



# Sloth Plush *Instructions*

by LearnCreateSew.com

## *Supplies*

7 x 45 inches of faux fur/fleece fabric for body  
 6 x 13 inches of fleece for the face and claws  
 embroidery floss  
 Polyfil  
 coordinating thread  
 coordinating felt/fleece (eye accents 3x3, nose 1x1,  
 and if not using safety eyes - eyes 2x2)  
*Optional:* 2 safety eyes (16mm), Fusible Web,  
 Pellon SF101 fusible interfacing, scrap fabric,  
 magnets, velcro

## *Tools*

Sewing Machine  
 Machine needle: 12 - 14 universal  
 (or ball point if sewing fleece)  
 Hand sewing needles  
 Gauge or measuring tool  
 Fabric marking tools (chalk, pens, markers, etc.)  
*Optional:*  
 hemostats, needle threader, doll needle,  
 walking foot

## *Using these Instructions & Fabrics*

- The images in these instructions will show varying fabrics and colors. Some may show fur, others fleece, and some flannel. The image selected best shows the construction step indicated.
- Any special techniques necessary for working with specific fabrics will be indicated.
- If your fabric is thick you may want to increase your stitch length to 3.5
- Fleece is the easiest fabric to use for this project. Faux fur is a bit more challenging but produces great results. The project can also be made using flannel. However, flannel is the most difficult for some crafters as it has no stretch so you have to be very exact in your measurements, also the seams rip the easiest under pressure and as a result the fabric can fray or pull apart when stuffing.



### *Step 1 - Choosing Fur Fabric*

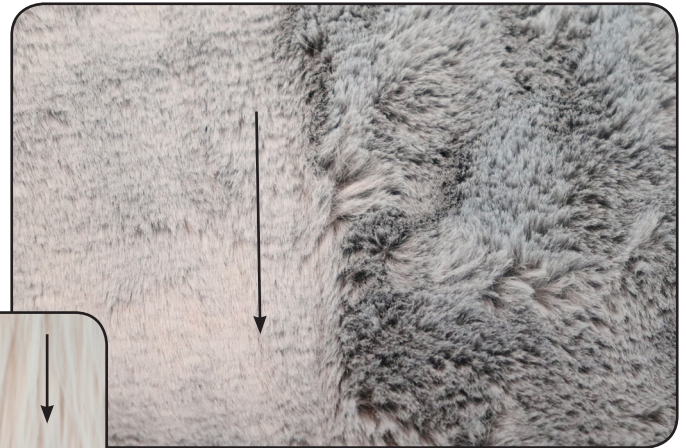
There are many fabulous options when selecting faux fur to make a plush. I chose simple swirl fur fabric. It has a short pile (length of hairs), is not stretchy, which makes it easier to work with, and is very affordable in comparison to many faux fur fabrics. Faux fur that is really stretchy, dense, or has a really long pile can be more challenging to sew. If your fur fabric is stretchy you can minimize the stretch by fusing Pellon SF101 or another woven interfacing to the back. Always test your fabric first to make sure it will not be damaged by the heat.



### *Step 2 - Pile on Fur Fabric*

Look at your fur fabric and take note of the direction of the pile. This is the direction the fibers will naturally be lying. When the fur is going the direction of the pile it lays nice and smooth. In the two images shown I intentionally brushed the fur in opposite directions. The pile becomes obvious when you do this. You can usually easily see the direction the fur should go. Arrows mark the correct direction of the pile.

(It is difficult to see on the swirl fur. If in doubt, assume the pile is parallel to selvage.)



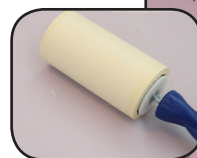
### *Step 3 - Pile on Fur Fabric*

Mark the direction of the pile on the WRONG side of the faux fur. You will be cutting your pieces from the wrong side and you want make sure they lay in the correct direction. The arrow will help you arrange the pieces correctly even when you can't see the fur itself.



### *Step 4 - Working with Fur*

Working with faux fur can be extremely messy. It often gets all over your work space, clothes, up your nose...everywhere. Be prepared. Have a vacuum, lint roller, duster, or other cleaning tool handy. It is helpful to clean as you go.

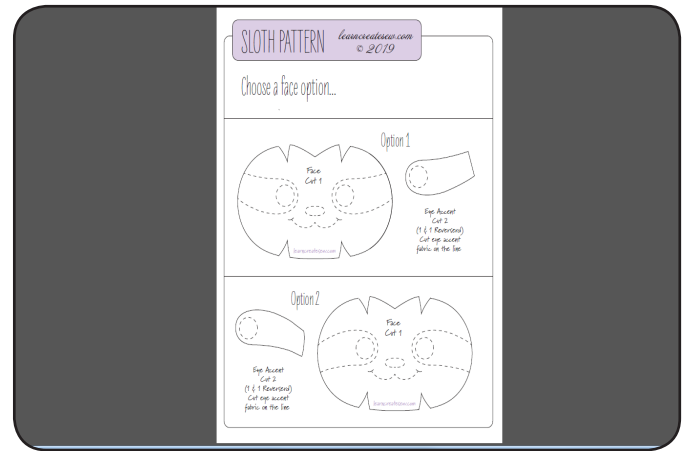


## Step 5

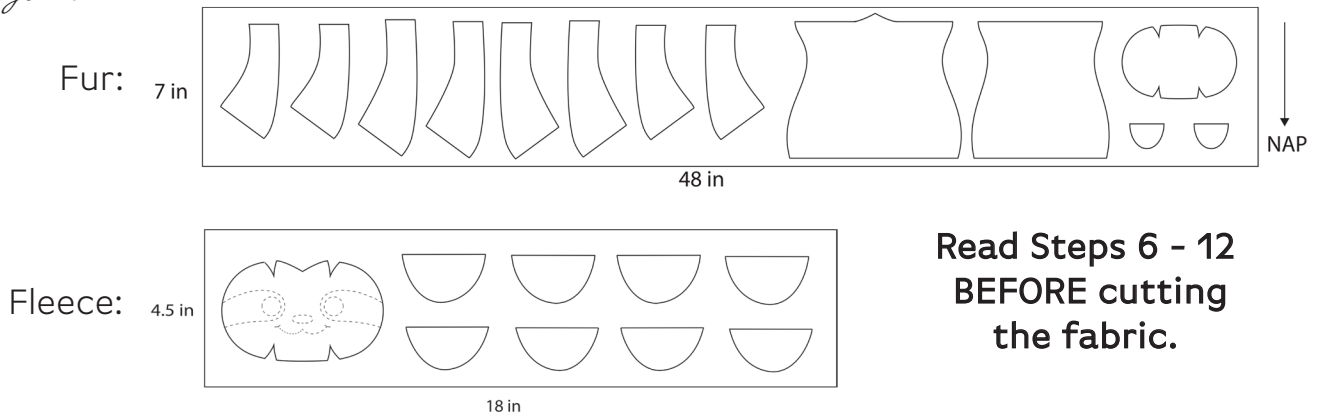
Print out the pattern.  
Be sure to print "Actual Size".  
Do not scale to fit.

Choose the face design you will be using. One face option has eye accents that are facing up and the other has them facing down. You only need one face option.

Cut out your pattern pieces on the solid lines with paper scissors.



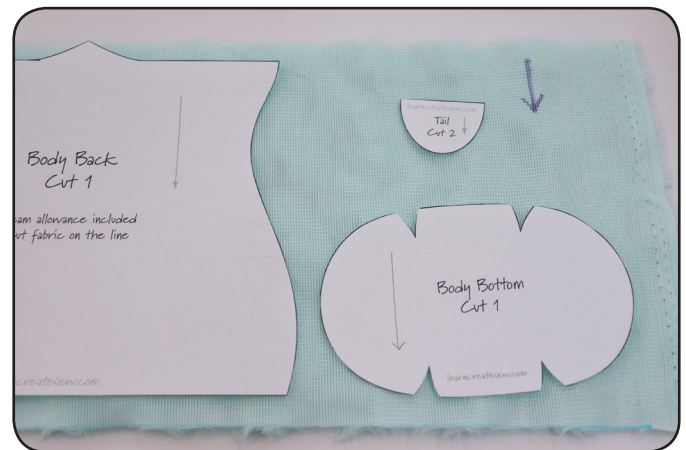
## Cut Layouts -



**Read Steps 6 - 12  
BEFORE cutting  
the fabric.**

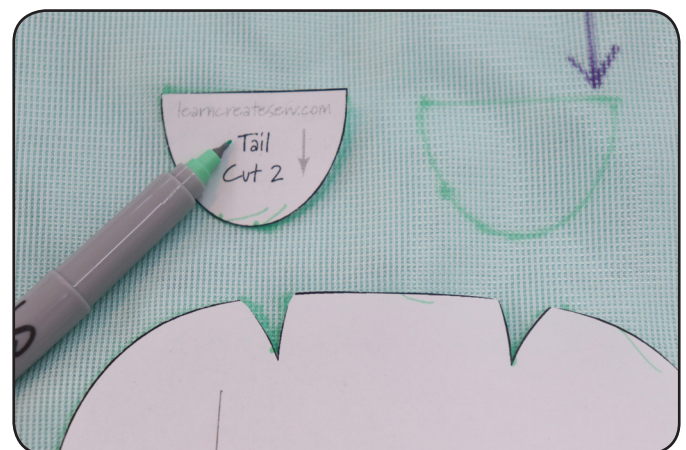
## Step 6

Lay your fabric right side down.  
If you are working with fur, take note of the mark you made representing the direction of the pile.  
Lay your pattern pieces on the fabric following the cut layout so the arrows on the pattern are going the same direction as your pile. **Keep the pattern pieces at least 1/2 inch apart.**



