platypus
plush

platypus plush

An animal that has confounded biologists when it was first studied, this pattern is for an adorable platypus! Thought at first to be a combination of a duck, beaver, mole, and otter, we've obviously since learned it's just an awesome Australian egg-laying mammal.
This version has a cute sitting pose with webbed feet and hands. It also has a chubby bill and tail along with a contrast belly.

DIFFICULTY:

■■■■■□□□□□□□

The most difficult part is likely in all the detail work. The tiny webbed hands and feet are top stitched to create the webbed look, and they're attached by hand along with the bill. Give yourself extra time for these details.

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Curved sewing
- Basting
- Darts
- Ladder stitch
- Sewing small pieces
- Matching notches and points
- Gathering; gathering stitch
- Top stitching

MAKES:

ONE PLUSH: about 8" tall from bottom of body to top of head, 4½" wide from each side of head, and 4½" long from front of face to back of body.

chubby tail

applique creates upper ridge of bill

bill is sewn on by hand

arms & feet sewn on by hand

10mm long luxe cuddle galaxy minky

arms & feet have top-stitched webbing

sew desu ne?

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MATERIALS & TOOLS:

- ¼ yd. of fabric for main body
- ¼ yd. (or 5" x 7") of accent fabric for belly
- 1/8 yd. of accent fabric for bill, feet, and hands
- 3" x 3" scrap of black applique fabric for eyes and nostrils
- 2" x 2" scrap of accent applique fabric for eye highlight
- 2" x 2" scrap of accent applique fabric for base of bill
- 2" x 2" scrap of white applique fabric for eye shines
- **OPTIONAL** 2" x 2" scrap of pink applique fabric for blush
- 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)

flat bottom

accent belly

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.

lightweight fusible

heavyweight fusible

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fabric comparison:

felt   cotton   jersey   fleece   minky

long pile minky

minky

cuddle fleece

micro fleece

anti-pill fleece

fleece

MINKY   VS.   FELT

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 harder.

10" of minky
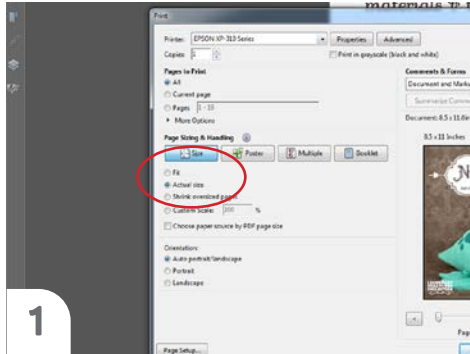stretches to 13"
= 30% stretch
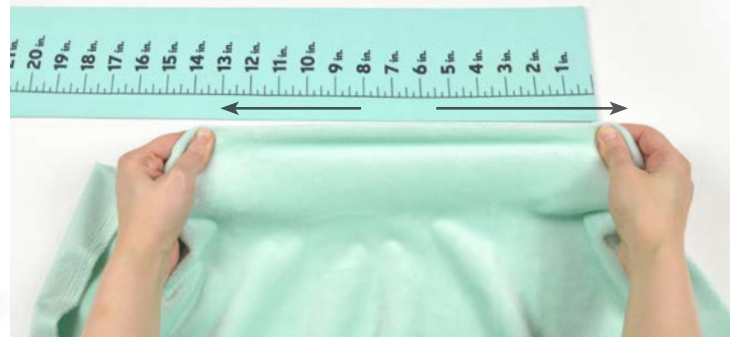
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PRINTING THE PATTERN:

Set your computer to print **PAGES 23-25**.
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.
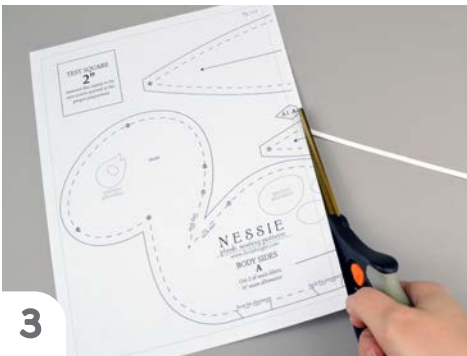
1

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.
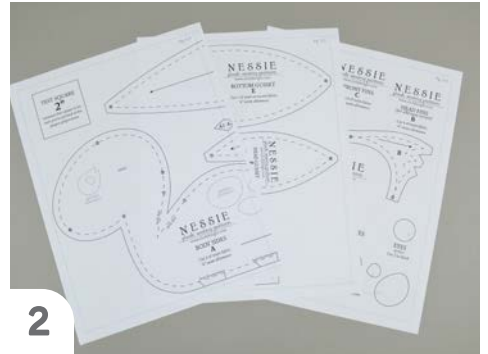
2

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.
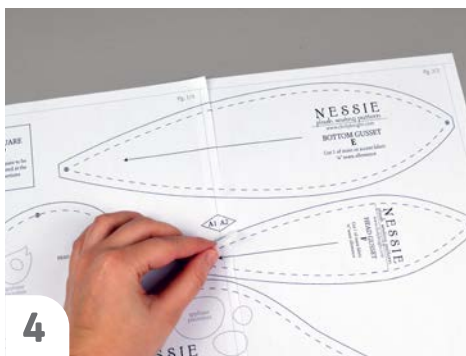
4

