

zero plush



a free sewing pattern by



zero plush

The next character to join your own personal Halloween Town is Zero! This is the adorable ghost dog from *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and Jack Skellington's loveable companion. He features a small body that supports a long, swooping sheet cover with curved "tail," long pointed snout with tiny pumpkin nose, and wavy ears.

DIFFICULTY:



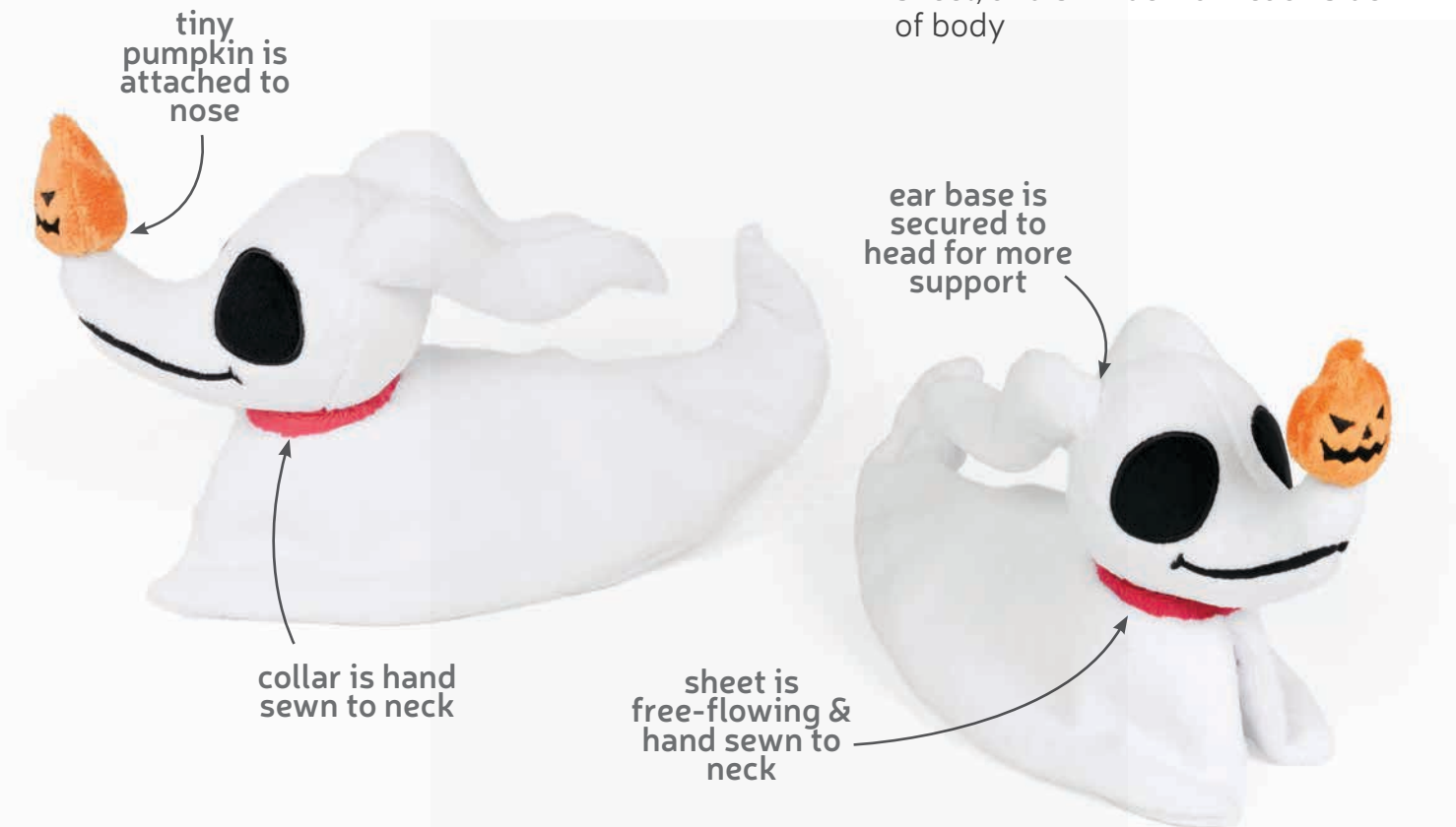
The hardest part of this plush is likely all the hand sewing needed. A lot is done for attaching the head, sheet, collar, and nose. A little around the ears helps a lot as well. So give yourself time for the hand sewing.

