

FOX PLUSH



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



FOX PLUSH

Decorate your desk or nightstand with this palm-sized fox! It's extra-large tail is especially charming as it wraps around the tiny fox body and helps it balance upright. But the oversized ears are sure to delight fox-lovers as well!

DIFFICULTY:



Most of this plush is pretty straightforward, but attaching the head is done by hand, so that takes some time. And the large tail feels a little awkward to sew until it's finally done.

MAKES:

One plush: about 7" tall (not including ears), 5" wide, and 4" long

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Basting
- Darts & double-ended darts
- Zigzag stitch
- Ladder stitch
- Sewing curves
- Gathering, gathering stitch



sew desu ne?

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materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. or 31" x 8" of fabric for main body
- ⅛ yd. or 22" x 4" of dark accent fabrics
- ⅛ yd. or 7" x 5" of light accent fabrics for muzzle
- 7" x 4" piece of scrap fabric for bean pouch
- 3" x 3" piece of black applique fabric for pupils, nose, and whiskers
- 3" x 3" piece of accent applique fabric for eyes
- 2" x 2" piece of white applique fabric for eye shines
- 3" x 3" piece of light accent fabric for eyebrows & ear fluffs
- 5" x 5" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- sewing thread to match main fabric and applique fabrics
- poly-fil stuffing
- poly-pellets for body weight
- basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)



SUGGESTED FABRICS:

Plush, stretchy fabrics such as fleece or minky are suggested. The variations of fleece and minky mentioned to the left would work well, but really any plushy fabric with a bit of stretch on the cross-wise grain would be well-suited.

Stretch fabrics like **FLEECE** or **MINKY** will create a more squat, round shape when stuffed.

Non-stretchy fabrics, like **FELT** or **COTTON**, won't stretch when stuffed so the resulting plush will look elongated as shown.

MINKY

VS.

FELT

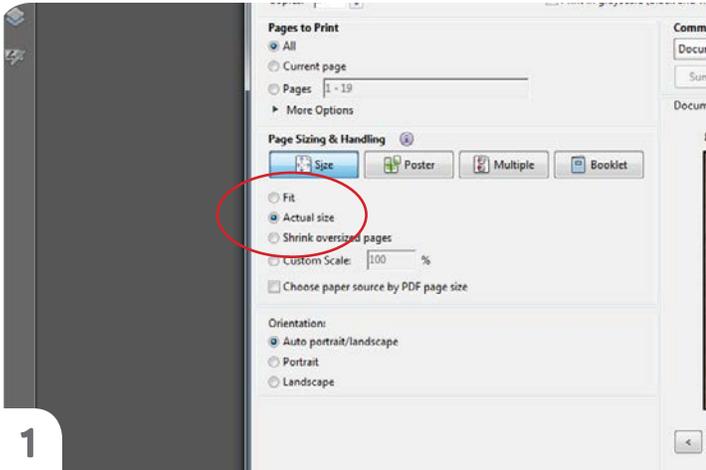


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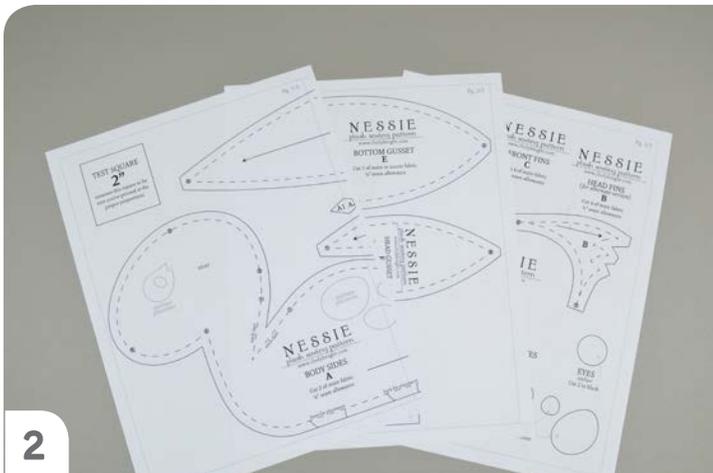
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printing the pattern:

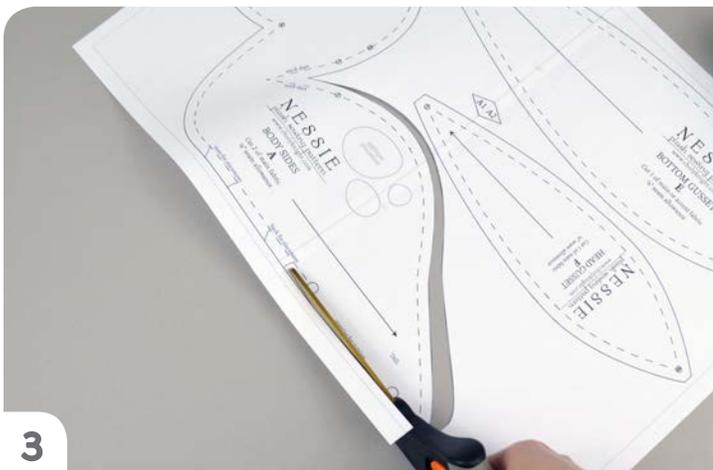
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 18-20**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



At the print dialog box, check the box that says print at “Actual Size” or 100%. Any other selection (such as “Fit to page”) will distort the pattern so it's slightly larger or smaller and we don't want that.



