



EARS & TAILS

FOR COSPLAY



Introduction

Welcome to the wonderful world of making ears and tails!



For many years I've been creating my own furry accessories for cosplay.

When I started crafting in 2011 the first set of ears I made were just fur glued to cardboard. But after many years of experimenting, trial and error and persistence I've learnt some really awesome skills and I feel like the ears I can make today are fairly sophisticated!

Now we are taking those years of knowledge and experience and compiling it into one easy to read hand book! Whether you're a seasoned cat girl or just getting started with crafting the hope is that this book will help expand your skills and take your creations to the next level.

From the very basics, showing fundamental tools, skills and techniques all the way to more advanced crafting with tutorials and examples for different styles of ears and tails!

By the end of this book you will be a master of all things cute and fluffy!

-Tayla Barter

Contents

Overview

Materials	4
Tools	6
Working with Faux Fur	8
Cutting & Shaving	10
Sewing	12
Coloring Fur	15

Examples

Non - Poseable Ears	21
Poseable Ears	27
No Sew Ears	33
Large Complex Ears	39
Two -Tone Tail	45
Poseable Tail	51
Upright Foam Tail	57



Materials

Here are some of the materials you may need when crafting your own ears and tails.

1. Faux Fur

This is the main material you will be working with in this book in order to create ears and tails! This fluffy synthetic fabric is used to imitate animal fur and create all kinds of awesome costume pieces and accessories.

2. Paint and Chalk

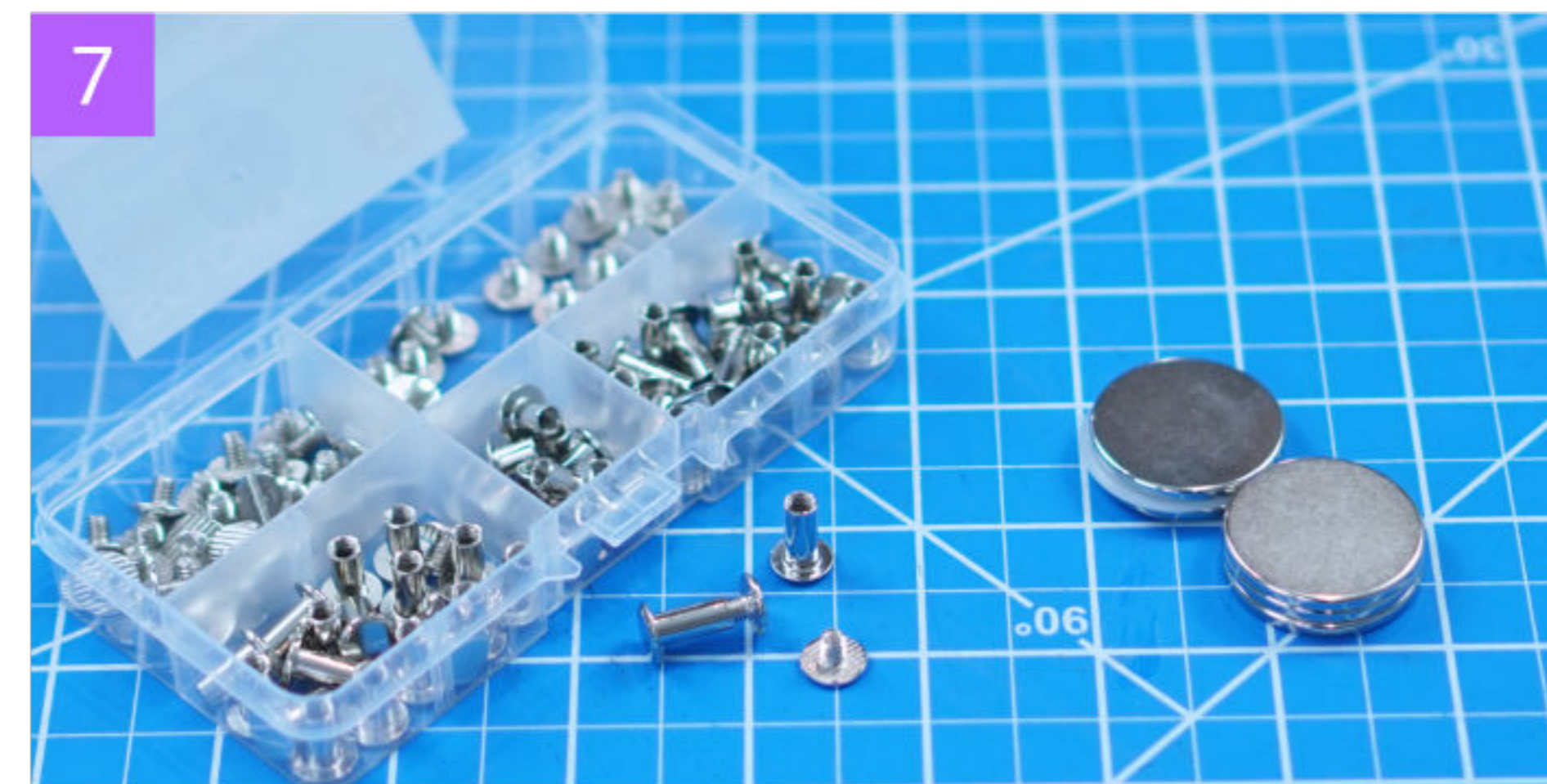
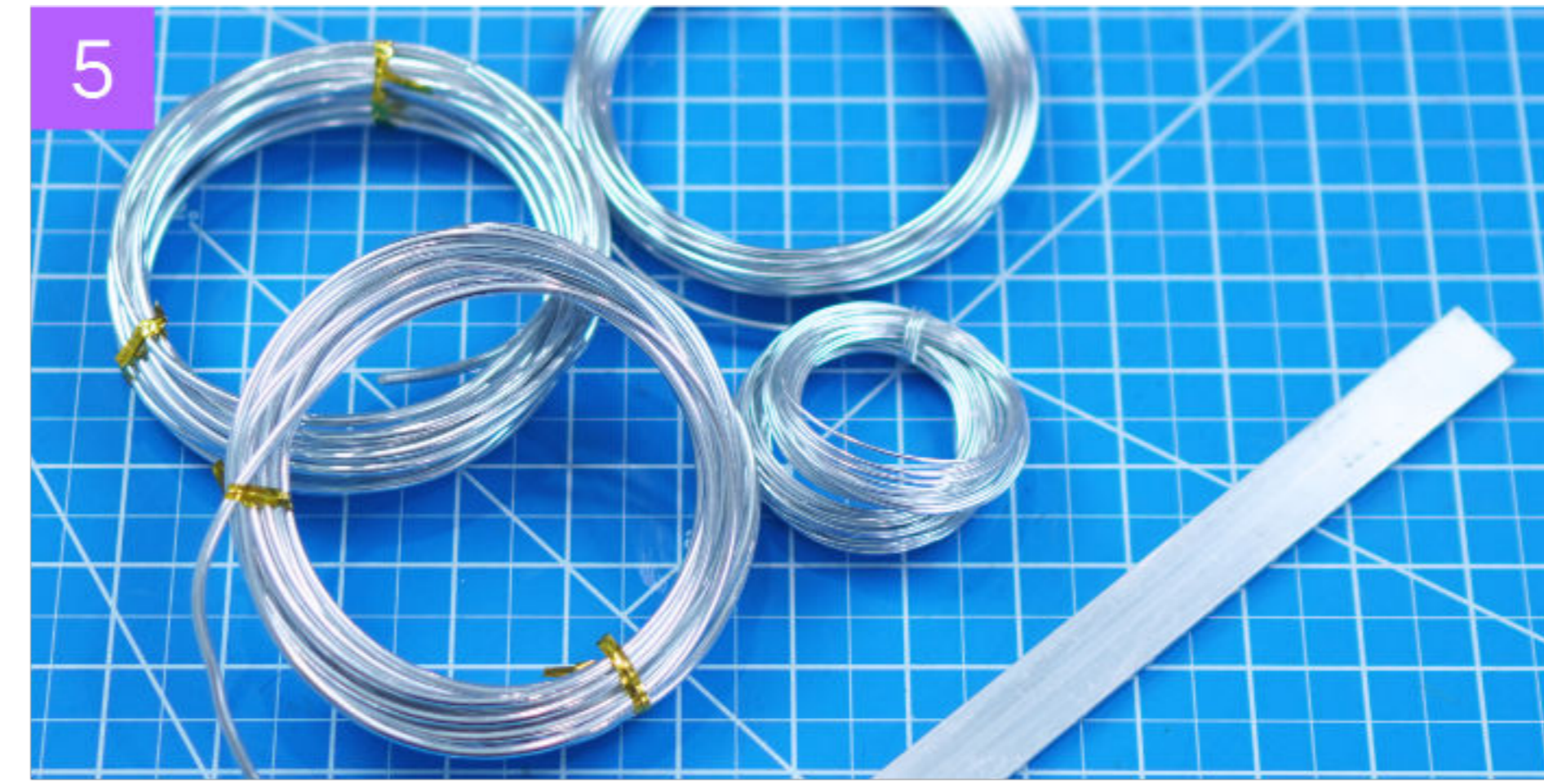
Paints and chalk are used to change the color of fur and add additional details like stripes and spots.

3. EVA foam & Thermoplastic

These materials form the base structure inside most ears and some tails! EVA foam and thermoplastics like Worbla are super versatile materials and are not only great for creating a base but can also be used to make details and embellishments.

4. Expanded PVC Foam Board

This board is hard and semi-rigid like a PVC sheet, but unlike your standard PVC board, Expanded PVC board is porous inside it's also easy to cut by hand and it's very easy to use. This makes it great to use for the base of tail harnesses that need a stable base material.



5. Aluminum Wire & Flat Bars

Aluminum is a great material for support structures and framework in tails and ears. The metal is relatively strong but it can also be bent and shaped by hand. It comes in various thicknesses of wire and bars for more heavy duty applications.

6. Straps, Velcro & Buckles

Paints and chalk are used to change the color of fur and add additional details like stripes and spots. In order to secure tails to your body you will sometimes need to use a combination of straps, Velcro and buckles. These are common methods of attachment that are used in harnesses.

7. Chicago Screws & Magnets

Some additional metal hardware which can take your attachment methods to the next level! Chicago screws are small threaded fasteners which can make for very secure attachments. Magnets are also a great way to create a seamless connection with ears or a lightweight tail.

8. Upholstery Foam & Stuffing

This is what will give your tails some poof! Upholstery foam and stuffing will help fill and bulk up pieces easily without too much weight. The soft foam is also a good method to add comfort to harnesses.

Tools

The tools of the trade! These are some of the must haves when it comes to crafting

1. Sewing Machine

A sewing machine is a very important tool in your arsenal when making fur crafts.

Many fur pieces are sewing projects and while they can be sewn by hand, a machine will make the process much easier.

2. Sewing Accessories

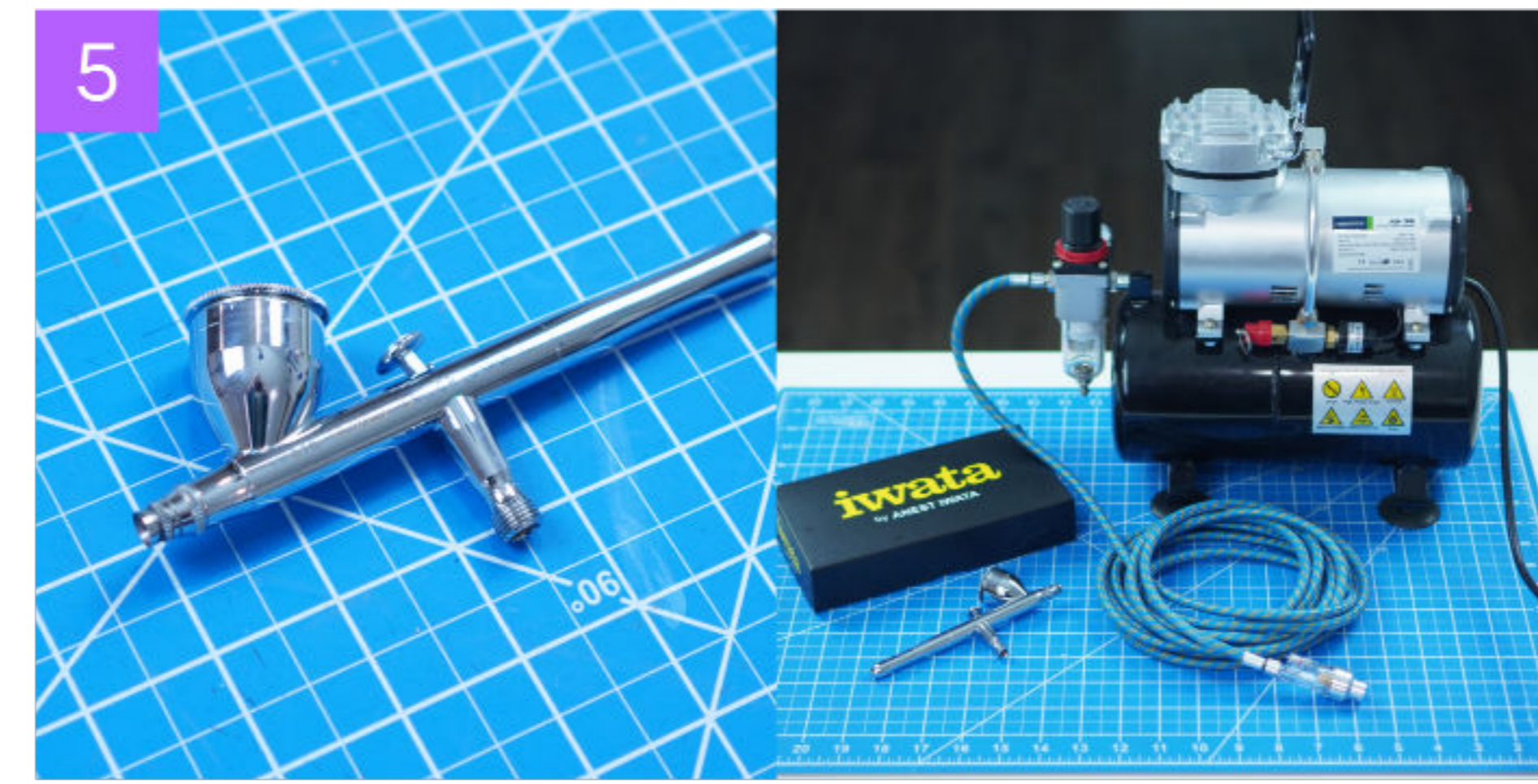
Speaking of sewing you will also need a few additional items for the job! Things like sewing needles, thread, Pins and sewing clips.

3. Slicker Brush

This brush is a super helpful tool when working with fur. Whether it's pulling out fibers that are stuck inside a seam, spreading paint while coloring fur or just helping keep everything smooth and sleek at the end this is a must have for fur crafts.

4. Glues

Your glue is going to be one of the other most important tools you have. Hot glue is an invaluable universal tool in crafting, especially when making ears. Other glue like contact adhesive is used for EVA foam pieces and superglue is the best glue to use on PVC foam board.



5. Airbrush and Compressor

When it comes to coloring fur using an airbrush is one of the best methods. An airbrush is a really great tool for creating smooth shadows and gradients

6. Cutting Tools

To cut through fabric, foam, Worbla, expanded PVC foam board and more you will need a good set of scissors and a crafting knife! And for working with fur specifically you will also need a set of electric clippers to help shape your creations.

7. Pliers and Wire cutters

When using wire for frames you will need the correct tools to work with it! Pliers are a great tool for shaping wire and bending it easily. And just as the name implies, wire cutters are used to cut wire with ease.

8. Power tools

Sometimes in crafting you will need some more heavy duty tools like heatguns, rotary tools and drills. A heat gun is the main tool used to work with EVA foam and thermoplastics to heat them up. The rotary tool is a very versatile tool for sanding, drilling and cutting through materials. And a drill is also very helpful especially when making heavy duty harnesses.

Working with Faux Fur

Before we dive into crafting lets first take a closer look at what exactly this fluffy stuff is that you will be working with and how to work with it. This section of the book is going to get down to the finer details and show you what you should be looking for in your material as well as techniques for how to cut, sew and color fur.

What is Faux fur?

So what exactly is this stuff? Fake fur is a material which is made to imitate the appearance of animal fur. The fibers are made from a synthetic material such as acrylic or polyester which are like plastics. Because the fur is manufactured it is cruelty free and doesn't harm any animals. Fake fur is also much cheaper than real fur, easier to sew with and comes in a huge range of colors.

Pile Length

The length of the fibers is what people refer to as "pile length". Luxury shag fur which is what is most commonly used is around 35-50mm in length. (See fig. 1) Longer fur will have a pile length of 50-100mm, this is ideal for very fluffy tails like on foxes and wolves. (See fig. 2) Shorter fur will have a pile length of 10-20mm which can be used for things like short hair cat tails. (See fig. 3)



Fabric Quality

Not all fur is made equal. The quality of the fur you can get will range vastly.

"Fun fur" or lower quality fur is much cheaper but the fibers often look very frizzy. It will not have the same silky smooth appearance as a luxury shag fur. (See fig. 4)

Different qualities of fur will also have a different base fabric. High quality fur is good for shaving down to a very short length as they have more fibers and the mesh underneath is less likely to show through.

Some extra long fur is tied into a mesh base and spaced apart which means it cannot be shaved down and needs to be left long. (See fig. 5-6)

When choosing fur consider what you will be making and what will best suit your needs.



Where to Buy?

Many local fabric stores will stock some kind of fake fur, though the range of colors and length may be a bit small!

There are various places where you can buy faux fur online. Some of the shops include Howls fabrics, Fabricville, Shannon Fabrics and even websites like Etsy and Amazon.

We have an affiliate link for faux fur on Amazon here <https://geni.us/kinpatsufauxfur> Using this link gives us a small commission at no cost to you!

Cutting

When cutting fur you need to be mindful of not damaging the long fibers. If you use scissors and cut straight through the fur it will stub the ends of the fur and make them short and choppy which is not ideal for a natural look.

Instead, I recommend using a crafting knife. Use the knife to cut on the back of the fabric. It will cut through the material backing and leave the fibers long and undamaged.

