

How to make plush eBook by TeacupLion

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For plushie patterns to work with, I have 2 shops available:

[Plushie patterns on Etsy](#)

[Free patterns on Gumroad](#)

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Video tutorials

[How to make plush playlist](#)

Where to buy supplies?

[Supplies for making plushies](#)

[Machine embroidery supplies](#)

How to resize patterns

So how do I print a pattern larger or smaller?

TeacupLion's guide on how to scale patterns up or down

In this example, I have a 6" stuffed animal height and want to print to scale a 12" stuffed animal. I will use 6 for current height, 12 for desired height, and x for desired percentage.

Step 1

$$\frac{\text{current height}}{100(\text{Current percent})} = \frac{\text{desired height}}{\text{desired percentage (unknown)}} \quad \frac{6}{100} \times \frac{12}{x}$$

cross multiply!

Step 2

$$\text{current height} \times \text{desired percentage} = \text{desired height} \times 100$$
$$6x = 1200 \quad (\text{because } 1200 \text{ is } 100 \times 12)$$

Step 3

$$\frac{6x}{6} = \frac{1200}{6} \quad \text{Divide by the number next to } x$$

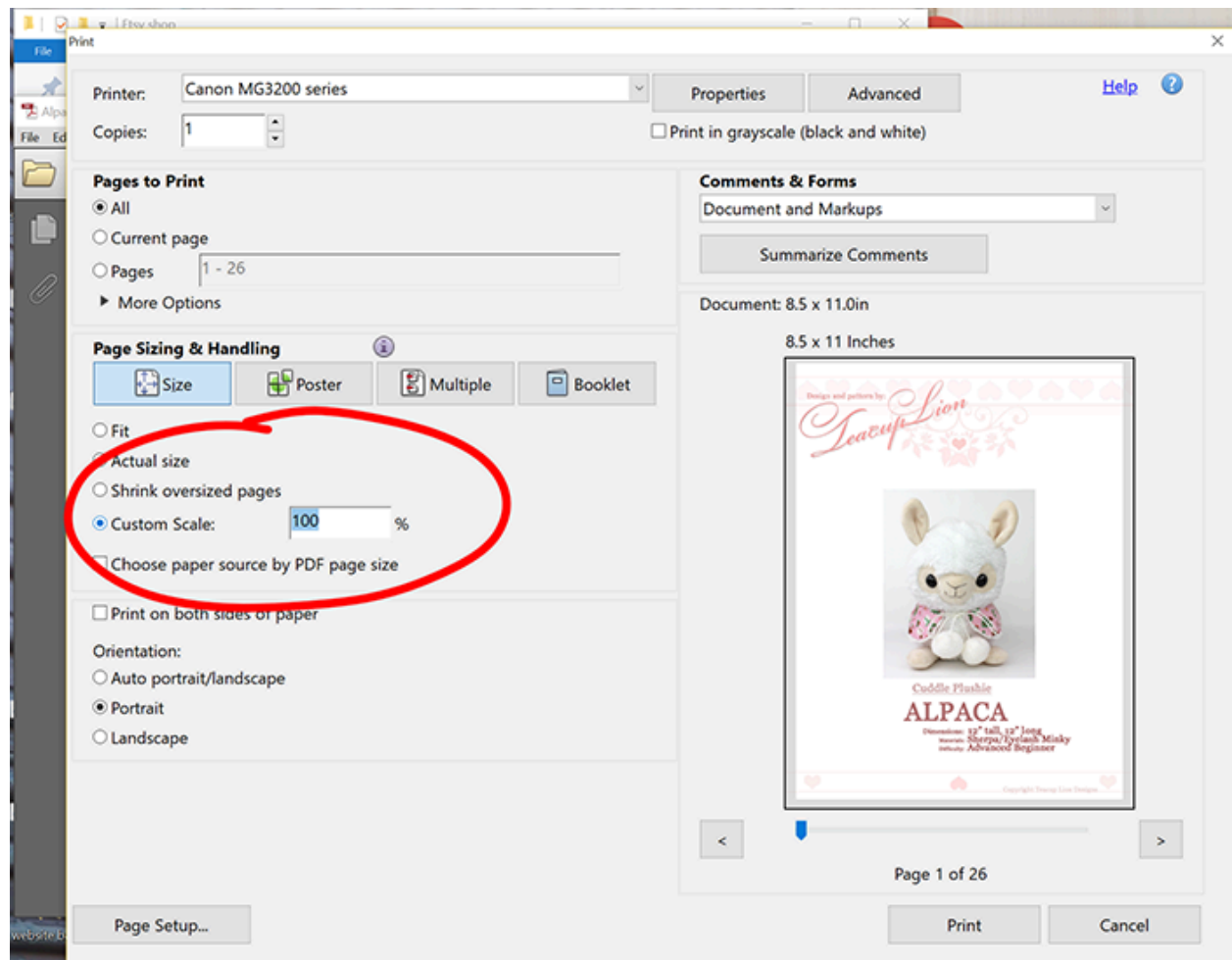
Step 4

$$x = 200 \quad \text{desired percentage} = 200$$

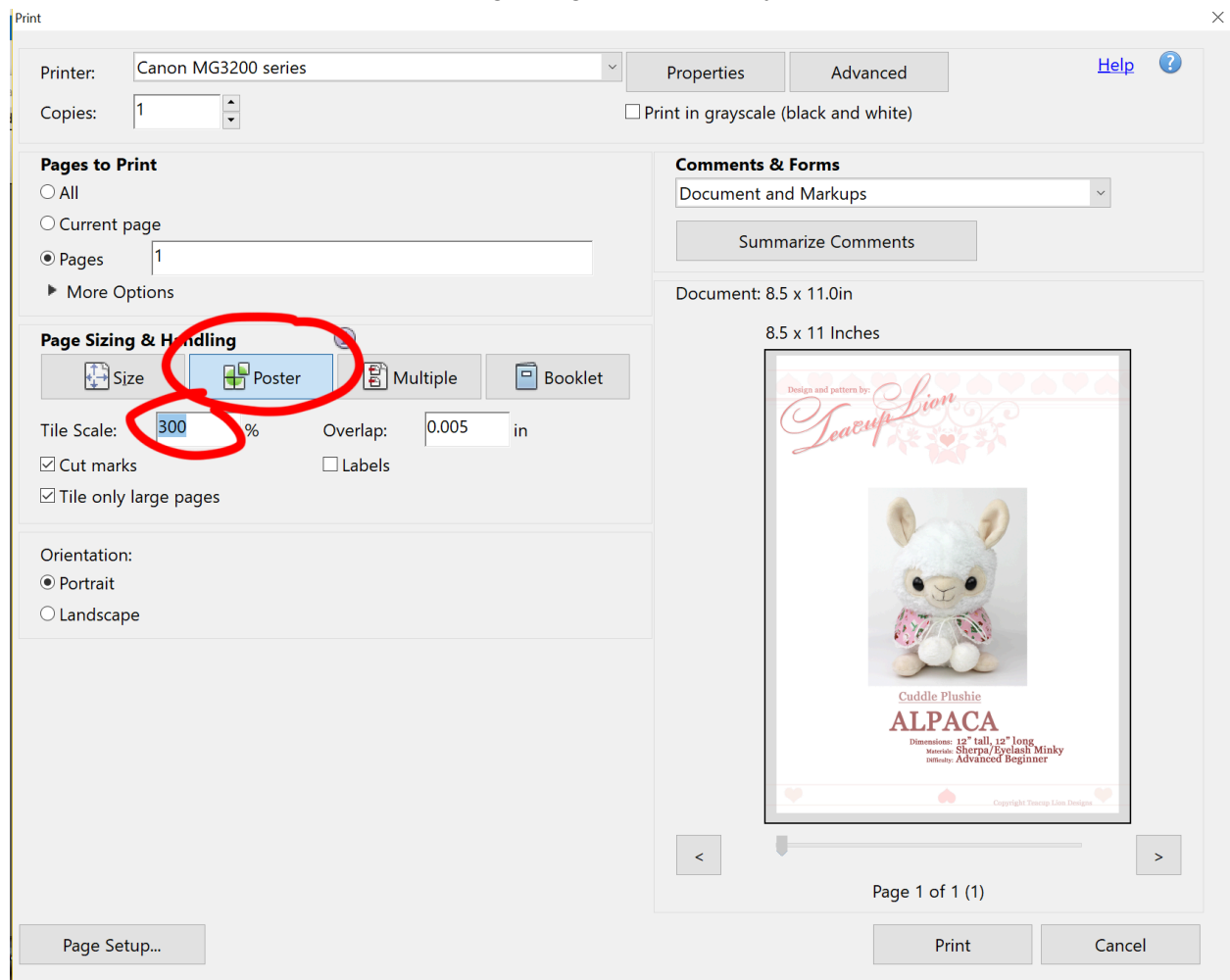
So the desired percentage in blue at the top original equation is 20, and that is the amount that you will enter into the printer settings when you go to print.

This is one of my most frequently asked questions, so here's a quick guide on how to print patterns larger or smaller. You can print any of my patterns on any home printer, regular sized paper.

When you click File>Print (or Ctrl+P), you can adjust the percentage desired in these settings. For a plush twice as large, change 100% -> 200%, and so on.



If you are increasing the pattern size across multiple pages, select "Poster". By selecting "Poster", your printer will not only enlarge, but print the pages across multiple sheets of paper. You will have to use tape to put the pages together after they are all printed.



Once your patterns are all printed and taped, you will see that the seam allowance has also changed. You can either alter it now, or just measure it and keep it in mind as you sew, and use that measurement rather than the seam allowance in my patterns.

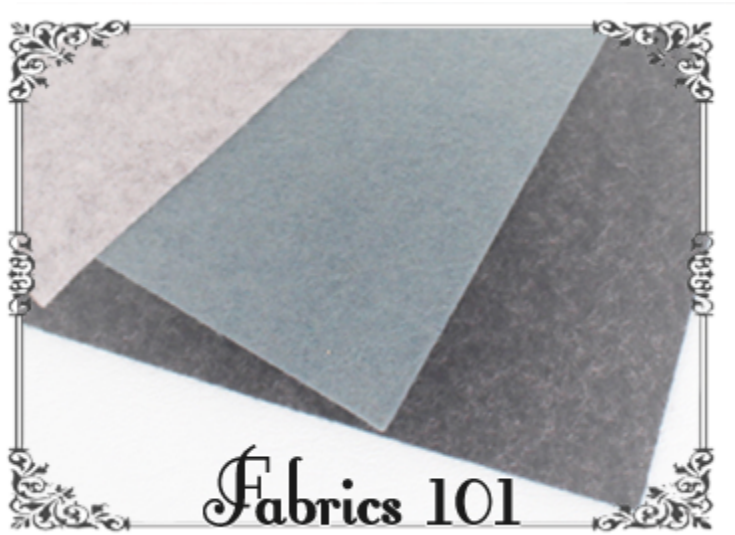
If every pattern comes at 100% by default, how do I figure out what percentage I need? Algebra! If I have a pattern that makes a 6" stuffed animal, and I want it 12", this is a formula I use:

Other tools:

Convert inches to mm, cm, etc

<https://www.calculatestuff.com/conversions/length-conversion>

Fabrics 101

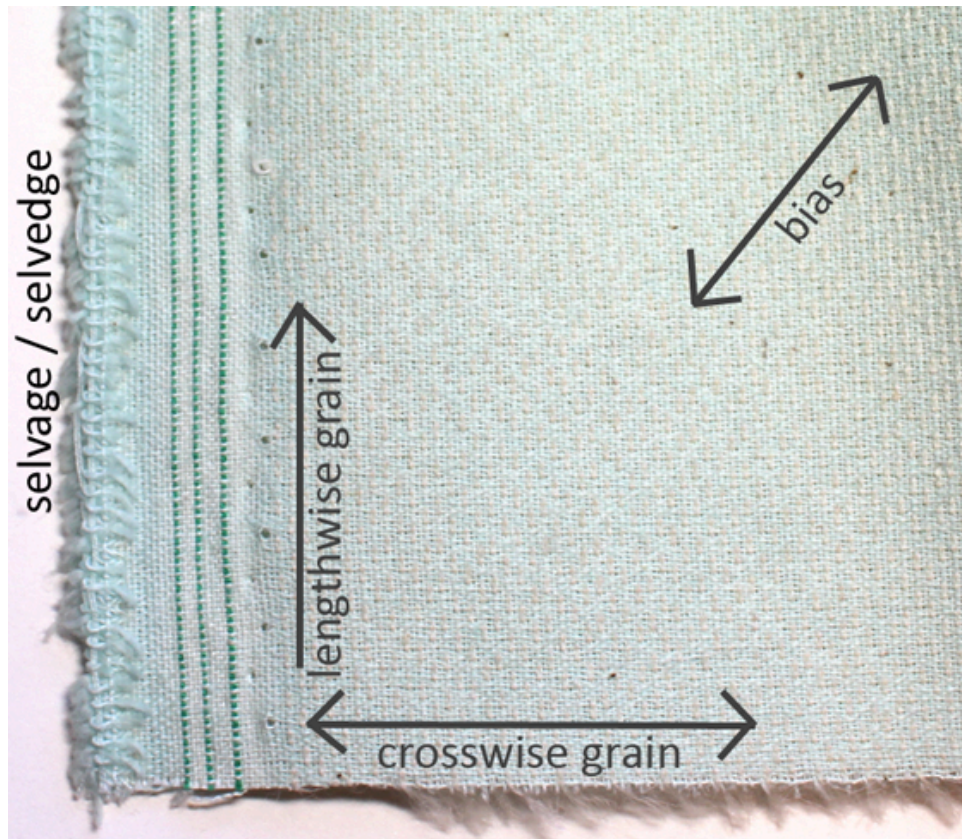


Lengthwise Grain runs along the length (yardage) of the fabric. Runs parallel to selvedge.

