

Mer-kitty

plush



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



mer-kitty plush

In celebration of Mer'may' is this adorable ocean feline! A combination of a mermaid and cute kitty, this mer-kitty has a big colorful fish tail with detailed top stitching. It also sports a sweet smiling face, fur tuft on its chest, and a cute accent fin.

Any fans of mermaids or cats are sure to love it.

SKILLS USED:

- Basting
- Darts
- Sewing small pieces
- Ladder stitch
- Top-stitching
- Sewing curves

DIFFICULTY:



The hardest part of this plush is definitely sewing in the waist fins, as things start to get crowded. However you can skip them for an easier time.

MAKES:

One plush: about 9" tall (not including ears) and 7" wide.



sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. of fabric for main body
- ¼ yd. of accent fabric for tail
- ⅛ yd. of accent fabric for inner ears and chest tuft
- ⅛ yd. of accent fabric for waist fins
- 4" x 4" piece of black applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) for pupils
- 3" x 3" piece of accent applique fabric for eyes
- 2" x 2" piece of white applique fabric for eye shines
- 2" x 2" piece of pink applique fabric for mouth
- 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

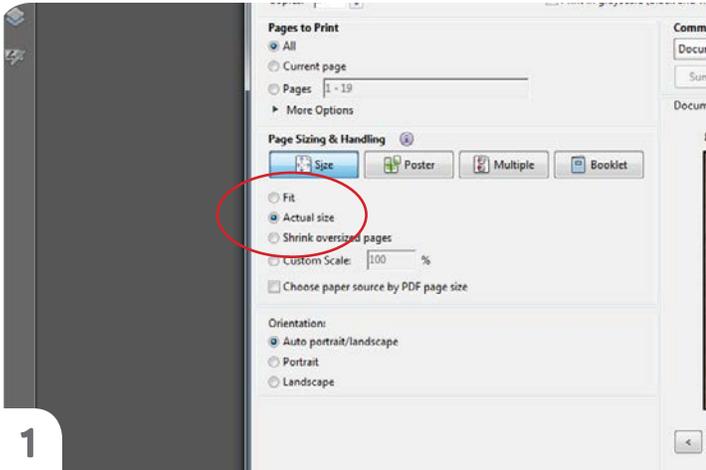


sew desu ne?

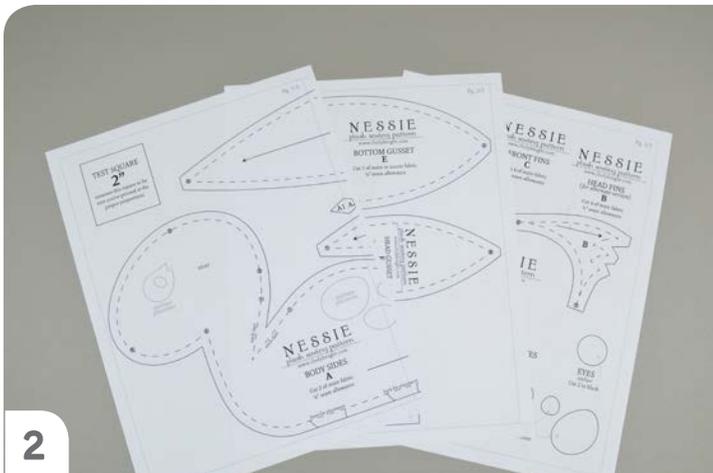
| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

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.



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.

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.

