

Seto Plush



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



Teto Plush

Fans of the Ghibli films *Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind* or *Laputa* should recognize this adorable fox squirrel! He is originally a beloved pet to Nausicaa in the 1987 Ghibli film, and makes a small cameo in the *Laputa* film.

This plush version features a flat, beanie-style body with a contrast forehead, ear tips, and striped tail. It also comes in 2 sizes, originally intended to help different embroidery machine hoops. But if you are using a regular machine, this will give you some size options for variety!

MAKES:

LARGE SIZE: 8" long, 4½" tall, and 4½" wide

SMALL SIZE: 6" long, 3½" tall, and 3½" wide

SKILLS USED:

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

DIFFICULTY:



The hardest part of this plush is likely attaching the ears, since they're sewn at an angle to make a more 3D shape. However, that can be skipped for a simpler method, explained later.



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materials & tools:

LARGE SIZE

- 1/3 yd. of light brown or gold fabric for body
- 1/8 yd. of dark brown fabric for ear tips and tail stripes
- 1/8 yd. of cream fabric for neck ruff
- 3" x 3" piece of green applique fabric (flannel, felt, fleece, cotton, etc.) for eyes
- 2" x 2" piece of white applique fabric for eye shines
- 1" x 1" piece of black applique fabric for nostrils
- 3" x 4" piece of brown applique fabric for stripes
- 3" x 3" piece of pink applique fabric for paws
- 5" x 5" piece of cream applique fabric for belly and inner ears
- 7" x 7" 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)

SMALL SIZE

- 1/4 yd. of light brown or gold fabric for body
- 1/8 yd. of dark brown fabric for ear tips and tail stripes
- 1/8 yd. of cream fabric for neck ruff
- 3" x 3" piece of green applique fabric (flannel, felt, fleece, cotton, etc.) for eyes
- 2" x 2" piece of white applique fabric for eye shines
- 1" x 1" piece of black applique fabric for nostrils
- 3" x 4" piece of brown applique fabric for stripes
- 3" x 3" piece of pink applique fabric for paws
- 5" x 5" piece of cream applique fabric for belly and inner ears
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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 crosswise 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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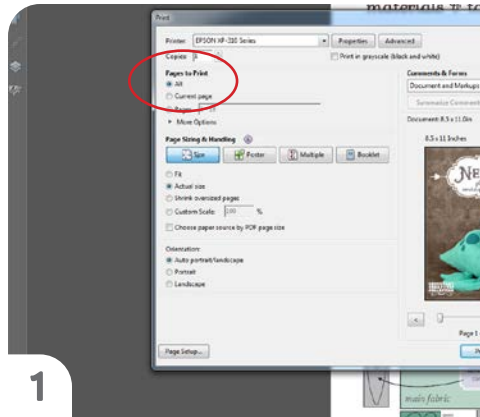
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printing the pattern:

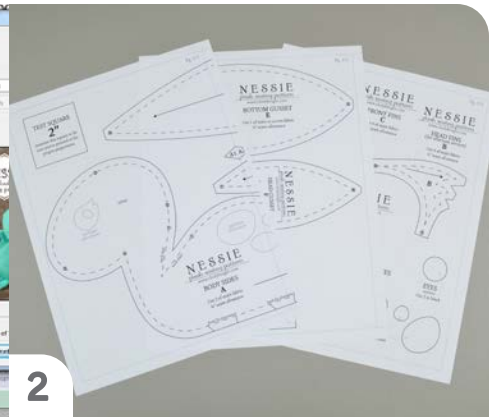
LARGE SIZE TEMPLATES: pg. 21-24

SMALL SIZE TEMPLATES: pg. 25-27

To print the pattern, set your computer to print the size you want, based on the page numbers shown above. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



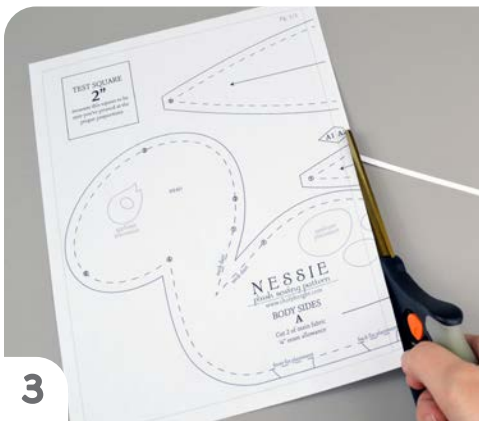
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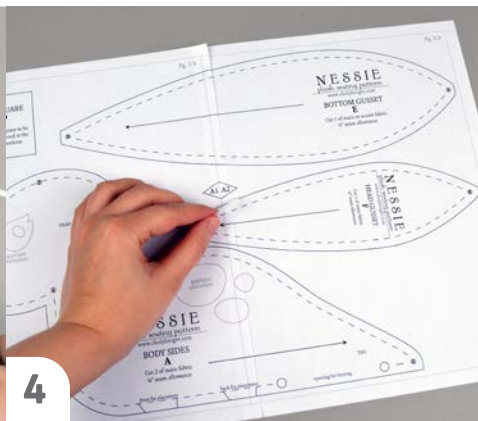
2

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.



3



4



5

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.

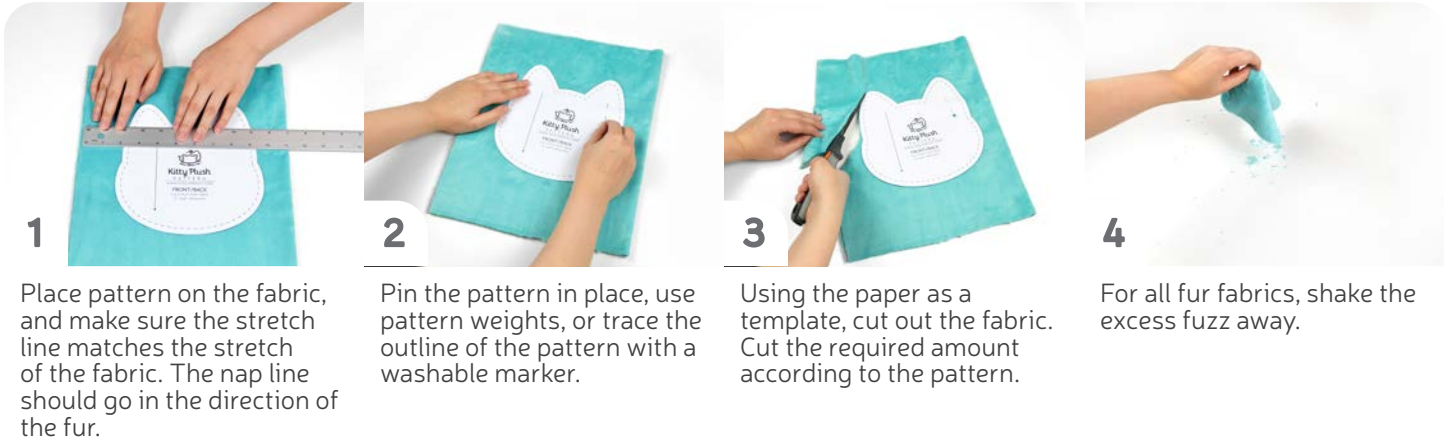
If you have many pages, it's easier to tape up the pages into rows first. Then tape the rows together into a full block.

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.