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Curved sewing
- Corners
- Basting
- Darts
- Ladder stitch
- Sewing small pieces

MAKES:

ONE PLUSH: about 7" tall from bottom of body to tip of nose, 13" long from tip of nose to back of sheet, and 3" wide from each side of body

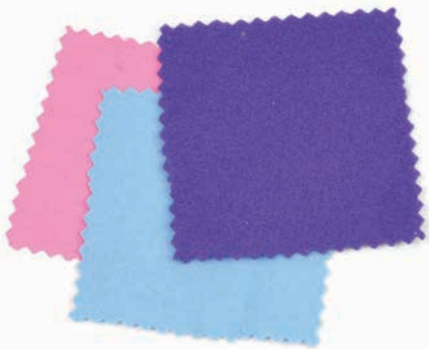


sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

MATERIALS & TOOLS:

- 1/3 yd. of white fabric for main body
- 1/8 yd. (or 6" x 4") of orange fabric for pumpkin nose
- 1/8 yd. (or 8" x 2") of red fabric for collar
- 4" x 7" of scrap fabric for poly pellet pouch
- 4" x 4" of black applique fabric for eyes, mouth, and pumpkin face
- 4" x 4" of light or heavy duty fusible web
- poly pellets for weight
- spoon or funnel for filling poly pellets
- 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 APPLIQUE FABRICS:

- Good applique fabrics include flannel, cotton, felt, minky, and fleece.
- Flannel and cotton are best for detailed applique with a lot of layers because they're thinner. Meanwhile felt, minky, and fleece are better for simpler applique because they're thicker and don't layer as well.
- Flannel is used in the example instructions (page 7).

FUSIBLE WEB:

- Fusible web adhesive is a sheet of adhesive with a paper backing. **Not to be confused with fusible interfacing**, which is adhesive attached to a fabric/fiber backing.
- Some common brands are **Pellon** & **HeatnBond**
- In countries outside the US, it may also be known as **bondaweb**
- It comes in **light** and **heavy duty** varieties. Lightweight strength is meant for applique you intend to sew later. Heavy duty versions are for a no-sew bond. If you try to sew them later your machine might have trouble penetrating the glue.



sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

fabric comparison:



SUGGESTED FABRICS:

MINKY OR FLEECE

Medium weight, plush fabrics with about 20%-30% stretch along the crosswise grain work best for this project. The varieties shown to the left are some good options and names to look for. Try to avoid heavyweight versions of fleece that are intended for outdoor apparel or they may cause trouble for the detailed areas.

You can also use non-stretch fabrics (such as felt), but be aware that the curves will be more difficult to sew and the result will look different. The plush will become more elongated and the edges will look pointier.

10" of minky
stretches to 13"
= 30% stretch

MINKY VS. FELT



sew desu ne?

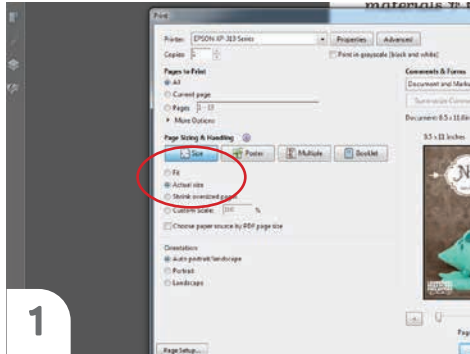
| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

PRINTING THE PATTERN:

Set your computer to print **PAGES 21-24**.

If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps to follow.

For the best results, use a .pdf reader like **ADOBE READER**. That's what is shown here and will give you the most control over the settings.



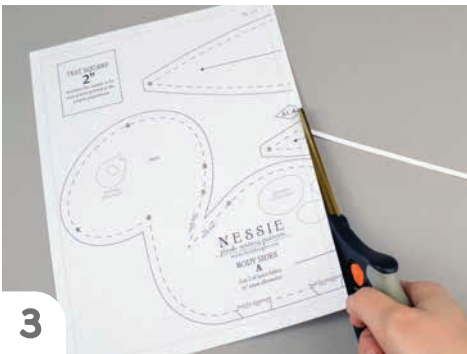
1

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



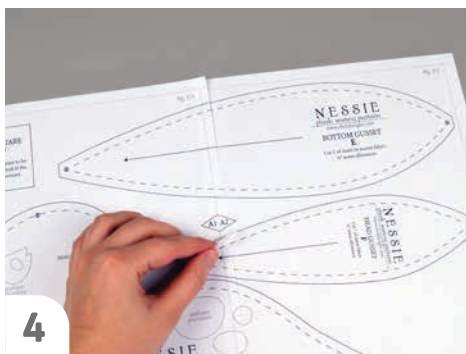
2

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



3

It's likely your printer will have a margin that ensures your image doesn't print to the very edge. Assembly will be easier if you trim off this blank margin edge. This will give you pages that overlap slightly during assembly. If you trim across the gray outline boxes, this will give you pages that don't overlap but rather butt against each other.