Crosswise Grain runs along the width of the fabric. Runs perpendicular to selvedge.

Bias runs along a 45 degree diagonal angle to the grain, and is usually a bit stretchy.

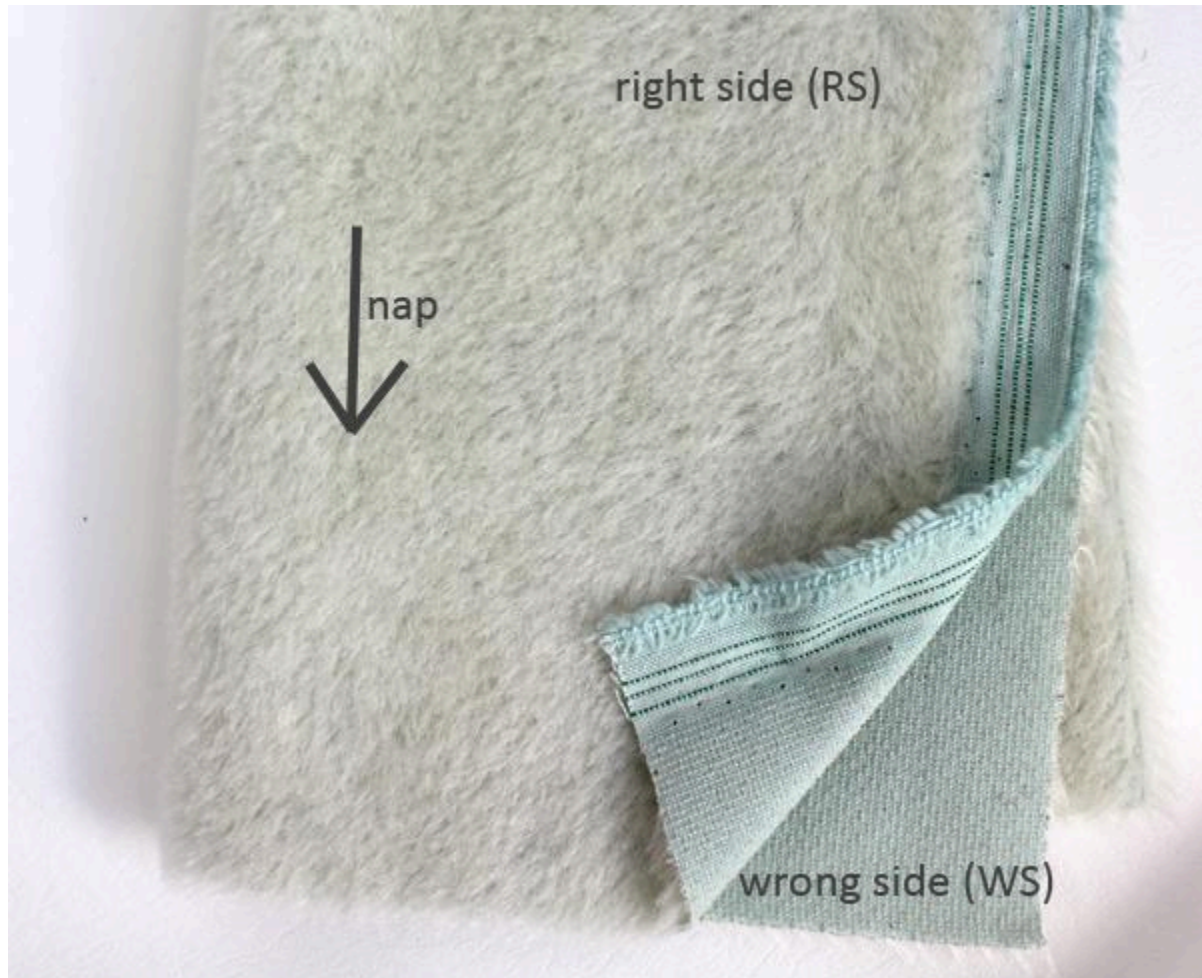
Selvage / Selvedge is the manufactured edge of the fabric that usually has rows of holes.



Right Side(RS) is the front side of the material; the side you want on the outside of your plush

Wrong Side(WS) is the backing of the material; the side you want inside of your plush. If you can't tell which side is the wrong side, it's usually the side with less texture, color, and vibrance.

Nap is the direction in which the fibers run along the fabric. The arrow direction of "nap" on pattern directions goes along the smooth way of petting it. Just as you pet a cat front to back, nap on plush also runs downwards and front to back on plush toys. This is especially important to know when cutting fabric pieces.



Yardage:

1 yard = 3 feet = 36 inches

1 meter = 100cm

Should you pre-wash your fabric?

- If you have washable pen from patterning or plan on washing the doll, then check the recommended washing instructions for your fabric. As a general rule, I would recommend a cold cycle on delicates with clear & safe detergent in a pillowcase. For drying, either line-dry outside on a sunny warm day, next to a dehumidifier and fan, or dry the fabric in a dryer on a delicate cycle on the lowest setting.

Selecting the right fabric for your project:

- Read all directions before starting to make your project, and bring your materials list to the store with you. Sitting down to start a project and then realizing you're missing something is such a bummer!
- When purchasing fabric, buy a little extra in case of accidents. You can always use leftovers for pattern drafting, exchanging at swap meets, or selling on eBay/Etsy. If you're sewing with ruffles, you'll need at least twice the length of the desired ruffle.
- It's helpful to have a photo on your smartphone of your fabric stash and thread stash at home, so that you don't accidentally buy the same thing twice.
- Use various fabrics in one project when needed. Consider the varying dimensions of an animal; for example, a sheep. It has thick wool on the body, shorter fur on the legs, ears and face, and no fur on the eyeballs and hooves.
- Do not use a furry fabric like minky for details which do not naturally have fur growing out of them; eyes, claws, noses, hooves and horns. Choose your fur lengths accordingly to match the real animal.
- How about scraps and end-of-roll? I find that these are great for prototyping. Check if the fabric has wrinkles/damage/dirt that would make these unsuitable for finished plush.

What are some good fabrics to make plush and stuffed animals from?



Craft Felt is very cheap and made from acrylic; it's best used for practicing with beginner sewing, and drafting patterns for wool felt plush.

The quality is not suitable for plush that will be hugged and loved as it's thin and scratchy, pills easily, and comes apart.



Wool Felt is a very popular fabric for beginning and experienced crafters. It looks lovely machine sewn, or hand-embroidered. The amount of wool can vary from 20-100% and is usually blended with rayon. The higher wool content, the more expensive the felt will be. Once you try using wool felt, you won't go back to craft felt.

- Wool shrinks when wet, so it's not advised to wash fully. You can spot clean, dry clean, or hand wash with woolite. If your plush has more than one color on it, spot-clean only, or the colors can bleed into each other.
- I recommend marking with chalk, as it can brush away. Using washable pen will cause your felt to shrink when you get it wet, and ballpoint pen will not come off (and will show up on the edges of your plush).
- Use sharp scissors or a rotary cutter (with a cutting mat) to cut wool felt.
- For sewing machines, use a medium weight universal or denim needle.
- Clean lint often from underneath feed dogs.
- Store your wool felt with a bit of cedar wood to keep away moths.



Anti-pill fleece is a great type of material to use for making plush; it is soft, affordable, easy to work with, and forgiving on mistakes.

- Fleece does not shrink when washing. Machine wash on a warm gentle cycle; tumble dry on low heat.
- Raw edges of fleece do not ravel, so it's perfect to use sew on as applique with a zig-zag stitch.
- To determine the right side, pull fleece gently along a cross-grain edge; it will curl towards the wrong side. The right side of anti-pill fleece will be fluffy.
- Sew with a universal, ballpoint, or microtex needle, using a straight or very narrow zig zag stitch.
- Use a slightly longer stitch for fleece (3mm - 5mm).
- Reduce top thread tension when sewing over bulky areas on your project.
- Clean lint often from underneath feed dogs.
- "Minky fleece" is a very cuddly fleece fabric that stretches like fleece rather than minky.



Minky is soft and cuddly, and available in many gorgeous colors. There are varying pile lengths available from 1mm - 5mm+. Comes in solid colors, designs, and embossed textures in dots and stars.

- Minky stretches perpendicular to selvedge, and produces lovely plush toys.
- Minky can machine wash and dry; it does not shrink when washing. If you're combining minky with other fabrics that do shrink when washing, make sure to wash them first.
- Don't let the minky stretch when you're cutting your pieces.
- Use sharp scissors or a rotary cutter (with a cutting mat) to cut minky.
- When cutting minky, the pieces of fur will get everywhere! Shake off your pieces into the trash directly after cutting. Make sure to keep a lint roller and vacuum handy. Clean underneath your feed dogs often as well.
- Minky sews well with a 90/14 universal or 90/14 ballpoint/stretch needle. When sewing in your machine, make sure to use lots of silk pins (every 1 - 1.5 inches), and pull them out as you sew. Alternatively, you can use basting stitches.
- The top layer of fabric may feed at a different rate than the bottom layer of fabric; to fix this, use a walking foot; it's much easier to sew with. If you don't have a walking foot, get one!
- For very small pieces or tight turns, use lightweight tear-away interfacing underneath.
- Do not iron directly onto the minky fur, it will melt the fibers; place a cloth over and use low heat on the back of the minky. If you're ironing applique on the right side, then use only the iron's tip in the area for applique.



Velboa is a short-pile polyester knit faux fur that is wonderful for toys: it does not stretch much, and is strong and durable, and ravel-resistant. Velboa comes in solid colors and designs. The nap may also have a design in it, causing the fibers to follow a wave or zig-zag pattern.

- Velboa can be machine washed in a warm cycle, and air dried or tumble dry low heat.
- Use a walking foot and interfacing to help control velboa if it's sliding in your sewing machine.
- Sew with a microtex sharp needle.
- Do not iron directly onto right side; iron on reverse side only with medium heat.



Craft velour is lightweight and stretchy with a very short pile. It is a polyester blend and has a knit backing.

- Machine washable and machine dryable. Velour will shrink when washing.
- Sews well with a microtex sharp needle.
- Use a walking foot and interfacing to help control velour if it's sliding in your sewing machine.



Fake fur comes in many styles, colors and varieties.