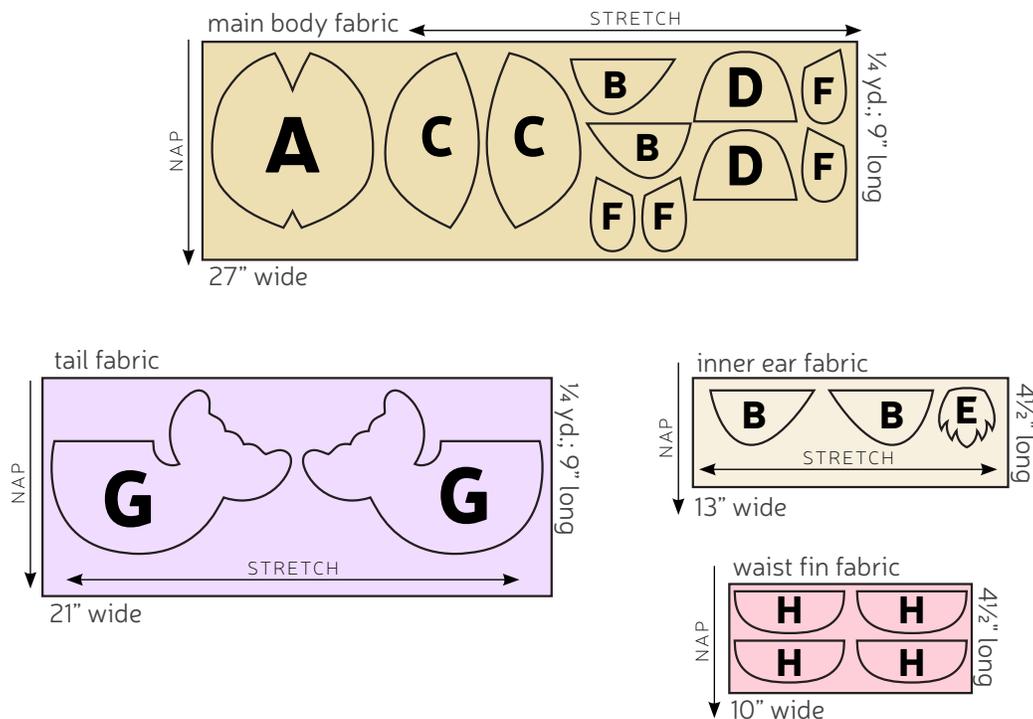
3

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:

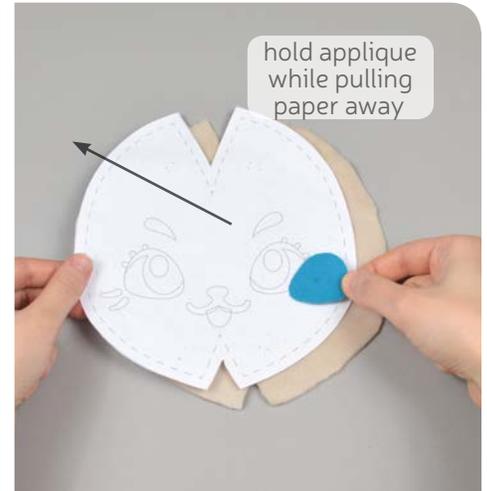


BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- 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 the seam allowance used is 1/4" throughout the project.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



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, 2 eye shins, and 1 smile. The mouth, whiskers, and eyebrows are optional.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The pupils, whiskers, smile, and eyebrows go onto black, the eyes on the accent fabric, the mouth on pink, and the eye shins 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.

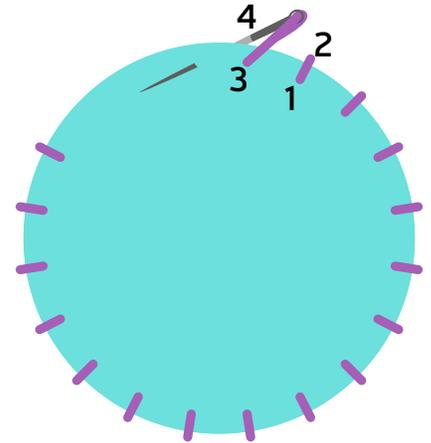
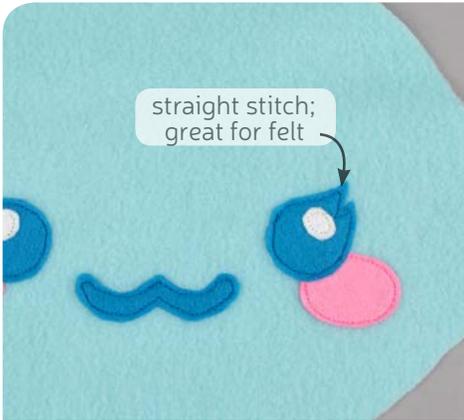


2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- 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, eye shine, and smile 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.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

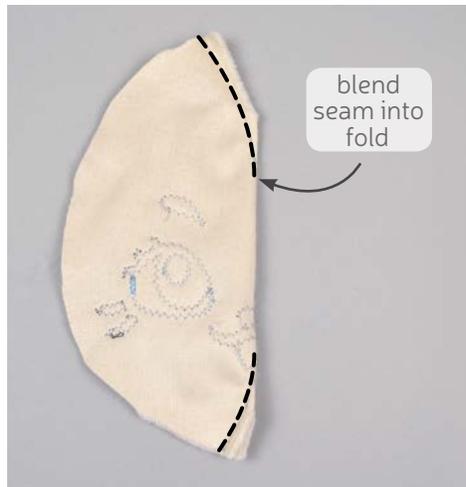


2a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

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 wedges found on the top and bottom of the **HEAD FRONT (A)** 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.

