

OWL PLUSH



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



OWL PLUSH

This pattern is for a wonderfully round and pudgy owl! In preparation for Halloween, this pattern comes with both a sweet and colorful version, and a creepy brooding version. The simple chubby body design can be dressed up with different faces for lots of character. And it also has flat wings, "ears," feet, and a tiny beak.

DIFFICULTY:



The main body of the plush is pretty simple, but the rest of the construction is heavy on hand-sewing. So it takes some extra time and careful placement of each element.

MAKES:

One plush: 7" wide, 6" tall, and 5" long (not including ears)

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Basting
- Darts
- Sewing small pieces
- Gathering stitch, gathering
- Ladder stitch

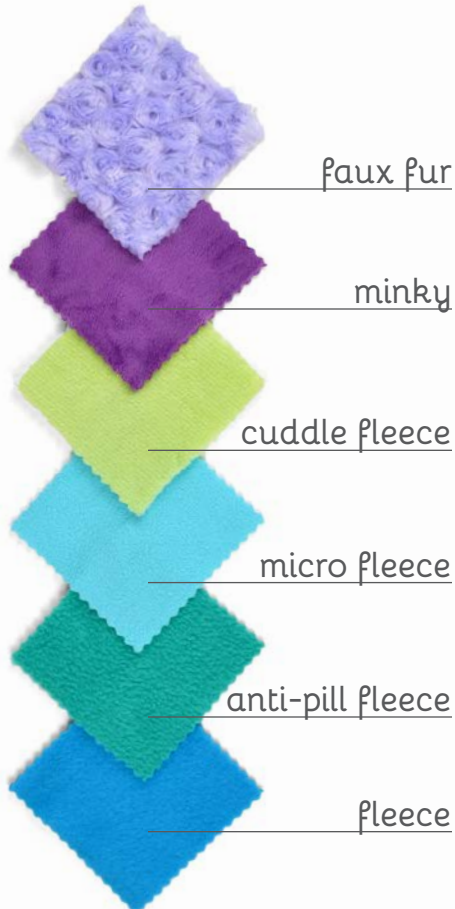


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materials & tools:

- 1/3 yd. of fabric for main body
- 1/8 yd. of accent fabric for feet & beak
- 9" x 4" or 1/8 yd. of accent fabric for face panel
- 3" x 3" piece of black applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) for pupils
- 3" x 3" piece of accent applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) for eyes
- 2" x 2" piece of white applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) 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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printing the pattern:

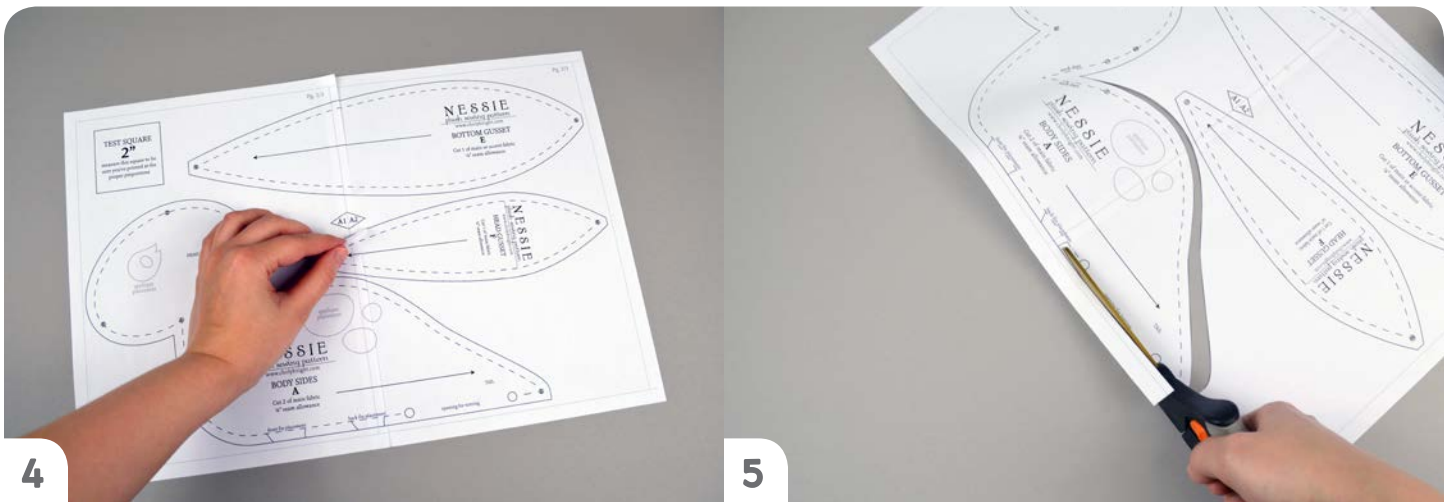
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 16-18**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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.

