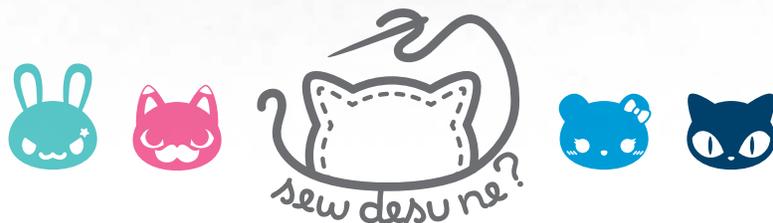


MANTA RAY PLUSH



A FREE SEWING PATTERN BY



MANTA RAY PLUSH

With this pattern you can make your own squadron of majestic sea pancakes! It has a simple chubby body with floppy side fins, tiny mandibles, and a pointy tail.

The pattern itself has only 3 pieces so the finished project comes together super quickly and is a great way to use up leftover scraps. You can make an appliqued face or go all out with additional spots to mimic an eagle ray. Or for a simpler option you could also use safety eyes.

MAKES:

One plush: measures about 9½" long, 9" wide, and 2" tall.

DIFFICULTY:



.....

This plush might be more like a 3/10 based on the skills needed, but it's so incredibly fast it feels like a 2. This would be a great project for testing out any of the skills found below that you haven't done before.

SKILLS USED:

-
- Fusible web applique
 - Darts
 - Curved sewing
 - Ladder stitch
 - Matching notches and points
 - Stitching in the ditch



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materials & tools:

- 12" x 13" of main fabric
- 12" x 12" of accent fabric for belly
- 2" x 2" piece of black applique fabric (flannel, felt, fleece, cotton, etc.) for eyes
- 2" x 2" piece of pink applique fabric for blush
- 1" x 1" piece of white applique fabric for eye shines (or white fabric paint if shapes are too tiny for you)
- 4" x 4" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- sewing thread to match main fabric and applique fabrics
- poly-fil stuffing
- 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. You can look for variations from those listed on the left for more help.

However, because this plush has a flat shape, woven fabrics can also be used. The result just won't be as soft and squishable.

Stretch fabrics like **FLEECE** or **MINKY** will create a rounder, softer shape when stuffed. Non-stretchy fabrics, like **FELT** or **COTTON**, won't stretch when stuffed so the resulting plush will look more angular.

MINKY

VS.

FELT

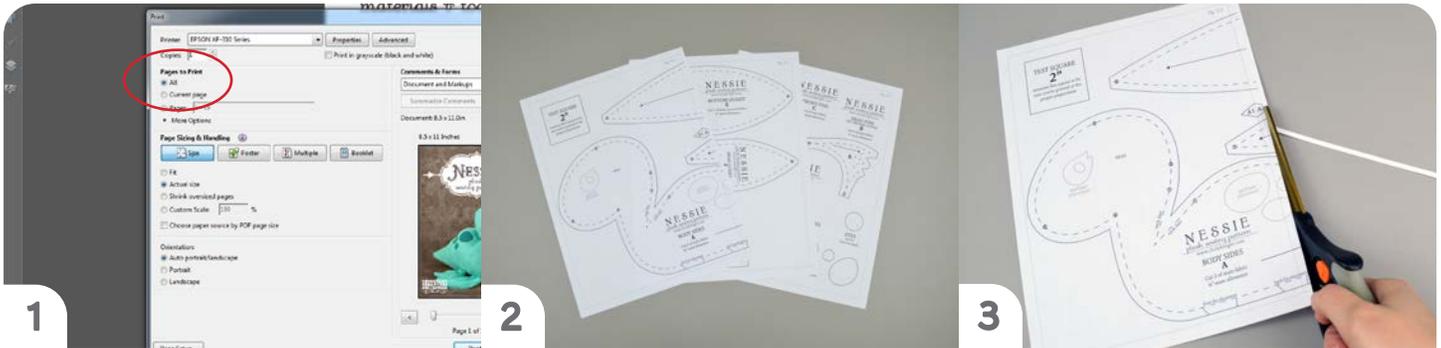


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printing the pattern:

