

How to make an awesome shark costume

by: Jenny



Materials

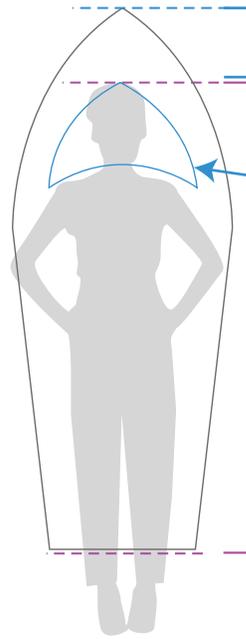
- Couple of yards/meters of grey medium weight fabric
- Red Felt or other fabric
- White Felt or other fabric
- Fabric Glue
- Thread + needle or sewing machine
- Scissors
- Newspaper or large sheets or roll of paper
- pen or fabric chalk
- Pillow stuffing or extra fabric

1 Measure Yourself



Width

Measure the widest part of your body to base the width of the costume on that measurement to make sure the costume will fit. Then add at least 8 to 10 inches extra to widest part for the costume to make sure it is not too tight.



Height

Decide how high/tall you want the nose of the fish to be and add that to your measurements

Note that the mouth will be where your face is.

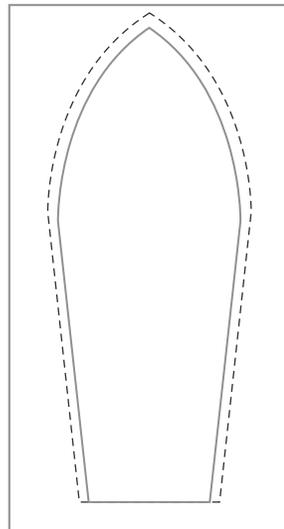
2 Make a Pattern, Trace and Cut it out

The pattern is the size of the costume (solid line)
After finishing tracing the pattern to the fabric add an extra inch all around (dotted line). The extra inch is there because you will be sewing on the solid line so you need that extra fabric so that you can sew. Don't worry you won't see this extra fabric in the final costume. So draw the extra inch all around the different parts.

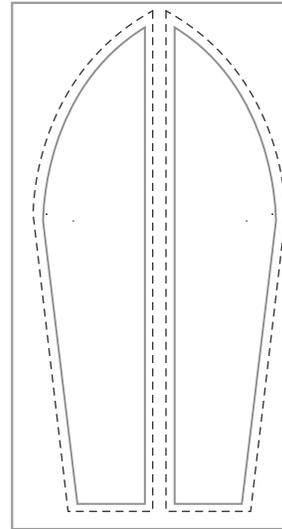
Cut out all the parts.

----- Cut Line

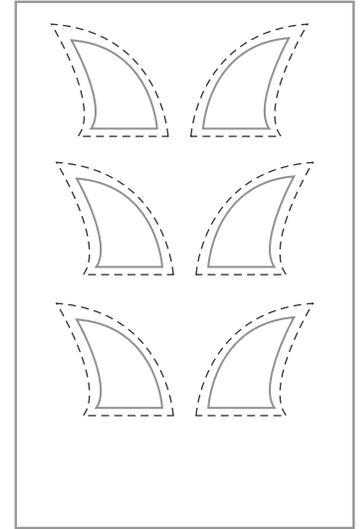
———— Sew Line



Front (1 piece)

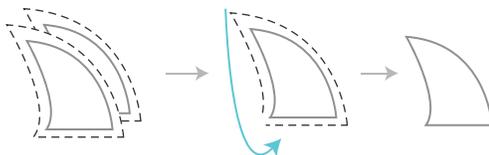


Back (2 pieces and make 4-6 inches in total wider than the front piece)



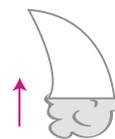
Fins
2 side fins and 1 dorsal fin

3 Fins



Fins

Sew each fin with the backside of the fabric on the outside. Sew along the solid line. You will then need to flip them inside out.