## Step 7

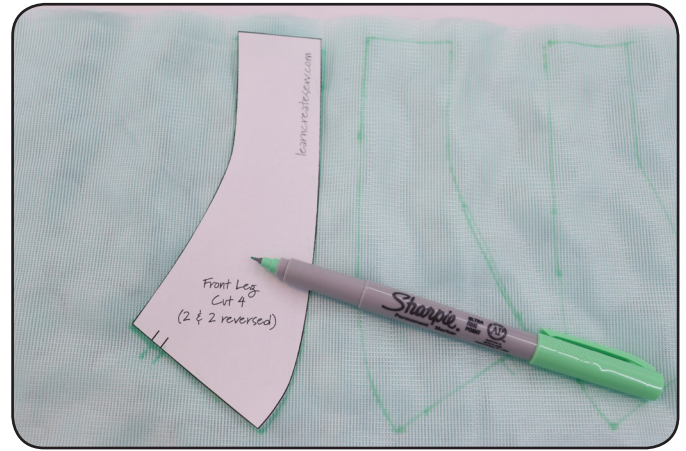
Trace around the edge of your pattern pieces on the **WRONG** side of the fabric. I like to use a coordinating colored sharpie, but test this first to make sure it can't be seen on the right side of your fabric. Remember to keep at least 1/2 inch between pieces.  
(Read Step 8 before tracing.)





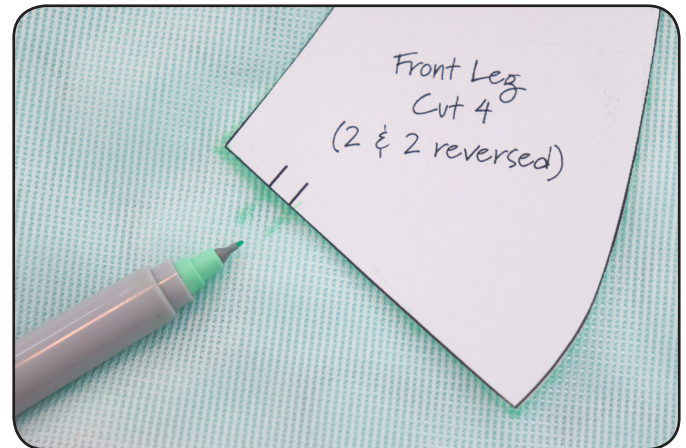
### Step 8

Some of the pieces have a left and right side. So, you need to create mirror images. You can do this by tracing the pattern piece right side up, then flipping it over and tracing it with the right side of the pattern facing down (you will see the back of the paper.) For example, for the front legs you will trace 2 with the pattern facing up and 2 with the pattern facing down. This is called 2 and 2 reversed. Read the pattern pieces to see which need to be cut reversed. (In the image you can see the leg on the left is being traced right side up, but the leg on the right was traced with the pattern facing down.)



### Step 9

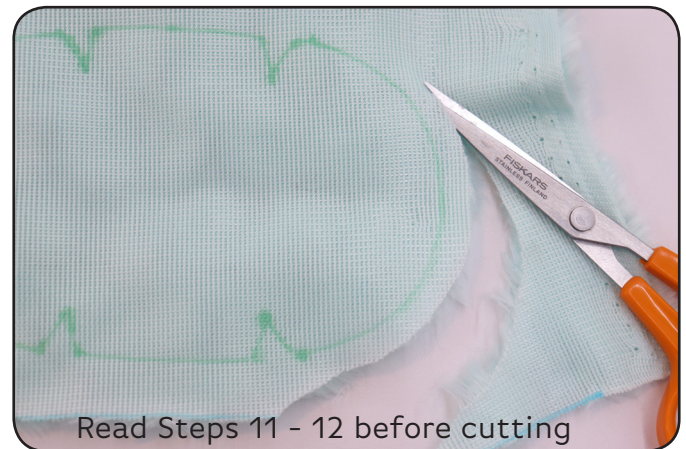
**The lines you have drawn are the SEW line for most pieces.** They represent where you will sew when you put the pieces together. Some of the pattern pieces also have special markings that help you align pieces later. For example, the front leg piece has two dashes at the bottom that will help you align the leg with the claws later. Be sure to transfer these markings to the fabric by drawing a mirror image of the mark away from the pattern piece.



### Step 10 - How to Cut Fur

When cutting faux fur cut the backing fabric ONLY. You do not want to cut the pile. If you do the fur can look cut and choppy on your final project. The hairs will separate and pull apart easily once the backing fabric has been cut. Cut in very small snips, careful only to cut the backing.

For the rest of the instructions several photos will show the construction of the sloth using fleece instead of fur, as the process is easier to see with fleece fabric. You will use the same construction methods when sewing fur or flannel as you do with the fleece unless otherwise indicated.



### Step 11 - Add a Seam Allowance

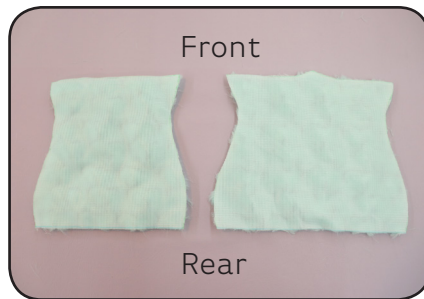
Many of the pieces do not include the seam allowance. **The line you drew is the SEW line.** Cut out the pieces 1/4 inch AWAY from the line you drew unless otherwise indicated on the pattern. Cut out the tail, leg, face, bottom, and claw pieces leaving a 1/4 inch seam allowance around each piece. (You do not need to angle in for the darts.)





### Step 12

Cut out the Body Back and Body Belly pieces exactly on the line.



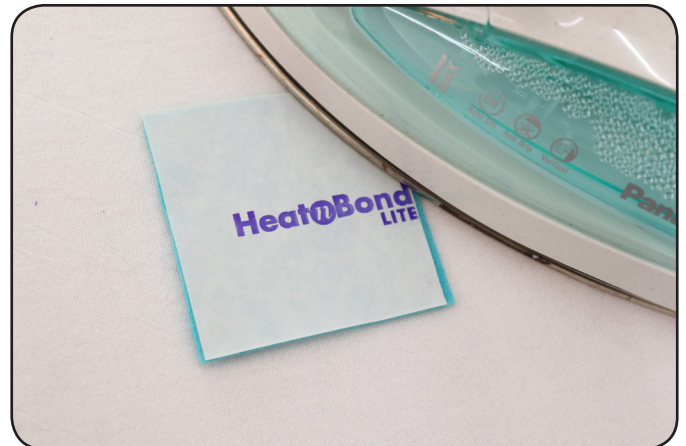
### Step 13

Your body pieces should now be all cut out.



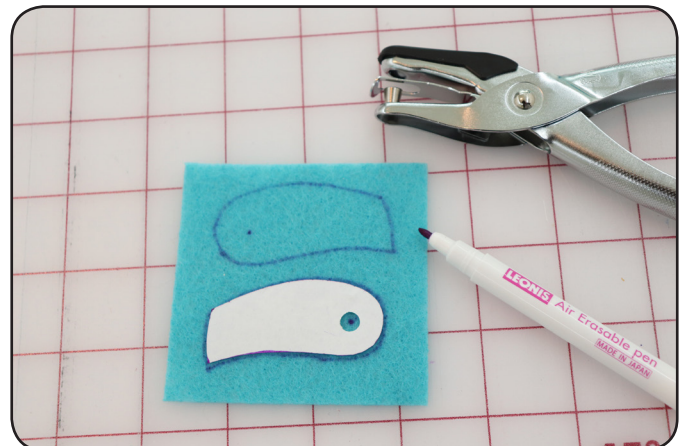
### Step 14 (Optional)

If desired fuse heat n bond or another type of fusible web to the back of your felt pieces. (It is a good idea to test the fabric first. I also like to use a press cloth if using fleece.) Fusible web will help your small details stay in place when sewing. I prefer not to use it because it stiffens the fabric, but it does make the detail sewing process easier.



