

Making the Smile Mask

Darted mask with clear window for better communication

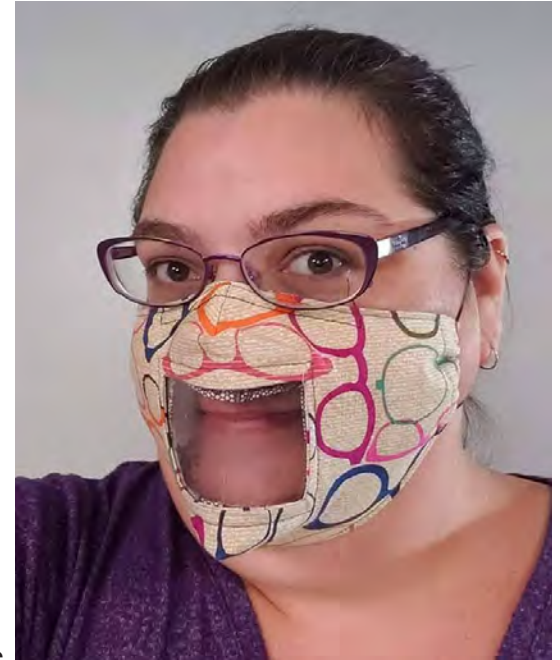


As a hard of hearing person, I'm finding the era of masks very difficult. Specifically because I rely on seeing mouth movements to clarify the sounds I don't hear. This is commonly called lip-reading, but it's not like reading a book. The mouth adds information, but it's not the whole story.

This mask has a clear vinyl window in the front to allow for better communication. The pattern comes in 3 sizes. Large fits most adults. Small fits thin and petite adult and teens down to a 7 year old. Extra-Small fits kids ages 3-6. Remember masks should not be used on kids 2 and under.

Before you start sewing, I want you to consider if a face-shield is a better option. I only mention this because it allows for a much larger view of the face, and thus better communication. If a mask is not required in your situation, the person you are communicating with will have a better view of your face with the shield and no mask.

The window is made using a technique common in pockets called a bound slit or a faced slit, also referred to as a welt pocket. Although that's not technically accurate because we are not making the welt parts. If you want to use this technique to make pockets search my web site for "Add Pockets to Anything"



Prefer a video? Find it here: https://youtu.be/sCFPsoJ_jok

Supplies

- Mask Outside Fabric & Lining: 100% cotton quilting fabric. - 1 yard makes 6 large masks
 - Good: Anything with a not overly distracting print
 - Best: Fabric color matches the users skin tone. Lining different for ease of putting on.
- Facing: 100% cotton quilting fabric Scrap.
- Window: Clear Vinyl 8-12 gauge - 1/4 Yard makes lots of masks.
- Elastic Cord or Ties - 1 yard makes a continuous loop, 2 yards makes ties, 20" Makes ear loops.

Washing Instructions

Wash as normal with other laundry. Hot wash and hot dry will not damage mask. Not tested with bleach.

Instructions

Getting Ready

1. Wash and dry fabric to pre-shrink it. Do not use fabric softener or dryer sheets.
2. Iron fabric flat after washing, if needed.

Cut Out All Pieces

1. Cut out all pieces.
 - 1 Mask Outside fabric,
 - 1 Mask Inside (lining) Fabric,
 - 2 Fabric Facings
 - 1 Clear Vinyl Window.



Mark, Sew, and Cut the Window

1. Mark the window rectangle on wrong side of both main mask pieces.
2. Place facing on top of a mask piece with right-sides together. Pin into place or use temporary spray adhesive.
 - Hold it up to the light to check alignment.
3. Sew the rectangle on the line pivoting at the corners. (see “Sewing Basics: How to Pivot” below)
4. Cut a slit inside the window and then cut at angles into each corner. Cut very close to stitching, but NOT through it.
5. Optional: Trim fabric inside window to 1/4” from stitch line.



Sewing Basics: How to Pivot

To sew the window, you need to know how to Pivot when sewing.

Sew to the corner and stop with the needle down at that corner point. It's OK to stop a few stitches before it and then turn the wheel on your machine to take the last few stitches. Now lift your presser foot and then carefully rotate your project. Put the presser foot back down and then continue sewing.

Pressing

1. Iron the facing toward the slit on all sides of the window. I know this seems crazy, but it really helps.
2. Flip facing to the inside
3. Iron flat. None or very little of the facing fabric should show on the right-side.
 - If there is puckering at the corners, you may need to cut a little further into the corner.



Add Vinyl & Top-Stitch

1. Place the piece of vinyl over the window on the inside. Hold vinyl in place with clips or pins in the far corners.
2. Top-stitch around the outside window securing the vinyl.
3. Top-stitch around the inside (lining) window securing the facing



Create the Darts

1. Fold the mask right-sides together and pin the top and bottom darts.
2. Sew along the darts, back-stitching at both ends.

