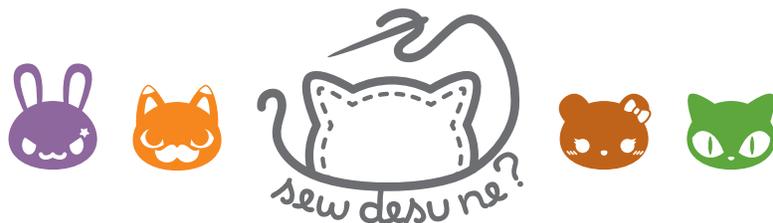


cut & sew RAT PLUSH



A SEWING PATTERN BY



cut & sew rat plush

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

Whether you think rats are adorable or excitingly scary, this pattern is sure to make something you'll love! The instructions here go over making a sweet little rodent with a chubby body, curvy tail, and belly-down pose.

MAKES:

One plush: about 3" tall, 4" wide, and 8" long (not including ears and tail)

DIFFICULTY:



The hardest part of this plush is definitely the neck, as it needs to be aligned right so the body can lie flat. Try to baste the head with big stitches first before sewing it properly with neat and tight stitches.

SKILLS USED:

- Basting
- Darts
- Ladder stitch
- Sewing curves



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materials & tools:

- your pre-printed Cut & Sew Rat 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 12 pieces included: **HEAD FRONT (1), HEAD BACK (2), EARS (4), BELLY (1), TAIL (2), AND BACK (2).**

- 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

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

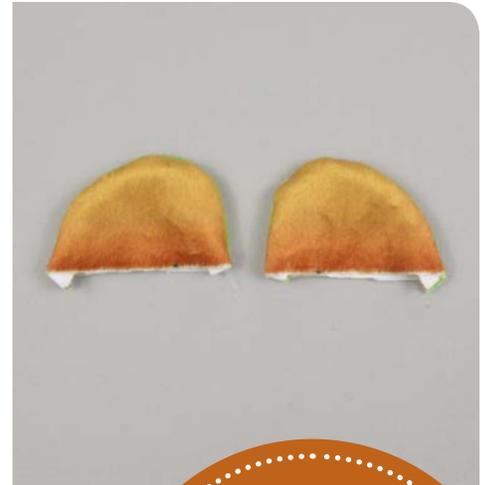
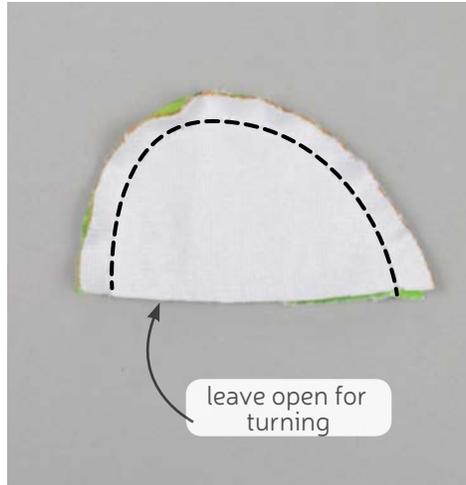


darts:

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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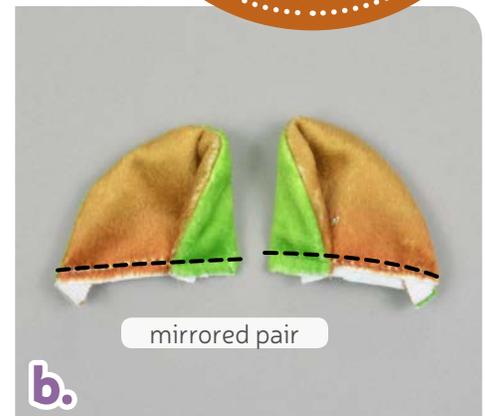
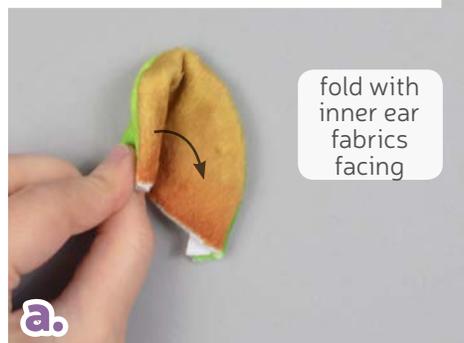
- Cut out your **EAR** pieces. Take one from inner ear fabric and one from outer ear fabric. Line them up with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the long curved edge. Leave the straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Repeat this with the remaining ear pieces and turn them right side out for two finished ears total.