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.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



4. SEW THE EARS

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

- Refer to the **EAR** paper pattern to find the **fold line** for the ears. Use this as a guide to fold the ear with inner fabrics facing. Pin the ear together.
- Baste the ear along the bottom edge to hold the fold in place. Repeat with the remaining ear so you have a mirrored pair.
- If you haven't already, locate the **ear placement lines** found on the **HEAD FRONT (A)** paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open end of the ear within these placement lines. Be sure that the folds are pointing toward the middle of the head front. Pin the ears in place.
- Baste the ears to the front within the seam allowances to hold them in place for future steps.

5. BASTE THE EARS

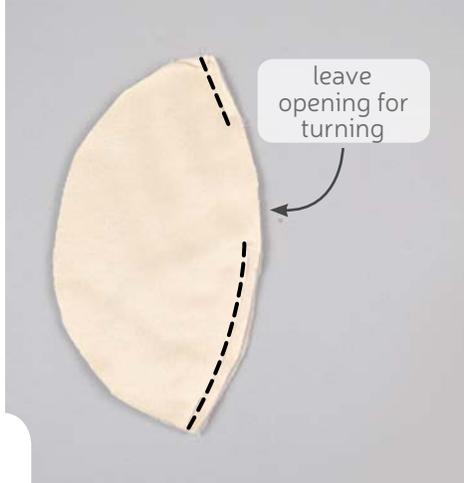
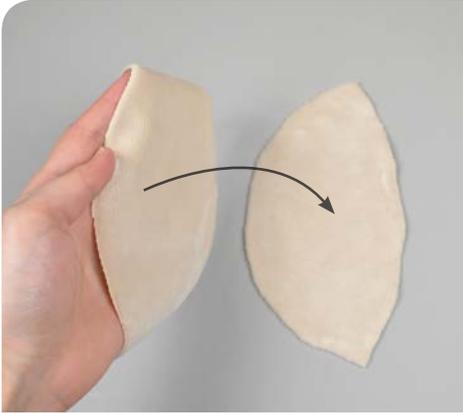


basting:

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 |



6. SEW THE HEAD 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.

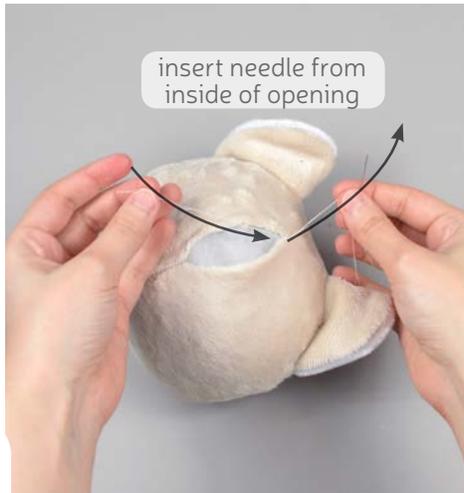


7. SEW AND TURN THE HEAD

- 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 and face until it gets completely full and there are no wrinkles in the fabric.

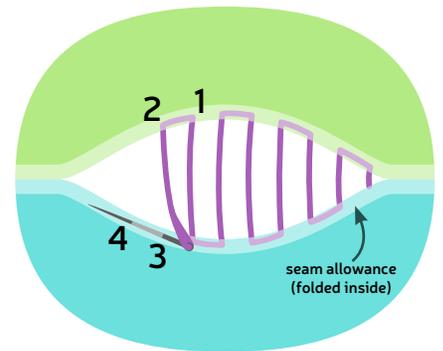
sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



8. CLOSE UP THE HEAD

- After the face is full and has no wrinkles, fill up the sides and top 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.
- 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.



9. SNIP THE THREAD

- 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!

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



- a. Grab your **CHEST (D)** and **FUR TUFT (E)** pieces. Align the fur over the chest with both right sides facing up using the paper pattern lines as a guide. Secure the fur to the chest either by pinning or using a bit of glue stick to hold it in place.
- b. Stitch the fur to the chest either by using a zigzag stitch or a straight stitch along the edge of the piece.

10. ATTACH THE CHEST FUR

- a. Grab your **ARM** pieces (F). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- b. Sew them together along the curved edge, leaving the short straight edge free for turning right side out.
- c. Turn the arm right side out. Repeat with the remaining two arm pieces for two complete arms total. Stuff the arms lightly with stuffing toward the end. Keep the opening empty so it's easier to sew to the chest next.
- d. If you haven't already, locate the **arm placement lines** on the paper pattern for the **CHEST (D)**. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open ends of the arms within these placement lines. Note that they should be pointing downward. Pin them in place.

