How to make a simple tie on mask

These instructions are for making 10 masks.

REMINDER!

Most of us are aware these DO NOT replace the N95 masks. They are not for that. This is to protect the N95 mask from becoming too dirty to continue to wear. Anyone that is wearing the crucial N95 mask can also wear this as a simple covering for their mask. We are hoping they will be able to wear their masks longer because of this. You do not have to worry about a filter in it, no interfacing, nothing fancy, this is just to use as a covering for their masks. The N95 mask will do its job, not this fabric mask. Repeating, it is only a covering that might prolong the use of the N95. Yes, the CDC has approved wearing a scarf or covering in a worse case scenario. Let's hope this all passes soon and we can get on with our lives, sadly, others will not have that privilege.

The first thing we will do is make the tie straps.

Here are a few abbreviations you might run into.

RST = Right Sides Together WOF = Width Of Fabric

Cut a piece of fabric about 41 inches long. The extra inch will be for straightening the fabric.



Cut off the selvedges and put in a single fold 1/4 in. hem on both sides were the selvedges were. It only needs to be folded over once because it will be caught up in the bias fold. Refold the fabric in half again for the next step.

HEMMED EDGE ON BOTH SIDES









I place each 2 x WOF piece on my ironing board. I pin both ends down. It just makes it easier to pull along the bias tape maker. I then pull the tape make about 4 inches at a time and press it. I like to set the iron the long way, so it is always pressing the last area until I completely move it off the tape.

Once you have the two folds in it, then press them together. Set them aside as you make them all.

Now we cut the mask parts.

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Cut two 15- inch x WOF strips. Subcut them into 8 - inch pieces. You will get Five 8 x 15 pieces from each strip. (10 total) These will be the masks front and back.





Fold an 8 x 15 piece in half, RST and sew with a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam. Turn right side out and press with the seam to the bottom.



Pin the top of the mask to the top of the pleater. (Please download the Face Mask Pleater Template) Pleats should be pointed up. Be sure to have the seam at the bottom. The side that is up at this time will be the inside of the mask, in case you are making a 2 - sided mask.



(Different fabric shown on this page)

I fold down all the pleats towards the bottom. It makes it easier to tuck in the fabric then fold up the cardboard and then tuck in the fabric into the next one and so on. Clip as you go. (Yes, that was a Rice Krispy's cereal box!)



Fold fabric behind the pleat, then fold up the pleat and clip. Do the next one, and then the next one. As you can see the pleats are going up, that is why this is the inside. The outside of the mask should only have the pleats go down. This mask is versatile because you can use either side and flip it, so the pleats are down.



Baste a ¼ inch or less on the sides while it is still on the cardboard pleater. This is just to hold the pleats in place while you put on the straps.



The sewing does not have to be along the whole side, just hold those pleats down!





(Different fabric shown on this page)

Here it is all sewn, and clips removed.

You can now remove the mask from the cardboard and press pleats in place. You are now ready to add the straps.



Find the center of the tie, open it and place on the center of the side of the mask. This does not have to be perfect...eyeballing is good here! I like to baste it about a $\frac{1}{4}$ in. from the edge. I just want to be sure it will hold it in place while I sew the rest of the tie together. Do to both sides.



Now fold it over to the other side, matching edges of tie and clip in place. This is the only place I clip it on to sew the rest of the tie. You can pin or clip more if you choose. I didn't find it necessary because you have already done a lot of pressing on it and it just falls into place.





I like to start about 3/8 of an inch in from the edge and then backstitch and then continue. When I get to the other end, I sew to the end and then backstitch about 3/8 and that is where I end. You will never have strings right on the edge of your seam if you do it this way.



Your mask is complete! I know there are a 100 ways to make these, this is only what I did because I wanted a way to make them fast and easy. I know there are all kinds of pretty ones out there, and some with pockets, lining, flannel, fleece, whatever. I am just following what the CDC said and all they are asking for is a cover for the N95 mask. I think I accomplished that. Let's hope they won't even need these!