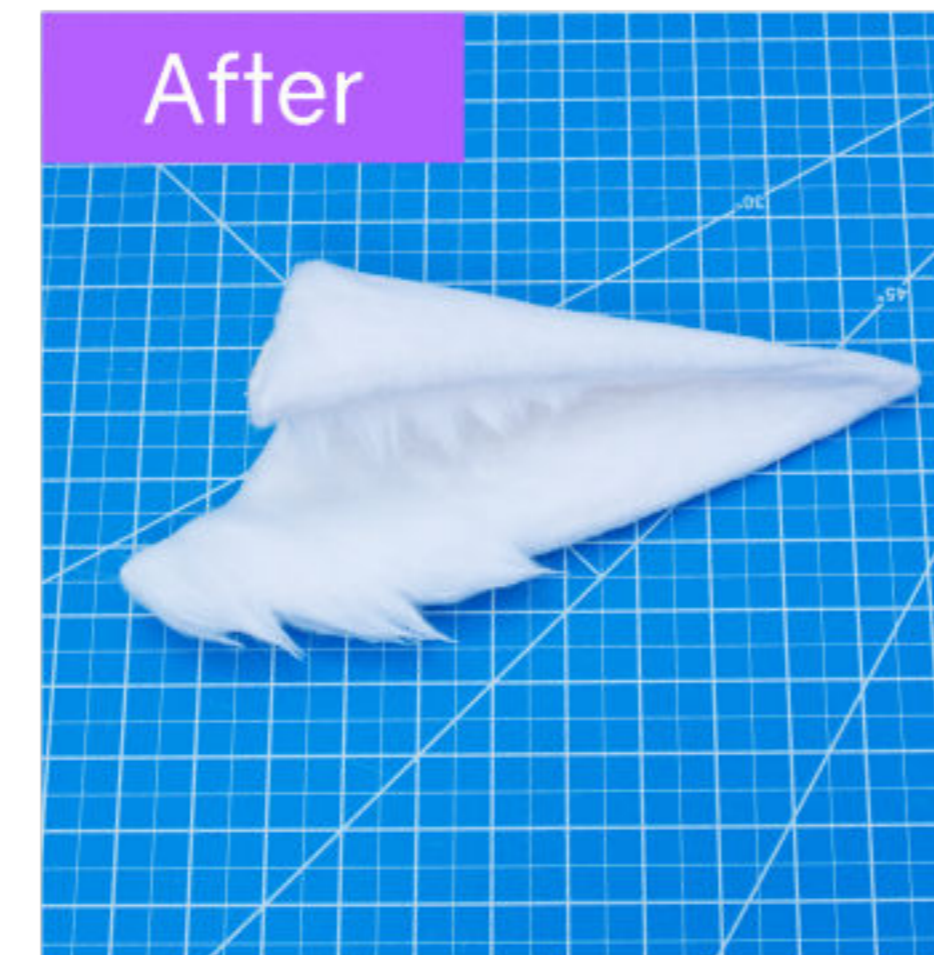
Just don't press too hard while cutting!



Shaving

To add dimension to your crafts you will sometimes need to shave certain areas shorter. Without any shaving or contouring this ear looks like a giant fluffy blob. But after shaving you can see the shape a lot better and it looks more realistic.

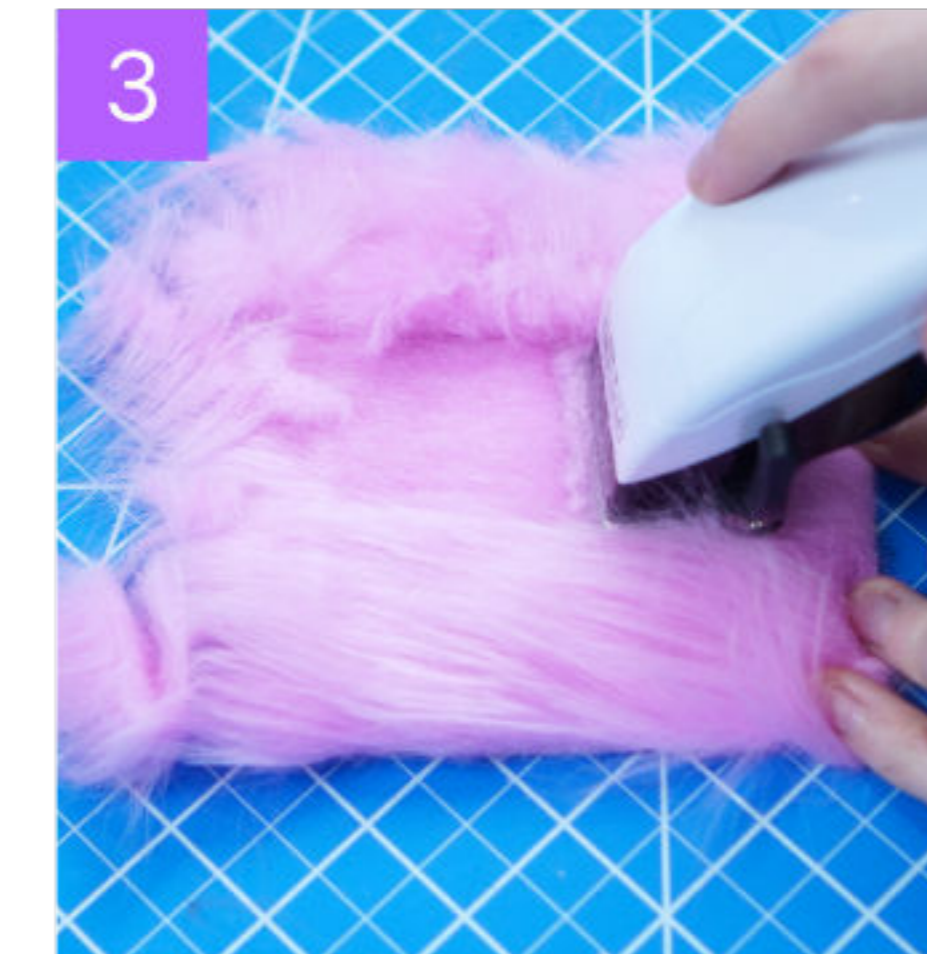
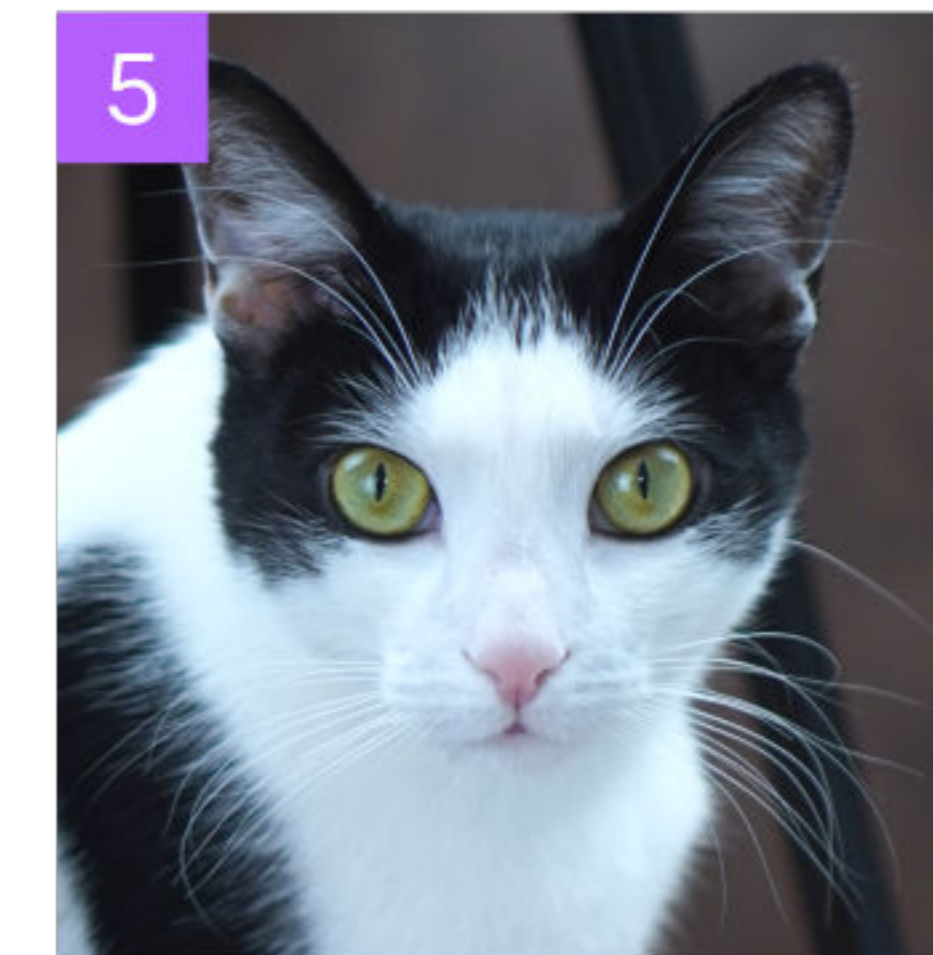
To do this you will need an electric shaver or clippers. If you are just starting out you can get a pair of clippers for around \$20 at department stores or online! But if you will be doing a lot of work with fur you may want to look into getting clippers made for animal grooming.



Clippers come with guards so you can select a length you want to shave the fur to without making it too short. (See fig. 1-2)

For very short fur you will need to use the clipper without a guard. Just be careful not to catch the fabric mesh when shaving. (See fig. 3-4)

Animals have varying lengths of fur all over and each kind of animal is different. Generally most animal ears will be shorter at the tips and longer at the base. They will also also be short inside with long Tufts in the fold of the ear. You can see this on our cat Noodle's ears! (See fig. 5)



Tails are another story and vary entirely! For example foxes and long hair cats have long fur at the ends of their tails but short hair cats have very uniform length hair all over their tail. So do some research and grab some reference photos for each project. (See fig. 6)

Shaving fur makes a mess! The shaved fur fibers go everywhere so keep a vacuum handy for cleanup. You can also shave over a vacuum to create less mess. (See fig. 7)

The tiny shaved fur particles also go into the air and can irritate your nose and lungs. So make sure you use a mask and do it away from any pets. (See fig. 8)

Sewing

Sewing fur can be a little bit tricky! Here are some tips that can help get the best results.

Mark the fur direction

Most of the time you will be working on the back of the fur. To help keep yourself oriented while you work, draw arrows on the back of the fabric indicating the direction of the fur fibers. This will help you line up your pieces later and make sure they are always the right way.

(See fig. 1)

Brush the fur inwards

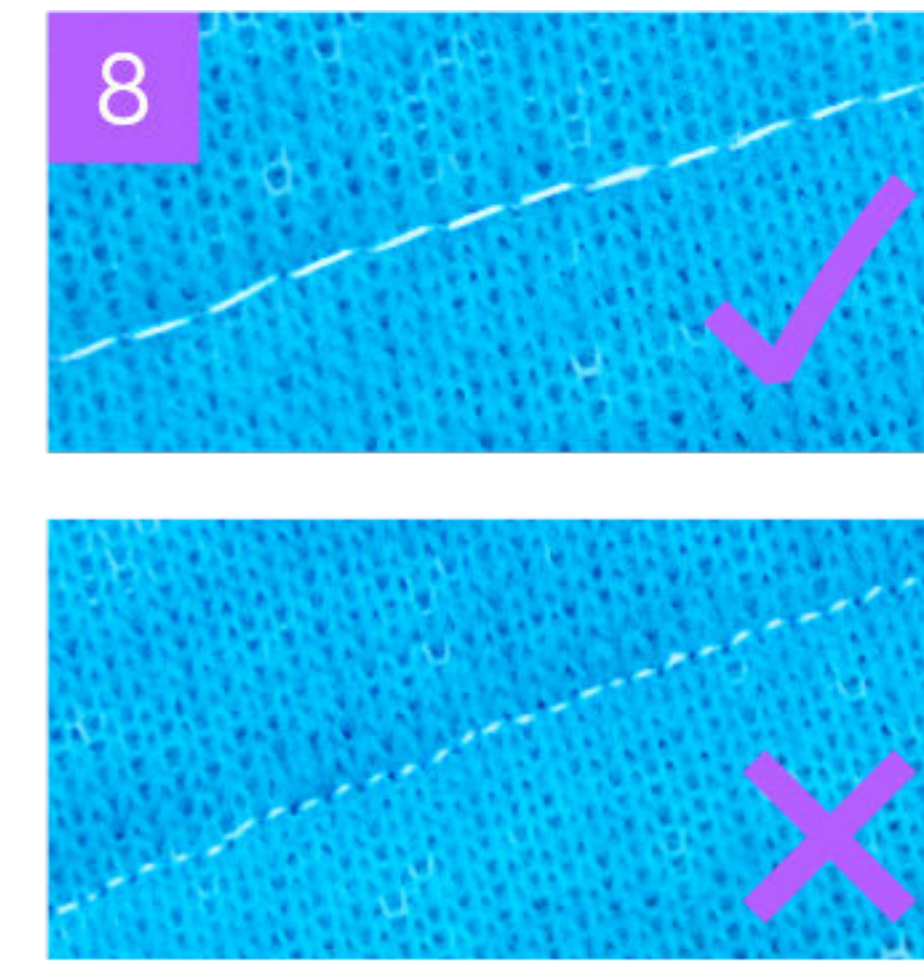
Use a slicker brush and comb the fur around your seams inwards before pinning them together. This will keep the fur away from the seams and prevent the fibers getting stuck when stitching.

(See fig. 2-4)

Use sewing sewing clips

Fur is very thick and pushing pins through it is not only tough but it can warp how the pieces lie together. Instead get some sewing clips! These are very easy to use and are also great for working with fabrics like faux leather.

(See fig. 5-6)



Increase stitch length

Make your stitches longer so that they are not too tight on the thick fur. This will make it easier to sew and your sewing machine will be less likely to jam and the thread less likely to snap.

(See fig. 7-8)

Brush the outer seam after sewing

Once you have sewn your edges together some fur may still be stuck inside the seam. Use a slicker brush to brush the outside over the seam and pull out the stuck fibers. This will also help hide the join in the fur. (See fig. 9-11)

Cut away excess seam allowance

Fur is a very thick fabric and seams inside can be bulky. To fix this trim away your excess seam allowance inside once you have finished sewing. This will help your seam lie flat on the outside.

(See fig. 12-13)

Just make sure you pull out any stuck fur before cutting as seen in the previous tip. If you trim the seam allowance before you finish brushing you may damage the outer fibers that were stuck inside.



Coloring Fur

At times you will need fur in custom colors or just need to add more shading and markings to it. Here are a few ways to add color.

Airbrushing

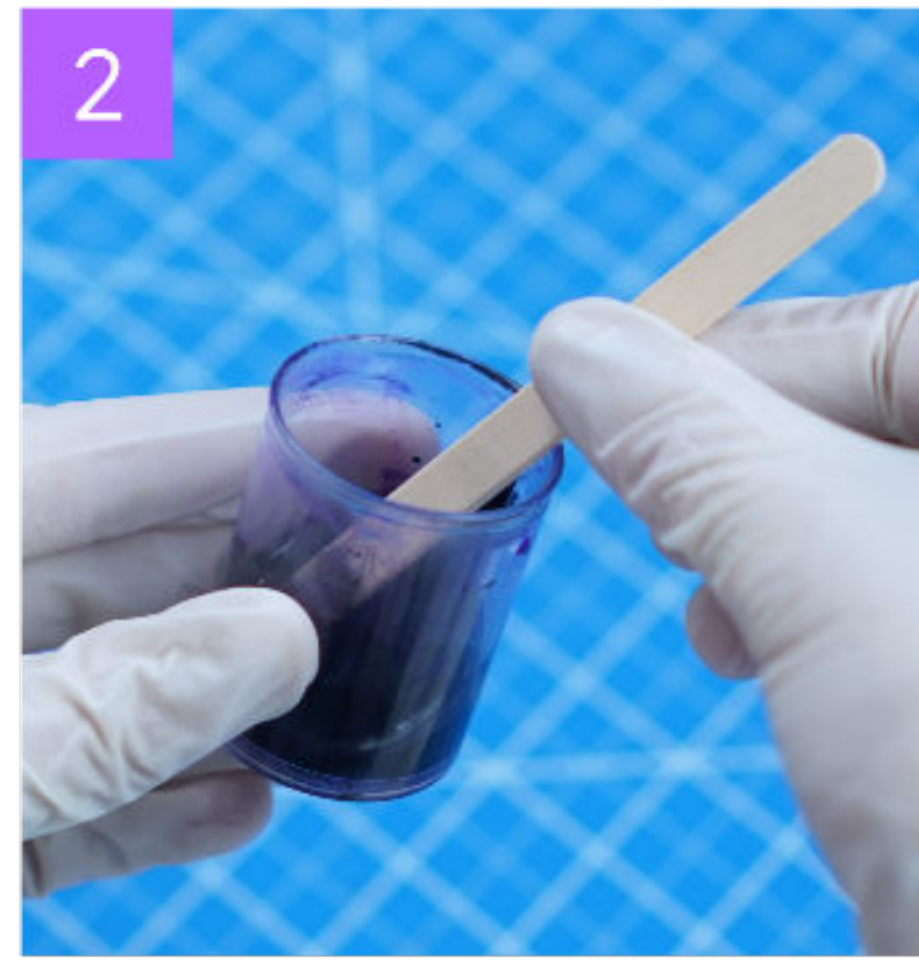
Airbrush paints are great for dying fur because they are thin and can stain synthetic materials! However you can also use watered down acrylic paint too and spray them through an airbrush.

Airbrushes are very easy to use and can take your painting to the next level. You will need an airbrush itself and an air compressor. You can get airbrushing kits starting from around \$70 with both a compressor and airbrush.

For my projects I use an Iwata CR Revolution airbrush and a Timbertech compressor.