- Check the manufacturer's cleaning instructions before washing faux fur. A good rule is cold water on delicate with fabric softener, and air-dry/line dry only. If drying inside, a dehumidifier and fan is a must. Do not put faux fur in a warm wash or machine dryer; it will permanently damage the fur.
- Many faux furs are made in limited quantities; it may be the last time you see a particular fur. If you absolutely love it, pick up a little extra.
- Good quality fake fur can cost quite a bit. When practicing or drafting patterns, use a cheaper fur.
- A low quality (cheaper) fur will have the following qualities: have a stretchy backing, the backing can be seen through the fur, the fur will come out easily, and the fur will not be soft to the touch.
- A high quality (more expensive) fur will have the following qualities: have a strong knit backing, the fur is thick and strongly woven into the backing, the fur is soft to the touch and denser (hard to see the backing).



Mohair traditionally comes from the Angora Goat, but can be sheared from other animals such as alpaca. It's sheared, spun into yarn, woven into a backing, and treated with dye or other chemicals to finish the wool. It's a luxurious fabric that increases in price as the density increases.

- Before making a bear or plush with mohair as a gift, make sure the recipient is not allergic to animal fur.
- Sew mohair as you would with fake fur.
- Sew by machine with a universal needle, or by hand using a back stitch.
- Use a walking foot if the layers are not feeding evenly.
- Use a slightly longer stitch or loosen top tension as needed.



Suedes are a medium-weight polyester fabric that are soft and have a very fine nap. Suedes are great for small details on plush that are not furry; such as clothes, doll faces, or shaped hair. Comes in many suitable varieties such microsuede, deer suede, doe suede, ultra suede light, alova suede, buck suede.

- Washing instructions may depend on the suede; it's usually machine wash cold, tumble dry low.
- Sew with a sharp or microsuede needle.
- Use a walking foot if the layers are not feeding evenly.
- Use a slightly longer stitch or loosen top tension as needed.
- Make sure to pick a craft suede that is thin and drapes loosely enough to make a good plush. Thick or stiff suedes are less suitable for plush.

Sewing with fake fur



Quality: Usually goes hand-in-hand with price. A high quality fur will have a strong backing, thick fur, and feel soft. Quality can range from \$8/yard craft fur that will feel and look cheap, to luxury imported fake fur used for heirloom-quality teddy bears.

Pile: The length of the fur fibers from the backing to the tip of the fur. Choose this very carefully when considering the size of the toy you want to make. A 2" long fur on a 6" dog will cause all the details to become lost underneath all that shag. Consider using a shorter pile plush instead if you want to show details.

At left: 1/8" pile. At right: 3/4" pile.



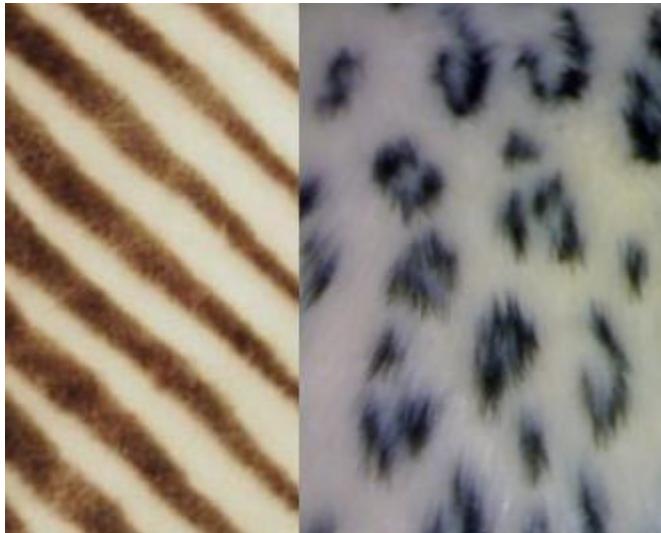
Density: Dense, medium density, or thick fur fabrics will create a fluffy animal. Sparse, thin furs will give the appearance of a loved, antique, shedding animal. If you can easily see the backing underneath the pile, it's a sparse fur fabric. This is a term more commonly used for mohair.

At left: Sparse mohair.

At right: Dense faux fur.

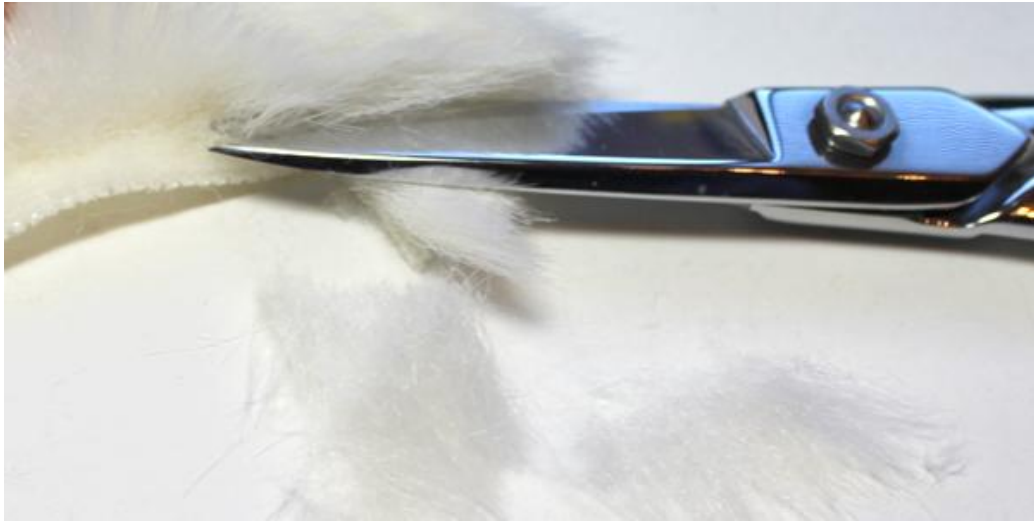


Pattern: Fur may have a design such as stripes or spots. These come in realistic shades meant to mimic real animal fur, or simple designs for cartoony or youthful pillows and toys. Make sure to pick a size that scales well with your intended project's size and style. if you're making a 7" realistic zebra, a 1" band-striped fabric will make your zebra look quite cartoony.



Tips for how to sew with fake fur:

- If you're having trouble tracing the pattern because the fabric keeps shifting:
 - Use a thicker paper for your pattern
 - Pin the pattern to the fur
 - Use pattern weights (heavy objects) to hold it down.
- When cutting your pieces use an exacto knife, or just the tips of sharp scissors to cut the backing only. Replace the exacto blade when it gets dull. Don't cut through the fur pile! It will leave 'bald' areas on your stuffed animal.
- Use a hand basting stitch first before sewing, as fur slips around easily. Remove basting stitches after machine sewing.
- Draw the stitching lines with water-soluble pen to use as a stitching guide.
- Use fray check on the edges for any fur fabric that frays (backing that comes apart when pulled).
- If your fur is dense, trim the fur out of the seam allowance; if your seam allowance is $\frac{1}{4}$ ", cut almost $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the fur away from the seam allowance.



- Tuck fur pile into the plush before sewing, so that it doesn't stick out of the seam.



- Hand sewing: Use a tiny blanket stitch and sew with a very small seam allowance.
- Machine sewing: Sew with a large open zig zag stitch to make it easier to pull out fur trapped in the seam with a large needle.
- When possible, sew with the direction of the nap, not against it.



- Use a doll needle, toothbrush, finger brush, or fur comb to brush fur out from within the sewn seam.

Preparation



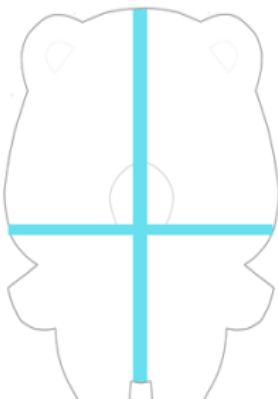
To ensure that your sewn pieces will turn out well, some preparation work is needed to align pieces correctly and pin well so that minimal shifting occurs.

Printing:

- Make sure to have PDF reading software, and keep it updated. Adobe Acrobat Reader is commonly used and free to download: <http://get.adobe.com/reader>
- Be sure to read printing instructions that came with your pattern!
- All TeacupLion patterns are to be printed at “Actual Size”. Your printer may attempt to resize pages on its’ own if you leave this option box unchecked.

Cutting patterns & preparing:

- Be sure to read your instructions before cutting your patterns!
- For pattern pieces that need to be taped together, align your two pieces together, then apply scotch tape. Make sure to tape at the edges where they meet, and cut away any extra tape.
- If your patterns do not have seam allowance included, you will want to draw it in before cutting your patterns. You can do so by using a clear ruler. Make small marks by holding the ruler perpendicular to the stitching line. Then, attach the marks using curved lines that have a consistent distance from the stitching line.



Tracing patterns

- For tracing any stretchy fabric, cutting the pieces from one layer of fabric at a time will give you better symmetry than cutting two at once. For each piece marked as “Cut 2”, cut 1 piece, then flip the pattern, and cut the 2nd piece. You should have 1 piece each of WS and RS.
- Smooth out your fabric, and place the pattern pieces with the nap arrow parallel to the nap, or grain arrow parallel to fabric grain. You can either pin your pattern to the fabric, or hold it in place and carefully trace around.
- For each piece marked “FOLD”, place this pattern piece on the fold of fabric that you have folded in half, trace, and cut.
- If some of your pattern pieces have some tricky machine sewing, or if you would like guidelines to sew along, use chalk or washable marker to draw the stitching line on your fabric before sewing.

Cutting fabric

- When cutting fabric that stretches, make sure that the directional stretch/crossgrain is the same for each matching piece. If the stretch for one half of the head is different from the other half, the resulting plush will be slightly lopsided once stuffed.
- When cutting very small pieces for hand sewing, tape the pattern to the fabric. Cut the fabric around the pattern pieces, and gently pull off the tape.
- When cutting very small pieces for machine sewing, first trace the pattern to the fabric, draw the stitching line, and cut a minimum of a 2.5” square, or enough for your feed dogs to be able to grab the fabric.
- When finished cutting your pieces, place the patterns on them again and trim away any extra fabric with small scissors.



Dealing with fraying:

- For other fabrics that fray, I recommend fray-check after sewing, or zig-zag stitching the edges.
- Pinking shears are great for finishing the sewn edges knits, felts, and fabrics that don't fray.

Pinning

- For even pinning, pin your fabric at each end/corner, and once in the middle. Then pin at halfway points in-between.
- For larger pieces of fabric with stretchy/slippy fabric, alternate sides of the fabric to pin, so that the fabric slips less.
- Some fabrics like minky or fleece need lots of pins; I use about 1 pin per inch or half-inch.



Hand sewing



You can sew many lovely plush using just a few stitches. For smooth sewing, I highly recommend Thread Heaven or beeswax for your thread to glide easily through the fabric, and not tangle. :)

Running Stitch:

A basic stitch. Lengthen stitch length to make a basting stitch.



Sew straight and even lines 2mm away from the raw edge, alternating sides of the fabric. Pull the needle and thread through completely through one side of the fabric, then the other. Repeat, making small even stitches.

Basting Stitch:

Same method as a running stitch, but longer stitches. This is commonly used to temporarily hold 2 pieces of fabric together, as it's more accurate than pins.

Whip Stitch: For edges



Sew tight and even loops perpendicular around the raw edge of the applique fabric to the main fabric. Use a thread color that matches the smaller(top applique) felt piece. Bring the needle up through the right side of applique fabric 1/8" away from the edge. Insert the needle into the right side of the main fabric piece 1/8" to the side.

Whip stitch: For applique



Sew tight and even loops perpendicular around both raw edges of fabric.

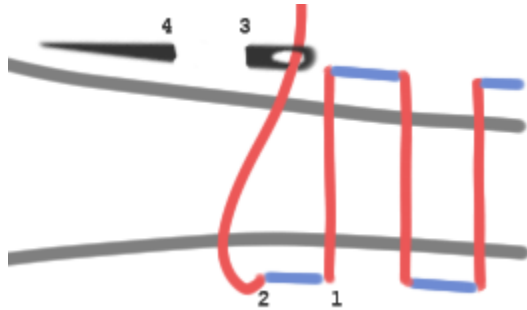
Back Stitch: A durable stitch



Use 2 strands of thread, stitch from WS to RS of fabric forward, then stitch backwards 2mm. This will be the length of each stitch showing at the right side of the fabric. Stitch forward about 4mm for the next stitch, and then 2mm backwards into the closest edge of the last stitch.

