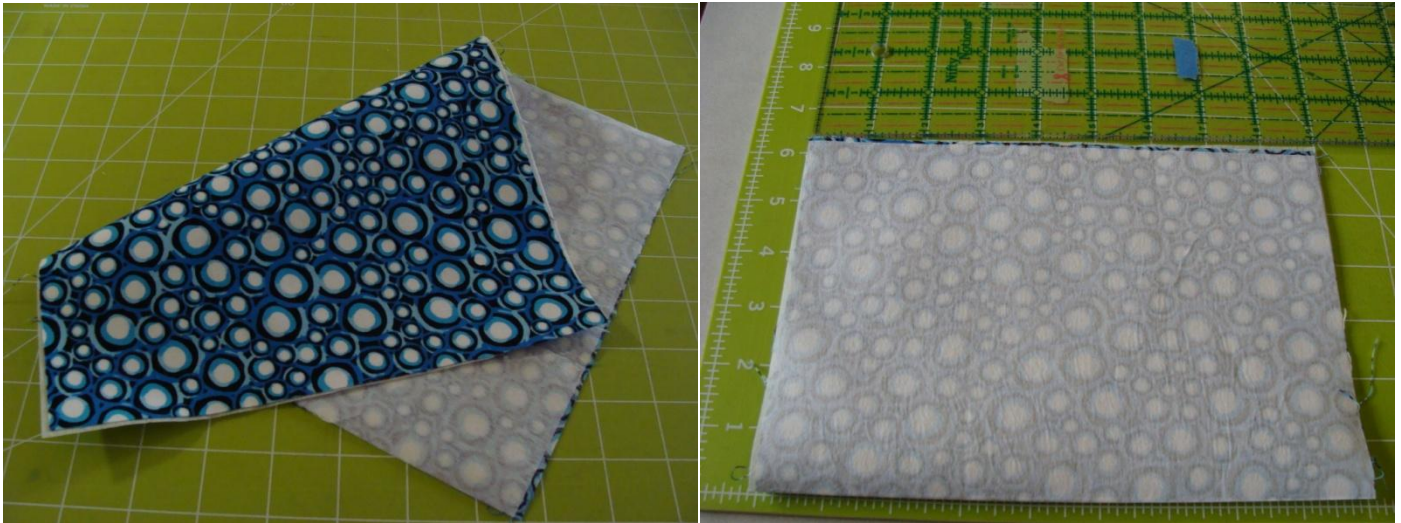


MASK COVERS

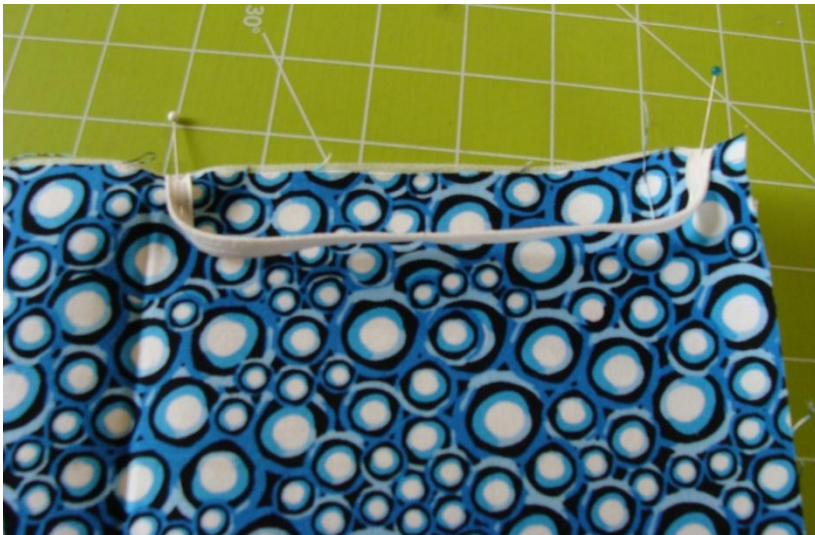
Materials needed - tightly woven 100% cotton (preferably in bright cheerful prints) 9"x 12 ½"
lightweight non-woven fusible interfacing (medium or heavy weight fusibles may be used; see below)
two 6" pieces of ¼" or 1/8" elastic

Cut one piece of tightly woven 100% cotton and one piece of lightweight or medium weight fusible interfacing 9"x12 ½" . Fuse interfacing to back side of cotton according to manufacturer's instructions.

*If the only fusible interfacing you have access to is heavy weight, cut the interfacing 9"x6 ¼" and fuse to one half of cotton piece.



Fold fabric in half with right sides together, creating a piece that measures 9"x6 ¼". Press along fold line.



Cut 2 pieces of ¼" or 1/8" elastic 5 ½" each. Open folded fabric. Pin one end of elastic ¼" from fold and the other approximately 3/8" from edge. Repeat on the other side with second piece of elastic. You may need to pin middle of elastic loop out of your way so as not to catch in seam allowance.