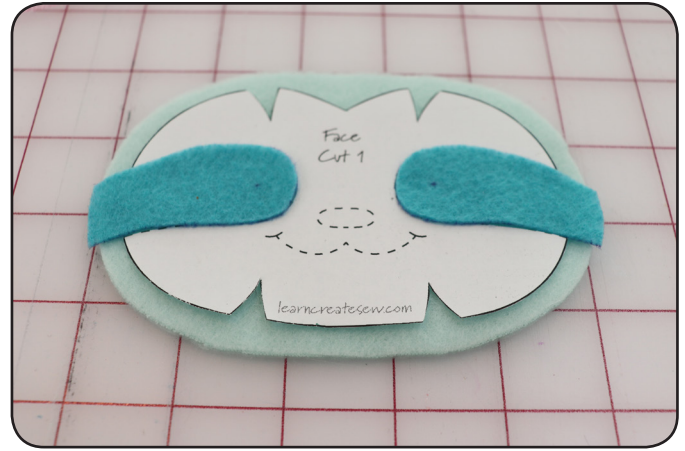
### Step 15

Trace the eye detail pieces onto felt (or fleece). I used an air erase marker. (Always test your fabric before using vanishing markers.) Trace 1 and 1 reversed. This can be done on the wrong side of the fabric if you are worried about seeing the lines. If you are using safety eyes, mark the center of the eye placement on the right side of the fabric. I like to use a hole punch to remove the center of the eye from the pattern piece so I can then mark it easily.



### Step 16

Use your pattern piece to place the eye accent piece on the right side of the face. I like to cut out the eye accent sections from the pattern and then lay the felt in their place when it is on the face. Remember to center the pattern piece and leave the 1/4 inch seam allowance. If you used fusible web press in place. Remember to use a press cloth and test your fabric. If you are not using fusible web, pin in place.



### Step 17

Zig zag around the edge of the eye accent pieces or sew them on by hand. If you zig zag with your machine be sure to stop frequently with your needle down, lift your presser foot, and turn your fabric as needed. A zig zag with a width of 3.5 and length of 1.5 - 2.5 usually works well. Adjust the length depending on how thick the fabric is and how close you want the stitches to be.



### Step 18

I like to stitch the nose on by hand. Especially, if you are not using fusible web. It is so small, it can be difficult to sew with the machine. I like to sew with a variation of the whip stitch using a single layer of thread. (Tip: Waxing your thread helps prevent tangles.)



### Step 19

Next we are going to sew the darts on the face. Fold the fabric, right sides together, so the fold is going directly down the center of the dart. Pin in place.

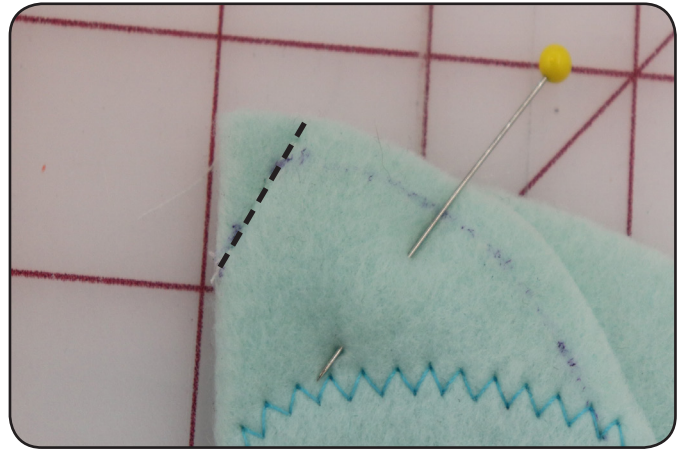




### Step 20

Stitch from the point to the edge of the fabric following the curve. Backstitch or leave your thread tails long and tie knots by hand.

Repeat for all four face darts.



### Step 21

Sew all four darts on the bottom piece as well.



### Step 22

Your face piece should now be curved.



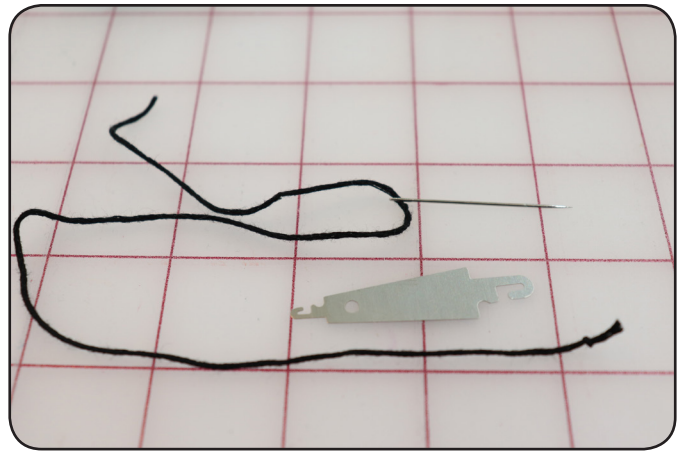
### Step 23

Use a vanishing marker to draw where you would like the mouth to be placed. (Test your fabric first.)



### *Step 24*

Thread your needle with embroidery floss. Your needle should be as thin as possible but have an eye that is long enough for the thick embroidery floss. It may be helpful to use a needle threader. (About 15 inches of embroidery floss should be sufficient.) Tip: Don't double the embroidery floss when sewing, it becomes too thick to work with easily.



### *Step 25*

Use a backstitch (or any other stitch you prefer) to hand sew the mouth. Make sure your knots are on the wrong side of the fabric.



### *Step 26*

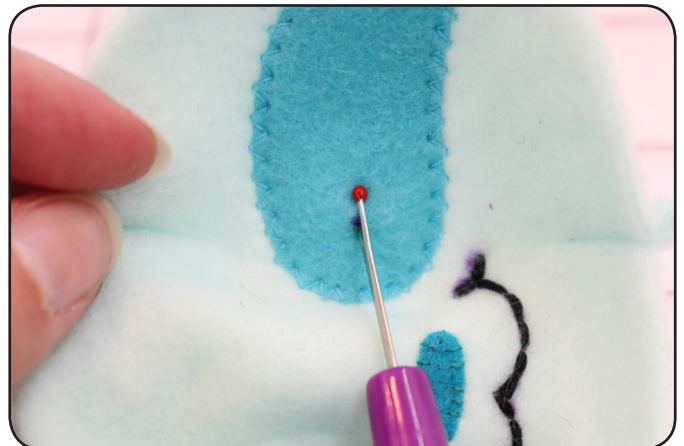
The mouth should be completed! Add any additional decorative stitching details you would like on the face. (Note: You will need about 2 yards of embroidery floss to add the details to the claws. Make sure you have enough remaining to do this.)



### *Step 27*

It is time to add the safety eyes. To insert the eyes make a VERY small hole where you would like the eyes to go. Keep this as small as possible! If the hole is too big the eyes will be loose and/or fall out. I like to make the hole using my seam ripper, but you must be very careful to make sure it is not too big. Using a small pair of scissors also works.

If you don't have safety eyes you can use the pattern to cut out two circles from felt and stitch them on as you did the nose.





### Step 28

Place the eye posts through the holes.  
Place the back over the post.  
The face is now complete!



### Step 29

Do you want your sloth to be able to hang? If so, decide what method you will use.

- 1) Velcro - This is the easiest method and sometimes the most secure when hanging, but the velcro is very visible. (Steps 39 - 41)
- 2) Magnets - This is my preference, but they can be tricky to work with, especially on a machine, and you have to make sure they are strong enough to support the weight of the plush through 2 layers of fabric. (Steps 30 - 38)
- 3) Snaps - I have never used them but they would probably work as well.