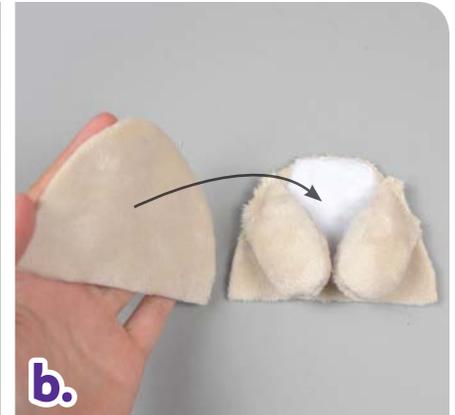


sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

- a. Baste the **ARMS** (F) to the chest within the seam allowance to hold them for future steps.
- b. Grab your remaining **CHEST** (D) piece and align it over the current one with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- c. If you haven't already, locate the **opening for turning marking** on the paper pattern for the chest. Transfer it over to the wrong side of the fabric. Sew the chest pieces together, leaving the opening you marked before. Leave the straight edge on the bottom open as well.
- d. Turn the chest right side out when complete.

12. SEW THE CHEST

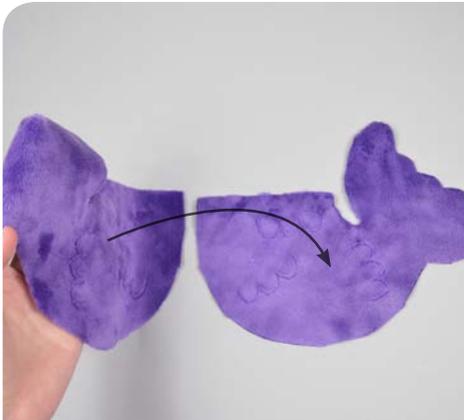


13. TOP STITCH THE TAIL

- a. Grab your **TAIL** pieces (G). Transfer the scale **top stitching lines** located on the paper pattern.
- b. Stitch over these lines for both of your tail pieces to add some extra detail to your finished plush.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



14. SEW THE TAIL



- Take the two **TAIL** pieces and line them up with right sides facing and raw edges aligned.
- Sew around the curved edge of the tail; leave the straight edge free for attaching to the chest later.
- Before turning right side out, trim the seam allowance at the curves near the tail fin to reduce bulk. Also clip the seam allowances at the corners to increase flexibility when the piece is turned.



15. TOP STITCH THE FIN LINES



- Turn the tail right side out and define the fin with a chop stick or similar turning tool.
- Transfer the **fin lines** from the paper pattern. One method is to trim along the stitching lines from the pattern and use it as a template on the fabric.
- Stitch along the traced lines to complete the fin details.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



16. SEW THE WAIST FIN

- Grab your **WAIST FIN** pieces (H). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the two together along the curved edge, leaving the straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Turn the fin right side out through the opening. Repeat with the remaining two fin pieces for two complete fins total.



17. ATTACH THE WAIST FIN

- If you haven't already, locate the **center notch** found on the **TAIL** paper pattern (G). Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open end of the fin within these notches. Repeat with the other side and the other waist fin. Pin the fins in place.
- Baste the waist fins to the tail around the opening of the tail.
- When done correctly, the fins should just meet in the center front and center back.

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |



18. SEW THE CHEST TO THE TAIL

- Turn the **TAIL** wrong side out and the **CHEST** right side out. Place the chest inside the tail so right sides are facing. Align the side seams of the chest with the side seams of the tail. Pin the edges together.
- Sew the chest to the tail all around the opening. This area is very small so take the sewing slowly.
- Once complete, turn the body right side out through the opening in the chest.



19. ATTACH THE HEAD

- Stuff the body with stuffing. Start with lots of stuffing near the tip of the tail so it looks full. Then work toward the opening so the whole tail fills up and looks full. There should be no wrinkles left in the fabric when properly filled.
- Align the head over the body so they're both facing forward. The side seams should match up.
- Ladder stitch the head to the body, going around the opening in the neck. Stitch a wide circle to ensure the neck is secure and not wobbly.
 - *TIP: take big basting stitches for the first pass to make sure the head placement is right. Then go around again with neater, tinier stitches for the second pass.*

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

sew desu ne?

| WWW.CHOLYKNIGHT.COM |

