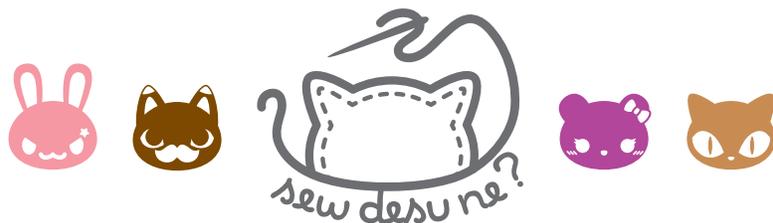


ferret plush



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



ferret plush

Make your favorite "cat snake" in soft cuddly form with this pattern! This cute ferret has an adorable masked face, tiny ears, and stumpy feet.

It would make a perfect gift for someone who has pet ferrets or just loves weasels and stoats!

DIFFICULTY:



Most of this plush is pretty straight forward, but attaching the head and feet is done by hand, so that requires a bit of extra time and effort.

MAKES:

One plush: body about 10" tall (not including ears), 5" wide, and 3½" long (not including tail).

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Basting
- Darts
- Sewing small pieces
- Ladder stitch
- Sewing curves

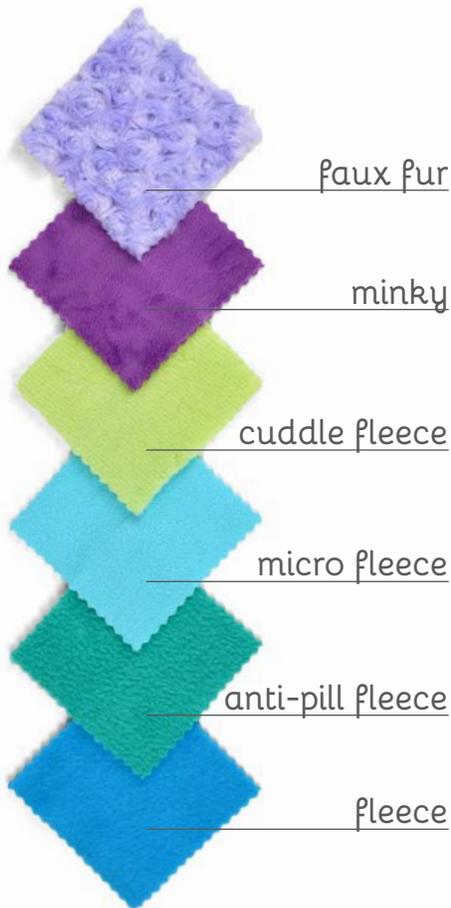


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materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. or 13" x 9" of fabric for face and belly
- ¼ yd. of fabric for dark accents
- ⅛ yd. or 5" x 6" of fabric for inner ears
- 3" x 3" piece of black applique fabric for eyes and mouth
- 3" x 3" piece of pink applique fabric for blush and paw pads
- 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)
- white fabric paint



