

Axolotl Plush

Instructions
by LearnCreateSew.com



Supplies

Fleece or Minky fabric in 3 colors:
10 x 28.5 in Main Color
5 x 17 in Accent Color
4.5 x 10 in White or Accent Color 2
Two 16mm Safety Eyes
Embroidery Floss for eyebrows
Polyfil
Coordinating Thread

Tools

Sewing Machine
Basic Sewing Tools (Scissors, Pins, etc.)
Machine Needle
(Universal or Ball Point size 12-14)
Fabric Marking Tools (Ex/ Air erase markers)
Hand Sewing Tools

Optional:
Hemostats, Clips, Purple Thang or stiletto

Tips for Making the Axolotl Plushies:

- Read cut layouts carefully. Some pattern pieces do not include the seam allowance.
- Be exact. Small deviations can create a large difference in the final size and appearance.
- If you notice skipped stitches, try using a stretch or ball point needle.
- Always check the back side after sewing a seam as fabrics can roll.

[Click here for the instructional video](#)

Video time stamps are indicated if your browser does not automatically jump to the time marked.

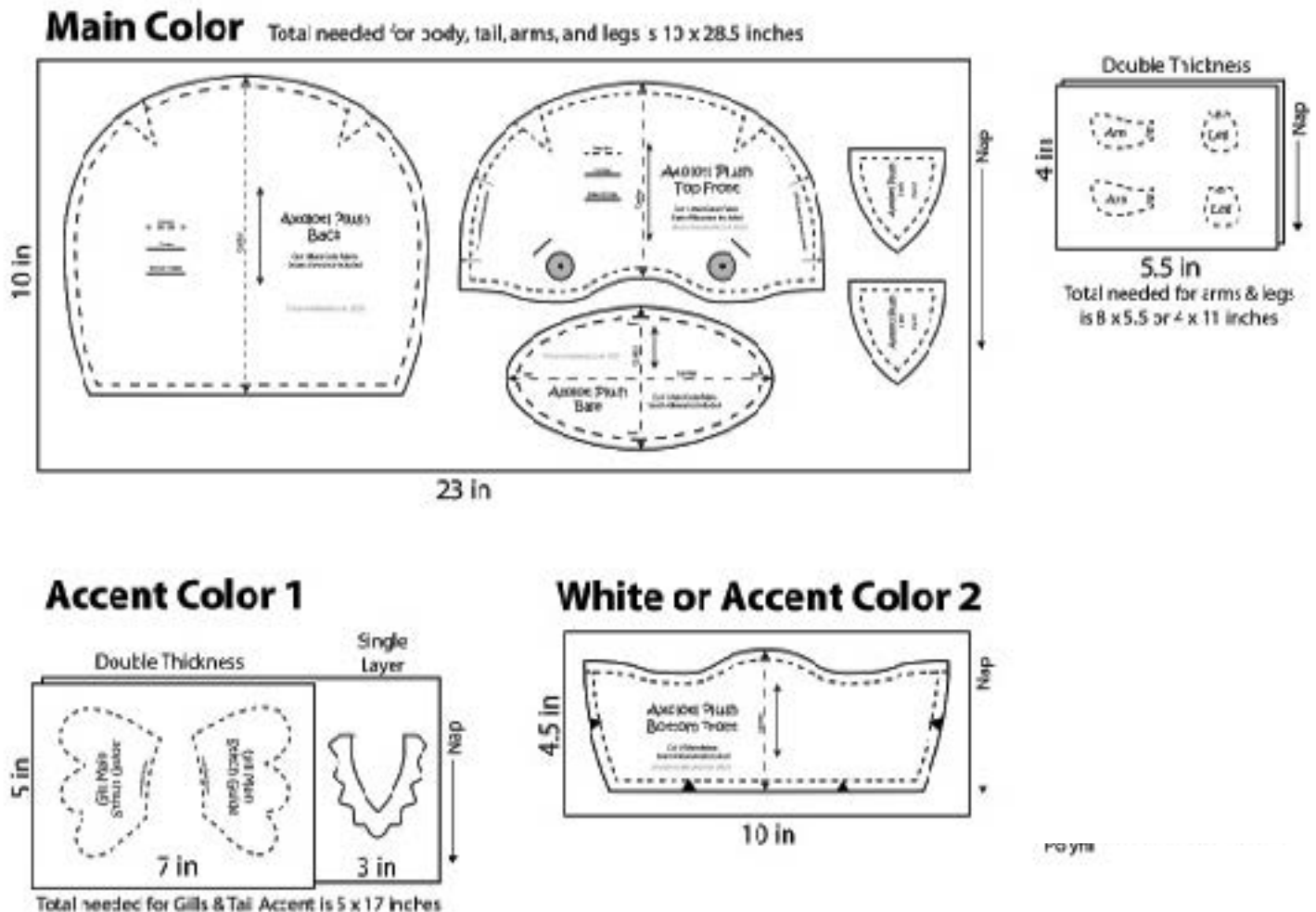
NOTES FOR CUTTING: For the gills, arms, and legs **SEAM ALLOWANCE IS NOT INCLUDED.**