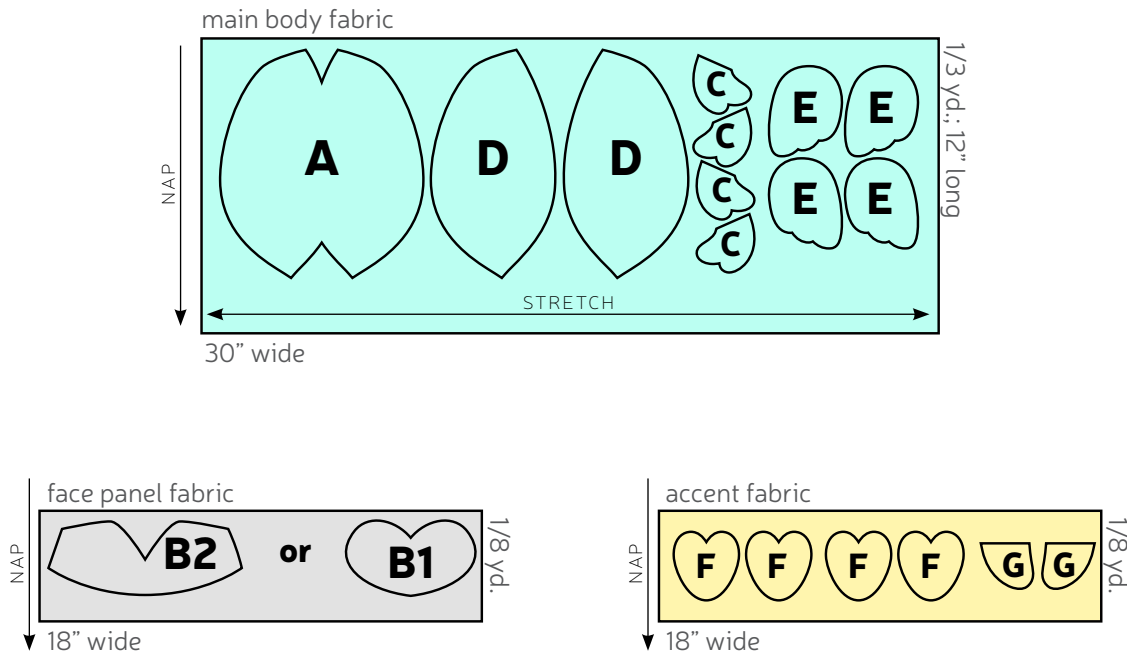
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cutting the fabric:

- 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.
- Pin the pattern in place, use pattern weights, or trace the outline of the pattern with a washable marker.
- Using the paper as a template, cut out the fabric. Cut the required amount according to the pattern.
- 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 the seam allowance used is 1/4" throughout the project.

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1. SEW THE FACE PANEL

- Grab both your **FRONT** piece (A) and your chosen **FACE PANEL** (B1 or 2). Align the face panel over the front (both right sides facing up) by setting the paper pattern on top of the fabric piece, align the face panel piece on top where the placement markings are, then carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the face panel in place.
- Pin the **FACE PANEL** in place, or use a bit of glue stick if you prefer for another alternative.
- Use a medium-width zigzag stitch to sew around the edge of the face panel. A straight stitch would work as well.



2. TRIM AWAY THE BACK

- Flip the **FRONT** piece over and cut away the excess main fabric behind the face panel, about $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the seam you've just sewn. This will reduce bulk and allow your fabric to stretch more. Be sure to cut through the back fabric only, and not the face panel fabric.
- If your fabric has gotten a little warped from the stitching, give it a light press to smooth it out.

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3. 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, and 4 eye shines (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 on white.
- Cut out the eye pieces and arrange them on the **FRONT** (A) piece over the face panel. 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.

