LOKI HORNS
alligator plush
PATTERN EXPANSION

a free sewing pattern by

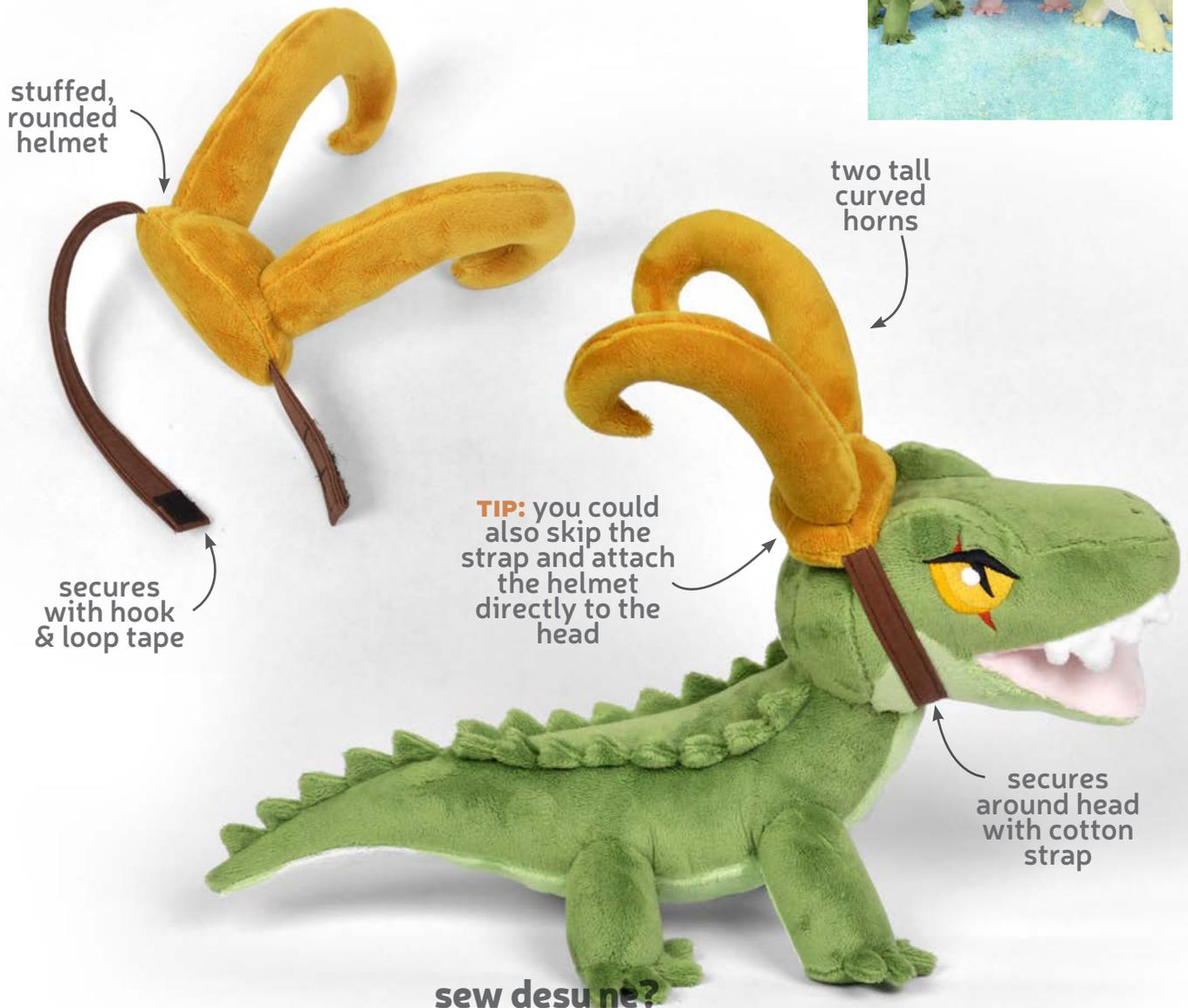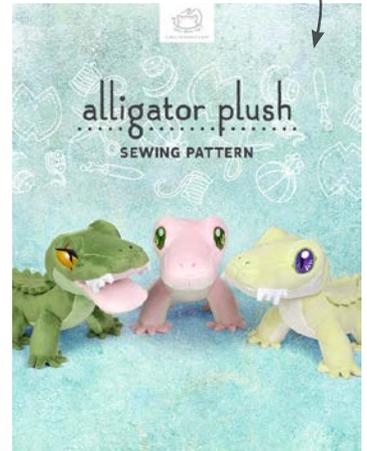sew desu ne?

LOKI HORNS PATTERN EXPANSION

This pattern expansion is an additional piece of headgear for the **ALLIGATOR PLUSH SEWING PATTERN**. These horns can be worn over the head of the alligator.

Inside you'll find a guide for creating a rounded helmet with tall, curved horns and a strap to hold it in place.

