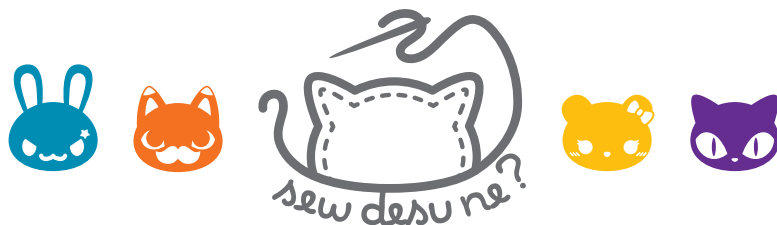# CHOCOBO
PLUSH

CHOCOBO PLUSH

Kweh! Final Fantasy fans are sure to love this chibi version of the classic rideable bird. It has a large head, a prominent beak and a big feather head crest. The body is weighted for balance and has two tucked wings, tiny feet, and a cute spiked tail.

SKILLS USED:

- Fusible web applique
- Sewing inner curves to outer curves,
- Basting
- Y-seams
- Sewing small pieces
- Ladder stitch

DIFFICULTY:

■ ■ ■ ■ □ □ □ □ □ □

The head of the plush calls for a y-seam, which is tricky to those unfamiliar. And attaching the head might be difficult to those not used to the ladder stitch.

MAKES:

One plush: about 7" tall, 6" long, and 4" wide.

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materials & tools:

- ¼ yd. of fabric for main body
- ⅛ yd. of fabric for beak and feet
- 4" x 8" piece of scrap fabric for bean pouch
- 3" x 3" piece of white applique fabric (felt, cotton, etc.) for eyes and eye shines
- 3" x 3" piece of blue or accent applique fabric for irises
- 2" x 2" piece of pink applique fabric for blush
- 4" x 4" piece of light or heavy duty fusible web
- sewing thread to match main fabric and applique fabrics
- poly-fil stuffing
- poly pellets or beans for weight
- basic sewing tools (sewing machine, scissors, iron, needles, pins, fabric marker, seam ripper)

faux fur

minky

cuddle fleece

micro fleece

anti-pill fleece
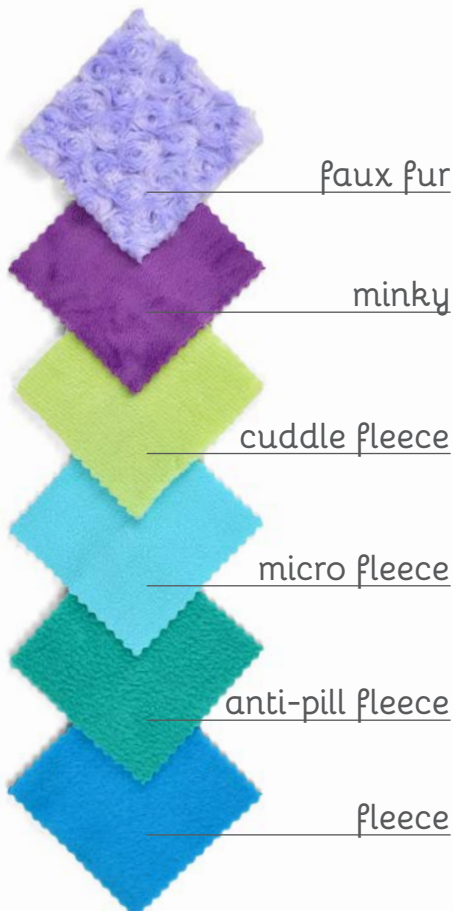
fleece

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.
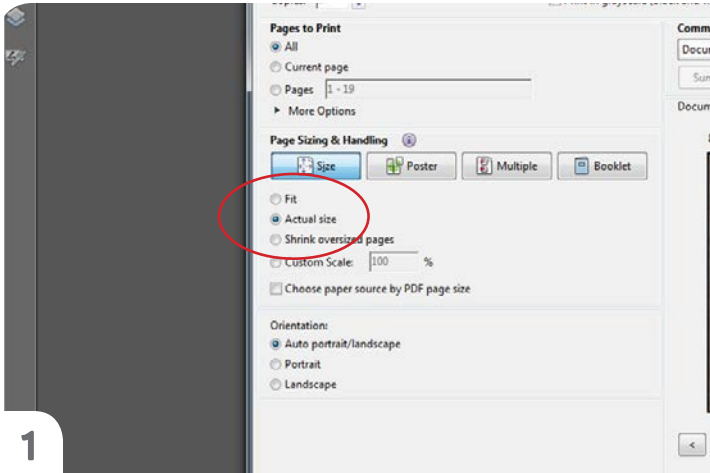
**MINKY** **VS.** **FELT**

