



cut & sew AXOLOTL PLUSH



A SEWING PATTERN BY



axolotl plush

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

This cute belly-down plush is a chibi version of everyone's favorite amphibious salamander. It has the same external gills and tail fin as the original, but in a much smaller package.

DIFFICULTY:



Attaching the head is likely the trickiest part of this plush, which might bump it up to a 4 if you don't have a lot of experience with the ladder stitch.

Overall, there aren't a lot of small details to the animal (besides the gills), so it doesn't take too long.

SKILLS USED:

- Basting
- Darts
- Sewing small pieces
- Ladder stitch
- Top-stitching
- Sewing curves

MAKES:

One plush: about 8" long, 6" wide (not including gills), and 5" tall



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materials & tools:

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

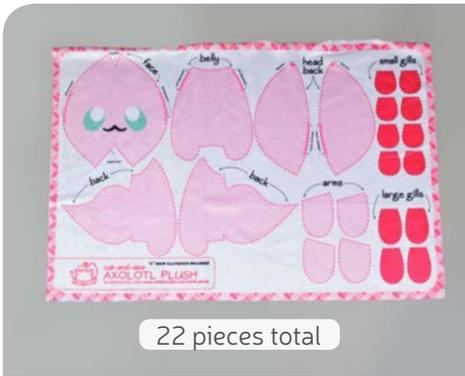


BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- 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

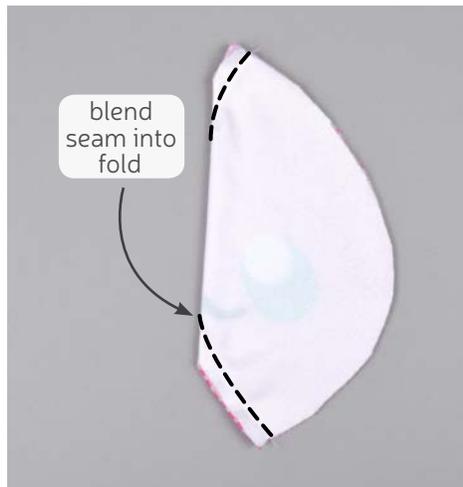


a. Grab your printed Spoon-flower cut & sew fabric. If you ordered $\frac{1}{4}$ yd. of minky or fleece, it should include all the pieces needed (surrounded by a border). There should be 22 pieces included: **FACE, HEAD BACK (2), BACK (2), BELLY, ARMS (4), AND GILLS (12).**

b. 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 DARTS



- Cut out your **FACE** piece. Locate the open wedge found on the top and bottom of the **FACE** -- these are the darts. To sew them, start by folding the face piece in half along the point of the dart and match up the slanted lines that make the wedge shape.
- Sew the darts by starting at the opening and moving down to the point.
- When sewing the point, try to blend the seam in with the fold so it makes a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.

darts:

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

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- Cut out your **GILL** pieces. Take two matching ones and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the long curved edge. Leave the straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Turn the gill right side out. Repeat with the remaining 10 gill pieces for 6 complete gills total.
- Arrange the gills according to the photos in preparation for adding to the head.



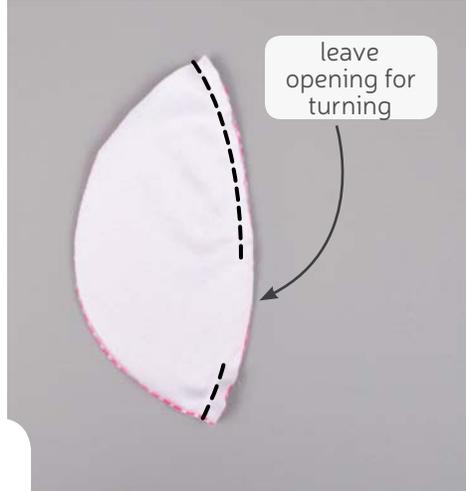
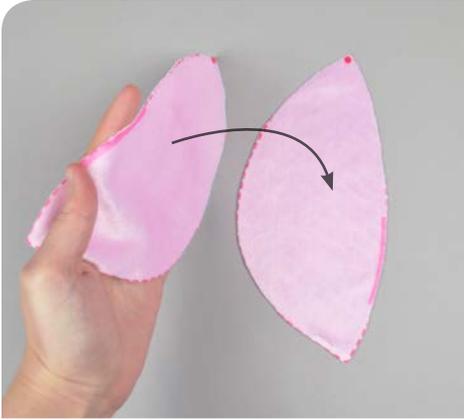
- If you prefer, you can stuff the gills for a bit more body.
- If you haven't already, locate the colored ***gill placement bands*** found on the **FACE** piece. Place the open end of the gills within this colored band. Pin the gills in place.
- Baste the gills to the face within the seam allowances to hold them in place for future steps.

