Quarantine Couture

Welcome to the Future. This design is easy to make with materials found around the house. Are you in quarantine for two or more weeks? Are you slowly losing your mind from boredom? Are you worried about having to appear in public in a dreary white mask? This design is free to use, share, mash up or make in a factory in China. We don't care what you do with it. We do care that you have fun and attempt to amuse your fellow citizens.

Choose your Fabric

You can use almost anything to make this mask. Fake fur, plush, felt, scraps from your last project, an old sweater, ripped jeans or...
that Armani suit you ruined with battery acid; all are candidates. Old quilts, towels, socks, worn out slippers... everywhere you look there are things you don't wear any more. Be bold! The design benefits from having two colors, but it's not necessary. If your inner kitty is pure white with a pink nose — great. If it's purple and green with a black nose, awesome!

**First Steps**

**1. Print Out the Pattern**

Print the pattern on 2 sheets of 8.5” x 11”, “letter” size paper. Yes, — sorry — Grassy Knoll Industries is in the USA. We still use the colonial measurement system of our ex-British Overlords. Tile it onto A4 if you need to. Take a moment to read the notes on the pattern to familiarize yourself with how the pieces fit together.

**2. Rough cut the pattern pieces and lay out on the fabric**

Roughly cut out the pattern pieces, arrange them on your fabric, and secure with straight pins. Notice which pieces say “cut 2 face-to-face.” For these you will fold your fabric over so the right sides are together, and pin the pattern piece to both layers of fabric. The nose is designed to be vinyl, so try to scrounge a piece from a tote bag, 3-ring binder or similar. If you can’t find vinyl, any heavy fabric will do. If you are using pink, line it with a 2nd black layer.

**Tongue Optional ^~~~**

### Alternate ways to use pattern

- If you don’t have straight pins, you could try using tape.

- You can also cut the pattern pieces out on the solid lines, then carefully trace around them on the wrong side of your fabric. If you do that, you will have to find a way to transfer the other markings, like the dotted sewing and folding lines. For example, you could poke a sharp pen through the paper every 1/4” or cm to make dots on the fabric, then connect them with lines.
3. **Cut out the pieces**

Once you have things pinned or marked, carefully cut out your pieces. If you have crummy scissors, this will be more like gnawing than cutting, but persevere. What else do you have to do today? More Facecrack? Cut on the solid outside lines, and also cut around the black, numbered diamonds. The diamonds are there to help you match up two pieces you’ll need to sew together. A to A, B to B, etc.

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**Sewing**

4. **Nose**

Mark and cut out the nose on a scrap of vinyl. Using tiny stitches and heavy (or doubled) thread, sew a thin, tiny “dart” on the wrong side, beginning at the pointy end and ending at the dot marked on the pattern. Make a tight knot and trim the thread closely. Next, pinch each nostril and throw a stitch between the X’s marked on the pattern.
If your vinyl has an ugly back side this is the time to blacken it with a marker.

Finally, pull the two pinched nostrils together, so the points touch each other, and stitch them together.

**5. Nose Top & Nose Front**

Locate the two pieces labeled Nose Top and Nose Front. Match the two diamonds labeled “A” together, with the right sides of the fabric face-to-face. Sew along the dotted lines to get a nice curve, then turn the finished nose right-side-out. If you used fur or plush, carefully fluff the seam with a tip of the needle to pull the fur out and disguise the seam. If you used regular fabric, use a steam iron to press the seam into shape.
6. Chin

The chin is designed to hang down but not really conform to the bottom of the face mask, so don't be confused by the gap when you get to the assembly stage. Begin by folding the chin darts on the two center fold lines, and pinning securely in place.

At this point, also notice that the dotted lines you are about to sew along are not straight. They are curved to create a cup shape. So, when you put your needle in on one side, make sure you are going in right on the line, and when the needle exits on the other side, make sure you aimed for—and hit—the line on the other side.

Once the darts are sewn, reduce the bulk by carefully trimming off the excess fabric, not getting too close to the stitching or cutting off your knots! Then turn right-side-out and press or fluff the seams.

7. Felted Muzzle Puffs

If you have felting materials and needles, you can skip Step 8 and just make a pair of blobs with different color roving worked in for mouth details and whisker spots. If you don't have felting supplies, proceed to the next step.
8. Muzzle Puffs & Whiskers

Yeah, what are those things called, anyway?

We are talking about the pieces marked Muzzle Front and Muzzle Rear. You did cut two of each of these, right? Face-to-face so they are mirror images, right?

By now, you probably have the hang of the dart sewing. Good, because the muzzle-puffs have lots of fiddly little darts to make them round and voluptuous. Again, fold on each center line, and sew along the curved dotted lines.

Then pin the rear muzzle to the front muzzle, right sides together, and sew the rear to the front.

Now you are thinking, “Uh-oh it’s sewn closed. What now?”

Cut a slot in the back, turn it right-side-out, and stuff the puff with something. Use kapok stuffing if you have it or just fabric scraps will do. Just make sure it’s washable.

Finally, cut some thin wire, or some other whiskery material, loop it into a U-shape, and shove it through the puffs to make the whiskers.
Assembly

9. Assemble chin and nose pieces

Take your N95 face mask now, and lightly tape the chin piece to the mask at the sides. Or use two straight pins through each edge of the mask, being careful not to ruin the integrity of the mask itself. Keep near the very edge, don't damage the elastic, and work in a clean environment!

Next, center the nose piece over the chin, leaving any extra fabric sticking up over the top of the mask. (You will trim the top last.) If you are going to sew the two pieces together, tape or pin them securely to each other to maintain the shape of the mask, then remove both from the mask and sew along the front and a little up the sides. If you are going to use hot melt glue, you can do it with the pieces still formed on the mask. Be sure the glue doesn't go through the fabric and get on the mask. This is supposed to be a removable cover!

10. Muzzle, Nose & Elastic

You can decorate the muzzle puffs before or after you sew or glue them to the nose and chin piece. Make sure they touch each other in the center. Regarding the whiskers, if you use wire, make sure it is short enough that it can't reach your eyeballs if they get pressed back.

Next, sew or glue on the vinyl nose.

When everything is secure, try it on with the N95 and see where the top wants to fall. Trim the top and edges of the nose piece to match the shape of the top of your mask. Finally, you can attach a piece of elastic to hold the cat face over the N95, or resort to the two straight pins again. When you wash it, tape the whiskers together if you used wire, put it in a lingerie bag and hope for the best.
WARNING: THIS COVER ALONE WILL NOT PROTECT YOU FROM VIRUSES. Use only as a decorative cover for your N95 mask.
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