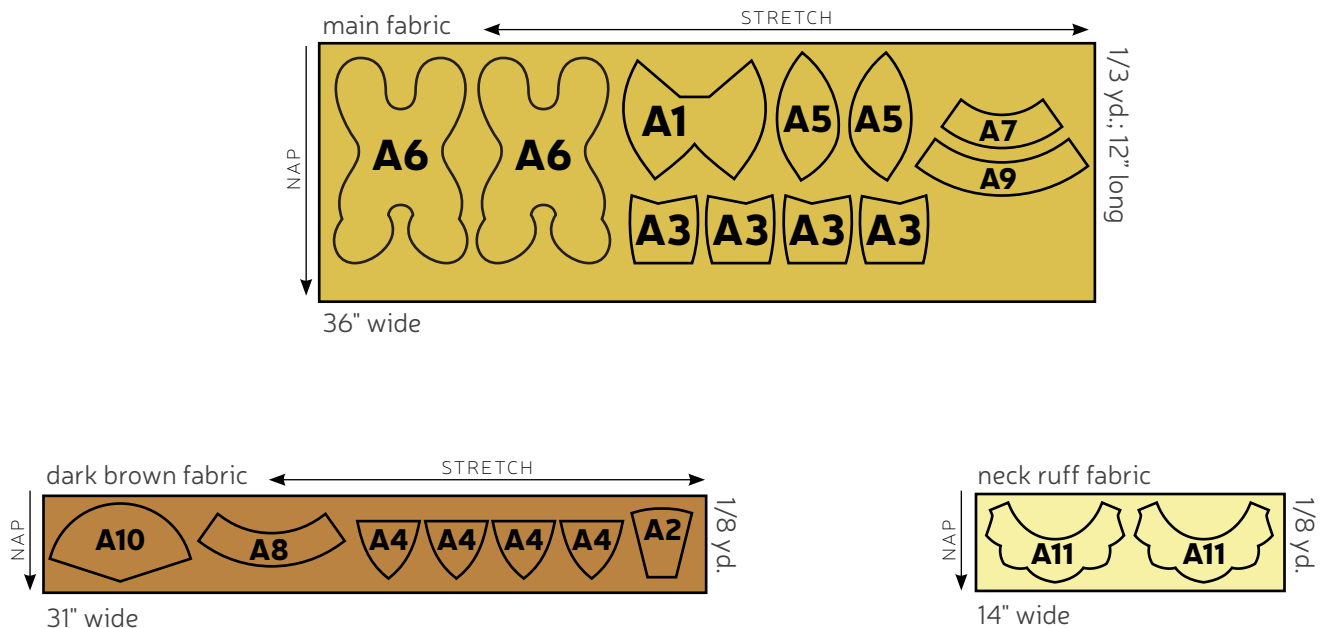
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cutting the fabric:



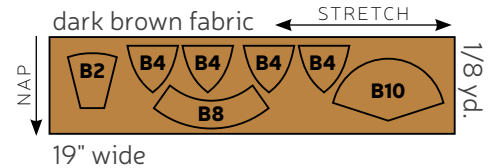
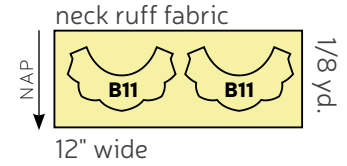
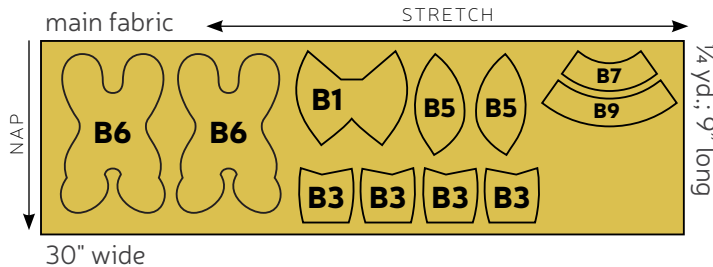
cutting layout: large size



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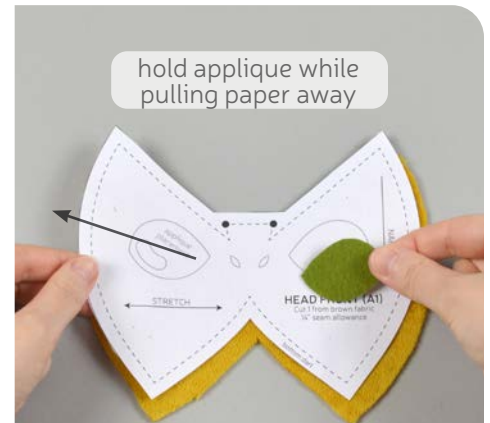
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cutting layout: small size



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.



1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Grab your fusible web and trace all the applique pieces onto the smooth (paper) side. You'll need two **eyes**, two **eye shines**, and two **nostrils**.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The **eyes** should go on green, the **eye shines** on white, and the **nostrils** on black.
- Cut out the **eyes** and arrange them on the **HEAD FRONT** (A1 or B1) 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.

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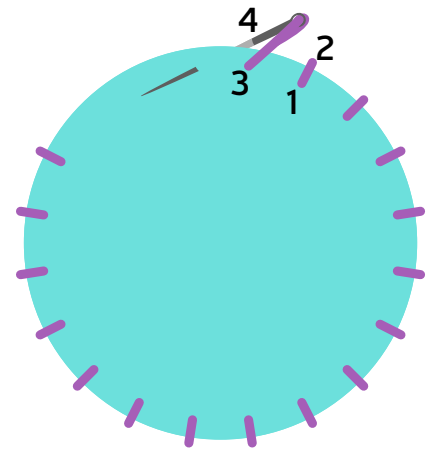
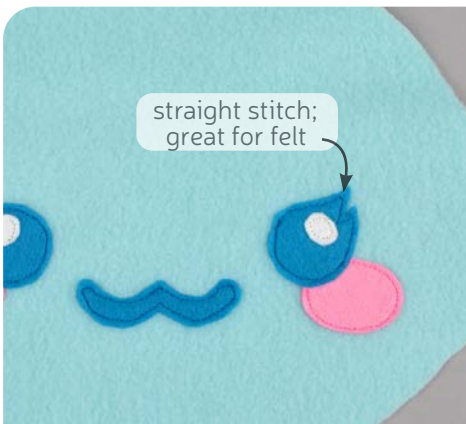
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2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the **eyes** 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: the **eye shines** and **nostrils**. Fuse them the same way as you did the **eyes**, 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.



2a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

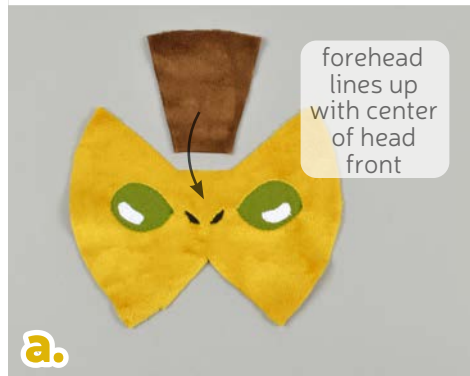
- Other good options for applique include a straight stitch, which involves sewing around the edge of the applique pieces with a straight stitch using matching thread -- about 1/8" in from the edge.
- You can also applique by hand; I prefer a whipstitch. Thread a hand-sewing needle with some matching 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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- a. Grab your **HEAD FRONT** (A/B1) and your **FOREHEAD** piece (A/B2).
- b. Align the short edge of the forehead with the short edge between the eyes on the head front piece. These edges are marked with **circles** for easy identification.
- c. Sew the forehead to the head front at this area between the **circles**.
- d. Once complete, open up the pieces and treat the whole head front as one piece of the head.

3. ATTACH THE FOREHEAD



4. APPLIQUE THE EARS

- a. Grab two of your **EAR BASE** pieces (A/B3). Use the same process from steps 1-2 to applique the ear fluffs to the ear base pieces. Trace the templates from the paper pattern, fuse it to your applique fabric, and cut out the pieces. Fuse the cut pieces to your ear base fabric, then stitch around the edge of the fabric if desired.

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5. SEW THE EAR TIPS

- Grab your **EAR TIP** pieces (A/B4). The edges with the **single notches** will be sewn together next.
- Line up the **notched** edge of the ear tip with the **notched** edge of the **EAR BASE** (A/B3)
- Sew the ear base to the ear tip along the **notched** edge only.
Repeat this step with your remaining ear base pieces (the blank ones) so you have four ear pieces total.



6. SEW THE EARS

- Open up the **EAR** pieces when the sewing is complete.
- Align a blank ear piece with one that has applique. Make sure right sides are facing and match up the raw edges.
- Sew the ear pieces together along the long pointed edge. Leave the short straight edges along the bottom free for turning the ear right side out later. Repeat so you have a pair of matching ears as shown.

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7. TRIM AND TURN THE EARS

- Trim the excess seam allowance at the tip of the **EAR** to reduce bulk.
- Turn the ears right side out. Define the tips with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- Place both ears on your work surface with the applied **ear fluff** facing up. Use the paper pattern as a guideline to find the **clipping line** for the ears. Clip the base of the ear along this line on both ears. Your ear will bend along this clip later.