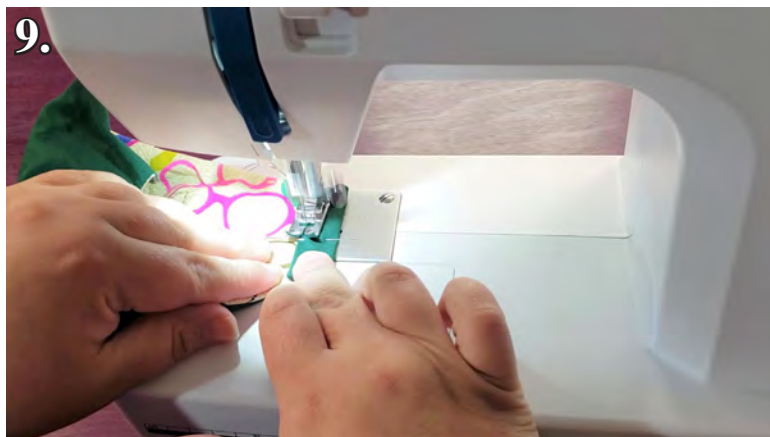
Turn and Top-Stitch

1. Place outside and inside masks right sides together. Make sure the nose matches the nose and the chin matches the chin, because they are different sizes.
2. Align the top and bottom dart seams. Flip the seam allowances opposite ways and pin.
3. For Sewn in Elastic or Ties: Place them between the layers now.
4. Sew around the whole mask edge. No need to leave a turning hole.
5. Optional: Clip corners diagonally to reduce bulk.
6. Flip right-side out though the center window.



7. Finger press seam along the edges as needed, and pin if desired
8. For Casing Mask: Fold ends over to make a casing.
9. Top-stitch/edge-stitch around the whole mask.
10. For Casing Mask: Add elastic or ties by threading them through the casing.

Your mask is done!



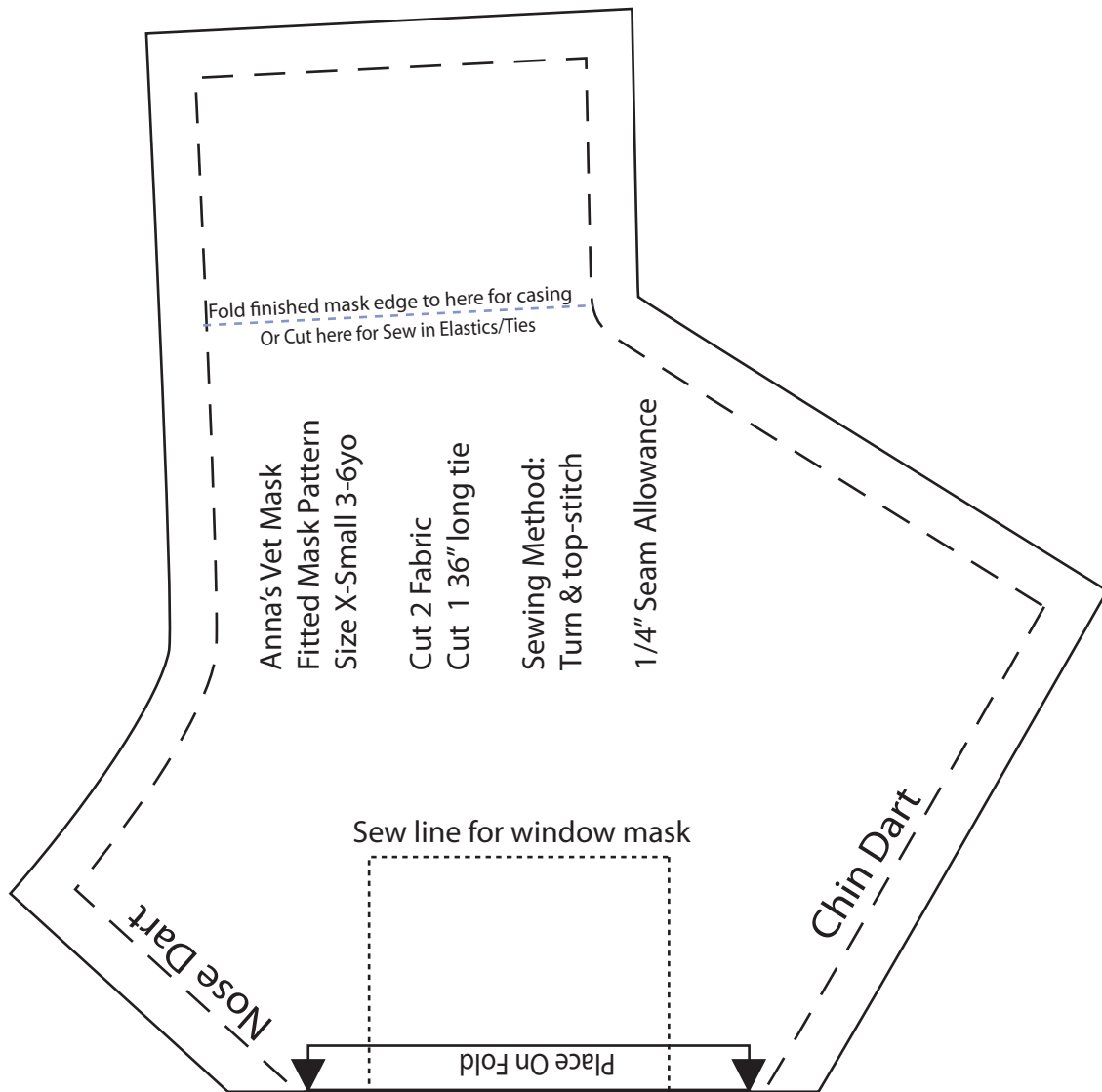
Thank you for sewing with the Fabric Ninja!