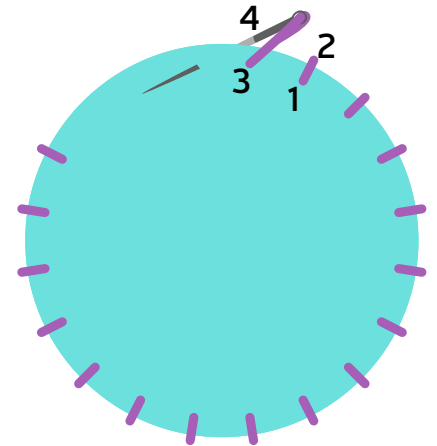
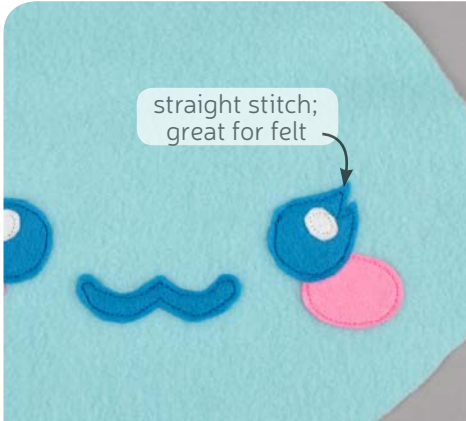


4. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- 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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4a. 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.



5. SEW THE DARTS

- Locate the open wedge found on the top and bottom of the **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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6. SEW THE EARS

- Grab your **EAR** pieces (C). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the long curved edge, being sure to pivot at the corners. Leave the short straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Trim the excess seam allowance at the curves to reduce bulk and clip the inner corner to increase flexibility. Repeat with the remaining two ear pieces for two complete ears total.



7. BASTE THE EARS

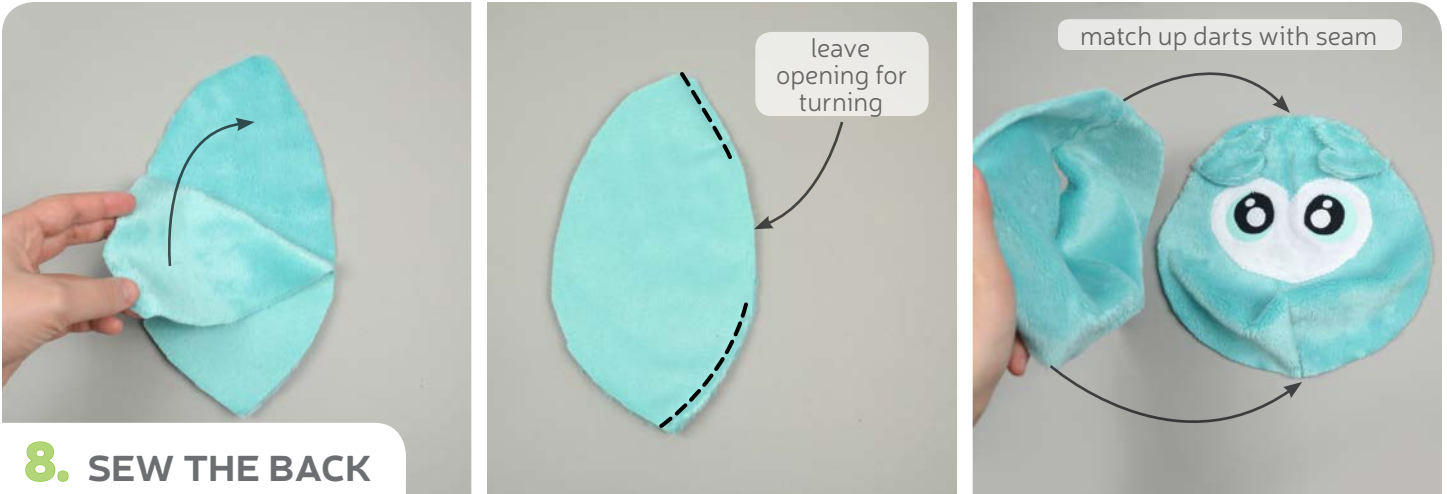
- Turn the **EARS** right side out through the opening and define the points with a chopstick or similar blunt tool.
- If you haven't already, locate the ear placement lines found on the **FRONT** paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Place the open end of the ear within these placement lines so the tips point upward. 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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8. SEW THE BACK

- Grab your two **BACK** pieces (D). 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 **BACK** pieces only, but be sure to leave the opening for turning that you marked.
- Open up your **BACK** piece and grab the **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.

