

witch kitty plush



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



witch kitty plush

Ready your broom and cape! This adorable little kitty is all decked out for Halloween. The pattern comes with loads of cute details, including a capelet with ribbon tie, a tiny witch's hat with contrast band and bow, and your choice of two eyes styles to assemble your sweet kitty face.

Perhaps the most fun of this project is the opportunity to use lots of fun Halloween fabrics dressing up the cape and hat! Time to dig into your stash!

DIFFICULTY:



The hardest part of this plush is likely the hat, since it involves some tricky curves. So be sure to take it slowly for those parts.

Attaching the head also requires some careful placement to mesh with the arms.

The rest of the plush has some tiny details to contend with, but are ultimately not too bad.

MAKES:

One plush: 11" tall (including hat) and 5½" wide

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Basting
- Darts
- Sewing small pieces
- Gathering stitch, gathering
- Ladder stitch
- Sewing inner curves to outer curves
- Stitching in the ditch

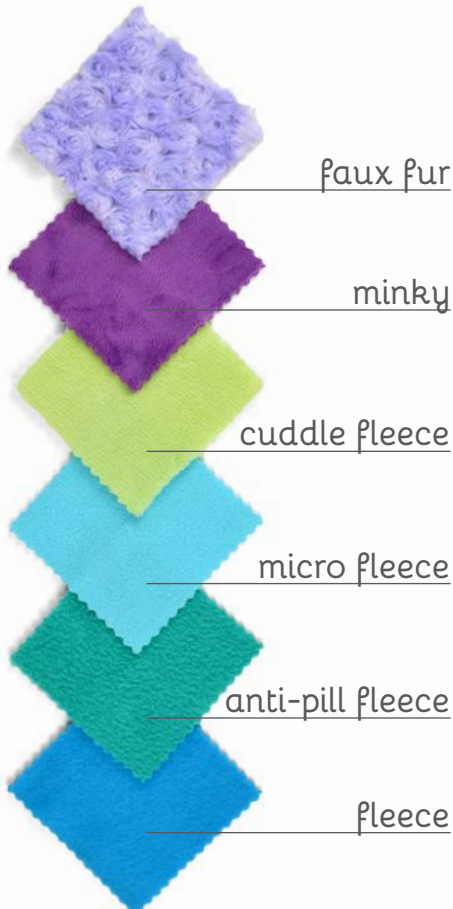


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materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. of fabric for main body
- 6" x 10" piece of accent fabric for cape
- 10" x 10" piece of accent fabric for witch hat
- 10" x 10" piece of accent fabric for cape lining & hat band
- 16" of ribbon, up to ¾" wide
- 2" x 2" piece of black applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) for pupils and mouth
- 3" x 3" piece of accent applique fabric for eyes
- 2" x 2" piece of white applique fabric for eye shines
- 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

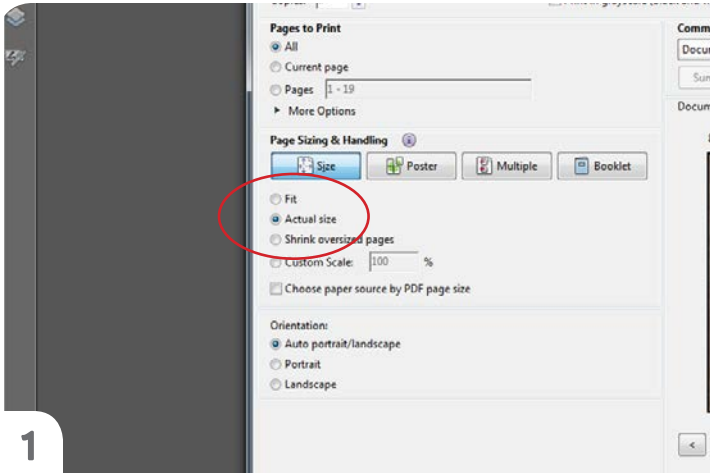


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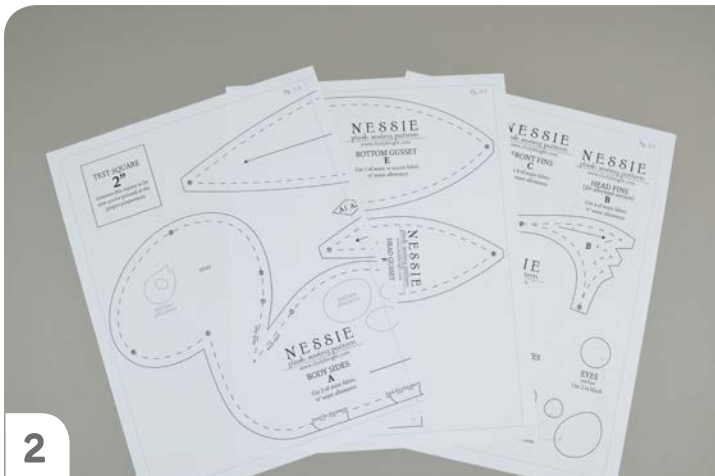
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printing the pattern:

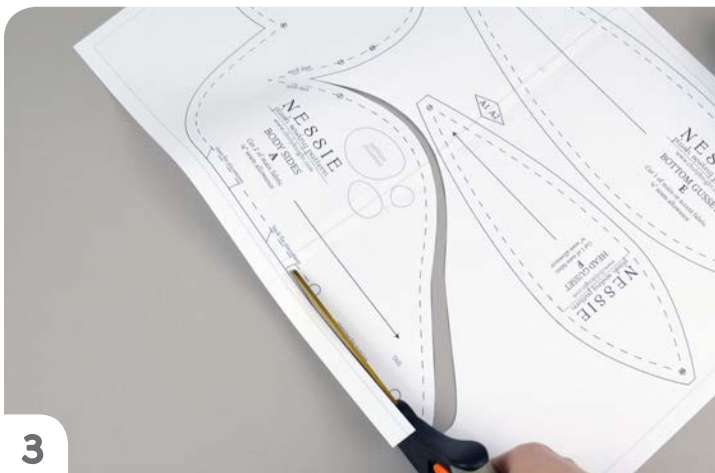
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 21-24**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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.