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).

- Take this time to find the small **fold guidelines** printed on the ear fabric. Use it as a guide to fold the ear with inner ear fabrics facing.
- Baste the ear along the open edge to hold the fold in place. Repeat with the other ear so you have a mirrored pair.
- If you haven't already, locate the **ear placement colored bands** printed on the **HEAD FRONT** fabric. Place the open end of the ear within these placement bands. The folds of the ears should be pointing toward the center.
- Baste the ears to the head front within the seam allowances to hold them in place for future steps.

4. BASTE THE EARS



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5. SEW THE HEAD BACK

- Cut out the two **HEAD BACK** pieces. Align them together with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- If you haven't already, locate the **opening for turning colored band** printed on the fabric. Sew along this edge of the **HEAD BACK** pieces only, but be sure to leave the opening for turning that is marked.
- Open up your **HEAD BACK** piece.

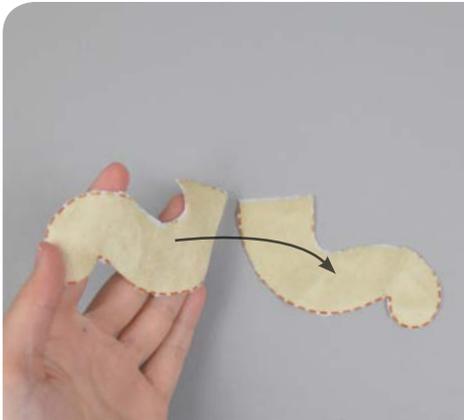


6. SEW THE HEAD

- Grab the **HEAD FRONT** piece you have so far. Align it with the **HEAD BACK** with right sides facing. Be sure the top of the back pieces (marked with a circle symbol) are aligned with the top of the front piece. The **back seam** should also match up with the **top and bottom dart** on the front.
- Sew around the perimeter of the head completely.
- Turn the head right side out through the opening you left in the back.

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7. SEW THE TAIL



- Cut out your **TAIL** pieces. Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew the tail pieces together along the curved edge. Leave the short straight edge free for turning right side out.
- Before turning, clip the seam allowance at the tight curves along the shape. This will help increase the flexibility of the shape when it's turned later.