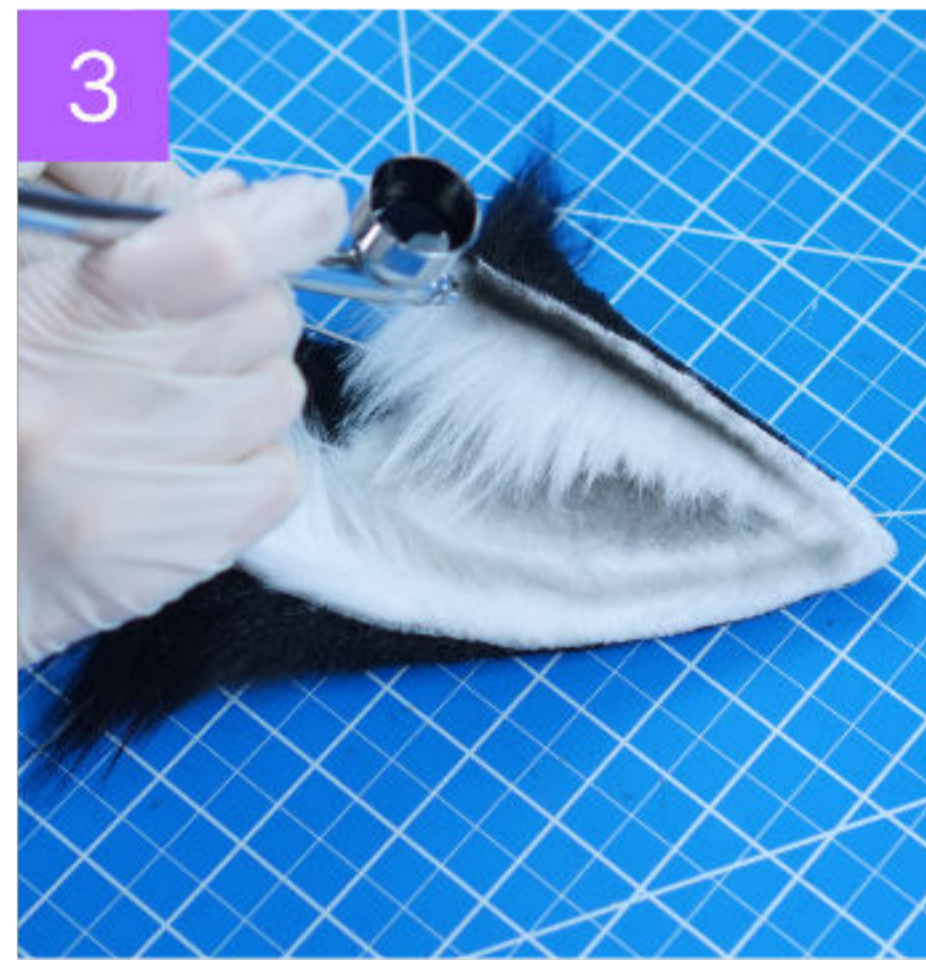
If you do a lot of airbrushing I would also recommend getting a small water trap to attach to your airbrush. This will stop any water coming through and causing the airbrush to sputter.





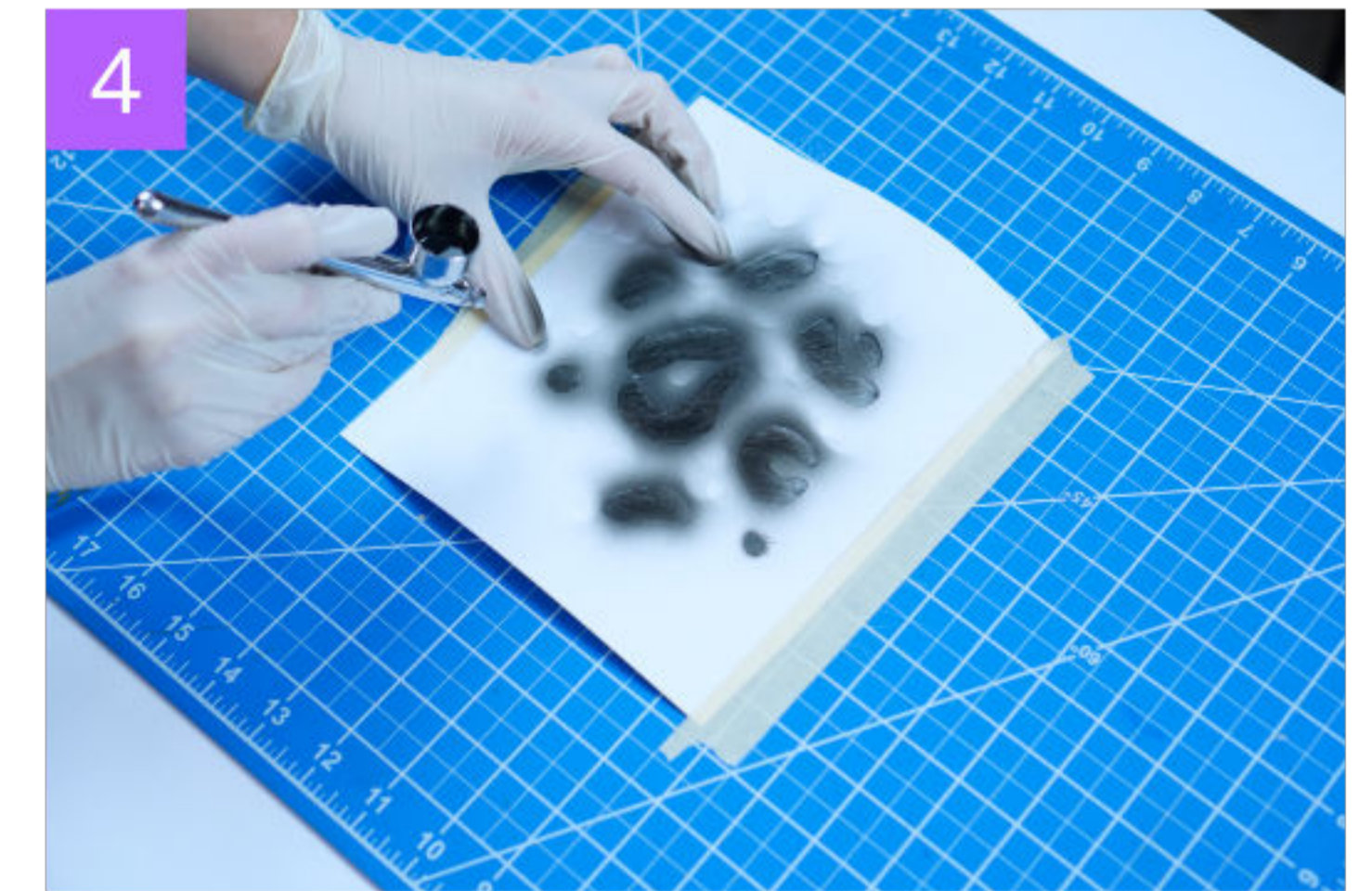
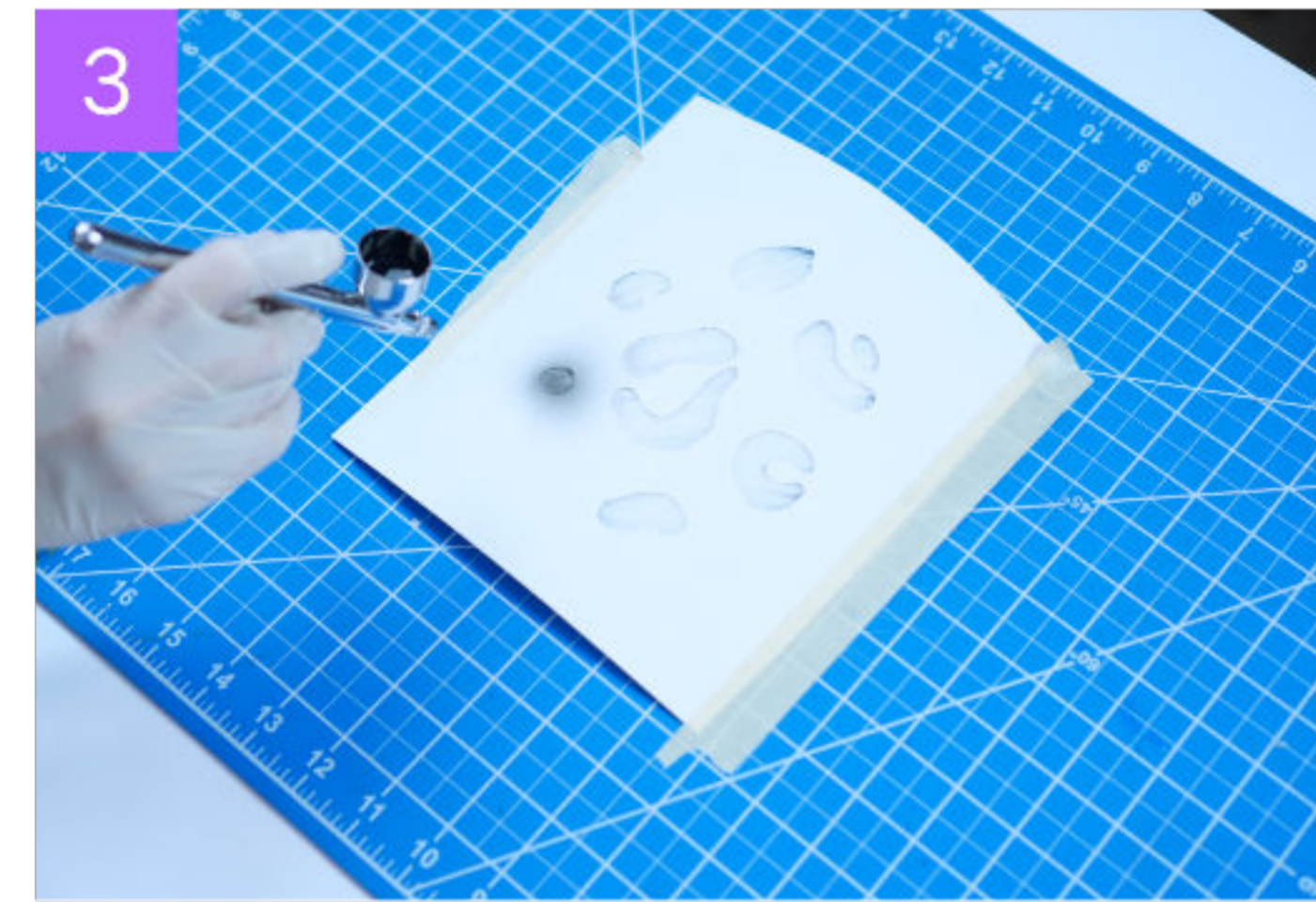
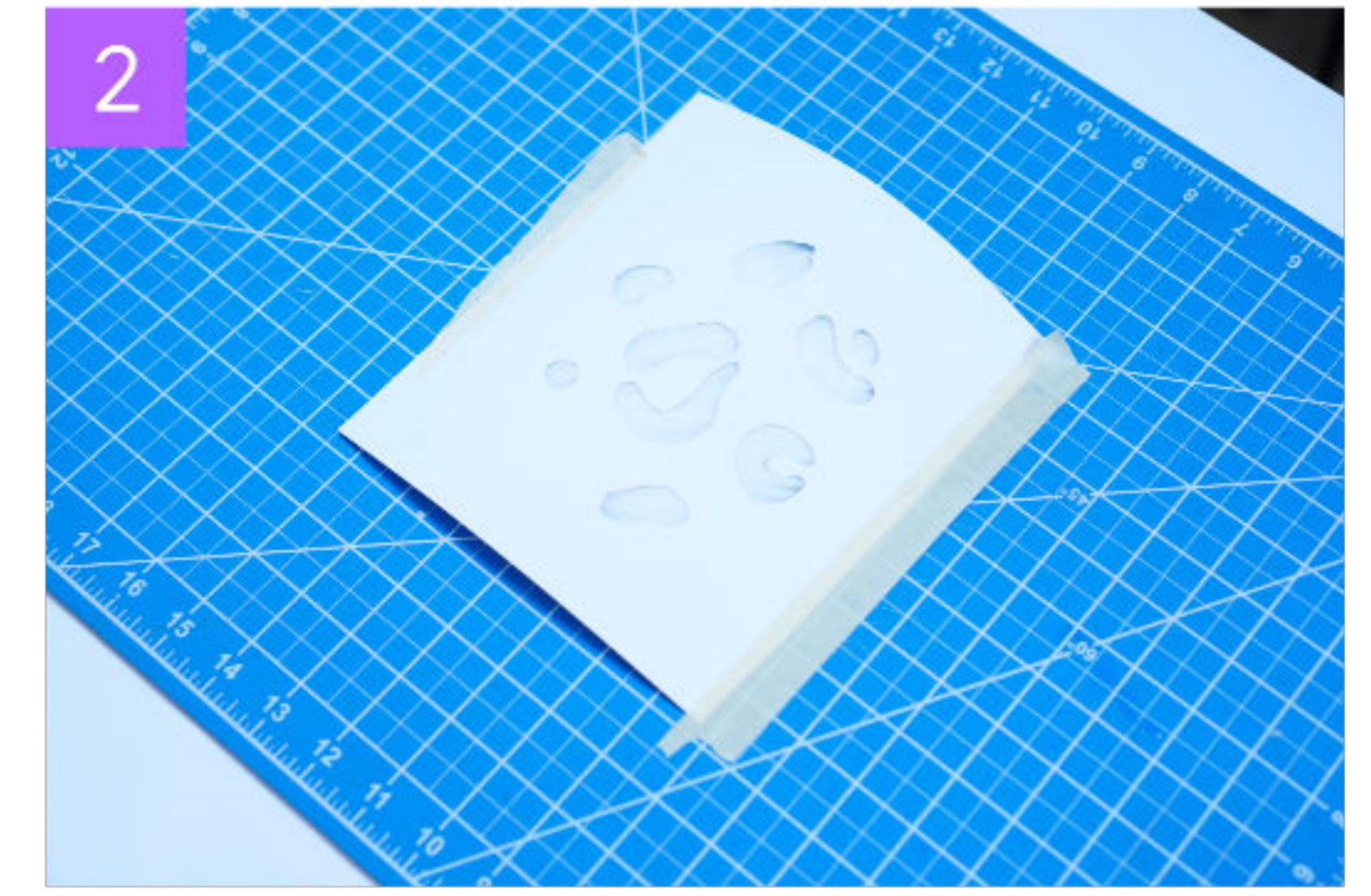
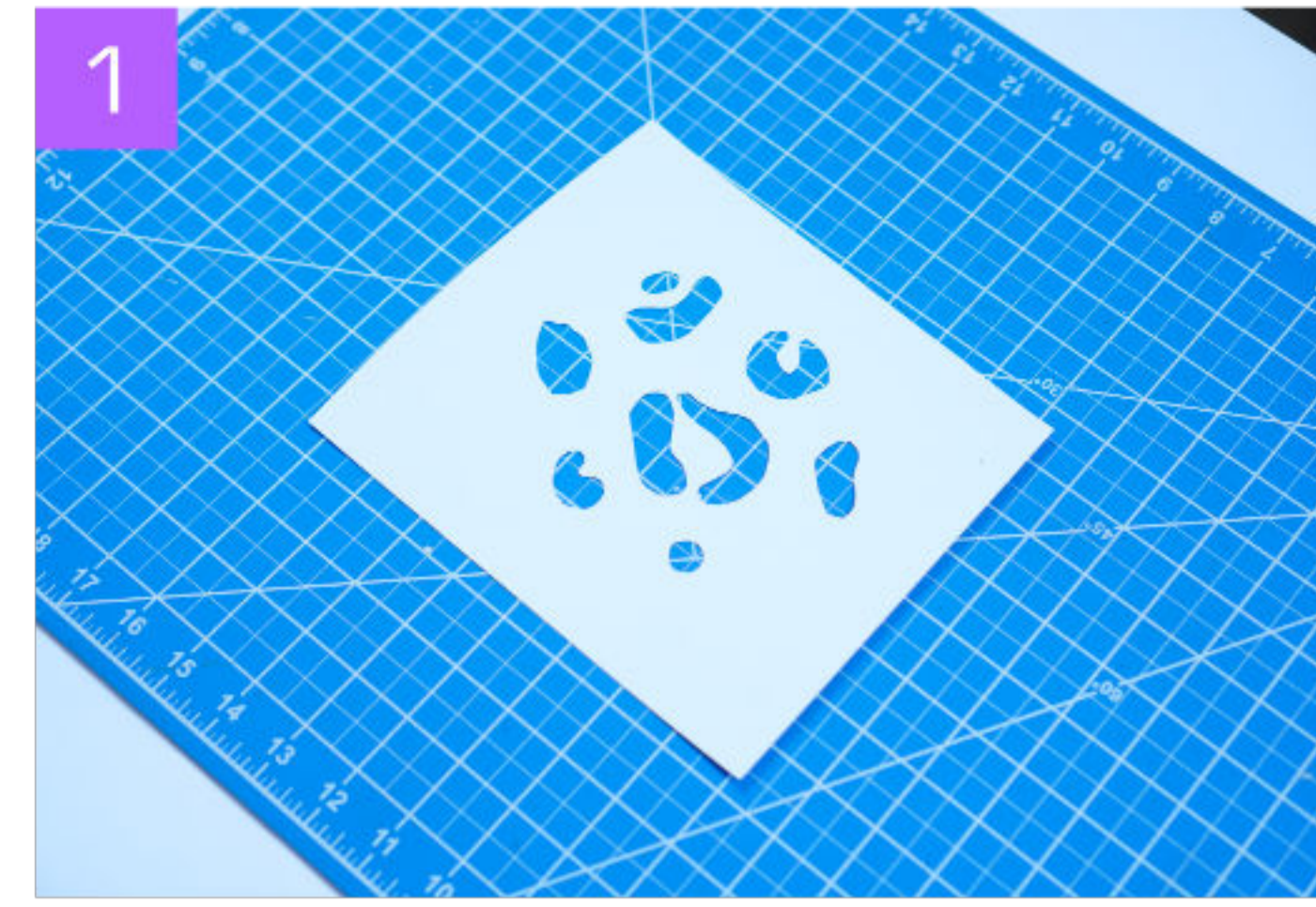
Mix together the color for your paint and thin it if necessary. You want the paint to be the consistency of milk. Then you can pour it into the airbrush. (See fig. 1-2)

Pull back the trigger and spray directly onto the fur. The more you pull back on the trigger the more paint will come out.



The closer you are to the fur the smaller and finer the lines will be, this is great for doing fine lines and details around the edges of your ears. (See fig. 3-4)

The airbrush is great for creating shadows and gradients. This is one of the best and cleanest methods for painting fur and will give you very smooth results.



Airbrushing is also a great way to create spots and patterns using stencils and masking tape.

Cut out a stencil for the markings from card stock. (See fig. 1)

Brush down the fur and then place the stencil on top, you can secure the edges with tape. (See fig. 2)

Then carefully airbrush over the stencil. (See fig. 3-4)

When you remove it you will have your final spots and the results are very clean! (See fig. 5)

Hand painting

If you don't have an airbrush you can also paint the fur by hand with a brush to spread it around. Water down your paint in a cup and get a toothbrush or paint brush to apply it.

Dip the brush into the paint, then start paint directly onto the fur.

You can then brush over the paint, working in different directions to help it evenly

Continue to do this, working in sections until you achieve the desired color. The more paint you add the darker the color will be.

For finer shadows use less paint and take more care. You can still achieve really nice shadows and gradients by hand as well.

When the paint dries the fur might be a bit stiff. The more paint you use the stiffer it will be. Brush the fur out to make it fluffy again.