For the above pieces you will sew first and cut second.

The dotted lines of the pattern pieces indicate **SEW** lines. The solid lines indicate **CUT** lines.

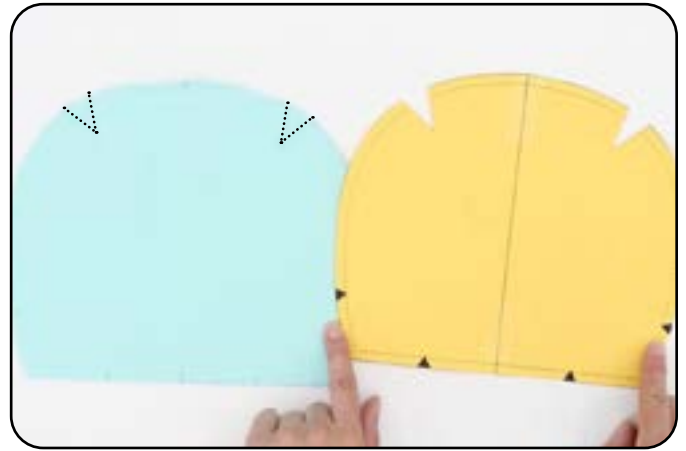
1. Cut out all paper pattern pieces.
2. From the main color fabric, cut out the Back, Top Front, Tail (2), and Base. DO NOT cut out the triangle darts. Remember, the dotted line indicates a sew line (see the next page for photos).
3. From white fabric (or the second accent color) cut out the Bottom Front.
4. From your accent color fabric cut out the Tail Accent piece.
5. Do NOT cut the other pieces yet. You will sew before cutting, which will be explained in the instructions.

Axolotl Cut Layout © learncreatesew.com 2025



Step 1 [\(Video Link - Cutting & Marking 1:54\)](#)

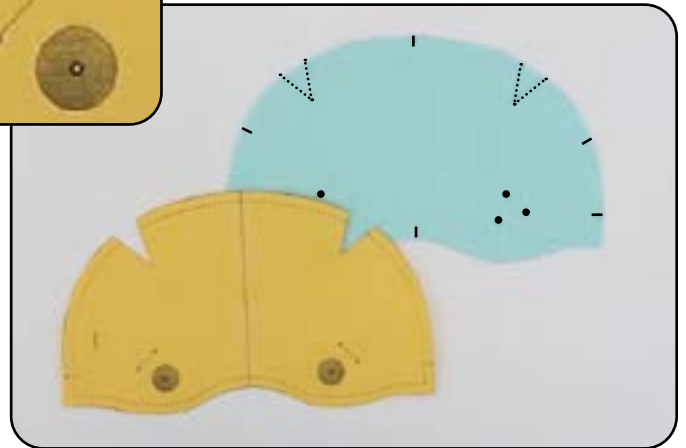
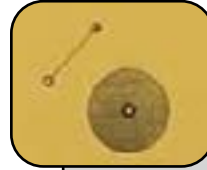
This project has optional darts. They add detail to the shape of the plush, but they are not required. If you want to add the darts to your project, cut out the triangle darts on the paper pattern pieces for the Back and Top Front. Place the paper pattern on top of the **wrong side** of the fabric pieces and mark the dart locations with a marking tool. *(Image Note: The triangle notches were removed from the Back piece in the updated version of the pattern.)*