8. ALIGN THE EAR CORNERS

- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** piece (A/B1) from before. Note the open areas found between the **FOREHEAD** (A/B2) and the head front. The corners of the ears will be sewn into these openings for a more 3D finished look.
- Place the clipped corner of the ear along the top point of the head front with the applied side facing down.

TIP:

If steps 8-10 are too difficult for you, you can skip sewing the ear into the forehead seam. Instead:

1. Sew the forehead to the head front without the ear inside.
2. Fold the ear along the clipping line instead of cutting it.
3. Baste the folded ears to the top of the head, starting at the forehead seam.

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- a. Fold the rest of the ear out of the way (along the clipped part). The clipped corner of the ear should now be aligned against the corner of the **HEAD FRONT**, ¼" away from the top (for the seam allowance).

Fold the **FOREHEAD** over the corner of the **EAR**. This will sandwich the ear between the two fabrics. Match up the forehead with the head front as you would with a typical seam.



9. SEW THE FOREHEAD SEAMS

- b. Sew the seam by starting at the corner with the ear and working down to the end of the forehead. Repeat with your remaining **EAR** piece and the other edge of the forehead. When complete both ears should be secured into the head through just the corners. Check your seam when complete to be sure the ear is secure and there are no holes.



10. BASTE THE EARS

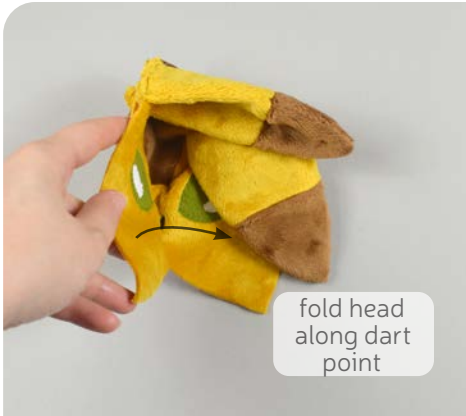
- a. Fold the free edge of the **EAR** around the top of the **HEAD FRONT**. The open edge of the ear should align with the side of the head front.
- b. Baste the ear to the head front within the seam allowance to hold it for future steps.
- c. When complete, the ears should make a nice 3D shape!

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).

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11. SEW THE BOTTOM DART

- Locate the open wedge found on the bottom center of the **HEAD FRONT** (A/B1) piece -- this is a **dart**. To sew it, start by folding the front piece in half along the point of the dart and match up the slanted lines that make the wedge shape.
- Sew the **bottom dart** by starting at the opening and moving down to the point.
- When sewing to the point, try to blend your seam into the fold of the fabric for a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.

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.



12. SEW THE HEAD BACK

- Grab your two **HEAD BACK** pieces (A/B5). Align them together 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. Transfer them over to the wrong side of the fabric. Sew along this edge of the **HEAD BACK** pieces only, but be sure to leave the opening for turning that you marked.
- Open up your **HEAD BACK** pieces.

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13. SEW THE HEAD

- Grab the **HEAD FRONT** piece you have so far. Align it to the **HEAD BACK** with right sides facing. The **back seam** should match up with the **center bottom dart** on the front as well as the **center notch** on the **FOREHEAD** (A/B2). The top of the head back is marked with a **circle marking** for extra help.
- Sew around the perimeter of the head completely.
- Turn the head right side out through the opening you left in the back.

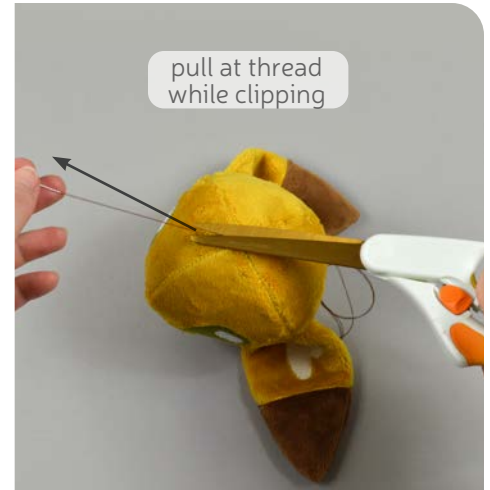
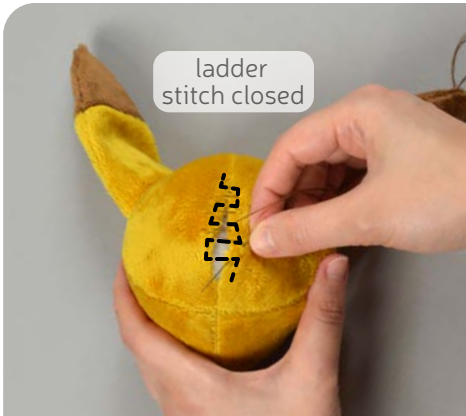


14. STUFF THE HEAD

- Stuff the head firmly with stuffing. Focus most of it on the face area until the nose pops out and there are no wrinkles in the fabric.
- After the face looks full, fill the rest of the head.
- 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.

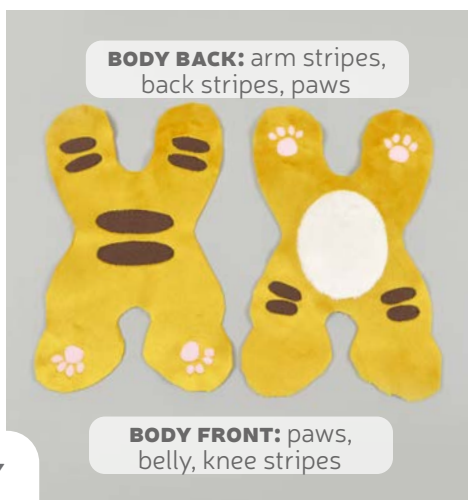
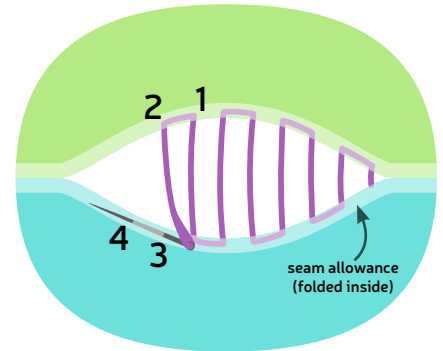
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15. CLOSE UP THE HEAD

- 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.
- 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!



16. APPLIQUE THE BODY

- Grab your **BODY** pieces (A/B6). Use the same process from steps 1-2 to applique the body markings to the body pieces. Trace the templates from the paper pattern, fuse it to your applique fabric, and cut out the pieces.
- Fuse the cut pieces to your body fabric. The front of the body will get the **belly**, two **front paws**, and four **knee stripes**. The back of the body will get four **arm stripes**, two **back stripes**, and two **back paws**. Stitch around the edge of the fabric if desired.

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17. SEW THE BODY

- Align the back of the **BODY** over the front of the body with right sides facing and raw edges aligning.
- If you haven't already, locate the **opening for turning marking** found along the arm of the body. Transfer it over to the wrong side of the fabrics you've just stacked. Sew the body pieces together around the entire shape, but leave an opening near the arm where you just marked.
- Clip into the seam allowances at the tight curves and corners to increase flexibility when the body is turned next.



18. STUFF AND CLOSE THE BODY

- Turn the **BODY** right side out through the opening in the arm. Define the arms and legs with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- Stuff the body semi-firmly with stuffing, just enough so it puffs up and there are no wrinkles in the fabric.
- Sew the opening in the body closed with a ladder stitch, similar to back in step 15.

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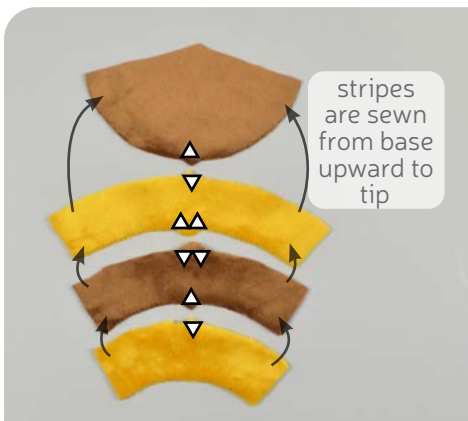
- Grab your finished **HEAD** so far and a water-soluble fabric marker. On the bottom back of the head, draw a circle that's about 1½" wide for a **LARGE TETO**, and 1" wide for a **SMALL** one. The paper pattern has a guide for extra help too.
- Draw another circle of the same size between the front legs on the **BODY**. Refer to the paper pattern for a guide.
- Align the head over the body so the circles you've drawn match up.
- Sew the head to the body with a ladder stitch, using the drawn circles as stitching guides.