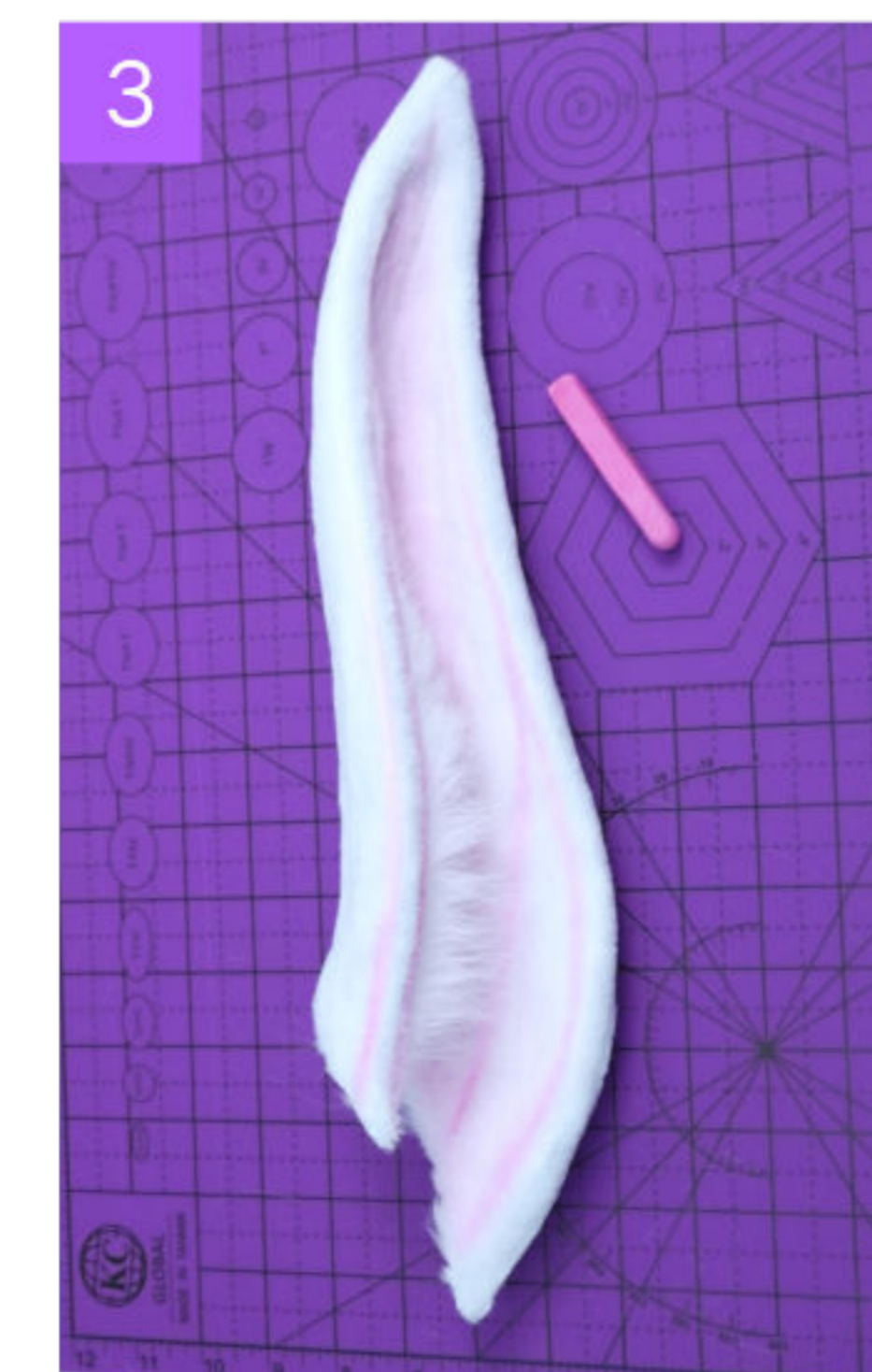
Hair chalk

Using hair chalk is a very quick easy method to add some extra color and shading to your fur! It's not as permanent as some of the other methods but it does the trick!

Using chalk can be a great way to map out your designs and shadows before painting them on permanently too.

Take your chalk and draw straight onto the fur. Hair chalk is activated by water so you can wet the fur or the chalk for a darker color

Brush the fur to help spread the color. Then you can set it with hairspray.



Can you dye fur with synthetic dye?

Fur can be dyed with synthetic dye, but most dye is heat activated and requires boiling water. Faux fur is not normally heat resistant and hot water may damage the fibers and make them very frizzy. This cannot always be fixed and may end up ruining the fur itself. So it can be done but it is not a method I would recommend for most projects.

Non - Poseable Ears

Sparkly Cat Ears

This method will show you how to make ears with a thermoplastic base and sewn fur cover. This is my go to method for making most of my ears! The base construction is made from a thermoplastic sheet called Worbla. This means it can be heated up and molded by hand, then when the plastic cools down again it will harden and retain its shape.

Using thermoplastic for the base of ears is great if you want to be particular about the shape before covering them in fur. It also makes the ears very strong and they will never be bent out of shape, making it a good choice for larger ears.

For your ear construction you will need faux fur in the color of your choice and Worbla. For these ears I'm using cream faux fur as my base and I'll be making areas on it darker. (See fig. 1)

To make a pattern for your ear, trace out roughly the shape and size you want onto paper. Use this to test and make adjustments on a mannequin head. (See fig. 2)

When you are happy with your pattern, trace it onto a piece of Worbla or thermoplastic. Then cut out the pieces. (See fig. 3)

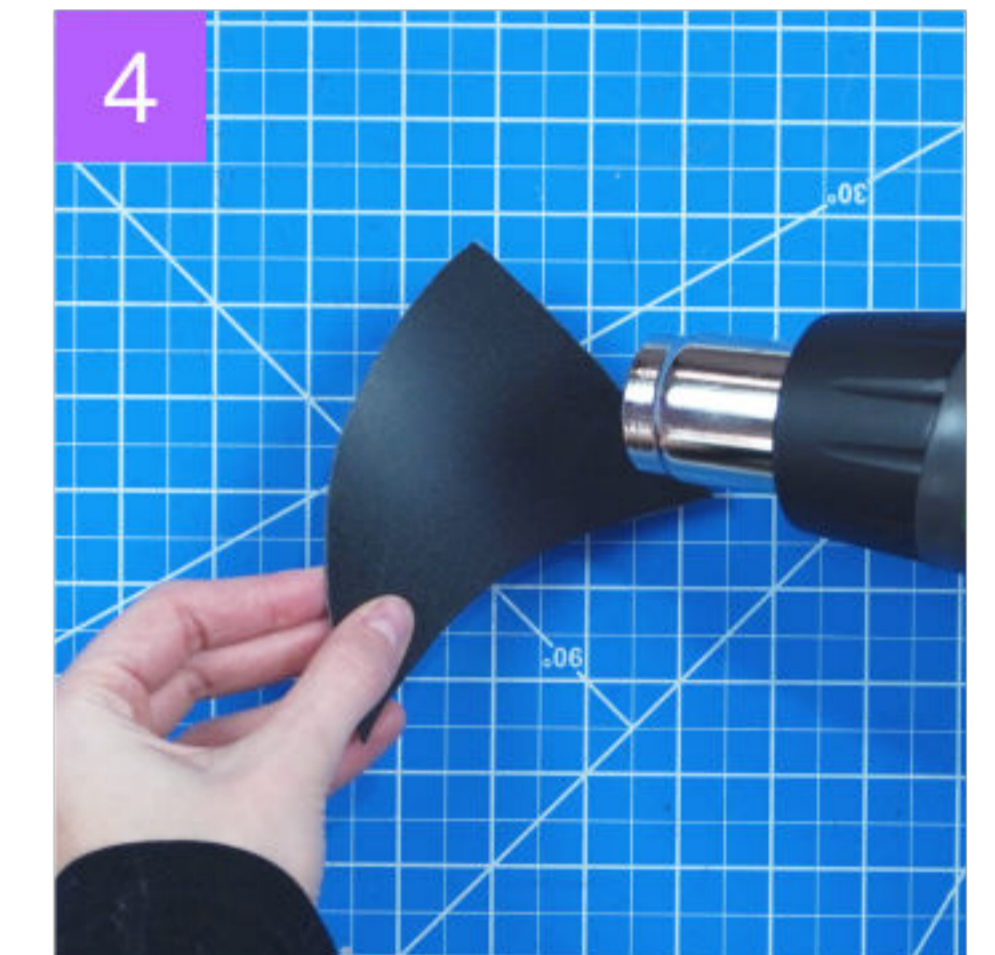
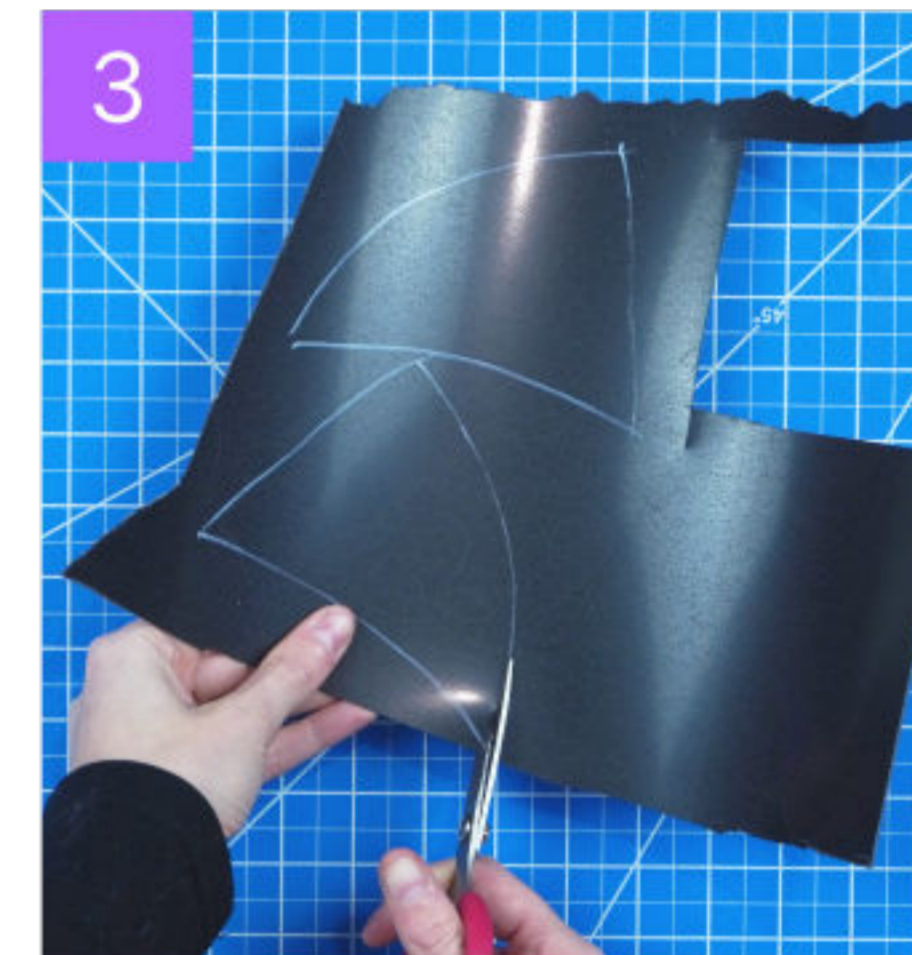
Heat up the Worbla with a heat gun to make it soft. (See fig. 4-5)

Then you can bend the ear into shape and let it cool down. Once it hardens it will keep this shape. (See fig. 6)

If you are making light color ears, I would recommend using white Worbla, but you can also paint the Worbla white with acrylic paint. (See fig. 7-8)

Crafting Note:

When making your ears the base color is important as it can show through your fabric. Try using a light color base when making light ears. A black base can show through white fur when it's shaved down. If you have a dark base material like EVA foam or Worbla you can paint it lighter.



To make the fur covers, trace your pattern onto the back of your fur and add 5mm of seam allowance around the edges. Trace a piece for the front and the back of the ear. (See fig. 9)

If your ears are symmetrical you can mirror the pattern and repeat this for the other side.

You can then cut out the pieces carefully using a craft knife. (See fig. 10)

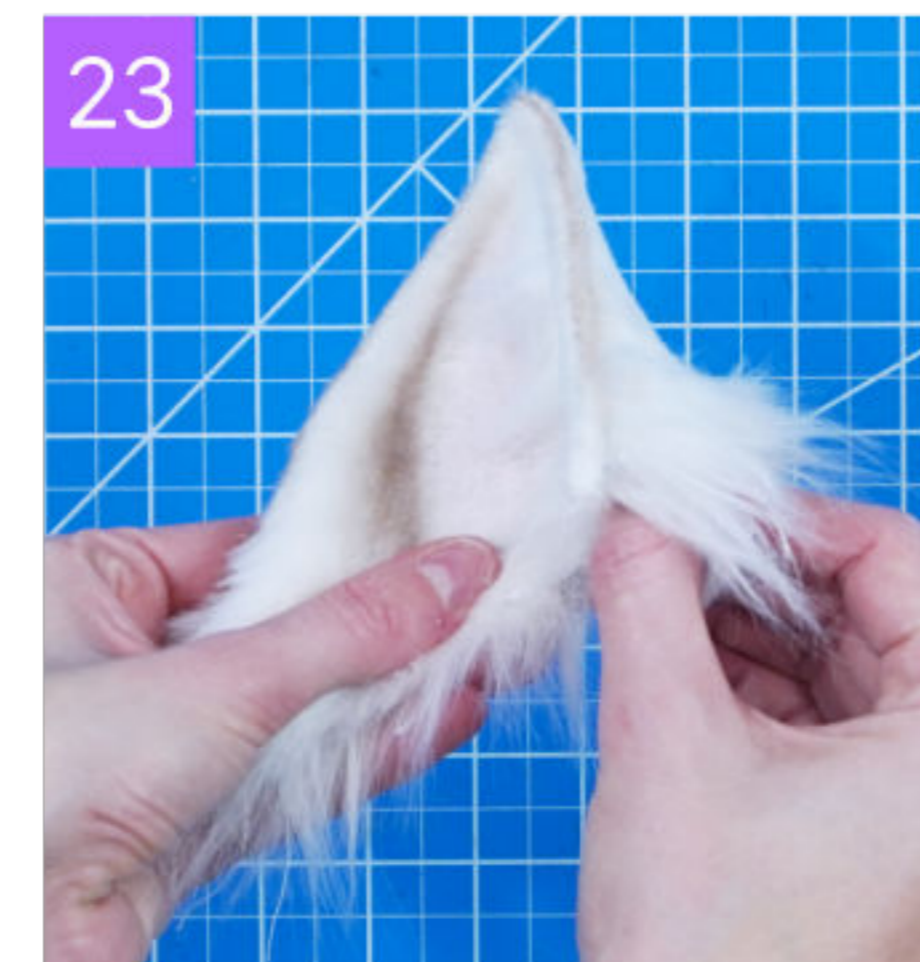
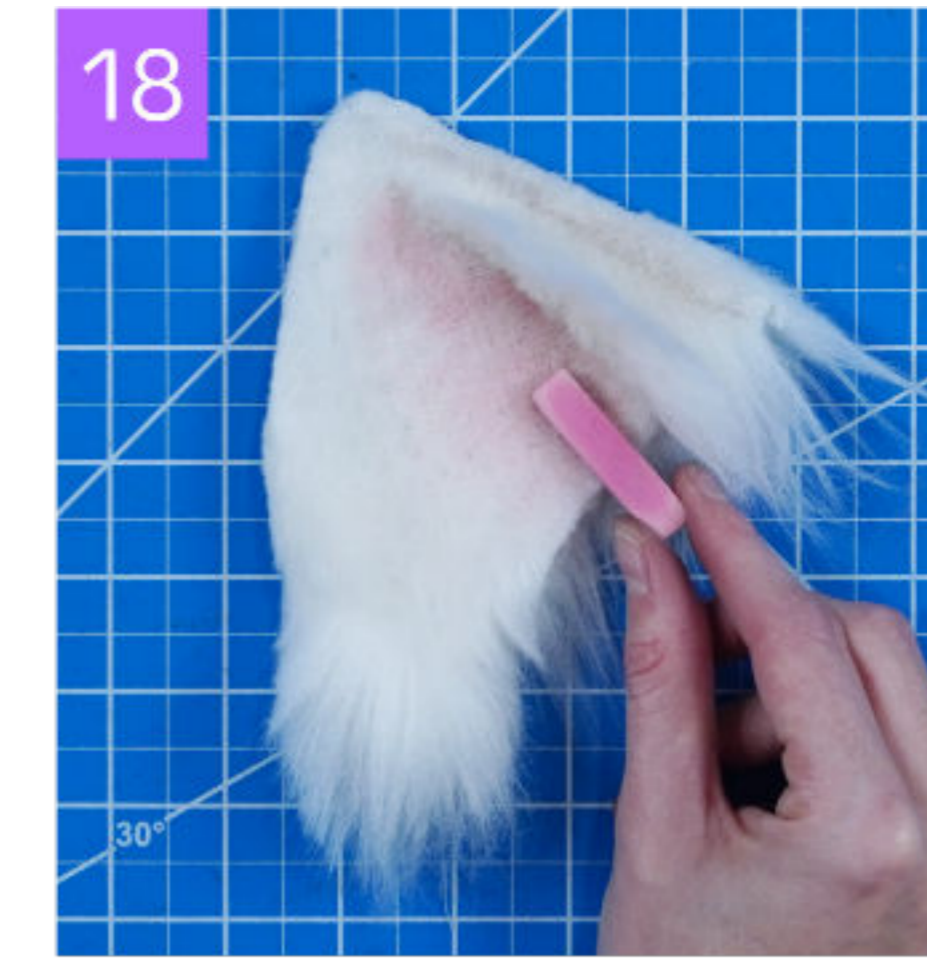
Clip the front and back of your ear pieces together, tuck in the fur fibers so they don't get stuck. (See fig. 11)

Sew around the edges to join them, leave the bottom of the ear open. (See fig. 12)

Now you can flip your ears inside out. (See fig. 13)

At this point they will look like big fluffy blobs. So now they need to be shaved and shaped using electric clippers. (See fig. 14-15)

At the back, shave the top of the ear shorter and leave the bottom long and fluffy. I want the fur very short on top so I am not using a guard. (See fig. 16)



For the inside, shave the top of the ears and the sides shorter. Leave long tufts at the bottom and on the inside where the ear will fold over. (See fig. 17)

Once you finish shaving the ears you can start creating shadows and adding color with hair chalk. Use pink and brown chalk to map out your shadows and details. (See fig. 18-19)

