

D*rth V*d*r meets the Hatchet Mask ©2020 Sarah Ann Smith



This pattern is a blend of best fit with not-too-much-fuss AND has minimal fogging of the glasses!!!! (Yes, it is worth five exclamation points!!!!) The free PDF is available on my website. Go to the resources page: <http://www.sarahannsmith.com/resources.php> then look in the alphabetical list of Tutorials and Freebies for Mask: D*

In my seemingly endless quest to get the perfect mask with minimal glasses-fogging-up I merged the free PDF pattern for a **7-Dart mask** from DIY Craft JP: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCMFxT_VdWY with the fairly prevalent "hatchet" shaped mask—the one made of two pieces of fabric for each side that curves from the bridge of the nose to under the chin. The seven darts create a basket shape that holds its form well which results in a fit that doesn't touch your face and is even better (a bit) than mine if that is your goal; I used their Small/Medium size. The drawback, besides the tiny amount of extra time sewing darts, is that the long darts on the side interrupt the pattern on the fabric. I wanted my sloths to make people laugh.

So, I tried four variations on the theme until I got one that works for me. To make a mask for a larger face than mine or one with a bodacious beard, try combining my pattern and DIY Craft JP's larger size. Here's what I did, and how I arrived at perfect-for-me. Using this info, hopefully you'll realize you can modify what I created so it is perfect for you.

When you look at the 7-dart version, it creates a profile down the center of the mask very similar to the hatchet mask. The shape reminds me of a certain character from a popular movie franchise (which I shall not name because they have lawyers) who dressed all in black and did a lot of heavy breathing through his helmet and mask. I thought if I made the bottom of the hatchet more of a corner, it would fit better (it did), but it definitely didn't fit as well as two darts. So I went back to placing the DIY Craft JP model on the fold and cutting just three darts: one at the top, two under the chin. It took a couple tries to get the angles of the curves along both top and bottom edges Just Right (channel your inner Goldilocks).

Here's what I like about my mask:

- It comes up high on my nose, but
- It doesn't rub under my eyes.
- The curves at the top keep the upper edge BELOW the bottom of my glasses!!!! KEY to minimal fogging.
- Even though some moisture from breathing escapes, I wore mine for 20 minutes in the house and Nearly NO FOG!
- The fabric doesn't push on the tip of my nose (my parents used to blame one another for the size of my nose...still haven't recovered from the trauma LOL!)
- The fabric doesn't rest on my nose and mouth.

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- If I were athletic (who me?????) Stop laughing!) I could put a nose-bridge piece of metal horizontally somewhere in the area just below the nose - this keeps the mask away from the face even when breathing heavily as when running.... I just pretended I was running and did the heavy breathing. Son Eli came up with this idea—he actually runs and IS athletic and it works on his three-pleats mask quite well.
- The fit is smooth against my face, chin and neck but doesn't feel like I'm getting strangled or asphyxiating.
- Sides are narrow with no bulky pleats and folds.
- Fewer seams and darts resulting in fewer tiny holes where the stitching goes through.
- Topstitching on the very edge keeps the lining from rolling to the outside.
- Easy to slide a metal nose bridge in before sewing up the sides. Topstitch around it to keep it in place.
- Use ear loops or head loops as you prefer.

I really like the soft nylon cloth tubes with a disc to customize the fit that I get at my beloved local shop Fiddlehead Artisan Supply. Yes, they do mail order!
<https://fiddleheadartisansupply.com/collections/face-mask-supplies> The ear loops aren't on the website, but they are in the store in black and white. You can get them in colors and bulk packs (five pairs or more) on Etsy. Just type in "mask adjustable ear loops."

Print page 4. Measure the 4" / 10 cm line at the bottom for accuracy. Make sure you print at 100 percent—don't let the printer "scale" the size down (unless you want to do that on purpose).

Construction:

All seams are ¼" unless otherwise stated.

