

Face Mask

This is important! First know that the cotton mask alone filters about 30% of viruses. It is better than nothing, to be sure. This mask is designed to put some sort of filter in it. The filter is NOT washable and must be replaced between uses. To kill any viruses in the fabric, wash in your washing machine (hot water won't make a difference, it's not hot enough) but then **IRON IT WITH A HOT IRON** to kill all the bugs that your washing machine didn't get!

For the basic facemask pattern, go to:

<https://freesewing.org/designs/fu/>

Be sure to use the scale box at the bottom of the page, adjust the pattern if it didn't print the correct size. The one that I made is a medium.

Here are the instructions from the same website. It uses elastic, but i had a lot of fabric and decided to use it to make binding tape. My instructions are below.

<https://freesewing.org/docs/patterns/fu/instructions/>

Materials:

1 fat quarter of decorative 100% cotton fabric (You can find these at any fabric store. They are pre-cut and you can grab a handful of them. Walmart's fat quarters are \$.97 each and you can make 4 masks from one fat quarter.)

1 fat quarter of muslin

2-32" pieces of binding tape OR 2-16" pieces of elastic.

High-rated furnace filter, cut from frame and pressed flat USING A PRESSING CLOTH. (Be sure and check out the packaging to be sure that the filter is rated to filter out viruses.)

Plastic-coated gardening wire, cut to 3" and the tips curled into themselves to hide sharp edges.

General instructions: Use 1/2" seam allowance

1. Right sides together, cut 2 pieces out of the decorative fabric, cut 2 pieces out of the lining fabric.
2. Right sides together, sew the curved pieces on both the decorative fabric and the muslin.
3. Roll hem the top edges of both fabrics, leaving room in the decorative fabric to insert the wire.
4. Insert the wire and sew the hem on either side of it to keep it secure in place.
5. Join the fabric and lining, right side together and sew to join. Turn right-side out and press.
6. Find the center of one 32" piece of binding tape. Fold the binding tape over the raw edges of the side of the mask, making sure the half point is close to the center of the fabric. Pin to secure.
7. Sew the binding tape, top to bottom, catching the raw edges of the mask.

Your mask is done!

Use the included pattern for the filter:

Remember to check the scale. This is drawn on 1/4" graph paper and can be easily redrawn if you're struggling with getting your printer to draw it the correct size.

Cut the filter pattern, trace it on your pressed filter material and cut it out, marking the 2 places on the lower edge and the dot that is 2" up from the bottom.

Crimp the filter at those fold marks so that your fold makes a "z fold," stopping at the 2" dot.

Secure that bottom edge with just a dot of glue. Hold in place with a clothespin or something similar to let the glue dry.

If you have any questions, let me know! Be sure and change things to make it easier for you and your sewing setup! Happy sewing and thanks for helping keep our healthcare workers safe!

Much love,

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