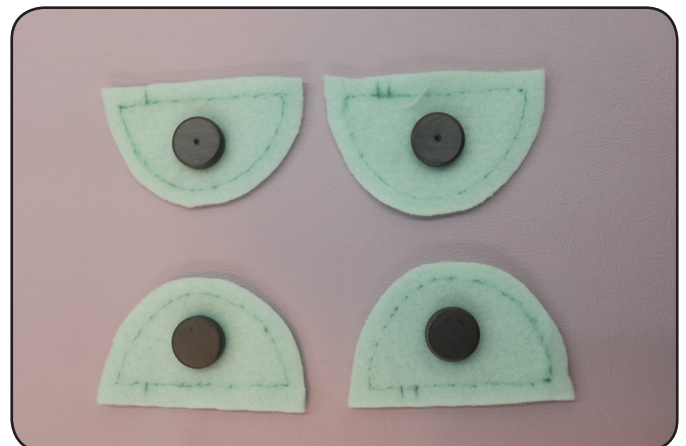
### Step 30 - Magnets - Warning

If you choose to use magnets you should know that they can sometimes interfere with computerized sewing machines. While it has never happened to me, I have heard of other sewers having difficulties with their machines as a result of magnets. I try to always keep the magnet down by the needle plate. While magnets are very nice on the final plush they can add a bit of difficulty when you sew the rest of the project as the magnets will get stuck to the needle plate and tools when working on the plush.

If you are concerned about sewing the magnets on your sewing machine you can always choose to use velcro or snaps instead. You can also cover the magnets with a circle of fabric, and slip stitch them onto outside the plush once it has been completed. This will eliminate the difficulty and potential hazards that arise when trying to sew the magnets with the machine.

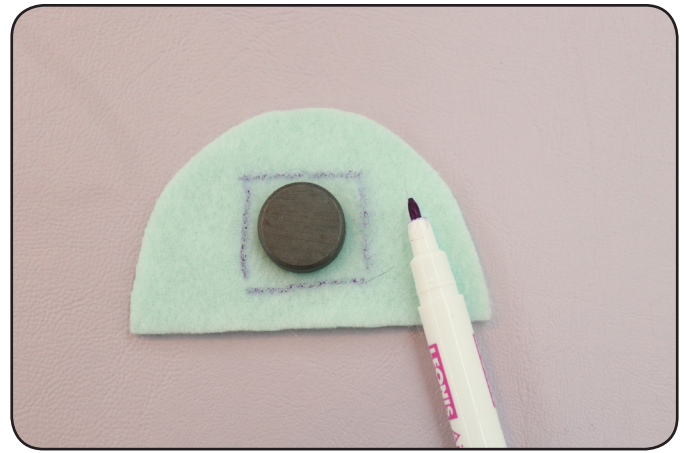
### Step 31 - Magnets

You need 2 front claw pieces that are mirror images, and 2 back claw pieces that are mirror images.  
You also need a magnet for each.  
Place the magnet on the center of the piece and then test to make sure the magnets are going the right direction so that the front pieces will stick together and the back pieces will stick together.



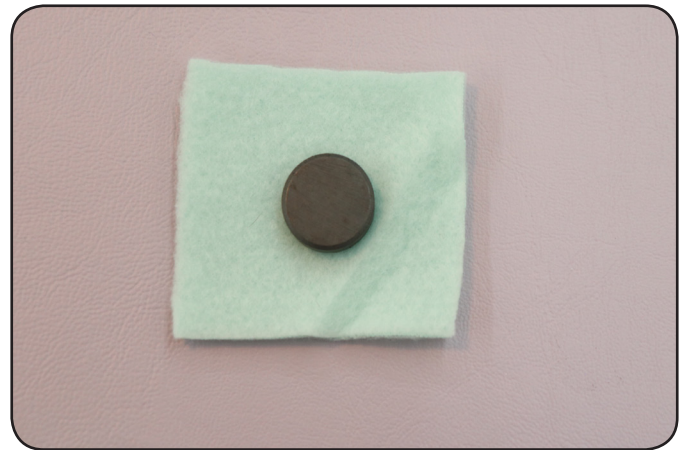
### *Step 32 - Magnets*

Place one claw piece right side up.  
Set the magnet in the center.  
Draw a square around the magnet that extends at least 1/8 inch beyond the edge of the magnet. You may want it further away if the magnet is really thick.



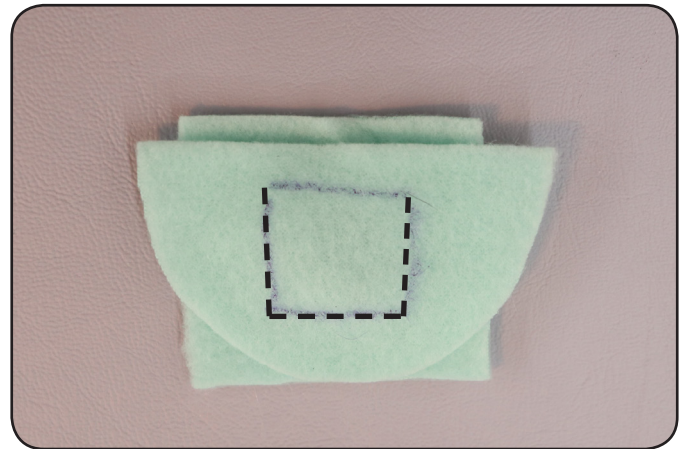
### *Step 33 - Magnets*

Cut a square of scrap fabric that extends about a half inch beyond the edges of the magnet.  
Remove the magnet.



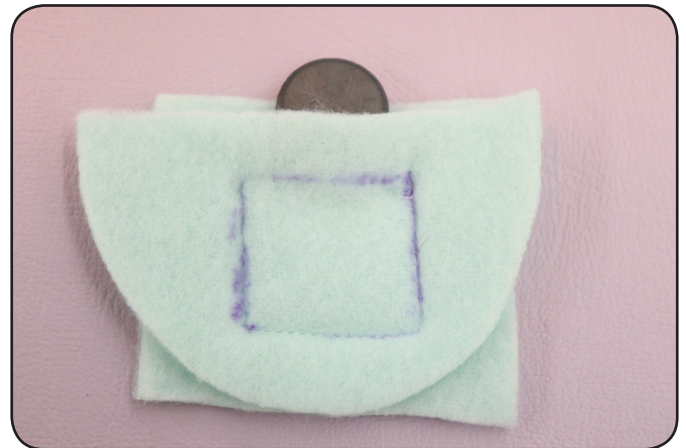
### *Step 34 - Magnets*

Place the claw piece right side up directly on top of the square. Stitch around 3 sides. Remember to backstitch.



### *Step 35 - Magnets*

Slide the magnet inside the little pocket made in Step 34



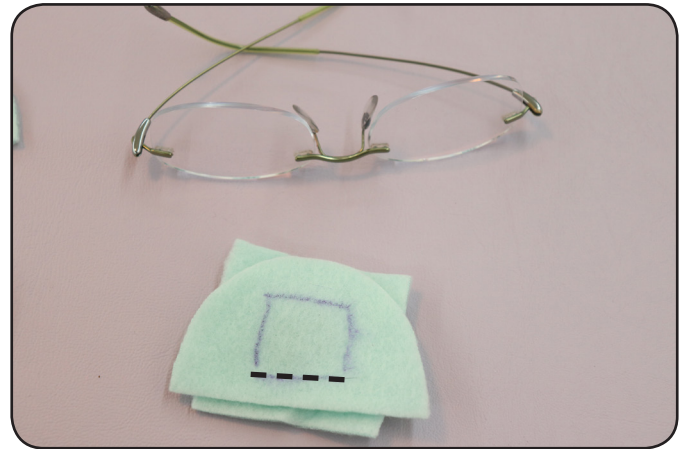


### Step 36 - Magnets

Slide the magnet as far away as possible from the open side as possible. Next we will sew the fourth side closed. You may want to use a zipper foot, as the magnet may stick to a regular foot. Wear glasses or protective goggles.

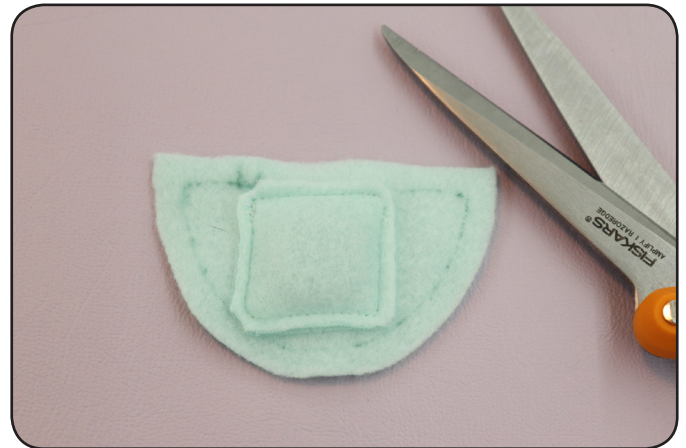
Since you will be stitching around a hard magnet the needle could break and you want to be sure to protect your eyes just in case your needle breaks.

Stitch the fourth side closed.



### Step 37 - Magnets

Turn the claw over and trim the edges of the square so it extends only about 1/8 inch from the stitches. You also want to make sure they do not cross over your claw stitch line (the line you drew) if possible.



