



☆☆☆ cut + sew bat plush ☆☆☆

A SEWING PATTERN BY



cut + sew bat plush

If you're reading this, then you likely purchased some of my Cut & Sew Bat Plush fabric from Spoonflower. So thank you!

These instructions will go over how to sew up your fabric to make an adorable bat plush. The bats feature big oversized ears and wings with the faces already printed on! So it's fun to watch these little flyers come to life as you put them together.

DIFFICULTY:



This plush has four major parts, but placing them together correctly is important. The most difficult parts of the project are likely squeezing the large wings into the tiny body, and attaching the head.

SKILLS USED:

- Curved sewing
- Darts
- Ladder stitch
- Basting
- Top stitching

MAKES:

One plush, about 6" wide (15" if you include wingspan) by 10" tall (12" if you include ears)



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materials & tools:

- your pre-printed cut & sew bat plush fabric from Spoonflower (at least one fat quarter)
- sewing thread to match main fabric
- poly-fil stuffing
- basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, needles, pins, seam ripper, etc.)



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BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Briefly read the project instructions so you know what to expect.
- Note that the seam allowance used is $\frac{1}{4}$ " throughout the project.



1. ASSESS YOUR FABRIC

- Grab your printed Spoonflower cut & sew fabric. If you ordered $\frac{1}{4}$ yd. of minky or fleece, it should include all the pieces needed (surrounded by a border). There should be 12 pieces included: **WING FRONT** (left & right), **WING BACK** (left & right), **OUTER EARS** (left & right), **INNER EARS** (left & right), **HEAD** (front & back), and **BODY** (2)
- If you're new to sewing, you might want to wait until the applicable step before cutting your fabric so you can refer to the notes and labels. Once you need a piece, cut it out along the dotted lines outside the shape.



2. SEW THE HEAD DARTS

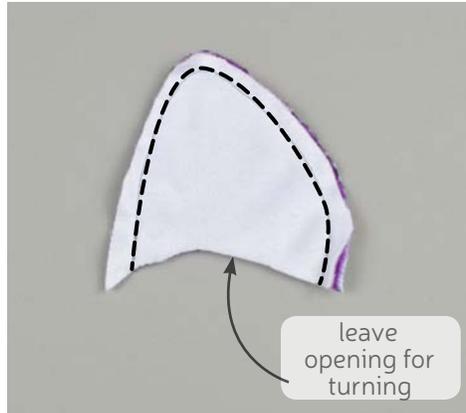
- Cut out your **HEAD FRONT** piece and note the top and bottom triangle-shaped notches, you'll see they're labeled as darts. Fold the **HEAD FRONT** in half lengthwise along the points of these darts. Match up the legs of the darts.
- Sew the darts by starting at the opening and working down to the point. For the best results, gradually blend your seam into the fold of the fabric so it makes a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.
- Cut out your **HEAD BACK** piece and repeat the same process with the darts.

darts:

A wedge-shaped gap found in a pattern. When sewn in fabric, it creates a tuck in the fabric and develops a 3D shape. The diagonal sides of the wedge are the **LEGS**; these are matched up and sewn to the **POINT** of the dart.

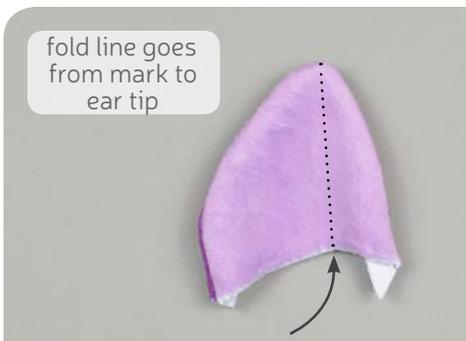
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3. SEW THE EARS

- Cut out all of your **EAR** pieces. Take one of the **RIGHT OUTER EAR** and **INNER EAR** pieces and align them with right sides facing.
- Sew them together along the long curved edge, leaving the shorter curved edge free for turning right side out later.
- Turn it right side out and repeat with the remaining two ear pieces. When complete you should have a pair of ears that mirror each other.



4. FOLD THE EARS



- Locate the fold marking printed on the fabric along the open edge of the **EAR**.
 - *You can also use the photo as a reference if you can't find the marking.*
- Fold the ear along this point with the inner ear fabrics facing.
- Baste the fold in place along the open edge of the ear to hold it still for the next step.
- Locate the ear placement markings on the **HEAD FRONT** (marked in a contrasting color). Align the basted edge of the ear within these lines, being sure that the folded edge is pointing toward the center of the head.

basting:

A form of temporary sewing meant to hold pieces in place. A long stitch length is often used for this reason. The finished result is not meant to be seen and sometimes is even removed later (depending on your project).

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5. SEW THE HEAD

- Flip the ear down so the **INNER EAR** faces the head, then baste the ear in place within the seam allowance. Repeat with the second ear on the other side.
- Align the **HEAD BACK** piece with the **HEAD FRONT** so the raw edges match up. The upper and lower darts you sewed in step 3 should also match up.
- Note the contrast colored band that indicates the opening for turning. Sew around the perimeter of the head, but be sure to leave an opening at the bottom for the neck.
- Turn the head right side out and set it aside for now.



