

Hospital mask

Important information before starting:

- Please read all instructions before starting.
- Please use tightly woven, high quality cotton fabric. No polyester blends please! This fabric doesn't breathe well enough for the application.
- Preference would be to use high quality muslin first, if you don't have that then a plain colored cotton fabric, and lastly printed fabric is useable but please don't use any fabric that might have offensive words, messages or designs on it.
- Be sure to secure stitching with double backstitching as these masks will be laundered and we want them to hold up after washing.
- The masks will be laundered before they are used so you do not need to launder before dropping off.
- Please put the completed masks in a zip lock bag and identify the exterior of the bag with your NAME, NUMBER OF MASKS IN THE BAG, and NUMBER OF HOURS SPENT MAKING THE MASKS IN THE BAG.
- Drop of completed masks at the addresses identified by the quilt guild communication. DO NOT deliver to the hospital yourself. We need to limit traffic at the hospital. Those volunteering as drop off locations will know how to get the masks to the hospital.

Directions:

1. Cut fabric 15 ¼ inches by 9 inches.
2. Fold the fabric in half with right sides together matching the two short sides together. This will make the rectangle approximately 7 ½ inches by 9 inches. Stitch a ¼ seam across short edge.
3. Press seam and turn tube right sides out.
4. With a marking tool, mark pleat placement lines on each end of rectangle as indicated on diagram.
5. Fold and pin three pleats by bringing bottom line up to meet top line. Press.
6. Sew 1/8 inch seam along left and right edges to hold pleats in place. It works best when sewing with pleats to run them through the machine in the direction of the pleat, not against it.
7. Serge or zigzag raw edges on left and right sides.
8. Fold under 3/8 inch on each side and stitch down forming a channel. This channel must be at least ½ wide so there is room for the elastic.
9. Cut two pieces of the ¼ inch elastic (do not use any wider than ¼ inch as this gets uncomfortable around the ears while wearing the mask) to a length of 8 ½ inches.
10. Thread the elastic through the cases formed by the 3/8 inch hem.
11. Stitch the ends of the elastic together by overlapping no more than ½ inch and securing with several rows of stitching.
12. Rotate the elastic circle until the seam edge is hiding in the casing.
13. Tack down one edge of the elastic to the mask to hold it in place.
14. Add elastic to the other side of the mask.
15. Sew the dart at the bottom (through both layers) so that the mask fits more snugly under the chin.

NOTE: you can alternatively sew double fold bias tape along the right and left edges and then thread the elastic through the channel formed by the bias tape. I just find the serging and hemming quicker.