19. ATTACH THE HEAD



TIP:

Take big basting stitches for the first pass to make sure the head placement is right. Check to see that you like it, then go around again with neater, tinier stitches for the second pass.



20. SEW THE FIRST AND SECOND TAIL STRIPE

- The tail is sewn from a series of curved stripes as shown. They're marked with notches to help line up which stripe is attached to the next one and so on.
- First, grab your **TAIL STRIPE 1: BASE** (A/B7) and **TAIL STRIPE 2** (A/B8) pieces. They should be different colors. Line up the sides with the single notch and pin the fabrics.
- Sew the stripes together along the single-notched edge.

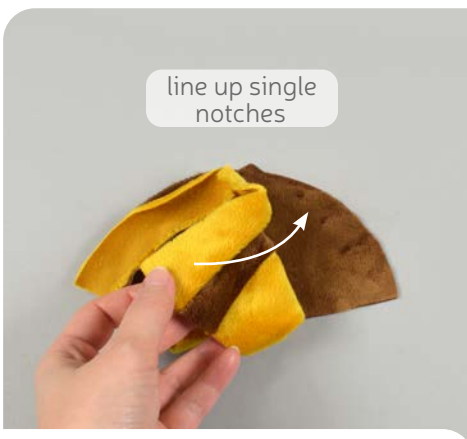
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21. SEW THE THIRD TAIL STRIPE

- Open up your stripes so far.
- Grab your **TAIL STRIPE 3** (A/B9) piece. It will be attached to the second stripe. Line up the edges with the double notches and pin the fabric.
- Sew the stripes together along this edge.



22. SEW THE TAIL TIP

- Open up your stripes so far.
Grab your **TAIL TIP** piece (A/B10), this will be attached to your third stripe. Line up the edges with the single notches and pin the fabrics together.
- Sew the stripes to the tail tip along this edge.
- Open up the fabrics for the completed tail stripes!

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23. SEW THE TAIL



- Fold the **TAIL** in half lengthwise with right sides facing. This should make the tail skinnier and match up the stripe seams from the previous steps.
- Sew the tail together along the edge with the stripe seams. Leave the short edge at the base of the tail free for turning the tail right side out.
- Once complete, turn the tail right side out.



24. CINCH TAIL CLOSED



- Stuff the tail fully with stuffing so it takes shape.
- 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.

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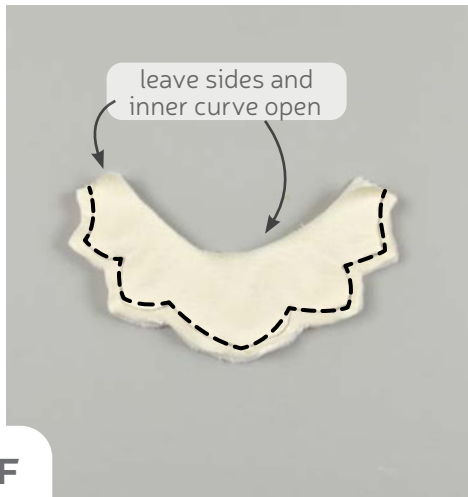
25. ATTACH THE TAIL



- Align the cinched end of the **TAIL** at the back of the **BODY**. Center it about 1/4" above the seam between the back legs. 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, similar to back in step 15.



26. SEW THE NECK RUFF



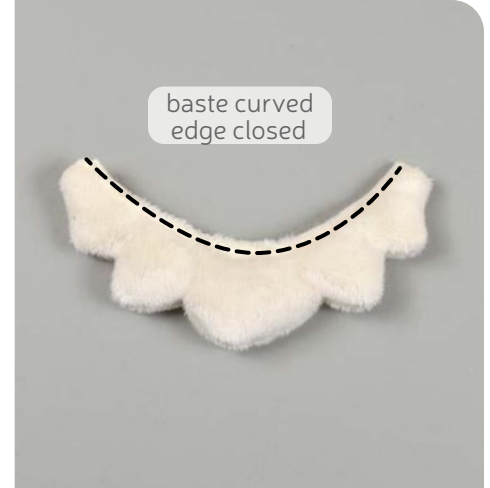
- Grab your **NECK RUFF** pieces (A/B11). Take both of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges aligning.
- Sew the ruff pieces together along the pointed edge. Leave the short ends on the side and the curved edge in the middle open.
- Trim the excess seam allowance at the tight inner corners to reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned later.

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27. STUFF THE RUFF



- a. Turn the **RUFF** (A/B11) right side out through the opening.
- b. Place a small amount of stuffing in the ruff, especially in the points of the shape.
- c. Baste the ruff closed along the top curved edge. Sew slowly and push the stuffing into the ruff as you go to prevent any stuffing from peeking out.



28. ATTACH THE RUFF

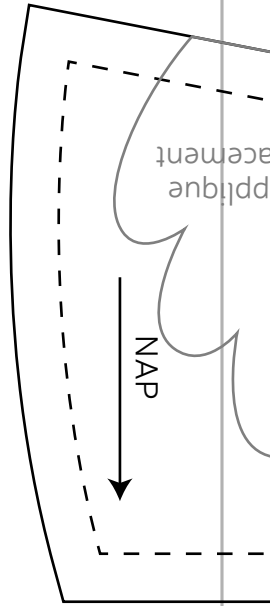
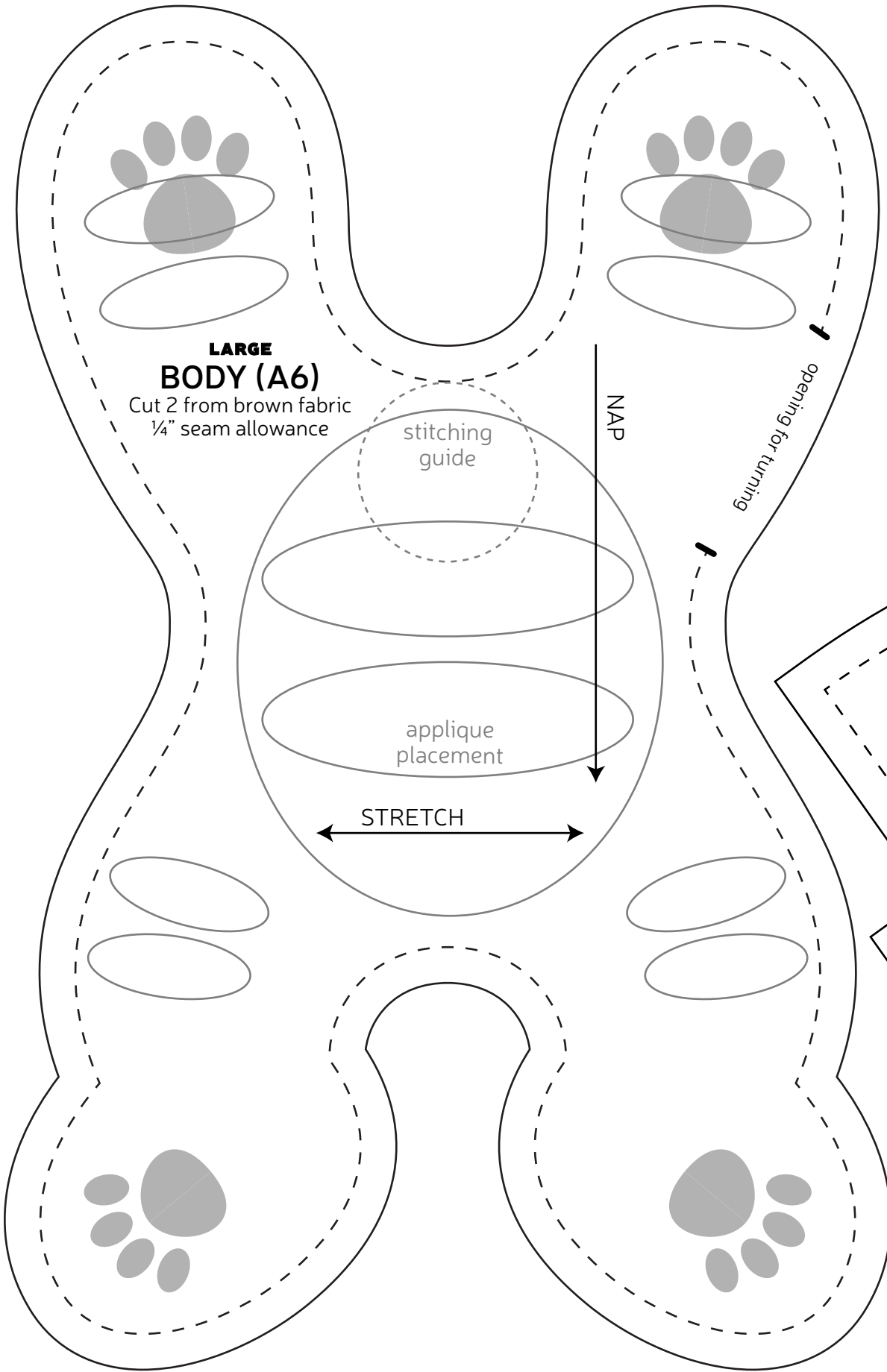