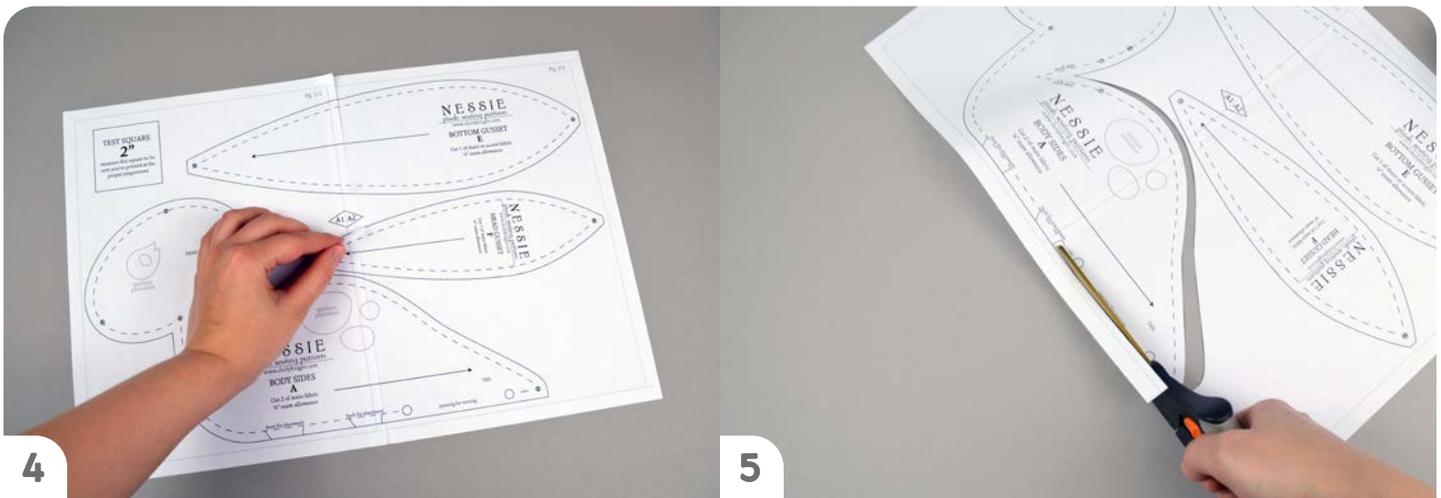
To print the pattern, set your computer to print **PAGES 11-13**. If you're unfamiliar with printing and assembling a .pdf pattern, read the steps below.



1 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.

2 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.

3 It's likely your printer will have a margin that ensures your image doesn't print to the very edge. Assembly will be easier if you trim off this blank margin edge. This will give you pages that overlap slightly during assembly. If you trim across the gray outline boxes, this will give you pages that don't overlap but rather butt against each other.



4 To line up the pattern pages, match up the corresponding diamond shapes. Each diamond will have a letter, so it's simply a matter of matching A1 to A2, B3 to B4 and so on. The faint gray lines indicate the border of every page, you should be able to line those up as well. When the diamond goes together, tape it in place. If you have many pages, it's easier to tape up the pages into rows first. Then tape the rows together into a full block.

5 You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper -- be sure that each piece is fully taped together along the joins so they don't fall apart when you cut them.

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cutting the fabric:



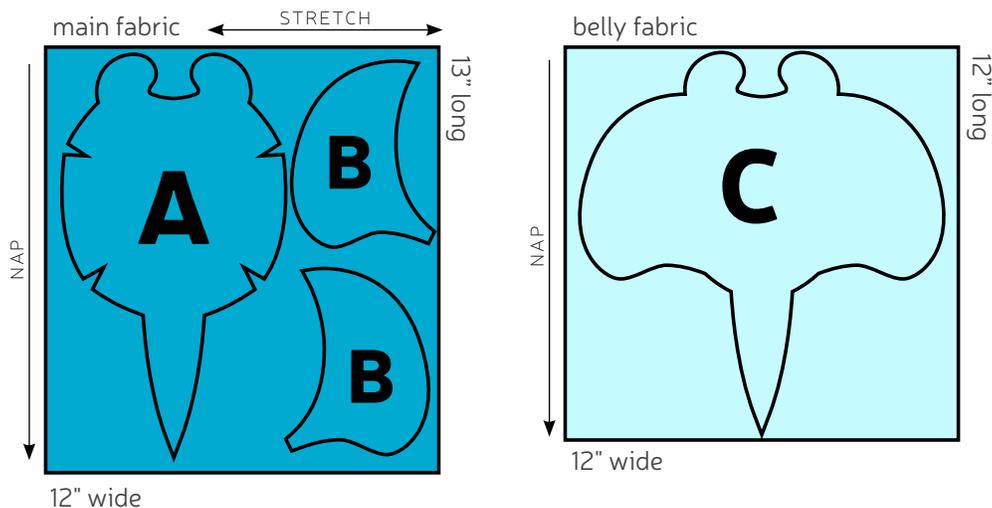
1 Place pattern on the fabric, and make sure the stretch line matches the stretch of the fabric. The nap line should go in the direction of the fur.