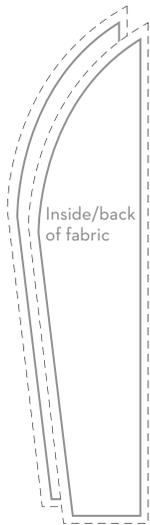


Stuff!

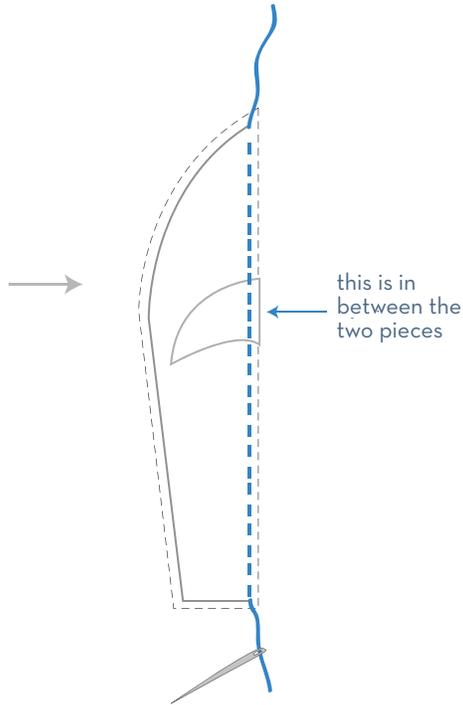
Now you will need to take pillow stuffing, cotton or extra fabric and stuff all the fins. Don't overstuff.

4 Time to Sew and Assemble!

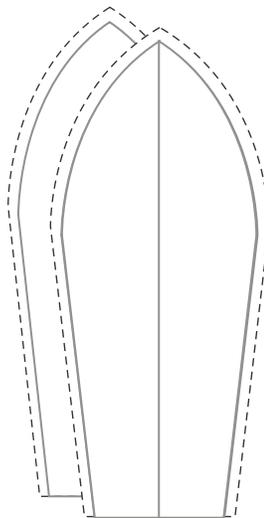
Back side



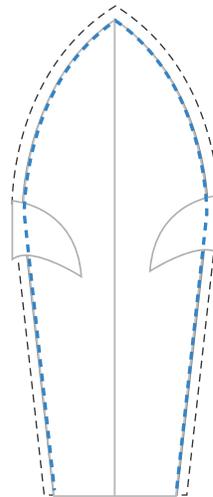
Place the 2 back pieces on top of each other with the front/outside facing each other. You can pin the pieces to hold them together while you sew.



Then put one of the fins in between the 2 pieces around the middle - where ever you want the dorsal fin to appear. Sew the back 2 pieces down the middle.



Attach Front and Back
Place these 2 shark body pieces on top of each other with the front/outside of the fabric facing each other.

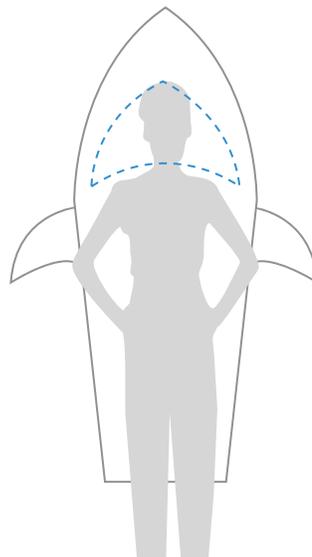
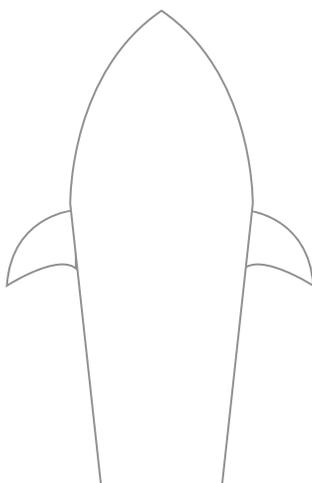


Place the other 2 fins onto the sides of the body. They should be placed in between the pieces and facing inward. Of course no need to sew the bottom because that will be the opening of the costume to get into it.

*We place the fins this way because we will be flipping it inside out and the fins will then be facing outward correctly.