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

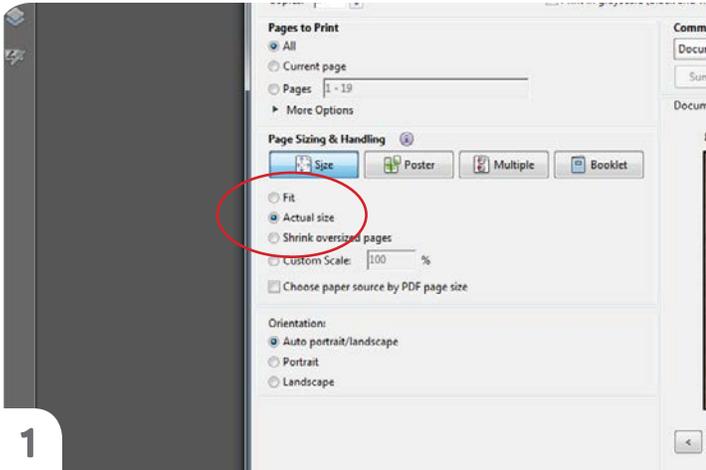


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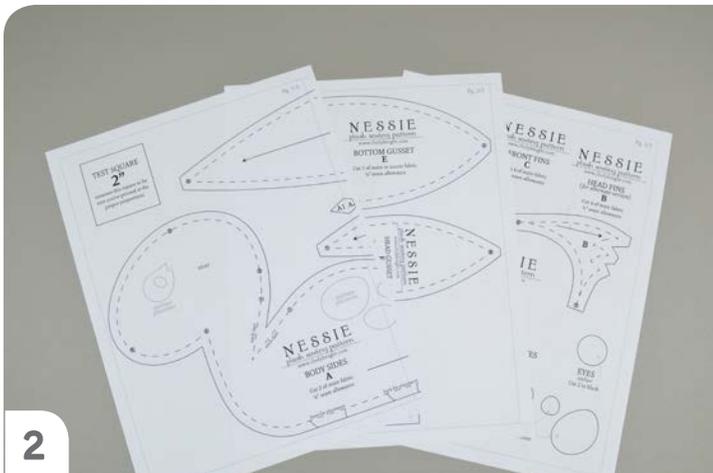
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printing the pattern:

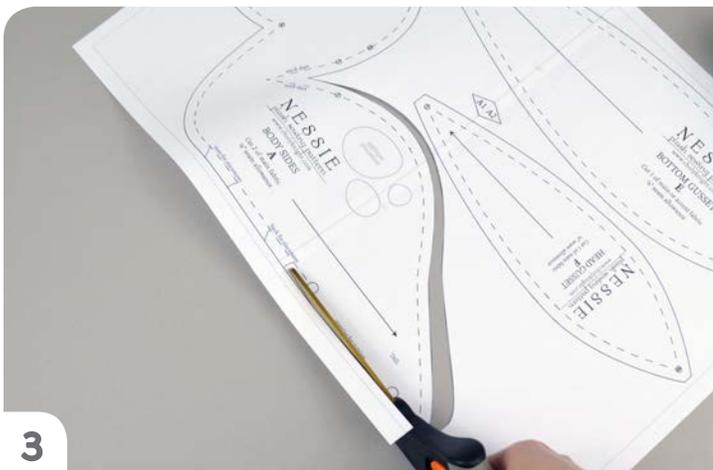
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 18-20**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



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.

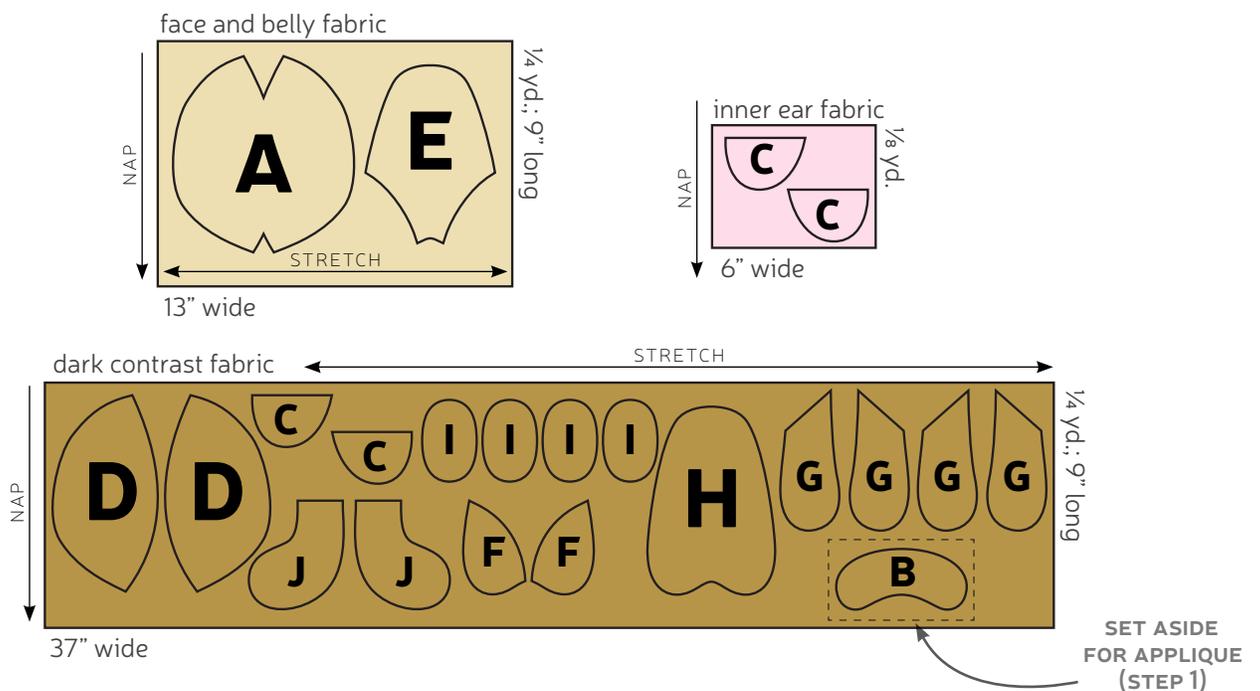
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cutting the fabric:

- 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. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Take your fusible web and trace all of your applique pieces onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have 1 **FACE MASK** (B), 2 eyes, 2 blush marks, and 1 mouth
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The face mask goes onto your dark accent fabric, the eyes and mouth on black, and the blush on pink.
- Cut out the face mask and arrange it 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.

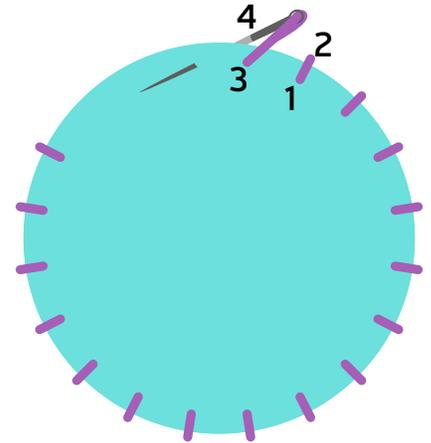
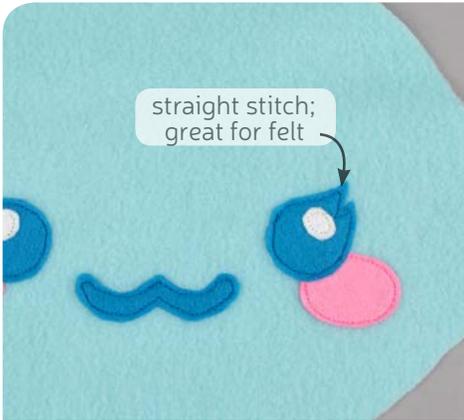


2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the mask piece 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 eye, mouth, and blush pieces. Fuse them much the same way as you did the mask, 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 (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.

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4. SEW THE EARS

- Grab your **EAR** pieces (C). Take two of them; one in inner ear fabric and one in the dark contrast 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.



5. BASTE THE EARS

- 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. Place the open end of the ear within these placement lines. The straight edge of the ear should slant down toward the outside of the face.
- 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 HEAD BACK

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



7. SEW THE HEAD

- Grab the **HEAD FRONT** piece you have so far. Align it with the head back 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.
- Sew around the perimeter of the head completely.
- Turn the head right side out through the opening you left in the back.