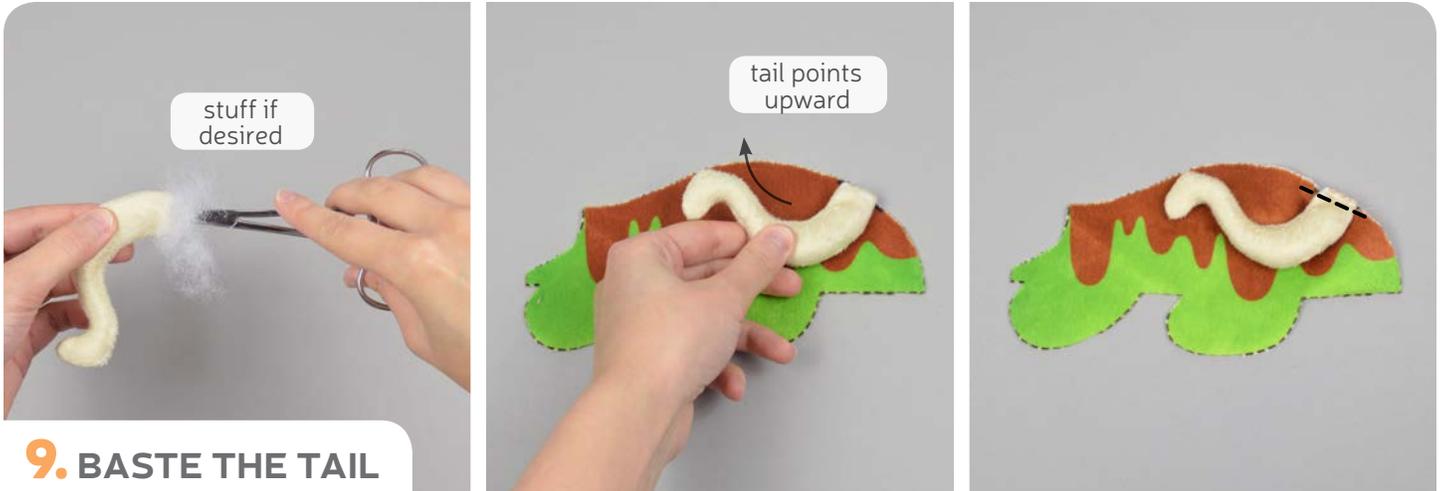
8. TURN THE TAIL



- To turn the **TAIL** right side out, you could use hemostats. But if you don't have them, a straw also works. Insert the straw into the tail until it reaches the end.
- Take a chopstick or similar blunt tool and push the tip of the tail into the straw. Continue pushing as the straw comes out and the tail will begin to turn right side out.
- Keep going all the way until the tail is completely turned.

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9. BASTE THE TAIL

- The tail doesn't absolutely need stuffing, but if you like the look of it, stuff the tail at this time. Hemostats make the job much easier.
- Cut out your **BACK** pieces. If you haven't already, locate the **tail placement colored band** printed on the fabric. Align the open end of the tail within the colored band. Be sure the tip is curling up as shown.
- Baste the tail to the back within the seam allowance at this point.

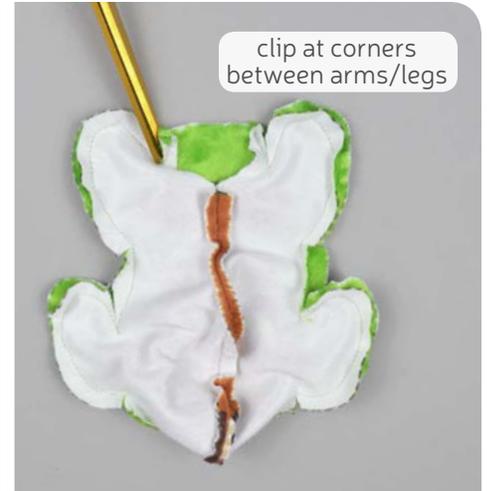
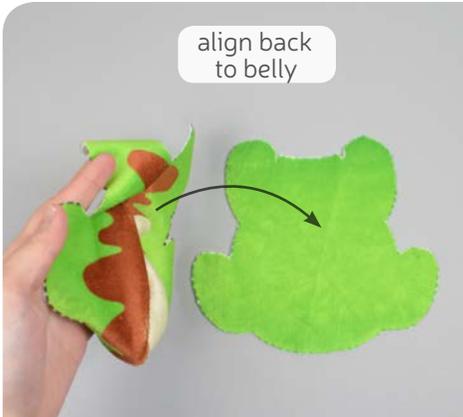


10. SEW THE BODY BACK

- Grab your remaining **BACK** piece and align it over the first, lining up the edge that you've just attached the tail to.
- Sew the back pieces together along this edge only.
- Turn the back right side out. The tail should be successfully sandwiched in between.

