



cut & sew dolphin plush

A SEWING PATTERN BY



cut & sew dolphin plush

If you're reading this, then you likely purchased some of my Cut & Sew Dolphin Plush fabric from Spoonflower. So thank you! These instructions will go over how to sew up your fabric to make an adorable dolphin plush. They're completely chubby and pudgy with a tiny bottle nose, round body, and bitty dorsal, side, and tail fins. They're measure at just hand held size so they're perfect as a tiny gift for an ocean lover.

SKILLS USED:

- Curved sewing
- Ladder stitch
- Basting
- Sewing small pieces

MAKES:

One plush, about 5" wide, 5" long, and 4" tall

DIFFICULTY:



Being so tiny, this plush needs a little bit of coordination to complete all the small pieces.



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materials & tools:

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

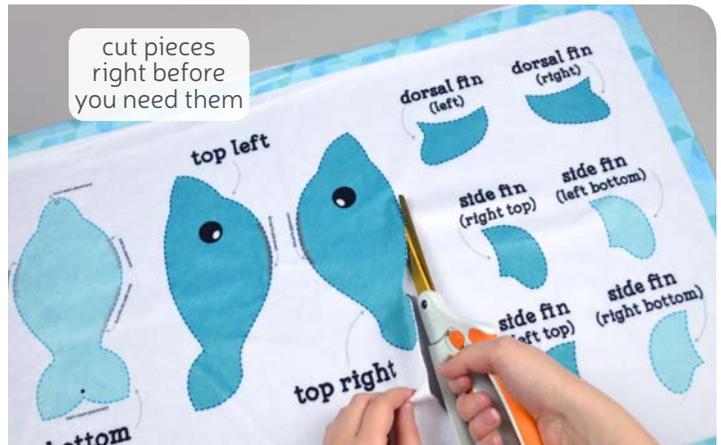
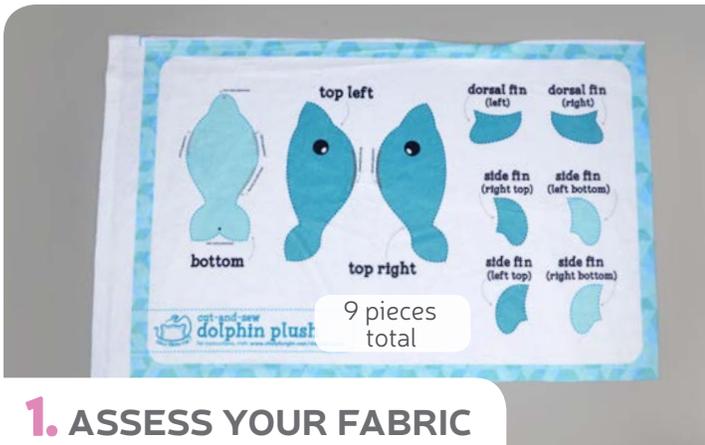


BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Briefly read the project instructions so you know what to expect.
- Note that a ¼" seam allowance is used throughout the project -- already included in the fabric.

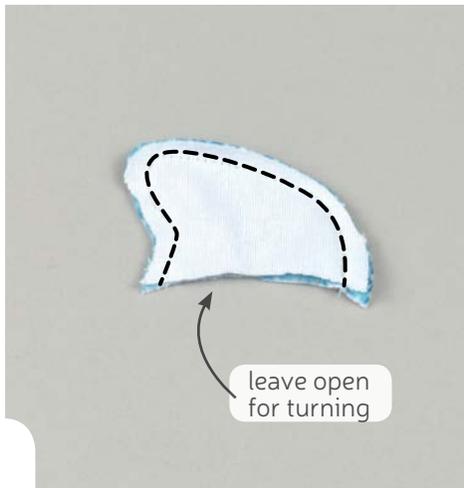
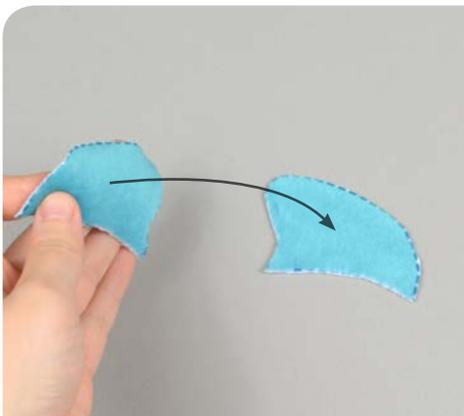
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1. ASSESS YOUR FABRIC

- 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 9 pieces included: **BOTTOM**, **TOP** (left & right), **DORSAL FIN** (left & right), **TOP SIDE FIN** (left & right), and **BOTTOM SIDE FIN** (left & right)
- 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 DORSAL FIN

- Cut out your two **DORSAL FIN** pieces and align them with right sides facing.
- Sew them together along the long curved edge, leaving the short curved edge free as shown for turning the fin right side out.
- Trim the excess seam allowance at the corner and turn the fin right side out.