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.
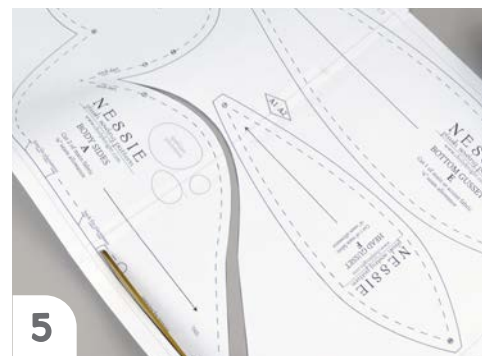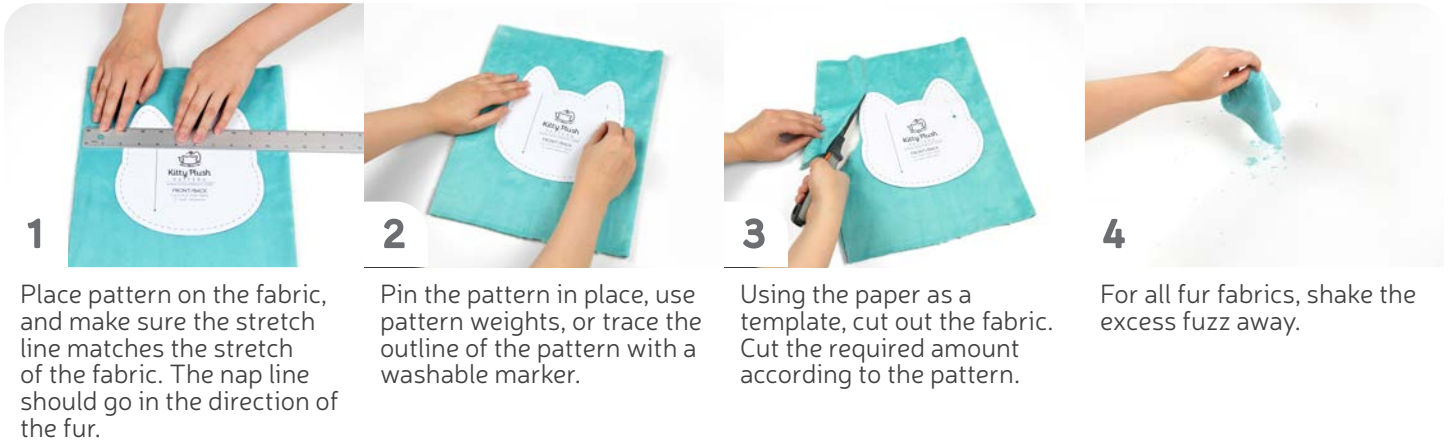
5

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.
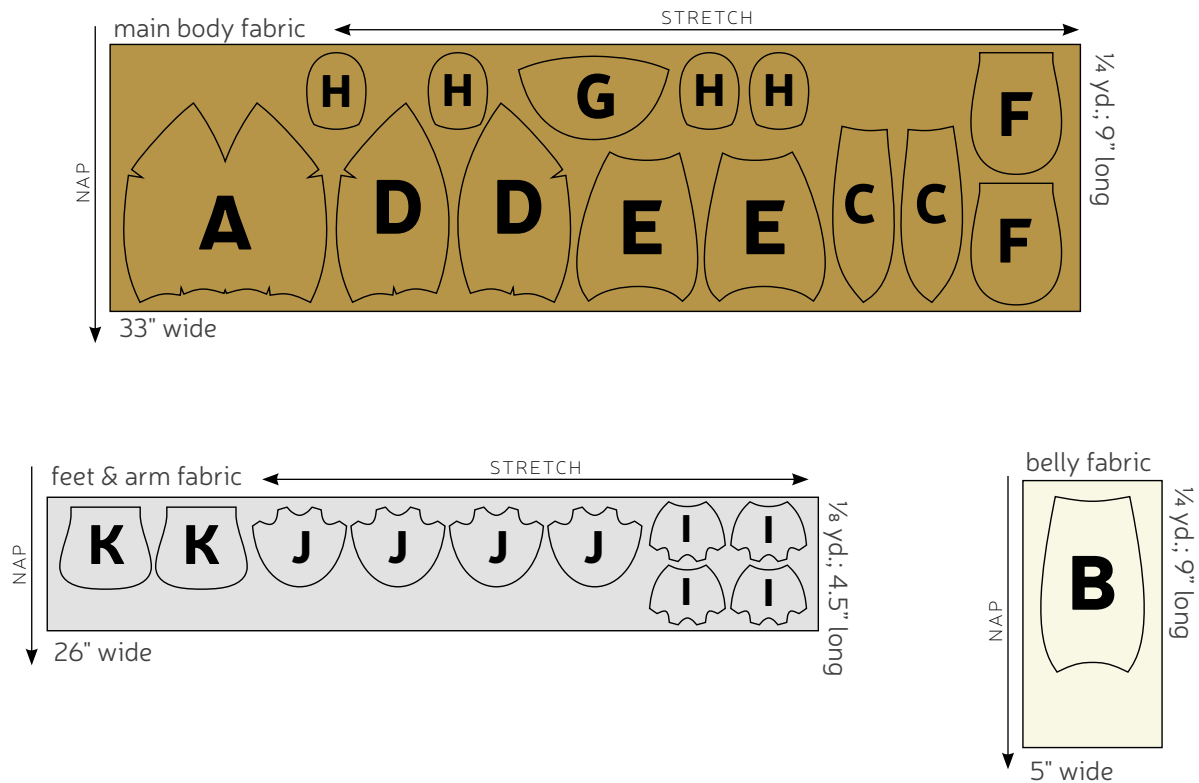
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CUTTING THE FABRIC:

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:

main body fabric

STRETCH

NAP

H H G H H F
A D D E E C C F

¼ yd.; 9" long

33" wide

feet & arm fabric

STRETCH

NAP

K K J J J J I I I I

⅛ yd.; 4.5" long

26" wide

belly fabric

NAP

B

¼ yd.; 9" long

5" wide

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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 ¼" seam allowance is used throughout the project, which is included in the pattern templates.

trace onto paper side
a.

eyes, nostrils: black
eye highlights, bill base: accent
eye shines: white
b.

hold applique while pulling paper away
c.

1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

a. Grab your fusible web and applique templates. Trace the pieces you want for your platypus's face. You can add a lot or a little; for the bare minimum you'll want 2 **eyes** and the **bill base**. But here we're building the whole face. For that, you'll want to trace:
- **bill base** (1)
- **eye highlights** (2)
- **eyes** (2)
- **eye shines** (6)
- **blush** (2)
- **nostrils** (2)

b. Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side of the fusible web onto the applique fabrics, following the color guides on the paper templates:
- **bill base** on fabric matching your bill
- **eyes & nostrils** on black
- **eye highlights** on accent color
- **blush** on pink
- **eye shines** on white

tuck blush underneath eyes
d.

c. Cut out your applique pieces and grab your **HEAD FRONT** piece (A). Grab your **eye** pieces. 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.

d. If you're using **blush** for the face, tuck them under the **eyes** before you fuse anything.

sew desu ne?

