

spider plush



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



spider plush

This cute spider plush might convert a few arachnophobics! It has a cute face with 4 peeping eyes and a chubby abdomen with fun markings. And of course there are the required 8 legs too!

DIFFICULTY:



The legs for this plush are a little challenging, since you're trying to fit 8 of them into a tiny head. Try to work slowly and carefully when sewing them for the best result.

SKILLS USED:

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

MAKES:

One plush: about 3" tall, 5" wide, and 7" long



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materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. of fabric for main body
- 3" x 3" piece of white applique fabric (such as cotton, felt, or flannel) for eyes
- 3" x 3" piece of accent applique fabric for pupils
- optional 3" x 3" piece of accent applique fabric for abdomen markings
- 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)

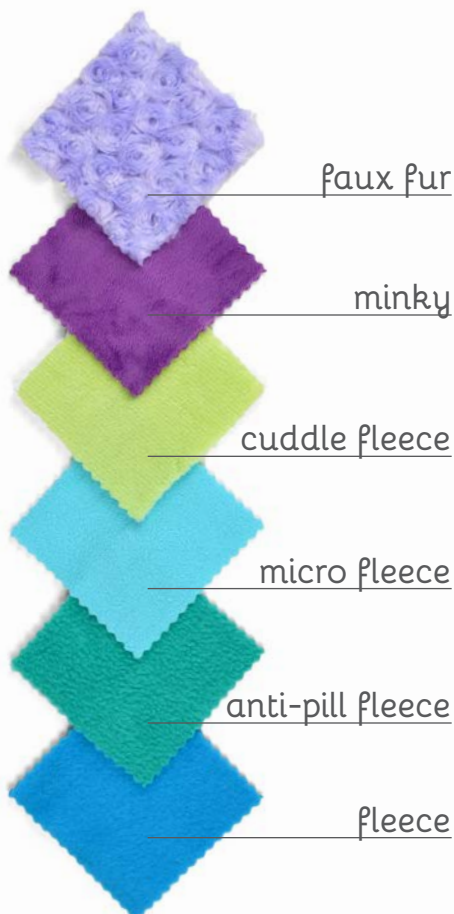


SUGGESTED FABRICS:

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

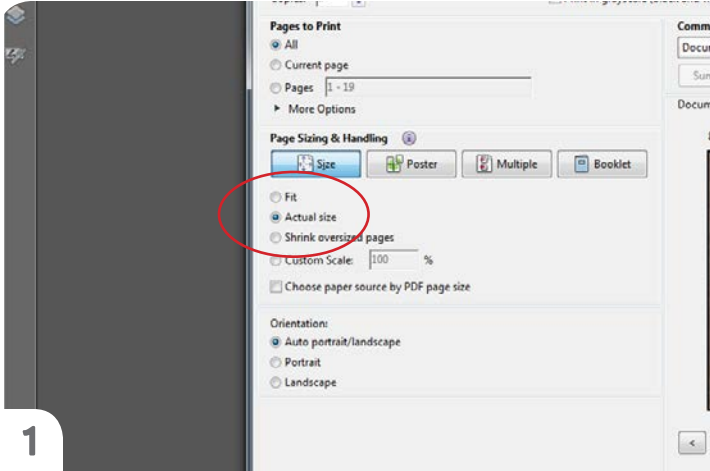


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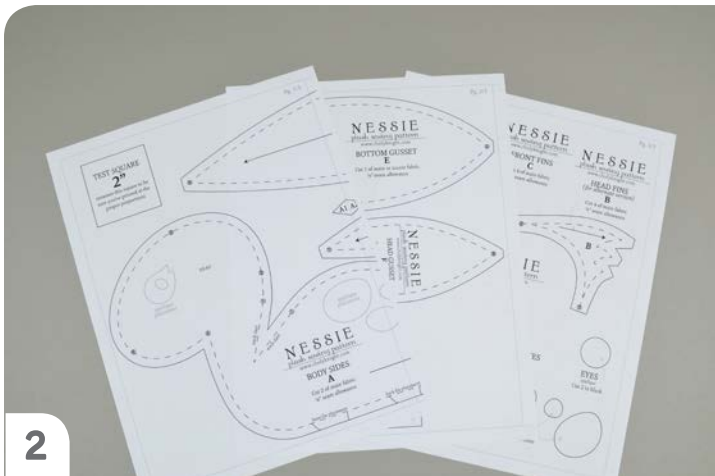
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printing the pattern:

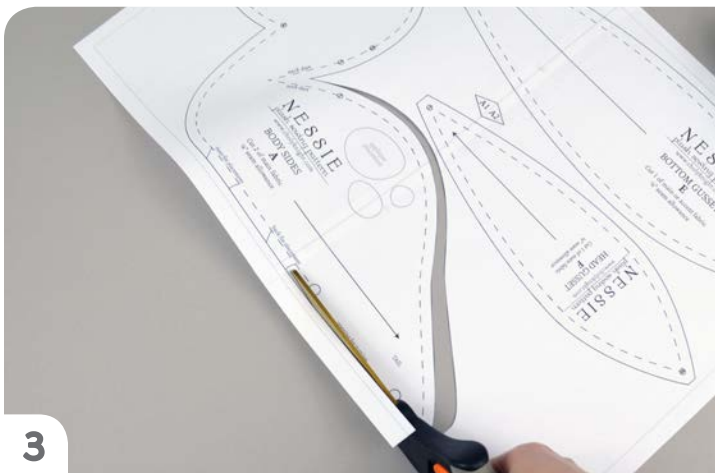
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 14-15**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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



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

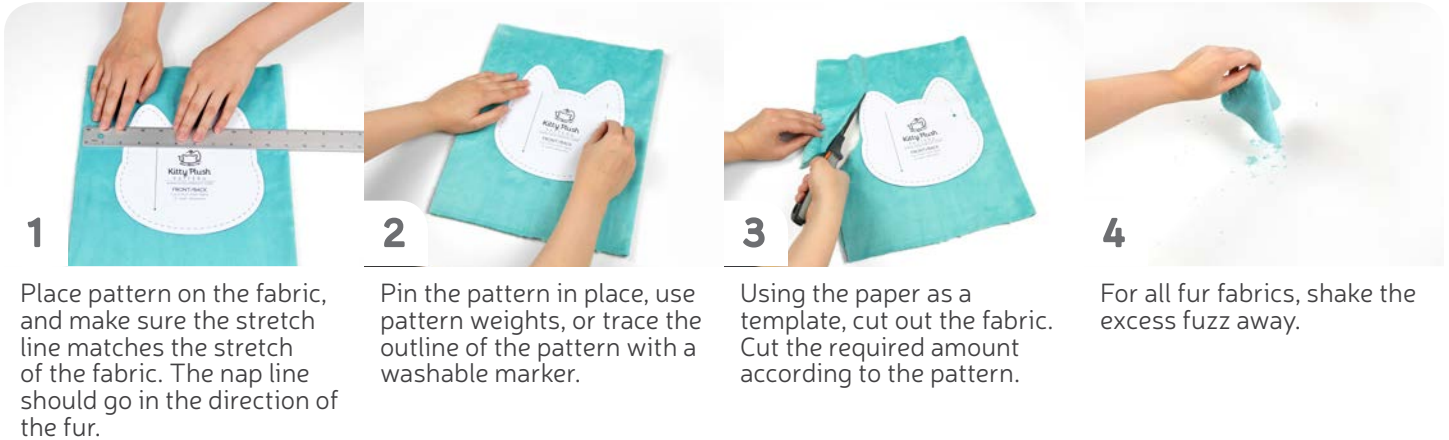


You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper. They might be a little hard to pin through, so you might want to use your longest pins. But you could also use pattern weights or trace the outlines onto the fabric with a washable marker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