4

To line up the pattern pages, match up the corresponding diamond shapes. Each diamond will have a letter, so it's simply a matter of matching A1 to A2, B3 to B4 and so on. The faint gray lines indicate the border of every page, you should be able to line those up as well. When the diamond goes together, tape it in place.

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



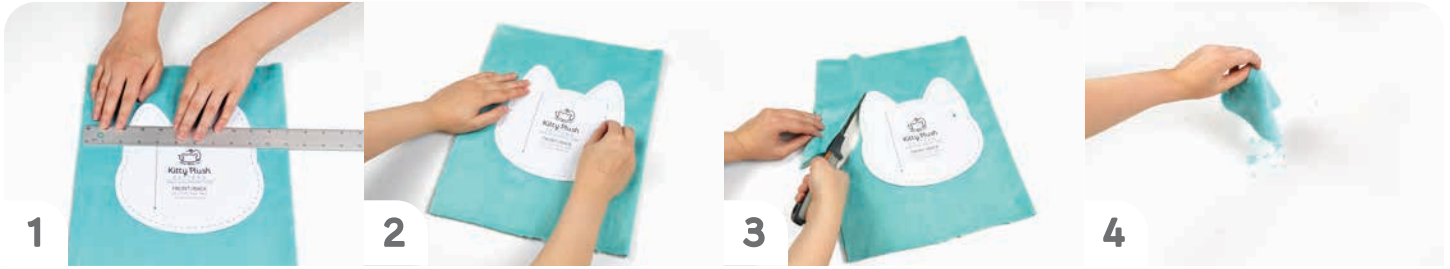
5

You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper -- be sure that each piece is fully taped together along the joins so they don't fall apart when you cut them.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

CUTTING THE FABRIC:



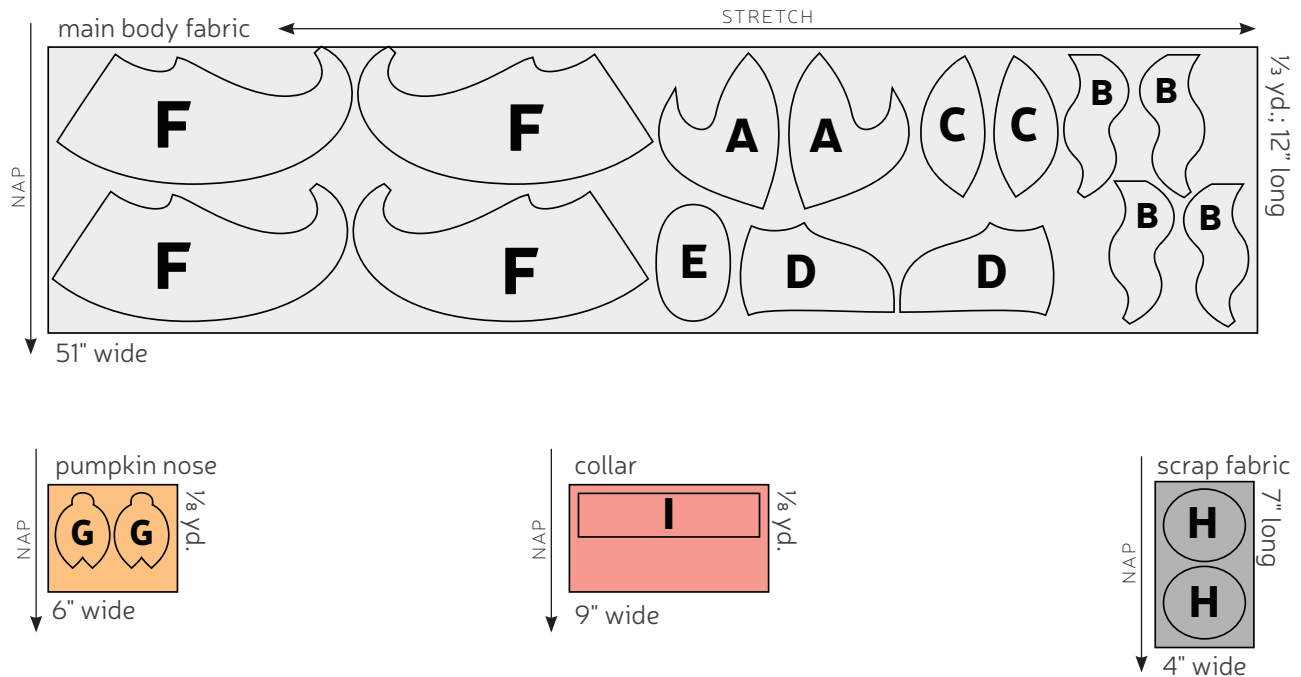
1 Place pattern on the fabric, and make sure the stretch line matches the stretch of the fabric. The nap line should go in the direction of the fur.