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fuse eyes first

add eye highlights and bill base

add remaining small pieces
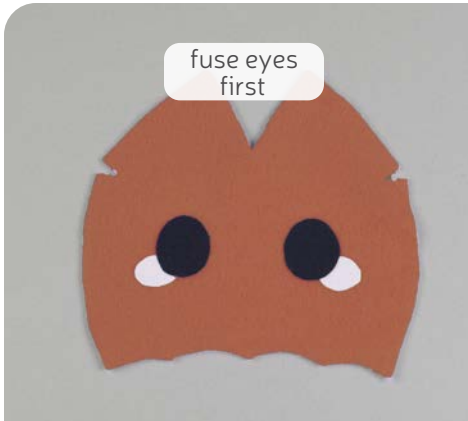
2. FINISH THE FACE APPLIQUE

a. Fuse the first applique layers 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.

b. Continue adding the next layers; the eye highlights and bill base. Use the paper pattern and photos as a guide.

**c.** Lastly, add the smallest pieces like the *eye shines*.

add nostrils to bill

3. APPLIQUE THE BILL

a. Take this time to also applique your **BILL** piece (K) using the same method. It will need two *nostrils*.

b. 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.*

straight stitch; great for felt

applique whipstitch

4 3 1 2
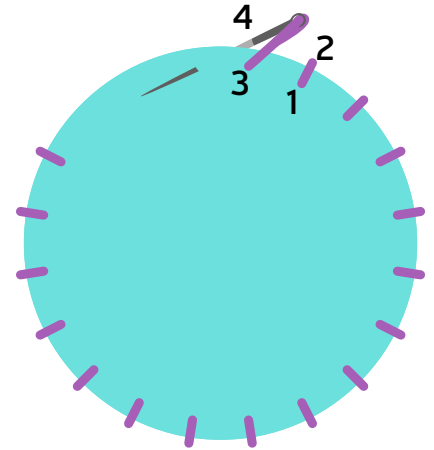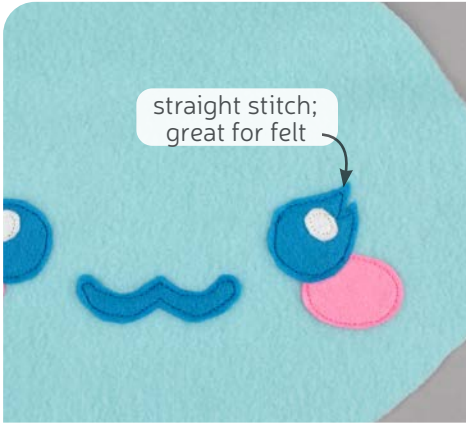
3a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

a. 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.

b. 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.

c. 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.

fold along point of dart

blend stitching into fold

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.

4. SEW THE HEAD FRONT DARTS

a. Grab your **HEAD FRONT** piece (A). These pieces have a few *darts* around the outside that help form the shape of the head. They're the small wedges cut into the main shape. They're also labeled on the paper pattern for easy identification.
Start by folding the fabric along the point of one of the *darts*. Here it's the center bottom dart. Make sure right sides are facing and the raw edges match up.

b. Sew from the opening of the *dart* down to the fold of the fabric. Try to blend your stitching into the fold of the fabric for a smooth transition and a rounder finish to the stuffed plush.
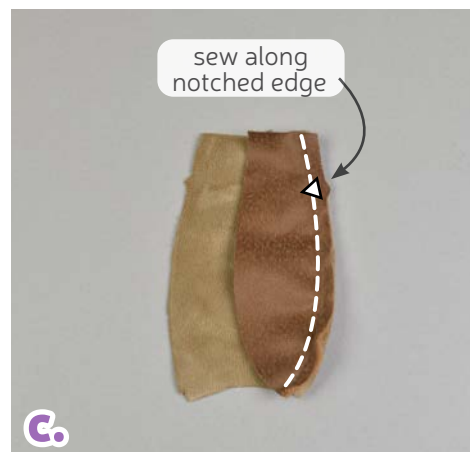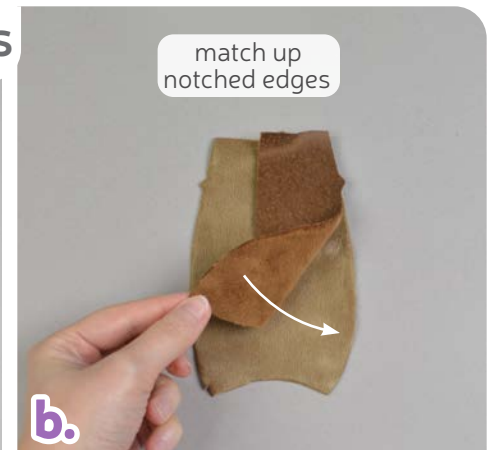
sew desu ne?

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a. Repeat with the other *darts*. Shown here is the largest of the *darts*, the one in the center top.

b. Continue with the remaining *darts*. There should be one in each upper corner and two more along the neck. This makes 6 *darts* total.

blend stitching into fold

6 darts total

5. FINISH THE HEAD FRONT DARTS

a. Grab your **BELLY** (B) and **SIDE** (C) pieces. These pieces will be joined together next at the side edges. They're labeled with *notch markings* to help with alignment.

b. Align the side piece with the belly piece so right sides are facing and the *notches* match up.

c. Sew the side piece to the belly piece along the *notched edge*.

d. Repeat with the remaining side piece so there's one attached to each side of the belly piece.

6. SEW THE BODY SIDES

sides will join to belly

a.

match up notched edges

b.

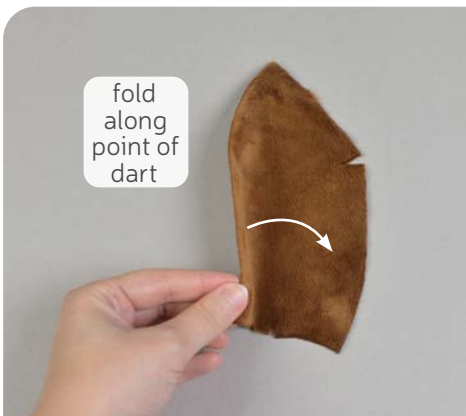sew along notched edge

c.

repeat for both sides

d.

sew desu ne?
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a. Grab your **HEAD FRONT** piece from before (A) and your **BODY FRONT** so far. The *neck edges* of both of these pieces will be joined next.
The neck edge on the belly is marked with a *circle marking* in the center for easy alignment.

b. Layer the head front over the body front, matching up the raw edges and *circle marking* at the center *dart*. Pin the fabrics together.

c. Sew the head front to the body front along this *neck edge*.

d. Open up the pieces when complete.