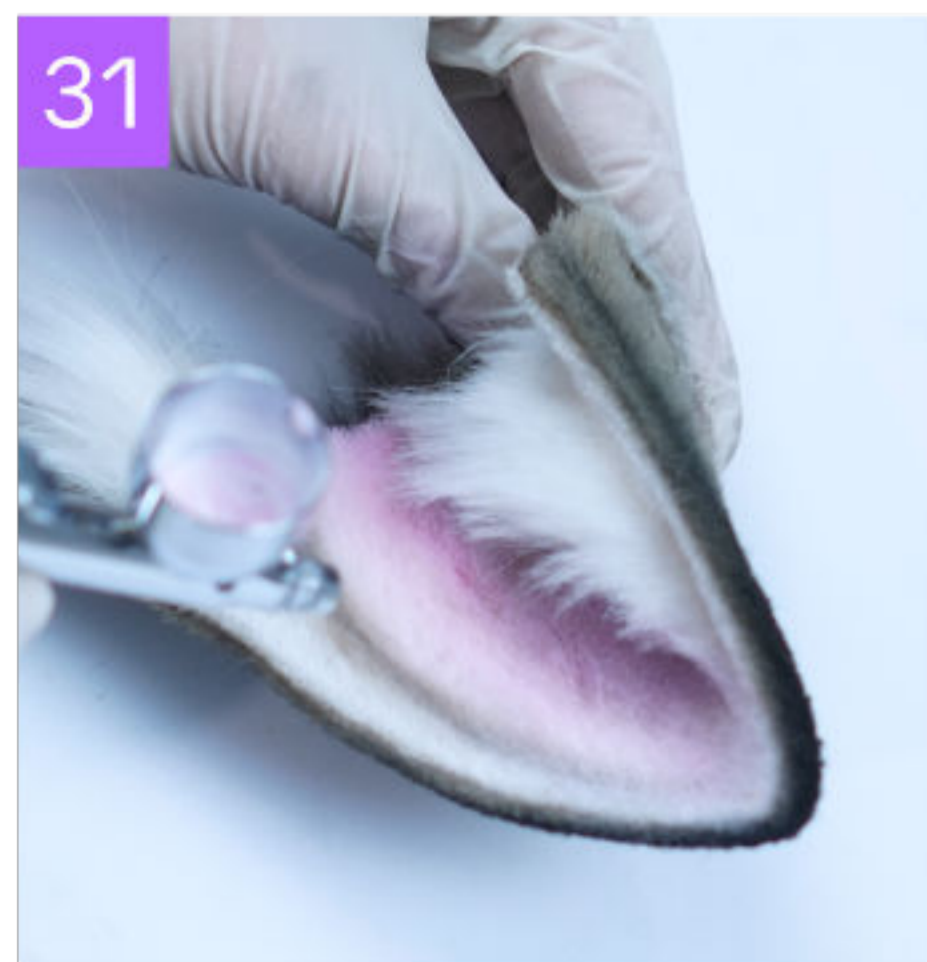
Now you can attach the covers to the base permanently. Apply contact adhesive to your ear base. (See fig. 20)

Take the fur cover and pull it over the Worbla base and position it. Careful not to get glue on the outside. (See fig. 21)

To close up the bottom, apply hot glue to the inside of the opening. (See fig. 22)

Then press the edges together to join them. (See fig. 23)

Trim away the excess fabric along the bottom of the ears. Be careful not to cut your long piece of fur and damage them (See fig. 24)



Now your ears are covered in fur!

(See fig. 25)

For the final color on the ears you can use paint. I recommend using airbrush paint because it's thin and easy to work with but you can also use watered down acrylic paints. (See fig. 26)

Mix and thin your paint in a container to get the color you want. Then use a toothbrush and apply the paint to your fur. (See fig. 27)

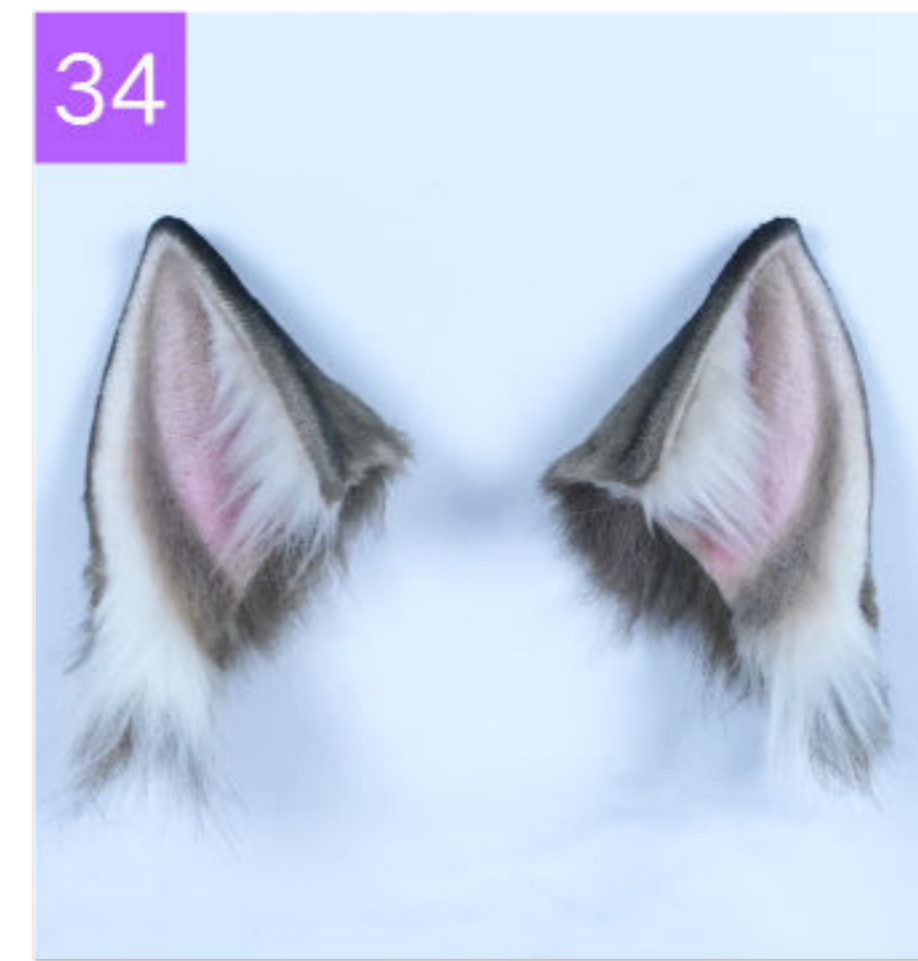
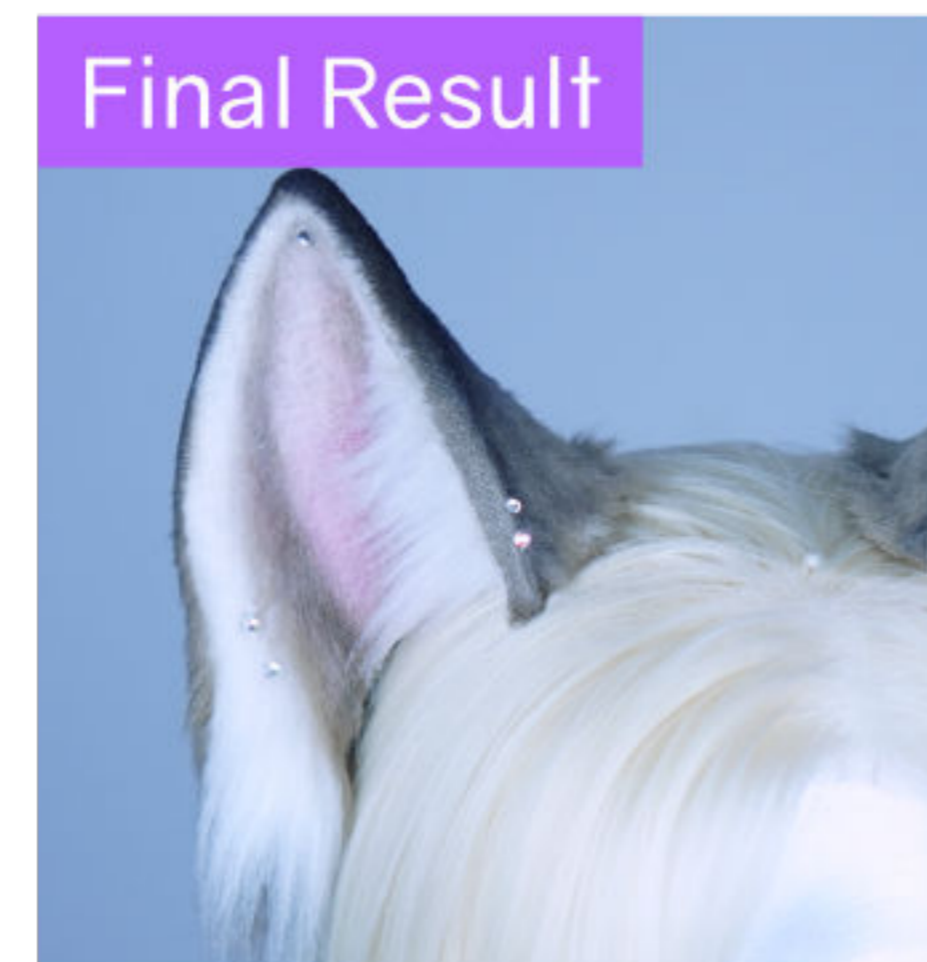
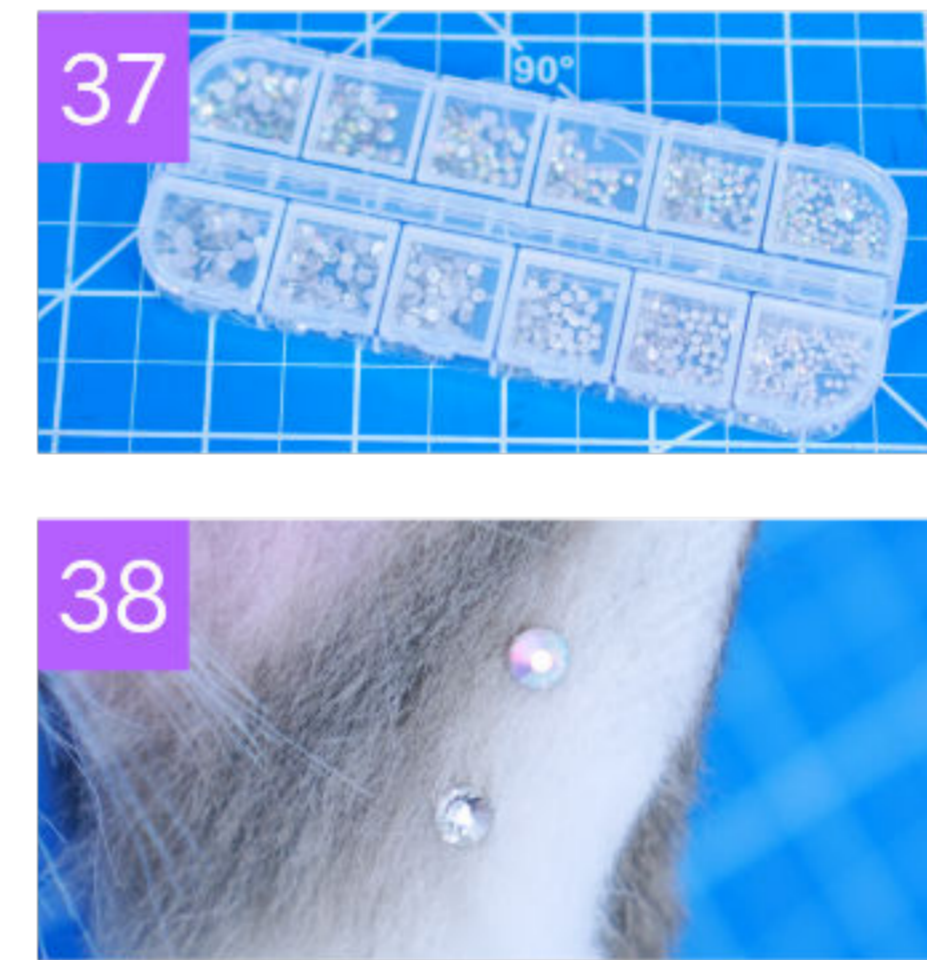
Continue to brush and spread the paint into the fur fibers until you're happy with the final color. (See fig. 28)

Use less paint to add soft shadows to the front of the ear (See fig. 29)

You can also use the toothbrush to create a more distinct line around the edges of the ears. (See fig. 30)

Add more shading and highlights with an airbrush. Spray the inside of the ear with a stronger pink. (See fig. 31)

Spray around the tips of the ear with a dark brown to give them a look like a Siamese cat. (See fig. 32)



Now your ears are painted!

(See fig. 33-34)

For a seamless attachment hot glue hair clips under the ears. Now they can be clipped on without a hairband showing.. Hair clips are a great option for attaching small ears like this. (See fig. 35-36)

As a final detail you can glue on rhinestones and rivets with superglue. (See fig. 37-39)

Now your ears are complete!



Final Result



Poseable Ears

Pink Fox Ears - Spirit Blossom Ahri

These ears are made using an aluminum wire and EVA foam base with a sewn fur cover. Using the wire as your base will allow the ears to be bent into shape and they can be changed and posed as you like. This method also allows you to attach the ears to a headband in such a way that the ears can be adjusted or moved up and down so you can get the perfect position when wearing them and change that position if necessary.

For these ears you will need aluminum wire, 2mm EVA foam and pink and cream fur. (See fig. 1)

Start by creating a mockup with EVA foam or paper to get the size and shape you want. Use your pattern to cut out the final shape from 2mm EVA foam. (See fig. 2)

Trace around your foam ears onto the fabric, adding about 5mm seam allowance around the edges. Pay close attention to the direction you want your fur to go. (See fig. 3)

You can then use a craft knife to cut out your pieces. Cut out 1 pink piece and 1 white piece for each ear. (See fig. 4)

To help make sewing easier you can lightly shave your ears at the top before pinning the ears together. This will remove some of the bulk making it easier to join them but don't take off too much fur. (See fig. 5)

Brush your longer fur fibers inwards. (See fig. 6)

You can then pin the ears together. (See fig. 7)



Stitch around the edges and then trim away the excess seam allowance. (See fig. 8)

After the ears are joined you can flip them inside out. (See fig. 9)

Now that the ears are joined you can shave down more of the fur. Make the ears short at the top with longer fur at the bottom and on the inside of the ears. (See fig. 10-11)

To make the ears poseable and give them shape you will need aluminum wire.

Bend the wire around the shape of your foam ear, leave 2 pieces of wire poking out the bottom. These will be used to attach to the headband later. (See fig. 12)

Hot glue your wire directly to your foam ear.

You can now bend the wire around the ear into shape (See fig. 13)

Take your fur cover and pull it over your foam ear base. Pin the bottom into place until you are happy with the placement of the cover. (See fig. 14)

Glue the bottom shut with hot glue. (See fig. 15)



Now your ear construction is complete. At this point you can trim or shave the ear down more if necessary. (See fig. 16)

Next is to color the ears. Start by using a pink chalk and marking roughly where you want your lines and dark shadows to be on the ear. (See fig. 17-18)