2 Pin the pattern in place, use pattern weights, or trace the outline of the pattern with a washable marker.

3 Using the paper as a template, cut out the fabric. Cut the required amount according to the pattern.

4 For all fur fabrics, shake the excess fuzz away.

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, which is included in the pattern templates.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

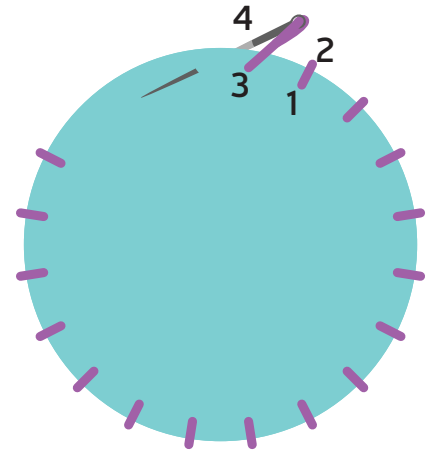
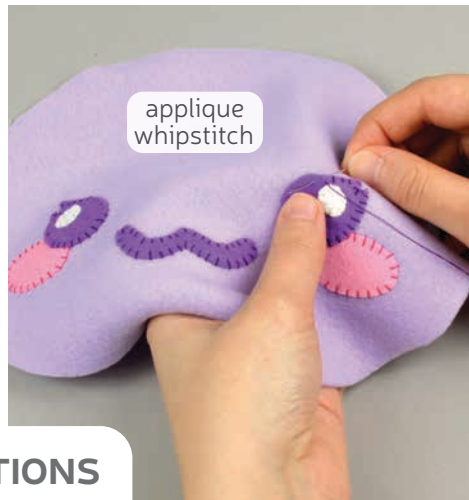
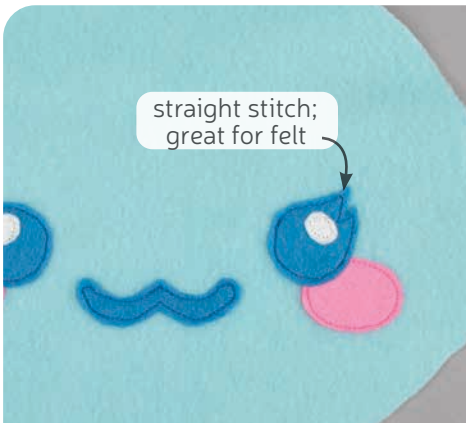
- Grab your fusible web and applique templates. Trace the eye and mouth templates. You'll need:
 - **eyes** (2)
 - **mouth** (2)
 - **pumpkin eyes** (2)
 - **pumpkin nose** (1)
 - **pumpkin mouth** (1)
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side of the fusible web onto the applique fabrics, following the color guides on the paper templates:
 - **eyes, mouth, & pumpkin face** on black
- Cut out your applique pieces and grab your **HEAD FRONT** piece (A). Grab your first applique layer, the **eyes**. Set your paper pattern on top of the head front piece. Align the applique piece on top where the placement markings are. Next, carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.



- Fuse the first layer, the **eyes**, with your iron. Use a press cloth, such as a scrap piece of cotton. This will help protect any polyester or fuzzy fabrics from melting or scorching.
- Continue building up the face with the next pieces, the mouth. Arrange and fuse them the same as the **eyes** using the paper pattern (and the photo) as a guide.
- Lastly add the pumpkin pieces, the **eyes, nose & mouth**.

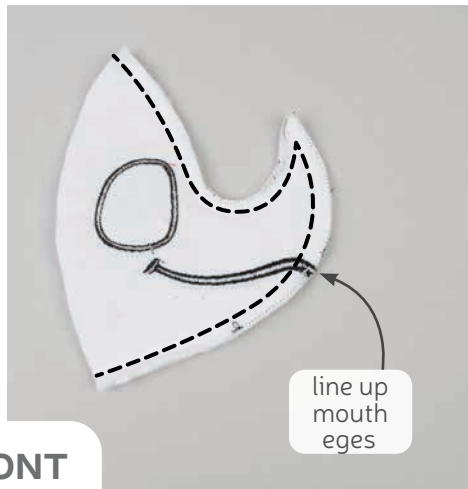
sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



2. 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 CENTER FRONT

- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** pieces (A). Align them both with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up. Be sure that the mouth line also matches at the edge of the fabric.
- Sew along the center front of the pieces. This is the edge along the pointed nose. Be sure to sew slowly and carefully over the mouth pieces to ensure that they line up.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

- a. Take your sewn **HEAD FRONT** pieces (A) and trim the excess seam allowance around the tip of the nose to reduce bulk. Also trim the seam allowance around the inner curve behind the nose, and that will increase flexibility in that seam.
- b. Turn the head front right side out and define the point with a chopstick or similar turning tool.



