

Welcome to Mask Making!

Quite a few of the UUCD quilters are busy making masks for family, community members, and people whose jobs put them in contact with the public. These masks do not protect the wearer from COVID-19 but are great for catching the wearers' sneezes and coughs and the droplets expelled when breathing. They are reminders to others that the wearer is being careful. When the mouth and nose are covered by a mask, the wearer can't touch those parts of the face. These masks are not for frontline medical workers because they do not provide the needed protection. Mask wearers must continue to maintain physical distancing and hand washing.

Do not use flannel in your mask because it holds moisture. You must use tight-weave cotton fabric for the front and back pieces of the mask. An optional lining can be a lighter weave cotton or the same tight-weave cotton used for the front and back pieces. The UUCD quilting group has vast quantities of appropriate fabric. Contact me, Julie Saylor <mailto:sayjulie@gmail.com>, if you would like fabric for mask making or if you would like to join the quilters email list.

The internet abounds with patterns and youtube tutorials for mask making. A rich information source is Facebook site "[Yolo County Mask-Making for COVID-19](#)" (you have to join the site but approval is simple).

Several UUCD quilters are using this youtube video:

Updated video link:

[How to SEW a MEDICAL face mask with ties | easy SURGICAL face mask | FACE MASK WITH TIES](#)

#homemadeonourhomestead

UUCD quilter Karen Friis followed the video to make a couple masks then wrote these clever shortcut instructions. Don't be daunted by the video. I recommend watching the video, preparing your materials, then making a mask. You might want to carefully follow the video instructions for your first mask then use Karen's shortcuts for the next masks. Soon you'll be an efficient mass producer. If you are brave, just venture forth with Karen's directions (on the next page).

The need for these masks is very high locally and includes many UUCD members. In these disconcerting times, it is very satisfying to produce something concrete and needed. Please join the production team. After you make a few masks, consider modifications you would like such as a back pocket in the mask to insert a filter or a nose piece to tighten the mask at the top, a different configuration for the ties, or simply a deeper or wider or larger or smaller mask. You will find hints and patterns on the Facebook site mentioned earlier in this note.

Julie Saylor

Karen's simplified instructions for a mask

PREPARATION:

1. Select cotton fabric, washed and dried in hot water and hot air.
2. For a medium sized head, cut two pieces of fabric, 10" by 7". For a larger head, cut two pieces, 11" by 8". Iron flat. (Note: some patterns call for a piece cotton lining so you would work with three pieces of fabric instead of two. Do not use flannel for the lining.) It's fun to use two different fabrics for the front and back since the masks are reversible.
3. To make the four ties, cut 4 strips, 20 inches long and 1.5 to 2 inches wide or use 1/2-1" bias tape or grosgrain ribbon. (Note: instead of ties, some patterns use elastic around the ears or around the head.)

SEWING

1. Put the right sides of the fabric together and sew the two long sides. Iron seams and turn to the "right" side. Now you have a tube.
2. Prepare your ties now by folding the tie fabric in half lengthwise, pressing the raw edges inside and stitching. If you are using bias tape, sew (or zigzag) the tape together all the way down the length of the tape. If you are using grosgrain tape no finishing is required.
3. Now back to your tube. Using your iron, press 1/2" to the inside on the two shorter sides of your tube (mask) to prep it for sewing them together.
4. Insert a tie about 1/2" into the tube, very near the top edge and another tie very near the bottom edge and pin in place. Repeat at the other end of the tube. Then pin the rest of the pressed down sides before sewing.
5. Top stitch or zigzag all the way around the four sides of the mask. Now you have a rectangle, totally finished on all four sides with ties fully attached and sticking out the ends.

PLEATING

These directions are for two pleats, resulting in three parallel pleated sections. UUCD quilter Susan Jellema is using an identical rectangle with three pleats.

1. Place the mask on the ironing board and press again.
2. Take the top two corners of the mask in your hands and fold down about one inch to make a pleat. The top of the mask should still be visible. Pin and Press.
3. Make another pleat by taking the top pleat and folding it down one inch again. Pin and Press.
4. Your mask should now have three separate parallel pleated sections. Pin each pleat in place in preparation for sewing.
5. Sew or zigzag each end to secure the pleats in place.
6. Do a final pressing of your entire mask and you have a completed mask. Celebrate!