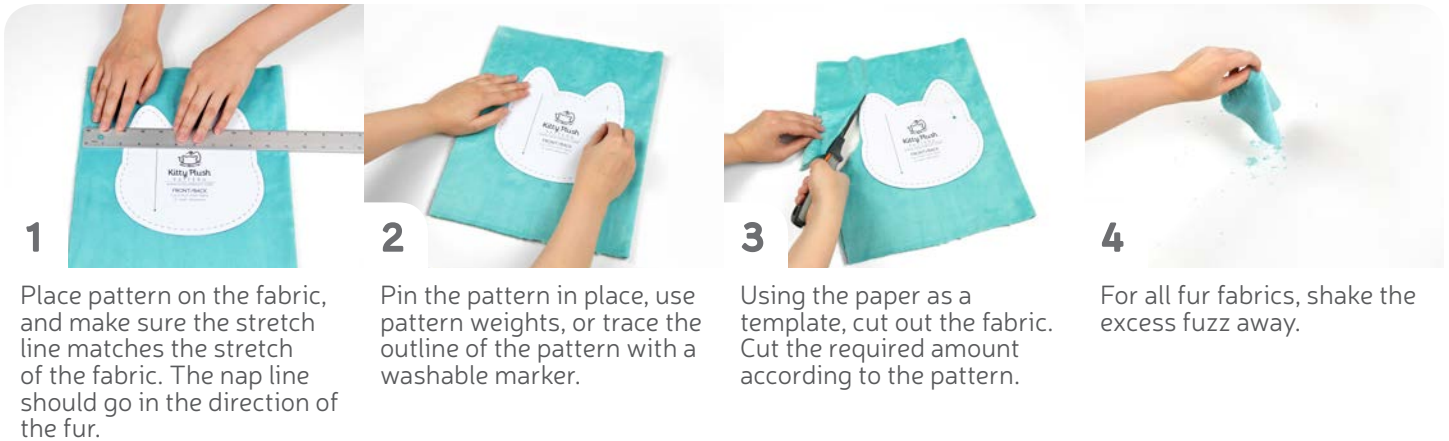


You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper. They might be a little hard to pin through, so you might want to use your longest pins. But you could also use pattern weights or trace the outlines onto the fabric with a washable marker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

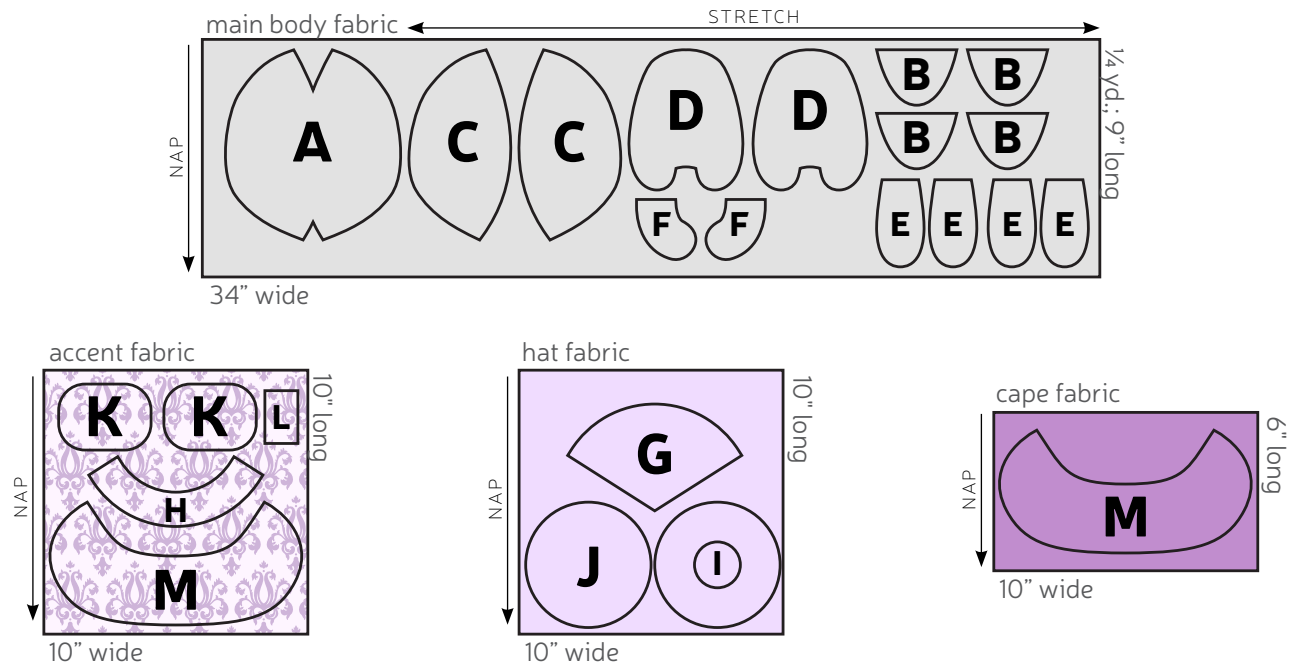
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cutting the fabric:



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 the seam allowance used is ¼" throughout the project.

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1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Take your fusible web and trace all your applique pieces onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have 2 eyes, 2 pupils, 1 mouth, 2 eye shines, and 1-2 fangs (if using)
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The pupils go onto black, the eyes on the accent fabric, and the eye shines and fangs on white.
- Cut out the eye pieces and arrange them on the **HEAD FRONT** (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.



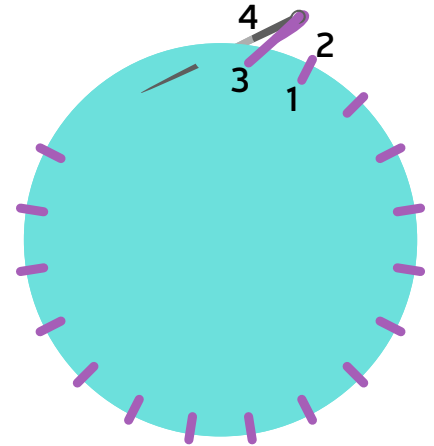
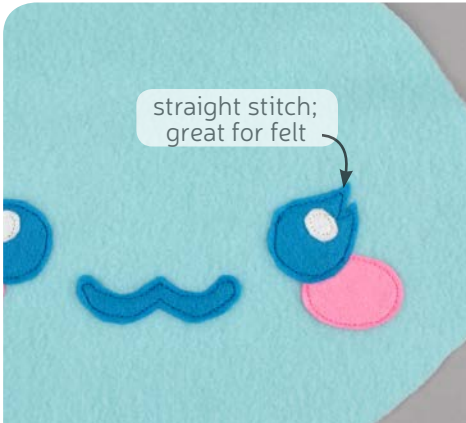
2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the eye 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).
- Next, move onto the smaller pupil and eye shine pieces. Fuse them much 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.