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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.
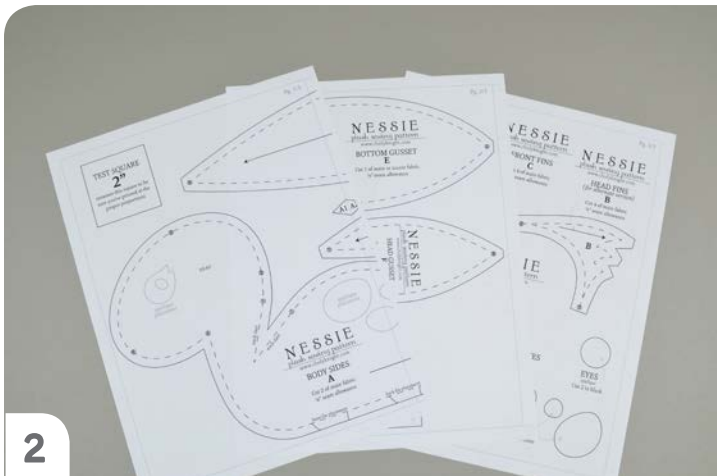
Print the pages needed for the file. You might have one or more. Either way, be sure you have the full collection by noting the page numbers in the corner.
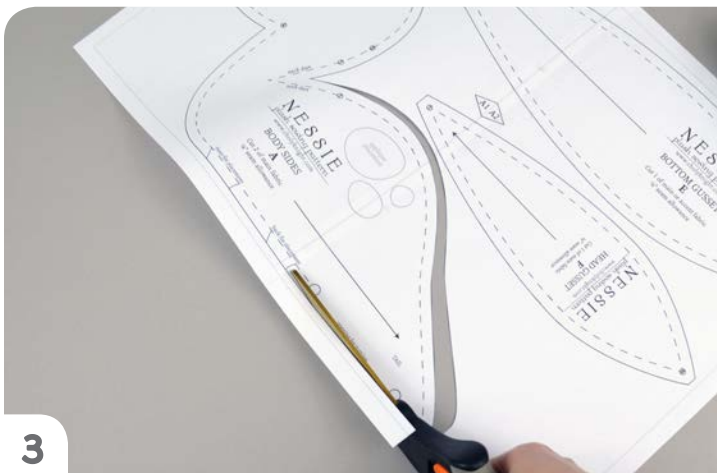
You can trace the patterns onto a different paper, or you can also just cut them straight from the printer paper. They might be a little hard to pin through, so you might want to use your longest pins. But you could also use pattern weights or trace the outlines onto the fabric with a washable marker and cut them out from there.
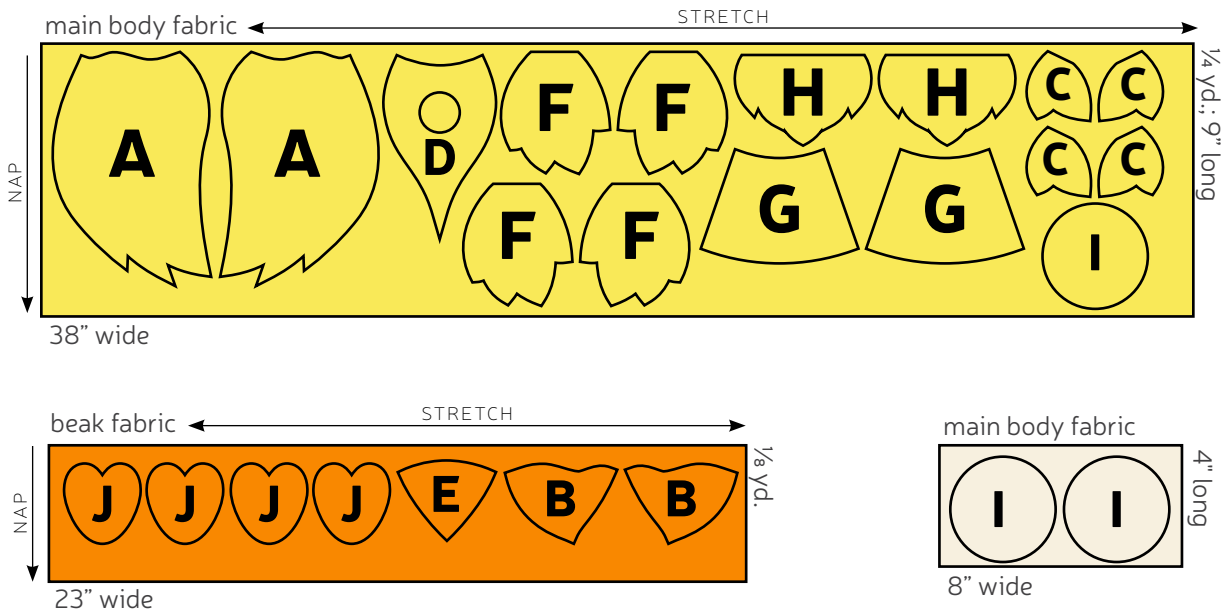
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cutting the fabric:

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:

main body fabric — STRETCH

¼ yd.; 9" long

NAP

A A D F F H H C C
F F G G C C
I

38" wide

beak fabric — STRETCH

⅛ yd.

NAP

J J J J E B B

23" wide

main body fabric

4" long

I I

8" wide

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 ¼" throughout the project.

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trace onto paper side

fuse onto applique fabric

hold applique while pulling paper away

1. PREPARE THE FACE APPLIQUE

a. Take your fusible web and trace all your applique pieces onto the smooth (paper) side. You should have 2 eyes, 2 irises, 2 eye shines, and 2 blush marks.

b. Fuse the bumpy (adhesive) side onto the wrong side of your applique fabric. The eyes and eye shines go onto white, the blush onto pink, and the irises onto blue (or your color of choice).

c. Cut out the eye pieces and arrange them on the **HEAD SIDE** (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.

fuse eyes first

add smaller pieces next

sew around edge of applique
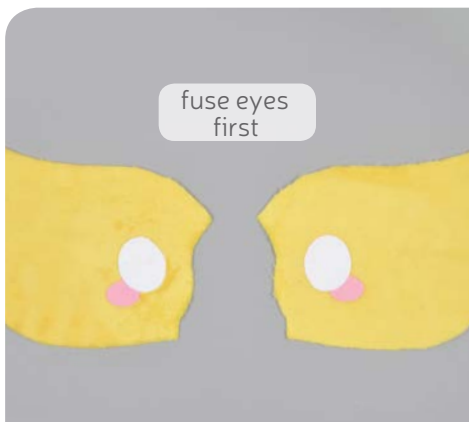
2. FUSE THE APPLIQUE

a. Tuck the blush pieces under the eyes, then fuse the eye pieces 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).

b. Next, move onto the iris and eye shine pieces. Fuse them much the same way as you did the eyes, using the paper pattern and photos as a guide.

c. 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.*

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straight stitch; great for felt

applique whipstitch
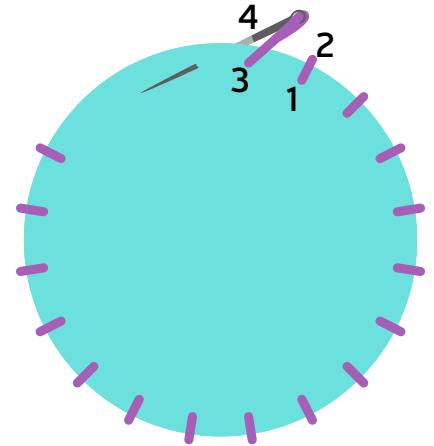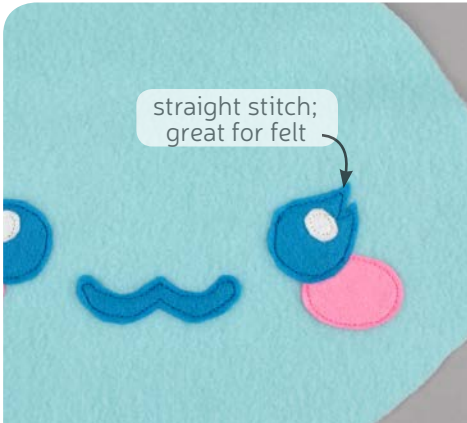
2a. OTHER APPLIQUE OPTIONS