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 a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance is used throughout the project.

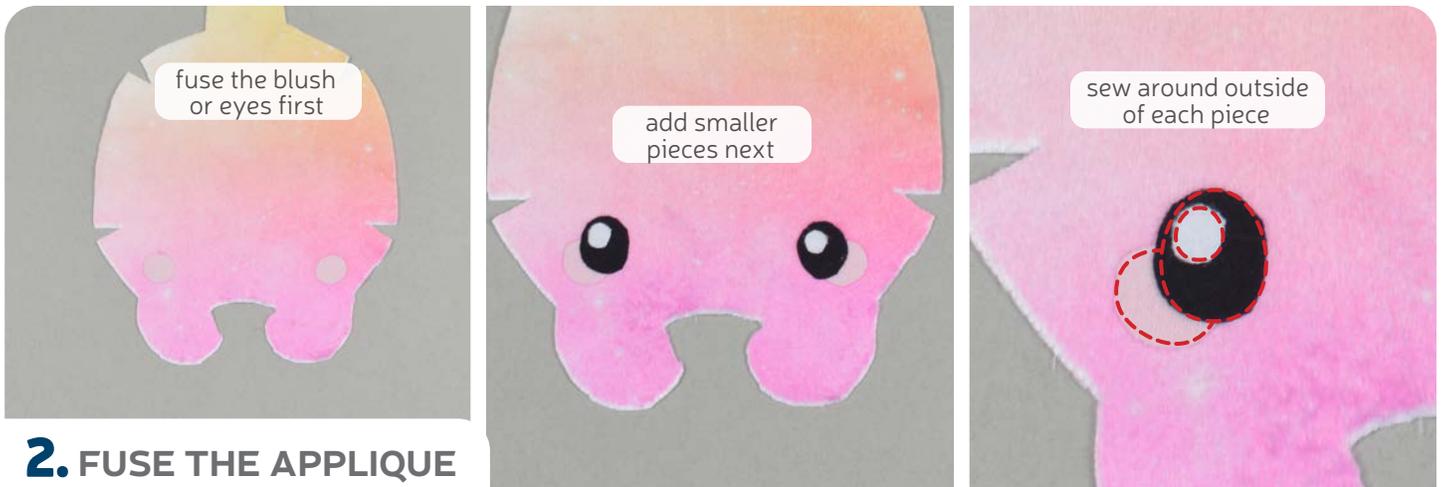
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1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

- Take your fusible web and trace all your applique pieces onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have 2 **eyes**, and 2 **eye shines**. **Blush pieces** are optional.
 - *The samples also show spots for the embroidered version. If you'd like to applique spots for your ray, templates can be found on the paper pattern for the **TOP (A)** and **SIDE FINS (B)**.*
- Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The **eyes** should go on black, and the **eye shines** on white.
- Cut out the **eyes** and arrange them on the **TOP (A)** piece. Set your paper pattern on top of the fabric piece (right sides up). Align the **blush** or **eye** piece on top where the placement markings are. Then carefully pull the paper pattern away while holding the applique piece in place.

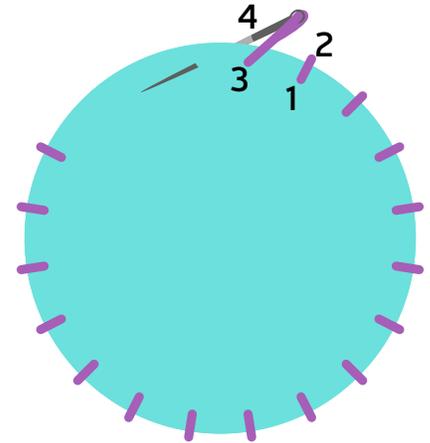
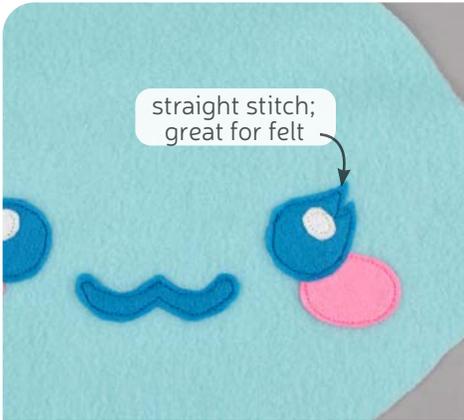