However you could easily use this headpiece for another plush with a similar sized head as well!

start with this pattern & add on the new pieces!

alligator plush
SEWING PATTERN

stuffed, rounded helmet

two tall curved horns

secures with hook & loop tape

TIP: you could also skip the strap and attach the helmet directly to the head

secures around head with cotton strap

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DIFFICULTY:

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Creating the headpiece is fairly straightforward. The most difficult parts are likely creating the strap so it's nice and thin or attaching the horns.

MAKES:

One headpiece: The helmet makes a 4" x 2" oval at the base. The horns are about 6" tall.

long-pile minky

minky

cuddle fleece

micro fleece

anti-pill fleece

fleece

COTTON OR FELT

SKILLS USED:

- Sewing curves (straight to curved pieces, inner to outer curves, outer to outer curves, etc.)
- Basting
- Darts
- Ladder stitch
- Top stitching
- Gathering; gathering stitch

SUGGESTED FABRICS:

HELMET & HORNS: minky or fleece
STRAP: light to medium weight woven like cotton or twill

To create a headpiece the most similar to the samples, a medium weight plush fabric with about 20%-30% stretch along the crosswise grain should be used. The varieties shown to the left are some good options and names to look for.

However, non-stretch fabrics are just fine too. Since it's not an animal shape, small changes in the finished product won't look as "off." So feel free to use other light to medium weight fabrics like felt or cotton. In this sample, cotton broadcloth is used for the strap.

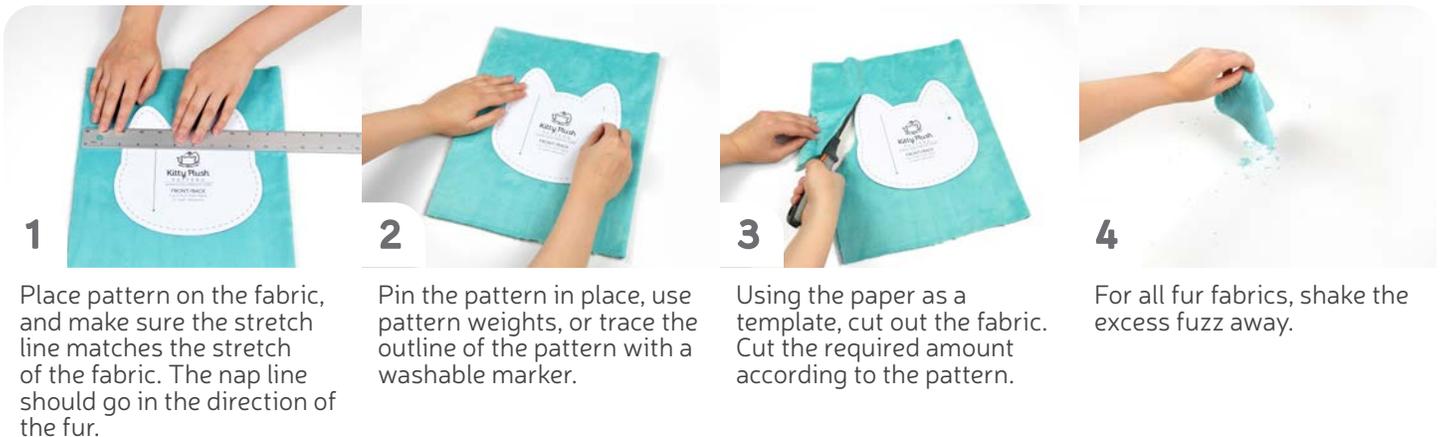10" of minky stretches to 13" = 30% stretch

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MATERIALS & TOOLS:

- 1/3 yd. of yellow or gold fabric for horns and helmet
- **OPTIONAL STRAP:**
    - 1/8 yd. (or 14" x 3") of brown fabric for chin strap
    - 1" of hook and loop tape
- 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)

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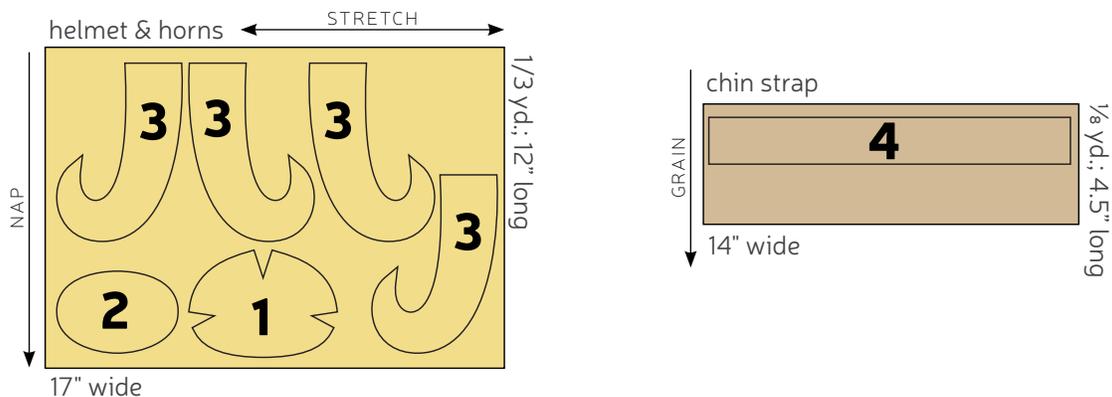
3 Using the paper as a template, cut out the fabric. Cut the required amount according to the pattern.