Step 2

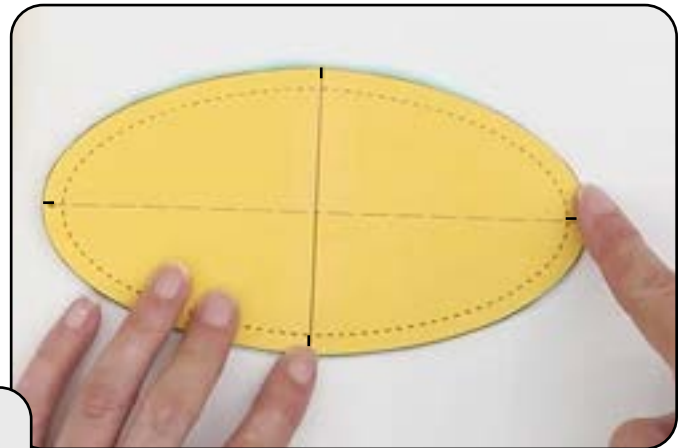
On the Top Front piece transfer key markings. This includes the center line and gill placement lines which are marked in the seam allowance, as well as the placement of the eyes and eyebrows. You can use an air eraser marker or fine point sharpie to mark these points. Make sure to mark them on the wrong side of the fabric. Similarly, mark the center line of the Back piece in the seam allowance.

TIP: To mark the location of the eyes you only need to mark the center point and for the eyebrows you only need to mark the endpoints. To do this, poke holes at those points through the paper pattern and mark only the dots on the fabric.



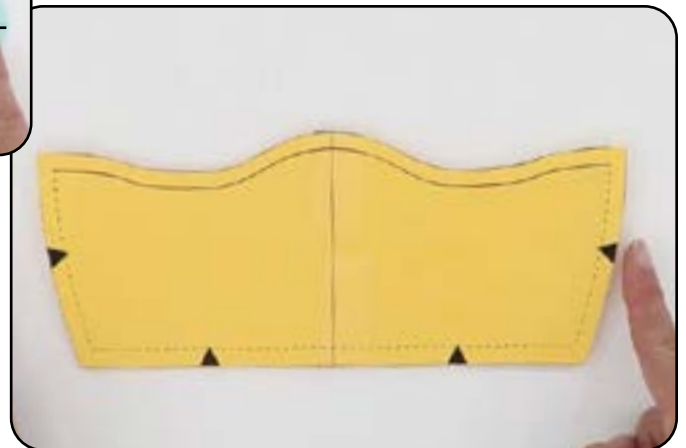
Step 3

On the Base piece, on the wrong side of the fabric, mark the top and bottom centers as well as the left and right centers. This will be four little dashes in the seam allowance.



Step 4

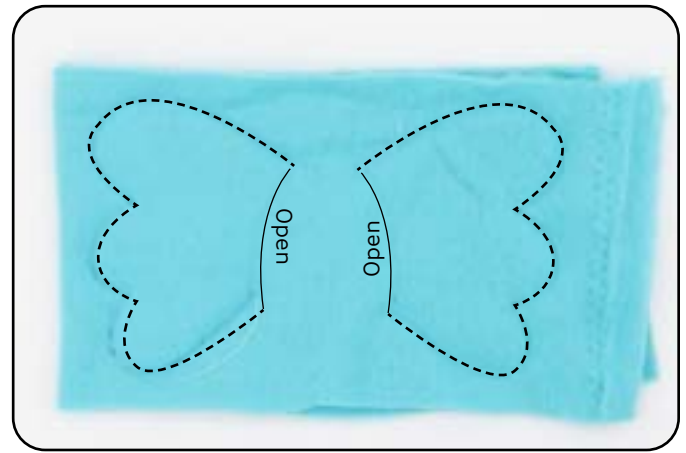
On the Bottom Front piece, to mark the placement of the arms and legs you can cut triangle notches pointing OUT away from the body of the piece, or you can mark the placement in the seam allowance with a marking tool as you did the previous pieces. Also mark the top and bottom of the center line.



Step 5 ([Video Link - Sewing the Gills 7:39](#))

Stack two layers of the accent color fabric right sides together and trace the Gill Main Stitch Guide once and once reversed creating mirror images. Leave at least 1/2 inch of space between the two traced shapes. (If you are using minky fabric make sure the nap is going the correct direction.)

