

# Making Masks

Joyce Graff for the Brookline Bees

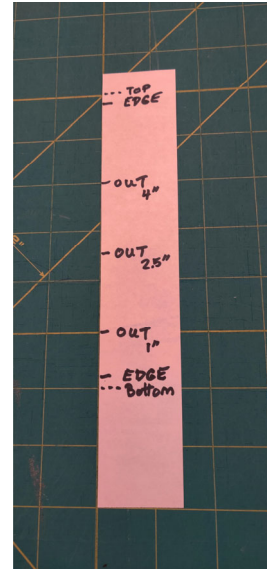


## Cut fabric for the face and backing

- Use 100% cotton so it is washable and “breatheable” (synthetics block air flow and trap heat)
- Cut pieces 6 by 9 inches, “landscape”. If there are stripes or patterns that need to be one way, plan accordingly.
- You will need two 7 inch lengths of ribbon or cord to go over the ears. Be sure it is not too wide and will be comfortable.
- Other sewing tools, thread, etc.

## Make a ruler for the pleats

- Take a strip of paper about 1 inch by 8 inches
- Lay it on your green board, or against a ruler.
- Mark as shown:
  - A line at 6 inches for the top of your ruler
  - A line at  $5 \frac{3}{4}$  for the top of your mask
  - A line at 4 inches for the first “out” pleat
  - A line at  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  inches for the second “out” pleat
  - A line at 1 inch for the third “out” pleat



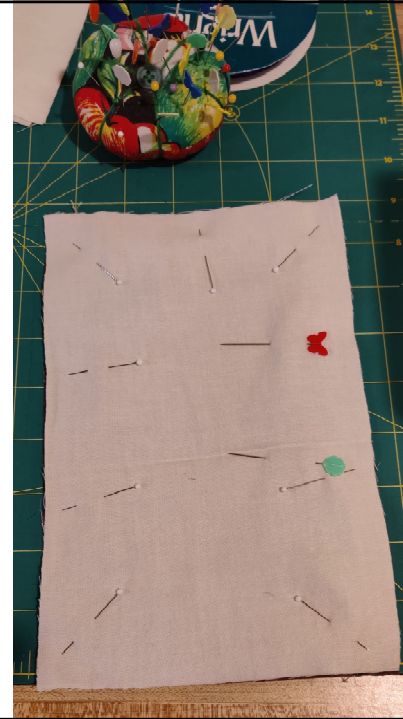
## Make the ear loops

- Take one end of one 7 inch length of ribbon and secure it about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the side of one short end.
- Attach the other end on the other side of the same short end.
- Do the same on the other end. These are your ear loops.



## Add the backing

- Pin the backing to the RIGHT side of your face fabric.
- I mark the starting point (green) and the ending point (red) of my seam so I will leave about three inches unsewn.
- Begin (green) and sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam all the way around, turning the corners neatly. Stop at the red pin.



## Notch the corners

- Carefully cut a notch at each corner, being careful not to cut through your stitching, and to leave several threads to keep the corner strong.
- This will de-bulk the corners for turning.
- Use the opening, turn your piece right-side-out. Press flat.



## Mark the pleats

- Using your home made ruler, mark the three “out” pleat positions near one end.
- Do the same at the other end without turning the ruler.



## Press the pleats

- Using your pins as markers, fold and press each of the “out” pleats with your iron to make a strong crease.





## Fan-fold the mask



- Using the “out” creases one at a time, fold them up to form a half-inch pleat.
- Nest the pleats together and pin them at each end.
- Check to make sure each pleat is level across.

## Ready to finish?

- Your mask is nearly done!
- Check that the pleats are even and pressed
- Check that the opening is pressed and ready to be stitched



## Stitch all the way around

- Stitch all the way around the piece, securing the pleats and closing the opening.



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