

## Makeshift N95 masks for Santa Clara County medical providers

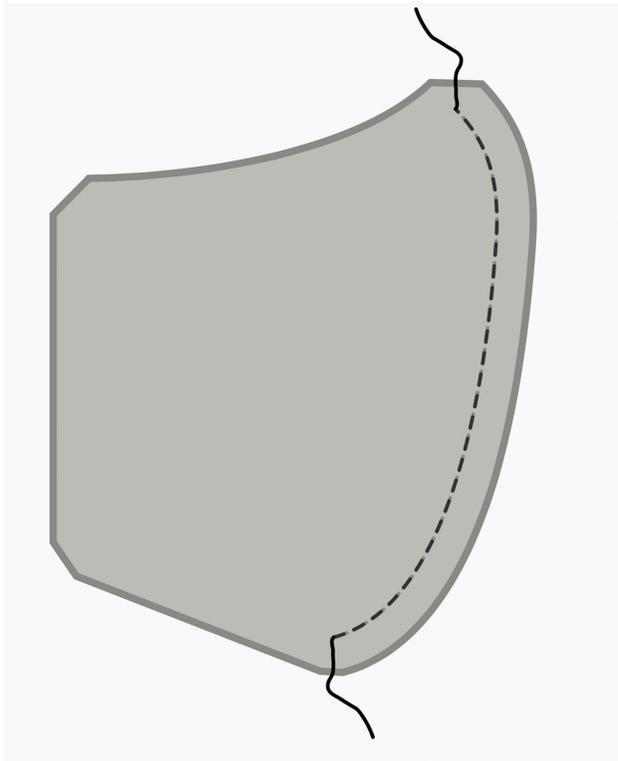
### We need thousands of these to keep them safe!

#### **Supplies:**

vacuum cleaner bags

Per mask: 6 feet of 1/4 inch bias tape or grosgrain unwired ribbon, cut equally into 4 pieces

OR 22 inches of 1/4 inch elastic, cut into one 10 inch and one 12 inch piece



**Step 1:** Prep vacuum cleaner bags by opening seams with your rotary blade or scissors.

Determine how many medium and/or small masks you can cut out, and cut them out.

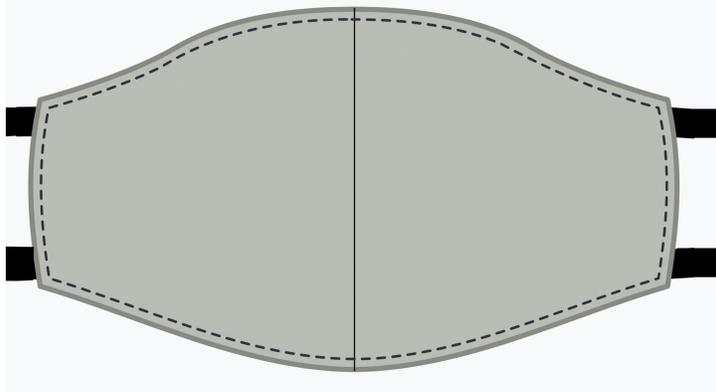
(Vacuum Cleaner Dust Bag for Kenmore Type O Bag can yield 4 whole masks and one half mask per bag)

#### **Step 2:**

Sew 1/4 inch seam, securing stitches at each end of mask as in image 1. Pin in place as needed to prevent shifting before sewing.

#### **Step 3:**

Place each ribbon/bias tape about 1/2 inch between the vacuum bag layers; pin in place if desired as in image 2. Edge-stitch around the entire mask to secure ribbons and add stability to the mask.