Stitch along the outside curved edges leaving the opposite side open.



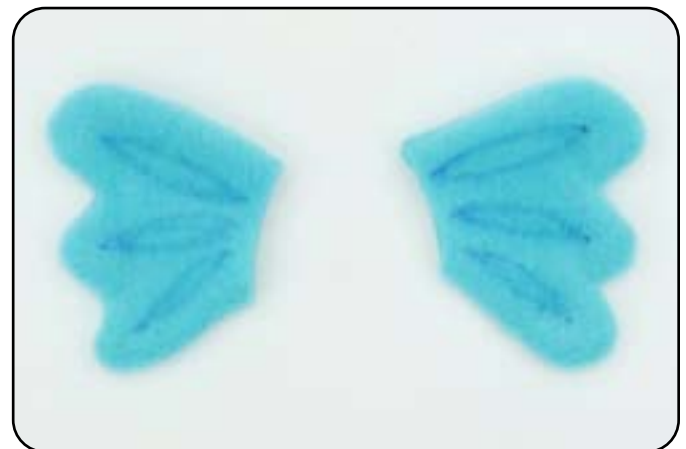
Step 6

Cut out the pieces leaving a 1/4 inch seam allowance. Clip the curved edges, especially the valleys in between each bump of the gills. Be sure not to cut the stitches.



Step 7

Turn the gills right side out and mark where you would like the decorative stitches. Using a vanishing marking tool such as an air erase marker draw three football type shapes pointing to each peak of the gill. Refer to the Gill Accent Stitch Guide for an example. Stitch along your markings, starting and stopping at the raw edge of the fabric.



Step 8

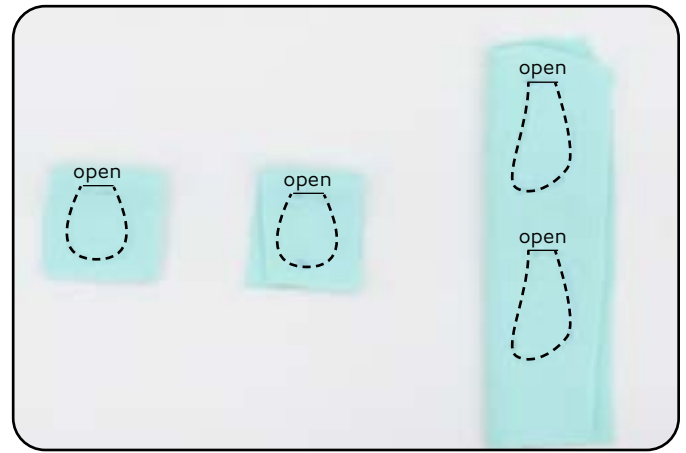
On both gill pieces, in the seam allowance of the open edge, make 4-5 little clips. This will help when you align the gills on the body. Be sure to keep your clips **small approximately 1/8 inch.**



Step 9 [\(Video Link - Arms & Legs 14:05\)](#)

The arms and legs are sewn similar to the gills. Stack two layers of main color fabric right sides together. (If using minky make sure the nap is going the appropriate direction.)

Trace the arm twice and the leg twice. Leave at least 1/2 inch of space between the pieces. Stitch around the curved edges leaving the top flat edges open.



Step 10

Cut out the pieces with a 1/4 inch seam allowance. Clip curves. Turn the pieces right sides out.

TIP: It helps to use hemostats or another turning tool to turn small objects.



Step 11 [\(Video Link - Joining the Front 17:40\)](#)

Let's join the Top Front piece to the Bottom Front piece.

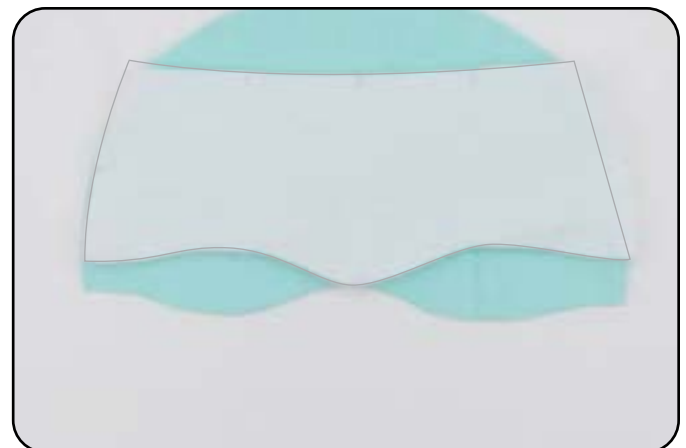
Lay the Top Front and Bottom Front pieces right side up.



Step 12

Flip the Bottom Front piece upside down on top of the Top Front piece with right sides together.

Align them so that the centers match up. You want the top center of the Bottom piece to align with the bottom center of the Top piece.



Step 13

Pin the centers together.
Pin the left corners together.
Pin the right corners together.



Step 14

Next, pin the sections in between the center and the corners. Be careful not to stretch the fabric. It helps to use several pins.

Sew the pinned edge with a 1/4 inch seam allowance, joining the Top and Bottom together.



Step 15

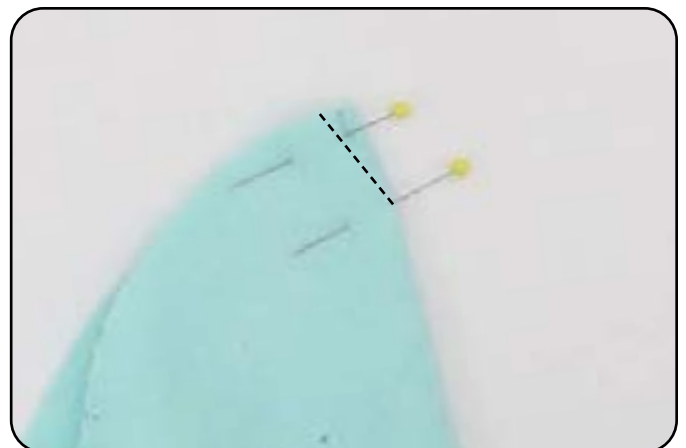
Open the seam allowance and use your hands to press the seam flat.



Step 16 [\(Video Link - The Darts 21:00\)](#)

If you chose to make the darts complete this step. If you chose not to, skip to step the next step.

To sew the darts, fold the fabric right sides together, folding at the point of the triangle and aligning the two sides of the triangle. Pin in place. Sew the two layers together along the side of the triangle. Repeat for all darts, two on the body front and two on the body back.



Step 17 ([Video Link - Eyes & Eyebrows 22:04](#))

Add the safety eyes and eyebrows to the Front.

Using the guide marks you made earlier, cut or poke a tiny hole at the dots marking the placement of each eye. **Keep the holes VERY small, 1/8 inch or less.** Place the post of the eye through the hole from the right side to the wrong side and snap the eye's back in place.

Use embroidery floss to stitch the eyebrows following your guide marks. Knot and clip the thread at each end of the eyebrow.

Step 18 ([Video Link - The Tail 26:05](#))

Let's make the tail. Place one Tail piece and the Accent piece right side down. Transfer the dots from the paper pattern pieces to the wrong side of the fabric.

Clip the center of the accent piece on the line as shown in the pattern. This will be close to but not through the dot.

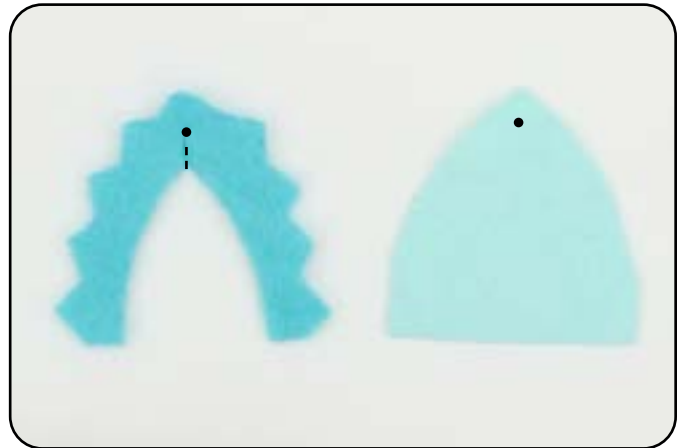


Step 19

Turn the Tail piece right side up. Keeping the Accent piece right side down, turn it so it is pointing the opposite direction as the Tail piece.

Step 20

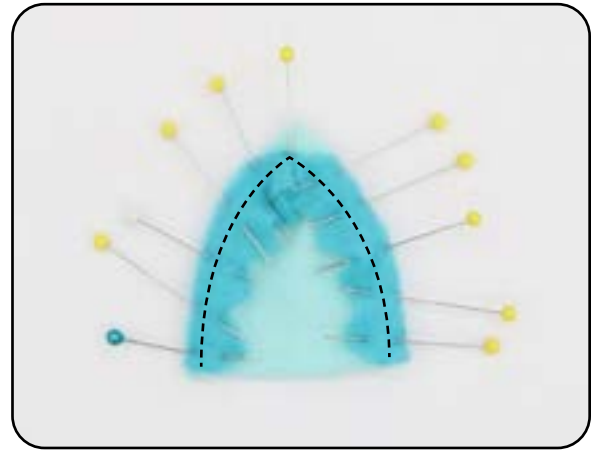
Place a pin through the dot on the Accent piece and then through the dot on the Tail piece and pin in place at the peak keeping the two dots aligned.



Step 21

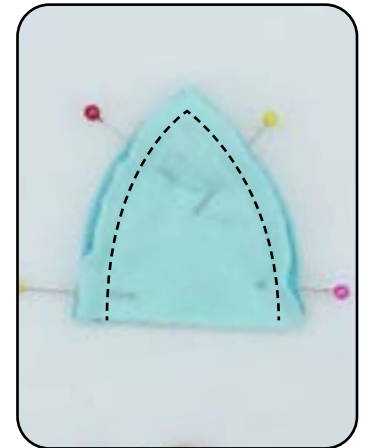
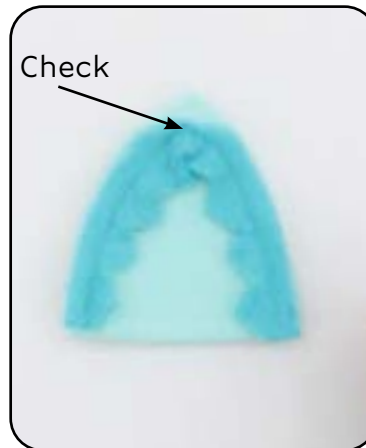
Gently, pull one side of the Accent piece down. Keeping right sides together, align the raw edge of the Accent with the edge of the Tail. Pin in place. Repeat for the other side.

Baste in place with a 1/4 inch seam allowance.



Step 22

Check to make sure the Accent fabric is stitched at the top point. Lay the piece that was just sewn so the Accent fabric is on top. Place the other Tail piece right side down on top of it and pin in place. (The Accent piece should be sandwiched between the two Tail pieces.) Stitch all three layers together, stitching EXACTLY on top of the previous stitches.



Step 23

Clip the point and curves.

Turn the Tail right side out.

If needed, trim the visible Accent fabric to create the desired shape.



Step 24 [\(Video Link - Connecting Back 34:07\)](#)

Place the Back piece right side up. Place the Tail right side down on top of it. Align the raw edges of the Tail with the raw edge at the bottom of the Back piece. Align the center of the Tail with the center mark on the Back.

Baste in place with a seam allowance that is just slightly smaller than 1/4 inch.



Step 25 ([Video Link - Connecting Front 30:11](#))

Lay the Front piece right side up.

Place the arms and legs at the corresponding marks so they are facing inward and the raw edges align.

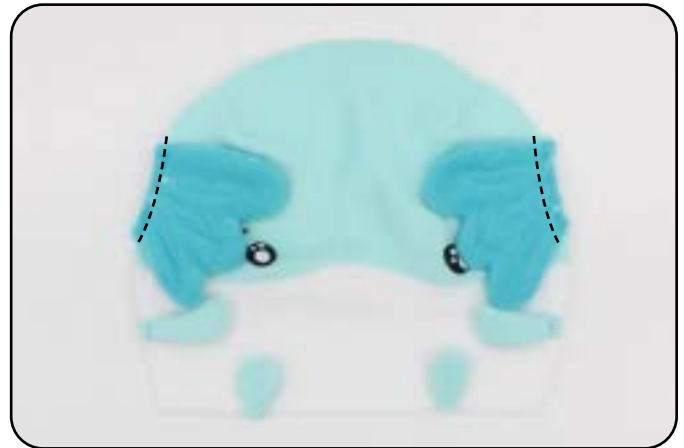
Pin in place.