4. TRIM & TURN THE HEAD FRONT



5. SEW THE EARS

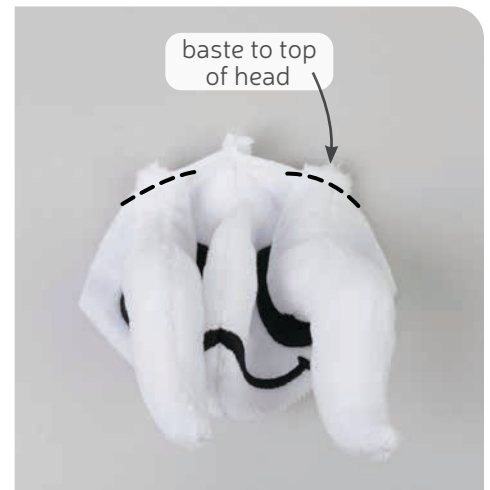


- a. Grab your **EAR** pieces (B). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- b. Sew the pieces together along the curved edges. Leave the short straight edges free for turning the piece right side out later. Repeat with your remaining ear pieces for two total.
- c. Trim the excess seam allowance around the curves and the points of the ears. This will reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned right side out.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

- a. Turn the **EARS** (B) right side out through the opening you left before. Define the points at the tip of the ear with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- b. For the sample, the ears are stuffed lightly to help keep their shape so they droop less. So if desired, stuff the ears lightly with stuffing. Be sure to get a small bit in the tip of the ear so it doesn't deflate later.



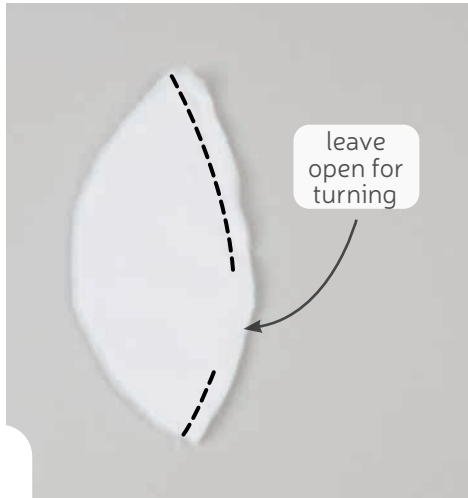
- a. Flatten the opening of the **EAR** (B) so the seams from step 5 line up and the raw edges align. The ears will be attached to the head while the opening is flattened like this.
- b. If you haven't already, locate the **ear placement lines** found on the paper pattern for the **HEAD FRONT** (A). Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open edge of the ears within these **placement lines** so the raw edges line up.
TIP: make sure the tip of the ears are pointing up toward you. This will ensure that the tips point downward in the finished plush.
- c. Baste the ears to the head within the **placement lines**. This will hold them in place securely while we sew the rest of the head.

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).

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



8. SEW THE HEAD BACK

- Grab your **HEAD BACK** pieces (C). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- If you haven't already, note the **opening for turning markings** found on the paper pattern for the head back. Transfer these markings to the wrong side of the fabrics you've just stacked. Sew the head back pieces along this edge, but leave the **opening for turning** that you marked.
- Open up the pieces when complete.



9. SEW THE HEAD

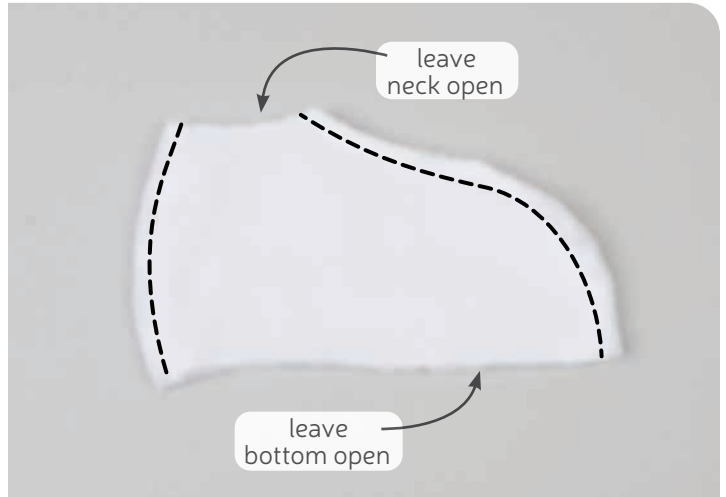
- Grab your **HEAD FRONT** from before (A). Take your **HEAD BACK** (C) and align it over the front so right sides are facing and the raw edges match up. Make sure that the **EARS** (B) are tucked inside so they don't get caught. The **center seams** should line up, and there is also a **circle marking** to point out the top of the piece. Line up the seams and markings and pin the fabrics together.
- Sew the head front to the back all the way around the piece.
- Turn the head right side out to complete.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



10. SEW THE BODY



- a. Grab your **BODY SIDE** pieces (D). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- b. Sew the pieces together along the **center front** and **center back** only. These are the two long curves, but they're also marked on the paper pattern for easy alignment. Leave the top open for the neck, and the bottom open for the bottom.