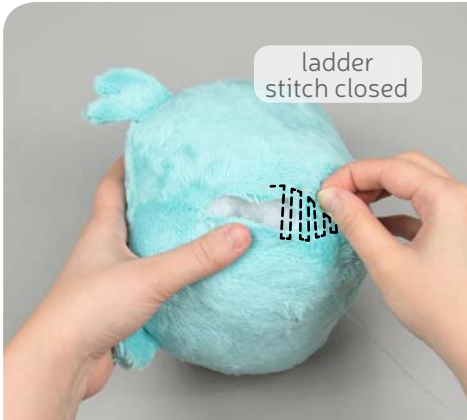


9. SEW THE BODY

- Sew around the perimeter of the body completely. Turn the body right side out through the opening you left in the back.
- Stuff the body 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.

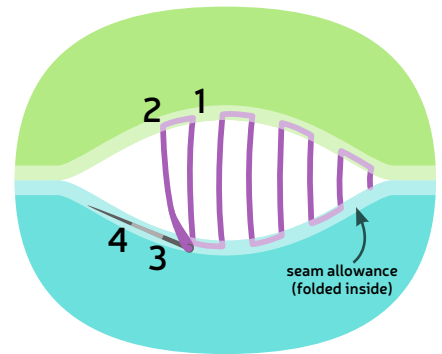
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10. STITCH THE OPENING CLOSED

- 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!



11. SEW THE WINGS

- Grab your **WING** pieces (E). Take two and align them together with right sides facing and edges matching up.
- To get the detailed points in the feathers, it's best to transfer over the stitching line from the paper pattern. Trim off the seam allowance from the wing pattern and use it to trace onto the wrong side of the fabric.
- Take this to your machine and stitch around the perimeter of the wing, being sure to pivot along the lines you traced.

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12. TURN THE WINGS

- Trim the excess seam allowance in the curves of the **WINGS** to decrease bulk. Clip the seam allowance between the feathers to increase flexibility.
- To turn the wings, cut a small clip near the center through one layer of the fabric.
- Turn the wing right side out through the opening and define the feathers with a chopstick. Repeat with the second wing, but be sure to cut through one layer of fabric on the opposite side so you have an opposing pair.



13. ATTACH THE WINGS



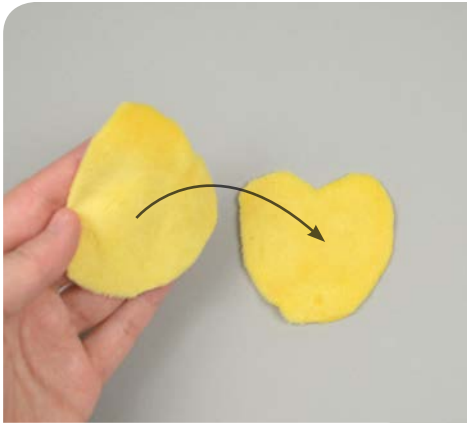
- Stuff the **WINGS** lightly with stuffing. Keep most of the stuffing towards the bottom of the wings and in the feathers.
- Close the opening in the wing with a quick whip stitch. Repeat with the remaining wing pieces so you have two completed wings total.
- Position the wing on the side of the **BODY** about ½-1" below the ears; there's also a guideline on the paper pattern. The feathers should point downward and the whip stitched side should face the body. Stick pins down through the top of the wing to hold it.
- Ladder stitch the wing in place around the top of the wing similar to how you did back in step 10. Repeat with the other wing on the remaining side.

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.

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14. SEW THE FEET

- Grab your **FEET** pieces (F). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew around the perimeter of the feet, being sure to pivot at the inner corner.
- Trim the excess seam allowance in the curves of the toes to decrease bulk. Clip the seam allowance between the toes to increase flexibility. Repeat with the remaining two feet pieces for two completed feet total.



15. TURN AND STUFF THE FEET

- To turn the **FEET**, cut a small clip near the base of the foot through one layer of the fabric. Turn the foot right side out through the opening and define the toes with a chopstick.
- Stuff the feet lightly with stuffing, being sure to get most of it in the toes so they take shape.
- Close the opening in the foot with a quick whip stitch or back stitch. Repeat with the remaining foot pieces so you have two completed feet total.

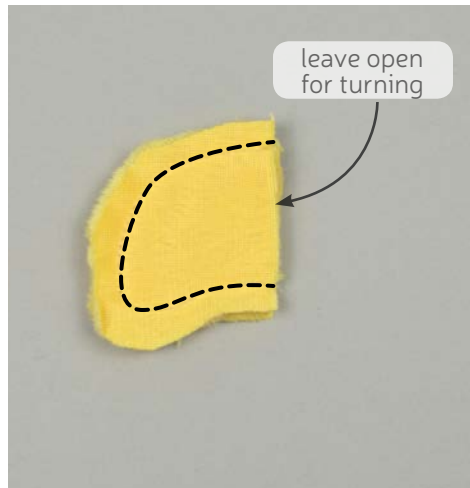
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16. ATTACH THE FEET

- Take the finished **FEET** and position them on the front of the owl body. Make sure the whip stitched side is facing the body so it isn't seen. The paper pattern has guidelines for help, but they're situated flush with the bottom and between the side seam and bottom dart. Hold the feet in place by sticking pins down through the base of the foot and into the body.
- Ladder stitch the feet in place around the base, leaving the toes free so they stick out for a more 3D look.



