

“McKeithan Jensen Playable Mask” Adult/Young Adult



Supplies:

- 1 8.5" x 4.5" 100% cotton square (“front top”)
- 1 8.5" x 3.75" 100% cotton square (“front bottom”)
- 2 8.5" x 4" 100% cotton squares (“back”)
- 2 7"-8" elastics (or other means to secure around the head/ears)
- 1 pipe cleaner or wire (*optional)

Directions:

1. Fold over and sew a seam on one long side of each fabric square.
2. Place the two back pieces together, finished sides facing, and mark or pin about 2" in from each side. This will be a mouth opening.



3. Sew the two back pieces together, leaving the middle gapped. Sew on the outside of the seam to allow it to lay flat.



4. Press the back seams flat.



5. Flip the back piece over (finished side up). Lay the front top piece down. Take the time to make sure it is straight. Line up the edges – the most important is to make sure it covers the point that the back pieces meet.



6. Place the front bottom piece down. It should overlap the front top piece. Pin in place.



7. Sew the entire piece together. (*I opted to sew the elastics into the edges, but you may use whatever means you are comfortable with for elastics)

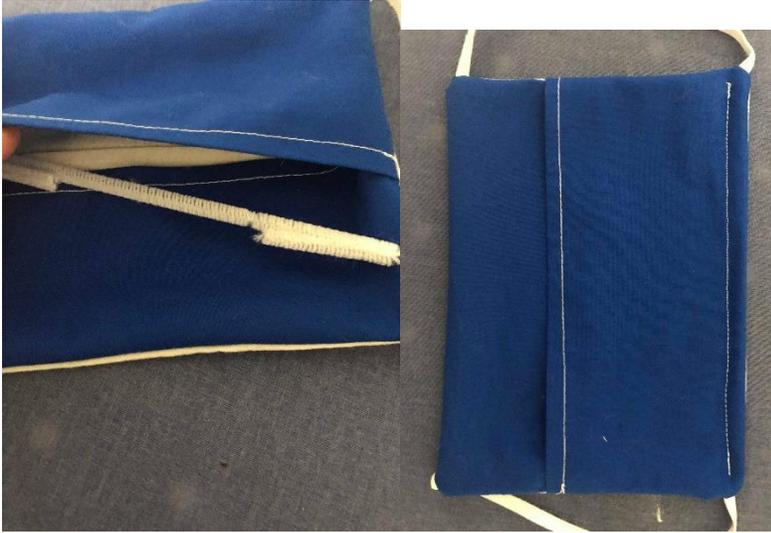


8. Trim the edges to cut back on bulk.

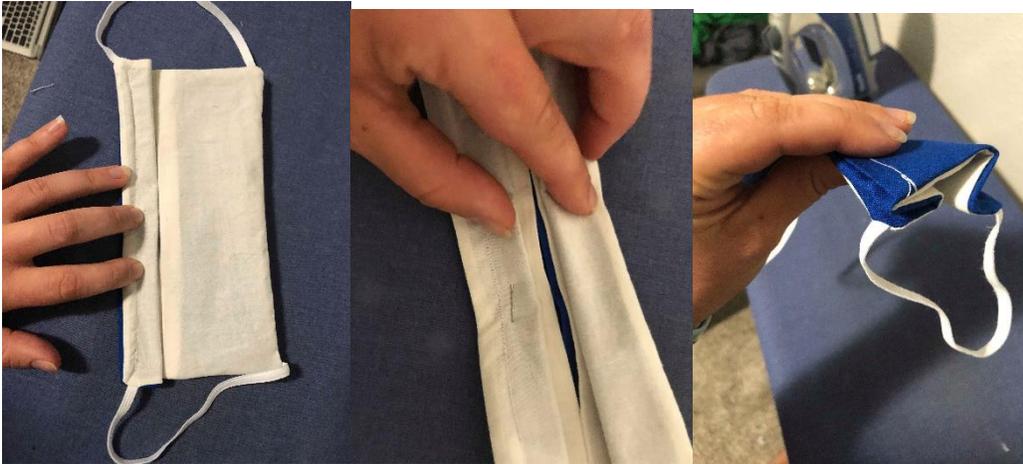


9. Turn the piece right side out.

10. *optional: Bend the edges of a pipe cleaner to fit. Place it between the front top and back piece at the top and sew a line to keep it in place.



11. Create the pleats. Flip the mask over and fold the top and bottom in to meet at the middle, being careful to use the mouth opening as a guide so it remains in the middle.



12. Press the pleats – don't get the elastic if already sewn it (it will melt!)



13. Sew down each side of the mask to keep the pleats in place.



When expanding the mask, take care that the mouth opening in the back remains in the middle/by the mouth. Use the top two pleats to create the fit. This is where the pipe cleaner/wire is helpful for the best fit.



The goal of this particular mask is to allow the mask to function normally – when not being used for playing, the front top cloth covers the back mouth openings for the two layers of cotton as suggested for cloth masks. When the front top piece is pushed upward, it will allow for a mouthpiece of woodwind or brass instruments while still creating a barrier on the sides (please note this has not been scientifically tested). Students should be able to use their mouthpieces to lift up the flap, cutting back on touching of the mask or face. Furthermore, during long rests or anytime the student isn't playing, all they have to do is bring the front top down – cutting back on how many times they will have to handle their mask/touch their face to put it on/take it off during rehearsal.

A special thanks to Jamie Myers, my colleague, for his initial prototype.

****For child size, I suggest removing 2 inches from the width and an inch from each height. This has not been tested.****