basting:

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

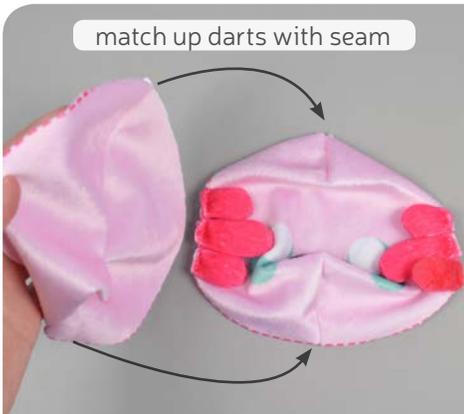
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5. SEW THE HEAD BACK

- Cut out your two **HEAD BACK** pieces. Align them together with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Note the **opening for turning** colored bands found on the fabric piece. Sew along this edge of the **HEAD BACK** pieces only, but be sure to leave the opening for turning as marked.
- The placement of the opening for turning is important since it lines up with the neck later.



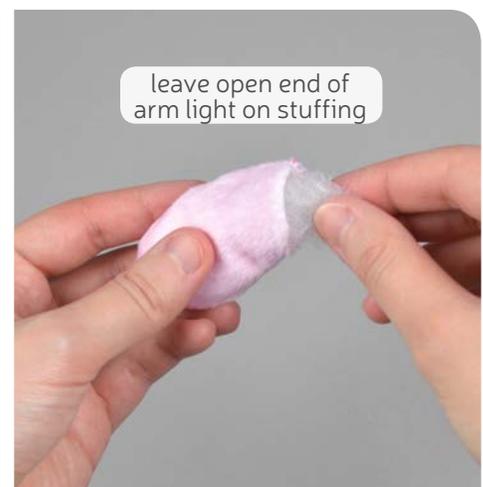
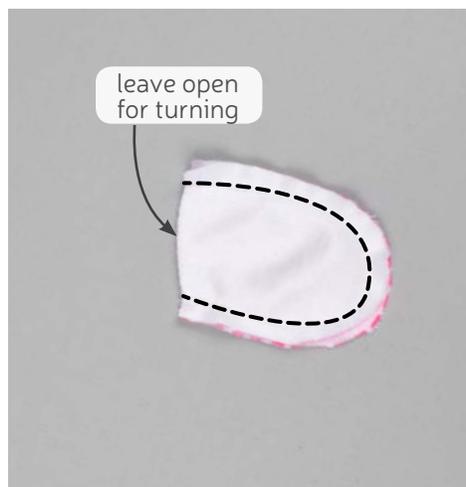
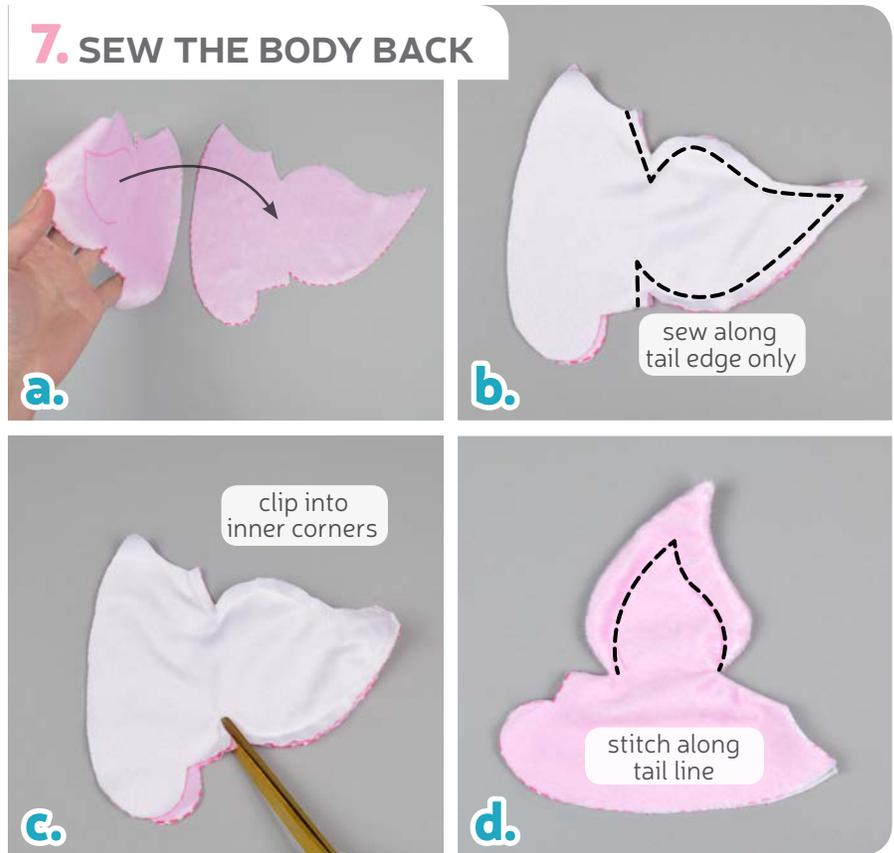
6. SEW THE HEAD