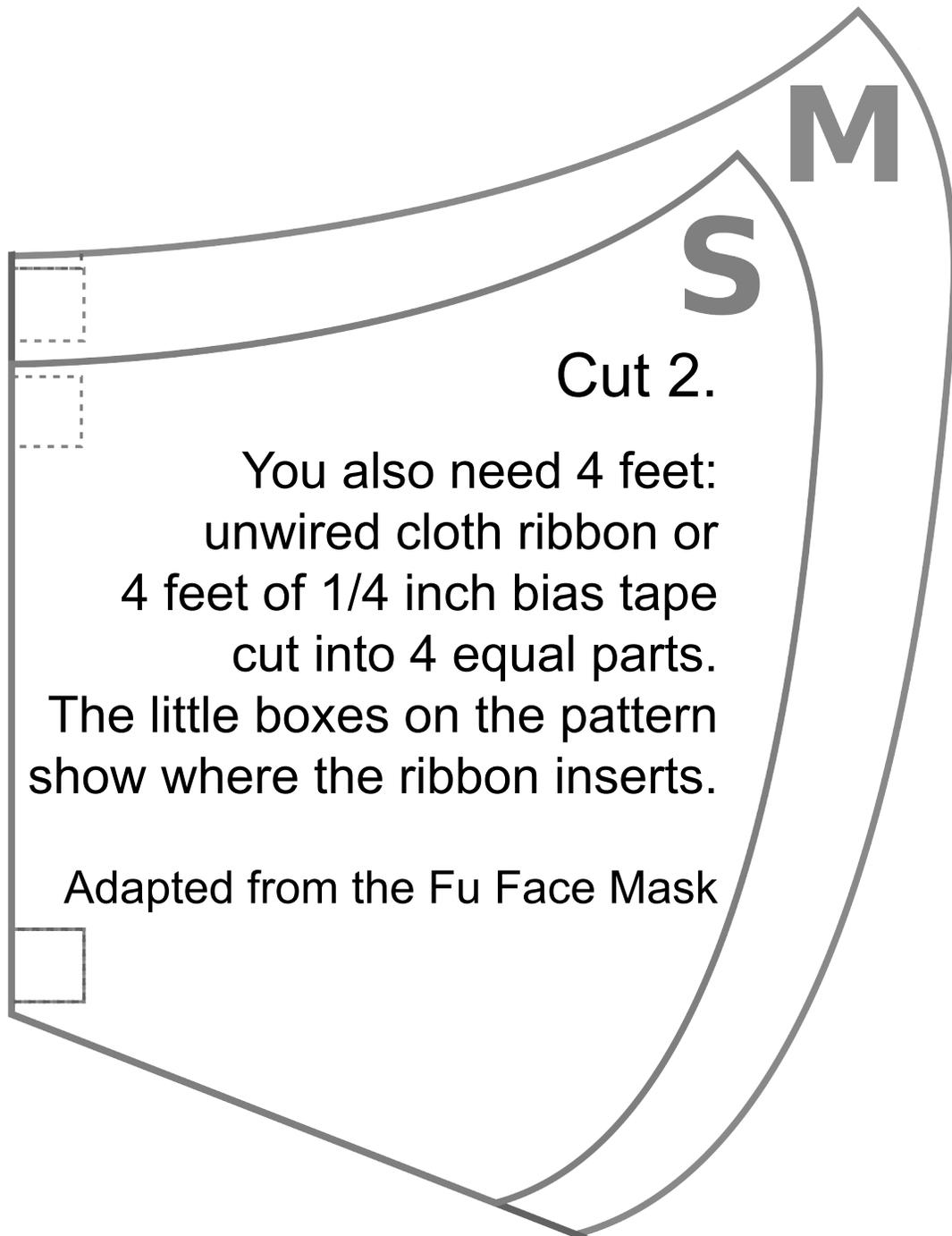


If you are using elastic, sew the 10" piece into each corner of the bottom of the mask, and the 12" piece inserts in the top corners. This can be part of the edge stitching or a separate step.

**Step 4:** Turn the mask inside-out, so finished seam is on the outside. Using a Sharpie, label the mask with an M or S to indicate size.

adapted from the Fu Face Mask at [freesewing.org](http://freesewing.org)

# Makeshift N95 Masks to print on lettersize paper



The (white) inside of this box should be 10cm wide  
The (black) outside of this box should be 4" wide

## **Safety**

Your safety matters, so we recommend the following guidelines for maintaining everyone's wellness.

When you fetch or receive supplies from anyone, you want to minimize contact with the supplies initially. If you can put them out in the sunlight for 3 hours, that should kill off any virus. If sunlight is not an option, leave them alone for 24 hours.

Picking up supplies from someone? Consider bringing along a kitchen trash bag to pick up the supplies, so your hands don't actually touch them. And wash your hands well as soon as is reasonable.

## **FAQ:**

1. Do I really only need two pieces?

Yes, the materials for making these masks are sufficiently stable on their own, that we do not need to have finished edges.

2. Should we put right sides together? Meaning should the outside of the vacuum cleaner bags be flipped to the inside for sewing.

No. When the dust gets sucked into the bag, the inside of the bag is filtering all those particles. The whole goal of the mask is to filter out the virus. Thus the "outside of the bag" should be against the wearer's face to maximize protection. Which is nice because it's easier for sewing lots of these.

3. Will the unfinished 1/4" seam rub on a person's face?

No. The fabric is very soft. An ENT surgeon tested the mask, and she was thrilled with how comfortable it is.

**Please keep sewing these and donating them. Our medical caregivers need us!**