7. SEW THE FRONT NECK

head front will join to body front

line up marking with center dart

sew along neck edge

the complete body front

fold along point of dart

blend stitching into fold

repeat for both head back pieces

8. SEW THE HEAD BACK DARTS

a. Grab your **HEAD BACK** pieces (D). They also have several *darts* like the head front. Sew them the same way, starting by folding the fabric along the point of the *dart*. This should match up the slanted edges.

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

c. Repeat for both the bottom neck *dart* and the upper corner *dart*. Repeat this for both head back pieces so you have two total.

sew desu ne?

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leave open for turning
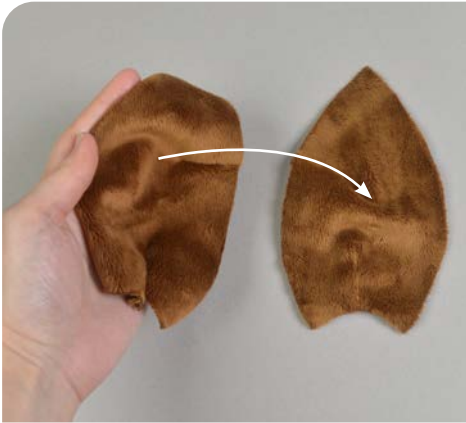
9. SEW THE HEAD BACK

a. Take both of your **HEAD BACK** pieces (D) and align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.

b. If you haven't already, locate the *opening for turning markings* found on the paper pattern for the head back. Transfer them over to the wrong side of the fabric. Sew the head back pieces together along this edge only, but leave the opening that you marked.

c. Open up the pieces when complete.

➜ *Set aside your head back for a little while as we work on the body back.*

sew along notched edge

10. SEW THE BODY BACK

a. Take your two **BODY BACK** (E) pieces and align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.

b. Sew them together along the edge with the *notches*.

c. Open up the pieces when complete.

leave open for turning

11. SEW THE TAIL

a. Grab your **TAIL** pieces (F). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.

b. Sew the tail pieces together around the long curved edge. Leave the short straight edge open for turning the piece right side out.

c. Turn the tail right side out through the opening you left.

stuff lightly

center over bottom of seam

baste tail to back

12. BASTE THE TAIL

a. Stuff the **TAIL** lightly with stuffing, just enough so it takes shape. Leave it empty near the opening since we'll be sewing it next.

b. Grab your **BODY BACK** pieces from before (E). Align the open end of the tail centered on the bottom of the center seam.

c. Baste the tail to the bottom of the back piece to hold it securely 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).
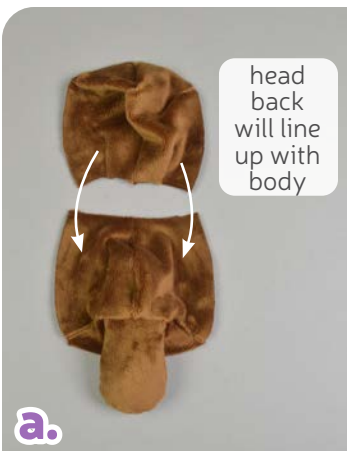
sew desu ne?

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match up center
seam with notch

sew around
bottom piece

back will join to bottom
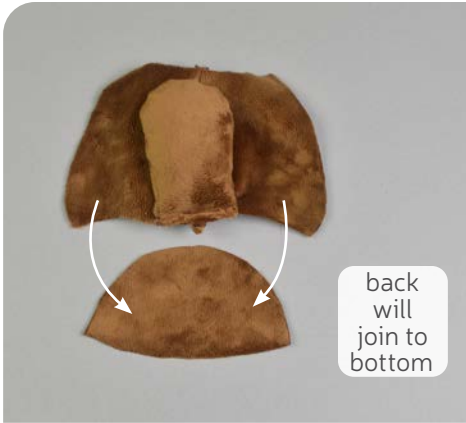
13. ATTACH THE BOTTOM

a. Grab your **BOTTOM** piece (G). This piece will be attached along the bottom of the **BODY BACK** from before (E). The bottom piece is labeled with a *notch marking* at the center for help with alignment.

b. Take your back piece and align it over the bottom piece so the center seam aligns with the *notch marking*. Right sides should also be facing so the **TAIL** (F) ends up sandwiched between the two pieces.

c. Sew the body back to the bottom all around the *notched edge*.

head back will line up with body

line up center seams

sew along neck edge

the complete body back

a. **b.** **c.** **d.**

14. SEW THE BACK NECK

a. Grab your **HEAD BACK** pieces from before (D) and your **BODY BACK**. The *neck edges* of both of these pieces will be joined next.

b. Layer the head back over the body back, matching up the raw edges and the *center seams.* Pin the fabrics together.

c. Sew the head back to the body back along this *neck edge*.

d. Open up the pieces when complete.

sew desu ne?

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a. Grab both of your front and back pieces so far. Align them with right sides facing. We're going to sew around the entire body. Experts should be able to handle this all in one go, but we're going to break it down into two parts for beginners.
Start by aligning the head pieces. Match up the *center front dart* with the *head back seam*. The neck seams (from steps 7 and 14) should also match up.

b. Sew the head front to the back all the way around, starting at one side of the neck and going to the other.

line up center dart with back seam

sew around head

15. SEW THE HEAD FRONT TO THE BACK

line up body pieces

match up points 1, 2, & 3

the sewn body

16. SEW THE BODY FRONT TO THE BACK

a. Next, line up the **BODY** pieces. These edges have extra numbered markings to help with alignment to ensure they're perfectly symmetrical: *points 1, 2, and 3*.
Point 1 aligns at the **BOTTOM** seam, *point 2* aligns at the seam at the **BELLY** piece (B), and finally *point 3* aligns in the center.

b. Sew the front of the body to the back lining up *points 1, 2, and 3* along the way.