Print the pages needed for the file. You might have one or more. Either way, be sure you have the full collection by noting the page numbers in the corner.



You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper. They might be a little hard to pin through, so you might want to use your longest pins. But you could also use pattern weights or trace the outlines onto the fabric with a washable marker and cut them out from there.

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cutting the fabric:



1

Place pattern on the fabric, and make sure the stretch line matches the stretch of the fabric. The nap line should go in the direction of the fur.

2

Pin the pattern in place, use pattern weights, or trace the outline of the pattern with a washable marker.

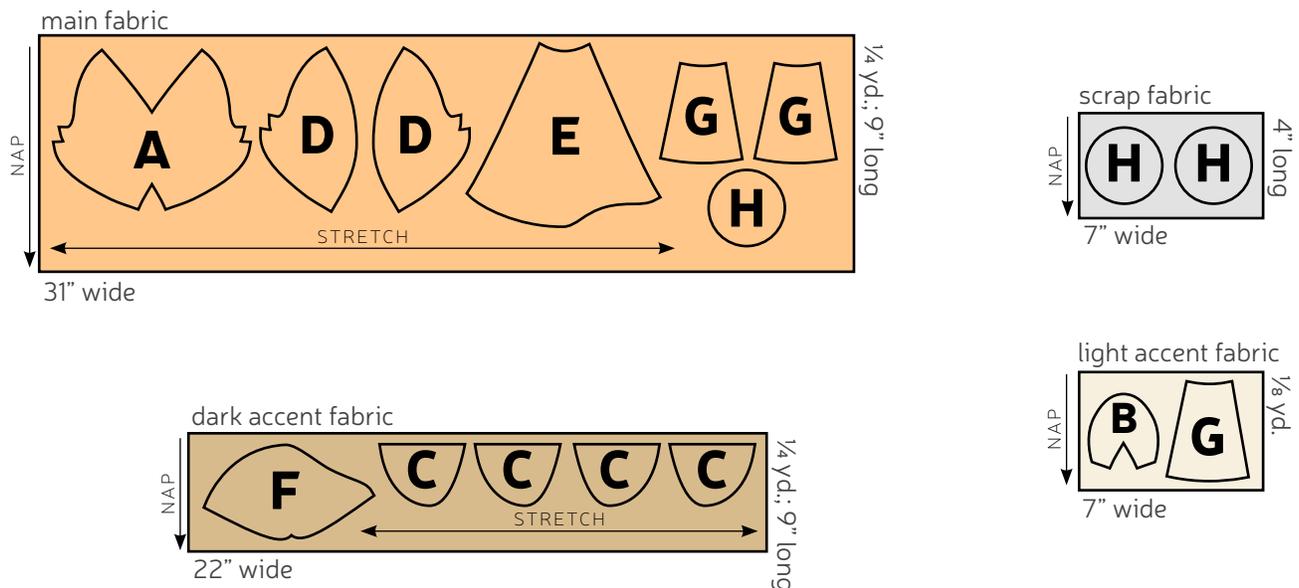
3

Using the paper as a template, cut out the fabric. Cut the required amount according to the pattern.

4

For all fur fabrics, shake the excess fuzz away.

cutting layout:



BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Briefly read the project instructions so you know what to expect.
- If desired, mark the cut fabric pieces with the markings and symbols from the pattern. Or wait until the applicable step before transferring.
- Note that the seam allowance used is 1/4" throughout the project.

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1. ATTACH THE MUZZLE

- Grab your **HEAD FRONT (A)** and **MUZZLE (B)** pieces. Align the muzzle over the head front so the bottom darts match. Make sure right sides are facing up for both. Pin the muzzle to the head front, or use a little bit of washable glue stick on the back as an alternative.
- Stitch the muzzle to the head front. Use either a zigzag stitch over the edge, or a regular straight stitch about $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge.
- Flip the head front over and trim away the excess head front fabric that's behind the muzzle. This is to reduce bulk for future steps. Trim about $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the seam you've just sewn.



2. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Take your fusible web and trace all of your applique pieces onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have two eyes, two pupils, one nose, four whiskers (optional), two eyebrows, two ear fluffs, and two eye shines.
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The eyes go on your accent color, the pupils, nose, and whiskers on black, the eye shines on white, and the eyebrows and ear fluffs on a light accent color.
- Cut out the eyes and arrange them on the **HEAD FRONT (A)** piece. Set your paper pattern on top of the fabric piece (right sides up). Align the eye piece on top where the placement markings are. Then carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.

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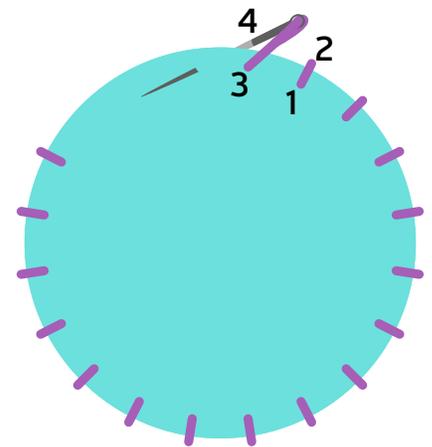
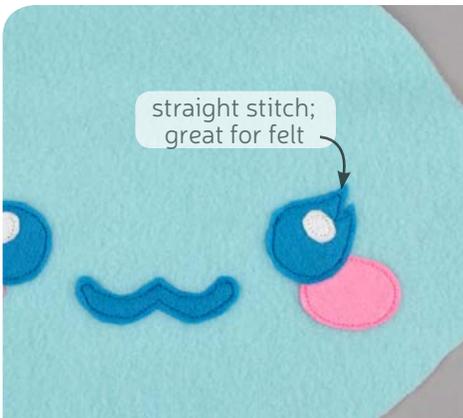
3. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the eyes in place with your iron (use a press cloth -- such as a scrap piece of cotton -- if you're using a polyester or fur fabric like minky).
- Next, move onto the nose, whisker, eyebrow, and eye shine pieces. Fuse them much the same way as you did the eyes, using the paper pattern and photos as a guide.
- If you used heavy duty fusible web, you can keep the pieces fused without sewing, or you can sew them in place a number of ways. I've used a zigzag stitch here.