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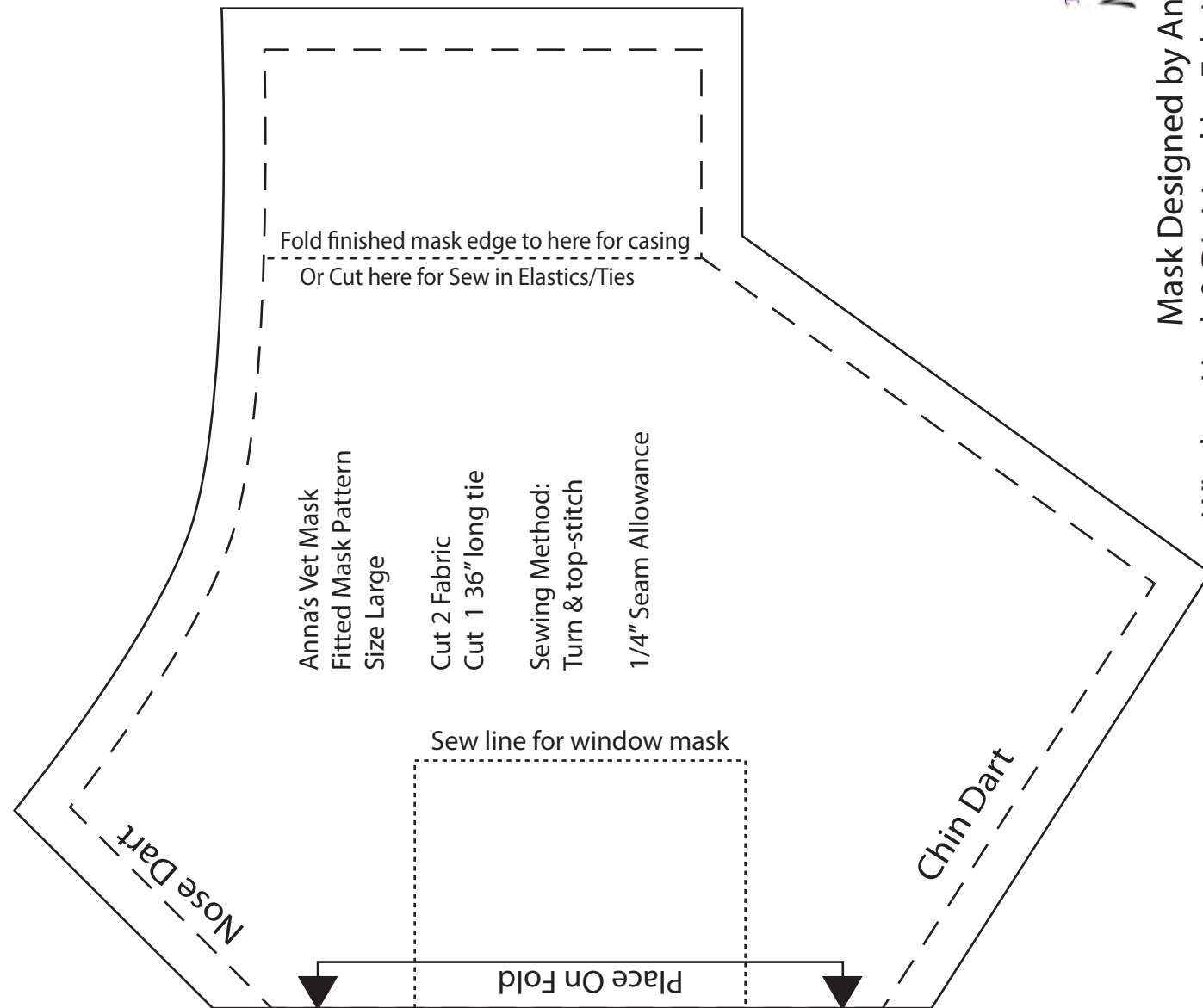




Anna's Vet Mask
Fitted Mask Pattern
Size X-Small
Window Binding & Vinyl

Cut 2 Fabric Scrap
Cut 1 Vinyl
2.5" x 3.5"

2" x 2" square
for scale



Anna's Vet Mask
 Fitted Mask Pattern
 Size Large
 Window Binding & Vinyl
 Cut 2 Fabric Scrap
 Cut 1 Vinyl
 3" x 4"

2" x 2" square
 for scale



Mask Designed by Anna Michael
 Window Hack & Digitized by FabricNinja.com