**c.** Turn the body right side out through the opening in the back of the head.
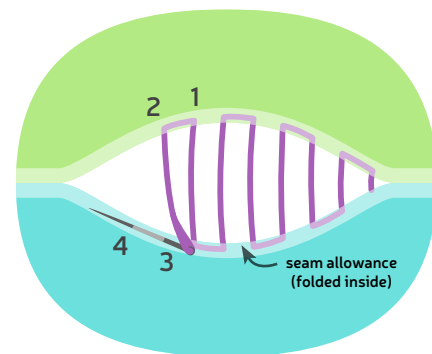
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stuff body firmly near seams

stuff head firmly near darts

bring needle out near one edge of opening

17. STUFF THE BODY

a. Begin stuffing the plush. Start by filling up the body firmly.

b. Next fill up the head. Be sure to get plenty around the darts so there are no wrinkles near the seams.

c. 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.

ladder stitch closed

bring out needle 1"-2" away

pull at thread while clipping
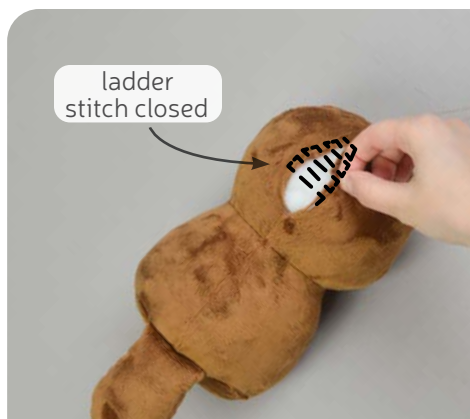
18. CLOSE UP THE HEAD

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.

b. 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.

c. Pull the thread through and hold it taut while snipping the thread. The excess thread should sink back inside the plush -- all hidden!

2 1

4 3

seam allowance (folded inside)

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leave open for turning

19. SEW THE BILL

a. Grab your **BILL** pieces (K). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.

b. Sew the pieces together along the long curved edge. Leave the straight edge free for turning the piece right side out later.

c. Turn the bill right side out through the opening you left.

stuff lightly

sew around opening of bill

pull at thread to cinch closed

20. STUFF THE BILL

a. Stuff the **BILL** (K) lightly with stuffing.

b. Grab a hand sewing needle and thread it. Sew around the opening of the bill using a gathering stitch.

c. Pull at the thread from the gathering stitch to cinch the opening of the bill closed.

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.

sew desu ne?

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a. Grab your **BILL** (K) and align it over the front of your platypus's face. Make sure the nostrils are facing up. Also align the bill over the **bill base** so about ⅜" peeks out above the bill.

b. Ladder stitch the bill to the face around the cinched end.

align slightly below bill base

ladder stitch to face

21. ATTACH THE BILL

22. SEW THE FEET

sew entirely around feet

trim seam allowance at corners

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

b. Sew them together all around the outer edge.

c. Trim the excess seam allowance around the tight corners and curves. This will help reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned later.

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cut through one layer of fabric only

two feet total

stuff lightly

23. TURN & STUFF THE FEET

a. To turn the **FOOT** (J) right side out, begin by making a small cut through one layer of the fabric only, near the base of the foot. There's also a *cutting guide* on the paper pattern for extra help.

b. Turn the feet right side out through the opening you've cut. Define the points with a chopstick or a similar turning tool.

c. Stuff the foot lightly with stuffing.

trace top stitching lines

stitch along traced lines

TOP STITCHING:
One or several lines of straight stitching done on the outside of a project to serve a decorative purpose. A longer than average stitch length is typically used so the result is more visible.

24. TOP STITCH THE FEET

a. Next, we're going to top stitch the **FEET** (J) to give it more webbed foot detail. The paper pattern has *top stitching lines* you can use to trace onto the front of the feet. Use a fabric marker for this if you have one.

b. Stitch along all of the traced lines to create the webbing for the feet.
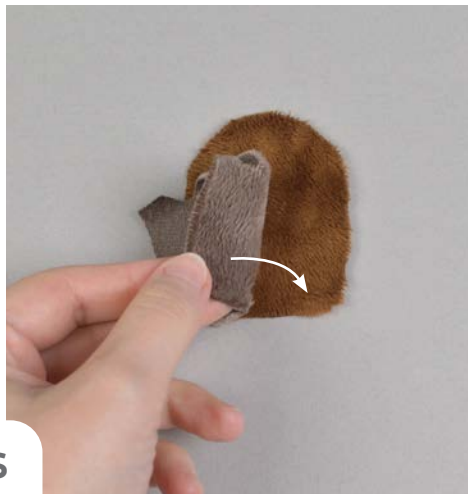
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a. Take your sewn **FOOT** (J) and align it along the bottom of your platypus's body. Make sure the cut side is facing the body. You can place them wherever it looks good to you. On the bottom it will look like your platypus is standing. Here they're placed facing forward, centered over the *belly seam* so it looks like the platypus is sitting.

b. Ladder stitch the feet to the plush around the cut you made in the previous step. Repeat with both feet for two feet total.

place cut side down

25. ATTACH THE FEET

ladder stitch around cut

hand will join to arm

26. ATTACH THE HANDS

sew along straight edge of arm

a. Grab your **ARM** (H) and **HAND** (I) pieces. Next we're going to attach the base of the hand (the inner curve) to the end of the arm.

b. Align the hand with the arm so right sides are facing and the short edges match up.

c. Sew the hand to the arm along this edge.
Repeat three more times with your remaining arm and hand pieces so you have four pieces total.
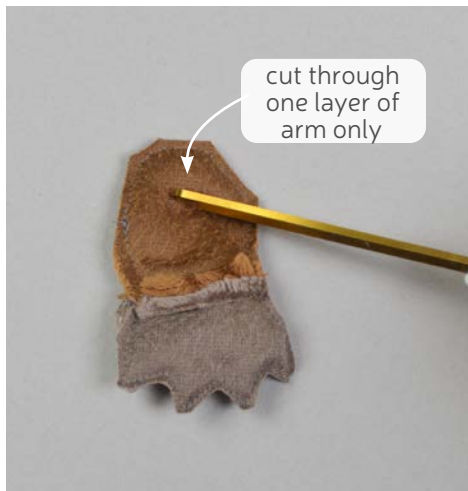
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a. Take two of your sewn **ARM/HAND** pieces (H/I). Align them with right sides facing and the raw edges matching up.

b. Sew the arm pieces together all around the outer edge. Be sure to pivot at the corners to create the little webbed feet. Repeat with both arms so you have two total.

sew around entire arm & hand

27. SEW THE ARMS

trim seam allowance at corners

cut through one layer of arm only

turn arms right side out

28. TURN THE ARMS

a. Trim the excess seam allowance at the tight corners and curves of the **HANDS** (I). This will reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the piece is turned later.

b. To turn the arm, make a cut through one layer of the **ARM** (H) fabric only, near the base. A *cutting guide* also labeled on the paper pattern as well for extra help.

c. Turn the arms right side out through the opening in the arm. Define the points with a chopstick or similar turning tool.

sew desu ne?