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

CUTTING LAYOUT:

helmet & horns

STRETCH

1/3 yd.; 12" long

NAP

17" wide

chin strap

GRAIN
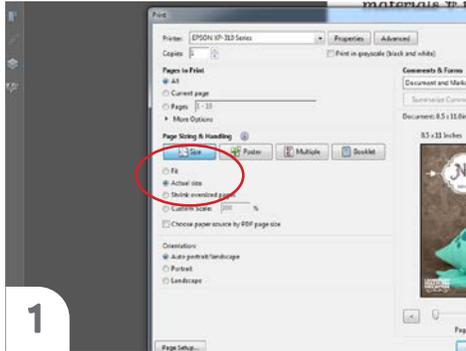
14" wide

1/8 yd.; 4.5" long

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PRINTING THE PATTERN:
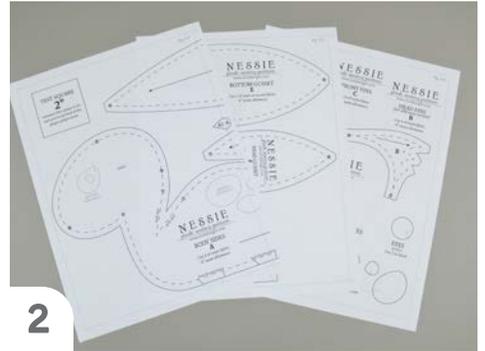
Set your computer to print **PAGES 11-12**.
If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps to follow.
For the best results, use a .pdf reader like **ADOBE READER**. That's what is shown here and will give you the most control over the settings.
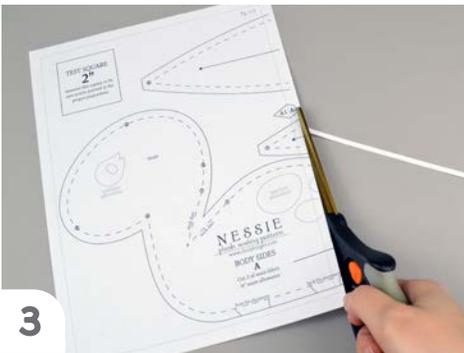
1

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.
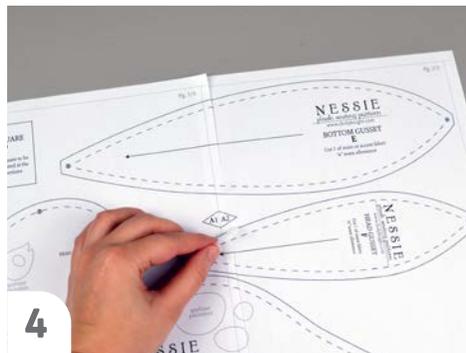
2

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.
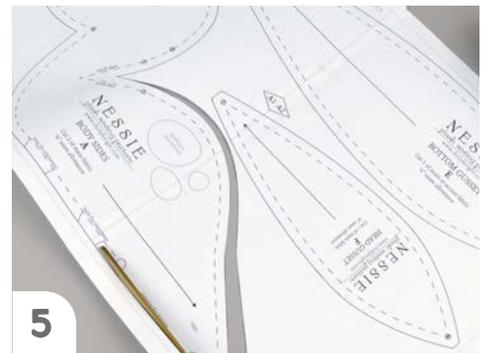
3

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.
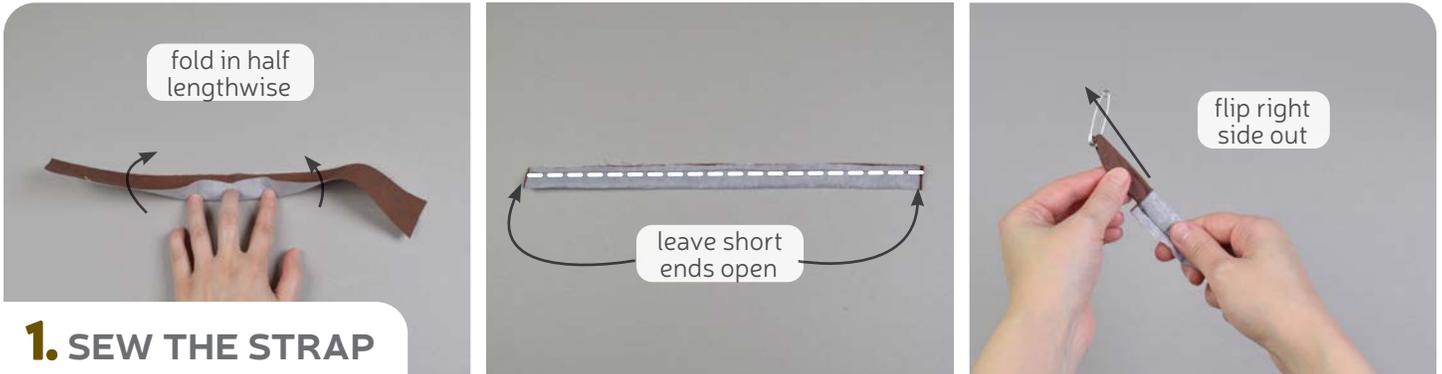
5

