Face Mask with Pleats and Elastic or Ties

This design has a pleated front; pleats expand when it is worn to easily fit the face. A pipe cleaner helps shape the top edge and a pocket holds a filter for added safety.

Everyone’s face is different, so just like clothing, some masks fit better and feel better than others. This style is basic, easy to make and offers choices of how it stays secure – ties or elastic.

This mask can have matching or contrasting fabric on front, back and ties. You get to choose which fabric will face outward.

You will need:

Dritz® Supplies:
- 14” of ¼” Elastic or 72” of bias binding made with a
- 1” Bias Tape maker
- Marking pen or pencil
- Mighty Steam Iron
- Pins

Omnigrid® Supplies:
- 18” x 24” cutting mat
- 45mm rotary cutter
- 6” x 24” ruler

Other Supplies:
- Quality quilting cotton
- 6” Pipe cleaner
- Pressing surface
- Sewing machine and thread
- Scissors
- Optional: Filter cut to fit opening

Can’t find elastic?
Cut the top 1/2” from an old pair of socks. Use one piece at each side of mask for loops or one piece each at top and bottom for ties.

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1. We will be making 2 versions of this face mask – one with elastic and one with fabric ties. The basic mask shape is the same for both. Choose a high-quality cotton fabric. The tighter the weave the better. Preshrink fabric by washing in hot water before cutting out mask.

Cutting:
2. With rotary cutter, mat, and ruler, cut the following pieces:
   - 1 pc: 9" x 14" for mask;
     for a smaller face, cut to 8" or 8 ½" x 14"
   - Elastic loop mask:
     2 pcs: 2" x 4 ½" for elastic loop finishing ends
   - Tied mask:
     2 pcs: 1-7/8" x 36" for ties (Bias strips are recommended.)

3. Serge or zigzag stitch both 9" sides of mask. This will keep the inside edges of the pocket from fraying.

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Filter Pocket:
4. Fold fabric in half widthwise, right sides together, and pin. With ruler and pencil, mark 1 ½” in from each end. Stitch from end to each mark with ½” seam allowance. You are creating the opening for the filter pocket.

5. Press seam allowances flat and turn mask right side out.

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6. On one side, topstitch along seam allowance. This will be the lower edge of the filter pocket opening.


**Inserting Pipe Cleaner:**
8. Insert pipe cleaner, centered in opening of top fold. Pin fold closed. Stitch across fold just beyond ends of pipe cleaner and along bottom of fold. Be careful not to hit pipe cleaner with needle. OPTIONAL: Before inserting pipe cleaner, fold ends of pipe cleaner 1/2" toward the center and pinch flat to shelter possible sharp ends.

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Making Pleats:
9. On back of mask, mark the pleats starting at the bottom edge. Mark 1 ¼", 1", ½", 1", ½", and 1".

10. Fold bottom mark (1 1/4" measurement) up to meet the next mark (1" measurement) (A) and press. Fold the third mark up to meet the fourth mark (B); press. Fold the fifth mark up to the sixth and last mark (C); press. Pleats on back of mask will face upward and pleats on front will face downward.

Press pleats

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To make a filter easier to insert, pull front and back pleats away from each other. Refold pleats on each layer and baste close to edge.

Fabric Ties or Ear Loops?
Decide if you want fabric ties that tie around the head, or elastic loops that fit around the ears.

**Fabric Ties:**
12. To make fabric ties, use a bias tape maker to make bias binding, following manufacturer’s instructions. Feed the 36” long pieces for the ties through the bias tape maker and press with iron.

13. Find middle of fabric tie and mark with pin or marking pencil. Open pressed folds on ties and place the center point at a top corner of the mask on the front side. Pin tie in place and stitch along fold. Repeat on other side with second tie.

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14. Wrap fabric ties over edge of mask to the back and pin in place. It may be helpful to trim away a little of the seam allowance on the mask before wrapping ties over the edge. Fold ties in half lengthwise. Start at one end of tie and stitch along tie edge to finish ties and secure to mask. Be sure to backstitch at beginning and end of each tie.

![Diagram of face mask with pleats and ties]

**Elastic Ear Loops:**
15. For elastic loops, cut elastic in half to make two - 7” pieces. On back of mask, baste ends of elastic at top and bottom on each side. Make sure there are no twists in the elastic.

![Diagram of face mask with elastic ear loops]


![Diagram of face mask with pleats and elastic]

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17. Trim corners (A). Pull the entire finishing piece out and away from mask, press (B). Fold entire finishing piece over tucked-in ends to front of mask. Topstitch along edges of finishing piece (C).

Insert Filter:
18. Mask can be worn as-is, or a filter can be inserted between the fabric layers.

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