→ Refer to the next step for some other applique options.

tip:

The whiskers are quite tiny, so you may want to skip them or stitch them with a bit of embroidery floss instead.



3a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

Other good options for applique include a straight stitch, which involves sewing around the edge of the applique pieces with a straight stitch using matching thread -- about 1/8" in from the edge.

You can also applique by hand; I prefer a whipstitch. Thread a hand-sewing needle with some matching thread and knot it. Bring the thread up from the back of the project; about 1/8" in from the edge of the applique shape. Bring it down perpendicular from the curve, just outside of the applique shape. This completes one stitch.

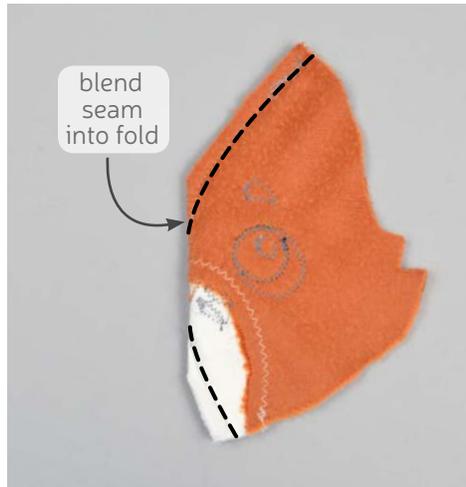
For the next stitch, bring the needle back up about 1/8" away from the previous stitch and 1/8" in from the edge just as in the first stitch. Once again, bring it down just outside the applique shape. Continue this way until you've sewn around the shape.

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4. SEW THE DARTS



- Locate the open wedges found on the top and bottom of the **HEAD FRONT** (A) piece -- 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.
- 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.



5. SEW THE EARS



- Grab your **EAR** pieces (C). Take this moment to refer back to step 1 and applique the ear fluffs onto two of the ears. Be sure the ears are mirror image of each other so you have an opposing pair.
- Take one appliqued ear and align it with a blank ear piece. Right sides should be facing and raw edges matching up.
- Sew them together along the long curved edge. Leave the straight edge free for turning right side out.

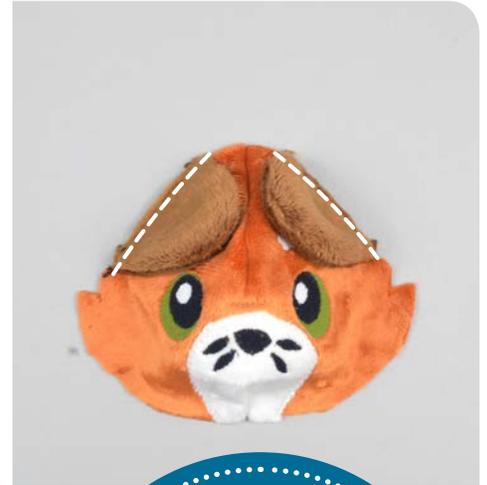
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6. BASTE THE EARS

- Turn the ear right side out. Repeat with the remaining two ear pieces for two complete ears total.
- If you haven't already, locate the **ear placement lines** found on the **HEAD FRONT (A)** paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Place the open end of the ear within these placement lines.
- Baste the ears to the front within the seam allowances to hold them in place for future steps.



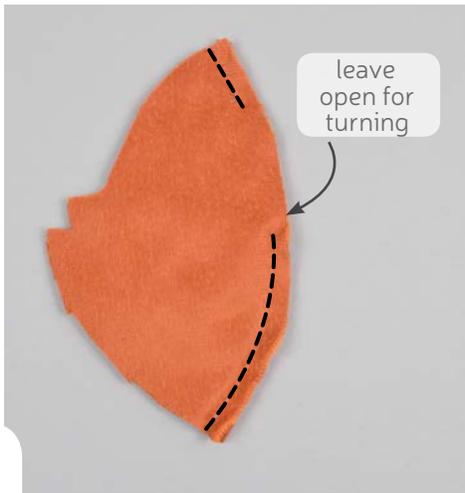
basting:

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).



7. SEW THE HEAD BACK

- Grab your two **HEAD BACK** pieces (D). Align them together with right sides facing and edges matching up.
- If you haven't already, locate the **opening for turning** markings found on the paper pattern. Transfer them over to the wrong side of the fabric. Sew along this edge of the **HEAD BACK** pieces only, but be sure to leave the opening for turning that you marked.
- Open up your **HEAD BACK** piece.



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8. 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, being sure to pivot at the points on the sides.
- Once complete, trim the seam allowance at the inner and outer corners at the sides. This will increase flexibility and reduce bulk when the head is turned.
Turn the head right side out through the opening you left in the back.