- a. Wrap the ruff around the neck of your Teto.
- b. Bring the short ends together at the back of the head so right sides are facing. Flip the ruff up so the tips are pointing up. This will allow you to stitch the underside of the ruff. Stitch the short ends of the ruff together by hand, using whatever stitch comes easiest to you. A whip stitch would be a good option here. Go across the edge 2-3 times to ensure the stitching is secure and strong.
- c. If the tips of the ruff were pointing up, you should be able to flip the ruff down now and hide your seam.

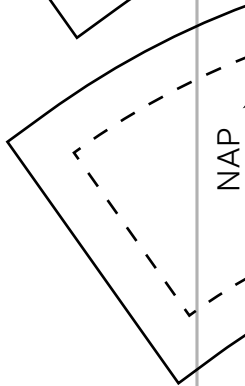
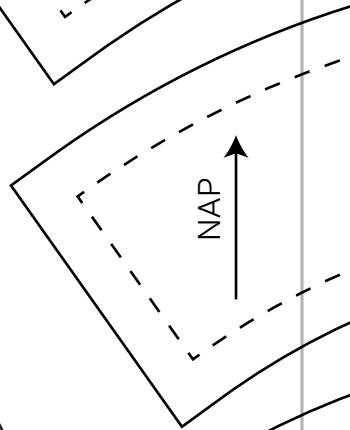
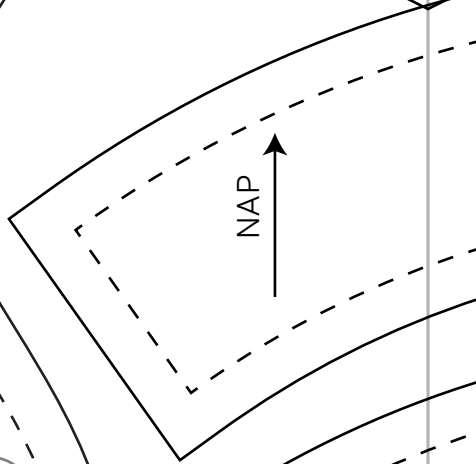
CONGRATS!
This completes
your plush! Now
give it a big hug!

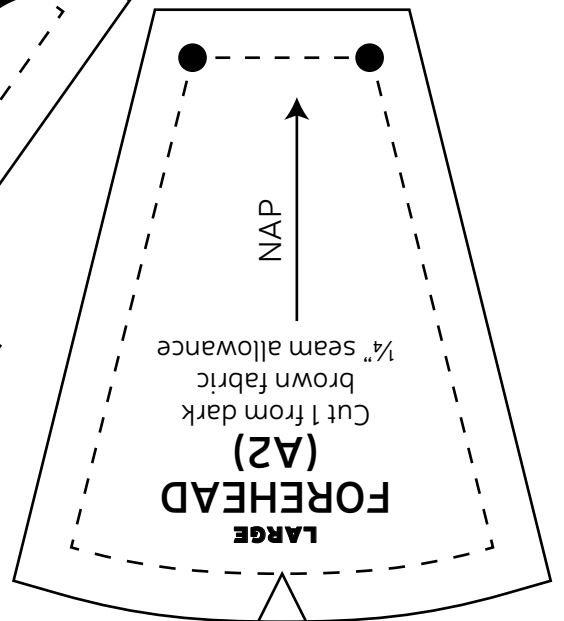
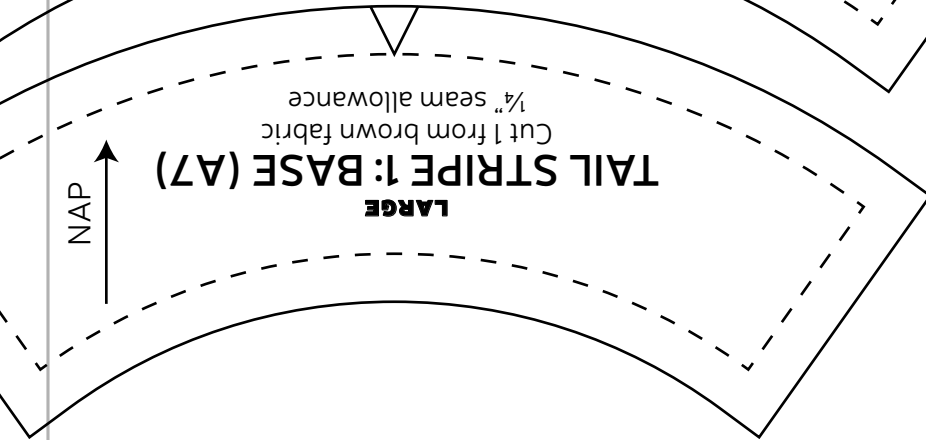
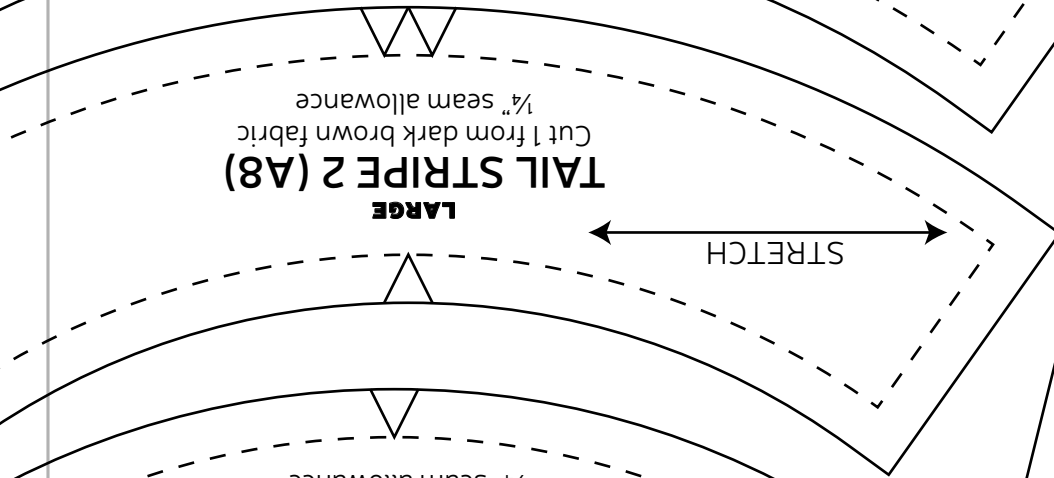
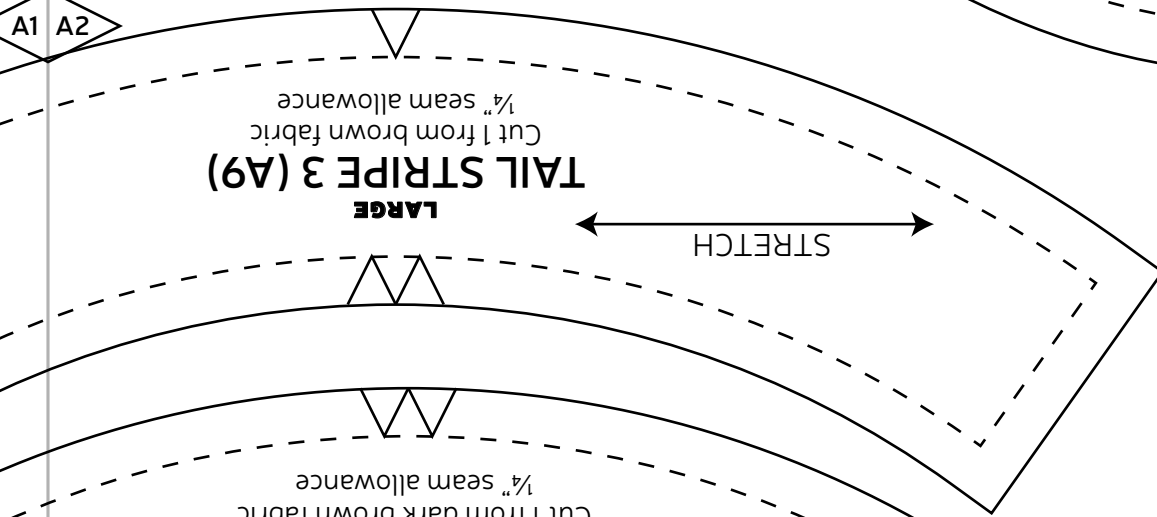
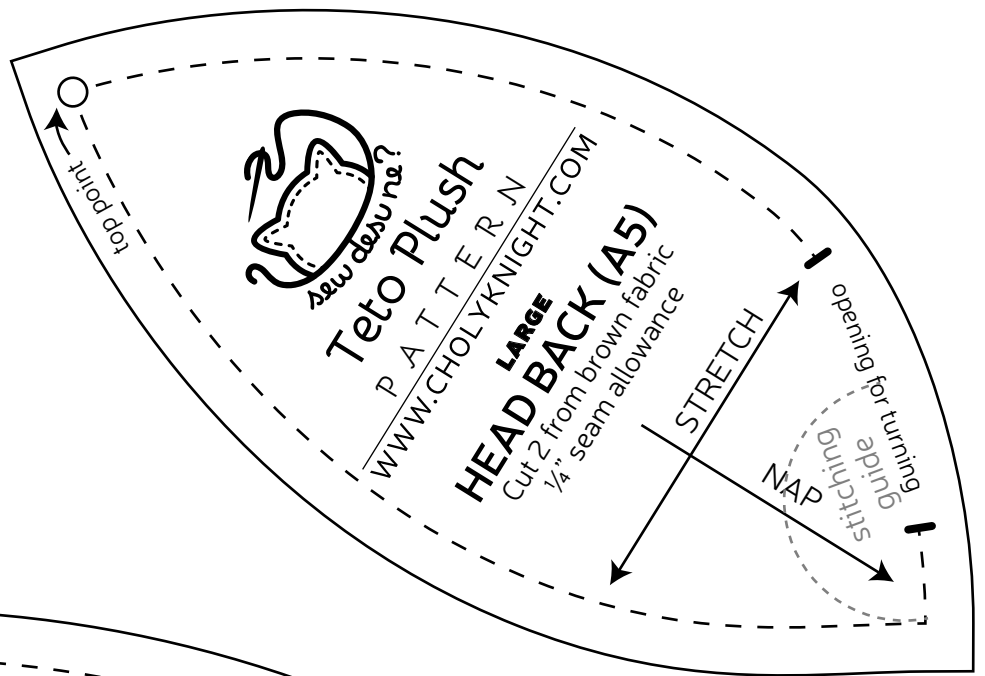
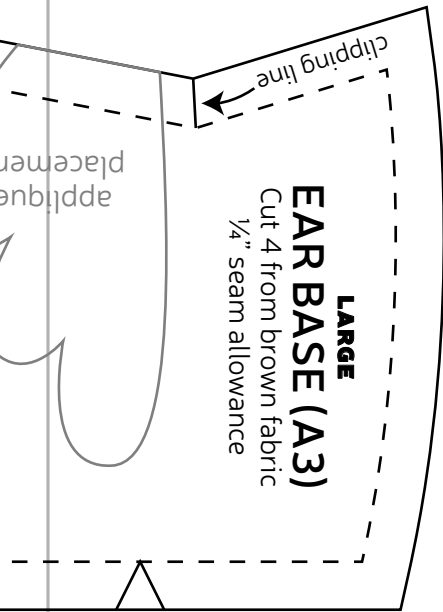
sew desu ne?