17. SEW THE BEAK

- Grab your two **BEAK** pieces (G) and align them with right sides facing and edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the curved edge, leaving the straight edge free for turning the beak right side out.
- Trim the excess seam allowance near the curve to reduce bulk.

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18. STUFF AND CINCH THE BEAK

- Turn the **BEAK** right side out and stuff it lightly with stuffing.
- Thread a hand sewing needle with thread and knot the end. Sew a long gathering stitch around the opening of the beak, 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 face.

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.



19. ATTACH THE BEAK

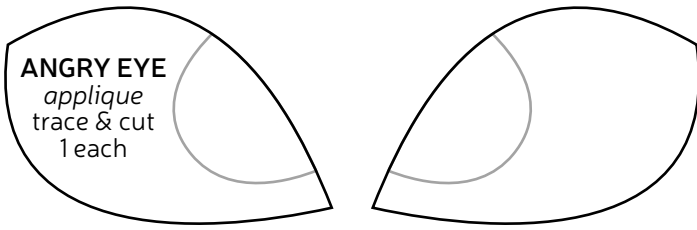
- Place the cinched end of the beak on the face of the owl. The paper pattern has a guideline, but it's also slightly below the center point on the eyes.
- Hold the beak in place by sticking pins down into the base of the beak and into the body of the plush.
- Ladder stitch the beak in place around the base, much like you did back in step 10.

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

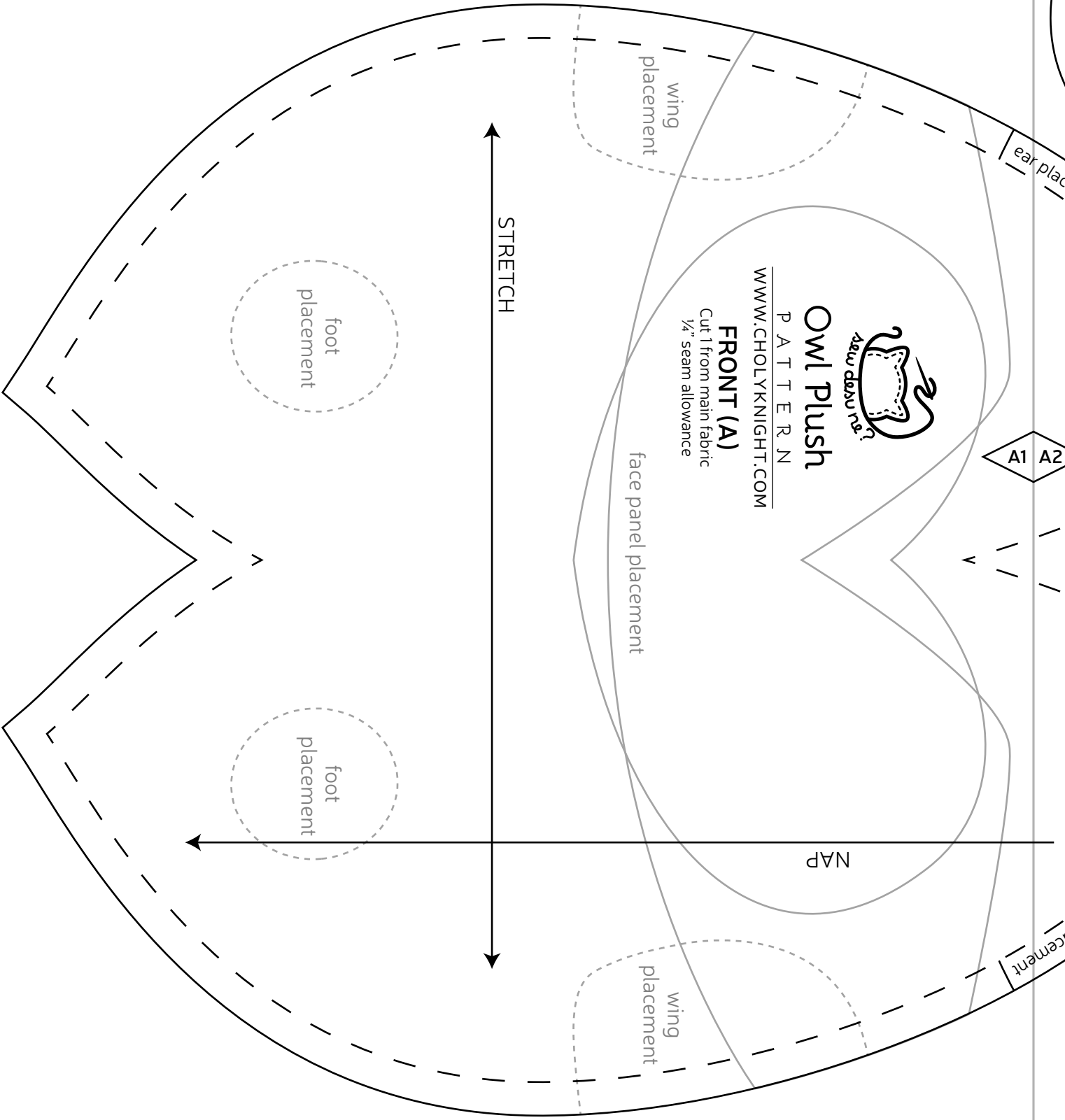
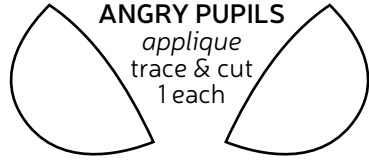
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ANGRY EYE
applique
trace & cut
1 each