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.

line up notched edges of head & beak

stretch head to fit around beak
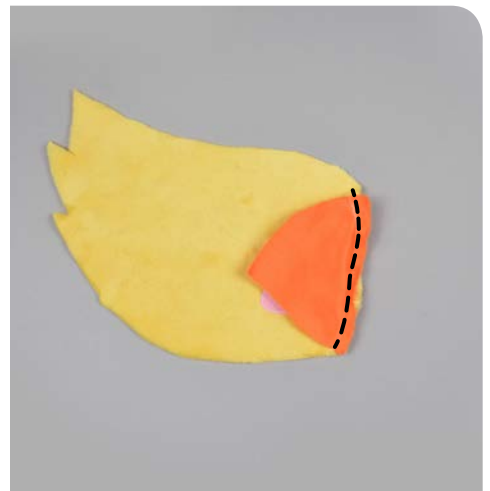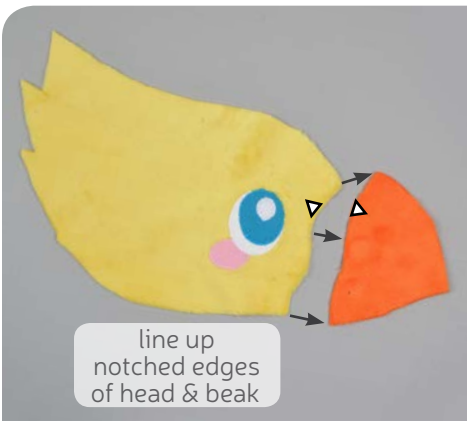
3. SEW THE BEAK SIDE

a. Grab your **BEAK SIDE** piece (B). To be sure you attach the right edge, locate the **notch m rking** on the beak and **HEAD SIDE** (A) pieces.

b. Align the notched edge of the beak with that of the head side. Stretch the head side to fit around the curve of the beak. Pin the fabrics together.

c. Sew the fabrics together along this edge.
Once complete, repeat with the remaining head side and beak side pieces.

sew desu ne?

leave open for turning

trim inner and outer corners
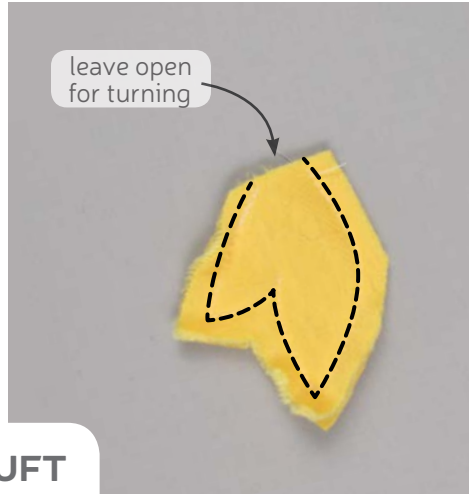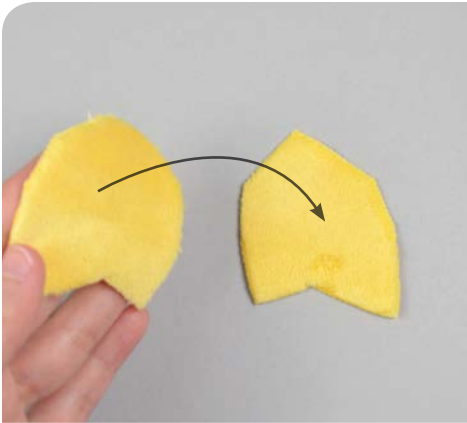
4. SEW THE FEATHER TUFT

a. Grab your **FEATHER** pieces (C). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.

