



PlanetAlexanderProjects

Props and Cosplay

Hey there, thanks for purchasing this foam pattern! This guide will give you some extra tips in conjunction to the ReadMe file to help you make the best foam piece possible. And of course, if you ever need additional help or clarification, you can always send me a message.

If this is your first time working with foam, I highly recommend checking out some of the resources linked at the end of this guide.

Let's start with tools and materials. You'll need foam, of course; the mask patterns were designed to work with 3mm EVA (craft) foam. This first section is only a very brief overview of what you'll need.

Tools and Materials

You'll need a sharp knife to cut the foam cleanly. You can use either a utility knife, or a scalpel/X-acto knife. To keep it sharp, make sure to either replace the blade when it doesn't produce clean cuts through foam, or sharpen it such as with a knife sharpener.

The best adhesive to glue EVA foam together is contact cement. If this option is not available, superglue also works well. Hot glue can work as a last resort, but can be messier and harder to work with.

Before painting your foam, you can close up the porous surface by heat sealing it. This is achieved by taking a heat gun (unfortunately most hair dryers don't reach the required temperatures) and lightly going back and forth over the surface. When the foam starts to become shiny, it's sealed. Because heat sealing softens the foam, you can also use this to manipulate it to fit (but be careful – do not put hot foam up to your skin!)

If you're heat sealing foam, or using contact cement, you need to make sure you're properly set up to do so. This means wearing a respirator that is designed to block out those kinds of fumes. You'll also want to work in an open, ventilated space.

The final step before painting is to seal your foam. Common sealants include Mod Podge (brush on), or PlastiDip or LeakSeal (spray on). Look around to see what is available to you, and what would be best for you to use. Sealant's aren't completely necessary, but help stop paint from being absorbed by the foam.

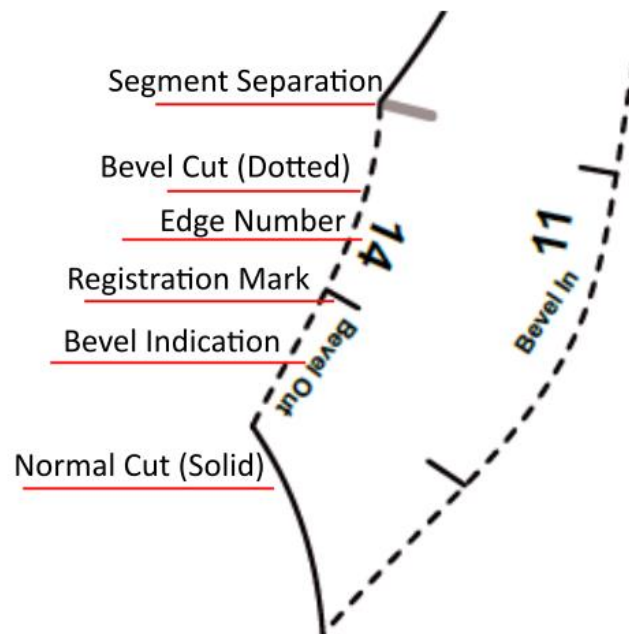
Scaling

With each pattern is a ReadMe that has directions on how to scale the pattern to fit you. Simply measure what it asks, then adjust the included equation to calculate, as a percentage, how much you need to scale up or down the pattern.

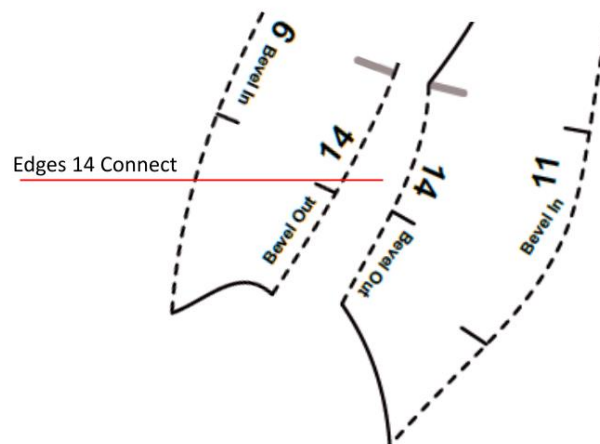
Every pattern comes in A4 and Letter paper size variations, so use which best suits your printer.