### Step 38 - Magnets

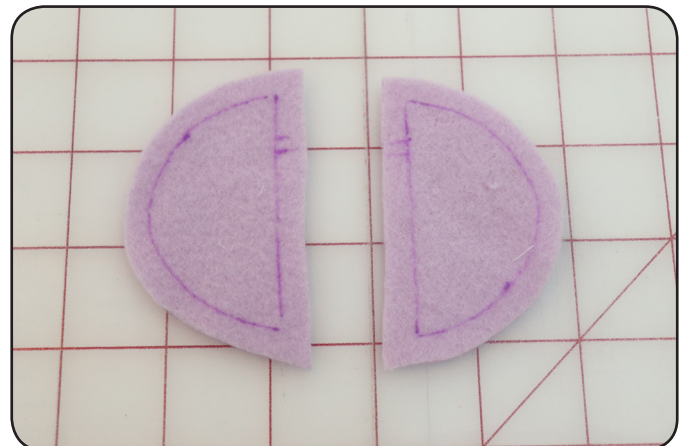
Repeat for four claws, two front, two back, that are mirror images. Check to make sure the magnets stick together properly and are going the right way. It's a good idea to do this before stitching the fourth side closed if possible.

Skip to Step 42



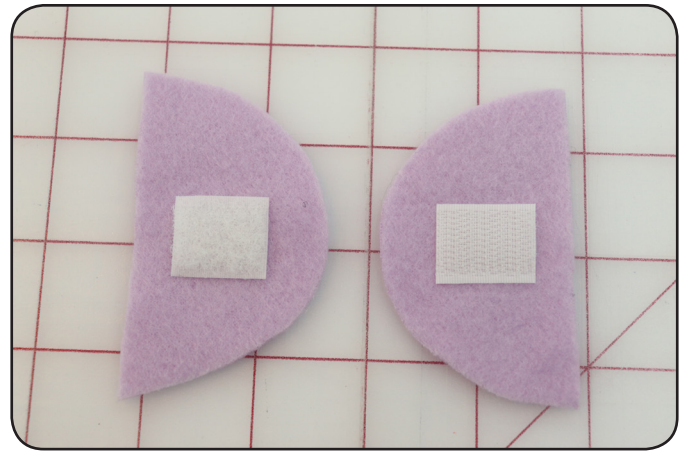
### Step 39 - Velcro

Select two front claw pieces that are mirror images.



### *Step 40 - Velcro*

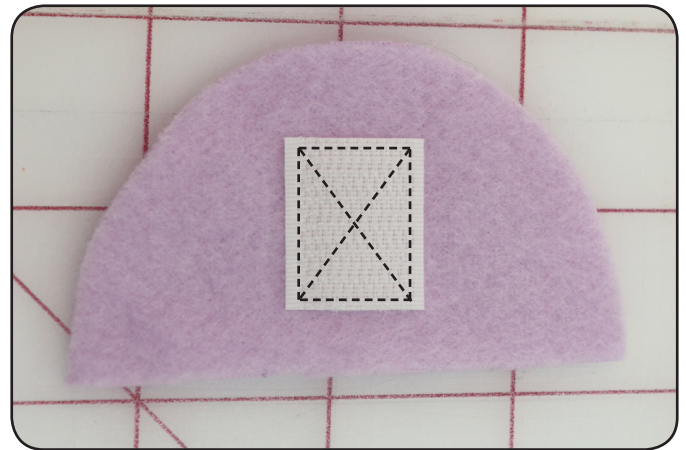
Place the claw pieces right up.  
Place an approximately 3/4 inch square of velcro in the center of each claw piece.  
One of the squares will be the rough side of the velcro and one square will be the soft. These two claw pieces will stick together on the final plush.



### *Step 41 - Velcro*

Stitch each piece of velcro in place.  
Be sure to backstitch and make sure it is very secure.

Repeat this process for two back claw pieces. (You should have a total of 4 claw pieces with velcro.)



### *Step 42*

We will now sew the legs. Layout the leg pieces and their corresponding claw pieces. You can use the dashes to determine which pieces should match up.



### *Step 43*

Select a right and left set of front legs. If you are using magnets or velcro, only one of the claw pieces in the set should have a magnet or velcro. The other should just be fabric.

The front legs are longer than the back.





### Step 44

Flip the claw piece over so that the right side of the claw is touching the right side of the corresponding leg fabric. Align the straight edges.



### Step 45

If you are using fur, pin carefully. I like to start by placing a pin through one corner of the claw straight back through the corresponding corner on the leg and then pin. I do the same for the other corner and then pin the middle. This helps to ensure that the fabric is properly aligned.



### Step 46

Stitch along the straight edge following your stitch line. If your fabric is stretchy or moves around a lot a walking foot may be helpful. Also, if you used magnets, you may need to use your zipper foot for this step. Make sure the magnet is pushed as far away from the seam as possible.



### Step 47

Lay the leg flat. Finger press the seam open. Baste the seam allowance in place sewing about 1/8 inch from the edge so that the seam stays open. Repeat the process for the other front leg and claw pair from Step 43.



### Step 48

Lay one of the leg pieces right side up.



### Step 49

Lay a matching leg piece right side down on top of it. (Remember only one side should have a magnet or velcro.)

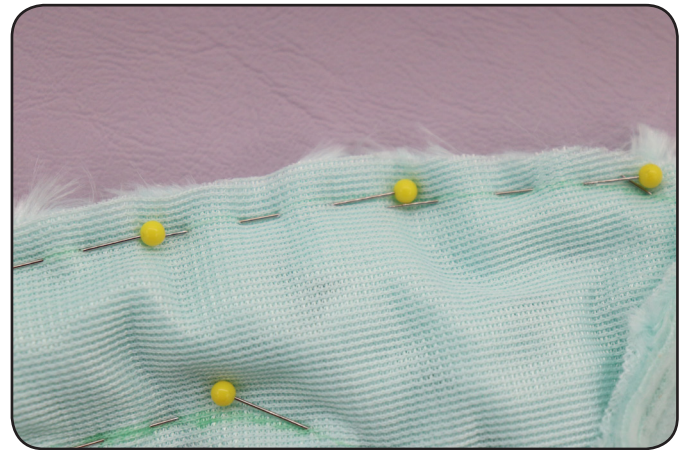
Take the time to align the seam allowances from the claws.

Stitch around the leg following your line. Leave the top of the leg open for turning. If you are sewing faux fur see Steps 50 - 52 for tips on pinning before you sew.



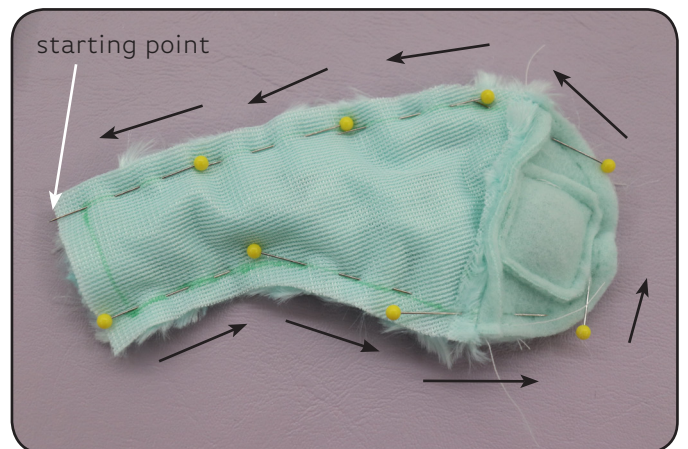
### Step 50 - Pin Basting

Fur fabric can be very slippery and can slide around a lot when sewing. As a result, it helps to pin securely. One method that works well on fur fabrics is called pin basting. With pin basting you weave your pins through the fabric, as you would a needle when sewing, along the stitch line. This secures the fabric in place along the line you want to sew. (See Step 51 for more details.) You can also pin normally if desired.



### Step 51 - Pin Basting

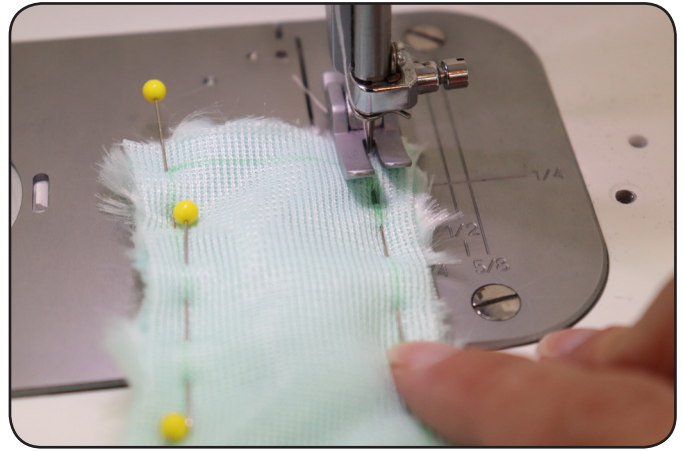
Pin basting holds the fabric in place very well, but there are some challenges with pin basting. First, you have to plan ahead. You want the point of all of the pins pointing toward the beginning of the sewing path, where you will begin sewing. This will help you to be able to remove the pins easily while you are sewing.