2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

- Fuse the **blush** or **eyes** in place with your iron. Use a press cloth (like a scrap piece of cotton) if you're using a polyester or fuzzy fabric like minky, that will help prevent harming or melting the fabric.
- Next, move onto the smaller pieces: the **eyes** and **eye shines**. Fuse them the same way as you did the **blush**, 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 page for some other applique options.*

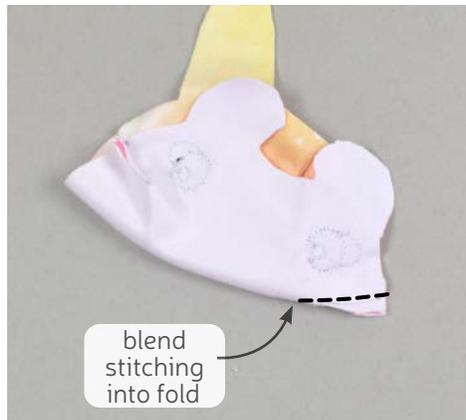
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3a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.



3. SEW THE BODY DARTS

- a. Grab your **TOP** piece (A). Note the 4 small wedge shapes found along the outside of the piece. These are **darts**. We're going to sew them, starting by lining up the short slanted edges. Fold the fabric along the point of the dart with right sides together.
- b. Sew the **dart** starting at the opening and working down to the point. Try to blend your stitching into the fold for a smooth transition and a rounder finished plush.
- c. Repeat with the remaining 3 darts for 4 completed darts total.

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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4. SEW THE FINS

- Grab your **SIDE FIN** pieces (B). The inner curves of the fins will be attached to the sides of the **TOP** (A) next. These pieces have **numbered points** to help with alignment and ensure the fins point in the right direction.
- Take your side fin and bend the inner curve so it matches up with the top at **points 1 and 2**. Ensure that right sides are facing and pin the fabrics together.
- Sew the fin to the top from **points 1 to 2**. Repeat with the other side fin on the other side of the top piece so both fins are secured. Open up the pieces when complete.

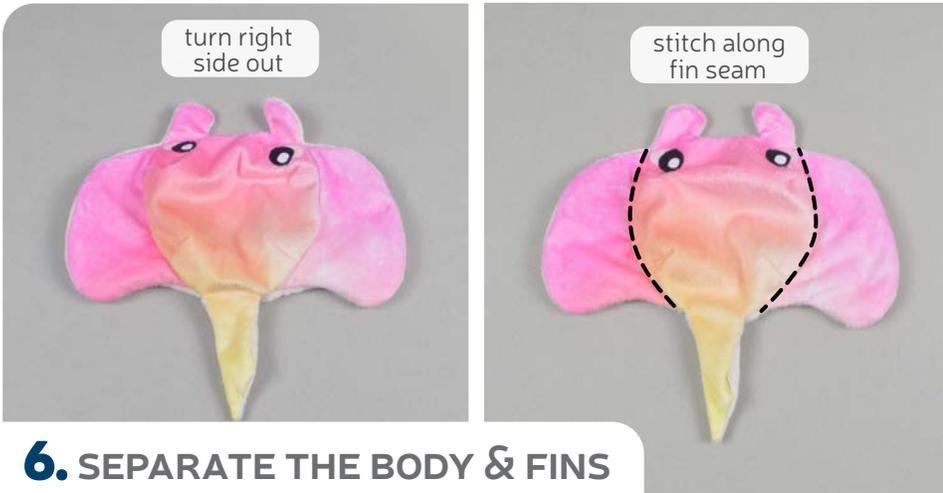


5. ATTACH THE BELLY

- Grab your **BELLY** piece (C). Take your top piece so far and align it over the belly so right sides are facing and all the raw edges match up. Pin the fabrics together.
- If you haven't already, locate the **opening for turning marking** found on the paper pattern on the tail area of the **TOP** piece (A). Transfer the markings to the wrong side of the fabrics. Sew the top and fins to the belly all around the shape, but leave an **opening for turning** as marked on the tail. Be sure to sew slowly around the tight curves at the mandibles and the bulky areas over the **fin seams**.
- Trim the excess seam allowance at the corners to reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the pieces are turned later.