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.
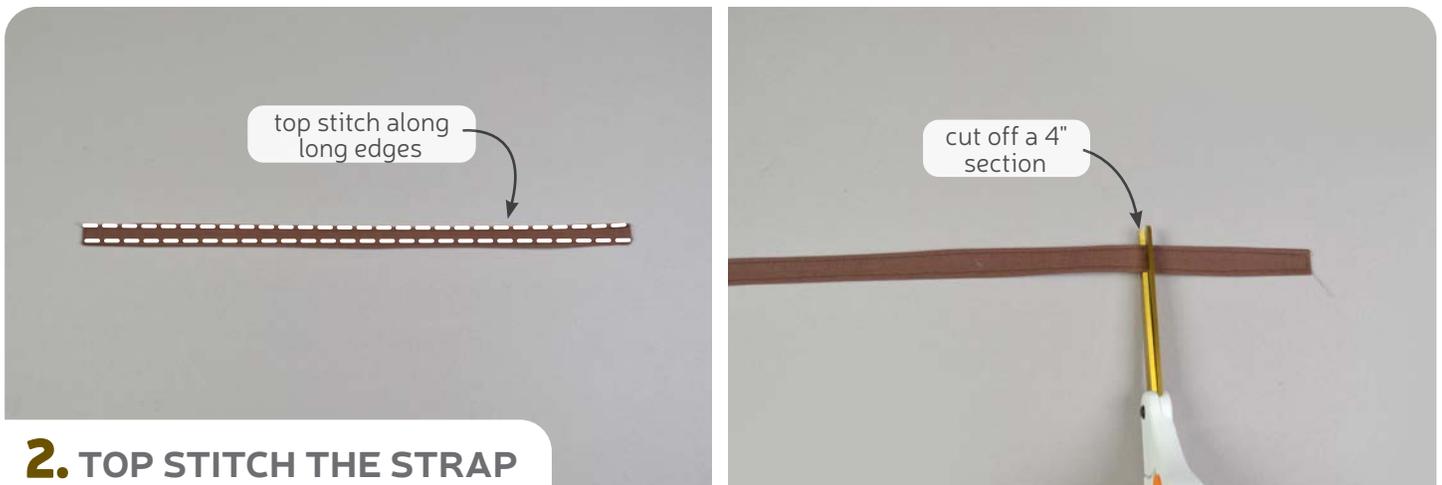
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fold in half lengthwise

leave short ends open

flip right side out

1. SEW THE STRAP

➜ *The strap is used to secure around the chin of the alligator and make the helmet removable. Alternatively, you can skip the strap and just sew the helmet directly to the head of your gator. Move ahead to step 3 to skip the strap.*

a. Grab your **STRAP** piece (4). Fold it in half lengthwise with right sides facing so it makes an even skinnier strip.

b. Sew the strap along the long edge so the ends are open.

c. Turn the strap right side out through the opening in one of the ends. A bodkin or safety pin works well for this.
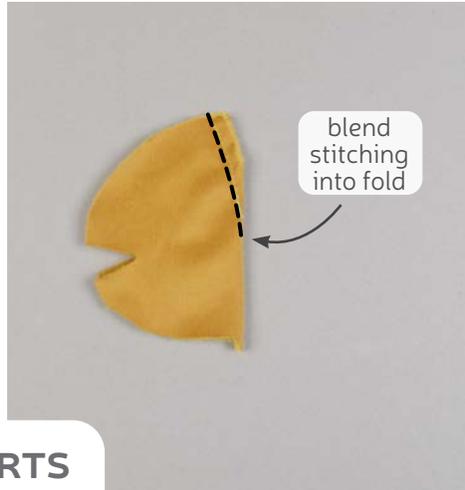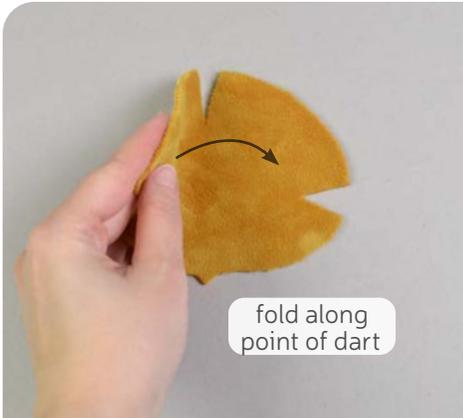

top stitch along long edges

cut off a 4" section

2. TOP STITCH THE STRAP

a. After turning the **STRAP** (4) right side out, press it flat. Then top stitch about ⅛" in from each side for both strength and a nicer detail.

b. Cut about 4" off one end of the strap so you have two strap pieces.