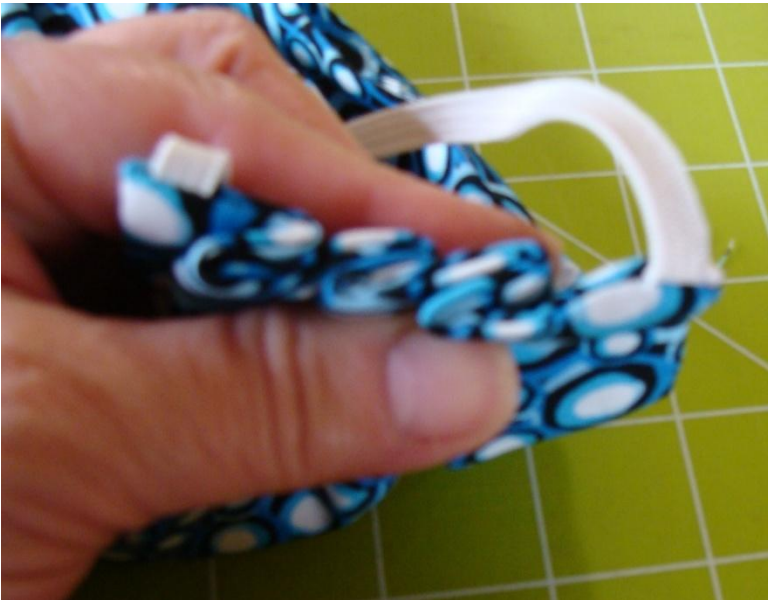
Fold fabric right sides together with elastic pieces inside. Begin sewing at fold, using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Back stitch and sew a couple of times over elastic to anchor it well. Sew to corner, making certain to insure elastic loop stays out of your stitching line. Before turning corner, back stitch and restitch over other end of elastic. Pivot around corner and continue sewing for 2-3 inches. Leaving a space of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 inches open and unsewn, continue stitching to corner. After pivoting corner, anchor end of second elastic loop as before, stitch to fold and anchor last end of elastic.



Reaching into open space in stitching, turn mask cover with right sides outward. You should have a loop of elastic at each end. These will be the ear pieces.



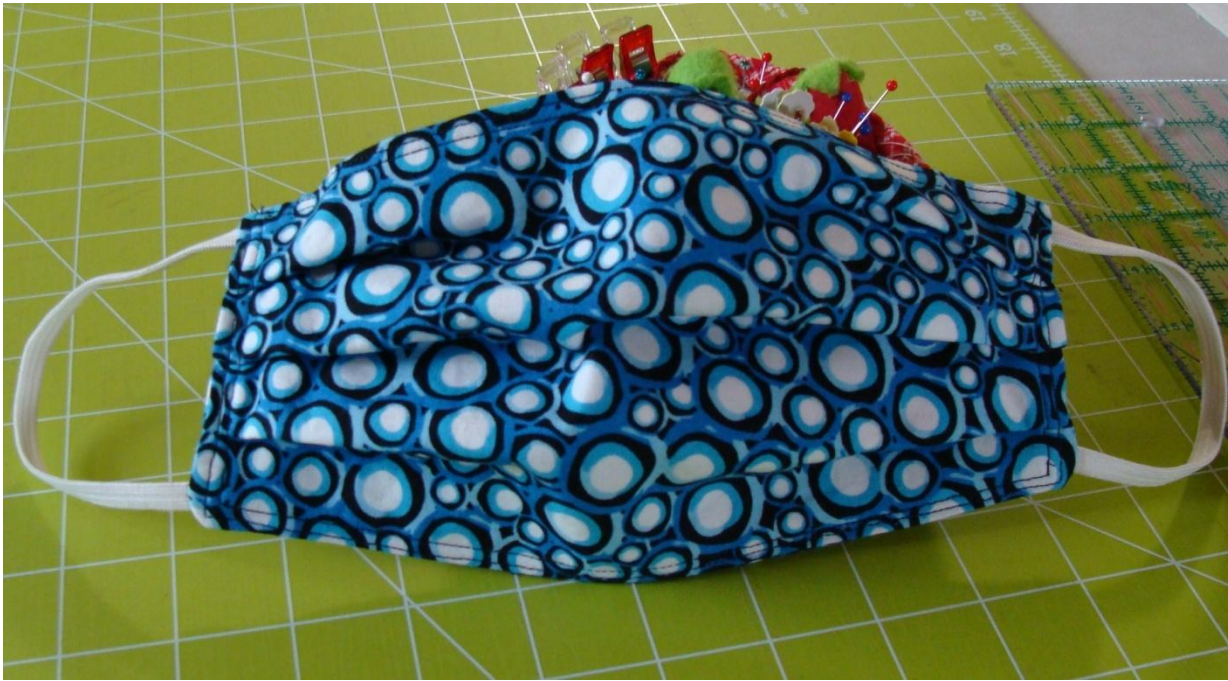
Turn seam allowance in open space to inside and press.



Create 3 pleats, approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ " each, along each end. Some videos will tell you to measure and mark each fold line. This is not an exact science. Approximate measurements should be sufficient. More importantly, place position the pleats so that they 'nest' together rather than overlapping in order to eliminate more bulk. The measurement of this end after pleating should be 3 – 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", rather than the original 6". Pin pleats in place. I found this easier to do by pinning from the body of the mask toward the outer edge, rather than from the edge inward. Pleat the other end in a similar manner, making sure that the pleats fold in the same direction on each end. (such as all pointing downward as in the picture below). Measure each end. Ends of the mask should measure the same. Adjust pleats, if necessary, at this point.



Place a pin in opening to draw your attention to spot as you stitch outside edges. Beginning somewhere near a corner, begin stitching near the edge. I stitched this using a black thread for contrast in the pictures but a coordinating thread will show imperfections less. Stitch around the entire perimeter of mask, then stitch again just inside of first stitching. On my machine, I found it difficult to edge stitch over the pleats. The fabric needed to be over both sets of feeddogs in order to move through the machine. In the big scheme of things, I do not think this mattered. The stitches were in just a bit further, but were neatly stitched.



Remove pins. Press well so that pleats lay flat the entire width of mask. (I did not do this, but it is one of the 'tweaks' to the instructions that we made along the way!)



See me smiling at a job well done?

This pattern was developed by Brenda Leftwich, using some online examples and with complete cooperation and input from Casey Franklin, RN, Patient Safety and Experience Coordinator at TJ Samson Hospital in Glasgow, KY and with full approval from CEO Neil Thornbury. March, 2020