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STITCH IN THE DITCH:

A technique usually seen in quilting. A seam is made on the outside of a project, going along the 'ditch' created from a previous seam. The result is nearly invisible since the stitching is done right between two seamed fabric pieces.

6. SEPARATE THE BODY & FINS

- Turn the manta ray right side out through the opening in the tail. Define the corners and curves (like the tip of the tail and mandibles) with a chopstick or similar turning tool.
- Flatten out the **FINS** so the fin fabric and belly fabric is smooth. Then stitch the fin to the belly by sewing right into the **fin seam** from step 4. This will separate the body from the fins with more stitching. This technique is called **STITCHING IN THE DITCH**.



7. STUFF THE BODY

- Stuff the body of the manta ray with stuffing. Be sure to fill up the mandibles first. Then fill up the rest of the body and the tail. It's not necessary to get the body very firm -- just enough so it takes shape and there are no lumps or wrinkles in the fabric. Be sure to also get a small bit in the tail so it takes shape as well.
- Once the plush is stuffed, make sure the seam allowances in the tail 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.

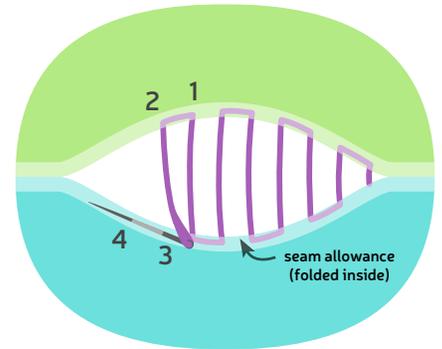
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8. CLOSE UP THE PLUSH

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

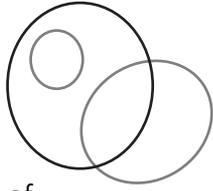


CONGRATS!
This completes your plush! Now give it a big hug!

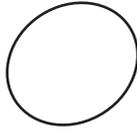
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EYE
applique
trace & cut 2 of
black