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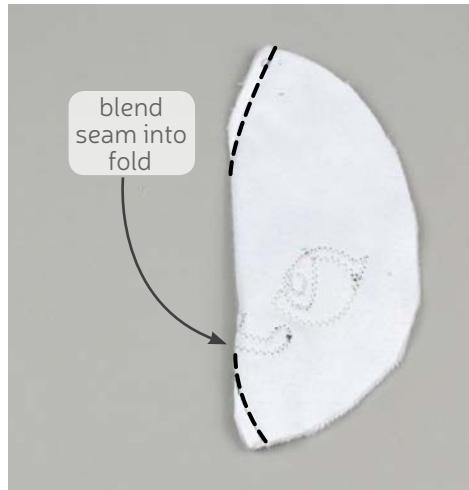


2a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

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 DARTS

- Locate the open wedge found on the top and bottom of the **HEAD FRONT** piece -- these are the darts. To sew them, 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 darts by starting at the opening and moving down to the point. When sewing the point, try to blend the seam in with the fold so it makes a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.
- Once complete, the darts should blend nicely into the rest of the 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.

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4. SEW THE EARS

- Grab your **EAR** pieces (B). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the long curved edge. Leave the short straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Repeat with the remaining two ear pieces for two complete ears total.



5. BASTE THE EARS

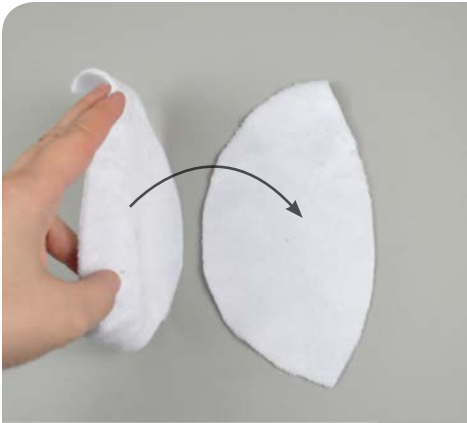
- If you haven't already, locate the ear placement lines found on the **HEAD FRONT** paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Place the open end of the ear within these placement lines. Pin the ears in place.
- Baste the ears to the front within the seam allowances to hold them 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).

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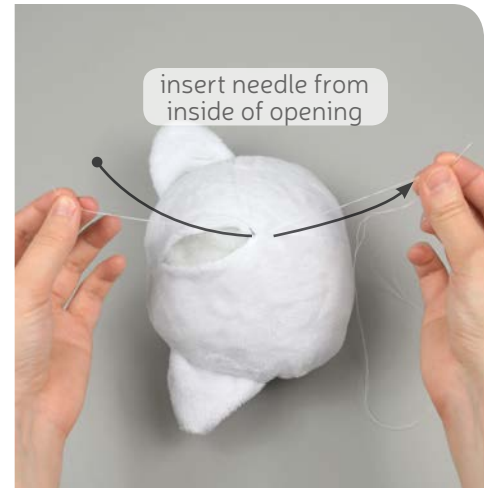
6. SEW THE BACK



- Grab your two **HEAD BACK** pieces (C). Align them together with right sides facing and 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** piece and grab the **HEAD FRONT** piece you have so far. Align them with right sides facing. Be sure the top of the back pieces (marked with a circle symbol) are aligned with the top of the front piece. The back seam should also match up with the top and bottom dart on the front.



7. SEW THE HEAD



- Sew around the perimeter of the head completely. Turn the head right side out through the opening you left in the back.
- Stuff the head firmly with stuffing, pushing the stuffing towards the bottom until it gets completely full, then focus on the face area until it fills out. Finally work on the sides and center until they're full.
- 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.

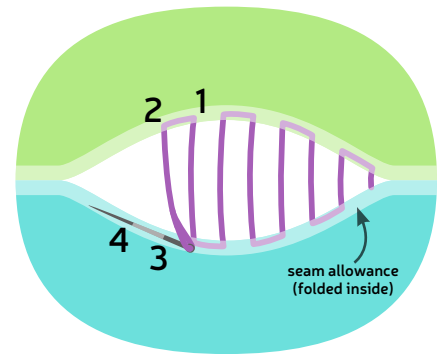
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8. STITCH THE OPENING CLOSED

- 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. 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!



9. SEW THE BODY

- Grab your **BODY** pieces (D). Take them and align them together with right sides facing and edges matching up.
- If you haven't already, locate the opening for turning markings on the paper pattern. Transfer them over to the wrong side of the fabric. Sew around the perimeter of the body, being sure to leave an opening where you indicated before.
- Clip the seam allowance between the legs to increase flexibility when the body is turned.

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10. CLOSE THE BODY

- Stuff the body with stuffing. Focus on getting small bits into the legs first, then work your way up to the opening.
- Close up the opening with a ladder stitch similar to how you did back in step 8.



11. SEW THE ARMS

- Grab your **ARM** pieces (E). Take two of them and align them together with right sides facing and edges matching up.
- Sew around the long curved edge of the arm, leaving the short straight edge free for turning right side out
- Turn the arm right side out and repeat with the remaining two arm pieces for two complete arms total.

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12. ATTACH THE ARMS

- Stuff the arms lightly with stuffing. Be sure to keep it extra light near the opening, as we'll be sewing that to the body next.
- Align the arm with the body so the raw edge of the arm is flush with the top edge of the body.
- Whip stitch the open end of the arm to the body to hold it in place.

whip stitch:

A kind of overhand stitch where the needle is brought from the back of the project to the front. The thread wraps around the fabric edge and the process is repeated for each stitch.