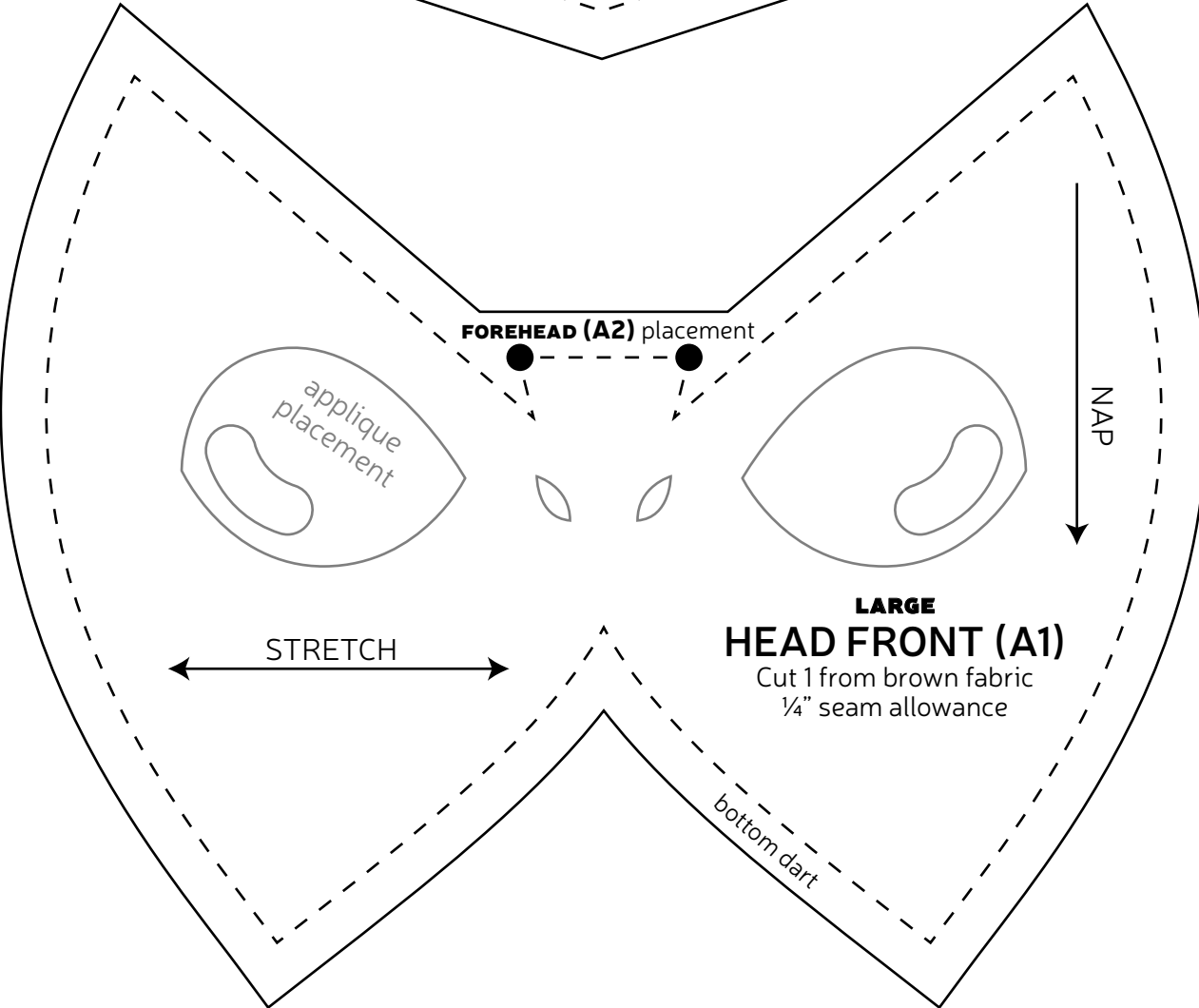
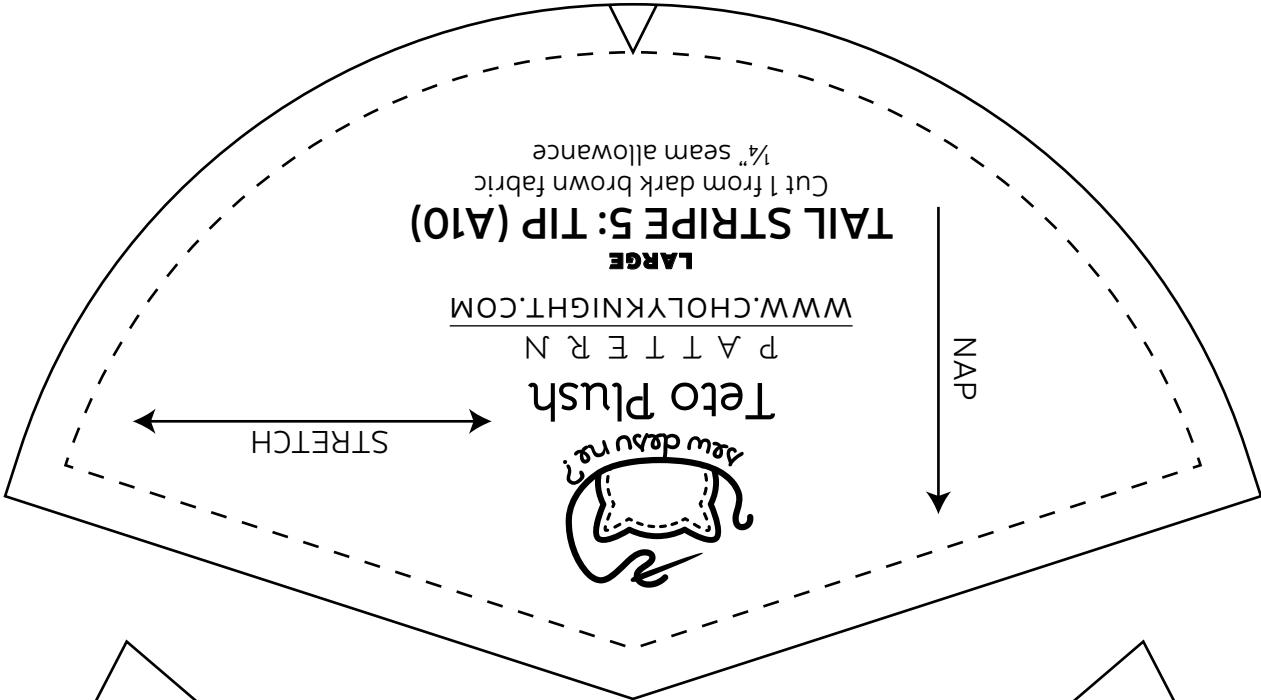
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A1 A2