Baste with a seam allowance that is just slightly smaller than 1/4 inch.



Step 26

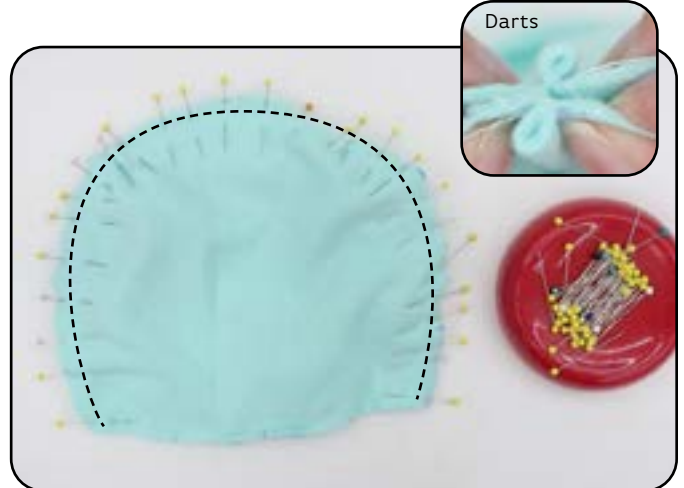
Pin the Gills in place. Make sure the Gills are right side down on top of the Front. Place the Gills between the guidemarks indicated on the pattern. The clips on the Gills should help the edges fan out a little. The raw edges of the Gills should align with the raw edges of the Front. Baste in place with a seam allowance that is just slightly smaller than 1/4 inch. When sewing, try to fan the Gill's seam allowance as much as possible so you can follow the curve of the Front piece.



Step 27 ([Video Link - Front to Back 34:37](#))

The Back and Front are now complete. Place them right sides together and pin around the curved edge. If you made the darts, be sure to align the dart seams and push the dart seam allowances in opposite directions to minimize bulk.

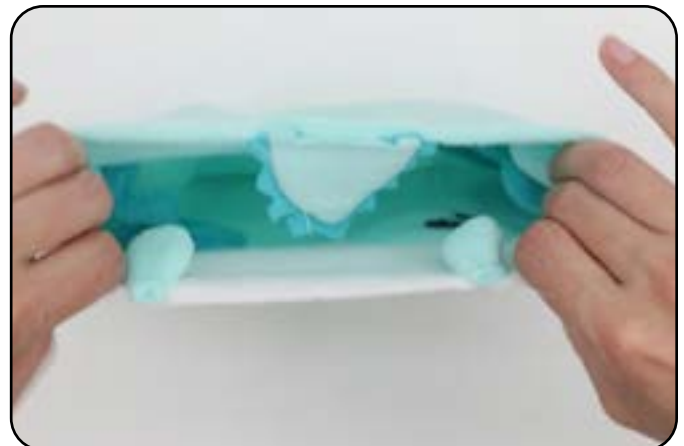
Sew around the curved edge with a 1/4 inch seam allowance.



Step 28 ([Video Link - Pinning the Base 36:48](#))

Turn the now connected body right side out and check to make sure everything looks okay. If so, you are ready to add the Base.

To add the Base, flip again, turning the body of the plush wrong side out. Make sure the legs and tail are tucked inside the plush. (It will look kind of like a little bag.)



Step 29

Pin the Base to the body. (You can hand baste instead if you prefer.)

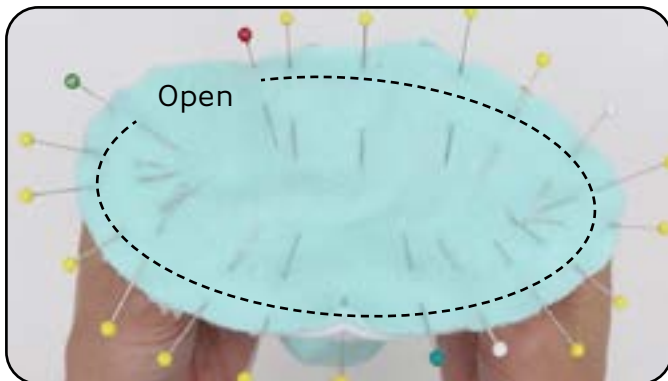
Make sure right sides are together. First, align the left and right center marks of the Base with the side seams of the body. Pin. Next, align the top and bottom center marks on the Base with the front and back center marks on the body. Pin. Then pin in between. Make sure to **leave an opening to turn** on the back side of the plush between the tail and the side seam.