9. STUFF THE HEAD

- Stuff the head firmly with stuffing. Focus most of it on the face area until it fills out and has no wrinkles in the fabric.
- After the face looks full, fill the rest of the head. The spikes on the side don't really need stuffing.
- 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.

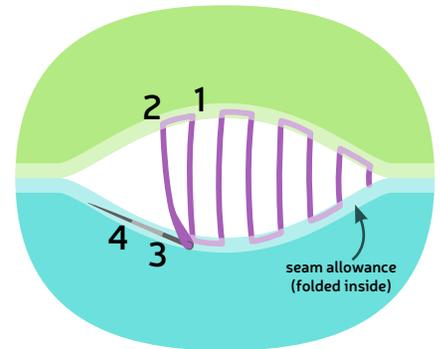
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ladder
stitch
closedbring needle
out 1-2" awaypull thread taut
while clipping

10. CLOSE UP THE HEAD

- 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.
- 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!

trace darts
from tail pattern

3 darts total

11. MARK THE TAIL DARTS

- Grab your **TAIL** piece (E). If you haven't already, locate the double-ended darts found on the paper pattern. They are the almond-shaped markings with two points. To transfer them over, it's easiest to just cut them out from the paper and trace the outlines onto the wrong side of your tail fabric.
- Once completely traced, there should be 3 darts on your tail fabric.

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12. SEW THE TAIL DARTS

- Like with previous darts, fold the **TAIL** fabric with right sides together along the points of just one dart. The curved parts of the dart should match up pretty closely on each side.
- Take this to your machine and stitch along the traced line of the dart.
- Repeat this with the remaining two darts on the tail so you have three sewn darts total. It won't look pretty, but it's what will help the tail curl around your fox!



13. SEW THE TAIL TIP

- Grab your **TAIL TIP** piece (F). Locate the curved edge with the **triangular notch**. If you haven't already, transfer it over to the right side of the tail tip fabric. The main tail piece also has a matching notch, transfer it over as well. Match up the edges that have these notches, stretching the tail piece to fit if necessary.
- Sew the tail to the tail tip along the notched edge.
- Once complete, open up the tail with the right side facing up.

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- a.** Take your **TAIL** so far and fold it in half lengthwise so it's even skinnier. Align and pin the raw edges and try to match up the tail tip seam. Spread out the edge with the darts if it helps with pinning.
- b.** Sew the tail along this edge, being sure the fabric doesn't get bunched or folded. When sewing the tail tip, be sure to curve around and blend into the fold of the tail. Leave the straight edge at the end open for turning.
- c.** Turn the tail right side out through the opening at the end.
- d.** Stuff the tail semi-firmly with stuffing, especially near the tip. Keep the stuffing light near the opening. If you have hemostats this step will be much easier.



- a.** Grab your **BODY** pieces (G). Take one from the light accent fabric and one from the main fabric. Align them together with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.
- b.** Sew the body pieces together along just one long straight edge. Leave the other edges free.

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16. SEW THE BODY

- Open up the **BODY** pieces you have so far.
- Grab the remaining body piece from your main fabric. Align it on the other side of the accent fabric, matching up the long edge.
- Sew the main fabric to the accent fabric along the long edge like in the previous step. Open up the pieces when complete. This should result in the light accent fabric in between the two main fabrics.

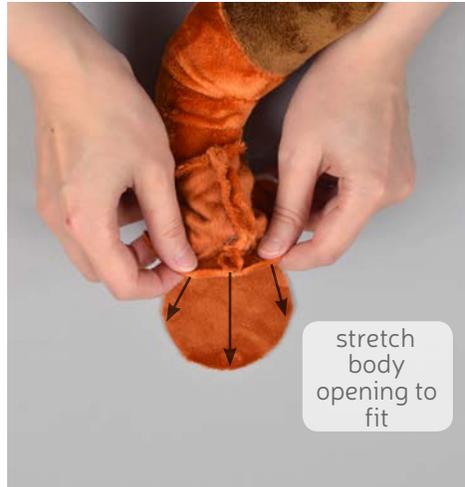


17. BASTE THE TAIL

- If you haven't already, locate the **tail placement lines** located on the **BODY** paper pattern. Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Take your stuffed tail and align the open end within the placement lines, darts facing up. Baste the tail to the body within these placement lines. The tip of the tail can get a little awkward, so bend it out of the way if you have to.
- Bring together the two straight edges of the body -- the one with the tail attached and the other opposite the tail. Pin these edges together, sandwiching the tail in between. Let the tip of the tail fall outside the body to make room.
- Stitch these edges of the body together with the tail sandwiched inside. When complete the body pieces should make a tube.

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18. SEW THE BOTTOM

- Grab your **BOTTOM** piece (H) from the main fabric. Align the larger opening of the **BODY** (the one closest to the **TAIL**) around the perimeter of the circle. Leave the tail hanging out of the neck so it's out of the way.
- Stretch the body piece to fit around the circle and pin the layers together.
- Stitch the body to the bottom all the way around the circle. Turn the body right side out when complete.



19. SEW THE BEAN POUCH

- Grab your **BOTTOM** pieces from your scrap fabric. These are the pieces for the bean pouch. Align the two pieces together with either side facing (doesn't matter). Sew the pieces together around the edge, leaving a 1-2" opening (also marked on the paper pattern) for filling the pouch.
- Get your poly pellets and a funnel (I prefer a spoon, but both work). Fill the pouch with poly pellets until it's not quite full.
- Stitch the pouch closed by hand for extra safety using a back stitch, or take it to your machine. Stitch it closed very slowly, using only the hand wheel if necessary. Sewing over a pellet will very likely break a needle.