fold along point of dart
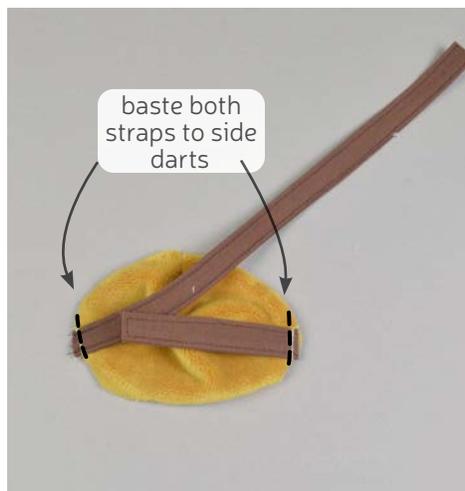

blend stitching into fold

3 darts total

3. SEW THE HELMET DARTS

a. Grab your **HELMET** top piece (1). Note the 3 *darts* found all around the edge. Sew them starting by folding one along the point of one of the *darts*. Here it's the center back *dart*. Line up the slanted edges found on each side.

b. Sew from the opening of the *dart* into the fold of the fabric.

c. Repeat this for all 3 *darts* in the helmet top.

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.

align strap over side dart

baste both straps to side darts

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).

4. BASTE THE STRAPS
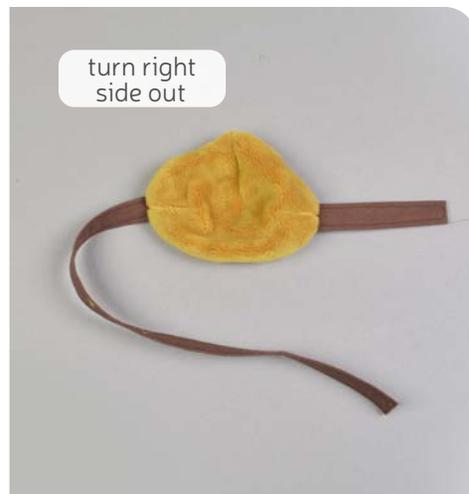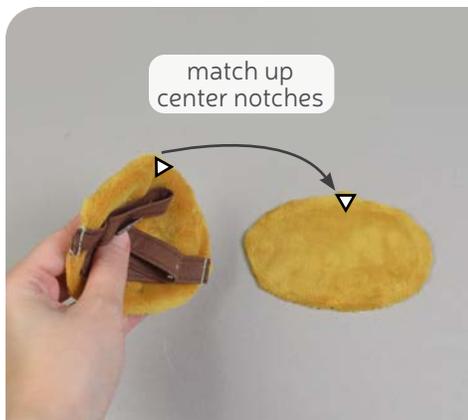
➔ *Skip ahead to step 5 if you're not using straps.*

a. Grab both of your **STRAP** pieces (4) as well as your **HELMET TOP** (1). Take one of the straps and align the short edge along one of the side *darts* of the helmet top so the raw edges match up.

b. Baste the strap to the helmet top within the seam allowance to hold it in place for future steps. Then repeat with your other strap piece on the other side of the helmet top.

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match up
center notches

leave open
for turning

turn right
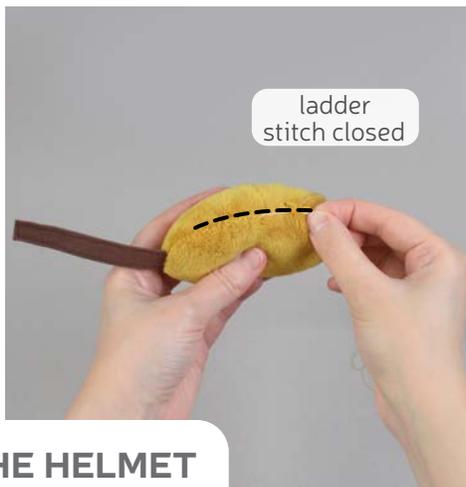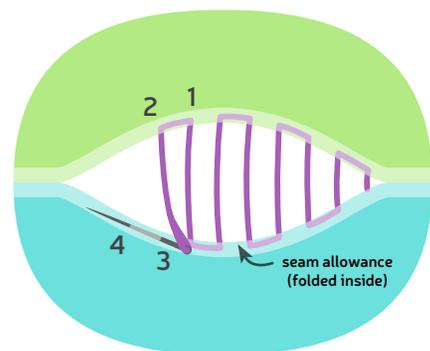side out

5. SEW THE HELMET TOP TO BOTTOM

a. Grab your **HELMET BOTTOM** piece (2). Take your **HELMET TOP** (1) from before, and align it over the bottom so right sides are facing. The *notch marking* at the center top will also line up. Make sure the straps are tucked inside and pin the fabrics together.

b. Sew the helmet top to the bottom all the way around the oval, but leave an *opening for turning* near the center back dart for turning the piece.

c. Turn the helmet right side out through the opening.

stuff firmly

ladder
stitch closed

fold under
ends of strap

6. STUFF & CLOSE UP THE HELMET

a. Stuff the helmet firmly with stuffing. This stuffing will help support the weight of the horns up next, so use enough so the helmet feels sturdy.

b. Tuck in the seam allowances from the opening you left in the previous step. Then ladder stitch the opening of the helmet closed.

c. If your helmet has **STRAPS** (4), fold under the short edges by about ½" and stitch the edges in place. We'll later hide the raw edge using hook and loop tape.