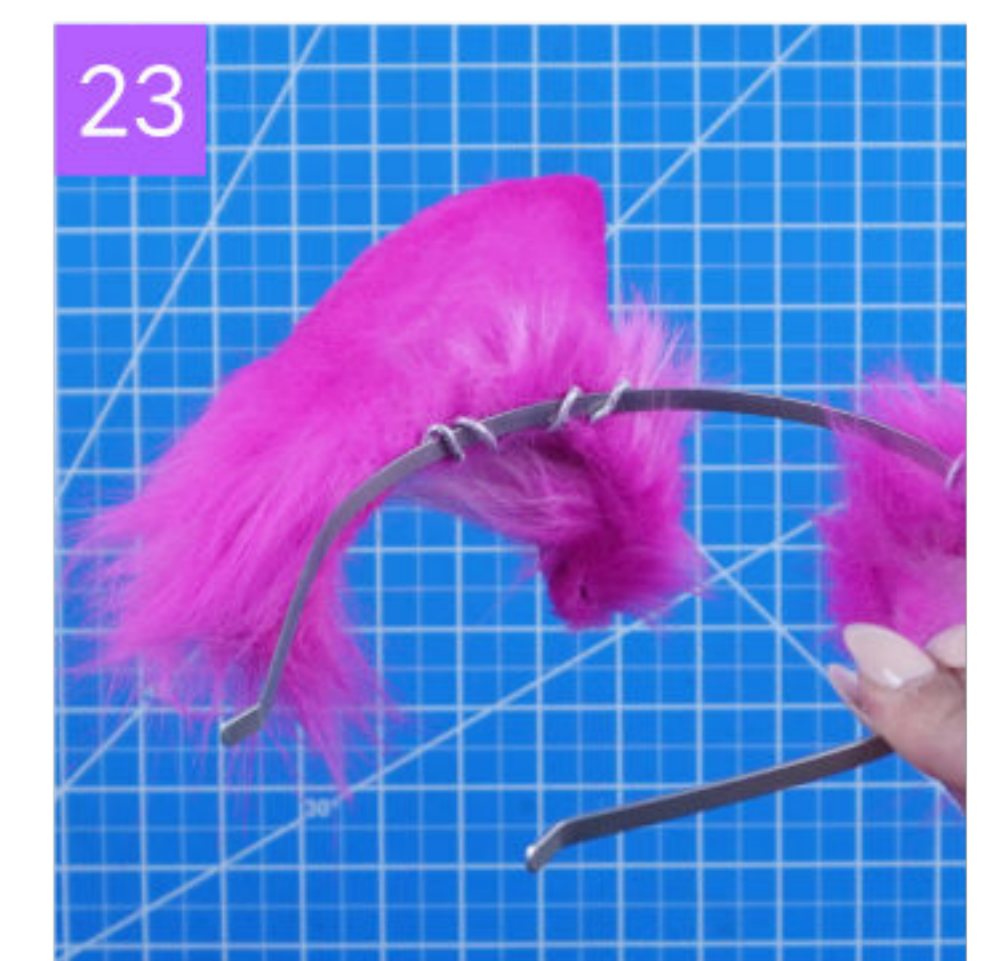
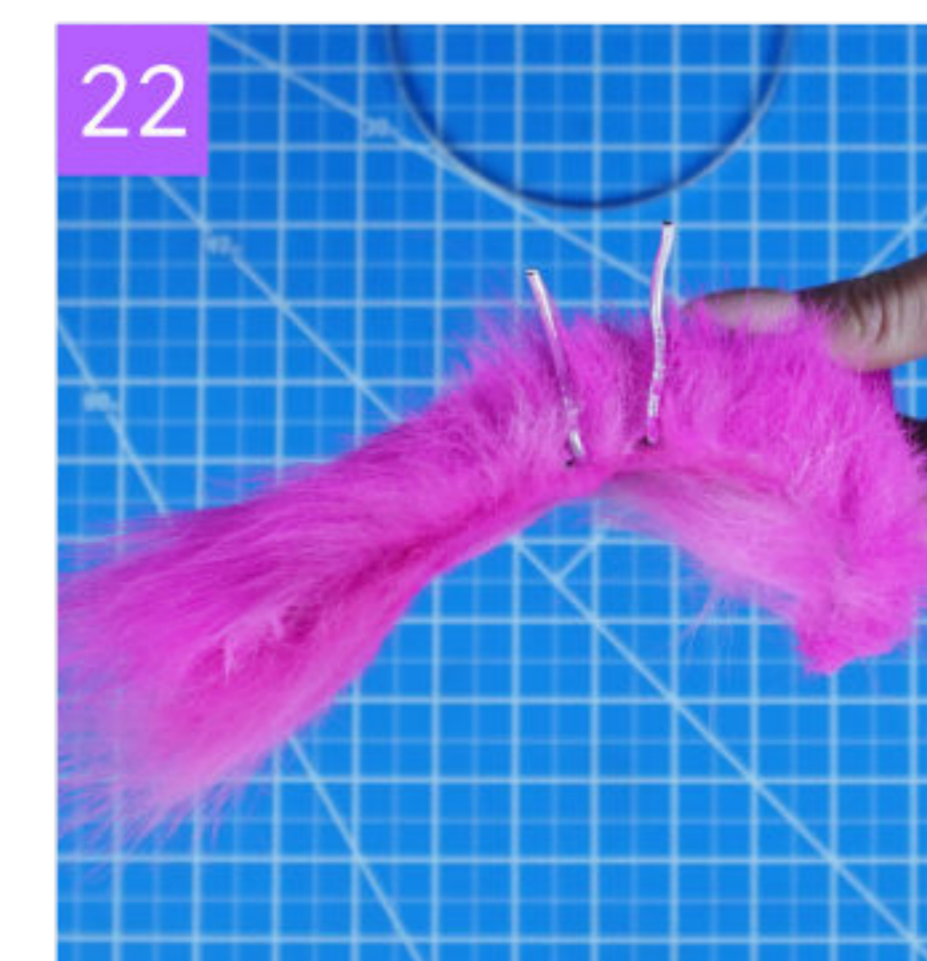
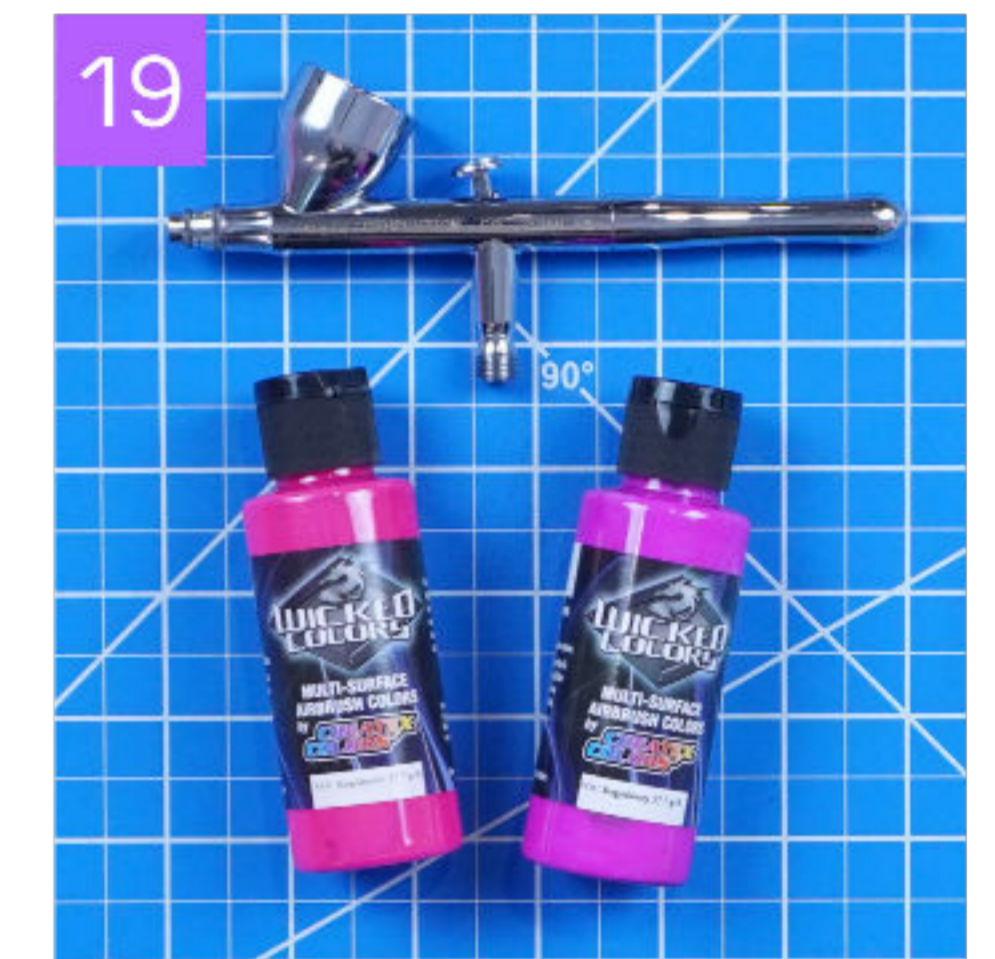
This will act as a guide so you know where you want shadows and highlights to be on the ears. You can just use chalk for coloring ears but it can rub off over time and isn't always permanent.

For a longer lasting solution and more vibrant color use airbrush paint over the chalk. For the hot pink color on the ears we used createx fluorescent pink and magenta paint. (See fig. 19)

Spray on the paint and build up the color until you are happy with how they look. You don't have to use an airbrush, you can also apply the paint by hand. (See fig. 20-21)

Once your ears are painted you can now attach them to your headband with the 2 protruding wires.

Bend the wires into shape around the headband and squeeze them into position tightly. (See fig. 22-23)



This kind of attachment will let you adjust your ear position however you want by sliding them up and down the headband. Just make sure the wire is tight as you don't want the ears sliding around on their own. (See fig. 24-25)

Because you have a wire base the ears will also be poseable and can be bent and reshaped how you like.

(See fig. 26-27)



To complete these ears you can also add detachable bows using ribbon and bells.

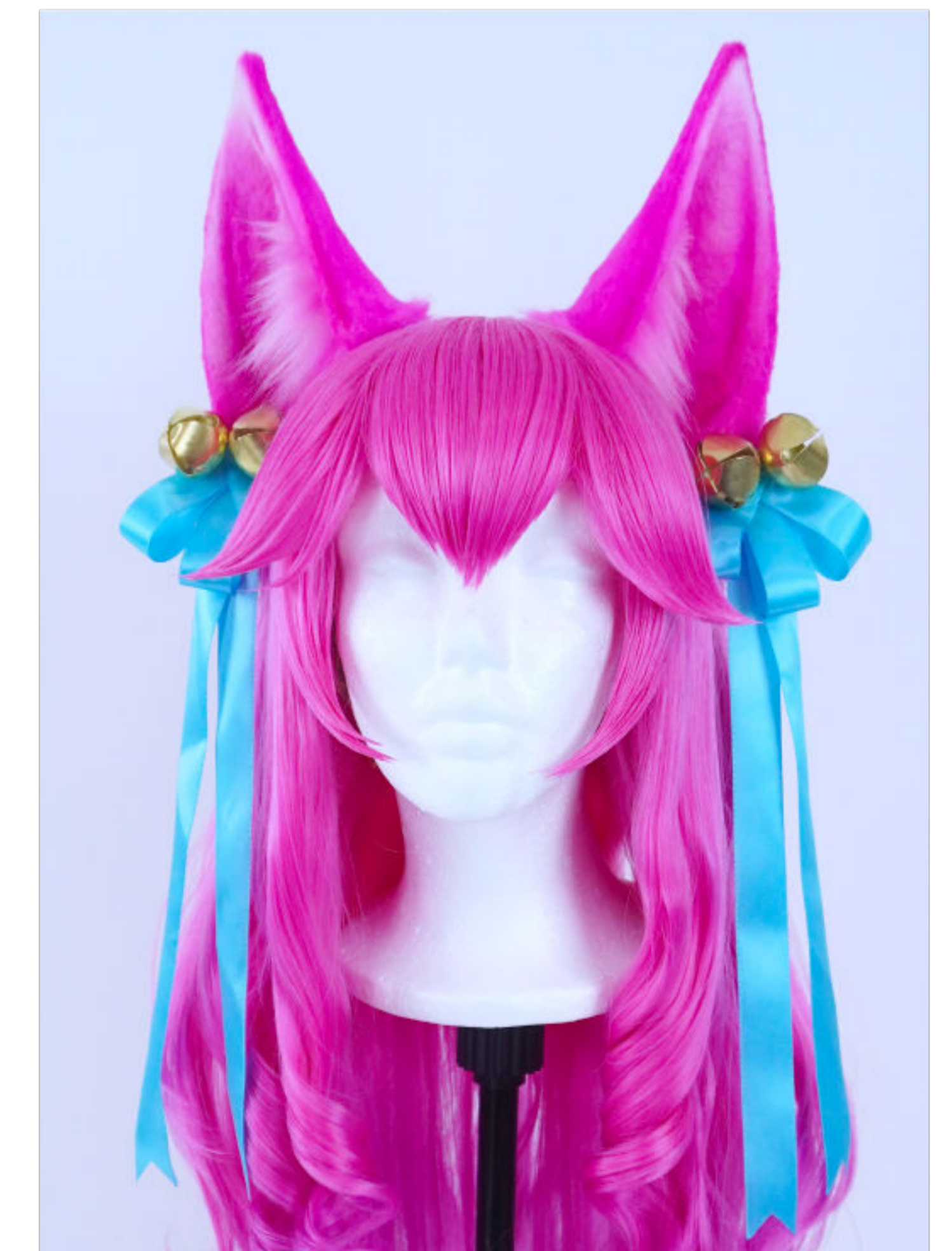
Cut and hot glue the ribbon into the configuration you want. (See fig. 28)

Then you can hot glue the bells onto the ribbons. (See fig. 29)

To attach these to your ears, glue on a small hair clip at the back. (See fig. 30)

These little hair clips will clip onto the ears and hold the ribbons in place but also allow them to be detachable.

(See fig. 31)



No Sew Ears

Punky Wolf Ears

Not into sewing? Then this method is for you! No sew ears are very similar to the standard poseable ears in the previous tutorial. They have a wire and EVA foam base, but the fur is glued to the outside. This is the quickest and easiest method to make ears! Another great thing about the no sew method is that it's easy to create ears with details along the edges like extra points or cut out pieces which would be difficult to do with a sewn cover. The only downside is that they may not be as neat and seamless as sewn ears and the cut edge will still be visible. But even with that in mind they still look great!

To make these ears you will need black and white fur. (See fig. 1)

You will also need 2mm EVA foam and aluminum wire. (See fig. 2)

Start by drawing out your pattern onto paper to get the size and shape. (See fig. 3)

Use your pattern to trace onto the white fur for the front of your ears. Add a 5mm seam allowance. (See fig. 4)

Flip your pattern and trace it onto the black fur for the back of your ears. Again adding 5mm seam allowance. (See fig. 5)

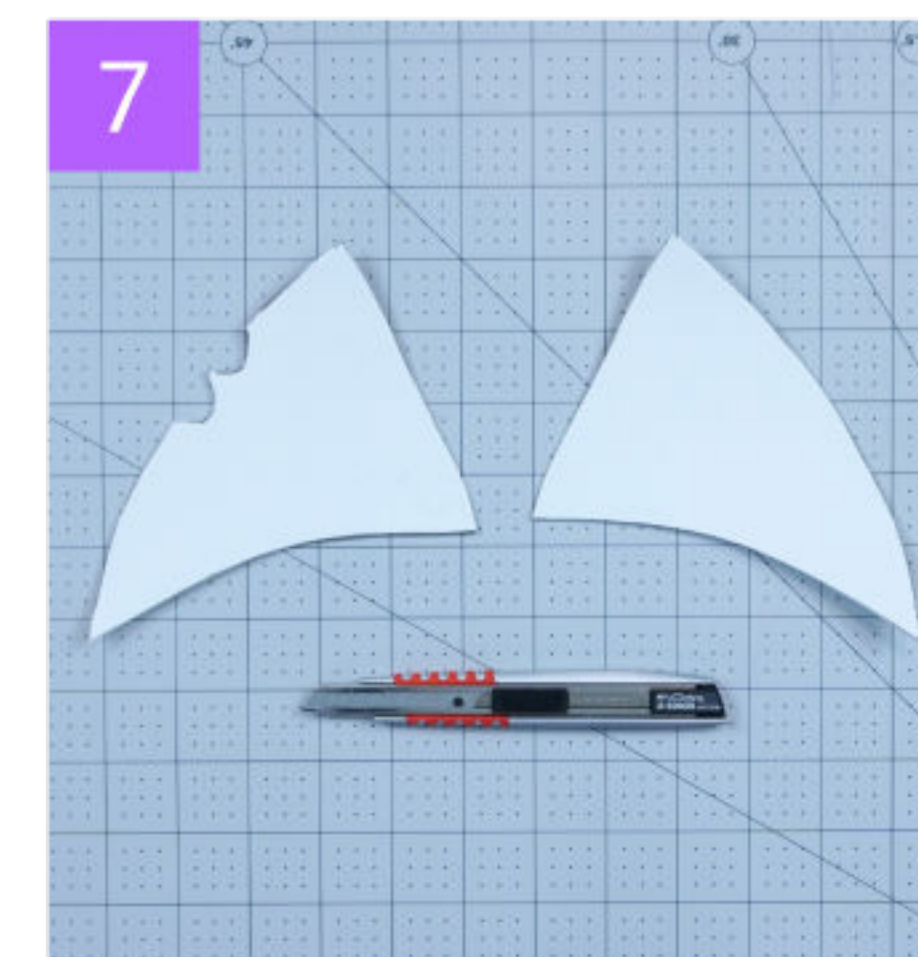
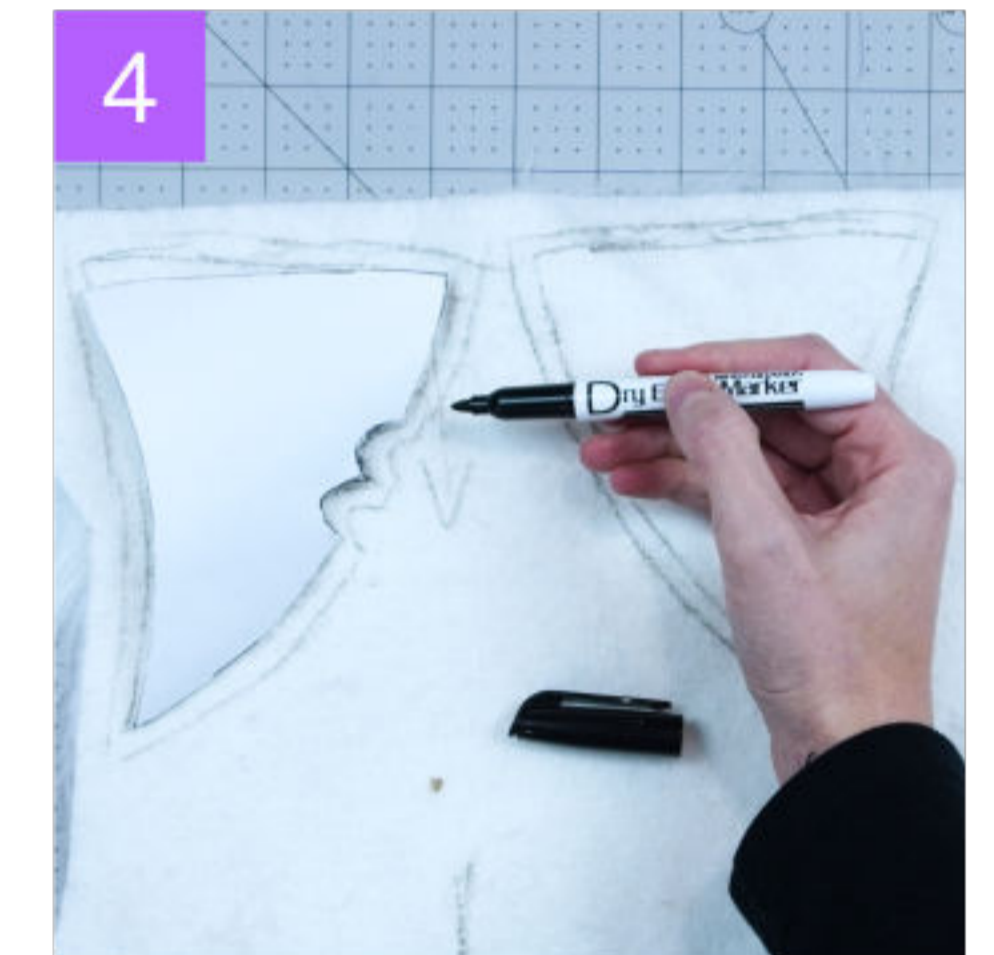
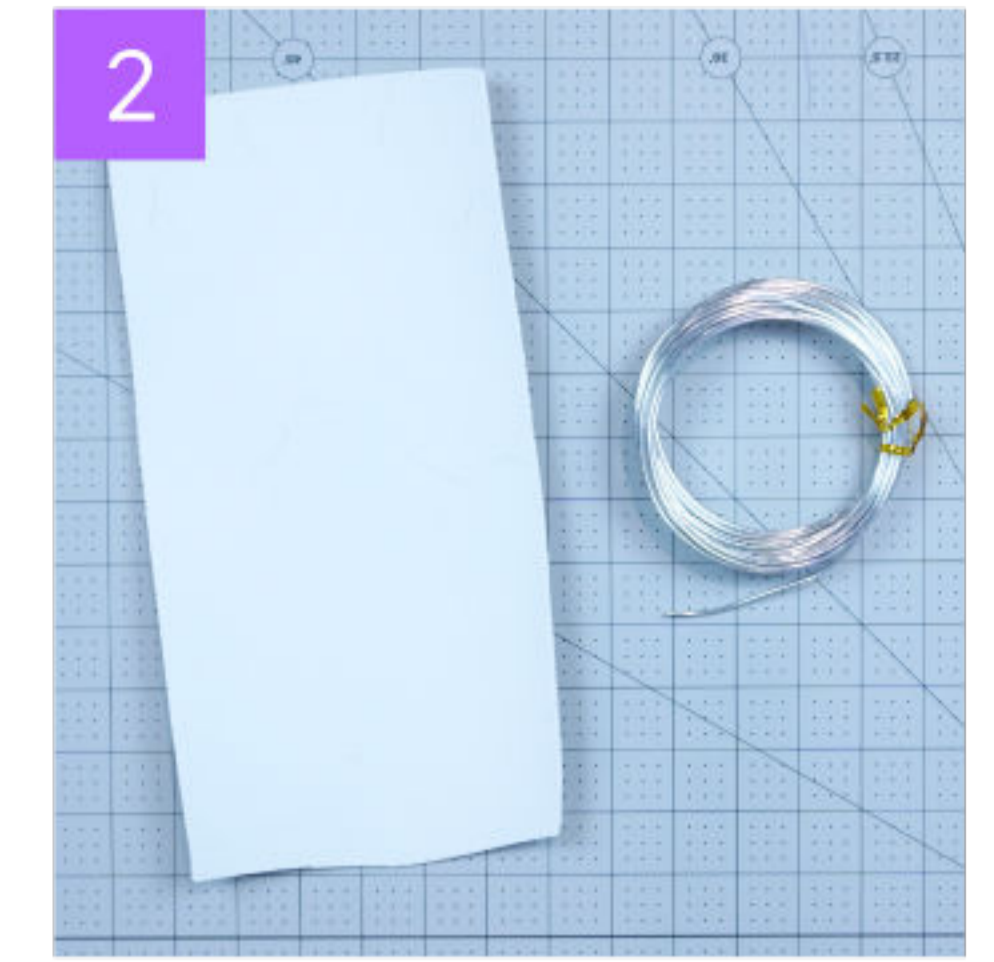
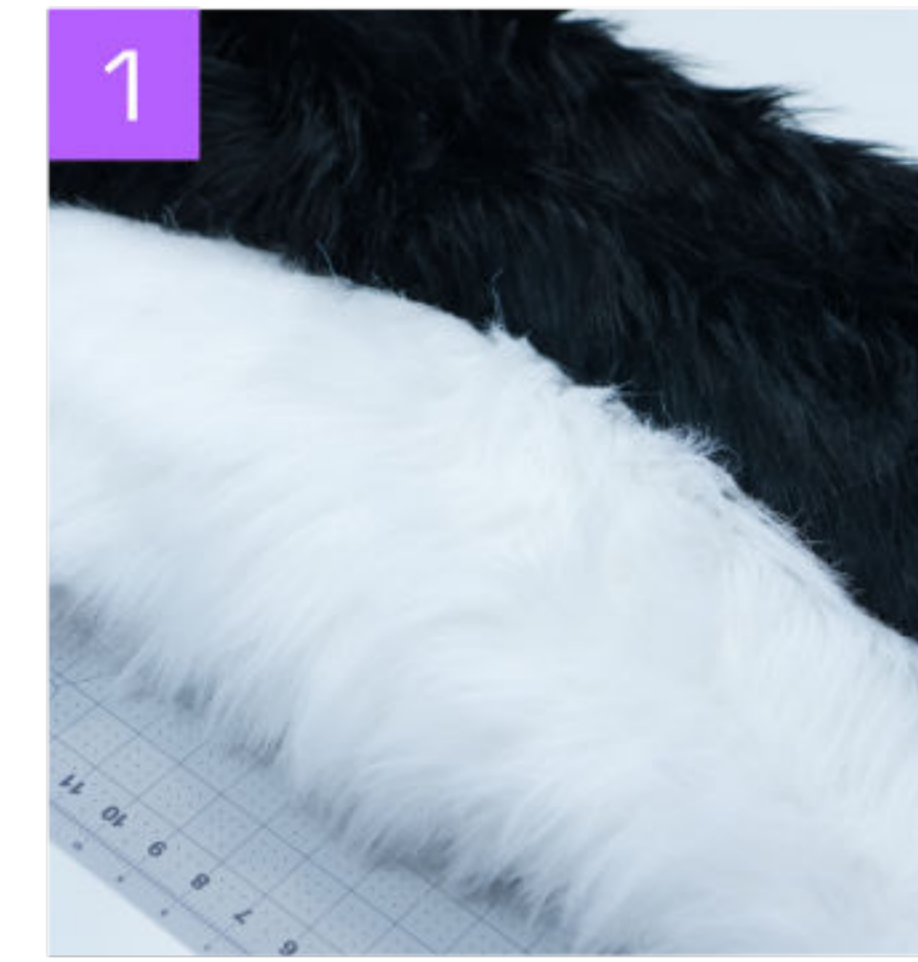
Cut out the pieces with a craft knife.