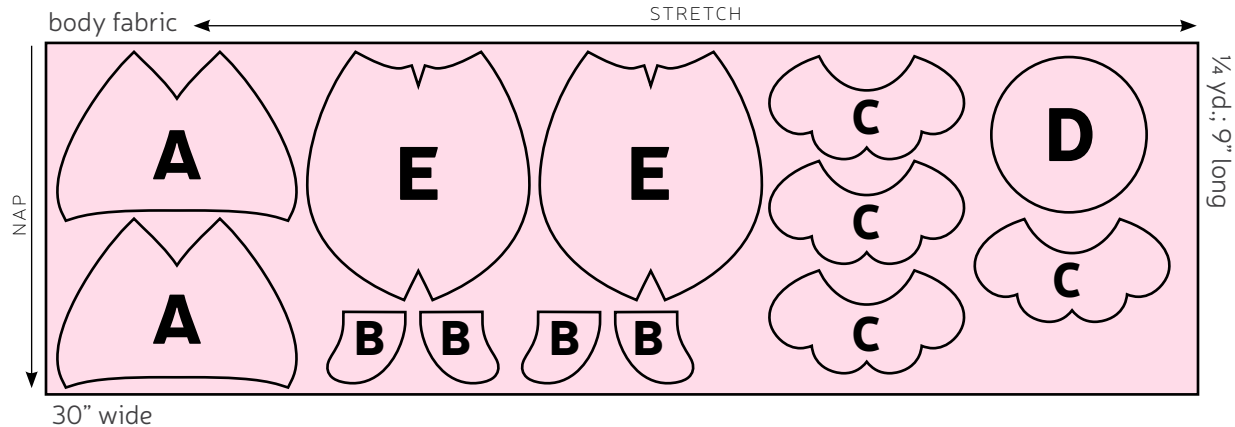
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cutting the fabric:



cutting layout:



BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Briefly read the project instructions so you know what to expect.
- If desired, mark the cut fabric pieces with the markings and symbols from the pattern. Or wait until the applicable step before transferring.
- Note that a 1/4" seam allowance is used throughout the project.

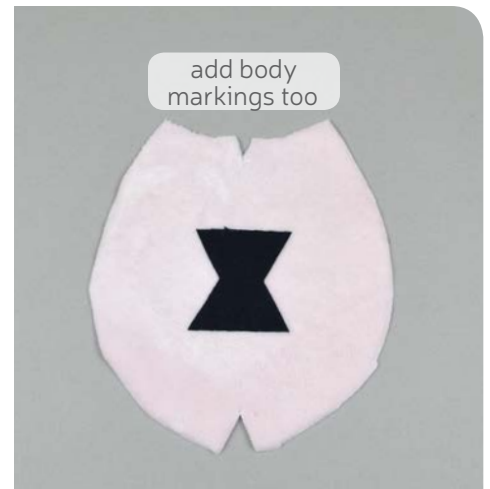
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1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Grab your fusible web and trace all the applique pieces you want onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have two large eyes, two small eyes, two large pupils, two small pupils, and optional body markings.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The eyes should go on white, and the pupils on black or another accent color.
- Cut out the eyes and arrange them on the **HEAD (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.



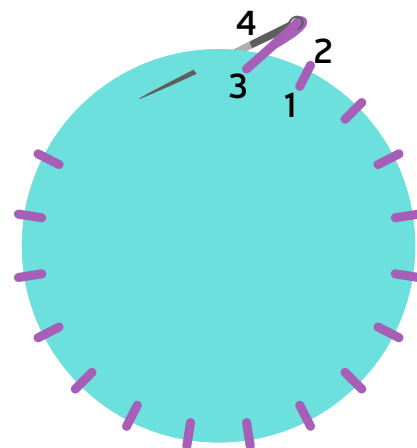
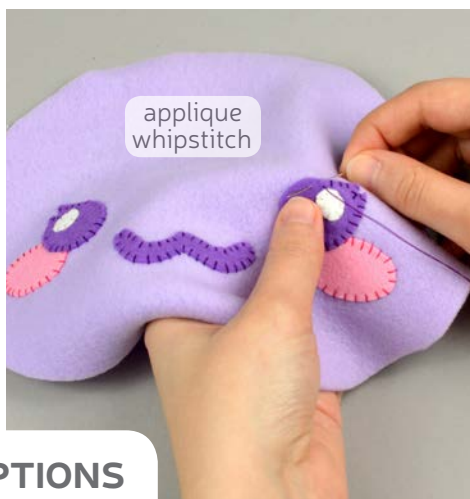
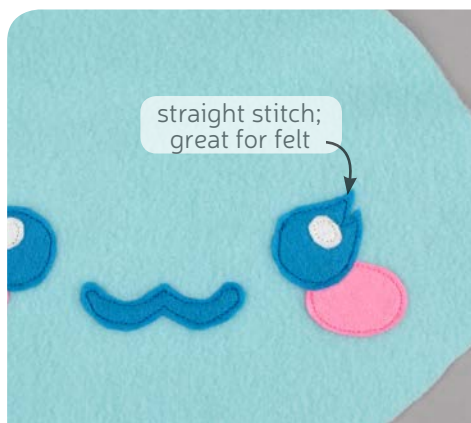
2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the eye piece in place with your iron. Use a press cloth if you're using a polyester or fuzzy fabric like minky.
- Next, move onto the smaller pieces. Fuse them the same way as you did the eyes, using the paper pattern and photos as a guide.
- If you're adding body markings, take this time to fuse them as well. 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 HEAD DART