b. Sew the feathers around the pointed edges, leaving the short straight edge free for turning right side out.

c. Trim the excess seam allowance at the inner and outer corners of the feathers to reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the feathers are turned. Repeat with the remaining two feather pieces for two complete tufts total.

align within placement lines

repeat for both head sides

5. BASTE THE FEATHER TUFT

a. Turn the **FEATHERS** right side out through the opening you left before.

b. If you haven't already, locate the *fe ther pl cement lines* located on the paper pattern for the **HEAD SIDES** (A). Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open end of the feather tuft within these lines. Mine have the larger feather pointing toward the front of the head, but either way looks fine.

c. Baste the feather to the head side within the seam allowance. Repeat for the other head side and the other feather tuft.

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).

sew desu ne?

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line up notched edges

stretch head bottom to fit

6. SEW THE HEAD BOTTOM & BEAK

a. Grab your **HEAD BOTTOM** (D) and **BEAK BOTTOM** (E) pieces. Locate the *single-notched edges* of both pieces. These are the edges that will be matched up next.

b. Stretch the notched edge of the head bottom piece to fit along the beak. Pin the edges together.

c. Sew the two fabrics together along the notched edge.

match up circle markings

match up beak seams

stop sewing at circle marking

7. SEW THE HEAD SIDE TO THE BOTTOM

a. With the **HEAD SIDE** and **BOTTOM** sewn, you can finally attach the two. If you haven't already, locate the *circle markings* found on the paper pattern for the head side and bottom. This is where the head side will match up with the back corner of the head bottom.

b. Bend the head side to fit around the curved edge of the head bottom. The seam from the beak should match up as well as the circle marking at the corner of the bottom. Make sure the feather is tucked inside. Pin the fabrics together.

c. Sew the head side to the bottom along this edge. Try to stop at the circle point exactly and go no further. This will make future steps easier.

match up circle markings

match up beak seams

stop sewing at circle marking

8. SEW THE OTHER HEAD SIDE

a. Repeat the same process for the other **HEAD SIDE** (A) piece on the other curved edge of the **HEAD BOTTOM** (D).

b. Line up the edge of the head side that has the feather attached and match up the *circle m rkings*. For an even better finish, match up the beak seams as well.

c. Sew this edge of the head pieces. For the best result, your seam should start and end exactly at the points you started and ended in step 7. There should be no gap, and ideally no overlap either.

line up top edge

seam ends at beak point & circle marking

trim seam allowance at corners

9. SEW THE TOP HEAD SEAM

a. After sewing the **SIDES** and **BOTTOM**, this just leaves the top of the head free. Line up the free edges of the head side pieces. Match up the jagged edges that make the head crest as well as the beak seams.

b. Sew from the point of the beak around the back of the head, and back down to the *circle m rking* from steps 7 & 8. For the best results, start and stop your seam at the ends of your previous seams.

c. Trim the excess seam allowance around the inner and outer corners of the head. This will reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the head is turned later.

sew desu ne?

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turn right side out

keep stuffing light near back

10. TURN AND STUFF THE HEAD

a. Turn the head right side out through the opening in the head bottom. Define the points in the back of the head with a chopstick or similar turning tool.

b. Stuff the head through the opening in the bottom. Be sure to get plenty of stuffing in the beak. The back of the head looks best with very light stuffing.

leave open for turning

trim seam allowance at corners

11. SEW THE WINGS

a. Grab your **WING** pieces (F). Take two of them and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.

b. Sew the wings together along the jagged edge; be sure to pivot at the corners for the best result. Leave the short straight edge free for turning the wing later.

c. Trim the seam allowance between the inner and outer corners of the wing to reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the wing is turned.
Repeat this with the remaining two wing pieces for two complete wings total.

sew desu ne?