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a. Stuff the arms lightly with stuffing. Get just a little bit in the **HAND** area, then fill the rest of the arm.

b. Refer back to step 24 for top stitching the feet. Mark the *top stitching lines* onto the hands, then stitch over the lines to create the detailed webbed look for the hands.

stuff hands lightly

top stitch along hands

29. TOP STITCH THE HANDS

align hands onto side of body

stitch around shoulder area

flip upward and stitch underneath

30. ATTACH THE ARMS

a. Align the **ARMS** onto the front of your plush. You could place them a number of ways, such as pointing forward or pointing down. Here they're placed just below the head, pointing downward at a diagonal.
To replicate the sample, place the arms so the cut side is facing down. The top of the **ARM** is about ¼" beneath the neck. The hands are pointing downward at a diagonal.

b. Begin ladder stitching the arm to the body similar to the **FOOT** from before. For the top of the arm, stitch just above the arm seam.

c. Then for underneath the arm, you'll have to flip the arm upwards and stitch to the underside. Continue sewing around the cut you've made. Repeat with the other arm for two arms total.
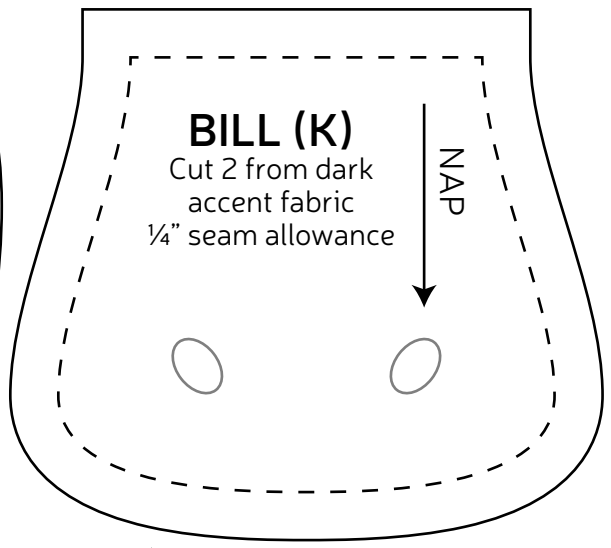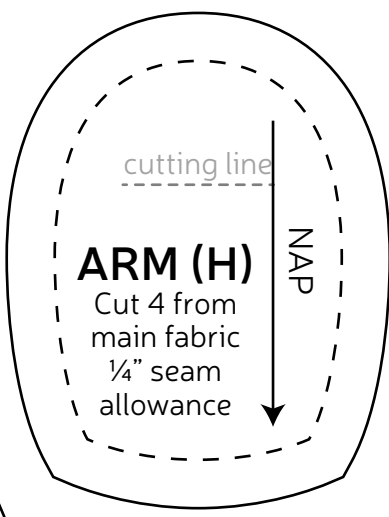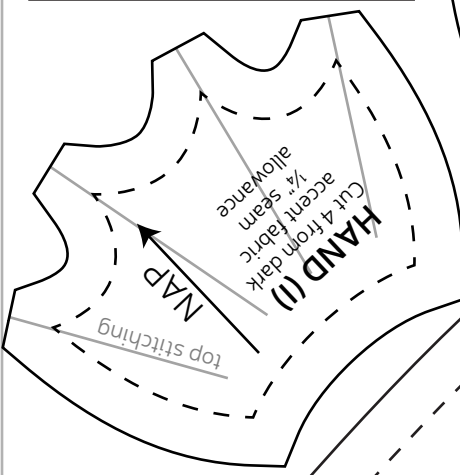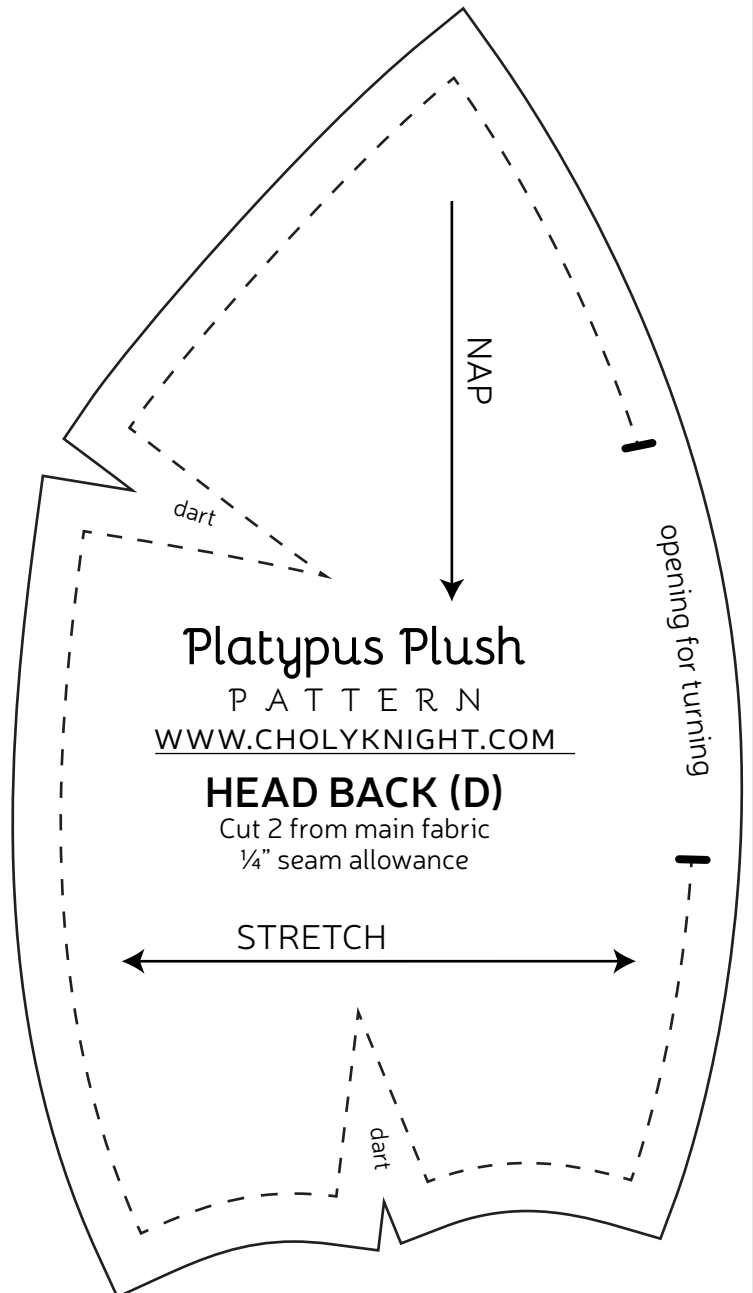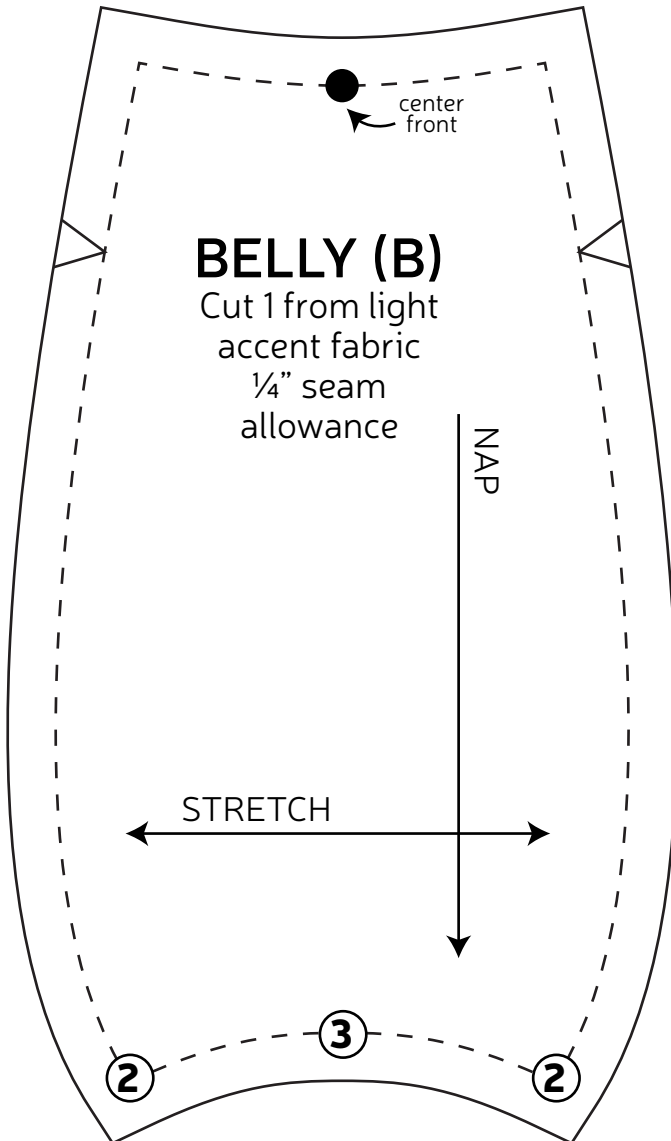
CONGRATS!
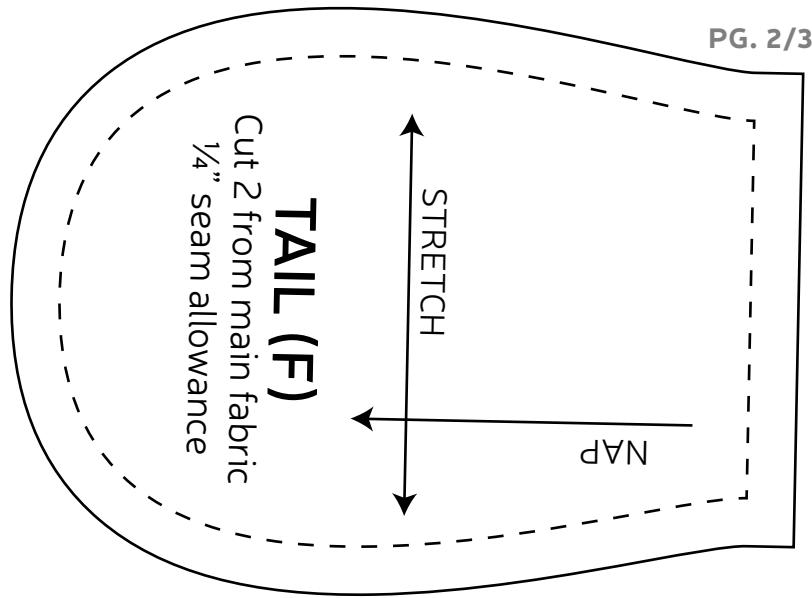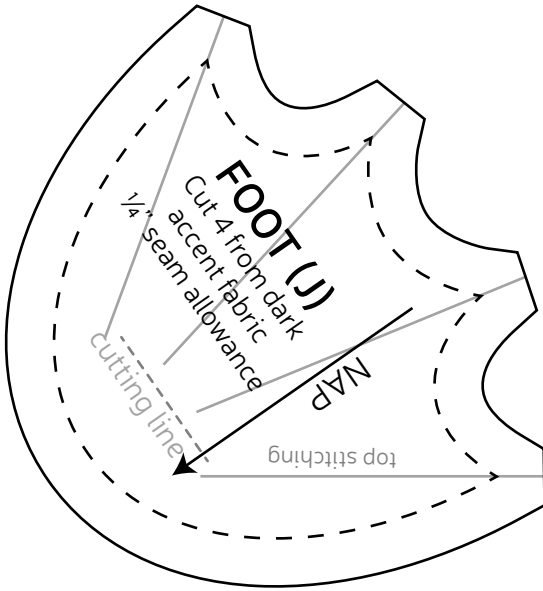This completes your plush! Now give it a big hug!
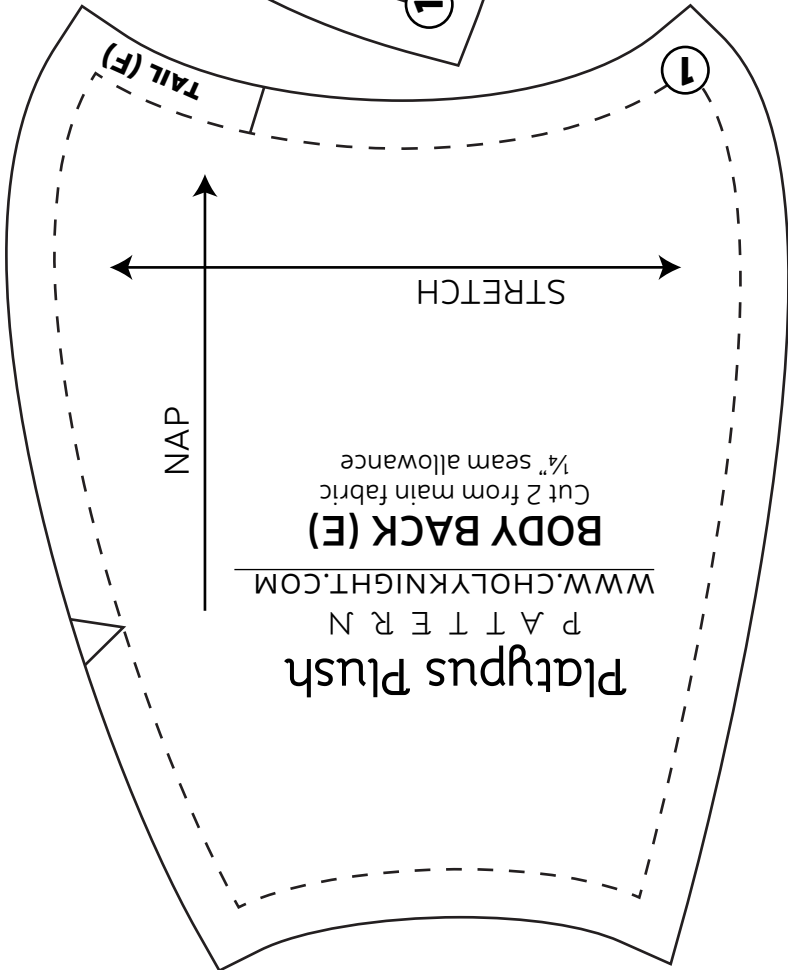
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TEST SQUARE
2"

