Colorado School of Mines
Masks for Mines Instructions

Thank you so much for making Masks for Mines! Your help with this initiative will keep members of the Mines community safe and healthy. You are why Mines is a very special place!

Overview: This is a very basic sewn mask pattern with a few modifications to enhance usability and functionality (adjustable elastic straps, filter opening, and adjustable nose piece). A person with little sewing experience can easily make this mask. If you have greater experience, please feel free to incorporate advanced techniques to make a better product or make it easier to make.

Material List:
1. Cotton Fabric (44” wide)
2. Elastic Band
3. Aluminum Strip
4. Thread, All Purpose

Note: Quantity of materials you receive is dependent on how many masks you anticipate making.

Cut List:
1. Fabric: 1 pc. 8-1/2” x 16”
2. Elastic:
   a. 2 pcs. – 3” long
   b. 2 pcs – 10” long

Directions:
1. To get the most masks from the fabric, please cut the pieces out following these instructions:
Note: Cut out an 8.5” x 16” cardboard (or other material) template to use. This makes cutting of the appropriate sized rectangles very easy and quick.

2. Fold the rectangle of fabric (right sides together), matching the 8.5” edges. Sew a 5/8” to ¾” seam allowance leaving a 3”-4” opening in the middle (for inserting filter). Placing pins at as markers helps to identify where to stop sewing for the opening. Ensure you lock stitch at the beginning and end of each stitch for durability.

3. Turn the fabric so the seam with the opening is centered in the middle of one side. Open the seam and iron to keep it flat. Sew the extra seam allowance in place being careful not to capture the fabric beneath it.
4. Fold the 3” elastic band into a loop and insert between both layers of fabric at the bottom of the mask and pin in place. Insert one end of the long elastic band between both layers of fabric at the top of the mask and pin in place.

5. Using a 3/8” seam allowance, sew the open ends closed ensuring you double or triple lock stitch the ends over the elastic to ensure they don’t pull out.

6. Turn the piece right side out using the filter opening. A pencil can be used to push the corners out. Insert aluminum nose strip through the filter opening and push into place at the top of the mask (top has loose ends of elastic). Sew around strip on three sides to keep it in place.
7. Fold the mask into quarters and iron to crease the fabric.

8. Using the creases as a guide, create three evenly spaced ½” pleats facing the same direction. Pin pleats in place.

* Please note that the pleats should face downwards on the outside of mask to prevent particulates from collecting in the folds.

9. Sew twice along the sides of the mask to keep the pleats in place.

10. Congratulations! One mask is ready to keep a student safe!