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11. SEW THE BELLY TO THE BACK

- Cut out your **BELLY** piece. Open up your back pieces from the previous step. Align the open back pieces over the belly, matching up the small arms and legs and the spaces in between.
- Sew the back to the belly around the arms, legs, and tail end. Leave the neck at the top free for turning the body right side out. For best results, be sure to pivot at the spots between the arms, legs, and neck.
- Clip the seam allowances at the corners you've just sewn to increase flexibility when the body is turned next.



12. TURN AND STUFF THE BODY

- Turn the whole body right side out.
- Stuff the body by starting with the front legs and back legs. Make sure they are full before moving on.
- Finally, move onto filling the rest of the body with stuffing. Once complete there should be no wrinkles in the fabric.

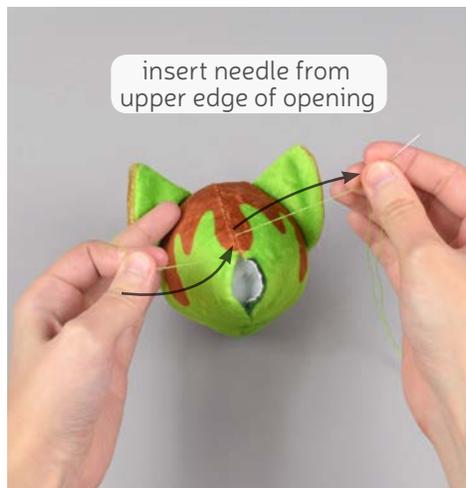
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- a. Stuff the head firmly with stuffing. Focus most of it on the nose area until it fills out and has no wrinkles in the fabric.
- b. After the nose looks full, fill the rest of the head.

13. STUFF THE HEAD



14. ALIGN THE HEAD

- a. 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. This is what we'll be stitching next. If you wish, you can draw a stitching line on the head to guide yourself.
- b. Thread a hand-sewing needle and knot it at the end. Insert the needle from the inside of the upper head opening and out. This will leave the knot inside the plush.
- c. Bring the head to the body and take another stitch into the neck along the back seam. This begins joining the head to the body.

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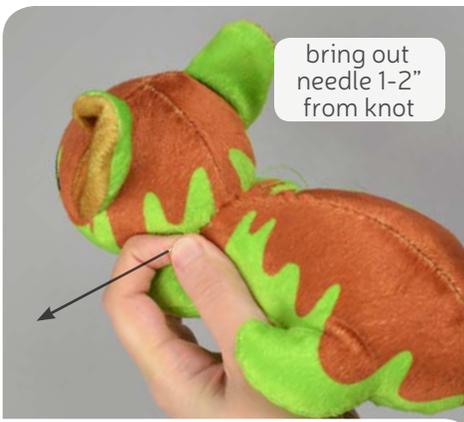
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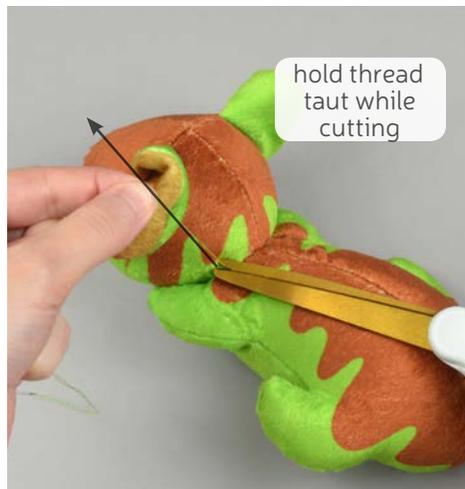
15. ATTACH THE HEAD



- a. Continue from here doing a ladder stitch. Take another stitch into the top edge of the head opening and the back seam of the neck. 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.
- b. Keep stitching around the head until you reach the belly. The opening on the body should just cover the opening at the head here. Continue around until you reach where you started. Check to be sure you're happy with the placement. Then go around again with tinier, neater stitches for extra strength.



16. TRIM THE THREAD



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



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