ANGRY PUPILS
applique
trace & cut
1 each



Owl Plush
P A T T E R N
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FRONT (A)
Cut 1 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance



STRETCH

NAP

A1 A2

ear plac

placement

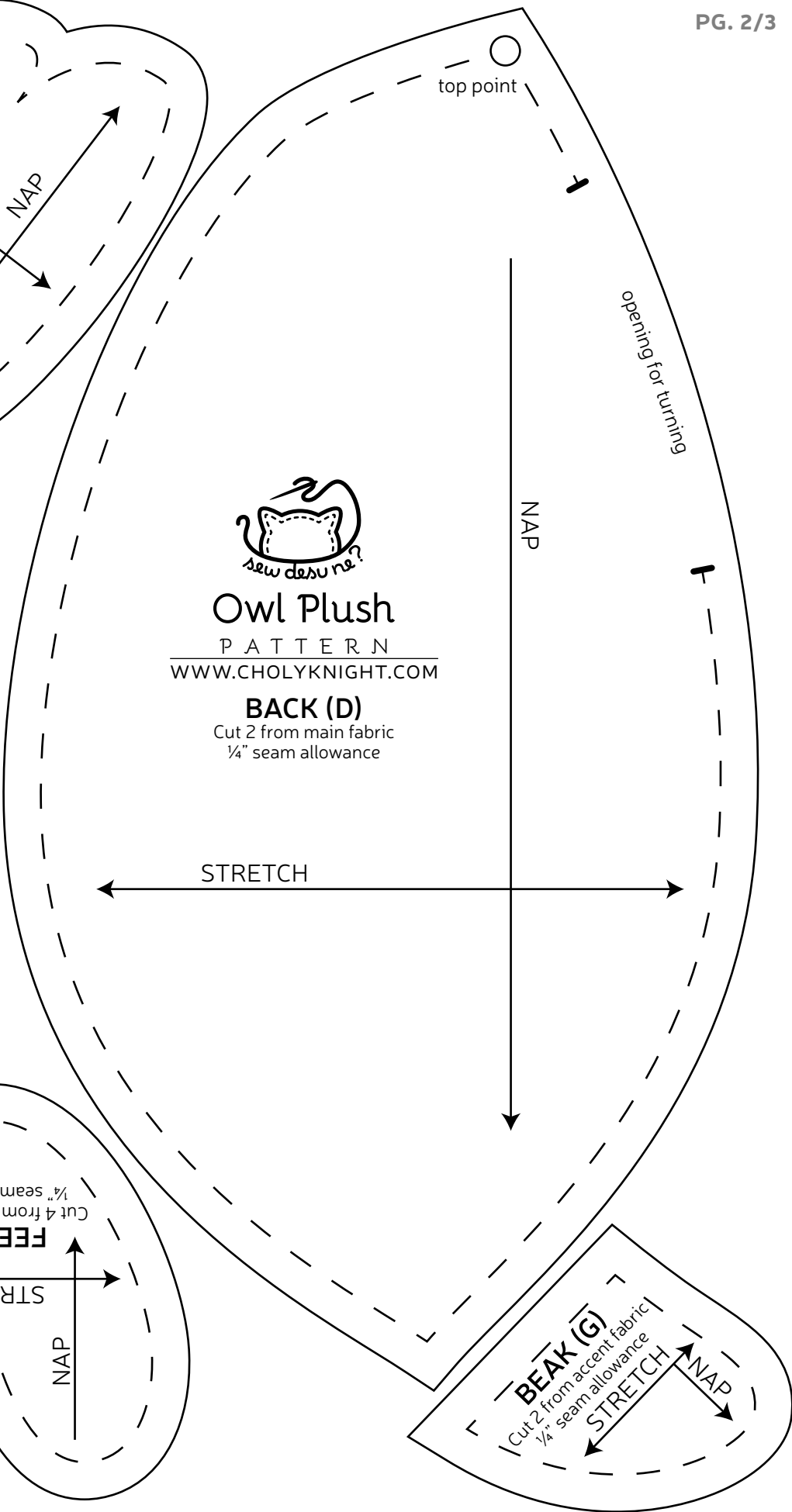
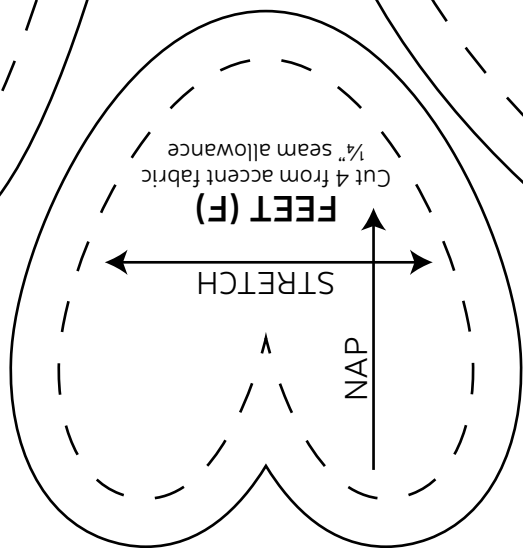
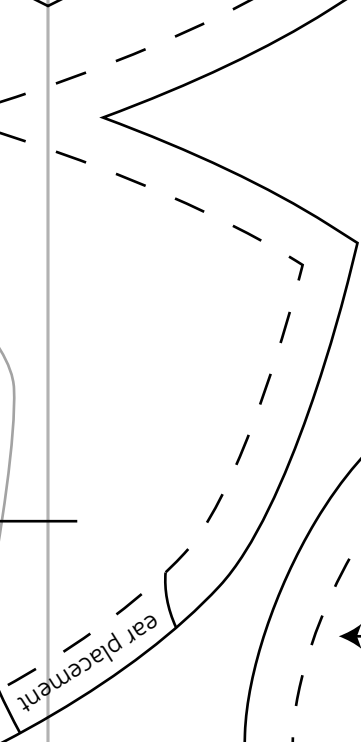
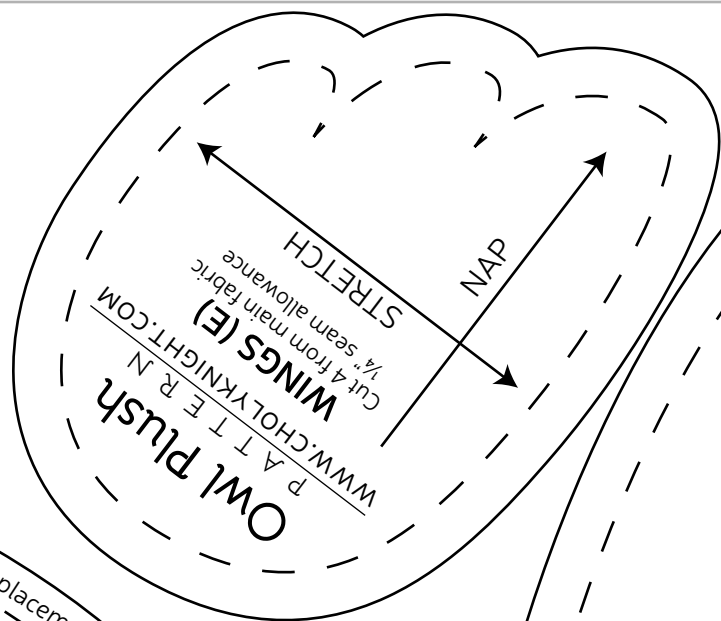
wing
placement