- Open up your **HEAD BACK** piece and grab the **FACE** piece you have so far. Align them with right sides facing. Be sure the top of the back pieces (marked with a **circle symbol**) are aligned with the top of the face piece. The **back seam** should also match up with the **top and bottom dart** on the face.
- Sew around the perimeter of the head completely.
Turn the head right side out through the opening you left in the back.
- Stuff the head firmly with stuffing, pushing the stuffing towards the top and bottom until it gets completely full and there are no wrinkles in the fabric. The bottom of the head should be nice and flat so it rests flush.

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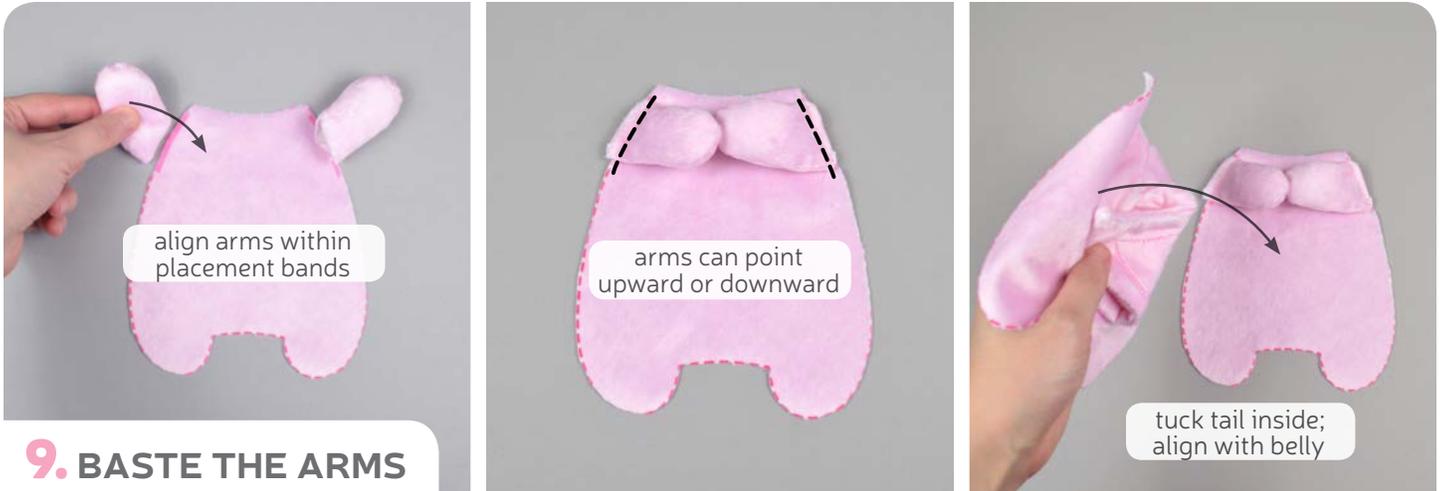
- Cut out your **BACK** pieces. Take them both and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the two pieces together along the tail edge only. Be sure to pivot at the corners where the tail starts and ends.
- Once complete, trim the seam allowance near the tip of the tail to reduce bulk. Clip the seam allowance at the inner corners to increase flexibility when the back is turned later.
- Turn the **BACK** right side out. Define the point of the tail with a chop stick or similar turning tool. Note the accent line that's printed along the tail. Top stitch along this line to create the tail fin.



