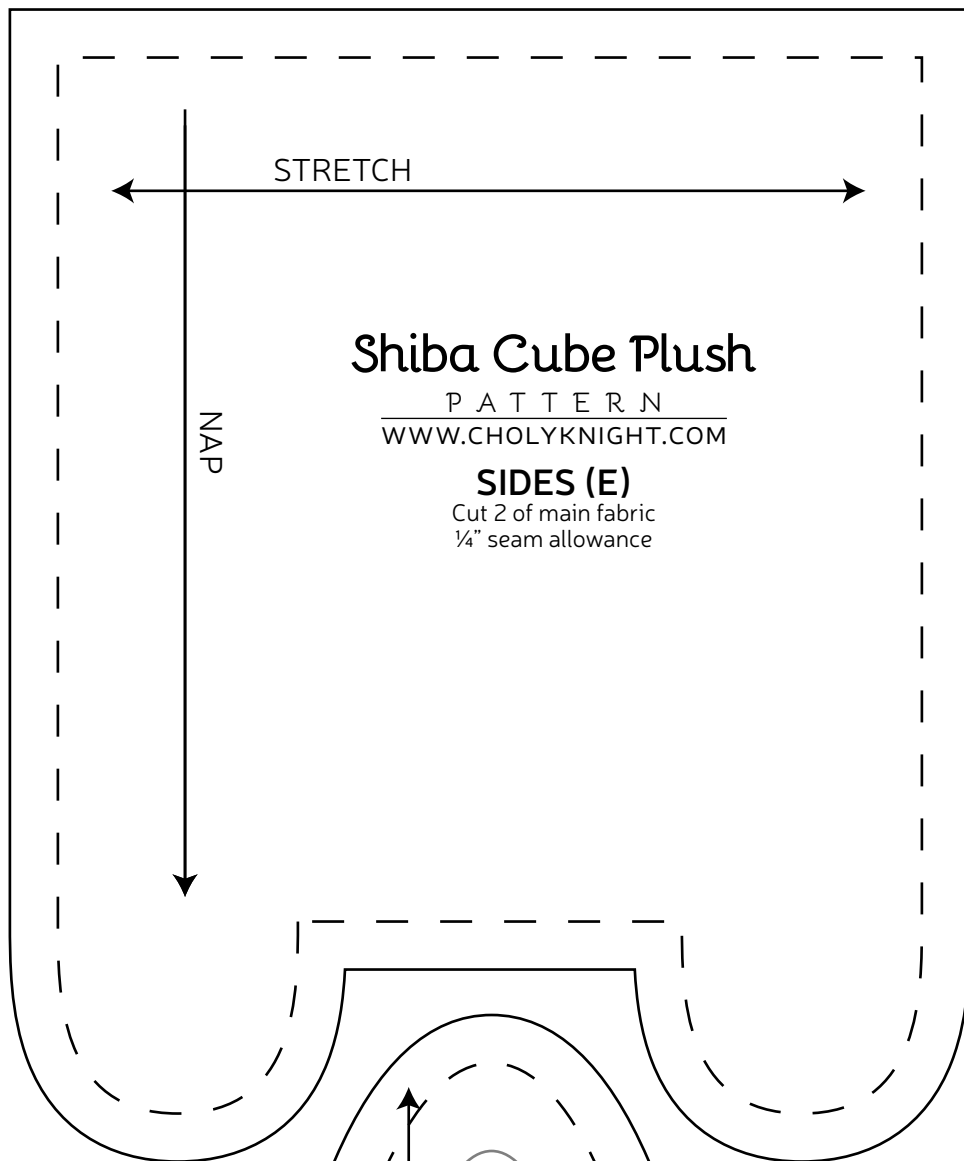


Shiba Cube Plush

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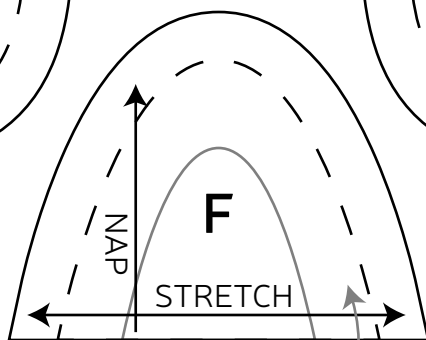
SIDES (E)

Cut 2 of main fabric
1/4" seam allowance



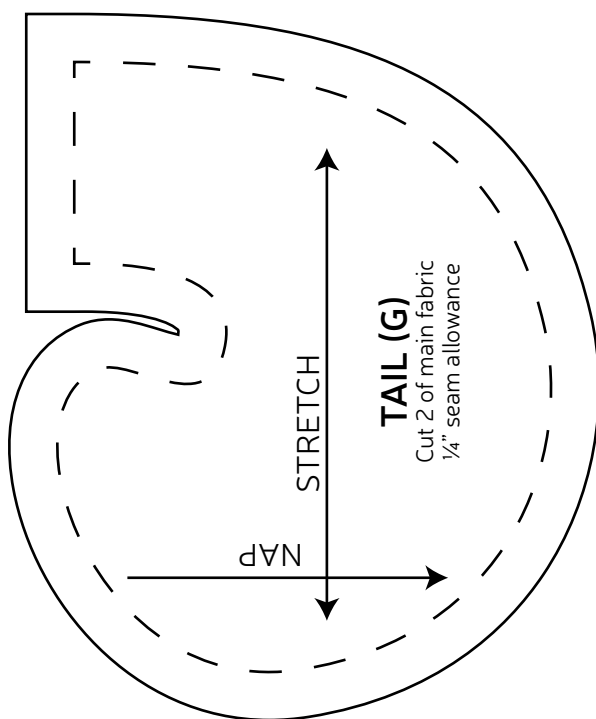
MUZZLE (B)

Cut 1 of accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance



EARS (F)

Cut 4 of main fabric
1/4" seam allowance

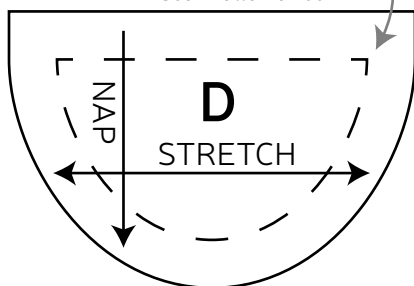


TAIL (G)

Cut 2 of main fabric
1/4" seam allowance

INNER LEGS (D)

Cut 4 of accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance



D