

Surgical Masks Pleating and Patterns Pack

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Additional resources:

I've analyzed the four main pain points that home sewers have in making these masks. In an effort to resolve them, I created these four videos:

1. [Strap sewing](#) in 1/10th (1/20th?) the time, no ironing.
2. [Cutting straps & ties](#) (one seam+one cut = a yards and yards long piece of strap or ties. really):
3. [No pin, no iron, tucks and pleats](#) (this covers the pleating form)
4. And a humble [elastic measuring diy tool](#) (metering). Results in exact lengths, few errors of tolerance (less waste). A much faster way to measure and cut elastic and trims:

Pending additions to this package:

Instructions on sewing the masks -maybe not so obvious, we've been doing a lot of testing to figure out the best order of operations and processes. It's done but I haven't yet written the instructions.

Fill out [this google form](#) to be notified of updates, your information will not be used for any other purpose. to be notified of updates).

You might also check my site (<https://fashion-incubator.com>) for more content as I have time to post the information. Coming soon -I've got concerns about features that people are and aren't including in their masks that bear some discussion.

Instructions for making the Surgical Mask Pleating Form

by Kathleen Fasanella

These instructions describe how to make a pleating form for surgical masks that was demonstrated in [this youtube video](#). If you have questions or comments, or want to be notified of updates, fill out [this google form](#). Your information will not be used for any other purpose.

A note to begin

When we are doing something new for the first time, we may not know which directions are important versus ones that are not. Also, we don't know the degree of precision required for a given step. To eliminate any guesswork, these are the most critical things about this project:

1. **Using a plain, uncolored manila folder** (unless you happen to have oak tag pattern paper)
 - a. Substitutions: You can use cereal box cardboard as a quick fix until you can get a folder but it won't last long. I would have suggested using a USPS priority flat mail envelope except that "This packaging is the property of the United States Postal Service and is provided solely for use in sending Priority Mail shipments. Misuse may be a violation of federal law...." so I can't.
 - i. Poster board is not recommended because it is too thick and too soft for this job. You need crisp, thin and hard folds. Just about anything (other than actual cardboard) is better than poster board. Card stock would work.
2. Aligning the bottom fold line of the pattern pieces to the fold line of the folder
3. Scoring and folding the lines accurately.

Instructions:

1. Align the bottom fold line (so marked) of the pattern onto the fold line of the folder. You'll need to do this for the inside and outside pattern pieces. Tape these in place to hold but then staple them in place securely.
2. Cut out each side of the folder to which you'd attached the 'inside' and 'outside' pieces. These are not identical in size nor fold pattern so cut them separately. It is not very important that the long sides are cut as precisely as a pro would do it. Don't remove the pattern pieces until all of the scoring has been done.

There are two challenging parts of this project, scoring the lines for folding and folding the lines in the correct direction.

The two kinds of folds, mountains and valleys, are marked on the patterns. The challenge (in my experience) is scoring and folding precise, straight lines. What has been most successful for me is to use a couple of 6" Pony clamps to clamp a metal ruler in alignment with the fold lines, and then score along that. You need a pointed but dull tipped tool to score those lines. You can also use a ballpoint pen as long as the tip is not so sharp that it would cut through your pleating form material.

I usually score all of the lines and then go back to fold them but I don't see why it would be a problem if you score, then fold each line as you come to them. Depending on the weight of your paper, using the metal ruler clamped in place will also help make the folds of the pleats.

Finishing the scoring and folding is very exciting -at least for me. You'll want to "train" the form by nesting the pleating form layers and folding the lines that create the tucks. You can weigh it down for a while, it really doesn't matter. You can watch [the video](#) to see how to use it. It takes a little practice but it is not difficult. You'll get better at handling it once you use it some.

Usage tips:

This particular form was designed to fit 2 layers of 4oz-ish woven fabric so if your fabric is heavier, your form won't fit as tightly but it should still work.

This form is designed to fit an adult sized surgical mask (patterns provided with this). Optimally, the fabric of the mask will hang out of the sides of the form by 1" to 1.5". Your mileage may vary but for me, a 1" margin caused problems; the pleating form was catching on something. An overhang of 1.5" was a problem because it didn't hold the pleats as well. For me, having the mask hang 1.25" outside of the form was perfect.

Keep in mind that the size of your masks and sewing conditions can affect the usefulness of the pleating form. If your masks are narrower than 9" (say, for children's masks), you'll probably need to make another form that is narrower. Then again, you'd probably need another pattern altogether as the pleats don't need to be as deep. I'll make one available soon.

