

St Veronica's Compassionate Sewers COVID-19 mask project

using Sharman's Sewing Center face mask pattern

What you will need for one mask:

2 – 8x8 squares (tightly woven cotton)

1 – 3x8 rectangle (tightly woven cotton)

3 – 1" wide fabric strips 43"-45" in length to make 1/4" bias tape. Cut straight across the width of the fabric from salvage edge to salvage edge. (Yes, this is not how to make "true bias tape." Bias tape has too much stretch.)

1 – 4" length of wire twist tie after cutting double check for sharpness. Sandpaper smooth if need be. Trim down the paper or plastic sides. Bag twist ties or garden twist ties for plants work well.

Prep work: Pray

KILL VIRUSES: wash all fabric in hot, soapy water. Dry on highest setting. Press with hot steam iron. Then:

cut out 8x8 squares

cut out 3x8 squares

binding tape - choose one of the following:

Slick Tool Method: Use a 1/2" bias tape maker following manufacturer's instructions.

Old School: Fold 1" fabric in half, press. Fold raw edges towards this first fold, making sure the raw edges do not touch together (leave a small gap, about 1/8") You will see the fold line within the gap. Press making two, crisp, folded outside edges down the strip. Fold strip in half along the first press line. Press again. Done making binding tape.

Get 'er done: Shop your stash or because we are in a pandemic safely purchase 1/4" binding, not the wide. Follow KILL VIRUSES instructions.

You will need 2 – 43"-45" lengths and 2 – 5.5" lengths.

Start Sewing: Pray St Veronica's Prayers

Making pleats:

Print out copy of the pattern template. Place 8x8 square on top right side up. Lightly mark lines 1 to 9 across the width of the fabric (or use a Clover Fabric Folding Pen). Pull Line 3 down overtop of Line 2 Fold Line and match with Line 1. Press pleat toward the bottom. Pull Line 6 down overtop of Line 5 Fold Line and match to Line 4. Press pleat toward the bottom. Pull Line 9 down overtop Line 8 Fold Line, match up with Line 7. Press pleat toward the bottom.

On the sides, baste pleats in place using a ¼" seam allowance.

Repeat for second 8x8 square.

Hem only one (1) pleated square:

Press down ½" at the top of pleated square. Tuck raw edge back under the fold/crease to make ¼" hem. Press. Stitch hem, straight stitch (2.5).

Making the sandwich:

Take 3x8 rectangle, fold in half lengthwise wrong sides together. Press.

Layer the sandwich:	Bottom:	Place pleated square without hem, wrong side up.
	Middle:	Place pleated square with hem right side up. Line up raw edges of the squares together at the bottom ensuring ¼" hem will be pointing toward the top of the mask.
	Top:	Place folded 3x8 rectangle on top, lining up raw edges ensuring the folded edge is pointing toward the bottom of mask.

Stitch sandwich together using a basting or a 2.0 straight stitch using a narrow 1/8" to ¼" inch seam allowance.

Wire placement:

Place twist-tie within the seam allowance of the 3x8 rectangle. Using a small zig-zag stitch, sew over the wire to secure in place. Take courage.

Bind the edges:

Short side method 1: Place the sandwich raw edge in between the fold of the binding. Zig-zag (2.5 wide x 1.8 long) over top of everything all at once. Yes, bold move.

Short side method 2: Unfold binding. Right sides together match binding raw edge to raw edge of mask. Straight stitch (2.5) in binding's first fold/ditch/crease. Flip binding over mask edge. Flip over sandwich and with small zig-zag (2.5 wide x 1.8 long) stitch binding to mask. Trim edges flush.

Repeat for other side.

*Pro-tip: if making multiple masks use same steps with a chain piecing technique. Zippy quick.

Long side which also make the ties: Take 43"-45" binding. Cut straight across both ends with pinking shears. Fold binding in half, mark the center. Fold mask in half mark center. Unfold binding. Right sides together, place binding raw edge even with raw edge of mask, matching center marks. Straight stitch (2.5) in binding's first fold/ditch/crease.

Flip binding over the mask edge. Flip mask over. Fold binding together at one end.

Stop your machine's feed dogs from chewing up little wee binding! Instead of placing the binding into the foot with little or no fabric for the feed dogs to hold on to and a big pile of binding in your lap, sew backwards. Place the long length of binding behind the foot, leaving about an inch or two in front of the foot; giving the feed dogs lots of fabric to hold onto. This might make more sense after you pull binding out of your machine. But we go on...

With an inch or two of binding in front of the foot, stitch with small zig-zag (2.5 wide x 1.8 long). Backstitch a bit before you reach the end, then run stitch off. Trim loose threads with scissors.

Now, place binding into foot as you would normally, overlapping the zig-zag you just stitched by a bit. Keep small zig-zag stitching down the binding, over the mask, and finish up at the other end of the binding.

Repeat for other side.

*Pro-tip: When you get to the place where the mask and binding join up, consider backstitching over the two pieces to reinforce the stress point created there when tying mask onto the face.

FINISHED! God bless you for your labor!

St Veronica, pray for us!