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align wings within
placement lines

baste within
seam allowance

12. BASTE THE WINGS

a. Turn the **WINGS** right side out through the opening you left before.

b. If you haven't already, locate the **wing pl cement lines** located on the paper pattern for the **BODY** (G). Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open end of the wings within these lines. The sample has the wings with the largest point near the top, but either way looks good as long as it's consistent.

c. Baste the wings to the body within the seam allowance. Repeat for the other side of the body and the remaining wing.

use template to
trace seam lines

leave open
for turning
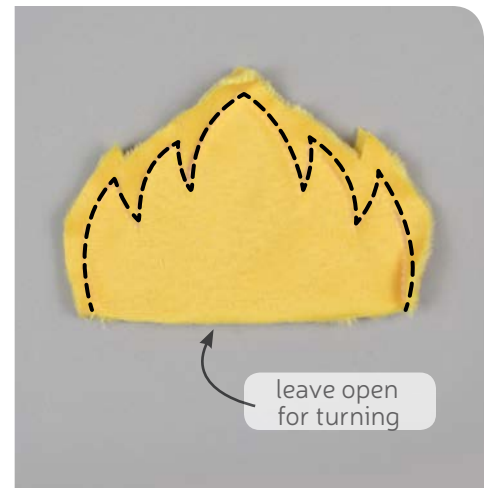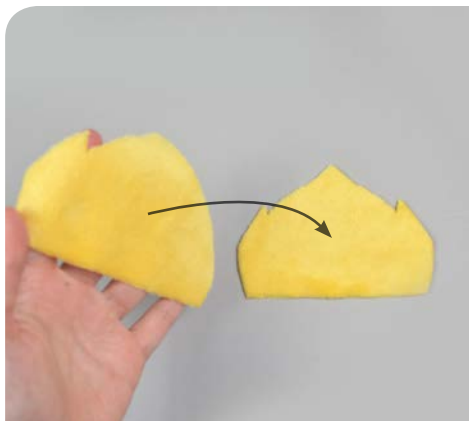
13. SEW THE TAIL

a. Grab your **TAIL** pieces (H). Align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.

b. The points of the tail are a little detailed, so to get the seam line right, use the paper pattern as a tracing template. Trim away the seam allowance and line up the paper against the wrong side of the fabric. Trace the seam lines onto the fabric for stitching later.

c. Sew the tail pieces together along the traced edge. Leave the bottom straight edge free for turning the tail later.

sew desu ne?

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trim seam allowance at corners

stuff very lightly

14. TURN AND STUFF THE TAIL

a. Trim the seam allowance between the inner and outer corners of the tail to reduce bulk and increase flexibility when the tail is turned.

b. Turn the tail right side out. Define the points with a chopstick or similar turning tool.

c. Stuff the tail very lightly with stuffing.

align both body pieces

baste within seam allowance
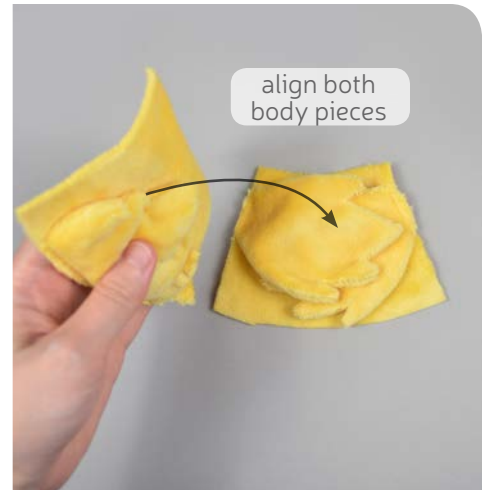
15. BASTE THE TAIL

a. Grab your remaining **BODY** piece (G). If you haven't already, locate the *t il pl cement lines* located on the paper pattern for the **BODY** (G). Transfer them over to the right side of the fabric. Align the open end of the tail within these lines.

b. Baste the tail to the body within the seam allowance. Push the stuffing out of the way for an easier time sewing.

c. Grab both of your body pieces. Once should have the wings basted and the other should have the tail. Line them up with right sides facing and raw edges aligning.

sew desu ne?