If you would like to be updated on pattern corrections, instructions, construction tips or new sizes and patterns that are available, fill out [this google form](#). Your information will not be used for any other purpose.

Thank you for all you do in making this world a better place.

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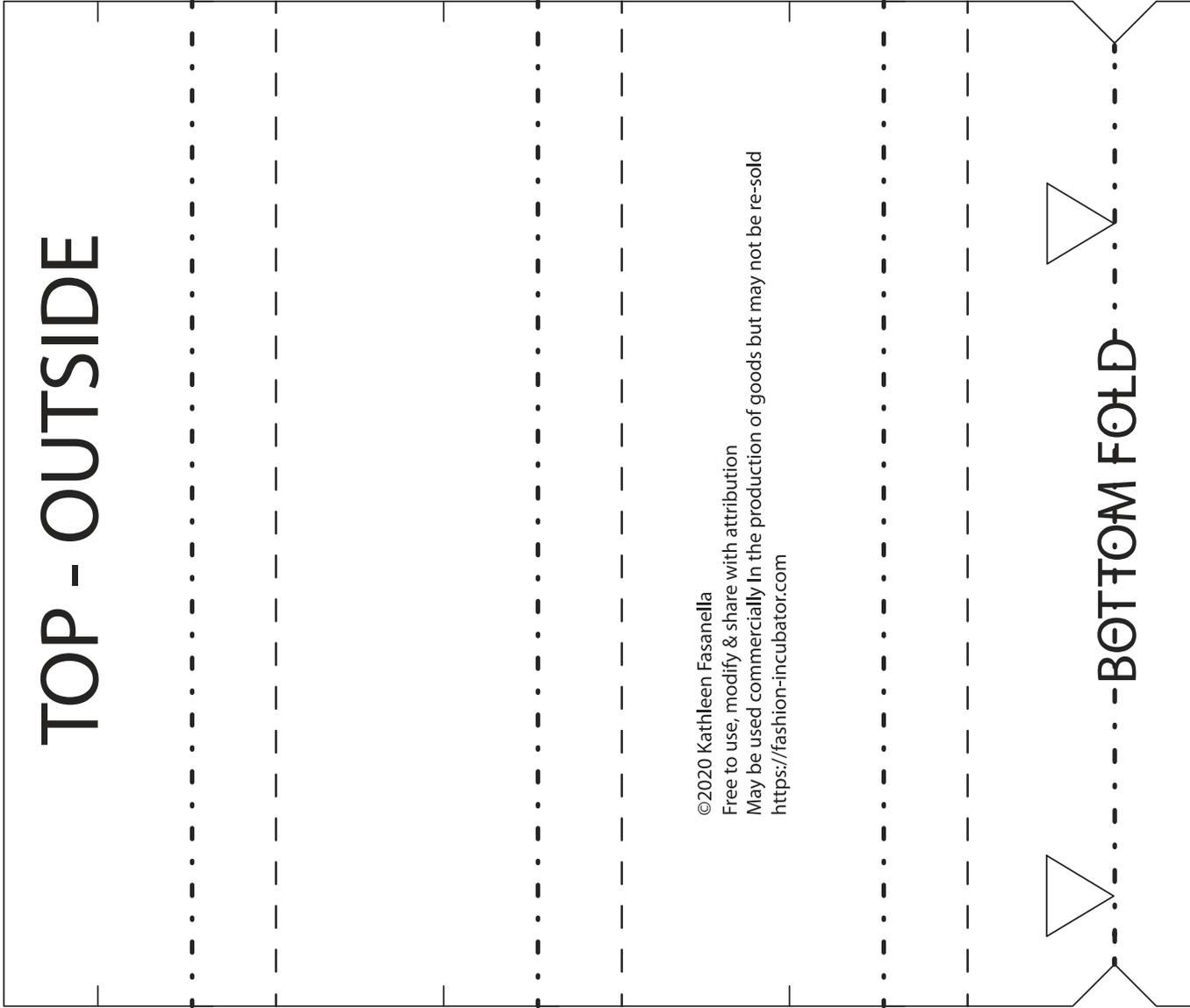
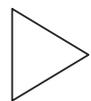
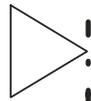
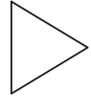
TOP - OUTSIDE