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place pouch at bottom of body



stuff the rest of the body



stitch around opening of body

20. STUFF THE BODY

- Place the finished **BEAN POUCH** on the bottom of your fox **BODY**.
- Stuff the rest of the body with stuffing so it's semi-firm.
- Thread a hand sewing needle with thread and knot the end. Sew a long gathering stitch around the opening of the **BODY**, about $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the edge.

gathering:

The process of shortening the length of a piece of fabric by sewing long stitches through it. When the thread is pulled, it forms small folds that ruffle the fabric.

gathering stitch:

A long version of the running stitch, which is a stitch done by weaving the needle in and out of a length of fabric going along a line. The long stitches (about $\frac{1}{4}$ "- $\frac{1}{2}$ " long) gather the fabric when pulled later.



pull at thread to cinch body closed



align head over body



ladder stitch head to body

21. ATTACH THE HEAD

- Once finished, pull at the thread to gather the fabric and cinch up the opening. Sew a few knots at this opening to hold it closed. If you have a lot of thread left, consider leaving it attached for adding to the head.
- Align the head over the body so they're both facing forward. The back seam of the head should also match up with the back seam on the body.
- Ladder stitch the head to the body, going around the opening in the neck. Stitch a wide circle to ensure the neck is secure and not wobbly.

→ *TIP: take big basting stitches for the first pass to make sure the head placement is right. Then go around again with neater, tinier stitches for the second pass.*

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22. WRAP THE TAIL



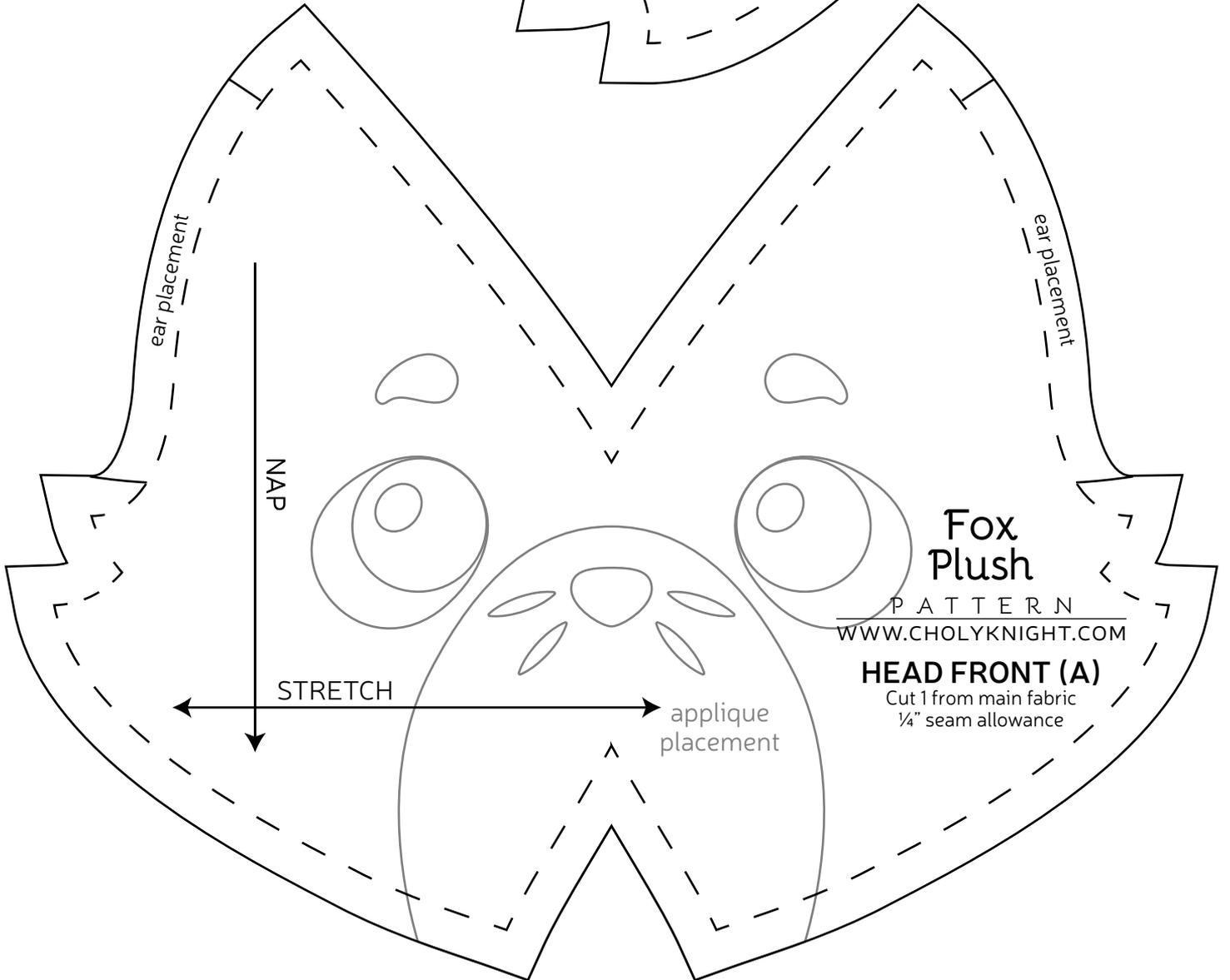
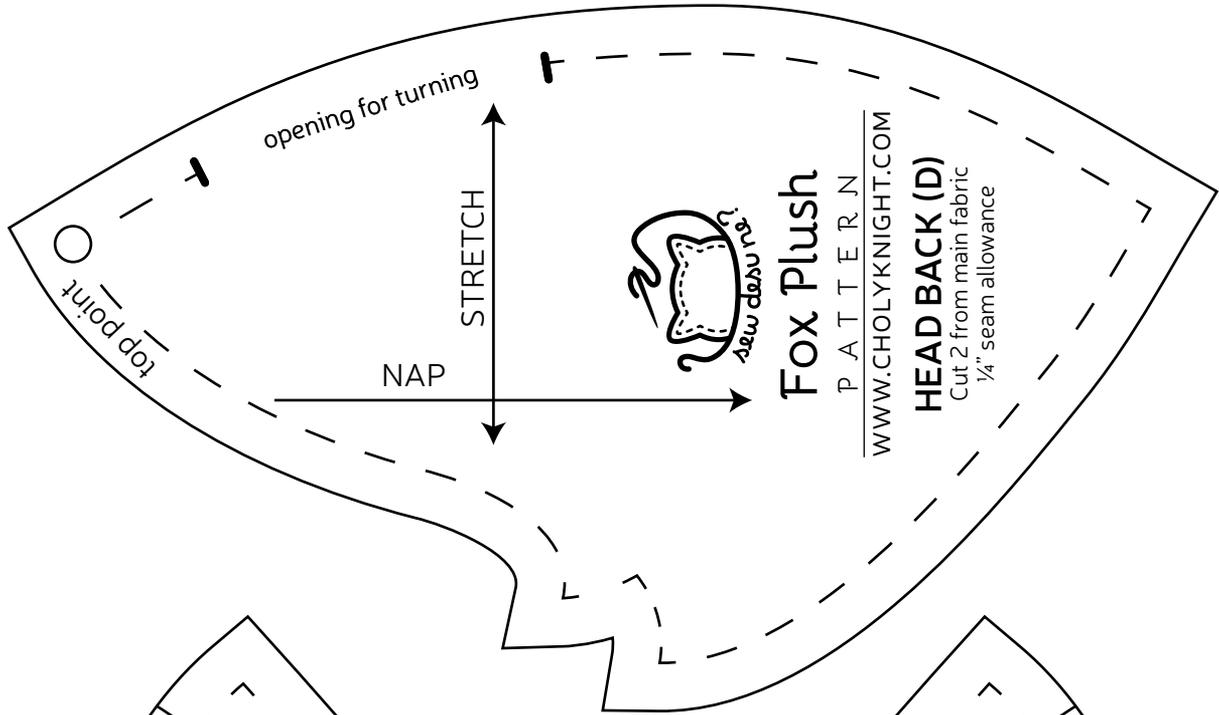
- a. Take your tail and wrap it around the **BODY** of the fox so the **darts** are facing the body. The darts should give the tail some curve and allow it to wrap more naturally.
- b. To secure the tail, sew a few ladder stitches along the edge where the tail meets the body. For the sample, they're sewn just outside of the dart seams, but you can do as many or as few as you think the plush needs.