### *Step 52 - Pin Basting*

When you are sewing and the pin is resting directly in front of the needle (about a centimeter away), hold onto the ball of the pin and continue sewing. The fabric will move forward and slide off the pin, but the pin will be held securely in place. It takes a bit of practice, but it can be really handy when you get the hang of it. When you become accustomed to how the fabric moves off the pins, you can even use the pins to help guide your fabric. Since the pins are on the sewing path you want to be very careful to make sure you do not sew on any pins. If you are concerned you may hit a pin you can wear goggles or glasses to protect your eyes.



### *Step 53*

Turn the leg right side out.

I like to use hemostats to help turn the long legs, but if you don't have them there are many turning tools that can help. Even a wooden spoon handle works great. If you are using fur fabric do this step carefully, the hairs can get caught in the hemostats making it a bit challenging to turn the pieces the way you would with fleece or flannel.



### *Step 54*

Repeat this process for all four legs.

If you used magnets or velcro make sure the legs stick together properly. If they don't, make any adjustments necessary.



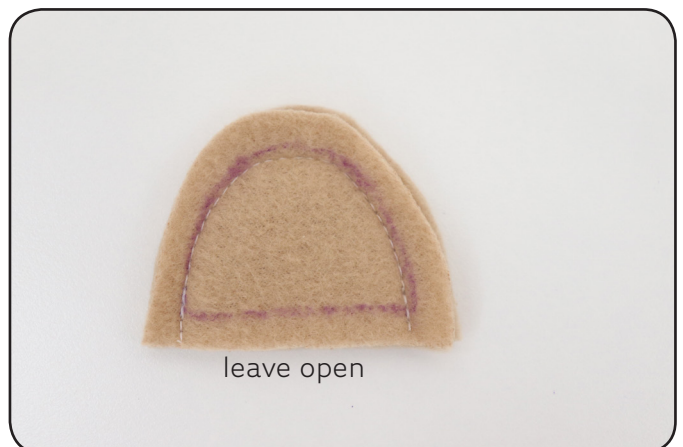
### *Step 55*

Next let's sew the tail together.

Lay the two tail pieces right sides together.

Stitch along the curved line.

Leave the straight bottom edge open.



### Step 56

Turn the tail right side out.



### Step 57

Use polyfil to stuff the legs and tail. Remember to fluff your polyfil, separate it into little pieces. This will help prevent clumps and will provide a better shape. I like to use just a tiny bit of polyfil in the tail. Hemostats are helpful.



### Step 58

Let's add the claw lines! We will do this using embroidery floss. If desired, mark where you want the claw lines to go. I used an air erase marker to draw lines. You can use whatever method you would like to stitch the claw lines to your plush. I will show you the method I like to use to make the visible knots as minimal as possible, yet still balanced. Feel free to skip to Step 79 if you would prefer to use your own method.

(Note: From here on I will refer to the bottom of the leg, the claw section where we will be making lines, as the paw.)



### Step 59

To add the claw lines you will need a needle, a long thin needle with a large eye is preferable. Doll needles work great. You will also need embroidery floss. Needle threaders are also helpful. About 17-18 inches of embroidery floss is sufficient.

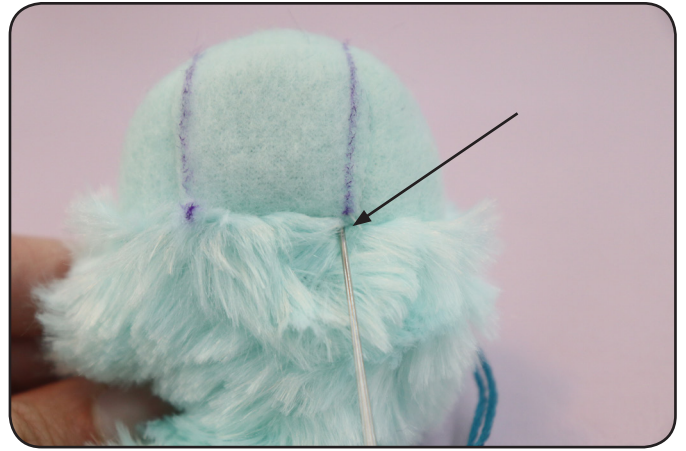
Thread the needle with embroidery floss. (Your thread does not need to be doubled.)





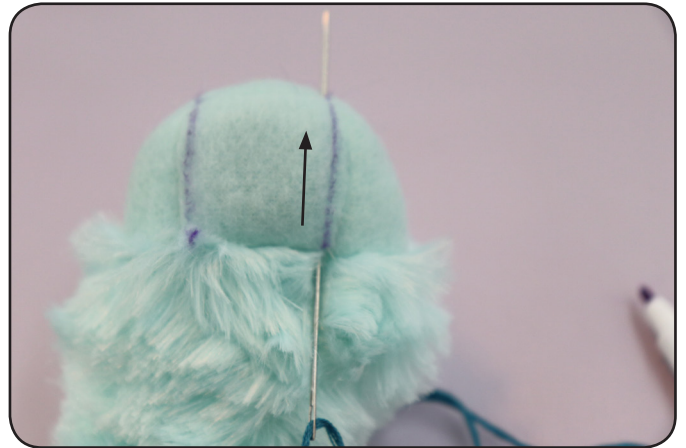
### *Step 60*

Poke the needle into the plush at the base of the right side claw line. This is right at the seam in between the paw and the fur.



### *Step 61*

Push the needle up so that it exits the plush at the top of that same line at the seam.



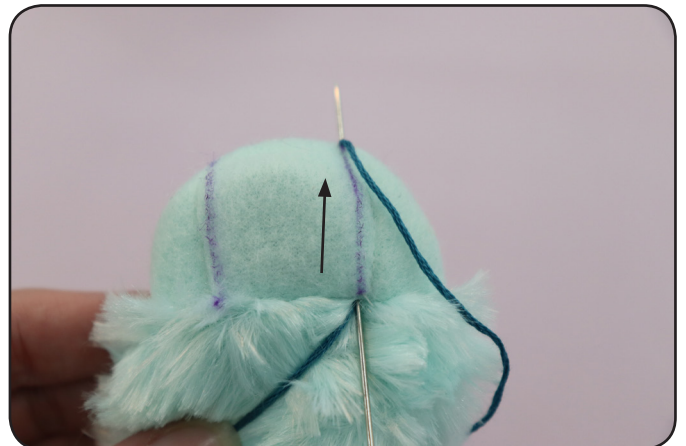
### *Step 62*

Pull the thread through. Leave a thread tail of about 3 inches or so.



### *Step 63*

Insert the needle at the base of the claw line at the same spot you started sewing. Push the needle up so that it exits the top of the claw at the same point as the previous thread. (This will make the lines match up.)



*Step 64*

Pull the thread so that it is snug.



*Step 65*

Turn the paw over.



*Step 66*

Insert the needle at the base of the line opposite (in front of) the one you have already sewn.



*Step 67*

Push the needle through so that it exits the paw at the same point where you started sewing.





### *Step 68*

Pull the thread through and tie a knot at the base of the line using your thread and the thread tail from when you started sewing. Leave the needle attached.



### *Step 69*

Insert your needle right next to your knot. Push your needle through horizontally so that it exits at the base of the line on the left. Pull through.



### *Step 70*

Pull your thread snug. Insert the needle at the top of the paw at the top of the left line.



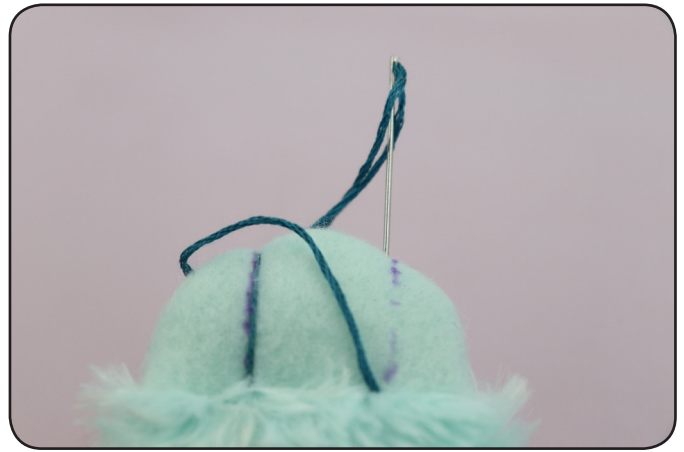
### *Step 71*

Flip the paw over. Push the needle so that it exits at the base of the unsewn line.