- Find the small open wedge shape at the top of the **HEAD (A)** piece. This is a **dart**. To sew it, fold the head 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 head seam so you have both a front and back head.

darts:

A wedge-shaped gap found in a pattern. When sewn in fabric, it creates a tuck in the fabric and develops a 3D shape. The diagonal sides of the wedge are the **LEGS**; these are matched up and sewn to the **POINT** of the dart.

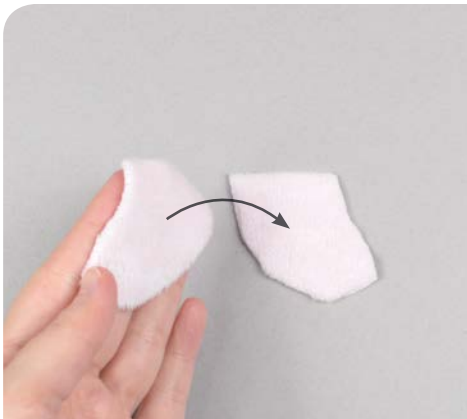
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4. SEW THE HEAD TOP

- Grab both of your **HEAD** pieces (A) and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up. The **darts** at the top should also line up.
- Sew the head pieces around the curved top area. Leave the straight area along the bottom free for attaching the **BOTTOM** (D) later.
- Turn the head right side out when complete.



5. SEW THE MANDIBLES

- Grab your **MANDIBLE** pieces (B). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the curved edge. Leave the short straight edge free for turning the mandible later.
- Turn the mandible right side out and repeat with the other two mandible pieces for two complete mandibles total.

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6. BASTE THE MANDIBLES

- Stuff the **MANDIBLE** very lightly with stuffing. Just enough so it takes shape.
- If you haven't already, locate the **mandible placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the **HEAD (A)**. Transfer them over to the head front fabric. Align the open end of the mandibles within these placement lines so they point toward the center of the head. They should be spaced no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ " apart (to make attaching the legs easier later).
- Baste the mandibles to the head front within the seam allowance to hold them in place 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).

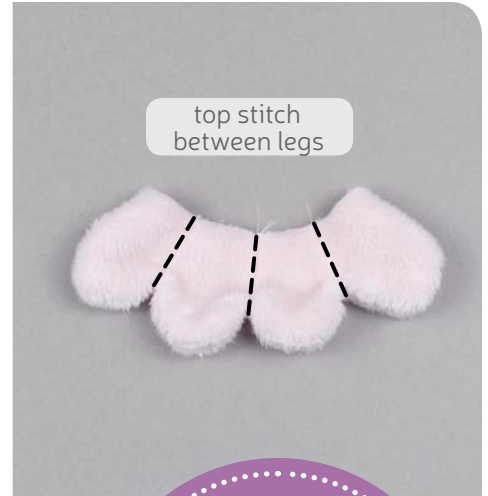


7. SEW THE LEGS

- Grab your **LEG** pieces (C). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- To get the distinct leg shapes, it helps to trace the seam line from the paper pattern. Trim away the seam allowances from the paper and use it as a template to trace onto the wrong side of the fabric for each leg.
- Sew the legs together along the traced lines. Leave the curved edge free for turning the legs right side out later. Repeat this with your other leg pieces so you have two sets of legs total.