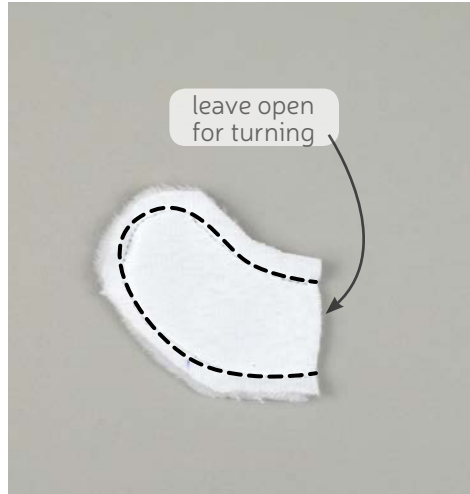


13. ATTACH THE HEAD

- Take your finished head and align it over the body. The side seams of the head should match up with the side seams of the body. The head should nestle against the body enough to cover up the raw edges of the arm openings.
- Stitch the head to the body with a ladder stitch. Be sure your stitching goes into the arms as well, as this will cover up the raw edges in the arm openings.

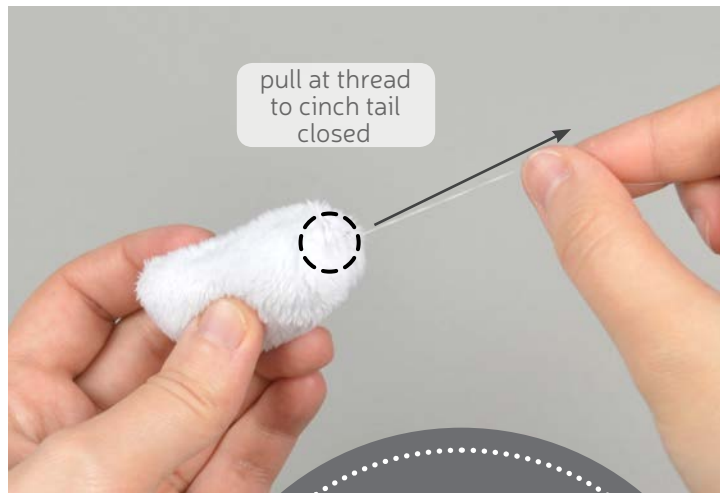
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14. SEW THE TAIL

- Grab your **TAIL** pieces (F). Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew around the curved edge of the tail. Leave the short straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Turn the tail right side out and stuff it semi-firmly with stuffing.



15. CINCH UP THE TAIL

- 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. 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 back.

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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- Align the tail along the back bottom of the kitty so far. Make sure it's centered along the body, just above the legs. Also be sure the tip of the tail is pointing up.
- Stitch the tail in place along the base of the tail with a ladder stitch.

16. ATTACH THE TAIL



17. SEW THE HAT BAND

- Grab your **HAT TOP** (G) and **HAT BAND** (H) pieces. The curved edge of the hat top will be sewn to the inner curve of the hat band.
- Stretch the inner curve of the hat band to fit around the outer curve of the hat top. If you have trouble, make small $\frac{1}{8}$ " clips into the hat band to give it more flexibility. Pin the layers together.
- Sew the band to the hat along the curve.
- Open up the finished seam. If it looks wonky or puckered, give it a light press.



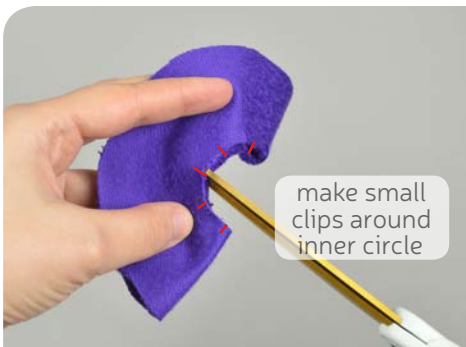
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18. SEW THE HAT SIDE

- Fold the finished **HAT TOP** in half with right sides facing to match up the straight edges.
- Sew the hat together along this edge.
- Trim the excess seam allowance at the top to reduce bulk.
- Turn the hat top right side out to finish.



19. SEW THE HAT BRIM

- Grab your **HAT BRIM** piece (1). This next step also involves some curved sewing, so make small $\frac{1}{8}$ " clips into the inner circle of the hat brim.
- Match up the open end of the hat top with the inner circle of the hat band.
- The hat brim will need to be stretched to fit around. Pin the layers together.
- Sew the brim to the hat top. It's tricky by machine, so go an inch at a time. Or do it by hand if you have trouble.



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20. SEW THE HAT BOTTOM

- Position the hat so the top is pointing upwards.
- Grab your **HAT BOTTOM** piece (J). Align it over top the hat you have so far with right sides together. Push down the hat top so it's flattened. Pin the layers together.
- Sew around the perimeter of the hat pieces.



21. TURN AND STUFF THE HAT

- To turn the hat, cut a small 1" cut in the center of the hat bottom. Be sure not to cut more than necessary (there's a guide on the paper pattern). Turn the hat right side out. Define the top point with a chopstick or similar turning tool as well as the sides of the brim.
- Flatten out the brim and hat bottom pieces, then stitch them together by sewing along the edge of the hat top. Try to sew right into the seam from step 19. This will secure the hat to the bottom. This is called *stitch-in-the-ditch*.
- Stuff the hat lightly with stuffing, enough so it takes shape. Be sure to get small bits into the tip of the hat first before working towards the opening.

stitch-in-the-ditch:

The process of sewing into the "ditch" of a previous seam. When seen from the right side, a seam in fabric will have a small valley. Sewing into that valley can render the stitching nearly invisible.

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22. SEW THE BOW

- Grab your **BOW** pieces (K). Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the two pieces together around the perimeter, except for a small $\frac{1}{2}$ " area along one long edge. There's a guide on the paper pattern, but you can also eyeball it.
- Turn the bow right side out through the opening. Tuck under the seam allowances in the opening and press the bow crisp.



23. CINCH UP THE BOW

- Thread a hand sewing needle and knot the end. Sew a gathering stitch down the middle of the width of the bow. Refer back to step 15 for help with a gathering stitch.
- Pull at the thread to cinch up the middle of the bow.
- Wrap the thread around the bow several times to hold the center cinching in place. Sew a few knots into the center to anchor it.