- Cut out your **ARM** pieces. Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the curved edge, leaving the short straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Turn the arm right side out. Repeat with the remaining two arm pieces for two complete arms total. Stuff the arms lightly with stuffing toward the end. Keep the opening empty so it's easier to sew to the belly next.

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9. BASTE THE ARMS

- Locate the colored **arm placement bands** on the fabric for the **BELLY**. Align the open ends of the arms within these bands. You can have them pointing upward or downward as your preference. Pin them in place.
- Baste the **ARMS** to the belly within the seam allowance to hold them for future steps.
- Grab your **BACK** piece from before. Tuck the tail from your **BACK** piece into the center and out of the way. Align it over the belly with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.



10. SEW THE BODY

- Sew the **BELLY** to the **BACK** along the edge with the legs. Leave the short curved edge (the neck) open for turning right side out.
- Before turning, be sure to clip the small inner corners near the legs.
- Turn the body right side out through the opening in the neck.

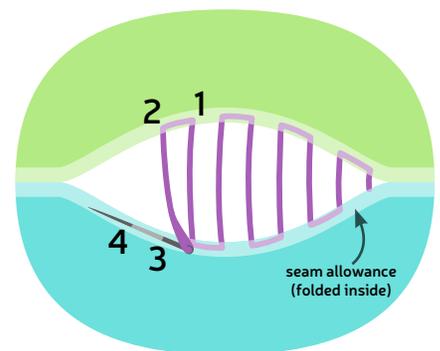
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11. ALIGN THE HEAD

- Stuff the body by starting with the tail, be sure it's nice and full before moving on. Next, fill up each leg with balls of stuffing. Finally, move onto filling the rest of the body with stuffing. Once complete there should be no wrinkles in the fabric.
- Align the opening in the head over the opening in the neck. The neck opening is larger than the head opening, so arrange them so the neck opening covers the head opening.
- If you need help placing the head, try drawing a 2-3" wide circle around the head opening. Use that as a stitching guide when attaching to the body.



12. ATTACH THE HEAD

- Thread a hand-sewing needle and knot it at the end. Insert the needle from the inside of the neck opening and out. This will leave the knot inside the plush. Continue from here doing a ladder stitch. Start by taking a 1/8" stitch into the back seam of the neck and another into the top edge of the head opening.
- Continue working around the head toward the front. To make things easier, take big basting stitches just to be sure you have the placement right.

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13. TRIM THE THREADS

- Keep stitching around the belly. The center of the belly should line up with the bottom edge of the head opening. Make sure these points are joined. Continue stitching to the back of the head to finish. If you took big stitches the first time, go around again with tinier, neater stitches for extra strength.
- 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!
this completes
your plush! Now
give it a big
hug!

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