11. SEW THE BODY BOTTOM

- a. Grab your **BODY BOTTOM** piece (E). This will be joined to the bottom opening of the **BODY** so far (D). The bottom piece has **circle markings** for help with alignment, a **blank circle** and a **filled circle**. Line up the **blank circle** on both the body bottom and the body side. This should coincide with the **front center seam**. Line up the **filled circle** with the **back center seam**. Pin the fabrics together.
- b. Sew the body bottom to the body sides all the way around the piece.
- c. Turn the body right side out when complete.

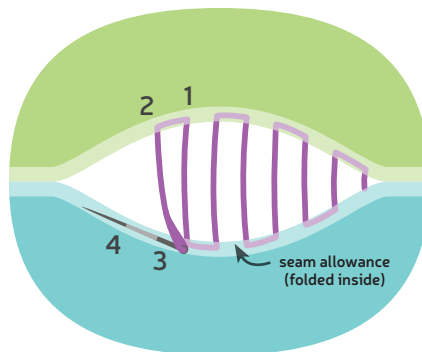
sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

- a.** Grab your head from before and begin stuffing it. First, be sure to get plenty in the nose area so it doesn't deflate later. It helps to use small pieces at first for the pointed nose, then gradually work your way up. Next fill up the cheeks and sides of the face, then lastly fill up the rest of the head.

- b.** Once the head 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.

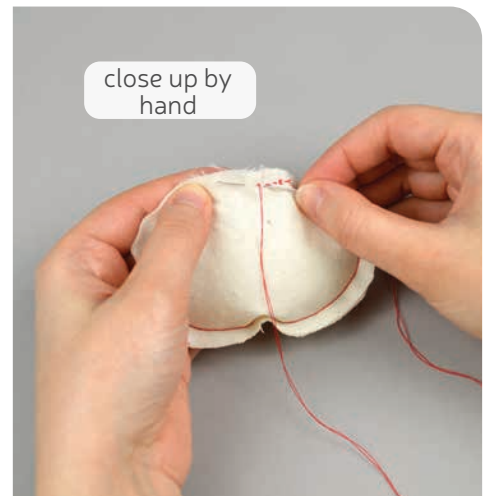
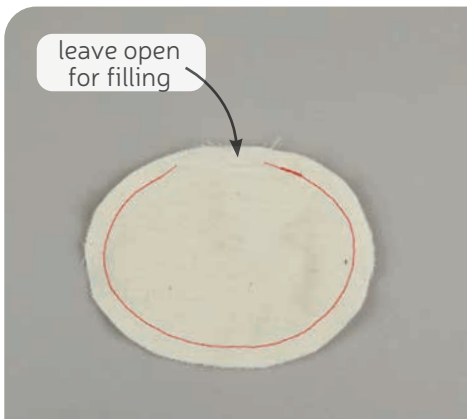


13. LADDER STITCH THE HEAD CLOSED

- a.** 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!
- b.** The **EARS** (B) might be a little floppy. If you want them to stand up better, use a ladder stitch to secure some of the ear base to the head. Push the ears flush against the head so they're pointing straight back, then ladder stitch the ear to the head where the pieces meet. Repeat on both sides.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



14. SEW THE POLY PELLET POUCH

- Grab your **POLY PELLET POUCH** pieces (H). If you haven't already, transfer the *opening for filling* markings found on the paper pattern for the pellet pouch. Take your two pellet pouch pieces and align them together (either way facing; doesn't matter). Sew around the perimeter of the oval, leaving an opening as indicated by the markings.
- Fill the pouch with poly pellets until it's almost full. I like to use a spoon for this, but some people prefer a funnel.
- Once you've finished, thread a hand sewing needle and stitch the opening closed with a whip stitch or back stitch. You can also sew it by machine, but go very slowly or just use the hand wheel. Sewing over a pellet will very likely break a needle.



15. STUFF THE BODY

- Take your sewn **PELLET POUCH** (H) and insert it into the body of your plush. Push it all the way to the back end of the body.
- Stuff the rest of the plush with stuffing so it feels firm and there are no wrinkles in the fabric. Check to be sure that the pellet pouch hasn't shifted.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



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.

16. CINCH UP THE BODY

- Take your stuffed **BODY** (D/E) as well as a hand sewing needle. Thread the needle and knot the end. Sew around the opening of the body with a gathering stitch, about $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the edge.
- Pull at the gathering thread to cinch the neck opening closed.