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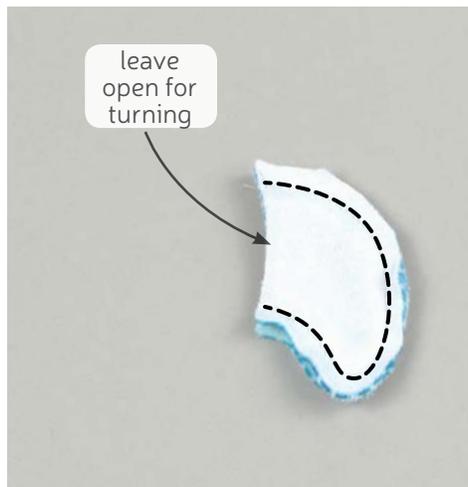
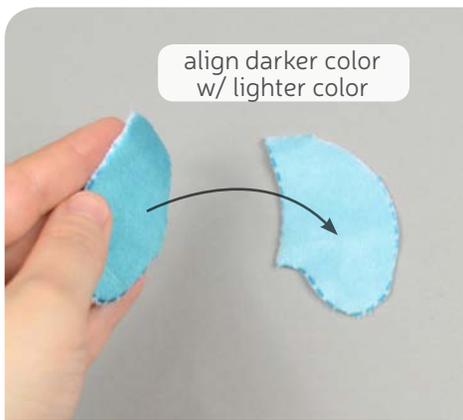


3. SEW THE SIDES

- Cut out your **TOP** (left & right) pieces. Locate the **dorsal fin placement area** found along the top edge (shown in a contrast colored band). Align the open edge of the **DORSAL FIN** within this band and baste it in place within the seam allowance. Be sure the tip of the fin is pointed towards the back fin.
- Take your other **TOP** piece and layer it on top of the first with right sides facing. Align the raw edges and pin along the top half of the piece. Sew them together along the edge shown in the photo, going over the fin in the process.

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).

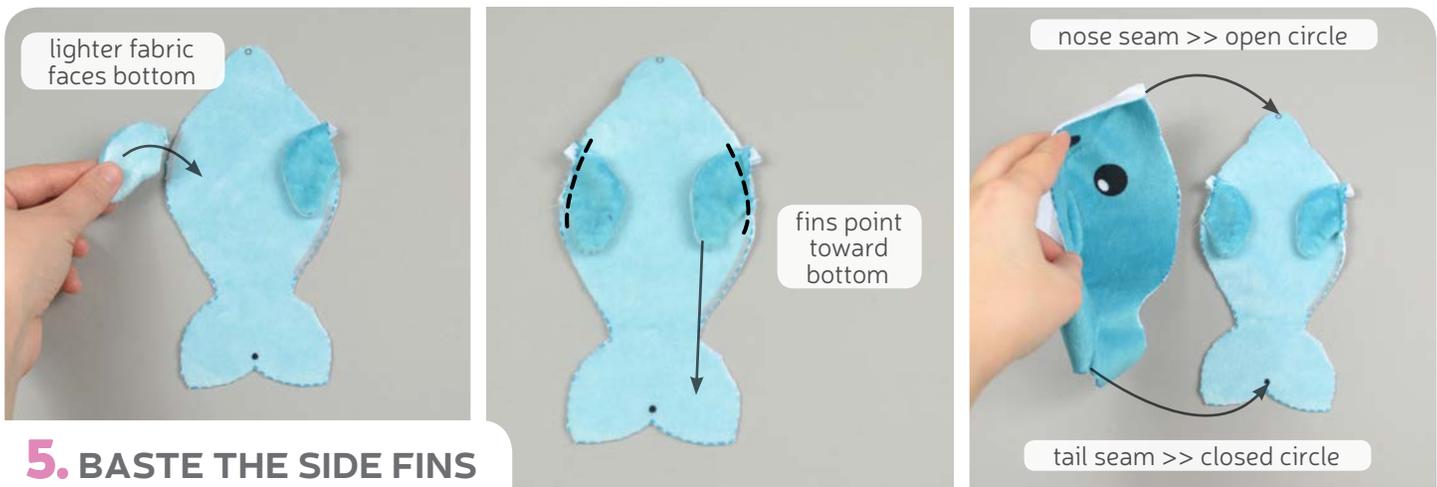


4. SEW THE SIDE FINS

- Cut out all four **SIDE FIN** pieces. Take two **right** pieces (one darker & one lighter) and align them with right sides facing.
- Sew them together along the long curved edge, leaving the short curved edge free as shown for turning the fin right side out.
- Trim the excess seam allowance at the tight curves and turn the fin right side out. When complete, repeat with the remaining **left** side fin pieces for two completed fins total.

