

# FABRIC FACE MASK

#### Notes:

- Be sure to use new fabric, not vintage, that is tightly woven.
- It is helpful to use 2 different fabrics for the 6" x 9" rectangles so that the person wearing it can easily identify which direction it was worn previously.
- Wash before wearing and in between each use.
- This mask is not as effective as the N95 or P95 masks used by healthcare professionals, but it can help.

#### SUPPLIES

(2) 6" x 9" rectangles

- (1) 6" x 9" piece of iron-on interfacing (optional)
- (2) 7" lengths of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " elastic or (2)  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x width of
  - fabric strips (selvages removed)

## **OPTION 1 Mask with Elastic** 1 Optional Interfacing

If you are using interfacing, follow the manufacturer's instructions and iron it onto the wrong side of 1 of the  $6'' \times 9''$  fabric rectangles.

### 2 Sew

**Note:** If you wish, you can finish the top edge before you stitch the mask together and leave a small opening in the top so that a filter can be inserted into the mask.

Place the 2 rectangles right sides together. Sew along to 2 long sides of the rectangles leaving a 3" opening along 1 edge. **2A** 

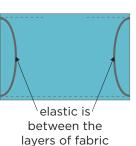
## 3 Add Elastic

Slide 1 piece of elastic into the inside of the mask. The ends of the elastic should be against the seams and not be twisted. **3A** 

Sew down the short sides of the rectangle. Backstitch over the top of the elastic to be sure it is secured. **3B** 



3A



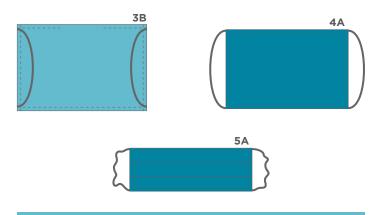
## 4 Turn & Topstitch

Turn the mask right side out and press it flat. Topstitch around the perimeter of the mask to anchor the elastic and close the 3'' opening. **4A** 

## 5 Add Pleats

Add 2-3 pleats by pinching and folding the fabric. Place a pin in each plate to hold it in place.

Topstitch along the short sides of the mask again to hold the pleats in place. Be sure to topstitch at each end. **5A** 



#### Have you run out of elastic?

Here are some other ideas for substitutions you can use instead of elastic:

- Ace bandages cut into ¼" strips.
- Hair ties or skinny head bands cut in half.
- Cut knit fabric (or old t-shirts) into 1" strips. Pull the strips lengthwise and then trim to about 18" long. Place 1 of these strips in each corner to form knit ties.

Check out OPTION 2 on page 2 for directions for making a mask using  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " strips of fabric for the ties.



# FABRIC FACE MASK

### OPTION 2 Mask with Ties 1 Optional Interfacing

If you are using interfacing, follow the manufacturer's instructions and iron it onto the wrong side of 1 of the  $6'' \times 9''$  fabric rectangles.

## 2 Sew

Place the 2 rectangles right sides together. Sew along to 2 short sides of the rectangles. **2A** 

Turn the mask right side out and press it flat.

## 3 Make Ties

**Note:** You can use a bias tape maker to help fold the strips if you have 1, but it is not necessary.

Fold a 2½" strip in half lengthwise and press a crease. Open your strip again and then fold both long edges of the strip to meet in the center fold of the strip. Press again. **Make 2** ties.

**Note:** If you'd like to finish the ends of the ties, simply fold each end under 1/2" and tuck the folded end between the folds of the tie. This isn't a necessary step, but will prevent fraying and will extend the longevity of the masks.

### 4 Sew

Find the center of your mask and each tie and mark each with a pin. Line up the center of a tie with the center of 1 side of the mask. Slide the mask between the folds of tie and pin in it place. Sew along the length of the tie, backstitching at both ends. **4A** 

Repeat to attach the second tie to the opposite side of the mask.

## 5 Add Pleats

Add 2-3 pleats by pinching and folding the fabric. Place a pin in each plate to hold it in place.

Topstitch along the short sides of the mask to hold the pleats in place. Be sure to topstitch at each end. **5A** 





