

Mask Making Workshop

Materials

For the mask itself

Ideally -a smooth finely woven cotton or linen with one or more already finished hems

Given the circumstances- hankies, bandanas, cotton scarves, all cotton or linen napkins, an old dress shirt, an old dress, pillowcase, sheet (all cotton), an ugly tablecloth. You are looking for thin fabric with a close weave. As you look at possible fabrics try to find something with at least one finished edge. The mask needs to protect you from the virus, but you also need to breathe.

For the ties/elastic

Ideally- $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch elastic- you will need about 6-7 inches for each side of the mask

Given the circumstances- Elastic substitutes- If you have little to no hair- regular old rubber bands (otherwise this is a painful option), hair elastics (depending on the make of the elastics, this may or may not work, some hair elastics break as soon as they are stretched). Harvest elastic from the waistband of a pair of underpants- the elastic needs to have enough recovery to actually work, or from the waistband of a pair of pants, or pajamas. Cut crosswise strips from a knit garment with a whole lot of Lycra in it, a bathing suit, leggings, a yoga top. Once cut and pulled the long way-- the strips will curl up on themselves and look like a tube. Cotton t- shirts may work but may need regular replacement.

Ties- a drawstring from a pair of pajamas, shoe laces, long strips of sheet folded and sewn so no raw edges show (this is labor intensive if you don't have a sewing machine and an iron), yarn turned into cording, ribbons. You will only need the ties if you can't rustle up elastic.

For the nose piece

Given the circumstances- a folded strip of tin foil, a wire twist tie, florist wire, pipe cleaners a bit of tooling metal if you are into metal crafts, soft flexible lightweight metal.

Tools

For sewing

Ideally-a working sewing machine that you know how to use. Teaching you how to use your machine is a different class. If you have not used your machine in a long time, be sure to oil it and clean out the lint that is living around the bobbin case before you start to sew. It is also a good idea to change the needle if you do not remember the last time you did. Your machine will sew much better if you are nice to it before you start to sew.

Given the circumstances- a needle and thread. Any sewing needle and any sewing thread will do. See if you have one of those hotel sewing kits tucked into a drawer. I am teaching this class assuming hand sewing, but sewing by machine is much faster and neater.

For cutting

Ideally- a pair of dedicated fabric shears (OK, a girl can dream)

Given the circumstances- Any scissors you have at home. If you can possibly sharpen the scissors by cutting a sheet of fine sandpaper multiple times before the class, you will make your life easier. Cutting fabric with dull scissors is frustrating.

For Marking

A pencil and a ruler.

For pressing

Ideally- an iron and an ironing board

Given the circumstances- for the iron-A big serving spoon and a gas flame, an incandescent light bulb in a lamp (LED probably won't work), a metal butter knife or letter opener—less than ideal but what can we do?

For the ironing board-. You do not want to melt your counters or destroy the finish on your table. A stack of folded sheets or towels will work. Plastic melts when hot, Formica melts when heated. Heat and damp will destroy a pretty finished wood surface.