Face Mask with Stabilizer and Ties

This design has a shaped front. Stabilizer helps maintain the shape so it doesn’t cave in at your mouth. Optional wire helps it fit snugly across the bridge of the nose.

We all know we need to be wearing protective gear. Many of you are making them as fast as your machines can sew! Owning multiple masks is important so they can be laundered. But after you have made so many, wouldn’t it be fun to be a bit creative? Change up the style! Quilt or embroider the top layer to personalize it. After all, you may be wearing it often. Or make a special one as a gift. This pattern offers a sturdy structure so the surface can have a bit more detail.

Those of you who have created fabric covered bowls will recognize this technique. Here’s a chance to use up all your leftover single or double sided stabilizer and scraps of awesome fabric!

You will need:
- Iron
- Scissors
- Sewing machine
- 2 pieces of contrasting fabric, 12” x 6”
- 2 pieces single or double sided light to medium weight fusible stabilizer, 6” x 6”
- 80” of bias binding (packaged or made with a bias tape maker)

Optional:
- 6” piece of 18-24 gauge floral wire or pipe cleaner OR 2–sided tape such as Place me Perfectly Tape to adhere to inside of mask for a tight fit

This mask also works well with no wire at all. Keep in mind, for repeated washing, wire should be stainless steel to avoid rust.

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**Cut fabric and stabilizer:**
1. Using the outer curved line, cut 4 pieces of fabric – 2 of each color or print, right sides together.

2. Using the inner curved line cut 2 pieces of stabilizer, right sides together.

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Print mask at 100%
Check the above guide for accuracy.
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**Fusing:**
3. Place the stabilizer adhesive side down on the wrong side of two matching pieces of fabric. Follow manufacturer’s directions to fuse.


5. Stitch all 4 pieces together along the curved edge only, flush to the edge of the stabilizer.

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6. Trim the seam allowance to 1/8”.

7. Pull one layer of unstabilized fabric over the trimmed seam so it covers the top stabilized layer. Seam allowance should flatten under the top layer of fabric. Pin so fabric is smooth and evenly positioned. Trim completely around mask flush to stabilizer.

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8. For single-sided fusible stabilizer, stitch all around mask 1/4” from edge. For double-sided fusible stabilizer, press the second side so it fuses to the stabilizer. Keep the fabric smooth, being careful not to press wrinkles into the second side.

**Binding the edges:**
9. If you are making your own binding, cut bias strips 1 7/8” wide. Cut enough to create a strip at least 80” long. Stitch short ends right sides together. Press the seam to the side (A). Use a 1” bias tape maker to form the binding, following manufacturer’s directions (B). Press the tape in half lengthwise, aligning the folded edges to create the binding (C).

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Attaching the binding:
10. Fold binding over each short straight end of the mask. Cut to fit. Pin. Stitch along the inside folded edge, making sure you are catching the folded edge underneath.

11. OPTIONAL NOSE WIRE: Fold each end of the 6” piece of wire in a tight loop. Center the wire on the right side, top edge of the mask, Pin about 1/4” from the edge. Set the machine to a zigzag stitch with width and length at 3. Carefully zigzag over the wire to secure. Stitch slowly to avoid the needle accidentally hitting the wire and breaking. Also make sure the wire stays close to the edge so that it is out of the way when attaching the binding in the next step.

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12. Divide the remainder of the binding in half. Find the center of one piece. Fold the binding over the bottom edge of the mask, aligning the center of the binding with the nose seam of the mask. Pin so binding wraps the edge evenly. Binding will extend about 14” on each side of the mask. The extension forms the ties. Topstitch the binding starting at one end, across the mask and continue to the opposite end. Fold the ends under 1/4” twice to hem. Stitch the hemmed ends. Repeat the process with the remaining piece, attaching it to the top of the mask.

Keep mask from slipping:
13. Many mask designs call for a wire or pipe cleaner to be bent and placed at the top center of the mask. You can do this by sliding it under the top binding. A simpler suggestion might be to use 2-sided tape. *Place Me Perfectly Tape* is a great one to use as it is designed to connect fabric to skin, and is latex free. Simply cut a 1 1/2” piece and position it on one side of center, about 1/2” from the nose seam. Repeat on the other side. Remove for washing; repeat for the next wearing!

Wear your mask in good health!

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