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24. SEW THE BOW MIDDLE

- Grab your **BOW MIDDLE** piece (L). Fold it in half lengthwise with right sides together so the longer edges match up.
- Sew the piece along the long edge, making a skinny tube.
- Turn the tube right side out. It helps to have hemostats for this part. Press the piece flat so it looks crisp.



25. ATTACH THE BOW

- Wrap the **BOW MIDDLE** piece around the cinched up **BOW** sewn back in step 23.
- The ends of the **BOW MIDDLE** piece should overlap in the back of the **BOW**. Whip stitch these ends together to secure them.
- Take the finished bow to your witch hat and place it near the base with the stitched side facing the hat (so it's unseen). Stitch the **BOW** in place with a ladder stitch. Stitch just the middle of the **BOW** to the hat so the ruffy ends remain free.

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26. ATTACH THE HAT

- Whip stitch the opening of the hat closed to secure all the stuffing inside.
- Place the stitched end of the hat onto the head of your kitty so far. The kitty in the samples have their hats off to the side, nestled against one ear. Be sure the bow is facing forward. Secure the hat in place by sticking pins down into the base of the hat and through the head.
- Stitch the hat in place with a ladder stitch. Flip the hat brim up and stitch from the under side so the brim remains free. It helps to use the seam from step 21 as a guide.



27. ATTACH THE CAPE RIBBONS

- Grab your length of ribbon and cut it in half equally. You should have two 8" long pieces.
- Grab your outer **CAPE** piece (M). If you haven't already, locate the ribbon placement lines on the paper pattern for the cape. Transfer them over to the right side of your outer cape fabric. Align the ends of the ribbon within these lines and pin them in place.
- Secure the ribbon to the cape within the seam allowance. This area will get a bit of stress, so it's advised to stitch over the area several times.

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28. SEW THE CAPE

- Grab your remaining **CAPE** lining piece (M). Align it over the outer cape with right sides facing and raw edges matching up. Be sure the ribbon ends are tucked inside the cape.
- If you haven't already, locate the opening for turning markings on the **CAPE** paper pattern. Transfer them over to the wrong side of the fabric. Sew around the perimeter of the cape pieces, being sure to leave an opening where you marked.
- Trim the excess seam allowance at the corner to reduce bulk.