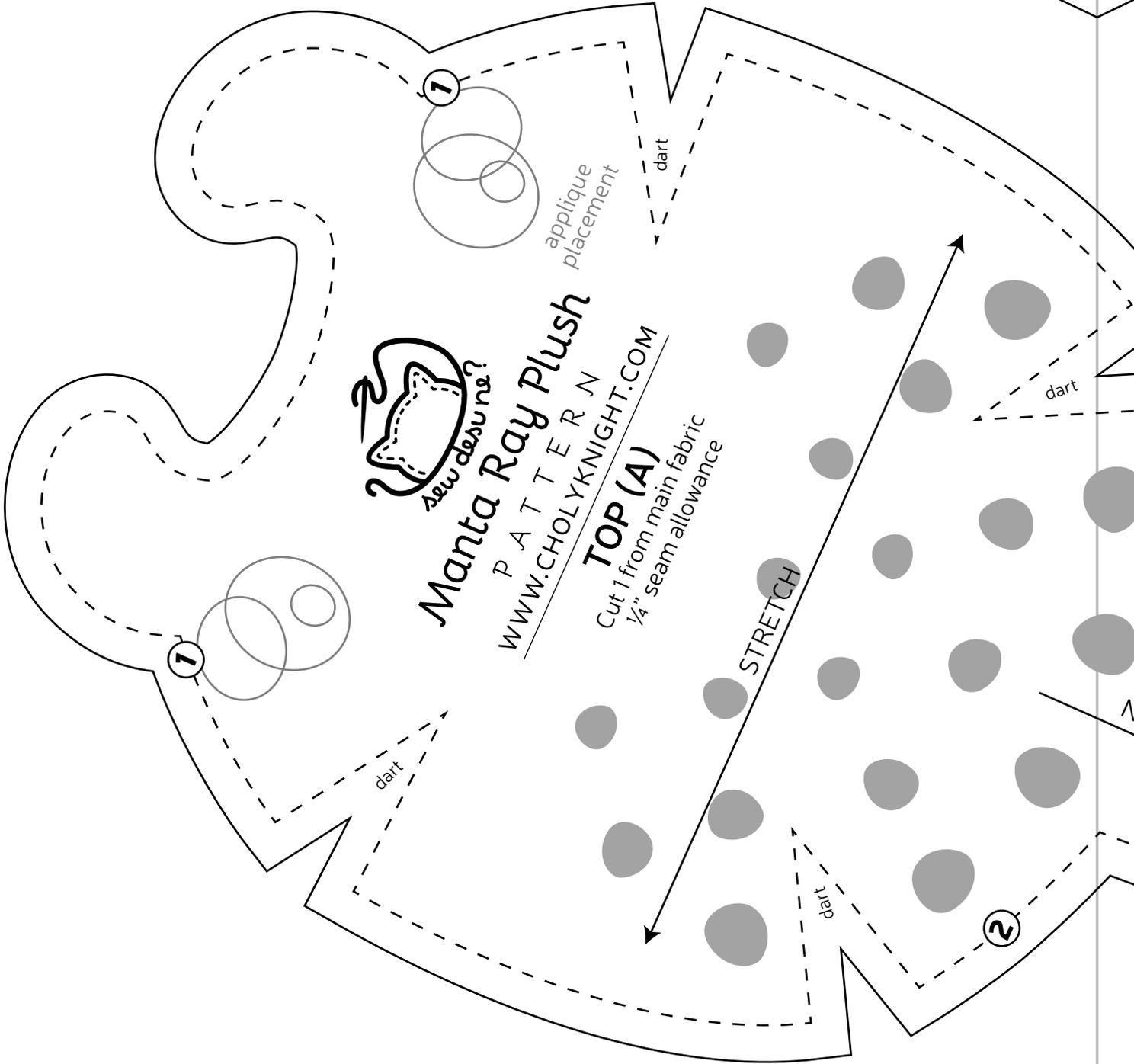
BLUSH
applique
trace & cut 2 of
pink



EYE SHINE
applique
trace & cut 2 of
white



A1 A2



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PATTERN
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TOP (A)

Cut 1 from main fabric
1/4" seam allowance

STRETCH

dart

applique
placement

dart

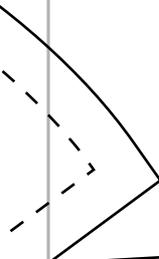
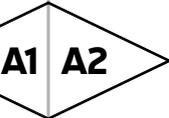
dart

