

Simple Tie Mask with Filter Pocket

(adapted by Lynne Morrison from a pattern posted online by Zelda Pickenmeier)

1. Cut a 9" x 15" rectangle of 100% cotton fabric. If you are using the same fabric for both sides of the mask, it is helpful to draw a heart or other mark with a Sharpie marker on one corner of the fabric before you begin to sew. Make sure the mark is at least 1" from all edges of the fabric so it will not get covered up as the mask is constructed. This will allow the wearer to know which side is the inside of the mask.
 - *Option for making mask using two different fabrics:* Cut one rectangle of each of two different fabrics, each measuring 9" x 7 3/4". Place the rectangles with right sides together and sew together along one of the 9" sides using a 1/4" seam allowance. Continue with the steps listed below.
2. Fold one of the 9" edges 1/2" to the wrong side and press. Fold raw edge in to meet pressed fold and stitch to form a narrow hem.
3. Fold the rectangle right sides together, matching the 9" sides. Position so that the edge which has not been sewn down extends 1/2" beyond the sewn edge. Serge or sew both side seams using a 1/4" seam allowance.
4. Turn the fabric right side out and press.
5. Clip the top edge of the mask (the open edge) to your pleater with the pleats on the cardboard facing down. Fold the fabric first into the top pleat, then into the second and third pleats, clipping as you go along if necessary. If you don't have a pleater, you can estimate 3 pleats, each 1/2" deep. Press the pleats.
6. Keeping the mask on the pleater, sew the pleats down on both sides using 1/8" seam allowance. You don't have to sew the whole length of the side of the mask, just over the pleats.
7. Remove the pleater and press the pleats again.
8. Measure the sides of the mask now that it has been pleated. Cut two pieces of 1/2" double fold bias tape or twill tape to the same length.
9. Center one of the pieces of bias tape along one of the pleated sides of the mask, lining the long edge of the tape up with the raw edge of the mask. Open up the folds in the bias tape and sew the bias tape to the mask along the crease in the bias tape closest to the raw edge.
10. Flip the bias tape over to the other side of the mask so that it covers the raw edge of the pleated side of the mask. Clip or pin in place if desired. The bias tape should just cover the seam you just sewed. Sew the bias tape in place, sewing close to the edge of the bias tape where it meets the mask.
11. Repeat steps 9 and 10 to sew the second piece of bias tape over the other pleated side of the mask.
12. Cut two 38" pieces of 1/2" double fold bias tape or twill tape for the straps.

13. Find the center of one of the strap pieces and line it up with the center of the bottom edge of the mask. Open up the folds in the bias tape and line one of the long edges of the bias tape up with the bottom of the mask. Sew the bias tape to the mask along the crease in the bias tape closest to the raw edge.
14. Flip the bias tape over to the other side of the mask so that it covers the bottom edge of the mask. Clip or pin in place if desired. The bias tape should just cover the seam you just sewed.
15. To complete the strap, you need to sew the long edges of the bias tape together, stitching about 1/8" from the long edge. Keeping the seam you just sewed on the bottom, start sewing from one edge of the bias tape. When you get to where the strap joins the mask, continue sewing on the bias tape close to where it meets the mask. Continue sewing past the end of the mask to the bottom of the bias tape. Backstitch at the beginning and end of this seam.
16. Repeat steps 13 through 15 to sew the second strap to the top of the mask. Sew it only to the single layer of fabric at the top 1/2" of the mask. Make sure you don't catch the inside layer of fabric folded below the top. This ensures that the pocket for the filter stays open.
17. Insert your desired filter material into the pocket.