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8. TOP STITCH THE LEGS

- Trim the excess seam allowance between the **LEGS**. Clip as close as you can to the stitching without actually cutting the threads. This will help increase flexibility when the pieces are turned.
- Turn the legs right side out and define each leg with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- To separate each leg, the pieces have **top stitching** in between each bump. Transfer the **top stitching lines** over from the paper pattern and stitch along the traced lines.

top stitching:

one or several lines of stitching done on the right side of a project to serve a decorative purpose



9. STUFF THE LEGS

- Stuff each **LEG** slot very lightly with stuffing (this will make step 11 easier).
- Retrieve your head from before. Place it so it's on its side and the head seam is facing up as shown.
- If you haven't already, locate the **leg placement markings** found on the paper pattern for the **HEAD** (A). Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align one end of the leg at this marking. Bend the leg and line up the rest of the opening along the bottom edge of the head. It's a bit of a tight fit so work one small area at a time.

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10. BASTE THE LEGS

- When the **LEGS** are fully pinned to the **HEAD**, baste them in place just like with the **MANDIBLES**.
- When complete, both sets of legs and the two mandibles should be attached to the head. Check that the pieces are symmetrical before moving forward.
- Flip the head wrong side out and tuck the mandibles and legs inside. Grab your **HEAD BOTTOM** piece (D). This will be attached to the head next. Note the **notches** found on the paper pattern, these will match up with the **notches** on the head front and back as well. Pin the head bottom to the head, trapping all the legs and mandibles inside.



11. SEW THE HEAD BOTTOM

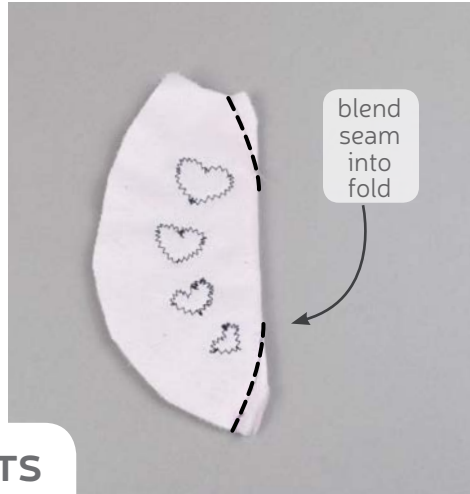
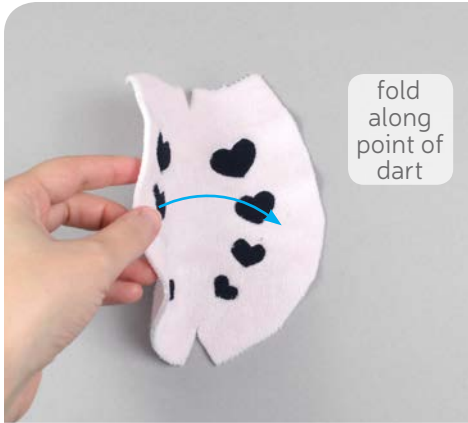
- Sew the **HEAD BOTTOM** to the **HEAD**, but leave a space in the back in between the **LEGS** for turning the piece later. This step is a little crowded, so work slowly -- just an inch or so at a time.
- Turn the head right side out through the opening.
- Stuff the head firmly with stuffing so it takes on a dome shape and there are no wrinkles in the fabric. Set it aside while we work on the body.

TIP:

If you still have trouble attaching the legs to the head, you might want to consider attaching them to the body instead. There's more room to work there. And while it's not technically accurate the spider will still look great!

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12. SEW THE BODY DARTS

- Grab your **BODY** pieces (E). Take one and sew the **darts** for it just like with the **HEAD** back in step 3. Fold it in half along the dart points with right sides facing.
- Stitch the **darts** by starting at the opening and working into the fold of the fabric. Blend your stitching into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.
- Repeat this with both **darts** on one of the body pieces. Then repeat with the two darts on the other body piece as well.



13. SEW THE BODY

- Take both of your **BODY** pieces and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up. The **darts** at the top and bottom should also match.
- Sew the body pieces together around the long curved edge. Leave the short curved edge free for attaching to the body later.
- Turn the body right side out and stuff firmly with stuffing so there are no wrinkles in the fabric.