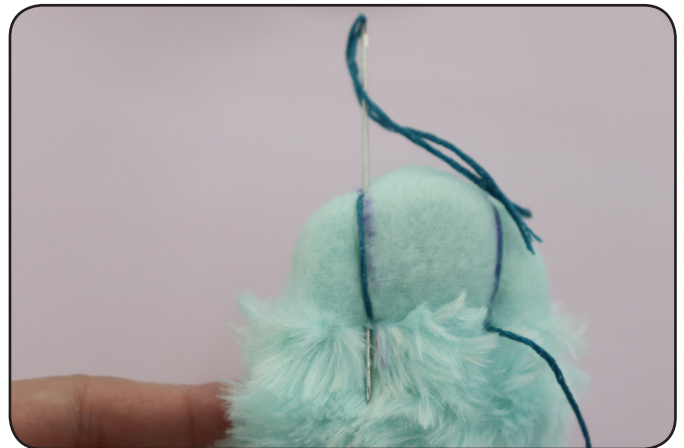
### *Step 72*

Pull the thread through until it is snug.  
Insert the needle at the top of the paw at  
the top of that same line.



### *Step 73*

Flip the paw over.  
Push the needle so that it exits at the  
base of the line (without the thread tail).  
Pull the thread through until it is snug.



### *Step 74*

Tie a knot at the base of the line keeping  
your needle threaded.



### *Step 75*

Insert the needle right next to your knot.  
Push your needle so that it exits the plush  
anywhere away from the knot. I usually  
have it exit at least an inch away.





### *Step 76*

Pull the thread snug and squeeze the plush near the thread.  
Clip the thread close to the plush.  
Your thread tail should now be hidden!



### *Step 77*

To hide the other thread tail insert the needle into the plush near your first knot. Push the needle through halfway so that the point exists the plush and inch or more away from the starting point.



### *Step 78*

Use your needle threader to thread the thread tail through the eye of the needle. Pull through and clip the thread as before.



### *Step 79*

Repeat adding claw lines to all four paws.



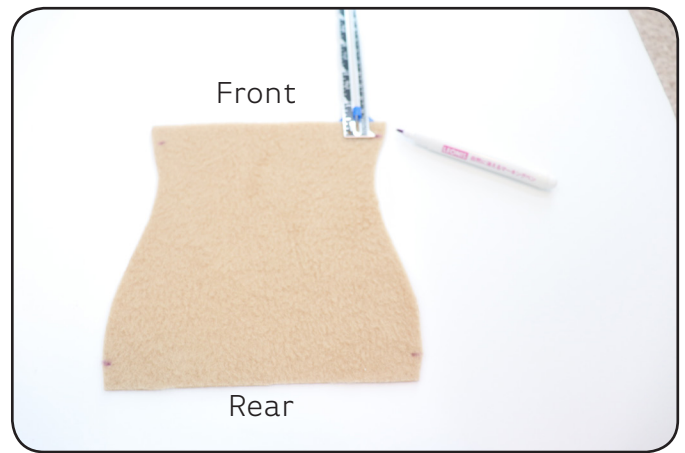
### Step 80

Now that the legs are finished, let's add the legs to the body!

Grab a marking tool and your gauge or tape measure.

Next we will mark the placement of the legs.

Lay the body belly piece right side up.



### Step 81

On the curved sides of the body belly piece, mark 1/2 inch from each corner, on the right side of the fabric.

(Note if you are using fur you may need to mark on the wrong side of the fabric due to the pile. This makes it a bit trickier when aligning your legs, but it still works well.)



### Step 82

Lay one of the front legs (these are the longer legs) along the curved edge of the belly piece so that the raw edges line up. The side of the arm should touch your mark, so it should be 1/2 inch from the front corner. The interior of the leg should be touching the right side of the belly fabric. If you added velcro or magnets to your project, this means the side with the velcro or magnet is touching the belly piece.



### Step 83

Similarly, lay a back leg (shorter leg) along the same side. The interior of the leg should be touching the right side of the belly. The edge of the leg should be touching your far mark, so it will be 1/2 inch from the rear corner.

Baste the legs in place with a 1/8 or 3/16 inch seam allowance.





*Step 84*

Move the attached legs out of the way and repeat Steps 82 - 83 for the other side.



*Step 85*

Lay the body back piece right side up.



*Step 86*

Line up the tail so that the raw edges of the tail are centered and line up with the raw edges at the rear center of the body back piece.



*Step 87*

Stitch the tail in place with a 1/8 or 3/16 inch seam allowance.



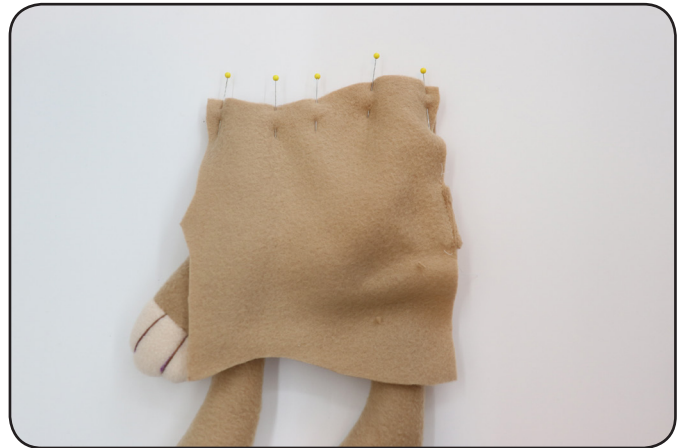
### *Step 88*

Check to make sure the magnets/velcro connect the legs properly. If they don't make any needed corrections now. Lay the body belly piece, with the legs attached, right side up. Move the legs out of the way (so they are touching the belly) on one side as shown.



### *Step 89*

Lay the body back piece right side down on top of the body belly piece. The tail should be on the same end as the short legs. And the point on the body back should be pointing toward the front. Pin the curved edge along the side together.



### *Step 90*

Stitch with a 1/4 inch seam allowance.



### *Step 91*

Tuck the legs out of the way and align the other side of the body belly with the opposite side of the body back. Pin in place. (See Step 92 BEFORE sewing.)





### *Step 92*

Stitch with a 1/4 inch seam allowance leaving the space between the two legs open so you can turn the plush later.



### *Step 93*

You are now ready to attach the face and bottom to the body.



### *Step 94*

Let's attach the face first.  
Tuck the legs out of the way.



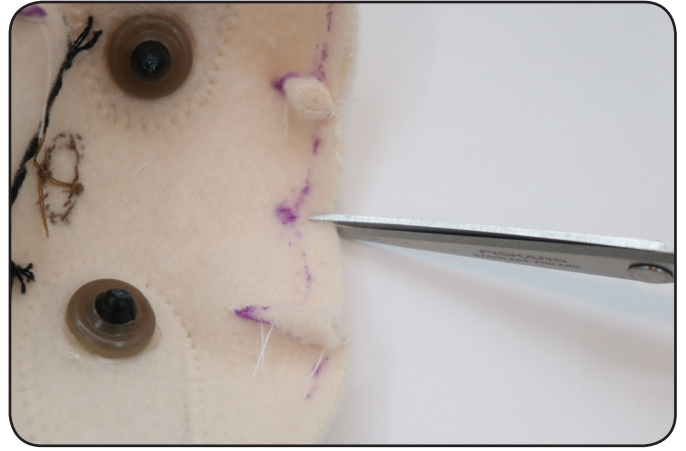
### *Step 95*

Make sure all of your darts are sewn and all of your face details have been added.



### *Step 96*

At the top of the forehead clip the seam allowance fabric about 1/8 inch at the center peak.



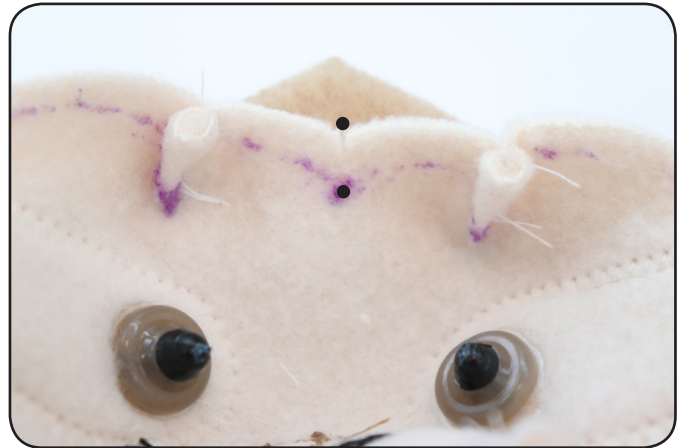
### *Step 97*

Make a dot on the body back fabric at the peak on the right side, directly in the center, 1/4 inch from the tip.