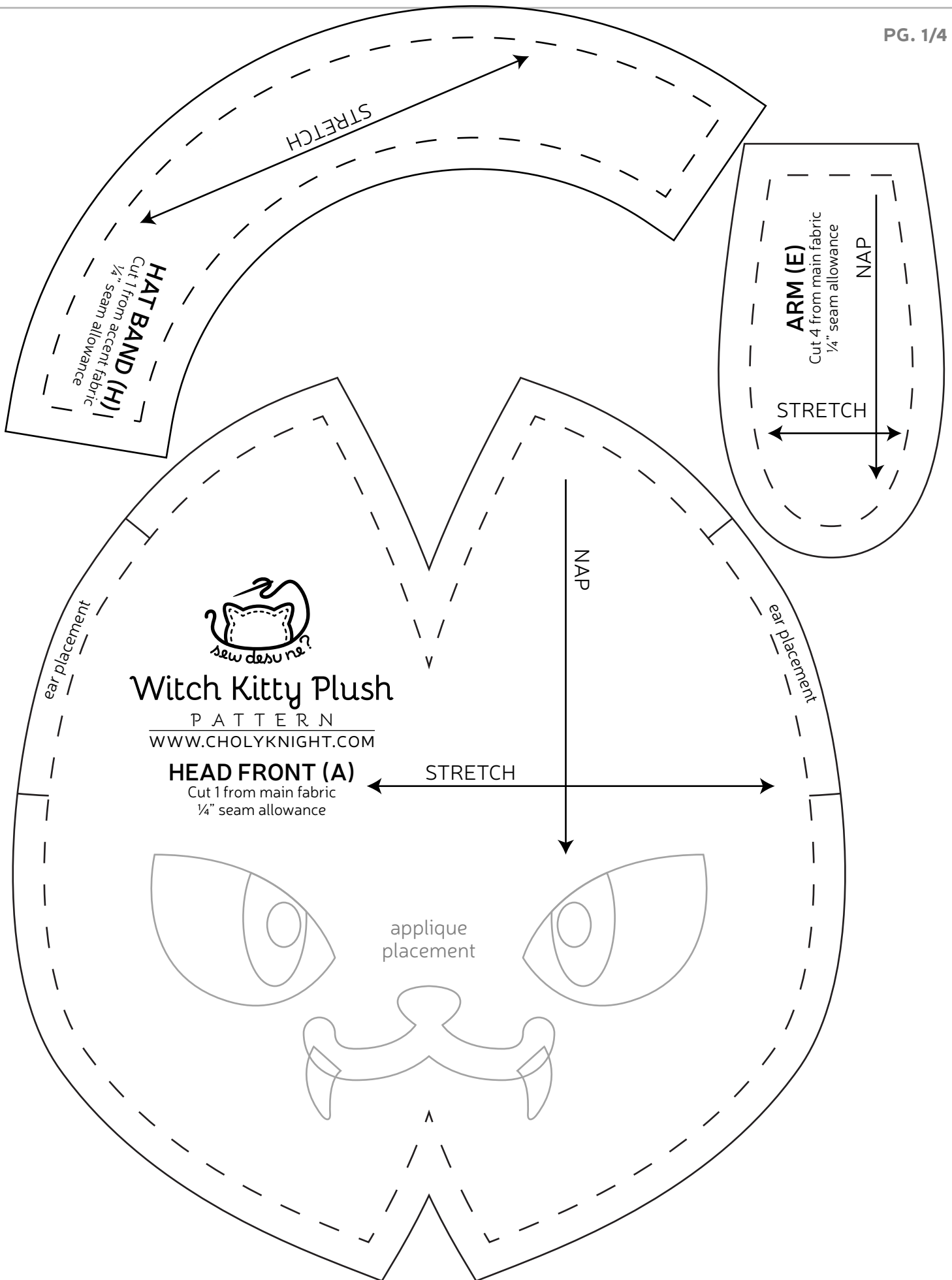
29. FINISH THE CAPE

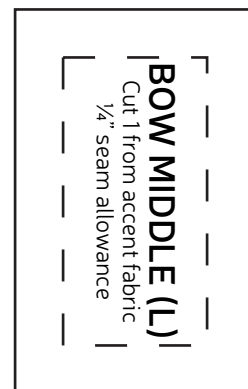
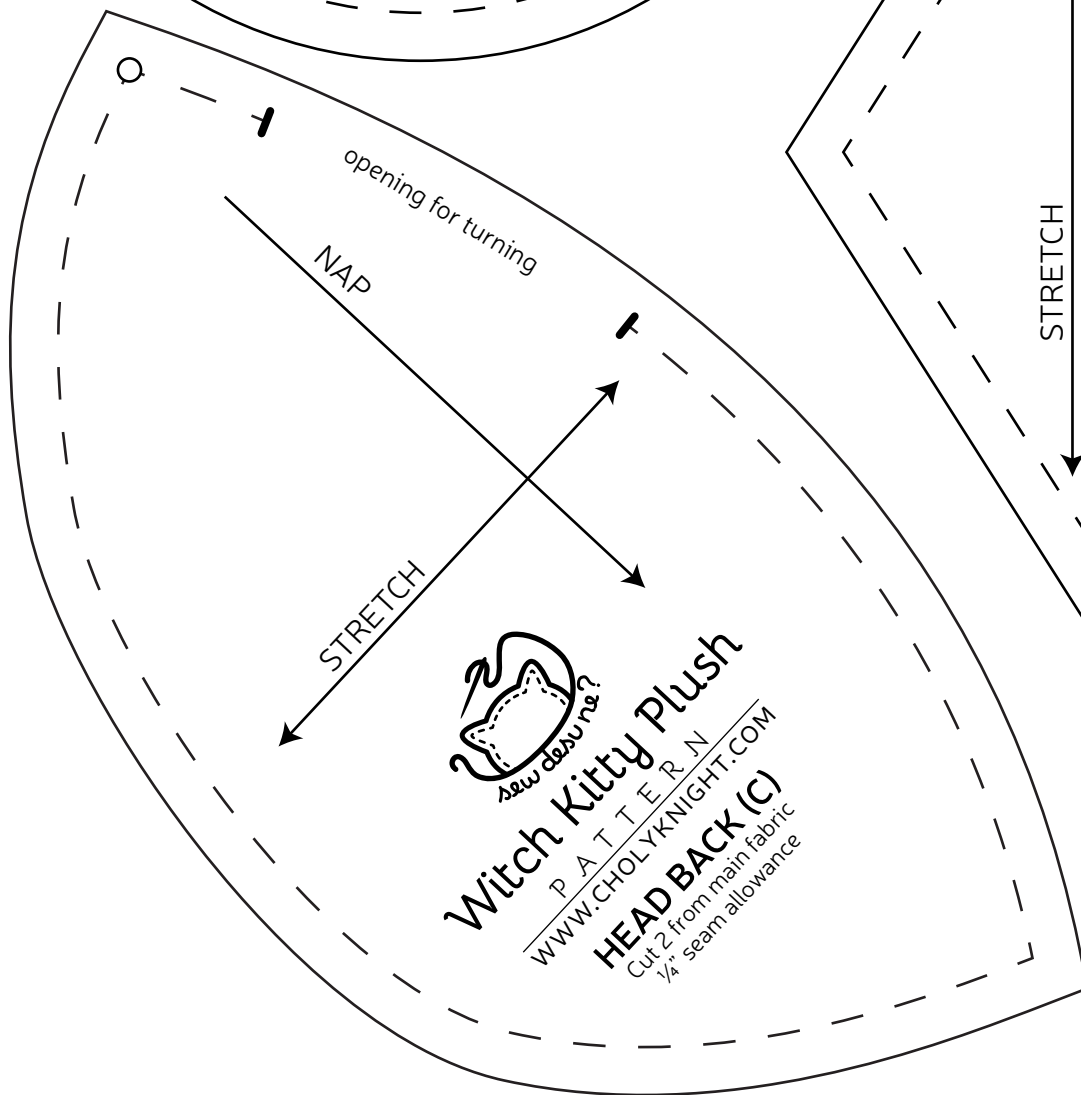
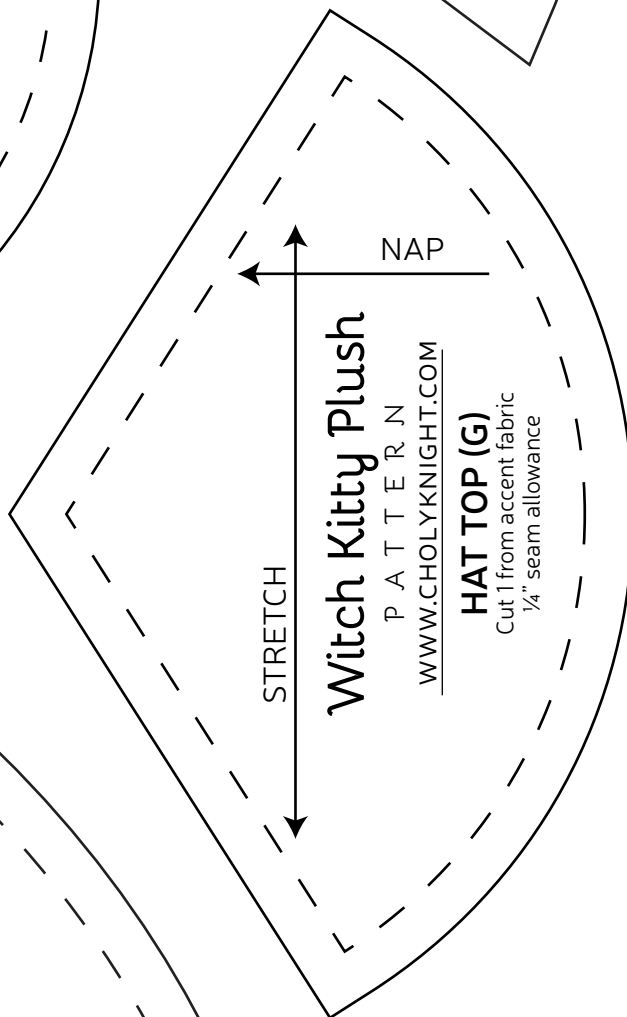
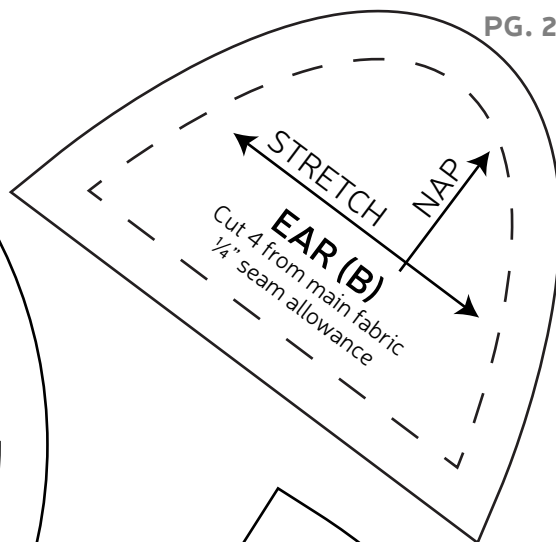
- Turn the cape right side out and define the corners with a chopstick or similar turning tool. Tuck under the seam allowance in the opening and lightly press if desired. Ladder stitch the opening closed to finish.
- Finally, dress your kitty in its new capelet! Tie the ends of the ribbon in a bow around the neck to finish.