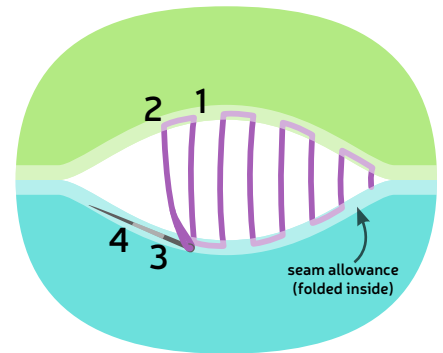
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14. ATTACH THE HEAD

- Grab your **HEAD** from before. Align the opening in the back of the head with the opening in the **BODY**. Attach them with a ladder stitch.
- Start by taking a stitch into the center back of the **HEAD BOTTOM** (D). Take another stitch along the dart in the body opening. Work around, attaching the head to the body with big basting stitches (see ladder stitch guide at right). This should close up the openings in both the head and the body.
- Continue until you reach the top of the head and the body. To check for symmetry, the head dart should be centered with the body dart. Continue stitching until you're back where you started. Pause for a moment and check that you like the placement of the head from all angles. From here, go around once more with tinier, neater stitches now that you have the placement right.



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



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BODY (E)

Cut 2 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance

STRETCH

applique
placement

NAP

MANDIBLES (B)
Cut 4 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance

LEGS (C)
Cut 4 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance

top stitching

NAP

STRETCH



Spider Plush

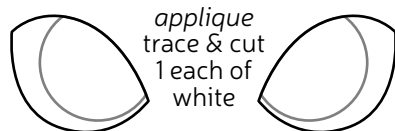
PATTERN

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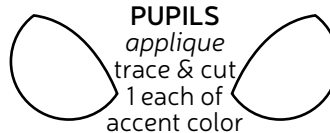
HEAD BOTTOM (D)

Cut 1 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance

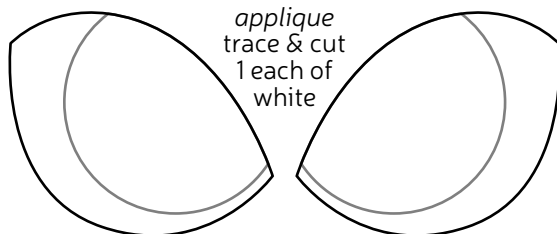
SMALL EYES



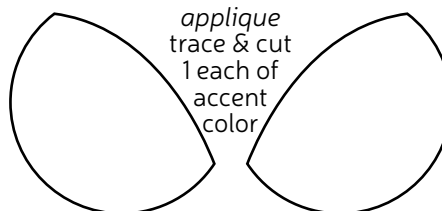
SMALL PUPILS



LARGE EYES

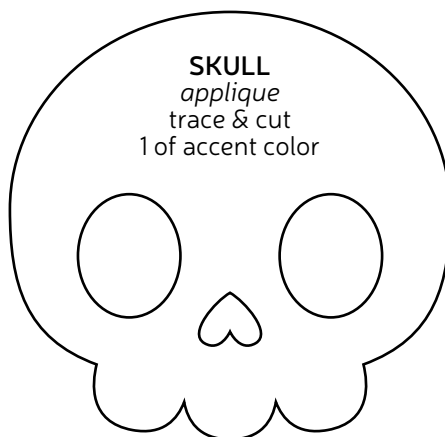


LARGE PUPILS



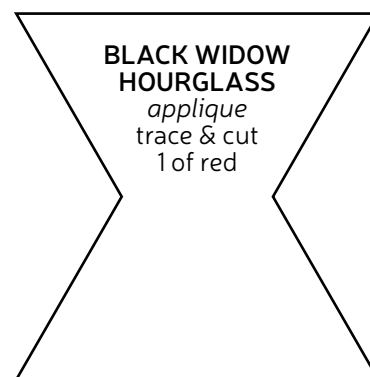
HEARTS

applique
trace & cut
2 each of accent color



BLACK WIDOW HOURGLASS

applique
trace & cut
1 of red



HEAD FRONT & BACK (A)

Cut 2 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance