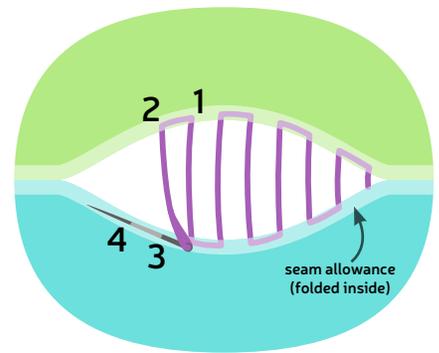
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8. STUFF AND SEW THE HEAD CLOSED

- Stuff the head firmly with stuffing. Focus most of it on the face area until it fills out and has no wrinkles in the fabric. Then fill the rest 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. CLIP THE THREADS

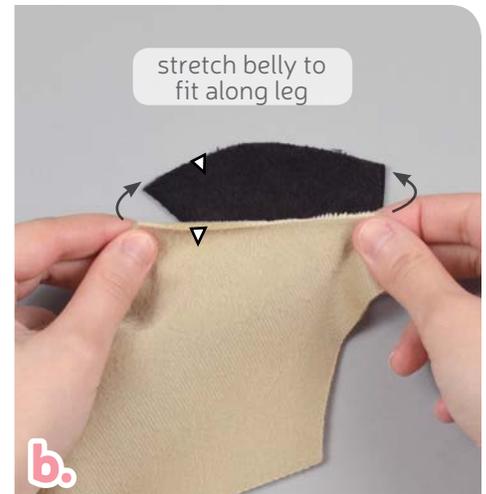
- When you're finished, stitch a knot into the end of the seam. Then insert the needle near the finished knot and out of the plush about 1-2" away.
- Pull the thread through and hold it taut while snipping the thread. The excess thread should sink back inside the plush -- all hidden!

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- a. Grab your belly (E) and leg pieces (F). The edges that have the single notches are to be sewn together next.
- b. Stretch the belly piece to fit along the notched edge of the leg piece. Match up the notches first -- this will ensure the right and left leg don't get switched. Then pin the rest of the edge together.
- c. Sew the leg to the belly along this notched edge.
- d. Repeat with the other leg piece for the complete front half of the body.

10. SEW THE LEGS



- a. Grab your **ARM** pieces (G). 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.

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12. ALIGN THE ARMS

- 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 body next.
- If you haven't already, locate the **arm placement lines** on the paper pattern for the **BELLY (E)**. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open ends of one arm within these placement lines. Note that it should be pointing downward. Pin it in place.



13. BASTE THE ARMS

- Baste the **ARM** (G) to the body within the seam allowance.
- Repeat with the remaining arm so the pair of arms is attached to the body.
- Grab your **BACK** (H) piece and align it over the **BELLY AND LEGS** so far with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.

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14. SEW THE BODY

- If you haven't already, locate the **opening for turning marking** on the paper pattern for the **BELLY**. Transfer it over to the wrong side of the fabric. Sew the body pieces together, leaving the opening you marked before.
- Clip the seam allowance between the legs to give the fabric more flexibility when turned.
- Turn the body right side out when complete.



15. ATTACH THE HEAD

- Stuff the body with stuffing. Start with lots of stuffing in the legs so they look full. Then work toward the opening so the rest of the body no longer has wrinkles in it.
- 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.*

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16. APPLIQUE THE FEET

- This part is optional because it's very fiddly and detailed. If you'd like paw pads on your ferret feet, take this opportunity to revisit step 1 of the instructions and applique two of your **FEET** pieces (I). Trace the shapes onto your fusible web and fuse it to your pink applique fabric. Cut out the pieces and align them on one foot piece.
- Fuse the biggest paw pad first. Use a press cloth for protection for minky fabrics.
- Fuse the tinier toe pads next using the photo and pattern guidelines for help. Repeat with the remaining foot for two complete feet total.



17. SEW THE FEET

- Take one blank **FOOT** piece (I) and one appliqued piece and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the two foot pieces together around the perimeter.
- Make a mental note of the end of the foot that is opposite the toes. Flip the foot piece over so the blank side is facing up.

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18. TURN THE FEET

- Make a 1" mark on the side of the **FOOT** that is opposite the toes on the blank side. This is the line that will be cut so the foot can be turned right side out and attached to the leg. Double check you've marked the right spot.
- When you're absolutely sure you have the right spot, cut along the marked line through one layer of the fabric only.
- Turn the foot right side out. Repeat with the remaining foot pieces for two complete feet total.



19. ATTACH THE FEET

- Stuff the foot lightly with stuffing through the opening.
- Align the opening of the foot along the rounded end of the leg.
- Stitch the foot to the leg using a ladder stitch. Go around the opening you've cut so the opening is completely closed off when complete.

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20. SEW THE TAIL

- Take your tail pieces (J) and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the tail pieces together along the long curved edge. Leave the short straight edge free for turning the tail right side out.
- Turn the tail right side out through the opening.



21. CLOSE UP THE TAIL

- Stuff the tail semi-firmly with stuffing.
- Thread a hand sewing needle with thread and knot the end. Sew a long gathering stitch around the opening of the **TAIL**, about ¼" away from the edge.
- Once finished, pull at the thread to gather the fabric and cinch up the opening of the **TAIL**. 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 body.

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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22. ATTACH THE TAIL

- a. Align the cinched end of the **TAIL** at the back of the body. Center it about 1" above the bottom seam. Hold it in place by sticking pins into the base of the tail and into the body.
- b. Stitch the tail in place along the base with a ladder stitch.



23. ACCENT THE EYES

- a. For a finishing sparkle, paint a bit of white fabric paint into the corner of each eye.

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



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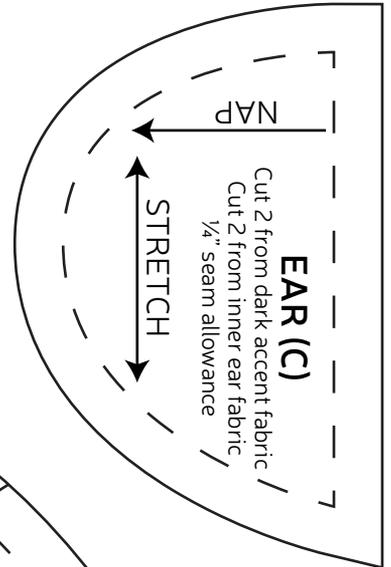
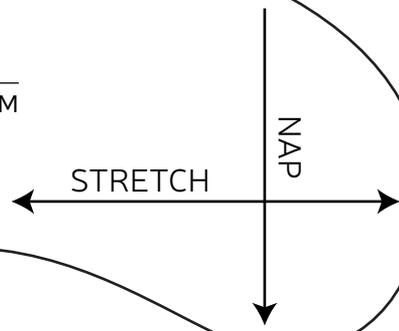
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P A T T E R N

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FACE MASK (B)

Cut 1 from dark accent fabric



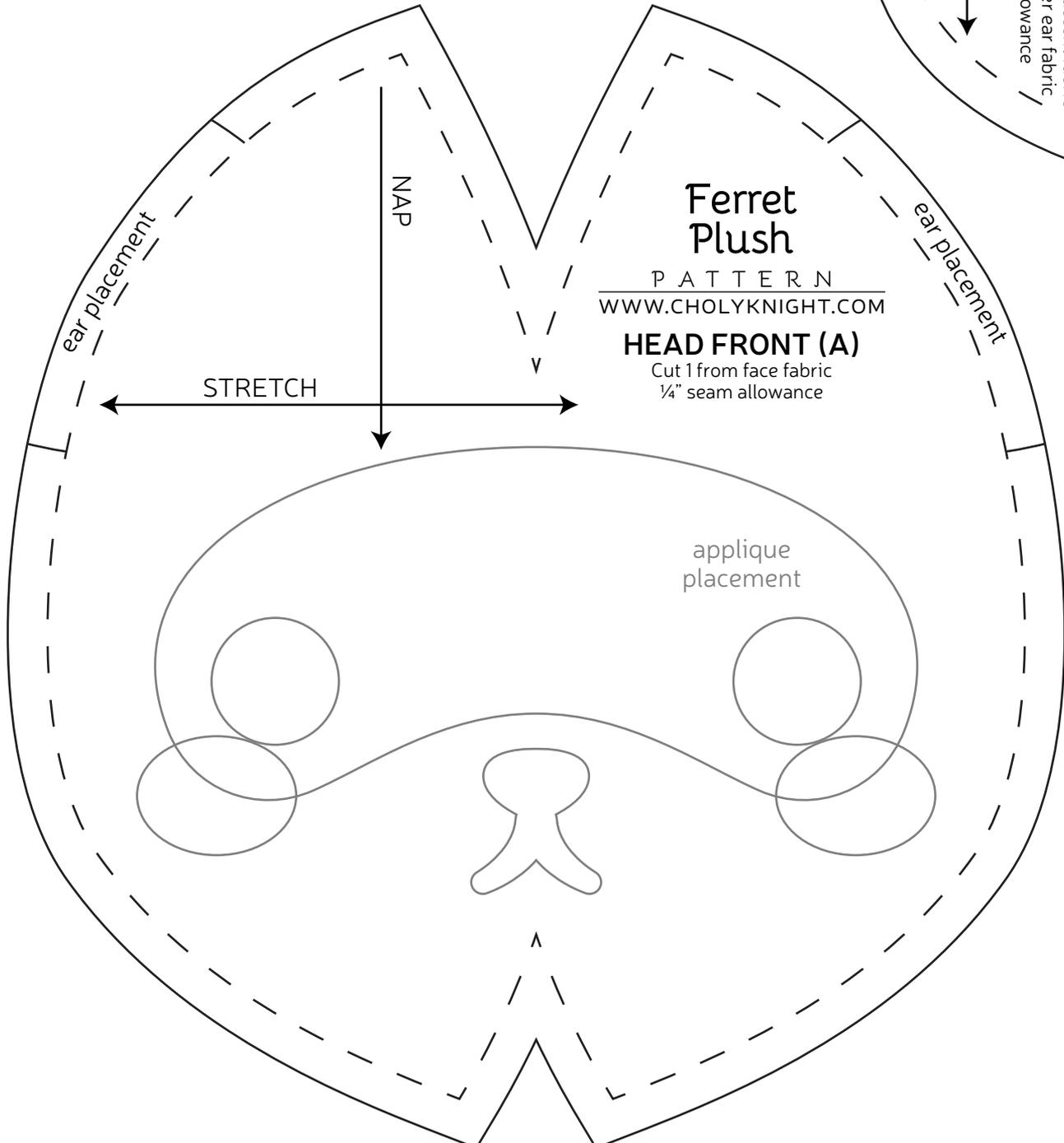
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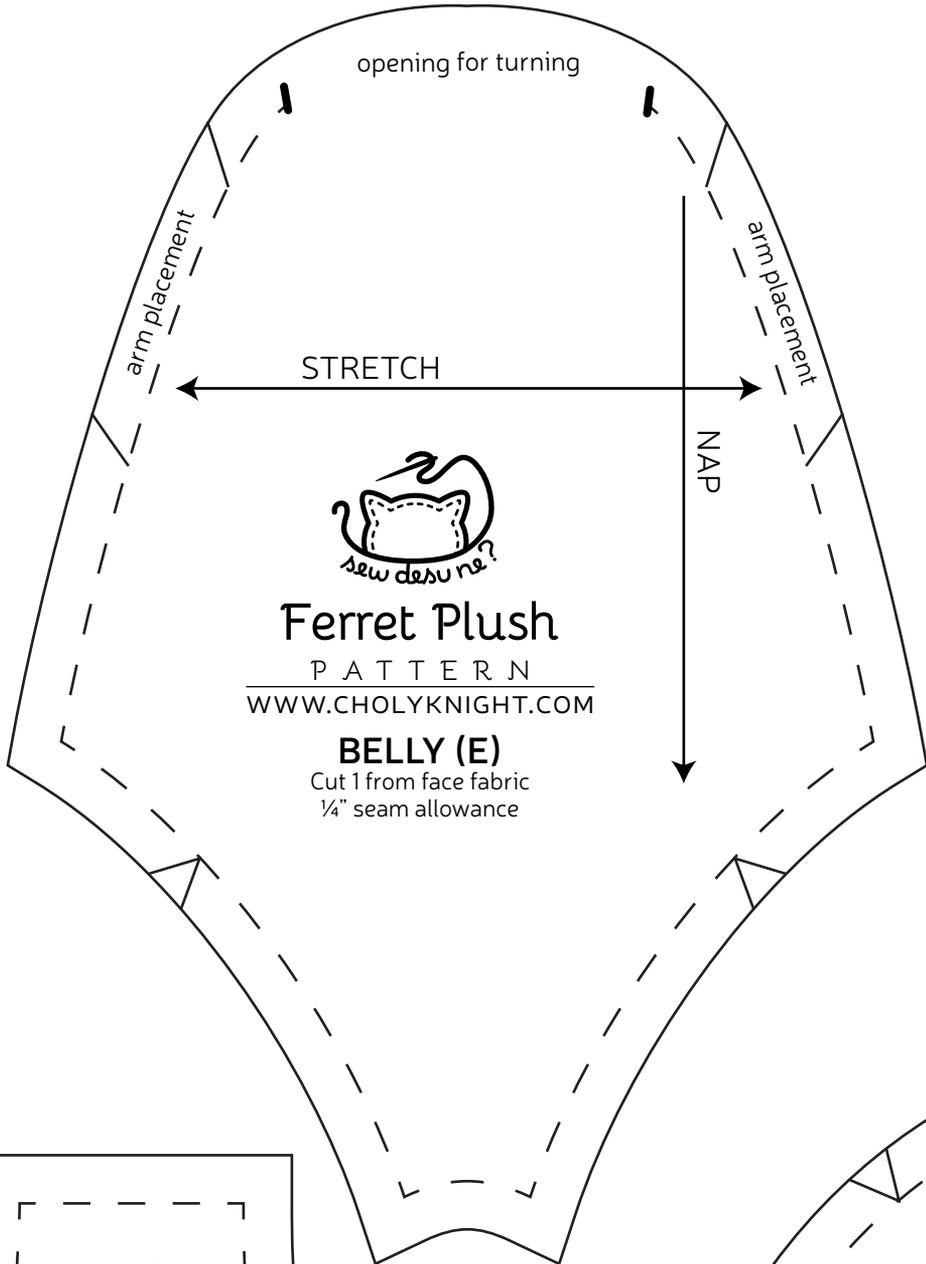
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HEAD FRONT (A)

Cut 1 from face fabric
1/4" seam allowance





opening for turning

arm placement

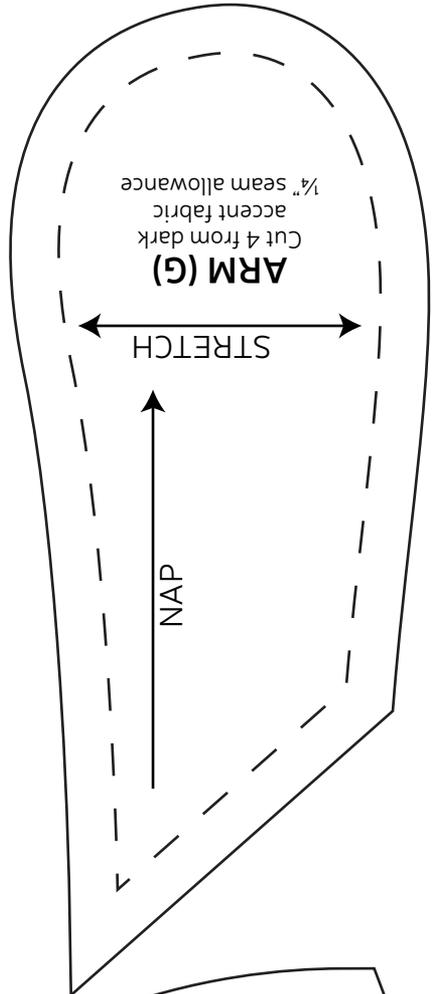
STRETCH

NAP

arm placement

Ferret Plush
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BELLY (E)
Cut 1 from face fabric
1/4" seam allowance