Ladder Stitch:

Perfect for hiding your last closure seam, and attaching limbs with hidden stitches.

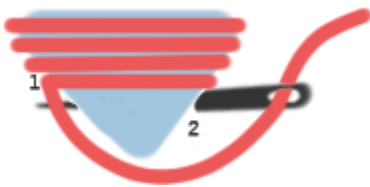


Shown top view in the diagram, red horizontal stitches are on the wrong side of fabric, inside the plush.

Pick a thread color that matches the area you will sew closed. Thread your needle, and knot. Insert your needle into the wrong side of the fabric at the top of the opening. Keep the same seam allowance as was sewn nearby, and stitch out to the right side of the fabric. Sew into the fabric on the opposite piece with 1/4" seam allowance, make a small stitch, and cross over to the opposite piece of fabric. Repeat, pulling the hole closed with tension on the thread as you sew. If you need to put in more stuffing, do so before the opening closes completely.

Satin Stitch:

Hand embroidery stitches used for fills.



The stitches are done using the same method as a running stitch, but are sewn parallel to each other rather than a straight running line. Make sure your threads are very close together so there aren't horizontal gaps between each satin stitch.

Extra handsewing tips

- Keep stitches tight, but without puckering the fabric.
- Take time to practice making your stitches even. Small and even stitches are most attractive, especially when they're visible on felt plush. You can use a gingham (checkered) fabric to count the squares for each stitch.
- To easily embroider a design on felt, first draw the design on tissue or wax paper, place the paper over the felt, and sew through the felt and paper together. Simply rip the paper away when done.
- Use good quality heavy duty thread for ladder stitching heavier fabric such as fake fur.
- Draw the stitching line on the wrong side of the fabric with washable pen so it's easy to know where to sew.

How to hide knots

How to hide knots:

Step 1: Finish your sewing, and make sure you have enough thread left (at least the length of the needle).



Step 2: Put a pin directly in the hole where the thread came out, and form a loose knot with the needle and thread.



Step 3: Hold the pin and begin to close the knot around the pin, pushing the knot as close to the fabric and pin as possible.



Step 4: Pull the knot tight, it should be very close to the fabric where the pin was.



Step 5: Insert the needle directly in the same hole the pin was in.



Step 6: Push the needle to the opposite side of the plush from where you are working (at least 2 inches away), and pull the thread hard. Once you feel the “pop” of the knot sinking inside of the plush, you’re done! Pull the thread a little bit, snip the thread ends, and your threads and knot should have disappeared completely. And, you’re done!



Machine sewing



Though a sewing machine is not required to make plushies, it's definitely a worthwhile investment if you'd like to get more serious about sewing. There is a bit of a learning curve, and some machines are easier to learn than others.

Buying a Machine

Buying a cheap sewing machine is likely to make your sewing experience more painful. Many people new to sewing buy a cheap machine to see if they like sewing; and when the machine fails them, they give up. I started out my first years with a \$250 Brother; it was limited in the fabrics it could sew, and produced mediocre-quality sewing. When it died 3 years later, it was more expensive to fix than to buy a new one. It suited my needs for beginner sewing, and I was able to save up enough money over the years for a nice Janome MC 6500 that can sew through 8 layers of denim. It's made my sewing experience much more enjoyable :)

Try out various machines at your local sewing machine dealer and see what works best for you, and buy what you can afford. You can purchased used, display samples, and refurbished machines to get more bang for your buck. Use caution when buying online, or used from family/friends.

Tips for machine sewing:

- Before starting your project, always test out stitch length, tension, and width (if zig zag stitching) first on a scrap fabric. Try with and without interfacing.
- When sewing fur with a nap, try to sew with the direction of the fur, not against it.
- Universal needles should work for most projects. Alternatively, use sharp needles on cotton/woven/nonstretch fabrics, and ballpoint needles for fleece/minky/stretchy fabrics.
- Begin and end machine stitching with a few back-stitches to secure your seam.
- Use interfacing when sewing a stretchy fabric to a non-stretch fabric. Pick your interfacing out carefully! Lightweight interfacing should be used for lightweight fabrics, and heavyweight interfacing for heavyweight fabrics.
- When you're finished stitching, clip or snip curved edges

In my experience, 95% of sewing machine problems can be corrected by the following:

- Correct threading and tension - the first thing to check if you have a problem
- Bobbin wound and inserted correctly
- Correct needle for the fabric, change needle when used
- Using only good quality thread that isn't too old
- Make sure the throat plate doesn't have dents from the needle that the fabric catches on
- Clean out lint from underneath the throat plate and around the bottom bobbin area after each project
- Using interfacing underneath your project if the fabric keeps getting "sucked down" into the bottom bobbin area. The feed dogs need something to grab onto
- If the fabric is just too thick (such as layers of jeans/pleather) and stitches aren't coming out nicely, and you're sewing on a \$250 machine, you'll likely need to invest in a higher quality machine. Low-cost machines are for general home sewing and just aren't tough enough for some fabrics.

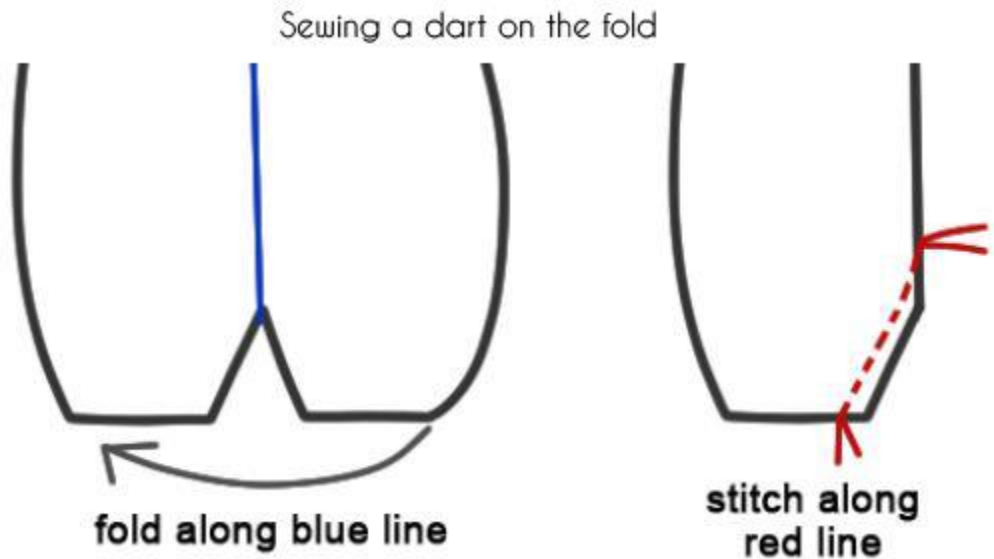
Tips for practicing on your machine:

- Draw some straight lines, zig-zag lines, and swirly lines on piece of paper. Do not thread your machine top or bottom, and try to sew over the drawn lines.
- If pins are not holding your fabric well enough together, you may need to use basting stitches before sewing. This is helpful when sewing small curves and using thick or slippery fabrics.

Tips on sewing darts

How to sew a dart

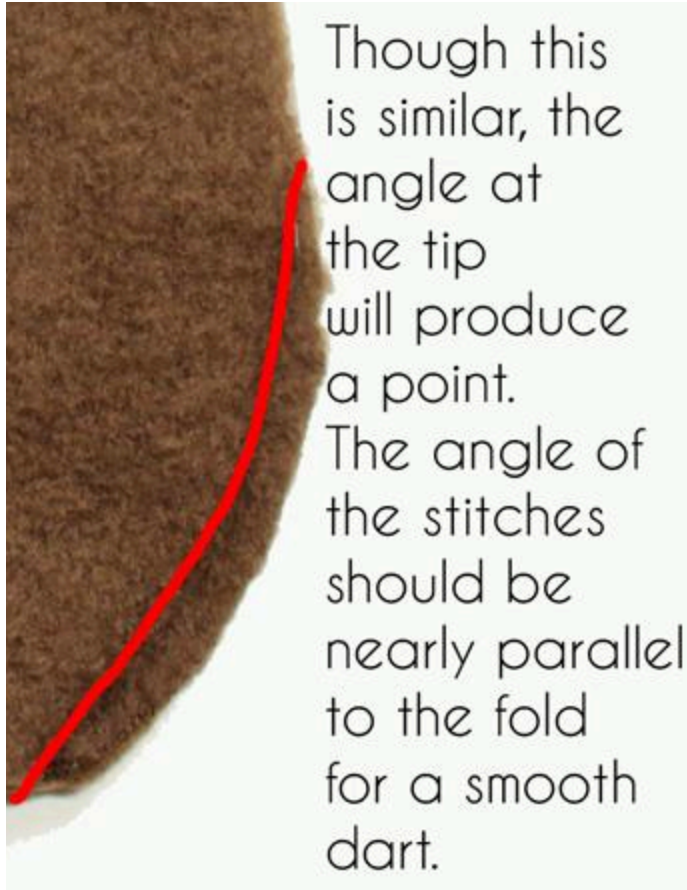
Fold the fabric so that the “v” shaped dart will become a straight line. Start at one point (I would start at the bottom below) and finish at the other. Make sure to backstitch at the start of and end of the dart.



Sewing a smooth dart

When finishing, sew as smoothly as possible to make the stitches almost parallel to the folded fabric, so that the angle of the dart blends smoothly with the folded fabric. Sew as a slight curve so that the seam allowance decreases until the stitches are parallel with the fold.





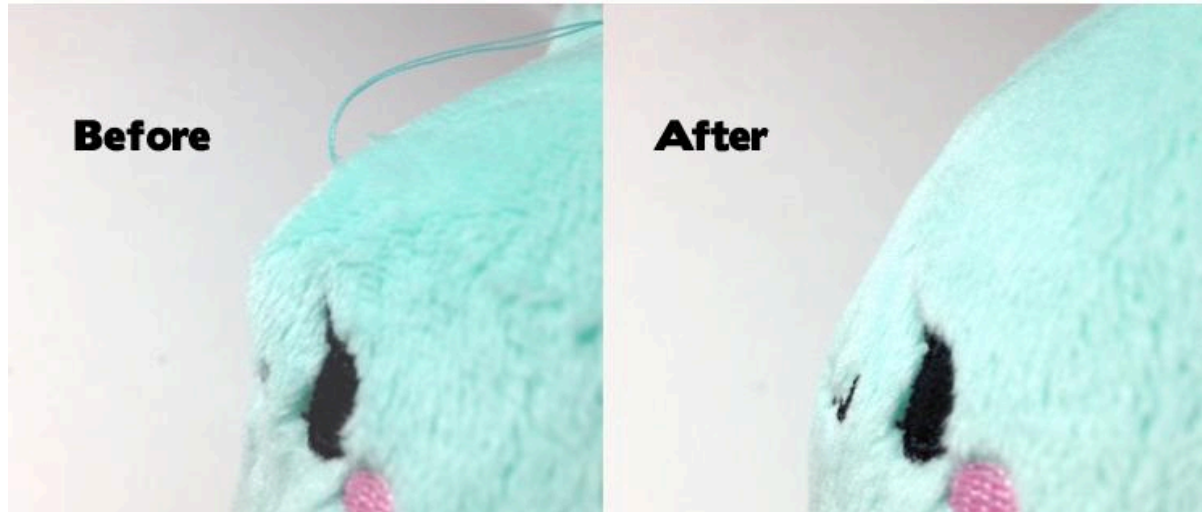
Cutting the dart's seam allowance open a bit to ease

Using small scissors, snip open some of the fold under the seam allowance to allow the fabric to open up more freely in this area. Stop cutting where indicated with the blue pinhead.