BACK STRIPES
applique
 trace & cut 2 of
 dark brown

KNEE STRIPES
applique
 trace & cut 4 of
 dark brown

ARM STRIPES
applique
 trace & cut 4 of
 dark brown

BELLY
applique
 trace & cut 1
 of cream

NOSTRILS
applique
 trace & cut 2
 of black

EYE SHINES
applique
 trace & cut 2
 of white

PAWS
applique
 trace & cut 4 of
 each in pink

EAR FLUFF
applique
 trace & cut 1
 each of
 cream

**LARGE
 EAR TIP (A4)**

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

EYES
applique
 trace & cut 1
 each of green

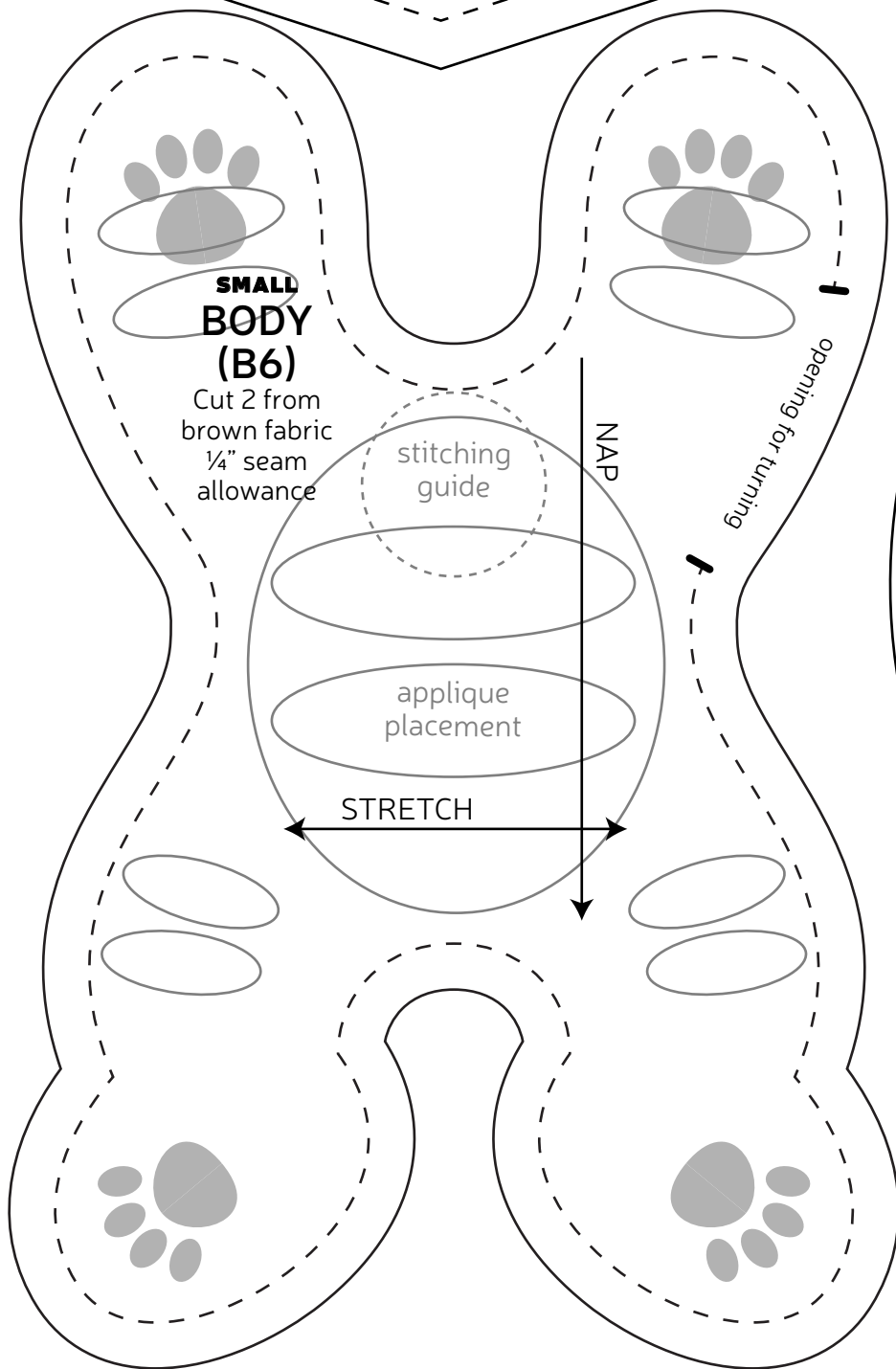
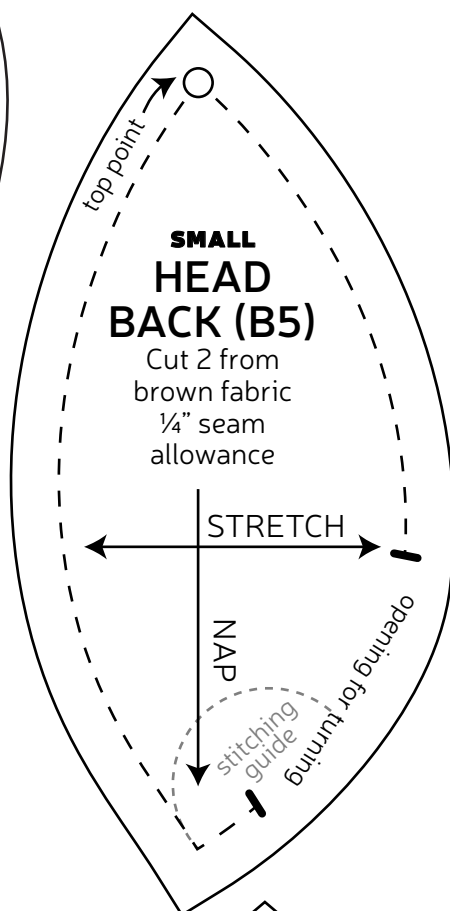
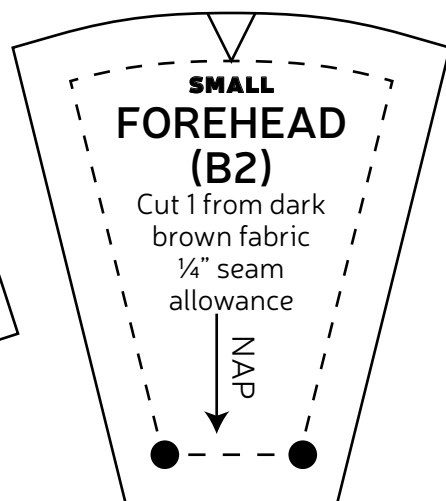
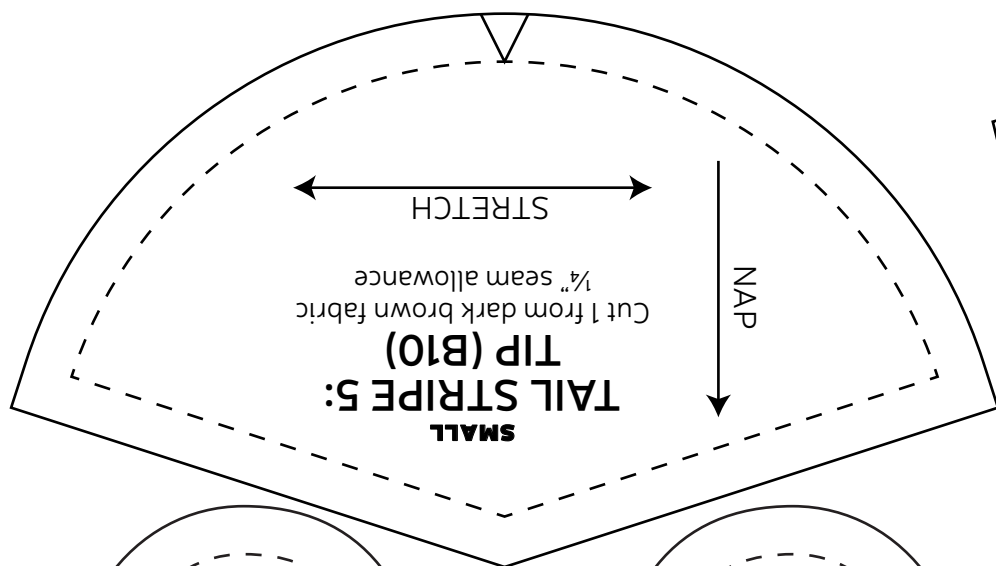
**LARGE
 NECK RUFF (A11)**