6. SEW THE WINGS

- Cut out all four of your **WING** pieces. Take the **RIGHT INNER** and **OUTER WING** pieces and align them with right sides facing.
- Sew around the pointed edges of the wing, leaving the short straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Once sewn, be sure to trim the excess seam allowance at the corners to reduce bulk. Trim the seam allowance at the curves between the corners for more flexibility when turning.

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7. TOP STITCH THE WINGS

- Turn the **WINGS** right side out and define the corners with a chopstick or other similar blunt tool.
- The next part is kind of optional, but it adds a lot of detail to the plush. To add all the wing lines, note the faint lines on the printed wings. Take the **WING** to your machine and top stitch along these lines as well as the contrast wing edge. Repeat with the remaining **WING** pieces for two finished wings total.
- Find and cut out your **BODY** pieces. Locate the wing placement contrast markings found on the body. Take your finished wing and align the open end of the wing within these placement lines so the front of the wing faces the body. Pin the wing in place.

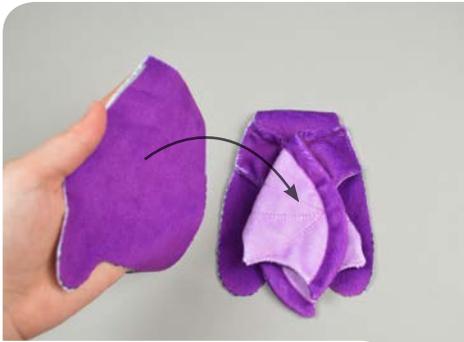


8. BASTE THE WINGS

- Baste the wing within the seam allowance.
- Repeat with the other wing on the other side of the body, again with the front of the wing facing the body.
- Baste the other wing within the seam allowance. Tuck the wings into the middle as best as you can to prepare for adding the other body piece.

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9. SEW THE BODY

- Grab your remaining **BODY** piece and align it with the body piece you've just attached the wings to. Line up the raw edges, being sure that the wings are tucked in the middle. Pin the edges in place.
- Sew around the perimeter of the body, except for the short straight edge found near the top. This is the neck and you'll need to leave it open for turning later.
- Once sewn, revisit the corners between the body and the legs. Trim into the seam allowances at these corners so the body has more flexibility when turned.



10. SEW THE BODY TO THE HEAD

- Turn the body right side out through the opening in the neck. Stuff it semi-firmly with stuffing, being sure to use small balls at the legs so they're stuffed first. Then stuff the rest of the body. For the next step, shove the body stuffing towards the bottom so it doesn't get in the way.
- Locate the neck placement marking on the **HEAD FRONT**. It's located inside the opening for turning marking. Align the stuffed body along this marking and pin it in place.
- For the most accurate placement, baste the **HEAD FRONT** to the **BODY** by hand with a quick whip stitch. Be sure it's only sewn to the **HEAD FRONT**, not the head back.
- Then take the head to your machine and stitch it again with the regular $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance for extra strength.



whip stitch:

A kind of overhand stitch where the needle is brought from the back of the project to the front. The thread wraps around the fabric edge and the process is repeated for each stitch.

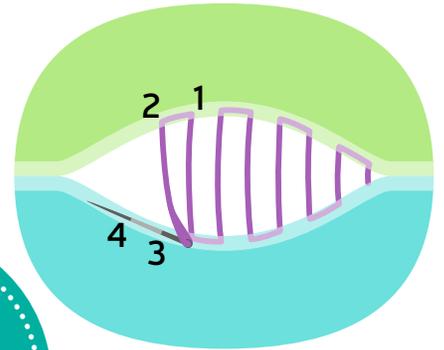
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11. SEW THE HEAD CLOSED

- Once sewn, stuff the head firmly with stuffing. Be sure to get plenty of stuffing in the cheek areas near the neck to fill out the face.
- Thread a hand sewing needle with matching thread and knot the end. Insert the needle into the opening of the head near one end. Bring the needle out so the knot is now hidden within the plush. Tuck under the seam allowance of the **HEAD BACK** -- the side without the body attached.
- Continue from here doing a ladder stitch. Take a $\frac{1}{8}$ " stitch into the fold on the **HEAD BACK**, then go across and take a stitch into the **BODY** of the plush ($\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge for the seam allowance). Keep going down the opening until you're 1-2 inches from the end.



TIP:

A ladder stitch is also sometimes called a **SLIP STITCH, HIDDEN STITCH, or INVISIBLE STITCH.**



12. FINISH THE PLUSH

- Just before you finish, it helps to check the plush from the front and give it any little bit of stuffing it needs to fill out the face. Then finish up the seam.
- When you're finished, stitch a knot into the end. Then insert the needle near the finished knot and out of the plush about 1-2" away.
- Pull the thread through and hold it taut while snipping the thread. The excess thread should sink back inside the plush -- all hidden!

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

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