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16. SEW THE BODY

a. Sew the **BODY** (G) pieces together along the straight edges. The upper curved edge is for the neck and the lower edge is for the body bottom.

b. Grab the **BOTTOM** piece (I) from your main fabric. Align the larger lower opening of the body around the circle that is the bottom. Make sure the tail and wings are tucked inside. Pin the edges together.

c. Sew around the bottom piece to secure the body. Be sure to sew slowly and carefully through the tail.

d. Turn the body right side out.

a. sew sides of body only

b. line up body with bottom

c.

d.

leave open for filling

fill over half full

machine or hand-sew closed
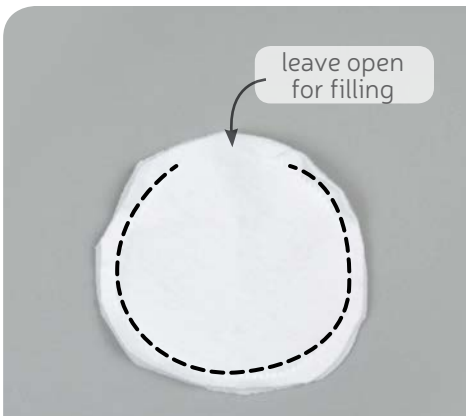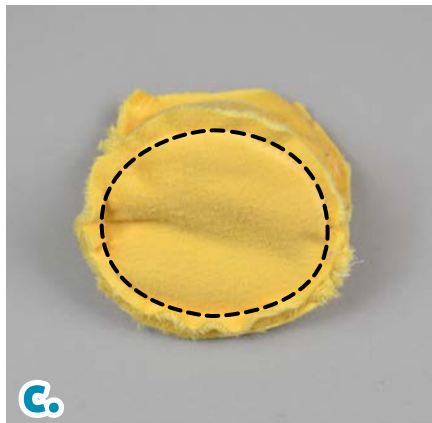
17. SEW THE BEAN POUCH

a. Grab your two **BOTTOM** pieces (I) from the *scr p f bric*. Align them both with either side facing and raw edges matching up. Sew around the perimeter of the pieces, but leave about a 2" opening along the side for filling the pouch next.

b. Grab a spoon or funnel and fill the pouch with poly pellets until it's a little over half full. Pin the opening closed so no pellets spill out.

c. Sew the opening closed with a back stitch or whip stitch by hand. If you're more experienced, you can also do it by machine, but go very slowly and carefully so you don't sew over a pellet. They are very prone to breaking needles.

sew desu ne?

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place pouch on bottom

align head over body opening
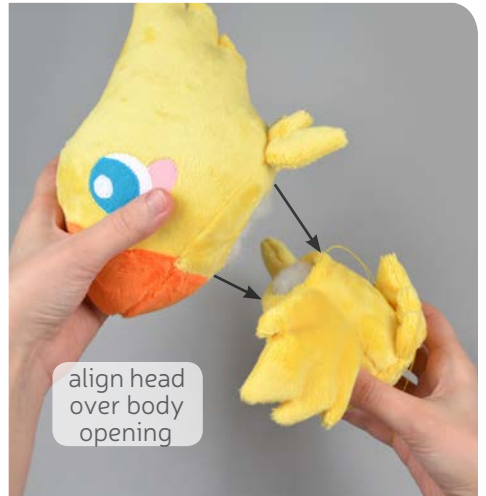
18. STUFF THE BODY

a. Place the finished pouch at the bottom of the **BODY** of the Chocobo so it rests flat.

b. Stuff the rest of the body with stuffing until it's full.

c. Align the **HEAD** over the body so the openings match up. The back of the head should go in the same direction as the tail. The front of the head should point between the wings.
Thread a hand-sewing needle and knot it at the end. Insert the needle from the inside of the plush outward.

ladder stitch around neck

bring needle out 1-2" away

hold thread taut while clipping

19. ATTACH THE HEAD

a. Ladder stitch the head to the body. Take a ⅛" stitch into the center back of the body, then take one into the center back of the head. Go around the neck in this manner until the head is completely secured.

➔ *Check the plush from different angles as you go. Be sure that the head is centered as you stitch around the neck.*

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!

2 1
4 3
seam allowance (folded inside)
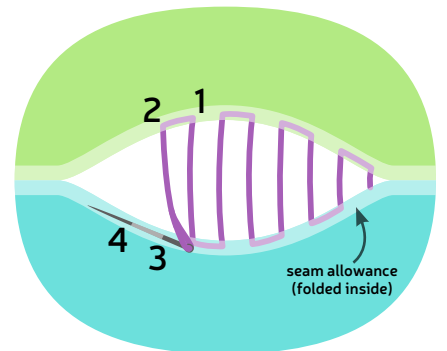
sew desu ne?
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clip
between
toes

20. SEW THE FEET

a. Grab your **FEET** pieces (J). Take two and align them with right sides facing and raw edges matching up.

b. Sew around the perimeter of the foot. Be sure to pivot at the corner between the toes.

c. Clip into the seam allowance at the corner between the toes to increase flexibility with the foot is turned later.

cut through one
layer of fabric only

whip
stitch
closed
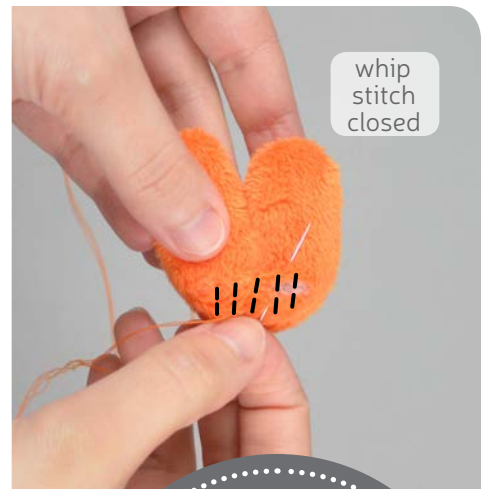
21. TURN THE FEET

a. To turn the **FEET**, cut a small clip into the 'heel' of the foot, at the base between the toes. Cut through one layer of the fabric only.

b. Turn the foot right side out through the opening in the base. Stuff the foot lightly with stuffing.

c. Close up the opening in the foot with a quick whip stitch to keep the stuffing from spilling out in future steps.

whip stitch:
A kind of overhand stitch where the needle is brought from the back of the seam to the front. The thread wraps around the fabric edge and the process is repeated for each stitch.

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align feet flush with bottom

stitch along base of foot

stitch underneath toes

22. ATTACH THE FEET

a. Align the **FOOT** at the front of the plush. Place it with the whip stitched side toward the body (so it's not seen) and flush with the bottom, toes pointing up. They're placed about ½"-1" away from the side seams, but the paper pattern has guidelines as well.
Hold the feet in place by sticking pins into the base of the foot through the body of the plush.

b. Ladder stitch the feet in place similar to how you did back in step 19. Stitch around the base of the foot.

c. When you reach the toes, fold them back and stitch from the underside of the shape. This will leave the toes free. Repeat with the other foot on the other side of the body.

fold wing to body

stitch top edge of wing

23. FOLD THE WINGS

a. You can choose to leave the wings open, or have them folded. For folded wings, bring the top edge of the wing down so it's parallel with the side body seam.

b. Sew this top edge of the wing to the body with a ladder stitch. Repeat with the other wing.

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

sew desu ne?

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FEET (J)
Cut 4 from accent fabric
¼" seam allowance

NAP

STRETCH

STRETCH

NAP

HEAD BOTTOM (D)
Cut 1 from main fabric
¼" seam allowance

applique placement

NAP

STRETCH

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HEAD SIDE (A)
Cut 2 from main fabric
¼" seam allowance

feather placement

head bottom guide

TAIL (H)
Cut 2 from main fabric
¼" seam allowance

STRETCH

NAP

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BOTTOM/BEAN POUCH (I)
Cut 1 from main fabric
Cut 2 from scrap fabric
¼" seam allowance

FEATHER (C)
Cut 4 from main fabric
¼" seam allowance

NAP

wing placement

STRETCH

NAP

BODY (G)
Cut 2 from main fabric
¼" seam allowance

wing placement

foot placement

foot placement

tail placement

STRETCH

NAP

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WING (F)

Cut 4 from main fabric
¼" seam allowance

BEAK BOTTOM (E)

Cut 1 from accent fabric
¼" seam allowance

NAP

STRETCH

STRETCH

NAP

BEAK SIDE (B)

Cut 2 from accent fabric
¼" seam allowance

EYE
applique
trace & cut
2 of white

EYE SHINE
applique
trace & cut
2 of white

IRIS
applique
trace & cut 1
each of blue

BLUSH
applique
trace & cut
2 of pink