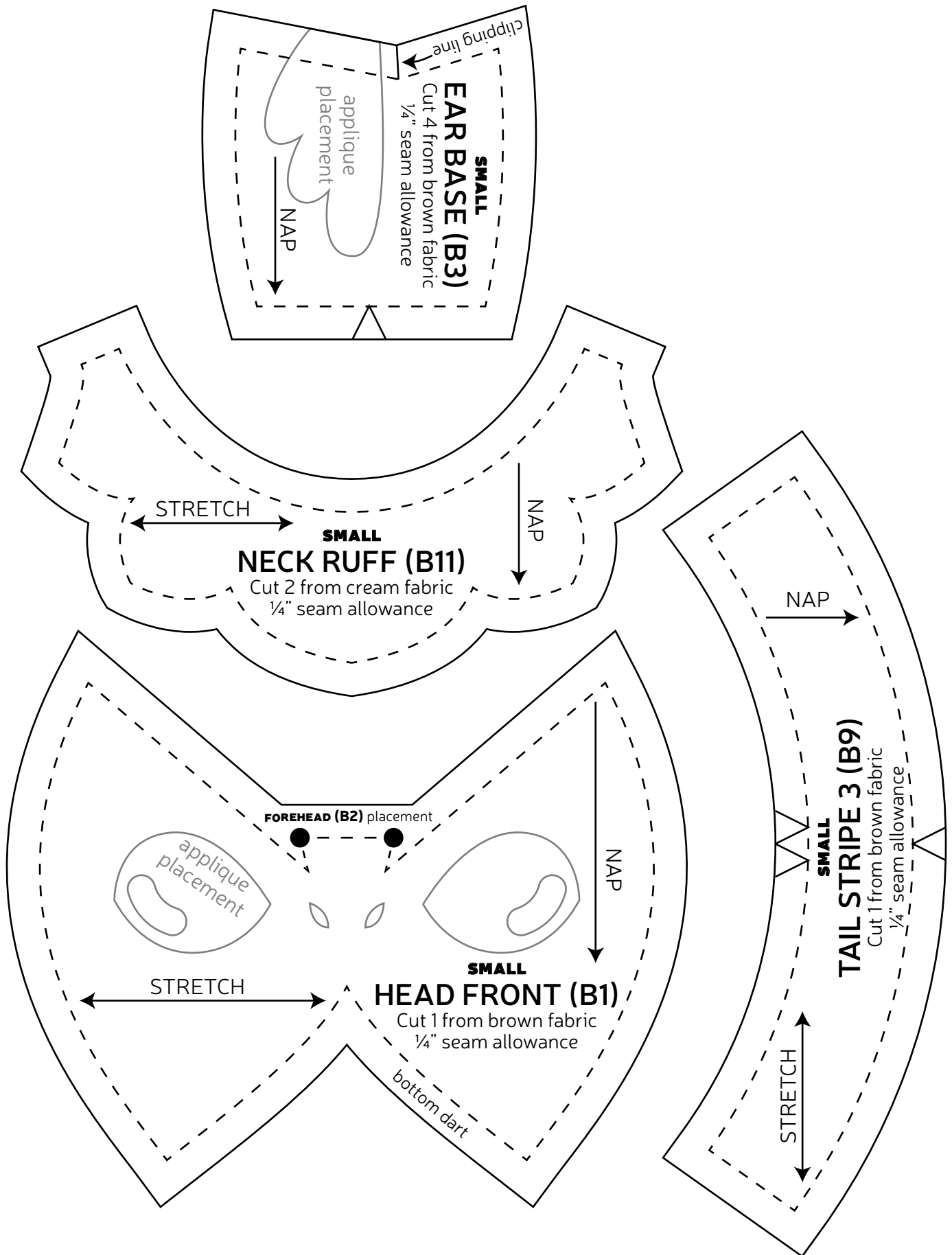
Cut 2 from cream fabric
 1/4" seam allowance

STRETCH

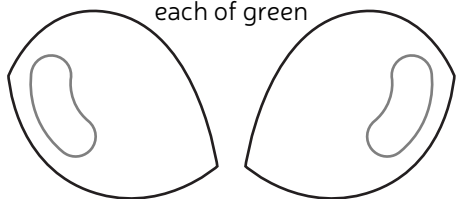
NAP

NAP





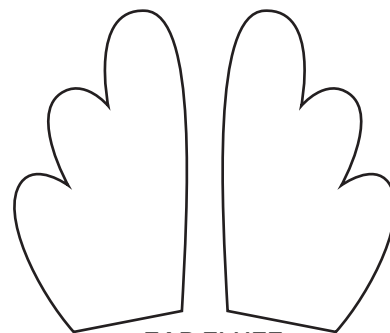
EYES
applique
 trace & cut 1
 each of green



PAWS
applique
 trace & cut 4 of
 each in pink



EAR FLUFF
applique
 trace & cut 1
 each of
 cream



NOSTRILS
applique
 trace & cut 2
 of black



EYE SHINES
applique
 trace & cut 2
 of white



BACK STRIPES
applique
 trace & cut 2 of
 dark brown



ARM STRIPES
applique
 trace & cut 4 of
 dark brown



KNEE STRIPES
applique
 trace & cut 4 of
 dark brown

