

## **Cloth Masks with Filter Pockets Needed**

Requests have come from both Johns Hopkins Hospital and Ascension St. Agnes Hospital for hand-sewn cloth masks with pocket for a filter. The hospitals are ordering filters to be used inside the cloth masks.

These masks will be used by hospital clinicians together with a face shield in order to preserve the N95 masks for the most serious clinical situations. There is hope that N95 mask manufacturing will come through but, in the meantime, ER docs are wearing cloth face masks because the supply of N95 masks is already extremely limited. They need masks as quickly as we can make them.

### **Work Environment:**

Begin by washing your hands and clearing/cleaning a space in your home free of food, smoke, pets, and kids. Launder the fabric you intend to use, ideally with unscented detergent. Your work environment need not be sterile, but it should be clean. Wash your hands frequently and do not touch your face. If you are trying on prototypes, please do not include them with your finished product.

### **Patterns**

Please see links to three patterns below. Please use any pattern you are comfortable with making as long as it has a pocket for an insertable filter.

Time is of the essence; you need not fret about which one at this point. They need lots of masks NOW.

I made prototypes of two of the masks listed below. They prefer the “duckbill” patterns over the pleated varieties. They feel more “form fitting”. The clinicians were split 50/50 on liking #1 and #2 so they asked for all types. Change it up and increase mask size by adding either 1/2” or 1/4” all around to the basic pattern. Faces come in all shapes and sizes

1. The duckbill <https://jennifermaker.com/face-mask-patterns-cricut/>. Three different sizes and very clear instructions; choose three layers with filter pocket. This is better than the instructables pattern I listed before <https://www.instructables.com/id/DIY-Cloth-Face-Mask/> but both are needed.
2. <https://www.instructables.com/id/Face-Mask-Duckbill-With-Filter/>

*Note:* This pattern was made without a filter pocket. If anyone would like to modify this design so it can have a pocket, it needs to have a pocket for insertable filter. Some liked it because it fit well. It also has more layers of fabric which makes it not as comfortable for some over a 12 hour shift.

Even though this pattern does not have a pocket, the hospitals would still accept If you choose this mask, for lining, use pre-washed cotton flannel or thicker non-fusible interfacing in lieu of the furnace filter (\*wink\*). The maker used an actual filter which the hospital **does not** want you to use.

3. [https://vimeo.com/399743389?ref=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR0-h4huYekVNjl2\\_LnLVoQqE4CKJgzodnnUlatCdAmB8QzU-ju1BZSPmKSI](https://vimeo.com/399743389?ref=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR0-h4huYekVNjl2_LnLVoQqE4CKJgzodnnUlatCdAmB8QzU-ju1BZSPmKSI)

This video also gives another good design but again, no pocket for filter. If you could modify to include a pocket, that would be better. The overall mask is good. My sister-in-law is working this one. She is modifying to include a pocket and doesn't think the added straw on front is necessary.

4. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p9zJEGtROXhQA2dwHhil-PAeKfOYdZGMw/view?fbclid=IwAR0vF4k2AZ7ydk0M0MMDsJe-LHH-OUt1kxAPOn3i4eyp1zI\\_OgHZXMgleo14](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p9zJEGtROXhQA2dwHhil-PAeKfOYdZGMw/view?fbclid=IwAR0vF4k2AZ7ydk0M0MMDsJe-LHH-OUt1kxAPOn3i4eyp1zI_OgHZXMgleo14)

This one is a pleated type and does have a pocket. Pleated masks will not be turned away and it's even better if they are made with a filter pocket.

### **A Note on Elastic for ALL masks:**

1. Elastic is better than cloth ties.
2. One continuous loop of elastic is preferred over two separate ear loops.
3. Be generous. They can always be shortened. At least 18 inches of elastic (and throw in a 20" every now and then for the big heads).
4. Close the elastic loop with one sloppy, overhand knot at the ends. Keep knot loose enough so wearer can untie to adjust their fit.

### **Materials**

*For fabric:* Fabric should be new, unused, pre-washed, breathable and tightly woven, such as 100% cotton (some canvas weight works; some duck cloth too heavy), 60/40 broadcloth, quilting cottons or cotton flannels.

*For elastic bands:* elastic, fold over elastic (or cotton twill tape if that's all you have.). I've had success with Goody elastic headbands (the large ones that cover the whole head; not the ponytail holders) and Bungee shock cord as well.

A Fabric Place | Michael's Fabrics, 5324 Falls Rd, Baltimore, MD 21209-2013 is selling supplies. They have a 60/40 cotton/poly broadcloth that can withstand the extreme heat of sterilization. Jonathan says they are loaded with elastic. They can ship to you or you can pick up. You can call them, tell them what you need, give your credit card. They have curbside pickup so you don't even need to get out of the car. Store: 410-828-6777 Office: 443-275-2960 or email [michaelsfabrics@comcast.net](mailto:michaelsfabrics@comcast.net)

They are also selling kits with their own pattern included. Their pattern does NOT include a pocket so please don't make those for this task. If you decide on a kit, make sure that the fabric amount included is adequate for your pattern.

The wire nose piece is very important for a snug fit around the face. Even though masks will be worn together with a face shield, the mask needs to fit the face as snugly as possible.

*For nose piece:* Heavy aluminum catering pans/containers (cut strips into 1/4" pieces; plastic coated twist ties (I used three for extra strength, 12 gauge copper wire). Aluminum foil was too flimsy.

#### DO NOT USE:

No vintage, stretchy, knit, used towels/sheets, clothing, metal, plastics, filters, vacuum bags, interfacing or unknown material fabrics. elastic: no hair bands, ties, or rubber bands.

Additional notes about materials: Masks must withstand frequent washing. Please avoid allergens such as latex. If you are trying

on prototypes as you make them, please do not include them with your finished product.

## 6 Finished Masks

Ship 'em as you make 'em! Don't wait to make a hundred...ship every 20 or so. Our health care providers are desperate for protection.

Place your finished masks in a clean ziplock bag along with a paper indicating your full name, phone number, material content, pattern used, and quantity. Please mention that your masks have a pocket for insertable filter and other info you deem pertinent.

Masks for Johns Hopkins can be mailed directly to:

Johns Hopkins Health System  
Consolidated Services  
Attn: Burton Fuller  
5300 Holabird Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21224

If mailing, place plastic bag in cardboard box. Maker should then seal the box with tape (does not need to be excessively taped up, just so it does not open accidentally during transport) then label the outside of the box with the time and date clearly. Please also write the quantity of masks inside. Once taped shut, do NOT open the box again. It must remain sealed. This allows for infection control of packing materials.

Masks for St. Agnes and/or Johns Hopkins can be dropped on my front porch in a clean plastic bag inside a paper bag. Please note with a sharpie on bag, the date and time you placed the masks in the ziplock bag and the total number and type of masks inside the ziplock bag(s).

Susan Elliott  
5166 Britten Lane  
Ellicott City, MD. 21043

If you cannot deliver for any reason, please email me at [playswithneedles@verizon.net](mailto:playswithneedles@verizon.net) or call my cell and I'll try to have someone pick them up from your front porch.

One maker asked if we could keep track of how many we make so it would spur us on! If you mail your masks directly to Hopkins, take a moment and send me an email or text to let me know how many went out. I'll try to keep the official tally and share with you all.

Thank you! Your support means everything to our Baltimore community. The health care workers are grateful for any support as they face the numbers of cases projected to hit their hospitals in the next few weeks. Let's show them they're not alone, and they're not going to go unprotected.

Stay safe and stay well.

And please, if you are having symptoms or not feeling well, please don't participate in this drive.