You should then have 2 white pieces for the front and 2 white pieces for the back. (See fig. 6)

To make your frame trace the pattern onto the 2mm EVA foam.

Then cut out the pieces with a craft knife. (See fig. 7)

Take the aluminum wire and bend it around the shape of the foam ear. (See fig. 8)



Leave 2 long pieces sticking out the bottom of the ears and then cut off the excess wire with wire cutters. (See fig. 9)

Hot glue the wire onto your EVA foam. (See fig. 10)

Now the frame for your ears is ready to be covered in the fur! (See fig. 11)

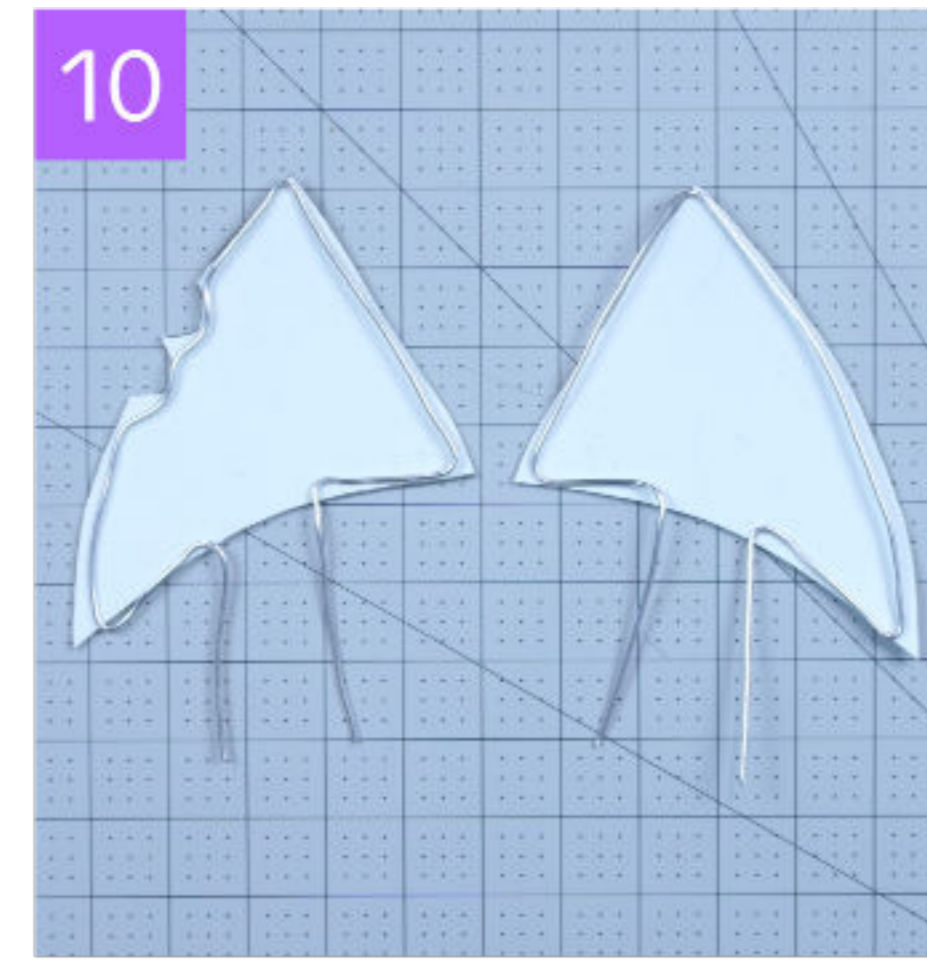
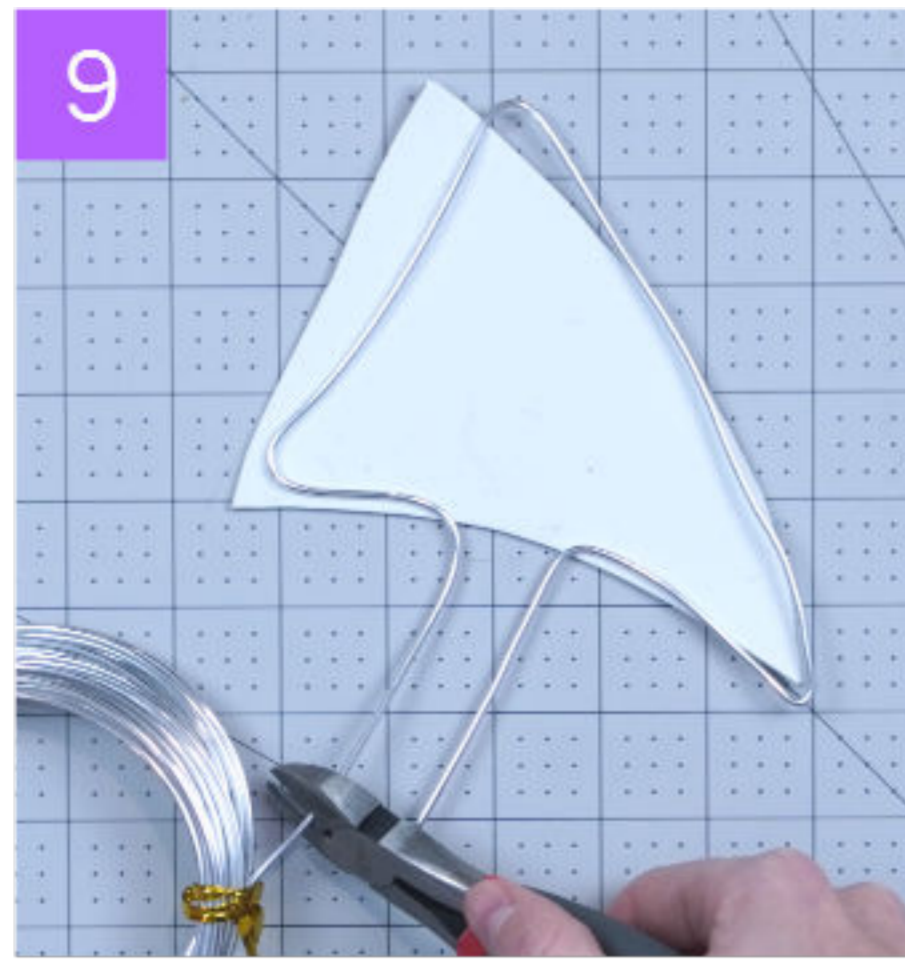
Apply hot glue to the black fur for the back of the ear. (See fig. 12)

Take the EVA foam frame and press it onto the black fur piece. (See fig. 13)

You can then apply more hot glue to the EVA foam and the edges of the black fur. (See fig. 14)

Carefully line up the white piece for the front of the ears and press it into place. (See fig. 15)

Pinch around the edges and add more glue if necessary so you get a good seal between the 2 layers of fur. (See fig. 16)



To neaten up the edges, trim them with scissors. Be careful not to cut the long fur pieces and don't cut too much off that the foam is exposed. (See fig. 17-18)

Now the construction is complete. (See fig. 19)



Next you need to start shaving and shaping the ears to look less fluffy. (See fig. 19)

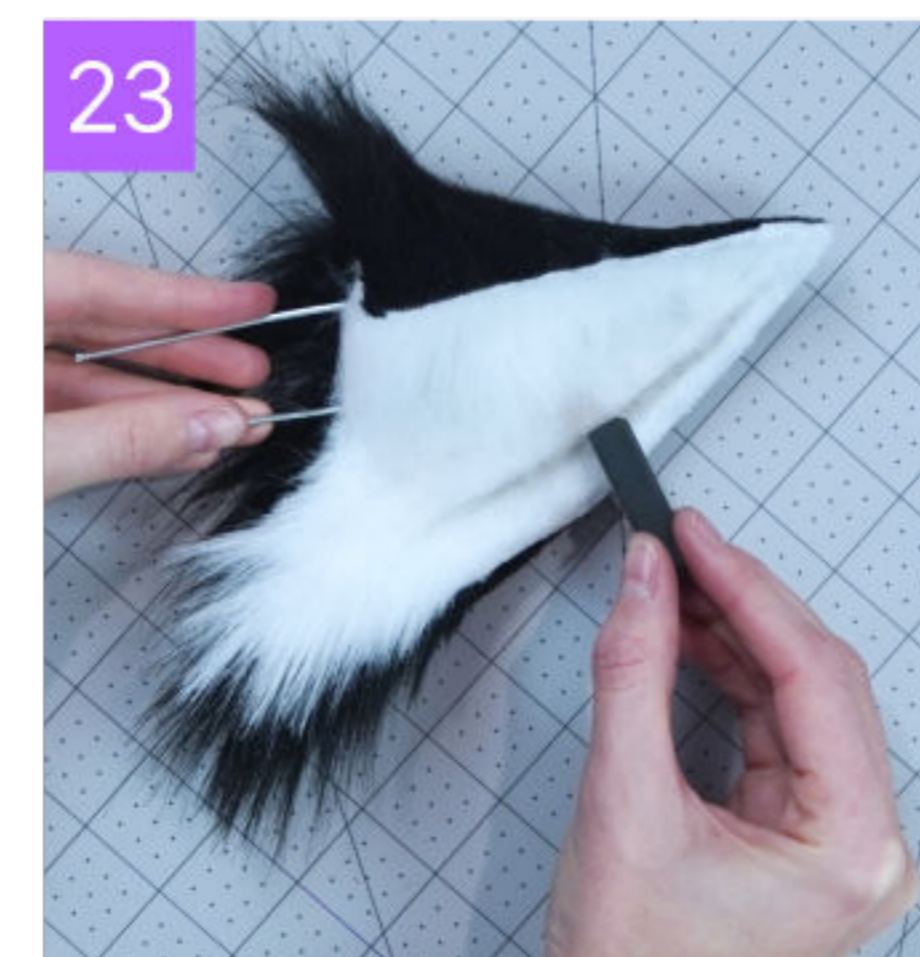
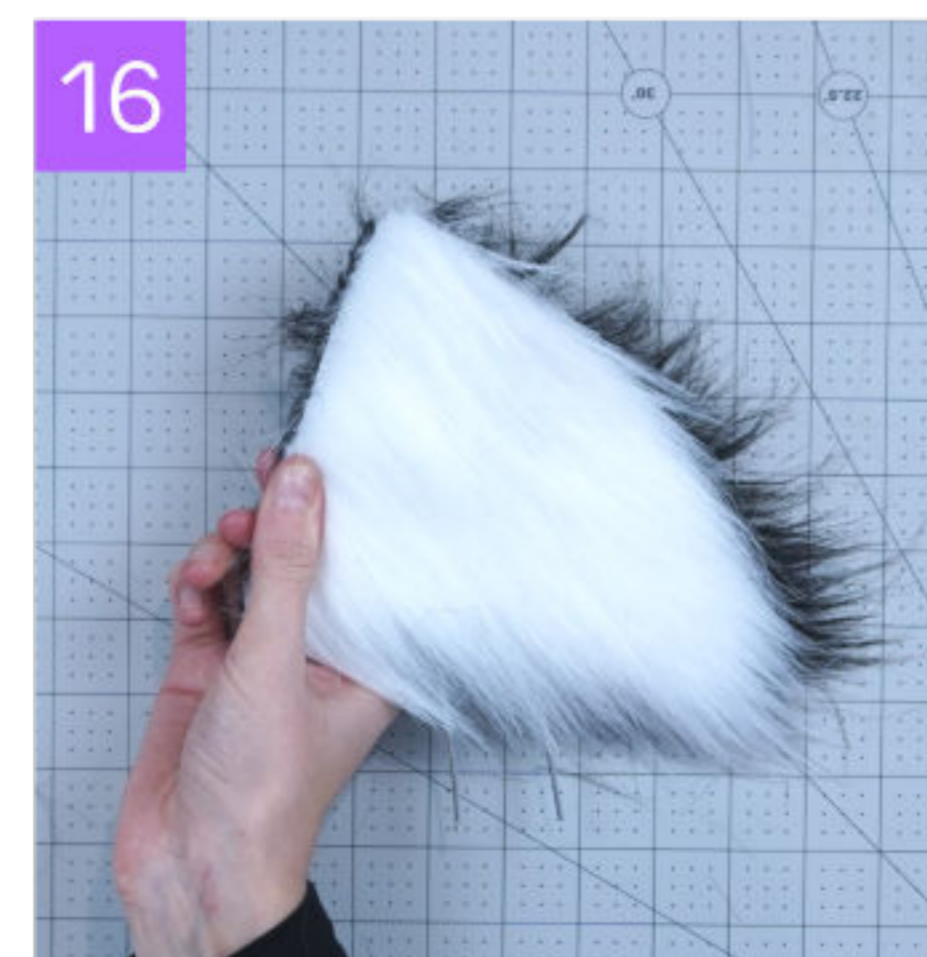
Shave the front of the ears at the top, along the sides and inside the ear. But leave the bottom edges long and leave long tufts where the ears will fold over. (See fig. 21)



Shave the back of the ears short at the top and leave the bottom long. (See fig. 20)

Once the ears are shaved you can bend them into shape. (See fig. 22)

To color the ears you can use chalk and paint.



Start by adding detail lines and shadows with black chalk. Add lines around the edges and dark shadows to the inner ear. (See fig. 23-24)



Add more shading with an airbrush. Gently spray along the edges of the ear and the inside. (See fig. 26)

To neaten up the black edge around the ears you can use paint.