1. Prewash and iron fabrics. Yes, you need to iron. Makes the rest easier.
2. You'll need two pieces, each 8 x 12 inches or 20.5 x 30.5 cm. You don't have to cut this out of your yardage unless you wish to do so. I just folded my chunk of fabric.
3. Fold fabric on the lengthwise grain.
4. Place center of mask (where it says FOLD) on the fold.
 - a. If you are using a fabric with a one-way design, make sure that up is in the correct orientation.
 - b. Indulge in fussy cutting for placement if it makes you happy!
5. Cut out both layers.
 - a. I used a fun print on the outside and a fine cotton on the inside.
 - b. For the inside, fabrics like cotton voile or lawn that are tightly woven but fine and soft are nice. High quality quilting cotton such as Cotton Couture by Michael Miller Fabrics (my FAVE solid!) is nice on the face, too.
6. Sew the curved bit that goes over the nose.
7. Sew the two darts that go under the chin.
8. Press all the darts.
 - a. The nose darts press to the left.
 - b. The chin darts on the outside press to the outside. The chin darts on the lining press to the inside.
9. With right sides together, nest the seams so the seam allowances snug up next to each other.
 - a. At the nose, the seam allowance on the upper fabric should point toward the needle; this allows the pressure of the presser foot to snug it up against the seam underneath, which points away from the needle. Pin in place and sew, removing the pin as soon as you have taken the first stitch onto the seam allowance.
 - b. Under the chin, snug the seams up against one another. Remember, the outside fabric darts point away from the center of the chin, the lining darts are pressed to the center. Pin and sew as above.
10. Turn right side out and press. Test fit. If you need to fiddle, do it now. Check the length of the sides. If you want yours short, trim off leaving 3/8" to turn to the inside.
11. Turn 3/8" seam allowance on the ends to the inside and press.
12. If you are going to use a metal nose bridge, now is the time to wiggle it into place. Because of the shape of the nose and the fact that the metal nose bridges are usual a straight piece of metal,

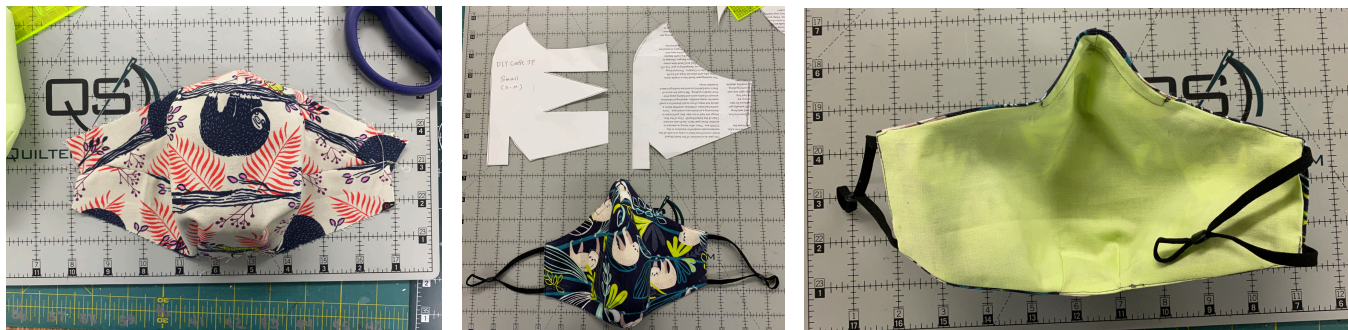
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they don't fit right next to the seam. Just do your best. Pin on the downhill side to mark the edge (you don't want to sew into the metal).

13. Place your ear loops, elastic, etc., inside the seam at the outer edges. Use a pin or stiletto to snug the ear loop to the very outside end of the seam. Pin in place.
14. Starting on the bottom edge between the inch and one end, edge stitch 1/16" to 1/8" from the outer edge. When you reach the ear loops, back stitch, then continue. Backstitch at each ear loop/elastic for extra hold. Go all the way around.
15. If you used a metal nose bridge, sew from the top stitching down a few stitches, then just to the outside of the metal strip, then go back up to the edgestitching.

And because pictures help, on the left is the 7-dart mask so you can see the basket or muzzle shape it creates. The center picture shows the 7-dart pattern, my pattern and my mask. The final photo is the inside of my mask because you can see the seams more easily on the solid.



DONE! Wear it in good health—and hopefully for only another 6 months or so until COVID is under control. Then KEEP IT—if you are coming down with a cold or are ill in the future, do like folks do in Asia: wear a mask to protect everyone else from your germs! Now, back to quilting and sewing and art!

Cheers and thanks, Sarah

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