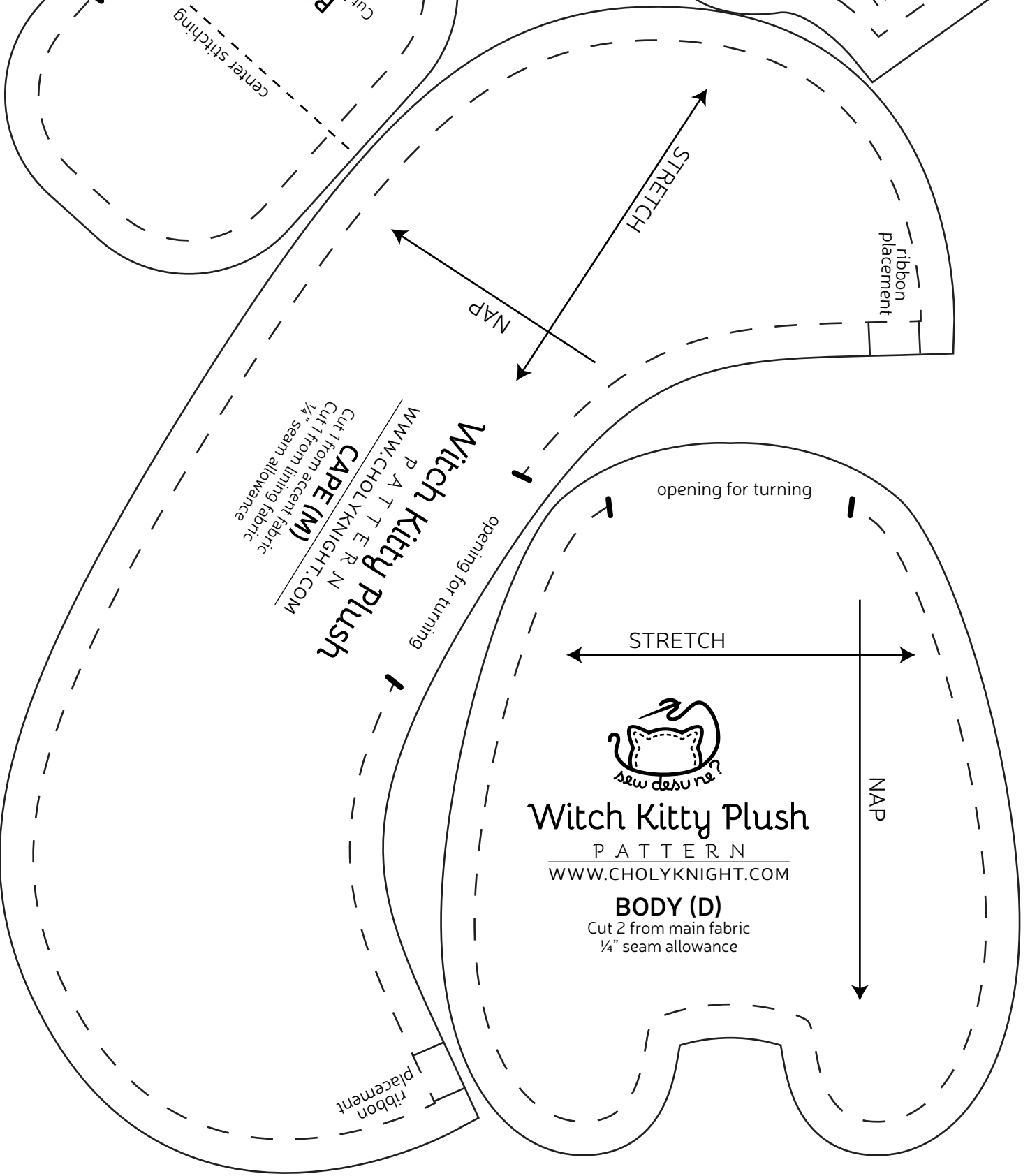
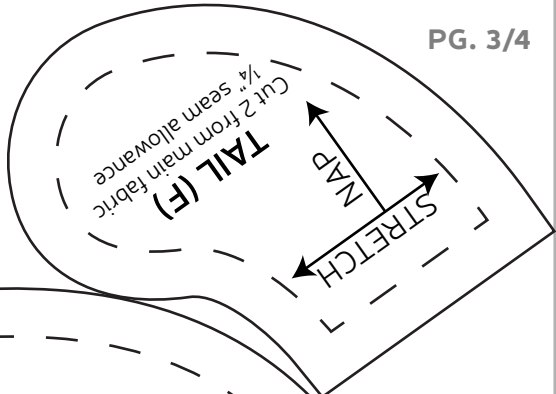
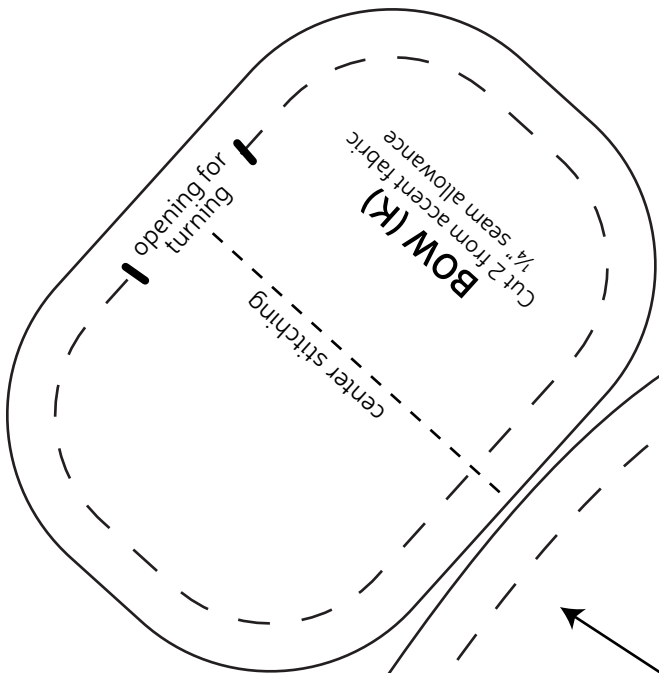
congrats!
this completes
your plush! Now
give it a big
hug!