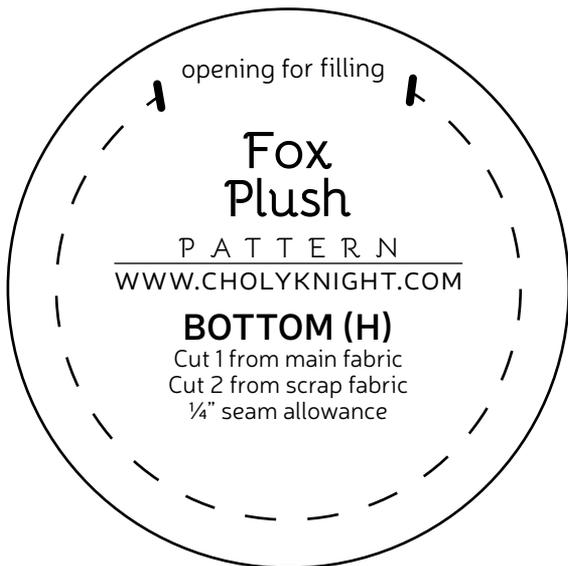
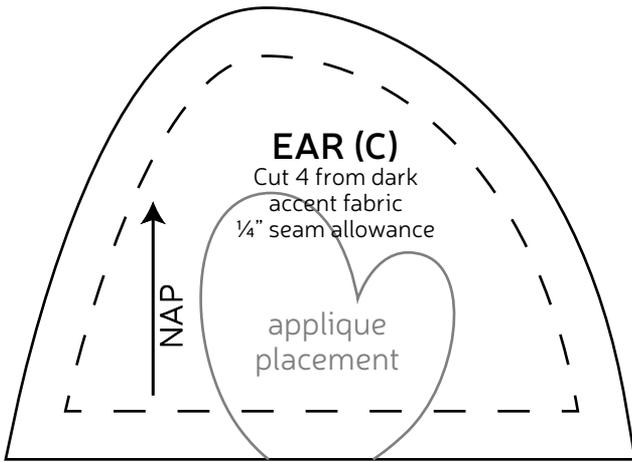
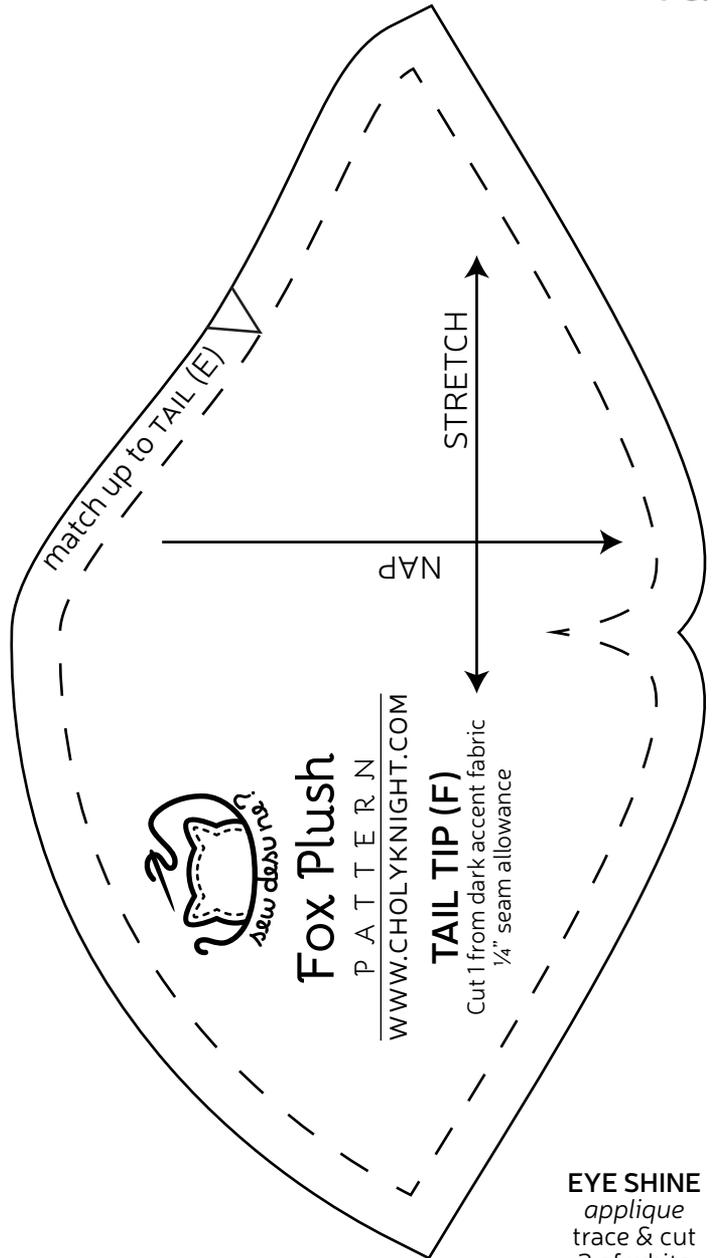
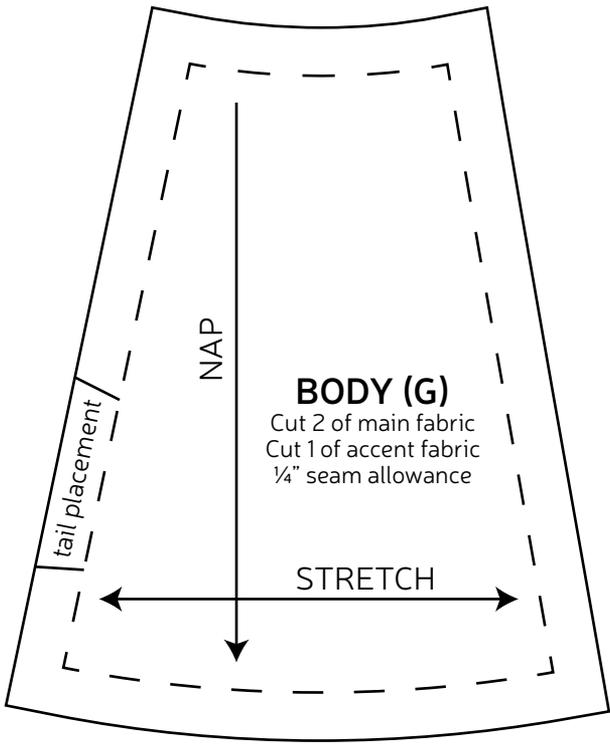
congrats!
this completes
your plush! Now
give it a big
hug!