Understanding the Patterns

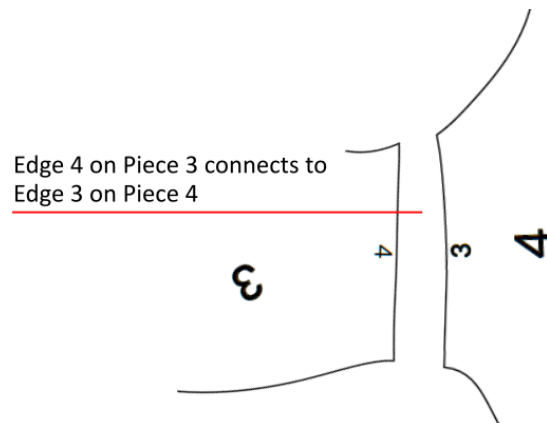
Initially, some of the patterns can appear overwhelming – but fear not! This next section will help break down what everything means.



To start, each piece of the pattern will include a number correlating to either an edge or edge segment. For some patterns, each number gets connected with the identical number edge. For example, both edges with a "1" on it get glued together, both edges with a "2" on it get glued together, etc.



For more recent patterns, the edge number relates to the pattern piece it connects to. For example, a piece numbered with a large “1” and has an edge “2” gets glued to another piece, with a large “2” with an edge “1”. The ReadMe will explain in which method the edges are attached.

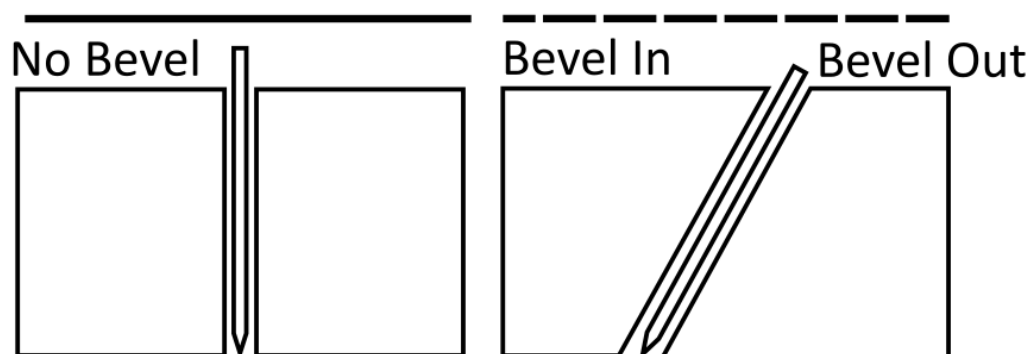


Many edges have thin black lines that run inwards. These are called Registration Marks and are used as guides when gluing pieces together. Simply match them up on both pieces to know the piece is being attached correctly. Some parts may require some stretching to match these marks; this is intentional, to make the right shapes.

Other lines are thick and grey. These indicate where one edge segment stops, and another starts. Each segment will have its own number – if an edge is blank, it is part of the outside and does not connect to anything.

Edges marked with “Mirror” means that edge gets stuck onto its mirrored piece (made by flipping the pattern over for the other side).

You may notice, if your pattern has it, that some edges are made up of dotted lines. These dotted lines indicate a bevel. A bevel is when the knife, instead of running vertically along the cut, gets angled. Bevels help create sharper corners between two pieces. With every dotted line is an indication of whether the edge is bevelled in or out. Refer to the diagram to see how you should angle your blade when cutting these lines. You should angle your blade to approximately 45°, though exactness is not important. Solid lines are not bevelled, and cuts should be vertical. Take note that for some patterns, edges may have bevels that run only part way. Make sure when you flip the patterns, you are still bevelling in or out as the edge dictates.



I hope this guide clarifies any queries you may have with the patterns, and once again, please reach out if you need more help!

If you like the pattern, please consider leaving a review on Etsy, and share your work too – you can tag me @planetalexanderprojects on Instagram.

Resources

Each of these channels contain helpful videos for getting started with foam smithing, and are tutorials I watched when first getting started with the craft.

SKS Props

<https://www.youtube.com/@SKSProps>

Punished Props

<https://www.youtube.com/@punishedprops>

Evil Ted Smith

<https://www.youtube.com/@EvilTedSmith>