2 1

4 3

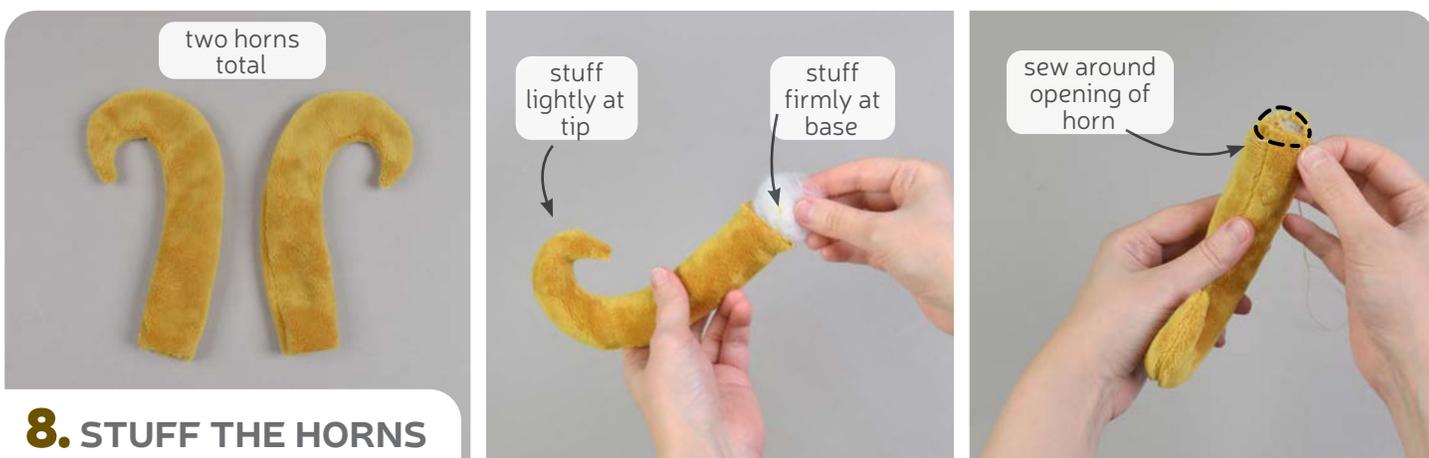seam allowance
(folded inside)

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7. SEW THE HORNS

a. Grab your **HORN** pieces (3). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.

b. Sew the horn along the long pointed edge. Leave the short straight edge at the bottom open for turning the piece later.

c. Trim the excess seam allowance at the corners and curves to help reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned.

8. STUFF THE HORNS

a. Turn the **HORNS** right side out through the opening in the bottom. Then repeat steps 7-8 once more so you have two horns total.

b. Stuff the horns semi-firmly with stuffing. You can keep the stuffing light near the tip, just enough so it takes shape. You'll want it to be firmer near the base so it helps hold up the horn.

c. Thread a hand sewing needle and knot the end. Sew a gathering stitch around the opening of the horn, about ¼" away from the edge.

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 ¼"-½" long) gather the fabric when pulled later.

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sew around opening of horn

center over side darts

ladder stitch around base

9. ATTACH THE HORNS

a. Pull at the gathering thread to cinch the horn closed.

b. Take your stuffed horn and place it over the top of your helmet so far. Center the cinched end over the tip of one of your side *darts* so the curved end is curving toward the back.

c. Ladder stitch the horn to the helmet around the base. Repeat this with your remaining horn for two horns total.

overlap chin straps & mark

sew hook & loop tape on each end

10. SEW ON THE HOOK AND LOOP TAPE

a. Test fitting the helmet on your alligator. If yours doesn't have straps, you can simply ladder stitch it to the head of your alligator.
If yours has **STRAPS**, wrap the straps under the chin and overlap them. Mark where they've overlapped so you can sew the hook and loop tape there.

b. Sew the hook and loop tape over the folded edges of your strap. To ensure the pieces overlap, one end should have one side of the hook and loop tape on the underside, and the other end should have the hook and loop tape on the outside.