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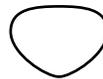




EYE SHINE
applique
 trace & cut
 2 of white



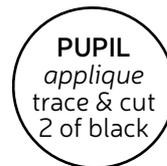
NOSE
applique
 trace & cut
 1 of black



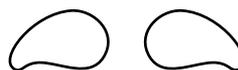
WHISKER
applique
 trace & cut
 4 of black



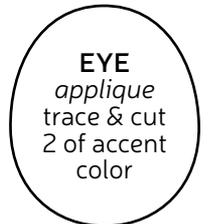
PUPIL
applique
 trace & cut
 2 of black

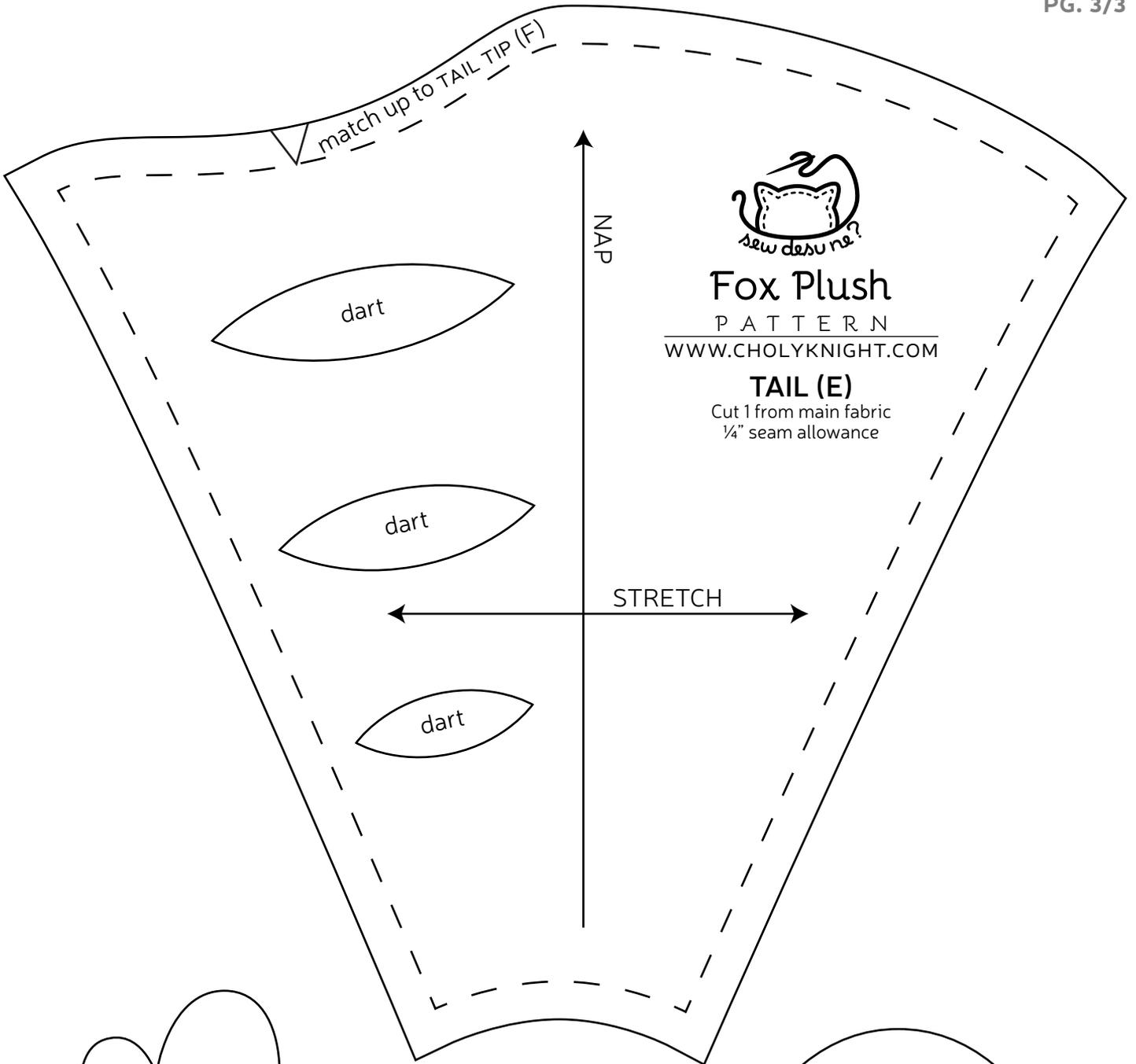


EYEBROW
applique
 trace & cut
 1 each of accent color



EYE
applique
 trace & cut
 2 of accent color



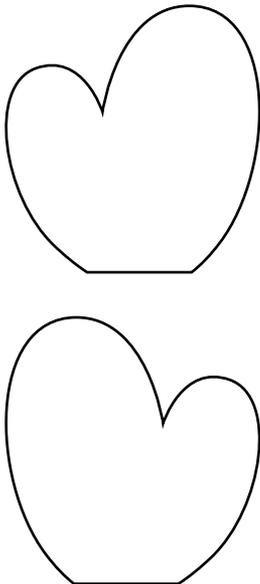


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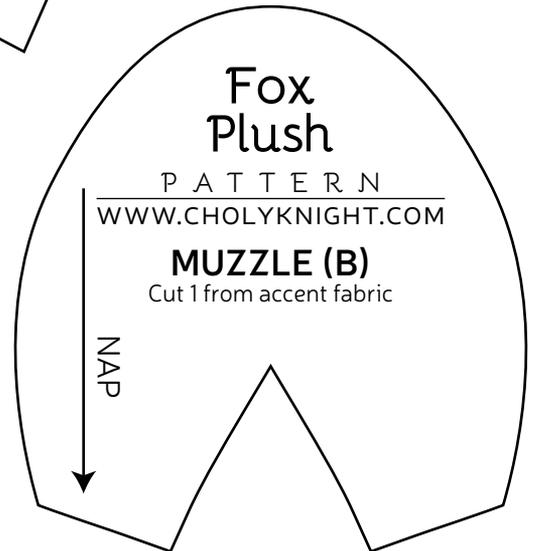
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TAIL (E)

Cut 1 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance



EAR FLUFFS
applique
trace & cut
1 each of
accent color



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MUZZLE (B)

Cut 1 from accent fabric