

# See-Through Masks

by Vicki Spiering

*Thank you for your interest in the see-through masks I developed for HEAR Wisconsin and in particular my neighbor and friend Liz. The story was featured April 29, 2020 on TMJ4. I originally made one, then 24 for the staff, and an additional 60 for HEAR Wisconsin to give to their clients. TMJ4 has definitely shown the greater need. One post simply stated, "It's so nice to see a smiling face" and another "I wish store clerks would have these". There are so many different mask patterns out there and all can be easily modified. I think the most important measurement to know when you are modifying your own favorite mask pattern is the mouth opening measurement begins 2-1/4" down from the top, centered, and the opening is 2"x 4". My neighbor Liz, who is hard of hearing and wears a cochlear implant, and I tweaked this until **she** was satisfied. I have made 80 masks for HEAR Wisconsin and the opening doesn't really work for everyone – but Liz has told me they simply fold the top over once if the opening is too low. Here are my instructions:*

Cut 2: 7-1/2" x 7-1/2" cotton fabric

Cut 1: Clear Plastic 3"x 5" (With JoAnn Fabrics closed, I was able to purchase clear plastic at Ace Hardware. There were 3 weights available, I am using the mid-weight)

**NOTE: plastic can melt ... don't iron directly on the plastic when making this mask.**

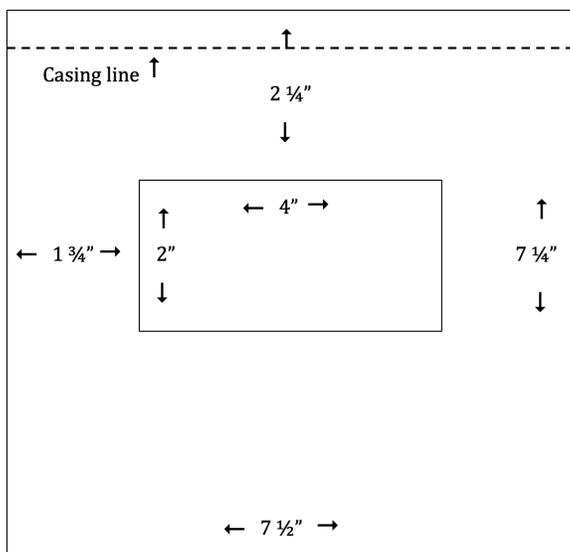
Step 1: Sew RST at the top using 1/4" seam allowance.

Step 2: Turn right side out and press the seam.

Step 3: Sew 1/4" – 1/2" down from the top to create a casing for the pipe cleaner at the nose.

Step 4: Cut a 7 1/2" x 7 1/4" template from template plastic or cereal box cardboard. Cut the opening 2" x 4" positioned 2 1/4" from the top and 1 3/4" from the left side.

I found it easiest to draw the opening at this step because the front and back are now basically lined up. \*I created 2 templates. 1 template was 2"x 4" and the other template was 1/4" less that I used to mark where I would cut.



Step 5: Cut out 1/4" from drawn line and clip corners.

Do this on both the front and back of the mask.

Step 6: From the wrong side of the fabric using washable glue stick (children's glue), fold and tack the opening back. (Let this dry a bit)



Step 7: Flip inside out and sew the bottom seam.



Flip back to right side out and press.



Step 8: Insert clear plastic and top stitch to secure in place.



Step 9: Insert pipe cleaner at the nose

(fold each end of the pipe cleaner so there are no sharp ends)



Step 10: Make 3 pleats on each side of the mask.

The pleats are approximately 1/2" each and can be pinned or basted in place)

Step 11: Add straps or elastic to finish.



## **Cleaning and Defogging**

To disinfect after each wearing these masks should be washed in a washing machine, and air dried. The vinyl will not hold up to drying in a dryer. To prevent fogging of masks, rub a dab of Dawn™ dish soap on the inside and let it dry (I wonder if that will work for my glasses?).

## **Donating**

Please make these masks and give them to friends, family, and local clinics or senior centers who would benefit from them. If you aren't sure who to give them to, please put them in a sealed ziplock bag, labeled with the number you have made, then take them to either of the same two drop off locations we've had on our ["Face Masks for Heroes"](#) site:

1. Gina is collecting and distributing masks donated through this project. they can be dropped off at her home:

Gina Magnus  
1025 N. Morgan Road  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Her home has a circle drive and the masks can be put in a marked bin on the back porch without making human contact. It's not far from Ben Franklin in Oconomowoc and a good reason to take a ride out in the country. If you would prefer to have your masks picked up, you may call or text Gina at (262)424-7640

2. The second option for dropping off masks is:

[Sew Much More](#); 2140 W Saint Paul Avenue in Waukesha. Even though the store is closed, they are accepting masks in a box in front of the store, Monday – Friday, from 10 – 2 . Wendy recently told me that if you are running low on fabric (LOL) or have a need for a specific print (ie. patriotic), you may call the store and they will bring your order out to you curbside. [\(262\) 547-7774](#)

See-through face mask questions? email [vspiering@wi.rr.com](mailto:vspiering@wi.rr.com)