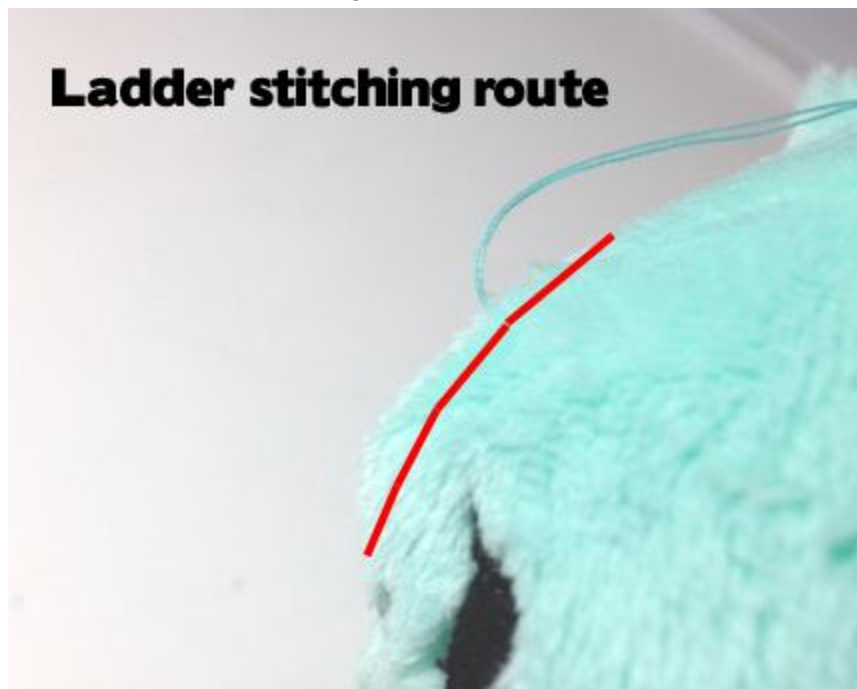
How to fix pointy darts

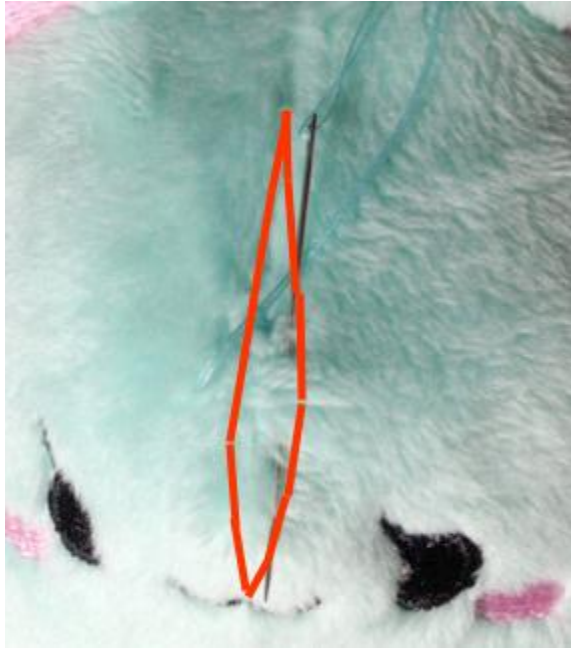
TeacupLion's guide on how to fix pointy darts



In this tutorial, I will show you how to make a pointy dart smoother if you've already sewn and stuffed your plush. [In my last tutorial, I covered how to sew darts smoothly by machine](#) so that you achieve a fine curve.

You will need a handsewing needle, thread, and scissors. Thread conditioner is helpful!





Start your needle at the top of the seam (on the seam, and start to ladder stitch downwards, with the nap (not against it).

You will slowly increase the distance of your stitches from the seam where the dart needs to be more smooth.



Use teeny, tiny ladder stitches to sew the seam closer together. The more angle you want to remove, the further away your ladder stitches should be from the original seam. The less angle you want to remove, the closer together your ladder stitches should be to the original seam.



When you're done ladder stitching and the angle is smooth, hide the knot using the technique in this ebook. Brush the fur from the seam using a toothbrush or needle. And you're done! :D

How to applique faces on minky

If you don't have an embroidery machine, you can still make gorgeous eyes on your plush using the applique method on your sewing machine!

You can use this technique to easily add cute faces to your [Cat Roll plush](#):



Materials needed:

Sewing machine, ballpoint/stretch needle, non-fraying fabric such as felt or suede (or use "fray check" on fraying/shredding fabric), tear-away interfacing (I like to use basket-style coffee filters), pins, washable marker or chalk, water-soluble stabilizer film topping (optional).

Step one: Cut fabric for the eyes, and pin each to face. Make sure the eyes are symmetrical by either checking in a mirror, measuring the distance from the outer eye edge to the outer edge of the fabric, or folding the face in half and making sure the eyes line up against each other directly. Pin the eyes to the face.



Step two: Using thread that matches the color of the eye, straight stitch around the outline of the eye. It should be as close to the edge as possible, around 1/8" seam allowance or less.



Step three (optional): A zig-zag stitch around the edge will give you a satin stitch embroidery outline look. It looks great on larger plush, but bulky on smaller plush.

Start with tear-away interfacing underneath the fabric in the area you will be sewing. Use test fabric and set your machine to a zig-zag stitch setting. For a clean look, especially if you are using minky or fake fur with fur pile, you can put water-soluble film on top of the plush fabric. Your stitch width should be around 3mm, and the length of the stitches should be very short so that the stitches touch each other. Zig-zag stitch around the outer edge of the fabric. Repeat for both eyes.



Step four: Use washable marker or chalk to trace a line where you want the mouth to be. Set your machine to a straight stitch, and sew over the mouth line. Then set your machine to a zig-zag stitch again, use the same settings for the eyes, stabilizer bottom and water soluble film top, and zig-zag over the center of the straight line you just sewed.



Step five: Tear away the backing from underneath the eyes and mouth. Clean up any threads.



And that's it! You can practice this technique, and write down your machine's zig-zag stitch settings, so you can keep using your favorite stitch widths and lengths.



How to make a rotating plush head

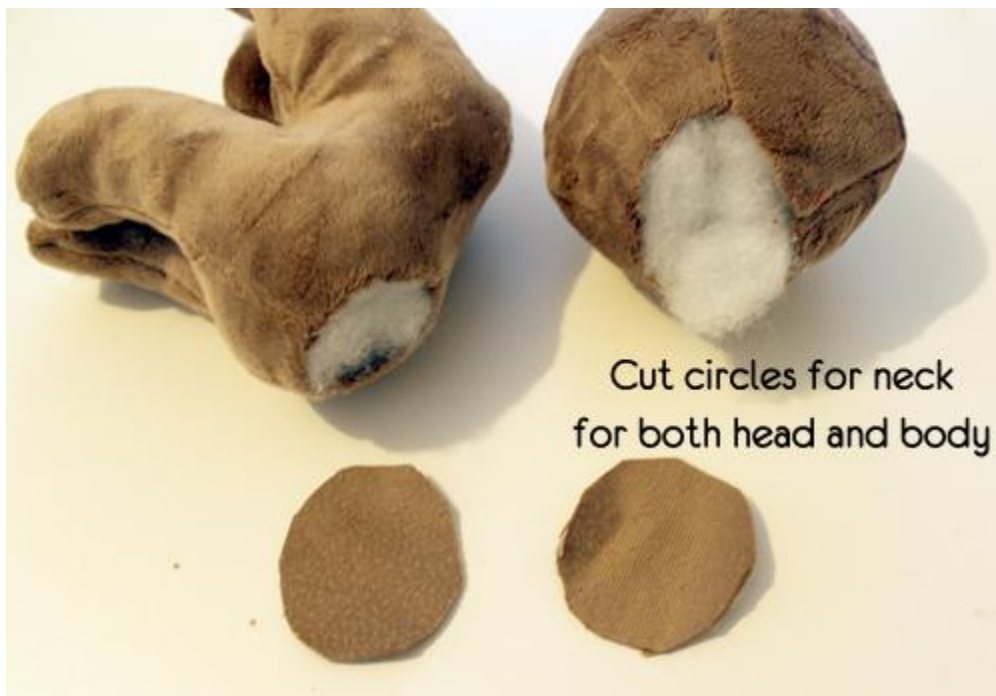
Learn how to make your animal plush have a turning head using plastic safety joints!

Materials needed:

- Safety joint set a bit smaller than the diameter of the neck piece (just subtract seam allowance) - this should be 3 pieces: one stem, one washer, and one connector. If you are using my Chibi Lion pattern, 40-45mm)
- One plush head and body. The body should have an opening somewhere other than the neck (such as along the back seam or butt area)
- 6"x3" scrap fabric for the neck piece (2.5" circles if you are using my Chibi Lion pattern)



Step one: Cut 2 fabric circles, the size of the neck, plus seam allowance. One is for the head, one for the body.



Step two: Pin and sew one circle to the neck, halfway on. You will leave the other half unsewn to insert the safety joint.

Pin and sew neck circle
halfway on to head



Step three: Poke a hole in the middle of the neck piece, large enough for the joint stem to poke through.

Use an awl or small sharp scissors
to make a hole in the center
of each neck piece



Step four: Completely sew up the neck on the head with the joint inside

Completely sew up neck with joint inside



Step five: Sew the other neck circle onto the body, halfway only

Sew neck piece on halfway only



Step six: Insert the washer and bottom disc into the neck body.

Insert 2 discs into body, with the flat washer on top



Insert washer and bottom disc into body



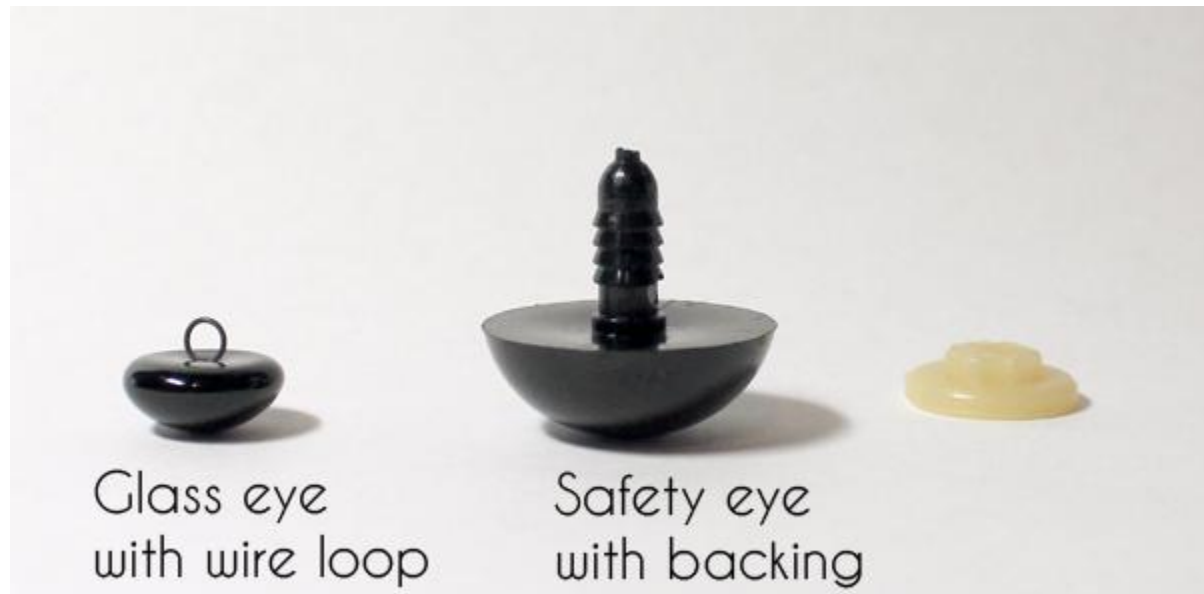
Step seven: Sew up the neck completely with the 2 washer joints inside.

Step eight: Using force, press the (head) stem into the (body) washer. If you can maneuver the body so that the chest is pressed against a hard surface like a table, you can get extra leverage and avoid some finger pain. When the joint keeps clicking with each notch until the head no longer "bobbles", the neck is tight enough.

Plastic and glass eyes secrets

Hey plush artists! In this tutorial, I'll be going over different kinds of plastic and glass eyes used in plushmaking.

Should you use glass or plastic eyes for your project?



Plastic eyes

- + Cheap
- + Lightweight
- + Safe for children 3+
- Inconsistent quality (find a good supplier)
- Sometimes have different height

Glass eyes

- + Handmade and high quality
- + Wire loop allows instant needle sculpting / sinks back into the head for a natural look (to see what I mean, check my [needlesculpting tutorial here](#))
- Pricier than plastic eyes
- Can take longer to put in than plastic eyes
- Sometimes have small discrepancies in size due to handmade nature

Generally, I like to use safety eyes for most of my plush to make them childsafe. For special plush intended for collectors, I like to use glass because they are shinier and more lifelike, and feel higher quality.

Washers / padding

If your safety eye comes with an extra disc or washer, it's to go in between the eye and the backing (inside the plush). Eye-fabric-padding-backing. It's especially helpful in larger eyes. The washer keeps the back of the eyeball flat against the fabric. Because plastic eyes are hollow on the back, it is possible for the eye to be 'picked' at, and pull away from the fabric slightly without this padding.



Multicolored eyes

Solid black plastic and glass eyes are readily available; they also come in clear, transparent colored, and solid colors. Clear eyes can be painted with acrylics from behind. Or if you want a solid color that you can't find available, you can either look for round safety nose in a matching color, or paint with acrylics and gloss.



Beady eyes

For tiny plush, and small flat felt plushies, you can glue on half-round eyes, or use bead-style or button-style eyes. There's no long 'stem' of the eye that might poke through to the back of the plushie.



Adding cheek blush to plush faces



Here's an in-depth tutorial using 2 methods for how to add cute blushing cheeks on your plush faces!

Method one: Chalk pastels (or soft pastels)

This method is not permanent, and should not be used for plush that are going to be washed.

Step 1: Prepare materials

Chalk pastels/soft pastels (never use oil!), paper, brush, scrap fabric of the same color of your plush.



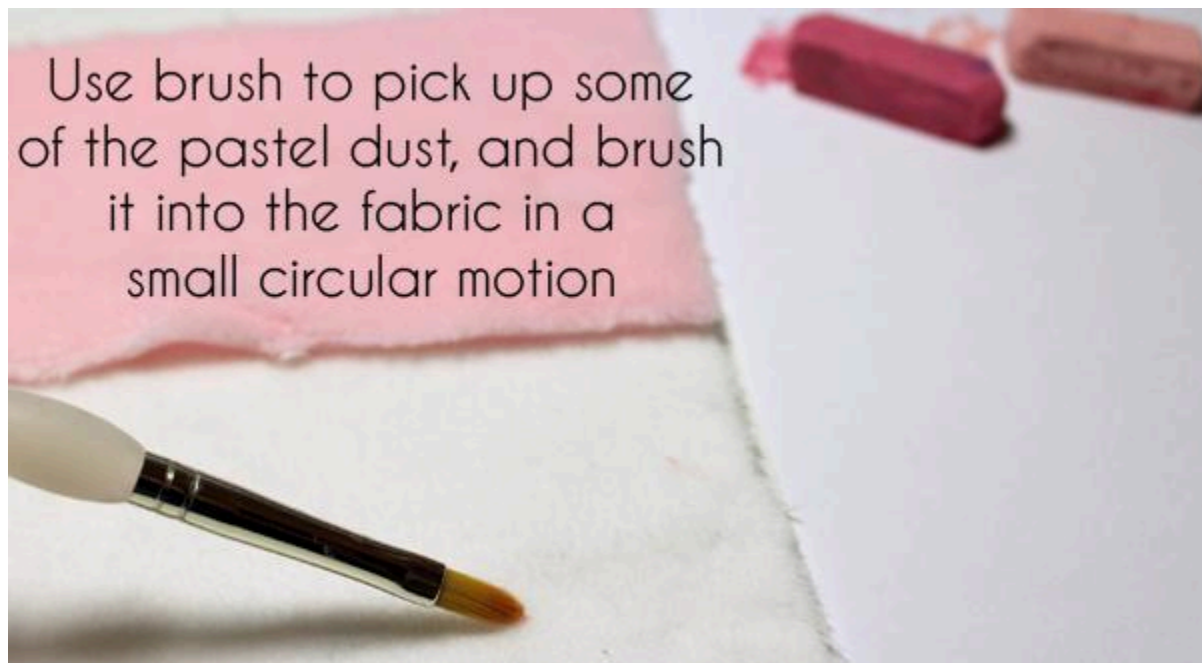
Step 2: Grind pastels for desired colors

If you don't have enough colors, you can mix colors to create the desired shade. i.e. mix pink and orange for a peachy blush, or red and white for a pinky color. You should have one pile of chalk dust for each color that you will want to test.



Step 3: Test the colors

Brush the chalk dust onto your test fabric. Make a new test circle for each color of chalk that you want to test. Make sure to keep track of which chalk color corresponds to which test circle.



Step 4: Apply to plush

When you've practiced enough and found the right color that best matches the fabric type, apply the chalk pastels to the cheeks of your plushie.

Method two: Fabric marker

This method MAY be permanent; you can buy either washable/water-soluble fabric marker, or permanent fabric marker.

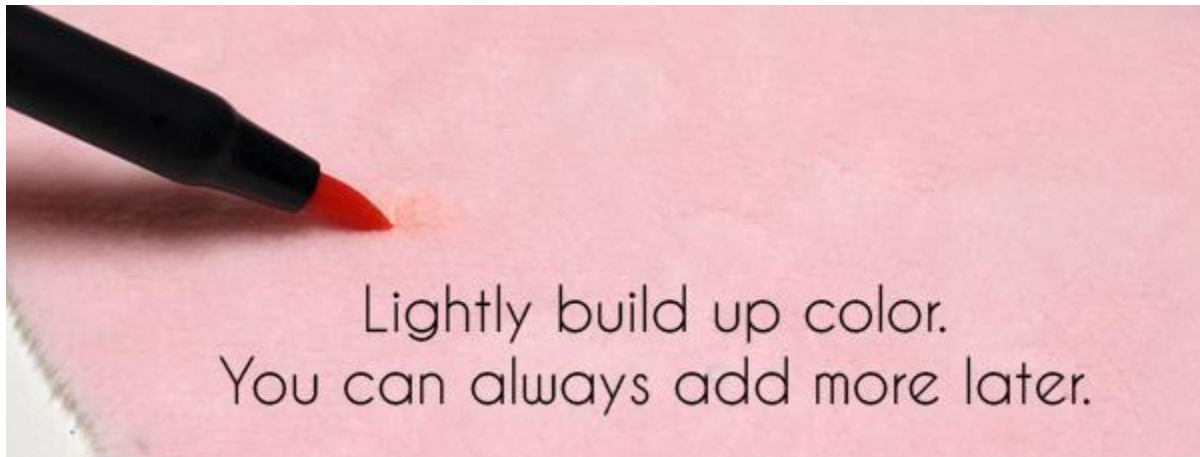
Step 1: Prepare materials

Fabric marker, scrap fabric, q-tip/cotton swab



Step 2: Test the colors

Use fabric markers to make small, light circles on the surface of the fabric. Make sure to keep track of which color is which.



Step 3: Blend colors

Using a q-tip/cotton swab, blend the color down into the fabric using a circular motion.

**Step 4: Apply to plush**

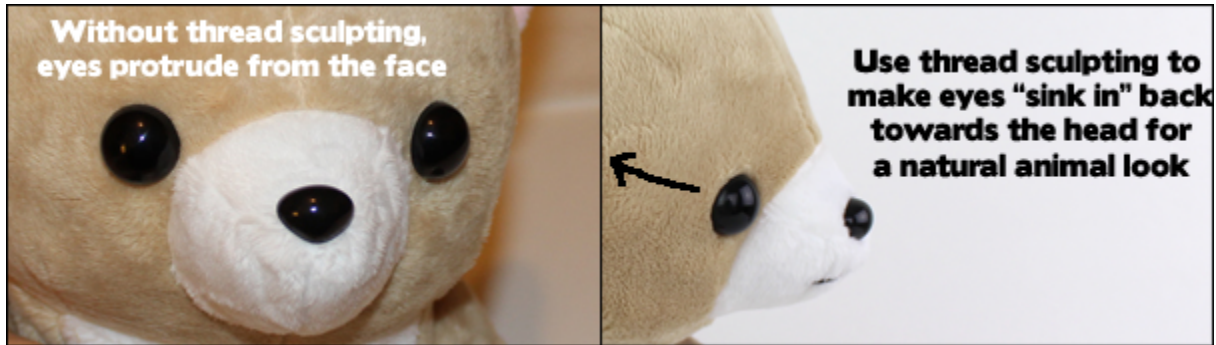
When you've practiced enough and found the right color that best matches the fabric type, apply the marker to the cheeks of your plushie, and blend in with a cotton swab.

Final notes:

- Practice lots on test fabric first!
- Pastels are usually more expensive than fabric markers.
- Fabric markers can run dry; make sure they are not dry already when you buy them. Also store them properly (usually horizontally).
- Check if your fabric marker is washable with water before using.
- If your fabric marker is permanent, you may be able to heat-set with an iron; read the marker's directions carefully.



Thread sculpting plush faces



Here's a quick thread sculpting tutorial, as featured in my [Newborn Fox plushie sewing pattern](#) ~

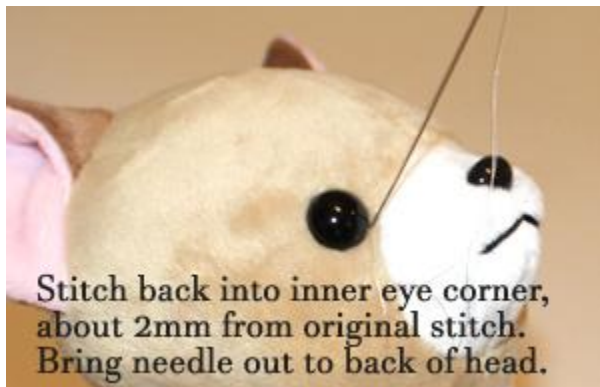


You can add dimension to the face by using thread to manipulate the shape of the face. I will be thread sculpting (also called needle sculpting) the eye sockets to pull the eyes back into the head a bit. This will give a very natural look to the face. Without the needle sculpting, the plush looks more "bug-eyed", or like bad taxidermy, lol. Let's bring this fox to life!

Step 1: Using a 4" long needle and several feet of thread, insert the needle in the center back of the head.



Step 2: Stitch out to left inner eye corner. Then stitch back into the same inner eye corner, about 2mm from the original stitch. Bring the needle out to the center back of the neck. Apply a little bit of tension on the thread, not much. The more you pull, the more the eye will sink back into the head.



Step 3: Repeat for right eye.

Step 4: Double-knot threads at the center back of the head, and snip away extra.

And that's it! You can also use thread sculpting for other areas of the face that you would like to "sink in" to the head a bit. For example, if I wanted the muzzle to be less puffy, I would use some thread sculpting along the muzzle wherever I wanted it to "sink in" to the head.

Plush iron-on eye tutorial



Materials needed:

Printer, ink, regular paper, **dark fabric** iron-on transfer sheets, iron

Step 1: Test print eyes and make adjustments

You should not need to mirror your image before printing. Print a test sheet on regular paper, standard or high print quality. For me, the eyes print darker ink than shown on my computer. You can use photo editing software to adjust the hue and saturation of the eyes to achieve different colors.

Step 2: Print the eyes

Set printer settings to high quality. Load transfer paper so that it will print on the correct (white glossy) side.

Step 3: Cut the eyes

Carefully cut around each eye. Depending on your brand of transfers, the ink may scrape off with scissors. Whatever you include around the eye as white, will stay white - the background is not transparent. So make sure to cut out white where you don't want it.

Step 4: Peel the backing

I like to start peeling at a white or black area, because if any white chips off, I can use white or black paint to touch up afterwards. Peel carefully at small areas like eyelashes, so they don't rip off.

Step 5: Set up area and prepare according to instructions of your iron-on transfer paper

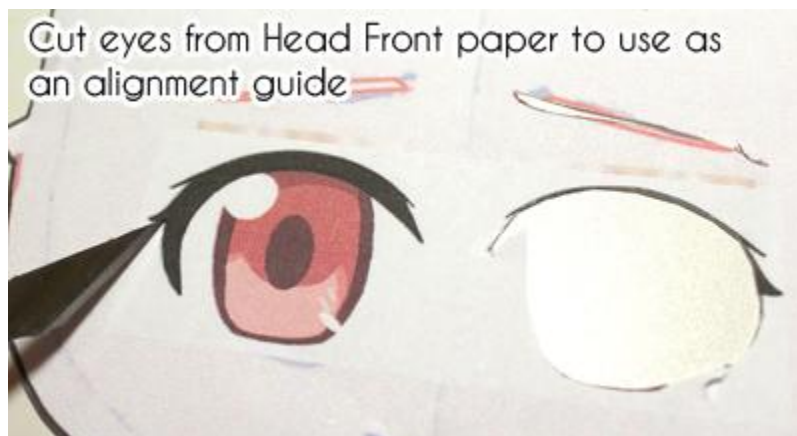
Prepare ironing surface; I use a table, cardboard, and cotton fabric. My instructions call for a stiff surface (not an ironing board). I set my iron to medium heat, no steam, and pre-iron the fabric gently.

Step 6: Test the iron-on

Test some scrap iron-on transfer on test fabric, of about a similar size. Time how many seconds it takes to adhere properly (mine took 16 seconds for 1 eye). It's key to get the right iron temperature, pressure, and timing. Too short/cold and they won't adhere to the fabric; too long/hot and it'll burn.

Step 7: Prepare pattern and align the eyes

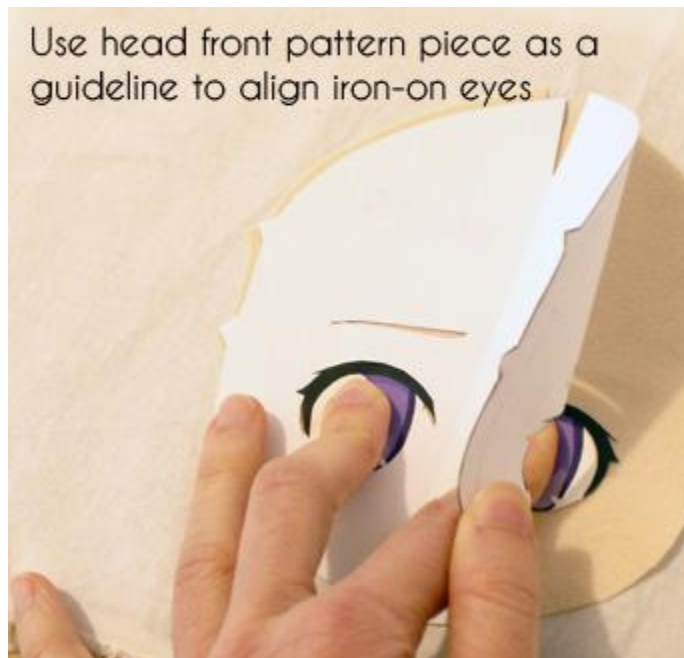
If your sewing pattern has eye placement lines, cut these out so you can easily line up the eyes within the pattern. Place pattern down on fabric and put one eye in one eye hole.



Step 7: Iron the eyes

Place your transfer paper over the face, and iron the eyes on one at a time. I start with keeping the iron still for the first 5 seconds, then slowly moving the iron tip over one eye. Make sure the iron doesn't touch the fabric directly.

When ironing the second eye, I make sure the iron is not touching the first eye. Let eyes cool. Depending on your brand of iron-on transfers, you may have a little shrinkage after ironing. (I had a bit of shrinking with Jolee's, and it smelled a little funny. Wilton brand did not shrink/smell.)



And voila!



This human plush pattern is [available in my Etsy shop!](#)

Plushie eye painting tutorial



Materials needed:

Acrylic paint, textile medium, small brush, plastic palette, cup of water, chalk/pen

Step 1: Set up your surface with newspaper underneath, as paint can stain through fabric onto your table. Put your colors on your palette, and mix colors as necessary to achieve correct eye / eyebrow colors. Add a small bit of textile medium to each color.

Step 2: Use your pattern to transfer the eye alignment onto the fabric, and either use chalk, pen or paint to transfer the outline.



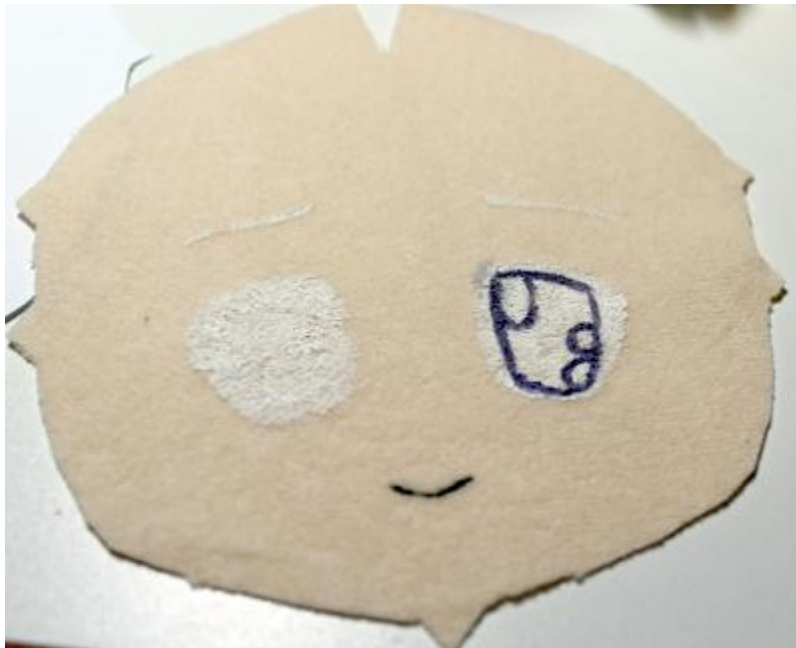
For painting the face:
Cut holes and transfer markings
with chalk, pen, or paint

Step 3 (Optional): You can paint a full white circle fill in the entire area, if you let it dry first before applying more paint. (If you do not let it dry, any other colors you put on top will mix with the white.)

Step 4: Paint the eyebrows with color that matches the hair. (I'm using white hair so I put white eyebrows on the doll.)



Step 4: Use iris colored paint to paint around the colored part of the eye.



Step 5: Use a darker color (or black color) paint to fill in the pupil. Use black paint and paint the top eyelashes and eyeliner.



Step 6: Use black paint and small thin lines to paint eyelashes, and lower eyelid.



Step 7: When done painting, let your paint dry the full amount before continuing to sew your plush (mine took 24 hours). Your textile medium may call for you to heat-set the paint with an iron after the paint is dry. I usually skip this if I am not going to put any water on the plush. This human plush pattern is [available in my Etsy shop!](#)

Help! Troubleshooting embroidery machine problems

Thread breaking? Bottom thread coming to top?

- Check that tensions are correct. I did this with minky, stabilizer, and made a 1cm wide satin stitch test file. With each new satin stitch, I rotated the top thread tension by 1/2. On the underside, the bobbin thread column should be about one-third the width of the satin-stitch column for perfect tension. So for my test swatch, the top tension at "3" is perfect. Your tension will vary by machine, the thread type, and fabric/stabilizer combination.



- Make sure bobbin is correct size
- Make sure machine is clean and screws are back in properly
- Make sure threading is correct - BOTH top thread and bottom bobbin
- Make sure top thread can feed from spool without obstruction; use a standalone thread holder with a disc top or thread net
- Check for burrs on the needle; change needle
- Clean tension discs

Continued: Thread breaking? Bottom thread coming to top?

- Use less stabilizer
- Try a different spool of top thread
- Try a different brand of thread
- Try putting thread in the freezer (thread may be dried out)
- Switch to polyester thread
- Try a different bottom bobbin thread
- Check if there's a problem with the design - it may be too dense, or not have enough underlay
- See a doctor (bring your machine into a sewing professional that has experience with your machine's brand)

Bird's nest (loops of thread) under fabric?

- Check that machine is properly threaded
- Brush out lint from tension discs
- Cut thread at the spool instead of at the needle, and pull thread down, instead of up again through the machine
- Don't pull thread backwards through machine as it can cause lint buildup in tension discs
- Clean inside and around bottom bobbin case
- <http://blog.colmanandcompany.com/embroidery-birdnesting-tips/>
- <http://www.annaboveembroidery.com/trinmaem.html>

Is your fabric shifting? Is there gapping?

- <http://www.urbanthreads.com/tutorials.aspx?t=Preventing+Shifting+and+Gapping>

Is your design puckering?

- Make sure the design has adequate underlay to support the design's heavy fill stitches
- Choose a design that is less dense for the fabric's weave; or a stronger fabric for the dense design
- Use temporary fusible spray to adhere back of fabric to interfacing
- Use Rayon thread instead of Polyester
- Use the smallest hoop possible to fit the design
- Add a more stable backing
- Lay the interfacing and fabric over the bottom hoop, then gently press the top hoop in place
- Instead of traditional hooping, just hoop the interfacing, and use a temporary fusible spray to adhere wrong side of fabric to the interfacing
- Check that the top and bottom threads are correctly threaded
- Check tension balance
- After embroidering, set your iron to the lowest setting, and press on the back on the embroidery for 10 seconds through a press cloth

Hooping minky and stretch fabrics for plush making



Here's a detailed guide on how to embroider on minky, step-by-step :)

Hooping method

Use this method when:

Working with a larger piece of fabric

Need extra stability

Have a lot of embroidery to do

1. Prepare your surface

Have a clean, flat surface large enough to lay out your fabric. Make sure the fabric's nap is going the direction that you want it to. Also check that wherever you will hoop, you will have enough fabric around the embroidery area to fit the whole pattern that will be needed for that piece. I like to embroider on the Right Side's upper right corner on the piece of fabric, so any extra fabric doesn't get in the way of my machine. (This is the upper left corner on the Wrong Side of the fabric).

2. Prepare stabilizer

Cut piece of stabilizer to a size about 1" larger than each size of the hoop. So for a 4"x4" hoop, cut a 6" by 6" square. [If you're not sure what kind of stabilizer you need, check my guide here!](#)

3. Use adhesive spray



If you're embroidering on a fabric that stretches, I recommend always adhering the back of minky to the stabilizer. You can do this with either a temporary embroidery spray, or fusible iron-on stabilizer. For minky I prefer spray, since ironing minky can sometimes result in melted fibers. I've used fusible no show mesh iron-on stabilizer and very careful ironing. Bring the stabilizer outside and spray it, because it's pretty much an aerosol glue, and not good for your furniture or your health. Hold the spray can about 12" away from the stabilizer. Lay the stabilizer down on the area of the fabric you will embroider, and carefully smooth it out.

4. Check hooping alignment



First, make sure your fabric's nap is going the correct direction for your design. Then make double sure there's enough room outside of the embroidery area to fit the entire pattern piece you will need to cut.

If your design's alignment is important for a part of the fabric:

If you are embroidering using [one of my patterns](#), the design will stitch pattern alignment stitches; so you won't need to worry about if the face will be in the correct place.

Additional reading for alignment:

[Aligning the center in hoopless embroidery](#)

5. Hoop tension

Before you hoop your minky, check that the hoop tension is correct for the thickness of whatever you're hooping. You should have the hoop as tight as possible to fit the fabrics in before hooping, without tightening the screw afterwards. This will prevent the fabric from being pulled or puckering. I leave my hoop at one tension, since I always hoop the same stabilizer and fabric. So before you hoop the actual project, do a hooping practice run with the same kind of stabilizer and fabric. The hoop tension should not be so tight as to stretch fabric, and not be so loose as to cause sagging. You should be able to press the hoop in with some force.

6. Hoop minky fabric and stabilizer

Set your bottom hoop on a flat surface with plenty of room around it.

Place the top hoop on top of your fabric and stabilizer, carry these to the bottom hoop. Keep a firm grasp on the fabric and stabilizer. Align them as best you can to the bottom hoop, and slowly place the top hoop into the bottom hoop. Try to maintain a gentle firm hold on the fabric; don't stretch it, and don't let it sag.

When hooping the minky, try not to stretch the minky whatsoever when hooping. You shouldn't have to stretch it to cover an air bubble that just formed; just try again and rehoop.

Check that fabric is properly hooped before embroidering. Improper hooping can ruin a design.

7. Toppings



Use water soluble topping for embroidering on any fabric with 'fur' or 'nap'. This prevents fur from coming up above the embroidery. Cut a piece of water soluble topping large enough to cover the embroidery area, smaller than the hoop size. Use a bit of masking tape on each corner to adhere it to the fabric.

Floating method

If you would like to:

- Embroider over fabric pieces too small to hoop
- Embroider over a sewn seam
- Embroider fabrics that get hoop burn (like velvet)

First hoop the stabilizer ONLY, then adhere the fabric to the stabilizer with embroidery adhesive spray. Use pins, tape, or a basting stitch to hold down the outer edges of the fabric to the stabilizer.

When you're all hooped up, just turn on your machine, select your design, attach your hoop, and you're good to go! Have fun! :)

Machine embroidery stabilizers



What kind of embroidery stabilizer should I use for plush like minky or fake fur?

For minky and fabrics with fur pile, use cut-away stabilizer underneath the fabric, and water-soluble film on top of the fabric. This technique will keep the fur fibers in place as you embroider.

Cut-away stabilizer

Used for permanent support. Best for knits, loosely wovens, stretchy fabrics. Not removed after from underneath the embroidery area, but cut around close to the design. I cut about 2-3mm away.

Sticky Backings

Use on fabrics that cannot be hooped, such as velvet, Ultrasuede, and leather. Alternatively, just get a cut-away and some spray-on adhesive, and drape the fabric down over the hooped stabilizer.

Water-Soluble topping or film



A very thin film to be applied on top of hooped fabric. Good for holding down fur or pile of minky, so the fibers will not get caught inbetween embroidered threads. (Who has fur growing out of their eyes?)

Tear-away stabilizer

Some artists use this for plush, but I have not had good luck with it. I find it does not provide enough support, as it can tear away during the embroidery process. Used for temporary support. Best for firmly woven, natural fiber fabrics (non-stretch). Torn away around edges, not always completely removable.

How much and what kind of stabilizer you use depends on:

Denser design, lighter fabric = heavier / more stabilizer.

Light design, heavy fabric = lighter / less stabilizer.

- If in doubt, use cut-away stabilizer.
- For tightly woven, medium-weight fabrics, use a light-weight cut-away stabilizer.
- For medium-weight fabric, use a medium-weight cut-away.
- For lightweight or looser weave medium fabric (with less of its' own support) like jersey knit, use a heavy-weight cut-away. (For medium weight stretch fabrics, use a medium-weight cut-away.)

Additional reading:

<http://www.threadsmagazine.com/item/4631/making-sense-of-stabilizers/page/all>

http://www.ehow.com/way_5456369_embroidery-stabilizer-tips.html#ixzz2AEIkOyYP

Finishing techniques



Here are some techniques I use to give my plush work a finished, more professional feel. With all the effort and love you put into your creations, these tips should really help your art shine!

- Quadruple-check placement and symmetry of any applique, eyes, or accessories. Use a mirror or camera, because your eyes will play tricks on you!
- Fix mistakes and don't cut corners. Take the extra effort and sew on extra details instead of gluing, if possible. Fix slightly uneven areas or poorly sewn seams, as it's not something you can undo later. You'll be happier with the finished result :)
- Clean up your work by using a lint-roller to remove any stray fiberfill, chalk markings, or fabric pieces.
- If you're using a fur fabric, smoothen your seams brushing the fur nap. If you're working with a fine nap such as minky, you can use a clean toothbrush. If you're using faux fur or mohair, you can use a doll needle or wire brush to pull the trapped fur out of the seam.
- Take good photos with good lighting and a nice backdrop. If your gorgeous work is obscured in a small, blurry or dark photo, no one can see the fine details. A nicer camera, lighting, and photo area is worth the investment.
- Use photo-editing software to adjust the brightness, contrast, and levels of your photos. These simple changes can help make your product appear more true to life.

Kid-safe soft toys



- Machine sew as much as possible; or if handsewing, use a backstitch. This keeps your seams nice and secure. If rips or tears occur on the plushie after play, repair seams with a ladder stitch or sew on patches. Polyester fiberfill is not delicious!
- Put plastic pellets in a fabric bag for safety, and to keep them from coming loose inside the toy.

- You can use plastic safety eyes for children aged 3 or older. When using safety eyes, reinforce the hole that you made with fray check or discs of felt.
- For toys for babies/young children, don't use glue, paint, small removable parts, or plastic pellets. Sew on face details with applique or embroidery. Avoid using long pile furs for children under 3 years old.
- Avoid using objects that are harmful when swallowed, such as magnets.
- Safety regulations and product labeling for soft toys for babies and children vary by state and by country. It is especially important to know these rules when selling plushies intended for children, as you may be liable for damages if your product was incorrectly advertised.

Care & maintenance



Removing dust from plush:

- Use a lint roller to remove dust, hair, and other particles from the fabric's surface. Take caution when lint rolling felt plush, so that it does not damage the fabric.
- If your plush has matted fur, wash before gently brushing with a plastic comb.
- To remove particles more thoroughly, You can also vacuum stuffed animals with a small attachment.

How to clean stuffed animals:

- The method you should clean stuffed animals depends on the fabrics you used for the stuffed animal. If your plush is washable, use cold water with baby detergent or clear & safe detergent, and air dry by pressing on with a towel. Allow to dry fully near a dehumidifier fan or under the sun, as plush left damp can grow mold. Continue to press with a towel.

- If you used dried rice or beans instead of polyester pellets, you cannot get it wet at all. They will rot inside the plush if you get them wet.
- To spot-clean or remove stains, I recommend a kid-friendly toy cleaner & following the instructions on the bottle. For very tough stains, I use “Grandma’s Secret Spot Remover”.
- Do not bring plush toys to the dry cleaners, as the chemicals used can damage them.

Repairing a plush:

The ladder stitch and back stitch are two strong stitches that are great to repair rips and tears. I recommend using heavy duty thread when repairing, as the thread is much stronger. Make sure your knots are large enough to hold, and that you use a series of ‘sinking knots’ to make sure the piece won’t come apart again.

If you're not sure how to do these stitches, [I can teach you in this lesson.](#)

Replacing stuffing in a plush:

In case the stuffed animal loses its’ shape from lots of love, you can replace the stuffing quickly, easily, and durably. Find an area of the plush (usually at the back center seam), and seam rip or carefully use small sharp scissors to cut the threads holding the seam. Remove old stuffing, and replace with new polyester. Insert stuffing more firmly at the ends of the hands or paws.

Re-stitch using a ladder stitch and heavy duty thread. Use a toothbrush or wire brush to smooth the fur fibers back down.

Repairing a lost eye:

1. Make a hole with a seam ripper at the back of the head to work out of.
2. Remove the eye if still attached. Wash the plush if soiled before any repairs.
3. Use heavy duty thread and sew TWICE around the eye hole with a running stitch to **shrink** the hole down to a size the same as the thickness of the eye’s peg. The hole should be very small. Seal knots with superglue or fray check.
4. Insert new eye, and apply the padding/washer and backing through the hole at the back of the head you made. Stress test it by pulling on the eye.
5. Re-stuff head if necessary.
6. Sew up the seam at the back of the head using heavy duty thread with a ladder stitch. Brush the seam.

Free beginning sewing tutorial: Felt flower



How to make your own gathered 2" felt flower with bead accents with my easy-peasy tutorial :) It only takes a few minutes to make! You can use this to accent outfits, plushies, handbags, and more! I use wool blend felt for a high quality, super soft flower.

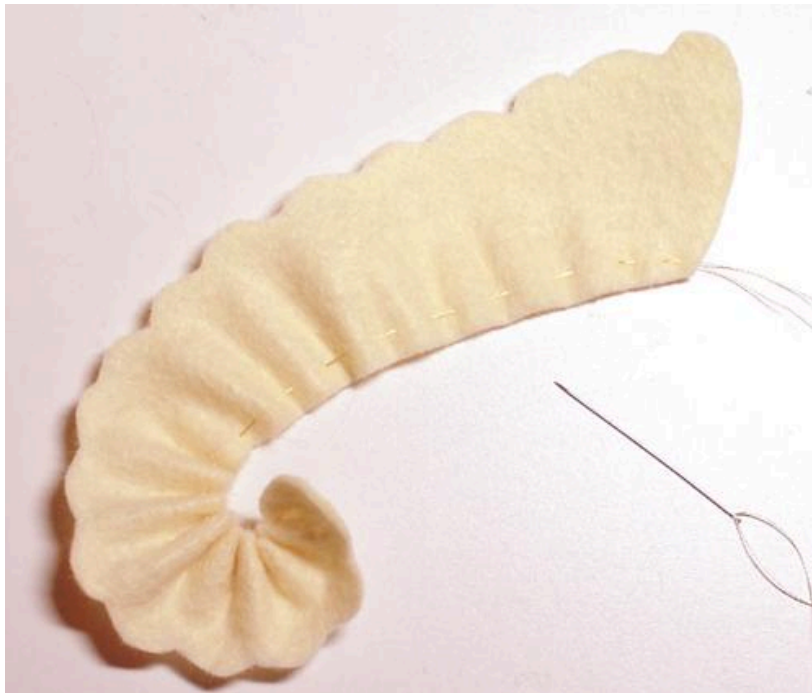
Materials needed:

- 9" long x 2" tall felt scrap for flower, optional green scrap for leaf
- Beads
- Handsewing needle
- Thread
- Small scissors
- Beads

Cut a piece of felt angled as shown below, you will be using the bottom part - you can cut waves, scallops, or other petal shapes using your small scissors. If you want your flower to be larger, increase the height to larger than 2"; to be more layered, increase the degree of the angle. You can also add extra lengths of felt to attach more petals.



Thread your needle, knot your thread, insert your needle in the felt, and secure the knot to the felt with a loop by pulling the needle through the two strands near the knot. Hand-sew a gathering stitch $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge, all the way to the end. The length of your stitches will determine how wavy your petals are. Do not knot your thread at the end.



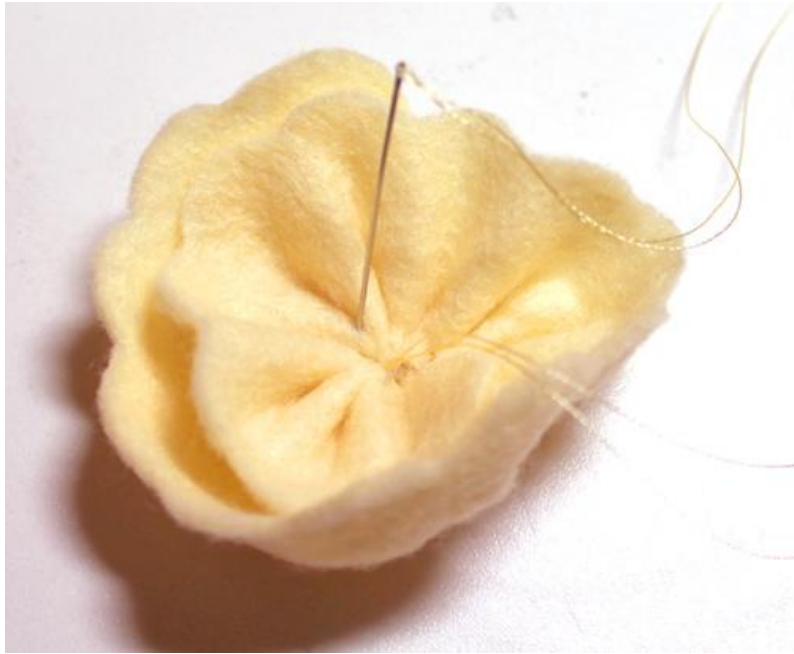
Tighten your thread while guiding the felt so that it curls into a flower shape. Hold or pin the base of the flower in place.



On the underside of the flower, secure the gathers to each other by stitching back and forth through different angles.



When finished securing the gathers at the bottom to each other, stitch up into the center base of the flower several times to secure the gathers down to the bottom.



Once your gathers are secure, stitch up into the center, loop a bead on your needle, and stitch back down, pulling the thread tight.



Repeat for all your beads. So pretty!



If you like, you can stitch one or more leaves to the underside as a finishing touch. Cut a small leaf-shaped piece of felt, and stitch it to the underside of the flower.



And, that's it! You can hand-sew the flower to a clip, use a safety pin, or stitch it directly to a plushie or handbag. These are really fun and addicting to make. Hana the baby pony wears her flower beautifully, don't you think?



Happy sewing!

Love, TeacupLion