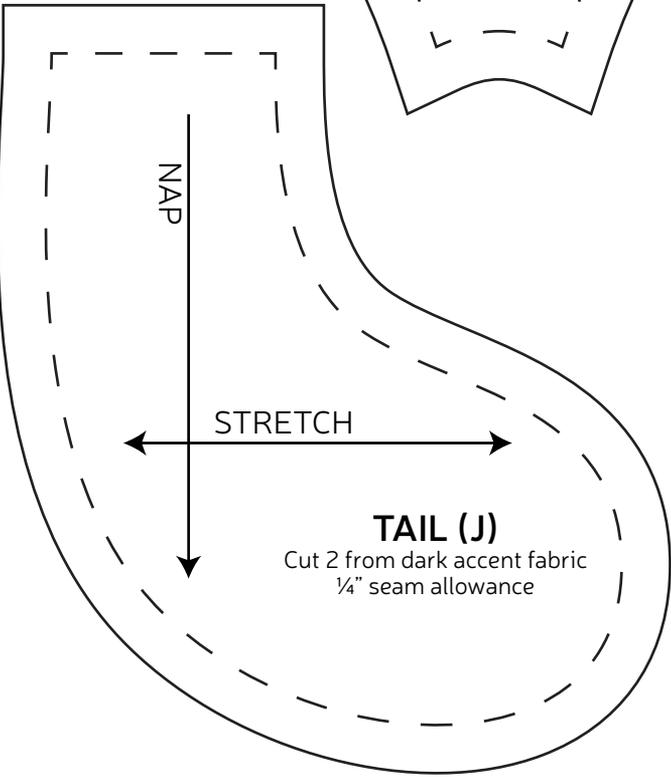


1/4" seam allowance
accent fabric
Cut 4 from dark

ARM (G)

STRETCH

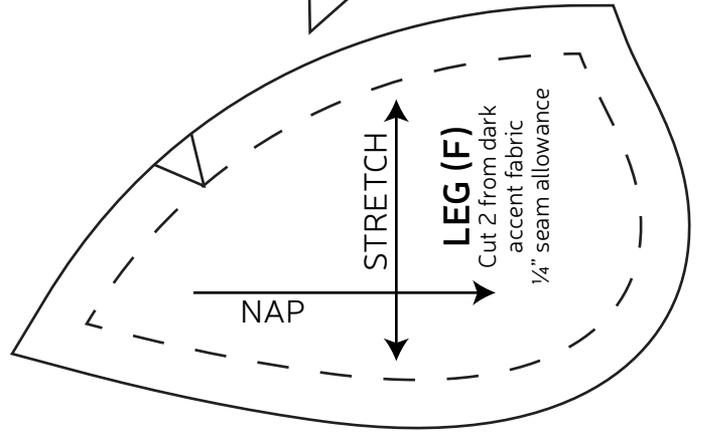
NAP



NAP

STRETCH

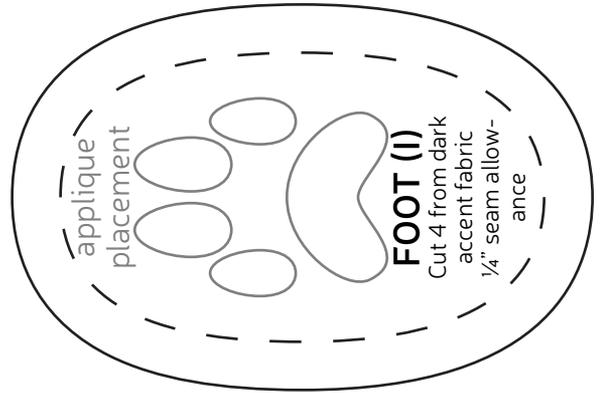
TAIL (J)
Cut 2 from dark accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance



STRETCH

NAP

LEG (F)
Cut 2 from dark
accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance



applique placement

STRETCH

NAP

FOOT (I)
Cut 4 from dark
accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance

