

## The Mask Brigade 2020 Reference Document (Updated April 25, 2020)

I've had a few requests to consolidate ALL the information on our project and making fabric face masks, so here it is, updated as of April 25, 2020.

### Logistics:

- Label for masks completed: Please complete the attached form with the VFAG logo and insert in a bag with the masks or bundle and attach.
- Handout for masks: If you can make your own copies of the handout (prints 2 per page) and provide with your masks, that would be great. This is the document that starts "A cloth mask may reduce then chance that you spread or catch the virus..."
- Masks can be dropped off at Fran Lunney's house, [1455 S. Camino del Sol](#) (SE corner of del Canto and del Sol). There is a tote with a blue lid outside her studio on the right side of the house. Inside the archway, there is another tote, with a green lid, which is where we share fabric. Cotton fabric donations would be appreciated.
- Need help/have questions: Contact *Fran Lunney*, 208-705-4881 (cell/text) or 520-428-3182 or [email lunnfran@gmail.com](mailto:lunnfran@gmail.com) OR *Eileen Coyne*, cell/text at 206-300-2160 or [email coyne.eileen@gmail.com](mailto:coyne.eileen@gmail.com) OR *Marge Lind*, cell/text 920-889-0131 or [email mjilind69@gmail.com](mailto:mjlind69@gmail.com)
- If you want to view current data on this project, click [here](#) to see the Google Sheets spreadsheet for the project.

### Materials:

- Use tightly woven cotton fabrics, think quilting cotton, for masks. Two layer versions with a pocket allow for the recipient to choose and insert a filter; some recipients have requested 3 layers of fabric instead.
- If you make your masks with the same fabric for front and back, please mark the back in some way, e.g. writing "back" or "B" in permanent marker on the back.
- Use 18 gauge wire, floral wire, paper clips ,etc. for the flexible nose piece.
- 1/4". Elastic: This can be hard to find. Other options: "Fantastic elastic" which is wider elastic that can be cut lengthwise. Available from [Trimsonwheels.com](http://Trimsonwheels.com) (phone Luc at 415-609-1891) or it may be available from some members of this group.
- Elastic cord used for beading. Some of us purchased the 2 mm cord in white or black (and some have also used the 1 mm) from Mandalacrafts.com. Tell them why you need it and they are very quick with shipping from Texas.
- Pony tail elastics/hair ties—the ones that are at lease 5" in circumference work best. Others may be too small/tight.

Other than elastic, here are some other ideas for straps:

Bias tape.  
Twill tape.  
Fabric ties.  
T shirt strips  
Shoe laces  
Panty hose ties  
Loopers used for making pot holders

**Pattern links:** A variety of patterns/styles is good to allow choice by the recipients; making a couple of different designs also provides some variety to the maker. Each person has their favorites, no doubt, but mine are marked with \*\*

**\*\*EatPrayCreate Mask:** <http://eatpraycreate.com> This is a simple pattern that puts the elastic in at an angle (much easier) and is one of the closest fitting masks but also feels roomy. It can be made in 2 or 3 layers and with or without wire. I would not suggest trying to make it with a pocket for a filter.

**\*\*Japanese Creations Mask:** [https://blog.japanesecreations.com/how-to-sew-a-simple-fabric-face-mask?fbclid=IwAR1RAolkhd\\_-P\\_MsRnJ5HZduBpiZuGY2qgewA0dzh3DXLeTInEMz75\\_IA-w](https://blog.japanesecreations.com/how-to-sew-a-simple-fabric-face-mask?fbclid=IwAR1RAolkhd_-P_MsRnJ5HZduBpiZuGY2qgewA0dzh3DXLeTInEMz75_IA-w) You make this pattern with two pieces of identical fabric. If you don't, you will end up with different fabrics on either side of the nose. There are three sizes: small (child) medium(women/teen) and large (men) but the medium is on the small size so I have been making the large. I found a way to put the elastic into the mask before sewing to save some time. Contact me if you want information on how to do this. Please mark the back of the mask in some way.

**\*\*Olson Mask:** This is a shaped mask, cut 2 each of 3 different pieces. Has a pocket for a filter. Insert wire for nose. This link has a better tutorial than the original pattern: <https://www.sewcanshe.com/blog/simple-step-by-step-tutorial-for-the-olson-mask-pattern> Alternately this pattern can be made more simply in 2 or 3 layers by using only the main pattern piece and without a pocket.

**\*\*Leah Day Pattern:** This is a flat/pleated mask with a pocket and wire for the nose. Quick and easy. Uses one fabric, large rectangle. Please mark the backside of the mask in some way. I suggest you make the opening for the filter even larger than the 3" on the pattern. Can also be made in 3 layers by adding a 1/2 sized lining to the middle. Updated version includes child size: <https://leahday.com/pages/how-to-make-a-face-mask-free-pattern>

This video shows a pattern that is very similar to the Leah Day pattern, but with the pocket placed slightly lower and without wire. It may be good to watch this video regarding how to sew the elastic, notice that she angles the elastic and uses clips: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYMkW469NNc>. I also find that after sewing elastic into the first corner, it helps to put your hand inside the mask and pull the elastic out of the way, to avoid sewing it in to the seam.

**\*\* Hybrid pattern:** This is a hybrid of the Jordan and 15 minute mask by Fran Lunney (pdf is available from Fran) This is a shaped mask with side pieces for elastic and wire in the nose. It is slightly larger than the original Jordan mask, which I think is a bit small. The hybrid ends up being 3 layers without a pocket, but has a wire insert.

**15 minute mask:** a flat/pleated mask made with side pieces that allow for insertion of elastic. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zz0YpY6VqVU>

**Jordan Mask:** designed by Jordan fabric store for postal employees. Made with fabric ties which are time consuming. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3igudjup3g>

**PoppieCotton pattern:** shaped mask, no pocket. This one is in several different sizes including adult male and children's sizes. <https://poppiecotton.com/product/mask-pattern/>

**Instructables pattern:** Shaped mask with multiple sizes and option for one long piece of elastic: <https://www.instructables.com/id/DIY-Cloth-Face-Mask/>

**Deaconess Pattern/ Million Mask Challenge:** flat pleated mask made of two contrasting fabrics, using elastic, bias tape, or fabric ties, simple pattern without wire: <https://millionmaskchallenge.com/millionmaskchallenge-basicfacemask-v2-0-3-31-20/>

### **Other links:**

Link showing how to make bias tape quickly and easily without a bias tape maker: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UejCpjfbn8>

Link to different materials for the flexible nose piece: <https://hellosewing.com/flexible-nose-piece-materials/>

Making a t-shirt necklace (use technique for making mask straps): <https://www.instructables.com/id/T-shirt-Necklace/>

Elastic and tie options for masks: <https://www.sewcanshe.com/blog/elastic-and-tie-solutions-for-your-fabric-face-masks>

**Fabric Masks Made by Valley Fiber Art Guild**  
**PLEASE WASH YOUR MASKS BEFORE USE**



Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: Pleated      Shaped      \_\_\_\_\_

Layers of cotton fabric:      2                      3

Wire in nose:              Yes                      No

Pocket for Filter              Yes                      No

Straps:                      Elastic                      Tie

Size    Regular                      Large                      Child      \_\_\_\_\_

Maker's initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person for Mask Project: Fran Lunney [lunnfran@gmail.com](mailto:lunnfran@gmail.com)  
 or 208-705-4881 cell /text

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A cloth mask may reduce the chance that you spread or catch the virus, but it will not guarantee it. So it is important that anyone wearing a mask also continues to practice other good prevention measures including frequent hand washing, not touching your face and social distancing.

- Masks should be worn and handled appropriately to prevent the spread of germs. Washable masks should be washed daily or rotated. There are lots of tips and videos online for how to properly fit and handle a mask. The pleated masks are designed to be worn with the pleats facing downwards on the outside. You may find some type of marker on the side to be worn next to your skin (i.e. 'W' or a 'B' or some other marker - the pocket is on this side). PLEASE BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN TAKING YOUR MASK OFF - there could be viral droplets on your mask.
- Wash the masks when you receive them. After washing, they can be ironed just be careful not to iron the elastic.
- Some of the masks have a piece of wire inserted in the nose to allow the person wearing it to bend it to fit their face. Do NOT put the mask in a microwave.
- Some of the masks of both types (flat/pleated and cup shaped) have a pocket for a filter. You can Google different alternatives people are using. Apparently polypropylene is the best, that's the material that painters overalls are sometimes made of and some reusable shopping bags and other items. It is a non-woven fabric. Recently, paper towels (the blue shop towel type) were suggested as a good barrier but there are other options. Cut or fold the filter material to fit inside the mask. A filter will probably help to protect you.
- Always wear your mask in the same direction (pocket toward face if there is a pocket). There are good videos available showing how to safely put on and take off a mask. Wash you hands before putting on your mask and after taking it off or adjusting it.

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