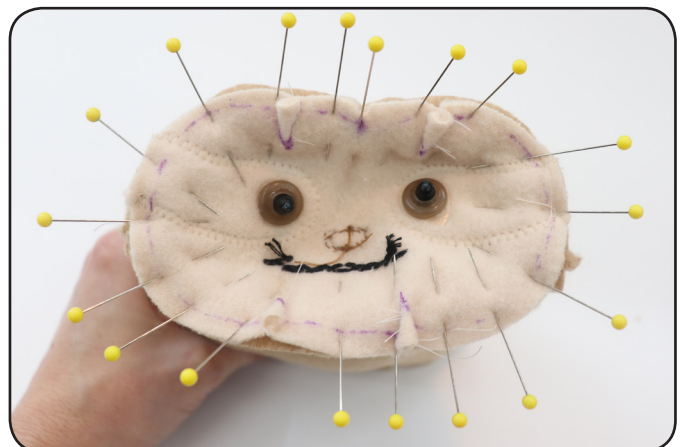
### *Step 98*

The point you drew at the center of the body back will align with the bottom point of the peak at the top of the face. You will notice that these are going opposite directions when the fabric is placed right sides together. To help the pieces align I like to place a pin through the point on the face, and poke it exactly through the dot on the body, then pin. That pin will hold the point in place. Then I will pin the bottom centers of the face and body (front edge) together.



### *Step 99*

Pin around the rest of the face. Carefully, arrange fabric aligning the edges near the peak. The clip you made in Step 96 should help the fabric lay easier.

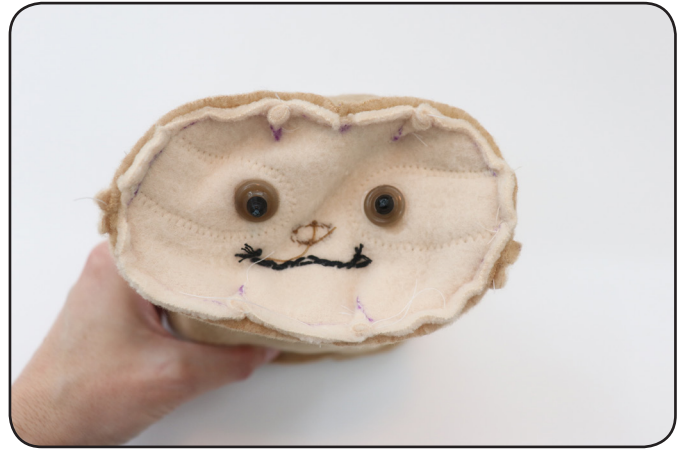




### *Step 100*

Stitch in place carefully following your drawn lines on the face. This can be a bit difficult. Stitch slowly. Take your time. Stop as needed with your needle down and adjust your fabric. You can also stitch by hand if you prefer.

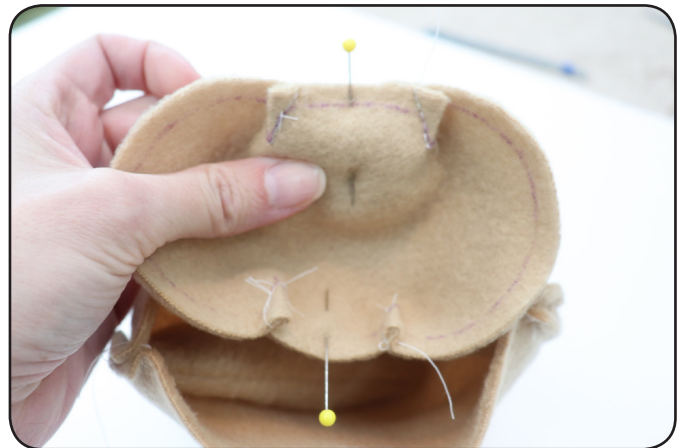
After sewing turn the plush right side out and check to make sure everything looks right. Make any adjustments necessary.



### *Step 101*

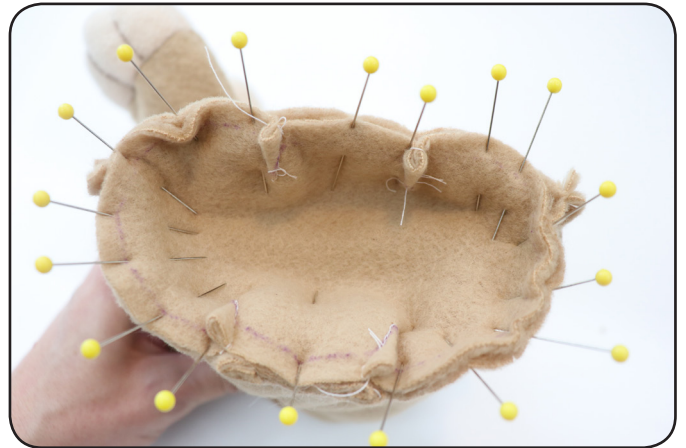
Now lets add the bottom piece. Tuck all of the legs inside. Place fabric right sides together.

Align the top and bottom centers of the bottom piece to the top and bottom centers of the body first. Pin.



### *Step 102*

Next pin around the edges stretching to fit as needed.



### *Step 103*

Stitch around the bottom with a 1/4 inch seam allowance following your guideline. (You can stitch this by hand if you prefer.) Check to make sure everything was sewn.



### *Step 104*

Gently turn the plush right side out through the opening.

It should look like a sloth!

Check to make sure everything has been sewn correctly and there are no unexpected holes, etc.



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### *Step 105*

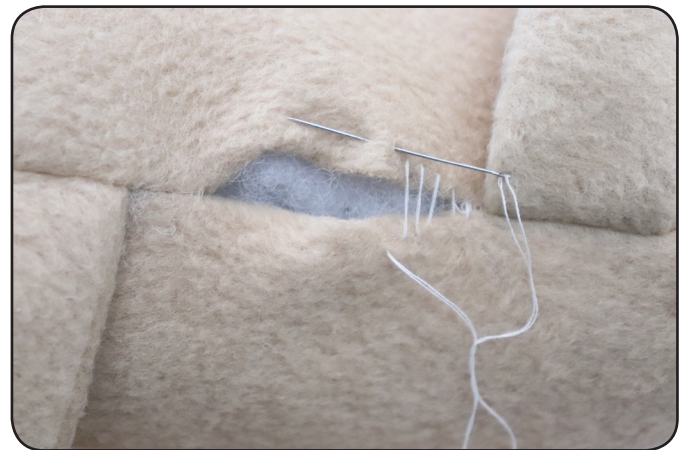
Stuff the plush with polyfil through the opening.

Be sure to fluff your polyfil first. (Break it into tiny pieces.)



### *Step 106*

Slip stitch (ladder stitch) the opening closed.



### *Step 107*

Oh, it's a sloth!



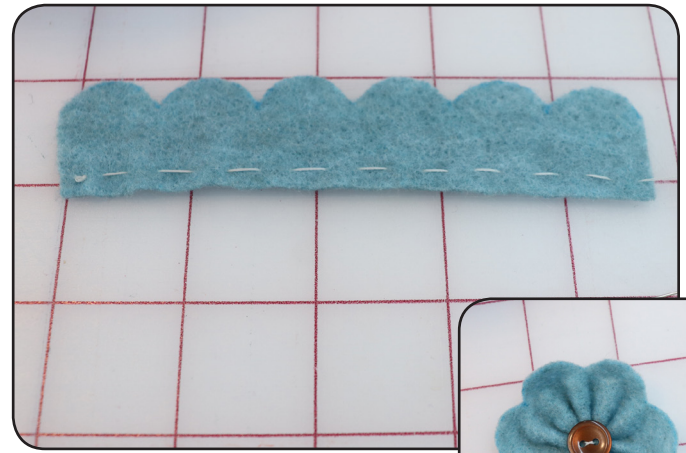


### Step 108

Optional: If desired you can add a flower to your plush.

Cut out the flower pattern piece.

Baste by hand 1/8 inch from the bottom edge. Leave the needle and thread attached.



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### Step 109

Pull your threads and tie a knot.

Add a button if desired.



### Step 110

Slip stitch the flower to the sloth. See my Sloth accessory instructions to make a dress, skirt, or backpack for your sloth!



*Congratulations!*

You are finished!  
Enjoy your sloth!

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