CONGRATS!
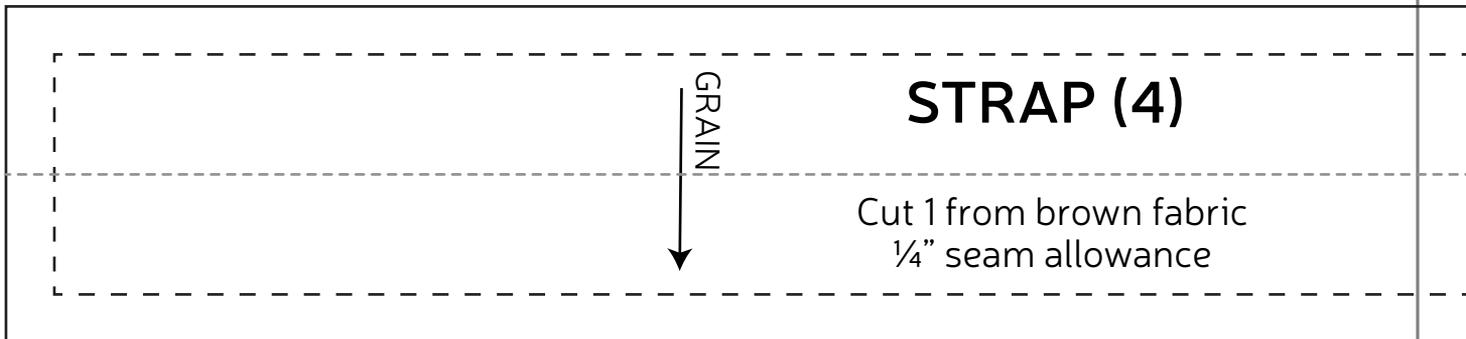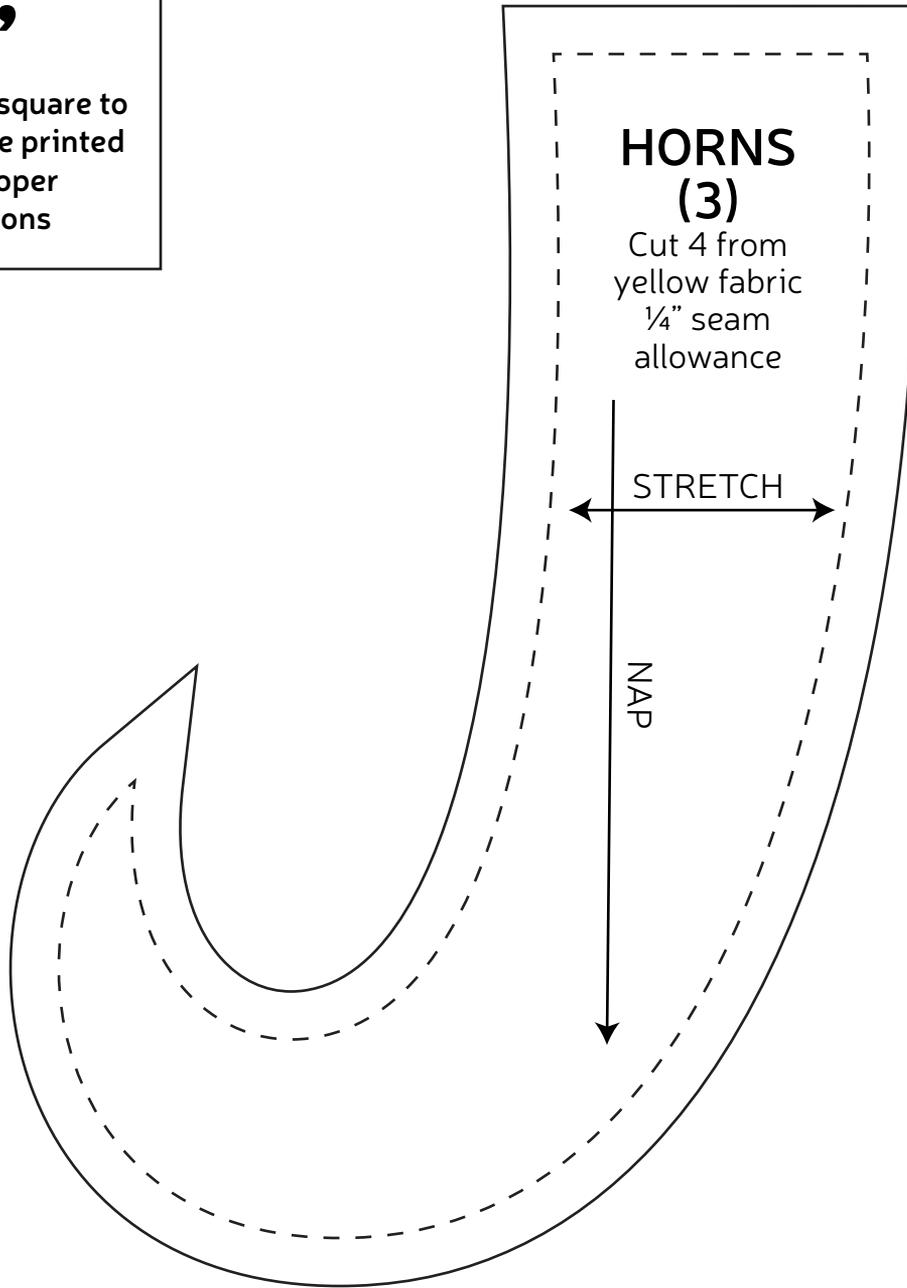You're all done! Try it on your gator and go start some chaos!
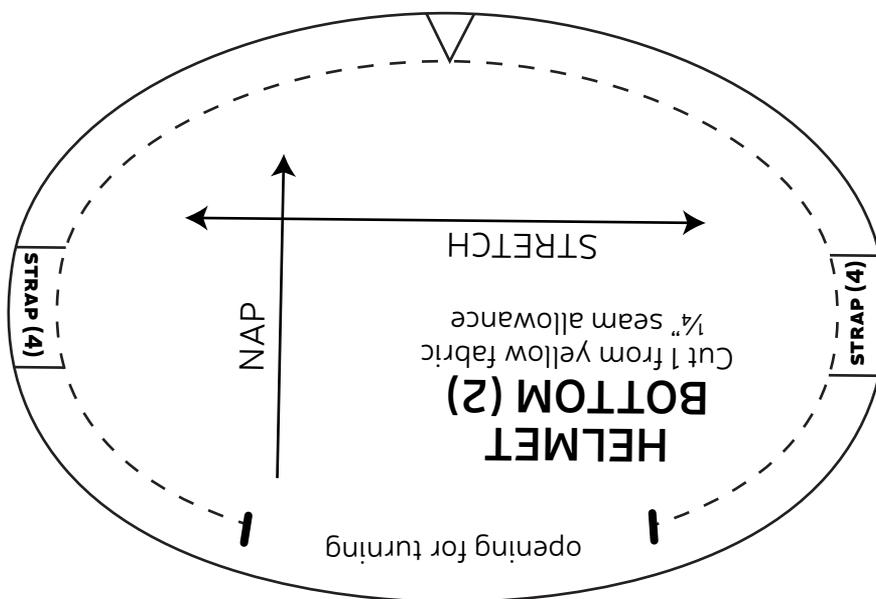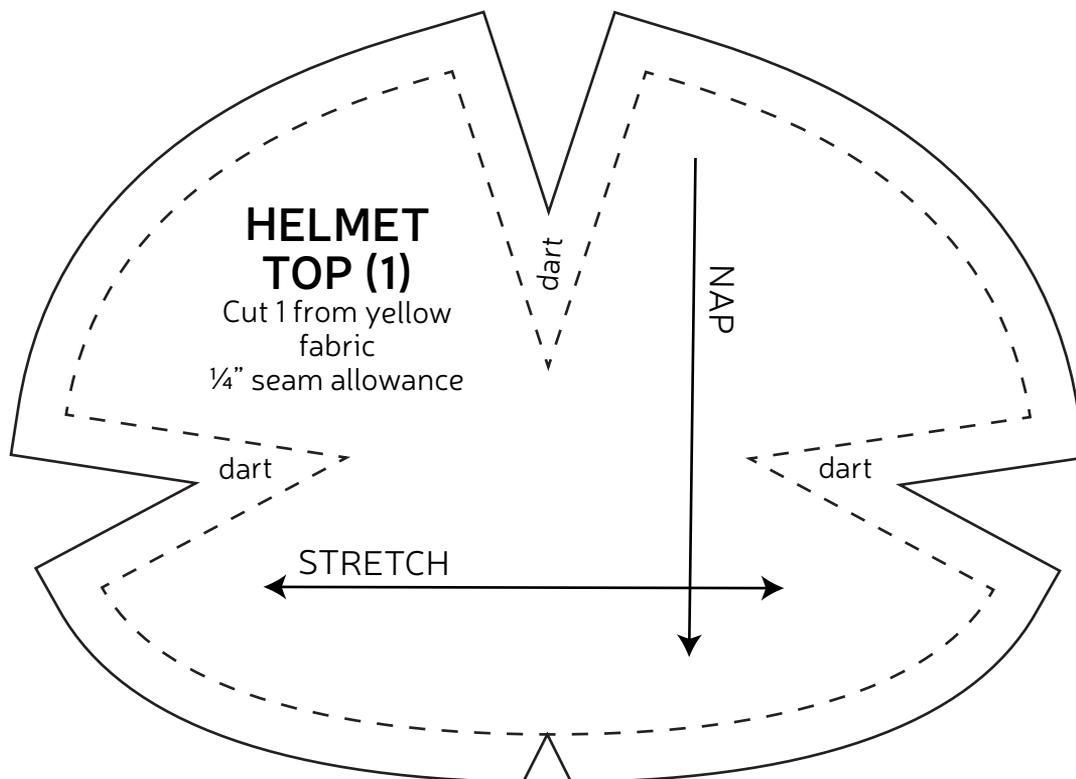
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TEST SQUARE
2"
measure this square to
be sure you've printed
at the proper
proportions

HORNS
(3)
Cut 4 from
yellow fabric
¼" seam
allowance

STRETCH

NAP

A1 A2

GRAIN

STRAP (4)

Cut 1 from brown fabric
¼" seam allowance

HELMET TOP (1)
Cut 1 from yellow fabric
¼" seam allowance

dart

dart

dart

NAP

STRETCH

A1 A2

STRAP (4)

STRAP (4)

NAP

STRETCH

HELMET
BOTTOM (2)
Cut 1 from yellow fabric
¼" seam allowance

opening for turning

fold line