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Witch Kitty Plush
P A T T E R N
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Cut 1 from lining fabric
1/4" seam allowance
CAPE (M)

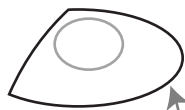
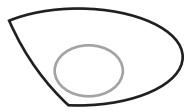
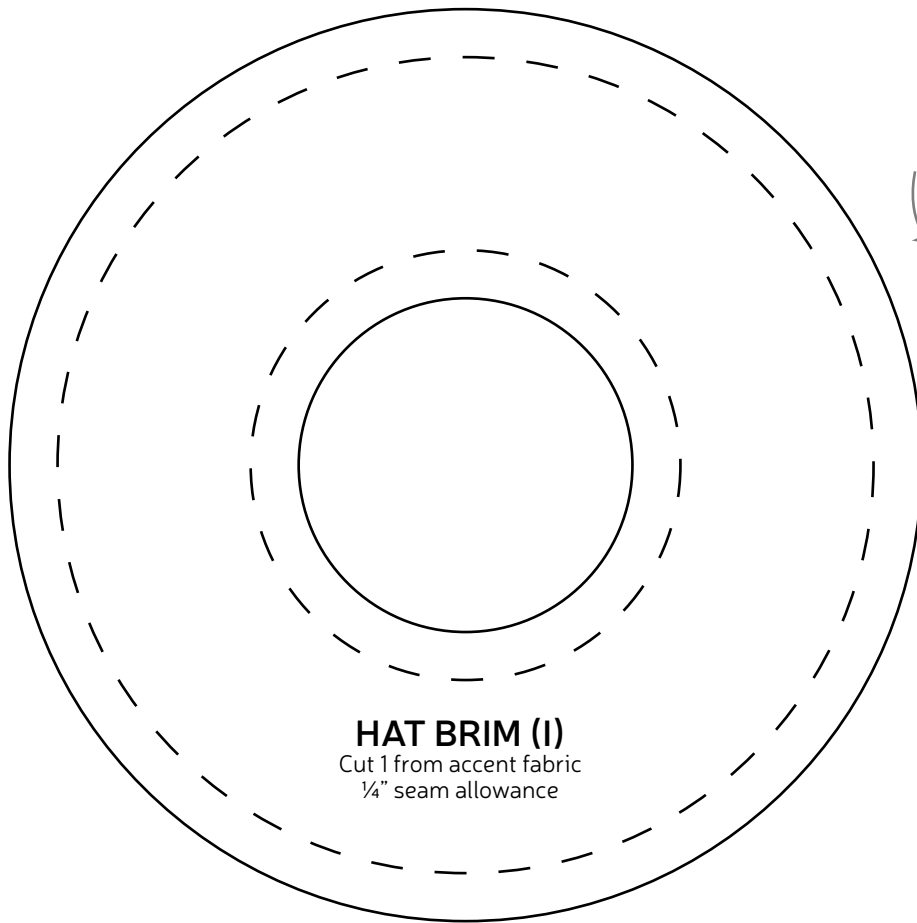


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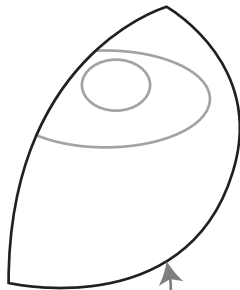
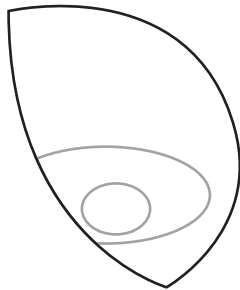
BODY (D)

Cut 2 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance



ANGRY PUPILS

applique
trace & cut
1 each from black



ANGRY EYES

applique
trace & cut
1 each from
accent color

TEETH
applique
trace & cut
1 each from
white

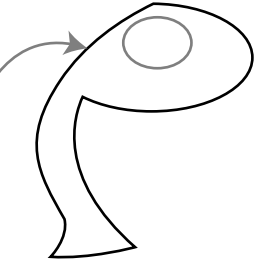
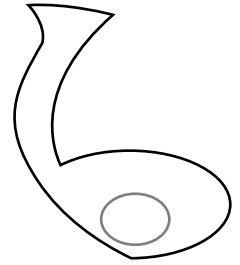


EYE SHINE
applique
trace & cut
2 from white



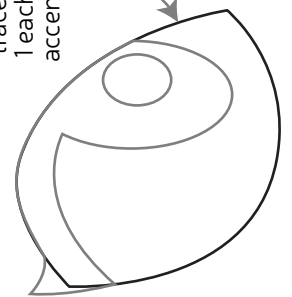
LASHED PUPILS

applique
trace & cut
1 each from black



LASHED EYES

applique
trace & cut
1 each from
accent color



MOUTH

applique
trace & cut
1 from black