TIP: It will help later if when you pin the pins are primarily on the base side of the plush. When pinning, poke up through the base and down through the base so the ball side of the pin ends up on the base side of the fabric. In other words, both the point end of the pin and the ball end of the pin should lay on the base fabric not the body fabric.

TIP: It helps to use a green pin to indicate where you are going to start sewing and a red pin to show where you are going to stop sewing so you don't forget to leave the opening when stitching.

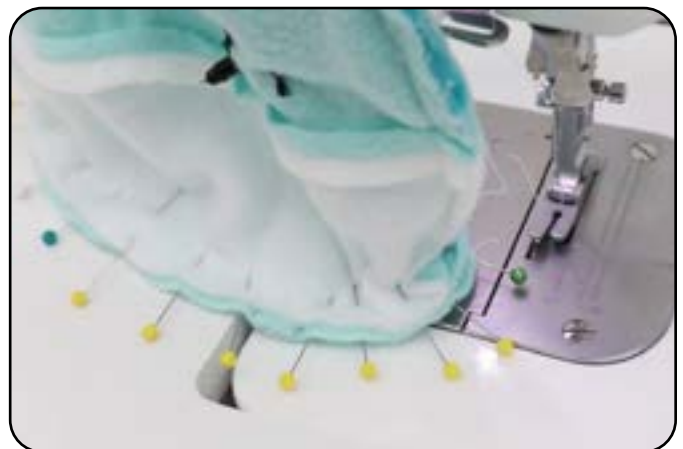
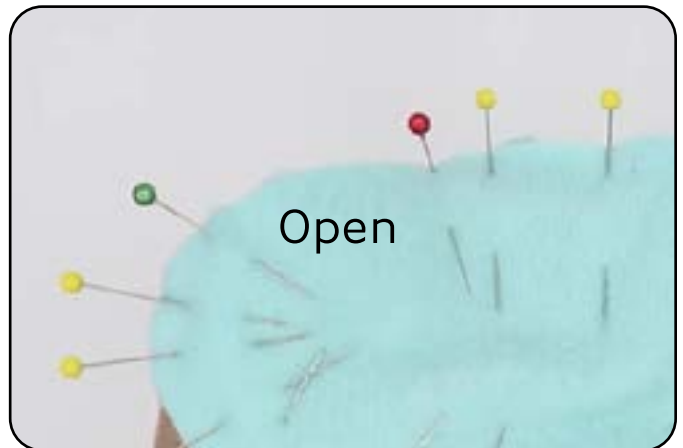
Step 30 [\(Video Link - Sewing the Base 39:54\)](#)

Place the Base piece on the bottom when sewing. The plush should almost be able to stand up on the Base. Starting at the green pin, sew around the Base using a 1/4 inch seam allowance. Stop at the red pin making sure to leave the opening to turn.



Step 31

Check to make sure everything looks okay and there are no holes.



Step 32

Gently, turn the plush right side out through the opening.

Make sure everything looks okay. Clip any loose threads and correct any mistakes.



Step 33 [\(Video Link - Stuffing 42:22\)](#)

Stuff with polyfil. Make sure the polyfil is light and fluffy. If it is dense and clumpy, tear it into small pieces before placing it in the plush.

Tip: Stuffing firmly will help the plush hold its shape later.

TIP: At this point, the plush may have an odd shape and bulge in places. Take the time to use your hands to press and pull on the plush to help create the shape you want.



Step 34 [\(Video Link - Slip Stitching 43:37\)](#)

With a needle and thread slip stitch the opening closed.

[\(Video Tutorial - How to Slip Stitch\)](#)

TIP: When you finish slip stitching, hide the thread tails inside the plush by poking the needle into the plush next to the knot and out through the side of the body. Then clip



Step 35

Enjoy your finished plush!

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