----- Sew Line

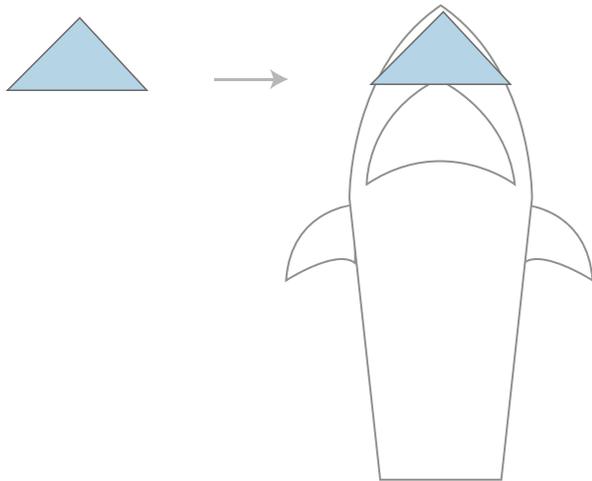
Turn it inside out!



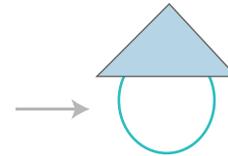
Try it on and see exactly where to put the mouth. Trace it and cut out it out

Time to Sew and Assemble! Continued...

With extra fabric you can make a triangular shaped pillow. Use the pillow stuffing to make this. Put the pillow inside the shark up at the nose. Sew it to the costume at the seams. This will not only help hold the shape of the head but also make it sit on top of your head so that the costume sits at the correct place on you.



*Note: I found that the head part kept falling and I had to adjust the pillow on my head all the time. I suggest making some kind of a strap to strap to your head.



5 Mouth, Teeth Eyes Oh My!

Mouth: Cut out the red felt/fabric in the shape of the mouth, making it slightly bigger so that you have room to glue it on. Cut out a oval hole, this is where your face will peek through. Using the fabric glue, glue it on top of the mouth of the shark costume.

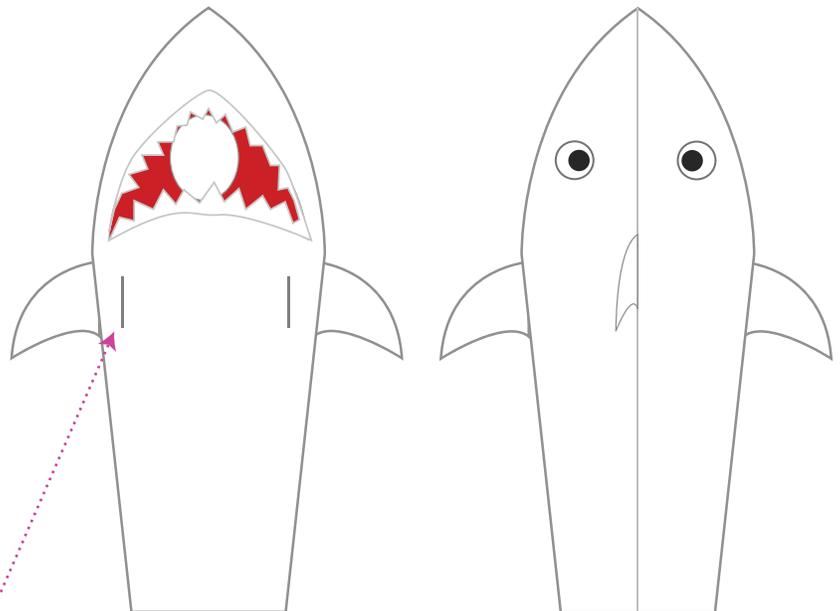
Teeth: Cut out the teeth with the white felt/fabric and glue that on around all along the mouth.

Eyes: Just cut out a white circle and a smaller black circle and glue together. Make a pair and there you go. Glue on the head of the shark.



Front

Back



Arm Slits: You can cut out slits for the arms. Cut approximately 8 inch vertical slits close to where the fins are, or where ever your arms can fit through.



Yay you are done and ready to rock it as a shark!