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

cutting line
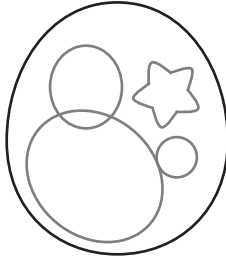
ARM (H)
Cut 4 from main fabric
¼" seam allowance

NAP

BILL (K)
Cut 2 from dark accent fabric
¼" seam allowance

NAP

HAND (I)
Cut 4 from dark accent fabric
¼" seam allowance

NAP

top stitching

HEAD FRONT (A)
Cut 1 from main fabric
¼" seam allowance

dart

NAP

dart

dart

STRETCH

applique placement

dart

dart

dart

TAIL (F)
Cut 2 from main fabric
¼" seam allowance

STRETCH

NAP

FOOT (J)
Cut 4 from dark
accent fabric
¼" seam allowance

NAP

cutting line

top stitching

center front

BELLY (B)
Cut 1 from light
accent fabric
¼" seam
allowance

NAP

STRETCH

② ③ ②

NAP

dart

opening for turning

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HEAD BACK (D)
Cut 2 from main fabric
¼" seam allowance

STRETCH

dart

BOTTOM (G)
Cut 1 from main fabric
¼" seam
allowance

center
bottom

STRETCH

NAP

① ② ③ ② ①
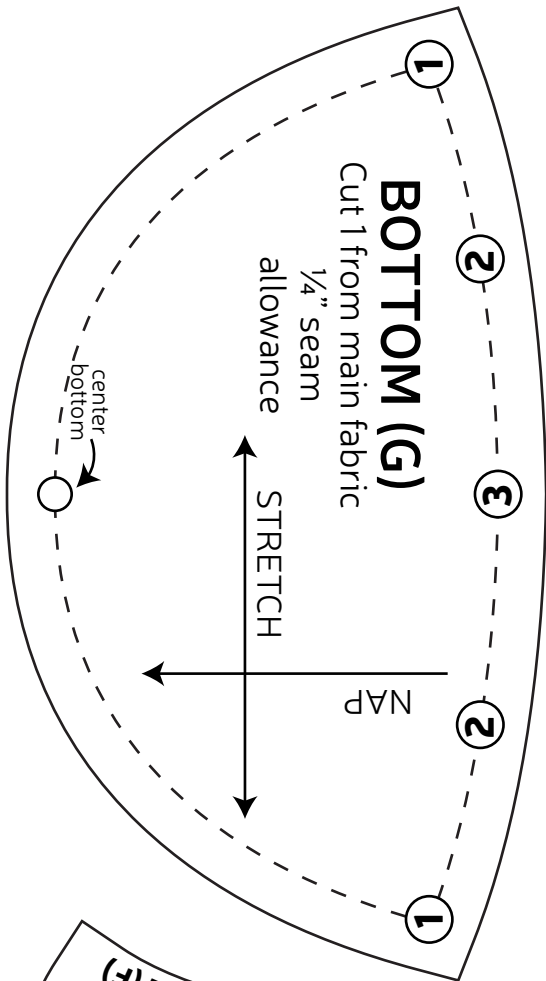
EYE
applique
trace & cut 2
in black

BILL BASE
applique
trace & cut 1 in
dark accent color

EYE HIGHLIGHT
applique
trace & cut 2 in
accent color
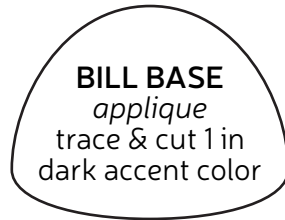
EYE SHINE
applique
trace & cut 2
each in white

BLUSH
applique
trace & cut 2
in pink
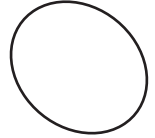
NOSTRIL
applique
trace & cut 2
in black

TAIL (F)

STRETCH

NAP

BODY BACK (E)
Cut 2 from main fabric
¼" seam allowance

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①

SIDE (C)
Cut 2 from main
fabric
¼" seam
allowance

NAP

STRETCH

①

②