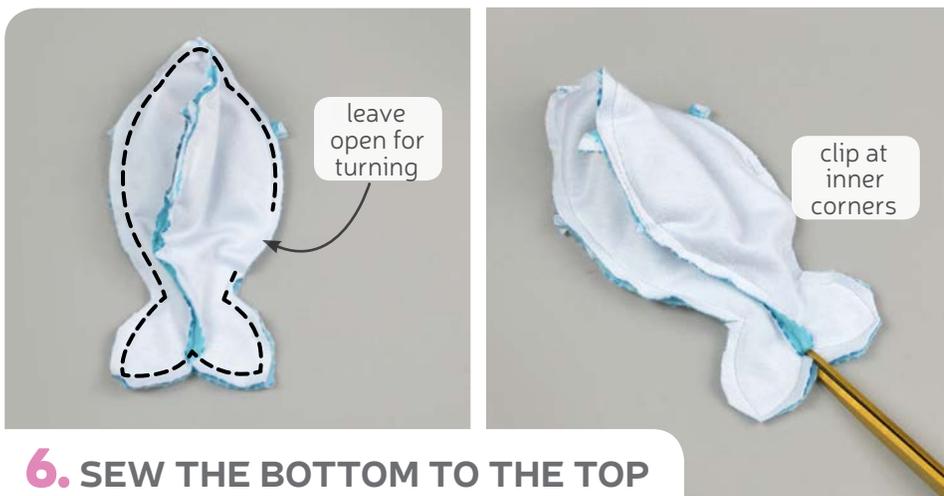
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5. BASTE THE SIDE FINS

- Cut out your **BOTTOM** piece, then locate the **side fin placement bands** along the side. Align the open edge of the side fin within this area so the lighter fabric faces the bottom and the fin tips point down.
- Baste the fins in place within the seam allowance. Repeat on the other side with the remaining fin.
- Take note of the **circle markings** on the **BOTTOM** piece. These indicate where the top of the dolphin will line up with the bottom. The seam found on the **tail fins** will line up with the **closed circle**, and the seam found on the **nose** will line up with the **open circle**. Pin these points in place. Take note of the **opening for turning area** near the tail fin. Line up the rest of the **TOP** of the dolphin with the **BOTTOM** (right sides facing) except for this area.

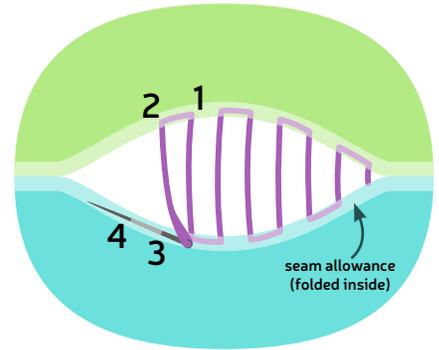
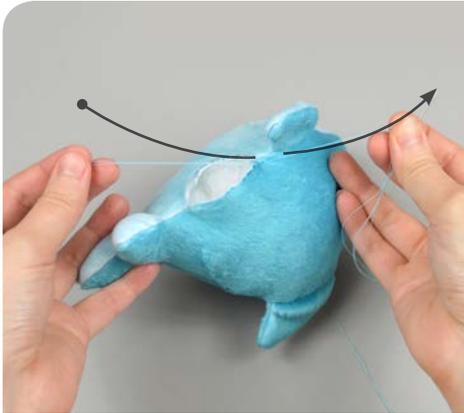


6. SEW THE BOTTOM TO THE TOP

- Sew around these edges, but leave the **opening for turning** that was pointed out earlier.
- Trim the excess seam allowance at the **outer tail corners**, and clip into the **inner tail corners** (found between the fins and where the fin joins the tail). Turn the plush right side out through the opening for turning and define the corners with a chopstick.

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7. STITCH THE DOLPHIN CLOSED

- Once the plush is stuffed, make sure the seam allowances in the opening are tucked inside and prepare to ladder stitch it closed. Thread a hand-sewing needle and knot it at the end. Insert the needle from the inside of the opening and out of the plush near one edge of the opening. This will leave the knot inside the plush.
- Continue from here doing a ladder stitch. Take a 1/8" stitch into the fold of one side of the opening, then go across and take another. Keep going down the opening until you reach the end.

TIP:

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



8. FINISH THE DOLPHIN

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

congrats!
now give your
plush a hug,
because you're
done!

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