face panel placement

foot
placement

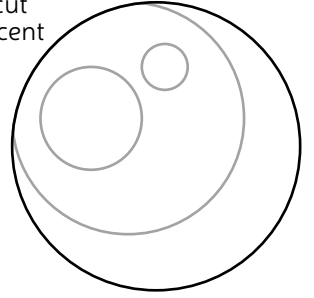
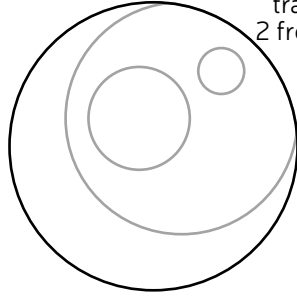
foot
placement

wing
placement



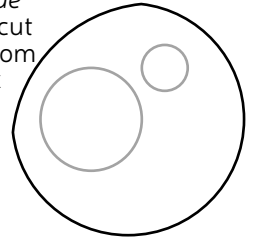
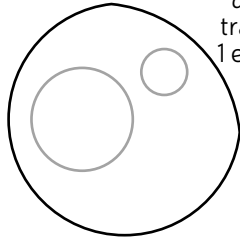
EYE

applique
trace & cut
2 from accent
color



PUPIL

applique
trace & cut
1 each from
black



LARGE EYE SHINE

applique
trace & cut
2 from white

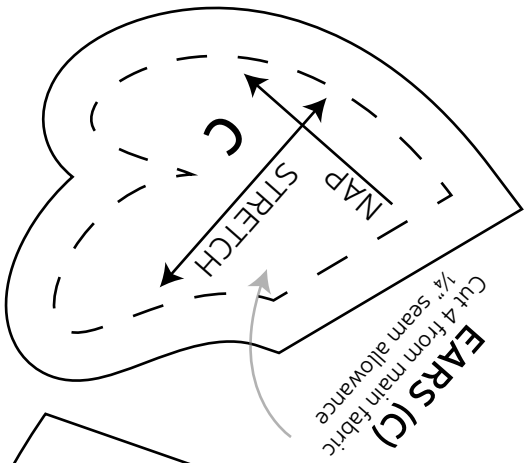
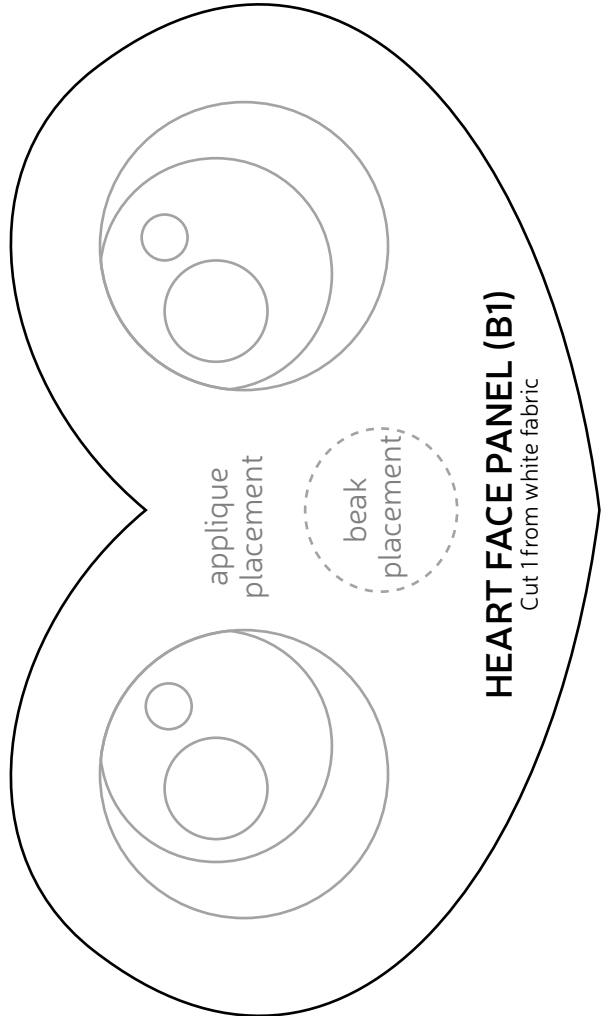


SMALL EYE SHINE

applique
trace & cut
2 from white

HEART FACE PANEL (B1)

Cut 1 from white fabric



EARS (C)

Cut 4 from main fabric
1/4 seam allowance

SCARY FACE PANEL (B2)

Cut 1 from white fabric