dart

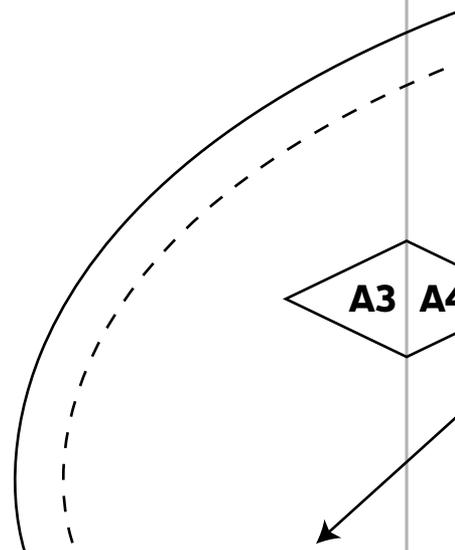
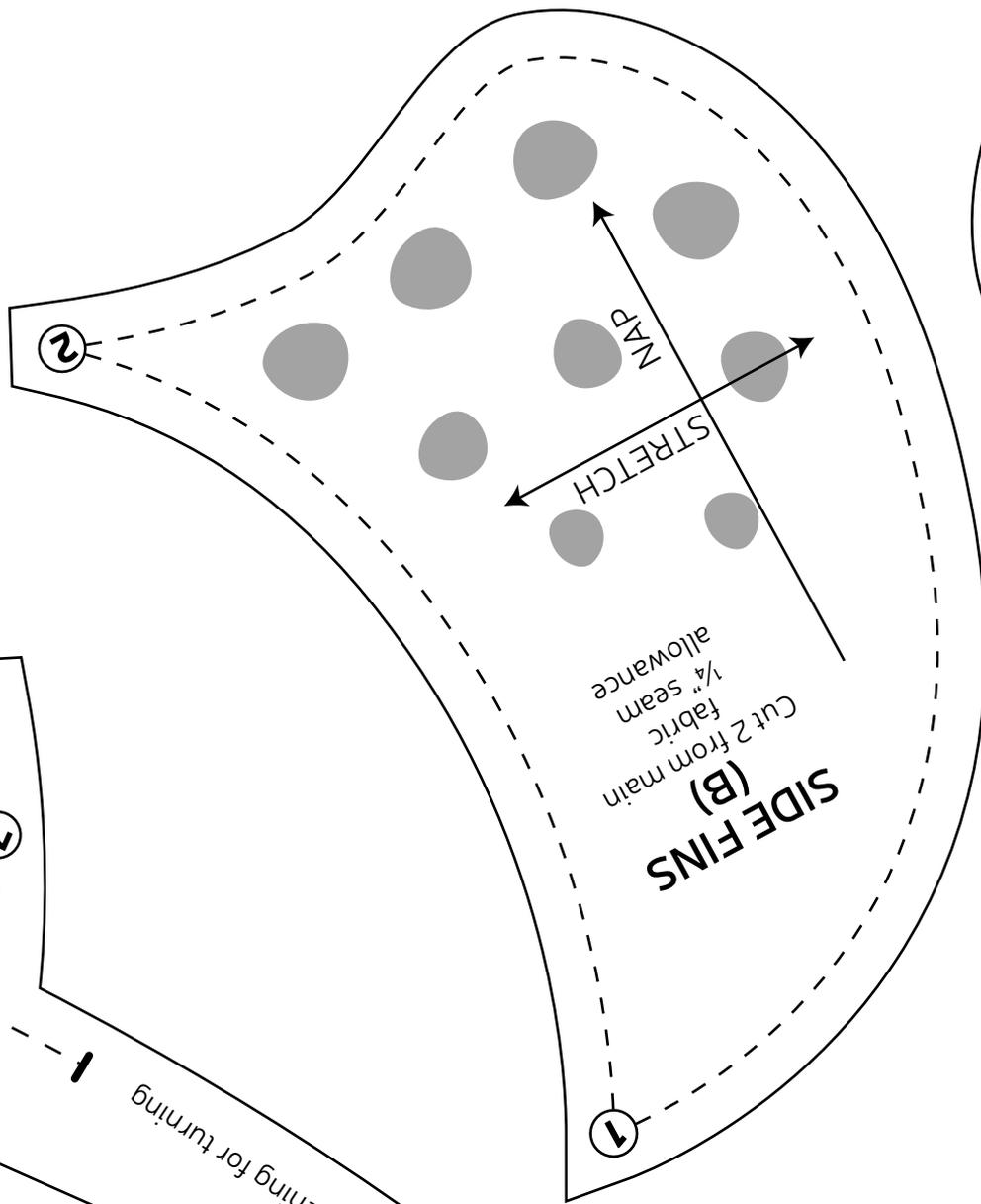
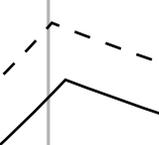
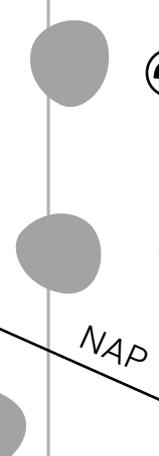
1

1

2

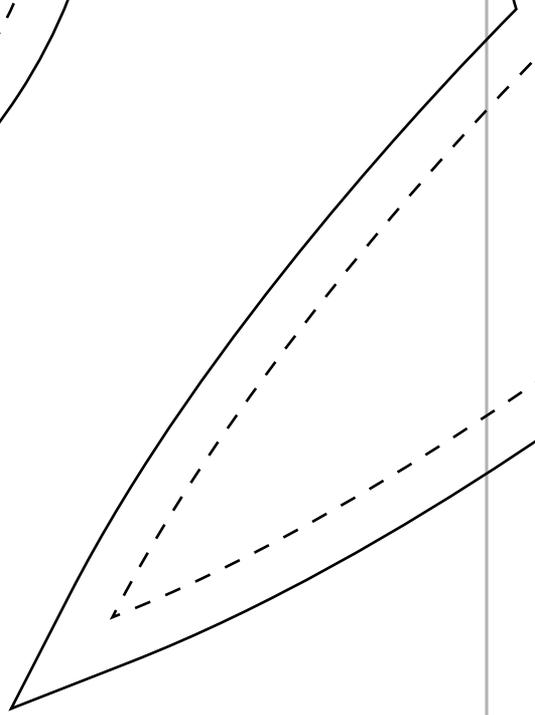


art



NAP

opening for turning



A3 A4

NAP

STRETCH



Manta Ray Plush

P A T T E R N

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BELLY (C)

Cut 1 from accent fabric
1/4" seam allowance