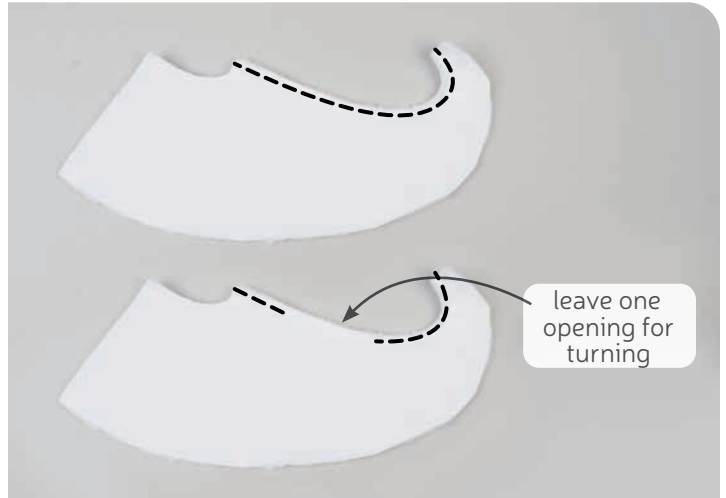


17. ATTACH THE HEAD TO THE BODY

- Align the head over the body of your plush so far. Make sure they're both facing forward. The nose should be pointing in the same direction as the **center front seam**. The bottom center of the head should be centered over the middle of the neck opening.
TIP: for help with placement, draw about a 2" wide circle around the center bottom of the head and repeat for the neck opening. These lines will serve as your stitching guide. Align the head to the body so the lines match.
- Ladder stitch the head to the body. Take long basting stitches for the first pass, about $\frac{1}{4}$ "- $\frac{3}{8}$ " long. Go entirely around the neck. Then check that you like the placement and that the neck isn't wobbly.
- If you like the result, go around the neck again with tinier, neater stitches for the second pass. If your neck was a little wobbly before, you can stitch a slightly wider circle to give the neck a wider base and more stability.
Knot the thread to secure, and trim.

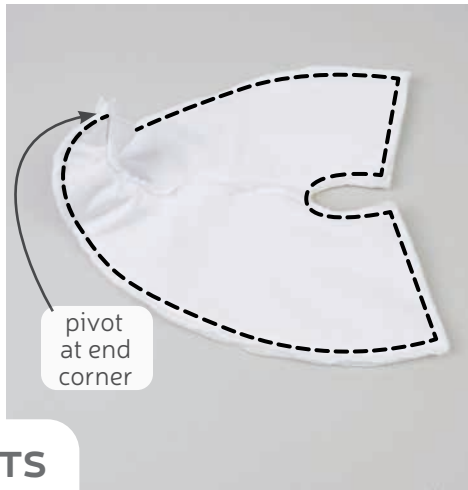
sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



18. SEW THE SHEET HALVES

- Grab your **SHEET** pieces (F). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- If you haven't already, note the **opening for turning markings** found on the paper pattern for the sheet. Transfer them over to the wrong side of the fabric. Sew the pieces together along the **center back edge**, but leave an **opening for turning** as you marked. For the remaining two pieces, sew the pieces together as before but without the **opening for turning**.



19. SEW THE FULL SHEETS

- Open up both of your **SHEET** pieces (F). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up. The **center back seams** should also match up. This is especially important at the corner tip of the sheet in the back. Pin the layers together.
- Sew around the entire perimeter of the sheet. Be sure to pivot at the corners. The pieces won't lie completely flat, so the second photo shows what it might look like for one half.
- The third photo shows what it might look like for both halves.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



20. TURN & CLOSE THE SHEET

- Trim the excess seam allowance at the corners and curves of the **SHEET** (F). This will reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned next. This is especially important at the back corner since this corner is much sharper.
- Turn the sheet right side out through the **opening for turning** you left earlier. Define the points with a chopstick or similar turning tool, especially at the back corner. Fold the fabric along the center back seam to create the curved point as shown.
- Tuck in the seam allowances at the opening for turning you left before. Ladder stitch the opening closed.