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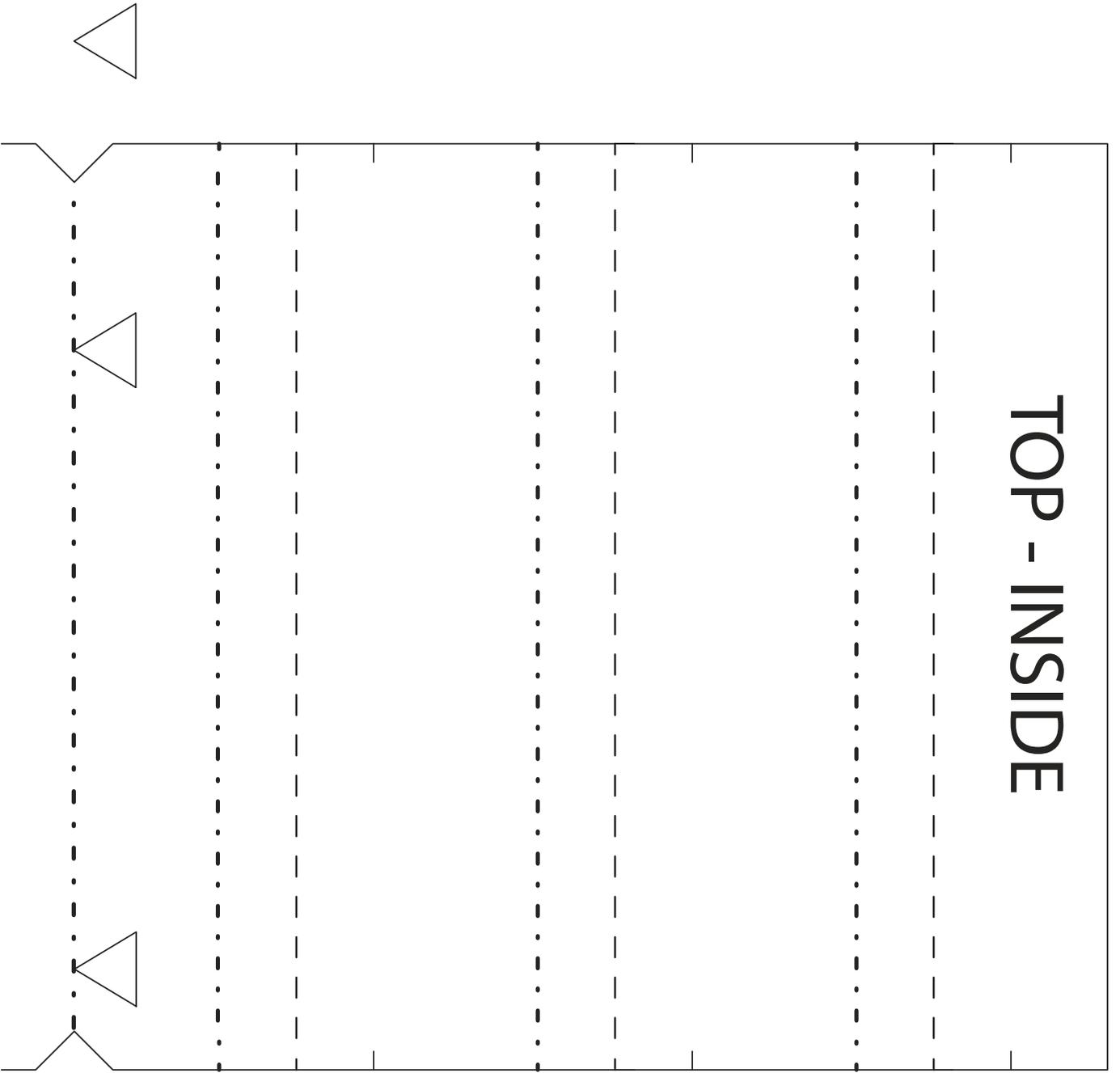
BOTTOM FOLD

Valley Fold

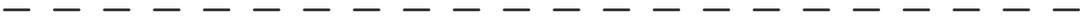
Mountain Fold



TOP - INSIDE



Valley Fold



Mountain Fold



1/4" seam

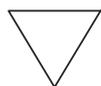
1/2" seam

Leave open if you want a filter pocket.
Dimensions are flexible; close at least 1" on each end.

1/4" seam

Horizontal Mask
Cut 1 on Fold

FOLD LINE



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1/2" seam

Leave open if you want a filter pocket

1/4" seam

1/4" seam

Vertical Mask
Cut 1 on Fold

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FOLD LINE

