

“Better Than Nothin” Mask Building Directions

This is a courtesy mask to help protect your peeps from your sneezes

This mask is not a perfect protection against virus, but it is better than no mask and does provide some protection as long as you don't fiddle with it after you put it on your face. It includes 4 layers of material to filter and is fairly easy to breath through and quite comfortable. It can be made with only 3 layers if preferred. It includes a pocket between the layers allowing the user to insert a clean paper towel or tissue to give additional filtering. The elastics are left long so that the wearer can customize it to fit either around their head or around their ears.

The mask should be hand-washed in warm water and soap. **Do not put** mask in the dryer as the high heat could melt the filters and destroy the mask. Air dry the mask.

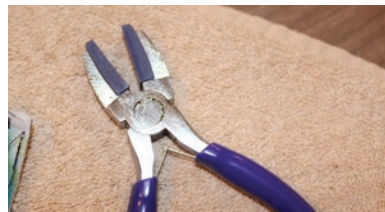
Material List

1. Landscape Fabric or some other non-woven safe waterproof material
2. Light cotton printed fabric
3. Soft white fabric
4. Flat aluminum for nose piece
can be twist ties or recycled masks, but prefer 5x1mm
5. Bias tape or ribbon
6. Elastic 1/8" or 1/4"
7. Thread



Tools

1. Sewing machine
2. Wire cutter
3. Pliers/padded tool
4. Pins
5. Scissors
6. Straight Edge (Ruler)
7. Paper - standard letter size
8. Flat Iron



Steps

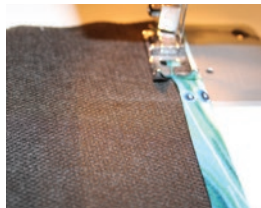
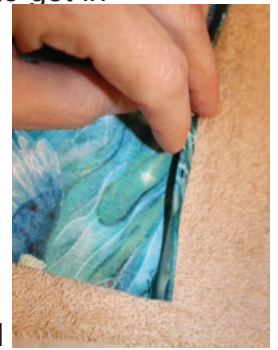
1. Create your pattern by cutting out a 8-1/4" x 8-1/4" square paper
2. Use the pattern to cut out squares or must mark it off
 - a. 1 square out of printed material
 - b. 1 square out of white material
 - c. 2 squares out of landscape fabric - these squares can be about 3/4" smaller than the white & the printed cloth
3. Lay the printed side down on the table - printed side face up
4. Place the white material on top of the printed material
5. Place the 2 squares of landscape fabric on top of that.
6. Line up the edges and then sew along the top edge
This edge is where the nose piece will be. Check the design by folding the white material around so that the landscape fabric is sandwiched between the printed material and white material.



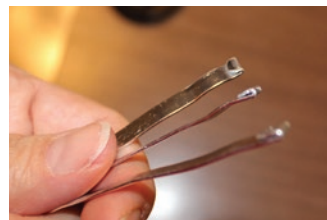
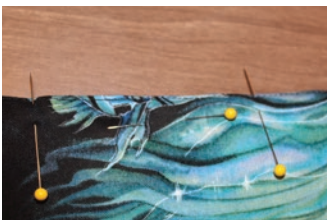
Steps

---Try to avoid pins as much as possible because they could pinholes for the virus to get in---

1. Roll the bottom edge towards the unprinted side to create a clean edge. Iron the double seam in place. Basically 2 folds
2. Do the same for the white material
 - a. These edges will become the pocket opening to add filters
 - b. The edges should face towards the interior of the mask.
 - c. Tuck the landscaping filter fabric into that seam. You may need to trim it to fit if the filter materials were cut to the same size as cloths
 - d. Sew the folded seams. I like to attach one filters to the white material and one filter to the printed material
3. Flip the mask around so that the outside pieces are facing out.
4. Use your fingernails to flatten the seam.
 - a. Don't iron it as the filter fabric will melt



5. Top stitch close to the edge of the new rolled seam
6. Line up the edges and then sew along the top edge
This edge is where the nose piece will be. Check the design by folding the white material around so that the landscape fabric is sandwiched between the printed material and white material.
7. Cut out the nose piece from the soft aluminum or re-use the strip from an old mask.
 - a. Piece should be about 3" long. Can go longer if preferred
 - b. Don't bend the piece too many times or it could weaken
 - c. Trim off sharp edges. Use the wire trimmer
 - d. Bend up the ends and then flatten to form a soft edge
 - e. You don't want to have any sharp edges.



8. Center the nose piece along the top edge of the mask between the two interior materials.
9. Be sure to set the nose pieces so that the bent edges are facing away from the white interior
10. Pin along the nose piece and then top stitch. Be careful not to hit the piece with your sewing machine.



Steps

---Try to avoid pins as much as possible because they could create pinholes for the virus to get in---

11. Roll one side of the mask up into an accordion shape.
12. Stitch that edge
13. Roll the other side. Try to line up the creases with the first stitched edge
14. Stitch the second side
15. The photos show pins in it, but this can be done without pins



Trim along the outside edges along the seams

16. Cut out two pieces of either ribbon or bias tape. They should be at least an inch longer than each side edge of the mask, and 1 inch wide
17. Wrap the ribbon/tape around the end of the mask to create a finished edge.
18. Stitch the ribbon or tape down



Bias Tape Option- 1" Wide

19. Cut out two pieces of elastic. 1/4" or 1/8" wide will work. Could also make cloth or braided string ties
20. If you cut them to about 15-20" long, that will allow the wearer to custom tie it to either fit around their head or their ears.
21. Center the elastic along the ribbon bias tape along the inside.
22. Fold the ribbon over towards the inside edge to encase the elastic.
23. Stitch along this edge. Try to hit the elastic at least a few times so that it won't slide out of hem.



- If you build this mask for someone else, it should be washed and dried prior to initial use
- This mask should be hand washed with soap and water after each use and air dried
- Do not put this in the dryer!!
- Not guaranteed to protect against virus, but will help to reduce spread.

Most of all - Love your neighbor as yourself during this very difficult time. Share these masks & mask directions with as many people as you can. Blessings to you! Be sure to pay it forward