21. ATTACH THE SHEET

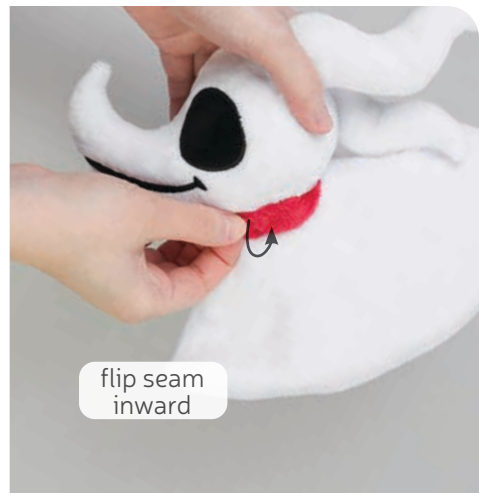
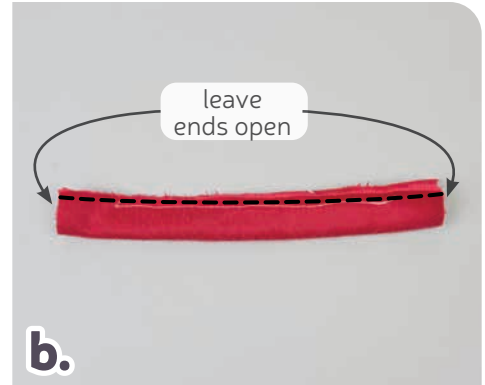
- Take your finished **SHEET** (F) and wrap the **neck curve** around the neck of your plush so far. This should bring the front corners together right at the **center front seam**. Hold the sheet in place by sticking pins into the neck and through the plush.
- Ladder stitch the neck edge of the sheet to the neck of the plush. Start at the front corner and go around to the other front corner.
- For a more secure hold, flip up the sheet and repeat ladder stitching the neck along the underside as well.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

- a. Grab your **COLLAR** pieces (I). Fold it in half lengthwise with right sides facing so it makes an even skinnier strip.
- b. Sew the collar together along the raw edge, but leave the short ends open.
- c. Turn the tube right side out. Hemostats are the easiest tool for the job, but a bodkin or safety pin would also work.
- d. When complete, the turned collar should look something like photo D.

22. SEW THE COLLAR



23. ATTACH THE COLLAR

- a. Grab your plush so far and wrap the **COLLAR** (I) around its neck.
- b. Line up the raw ends of the collar, being sure not to twist it. Make sure right sides are facing, and hold the ends together so the collar is snug. The collar may be a little longer than needed. This is for insurance in case your plush is a little different. Stitch the ends of the collar together using a back stitch. Trim away any excess collar fabric about 1/4" away from your stitching. Clean up any fuzz it might leave behind.
- c. Flip the collar seam toward the inside of the plush so it's not seen.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



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.

24. SEW THE PUMPKIN DARTS

- Grab your **PUMPKIN** pieces (G). These pieces have a single **dart** along the bottom, this is the large wedge shape along the bottom center of the piece.
To sew it, start by folding the fabric along the point of the dart so the slanted edges match up.
- Sew from the opening of the **dart** into the fold of the fabric. Try to blend your stitching into the fold so it makes a smooth transition and a rounder finish to the plush.
Repeat this with your other pumpkin piece for two total.



25. SEW THE PUMPKIN NOSE

- Take your two **PUMPKIN** pieces (G) and align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.
- Sew the pumpkin pieces together all around the shape, but leave an **opening for turning** along the bottom **dart** area. This is also marked on the paper pattern for extra help.
- Trim the excess seam allowance around the stem. This will reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



26. ATTACH THE PUMPKIN NOSE

- Stuff the **PUMPKIN** (G) semi-firmly with stuffing. Be sure to get small bits into the stem, then fill it enough so there are no wrinkles near the bottom **darts**.
- Align the pumpkin onto the nose of your plush. The tip of the nose should nestle into the bottom opening of the pumpkin and the pumpkin face should be facing forward.
- Ladder stitch the pumpkin to the nose of your plush all the way around the opening.

CONGRATS!

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



sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

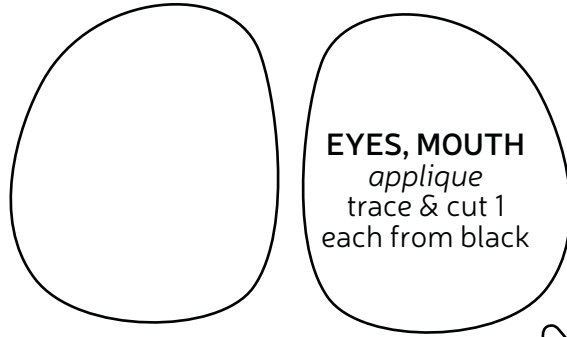
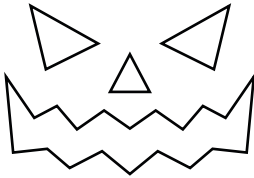
TEST SQUARE

2"

measure this square to
be sure you've printed
at the proper
proportions

PUMPKIN FACE

applique
trace & cut 1
each from black



EYES, MOUTH

applique
trace & cut 1
each from black



opening for turning

A1 A2

Zero Plush
P A T T E R N
WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM
SHEET (F)
Cut 4 from white fabric
1/4" seam allowance

NAP

STRETCH