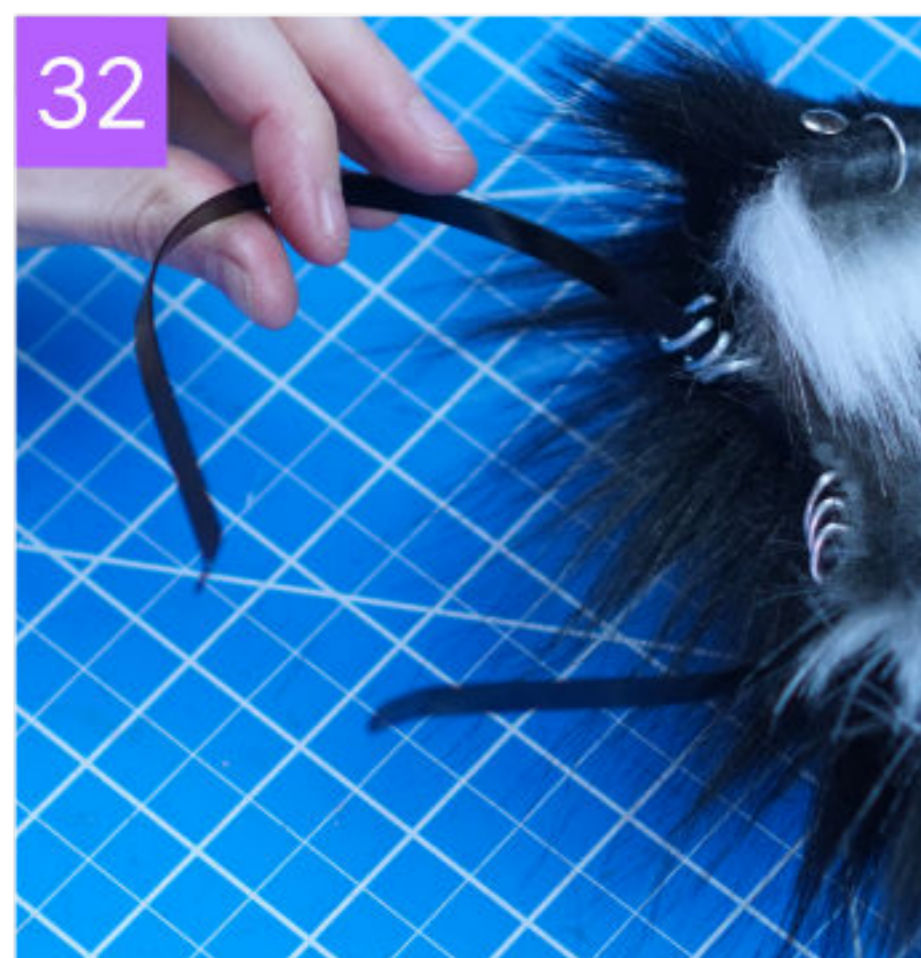
Thin the paint then use a toothbrush or a paintbrush to paint around the edge of the ear and make a solid straight line. (See fig. 27-28)

This will also help hide the cut edge and any wobbly bits. (See fig. 29)

When you are done you can add on a few extra details using silver rivets and rings. (See fig. 30)

To attach these ears you can use pliers to wrap the protruding wires around a headband. (See fig. 31-32)

Now your ears are complete. They can be posed and moved up and down the headband as you want. (See fig. 33-34)



Large Complex Ears

Curvy Bunny Ears - Miruko

Sometimes ears come in strange, complex shapes. In cases like this you won't always be able to just bend a flat pattern to get the shape and you may need multiple pattern pieces to create the form. Ears like this require a bit more support and structure to get them looking the way you want. This method will show you how to create ears with complex shapes using an EVA foam and Worbla base with a sewn fur cover that includes multiple pieces.

The ears we will be using in this example are for Miruko from My hero academia. Her ears have an unusual curve which is not easy to achieve with a flat pattern.

To make the pattern for these we created a 3D model in Maya which we converted into a pepakura pattern. (See fig. 1-2) I then converted the pepakura pattern into a final foam pattern.

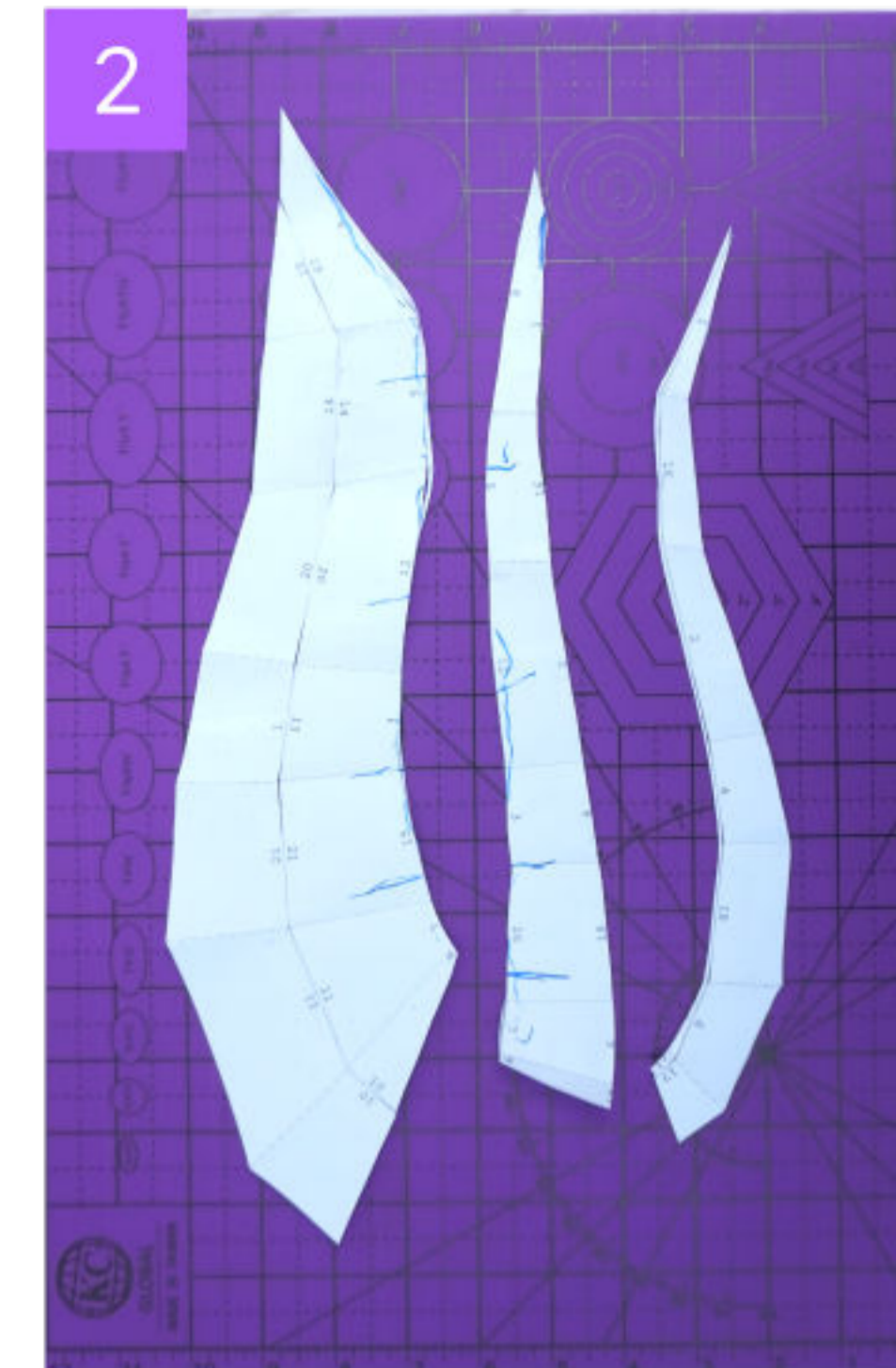
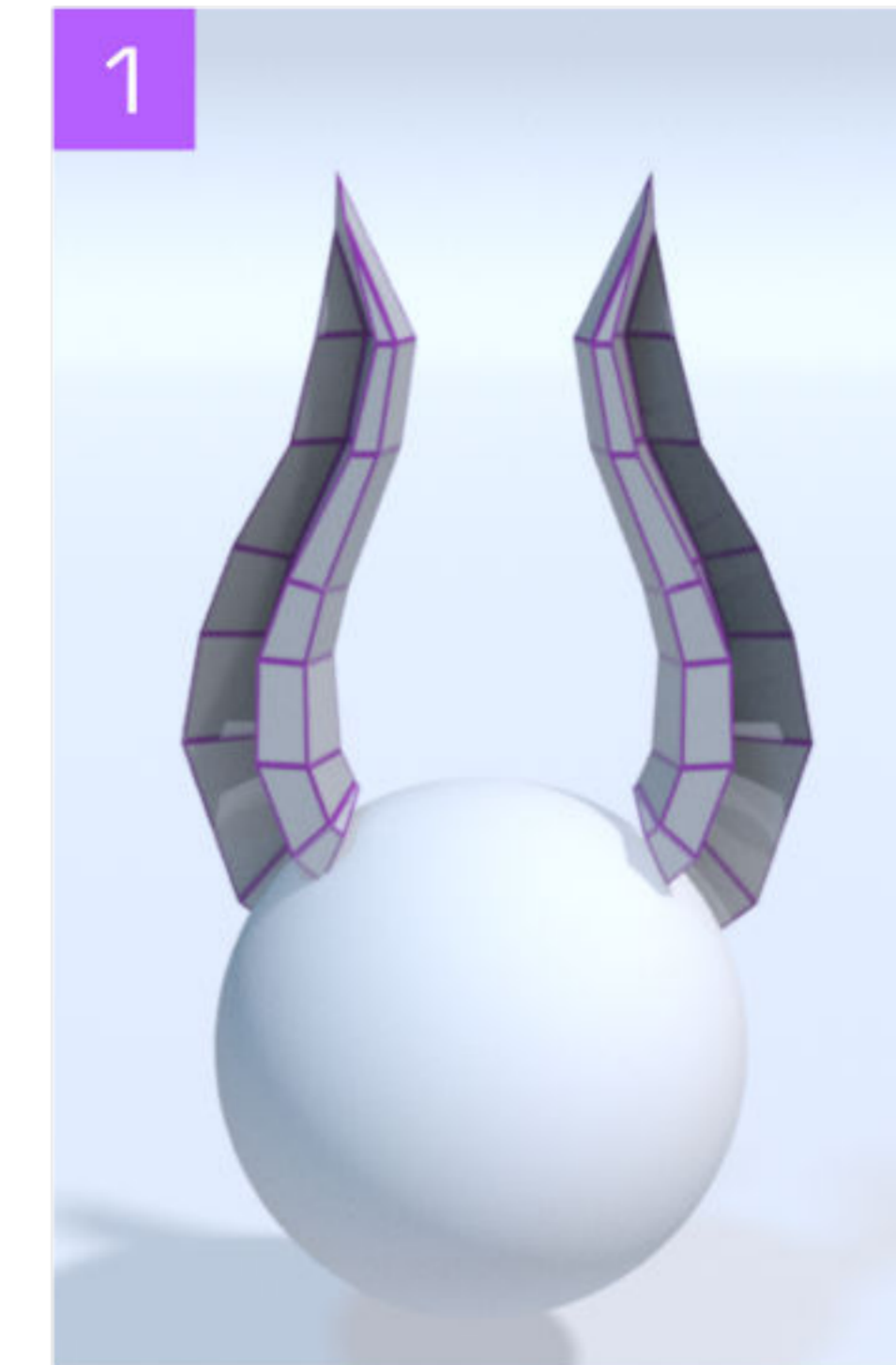
If you are not able to 3D model your ears you can create a small clay sculpture and create a pattern with cling wrap and tape.

For the base of the ears you will need 2mm EVA foam. Trace the pattern onto the foam and cut out the pieces. Make sure you draw your registration marks as these will be what help shape the ears. (See fig. 3)

To give the foam more stability and structure you can add a layer. Heat up the Worbla and press the ear pieces onto the glue side to connect them. (See fig. 4)

You can then trim off the excess Worbla around the edges with scissors. (See fig. 5)

Apply the contact glue to the edges you need to join, then heat up the Worbla slightly to make it soft and you can press the pieces together. (See fig. 6-7)



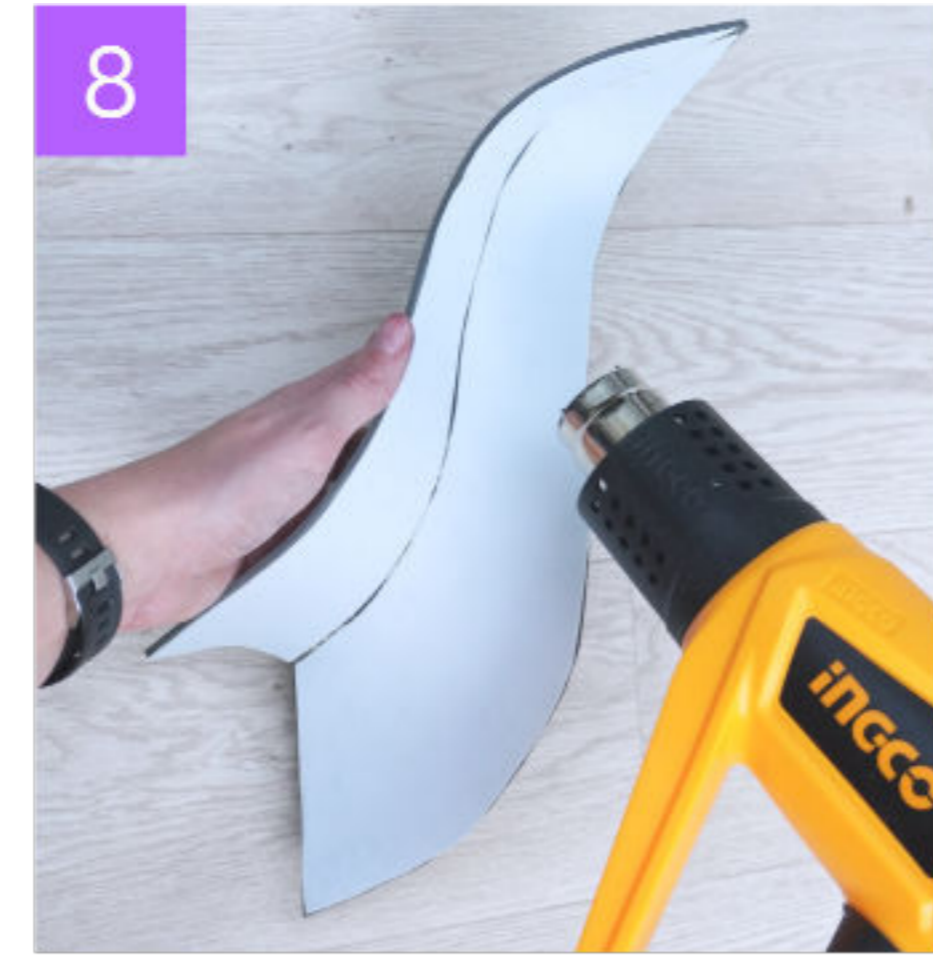
To get a better shape on the ears you can heat up the Worbla again with a heat gun. (See fig. 8)

Then you can bend them into shape and let them cool down. (See fig. 9)

Now the base of your ears is complete. (See fig. 10)

For the fur cover, trace your pattern onto the back of the fur. Add a 5mm seam allowance around the edges and then cut out the pieces. (See fig. 11)

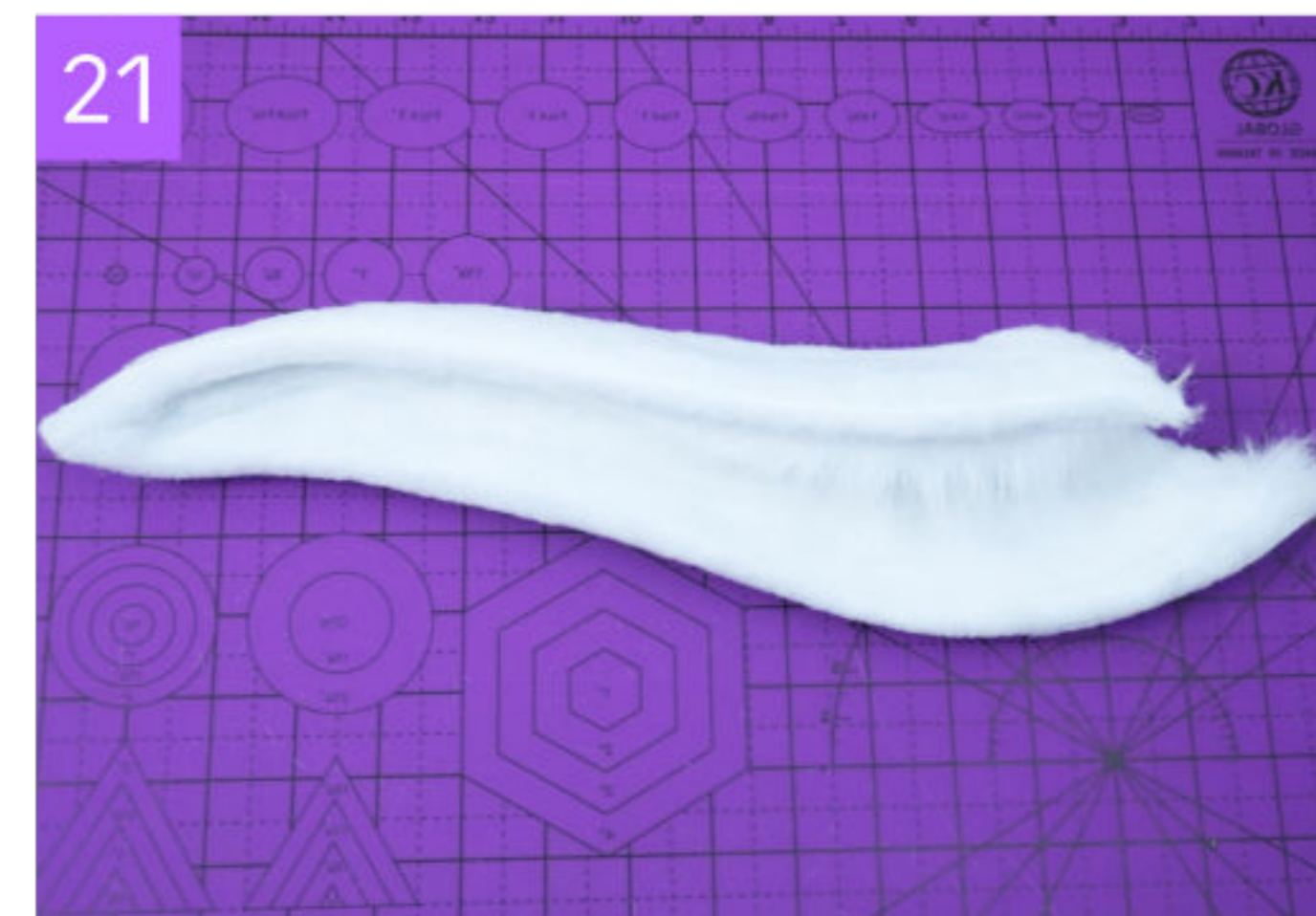
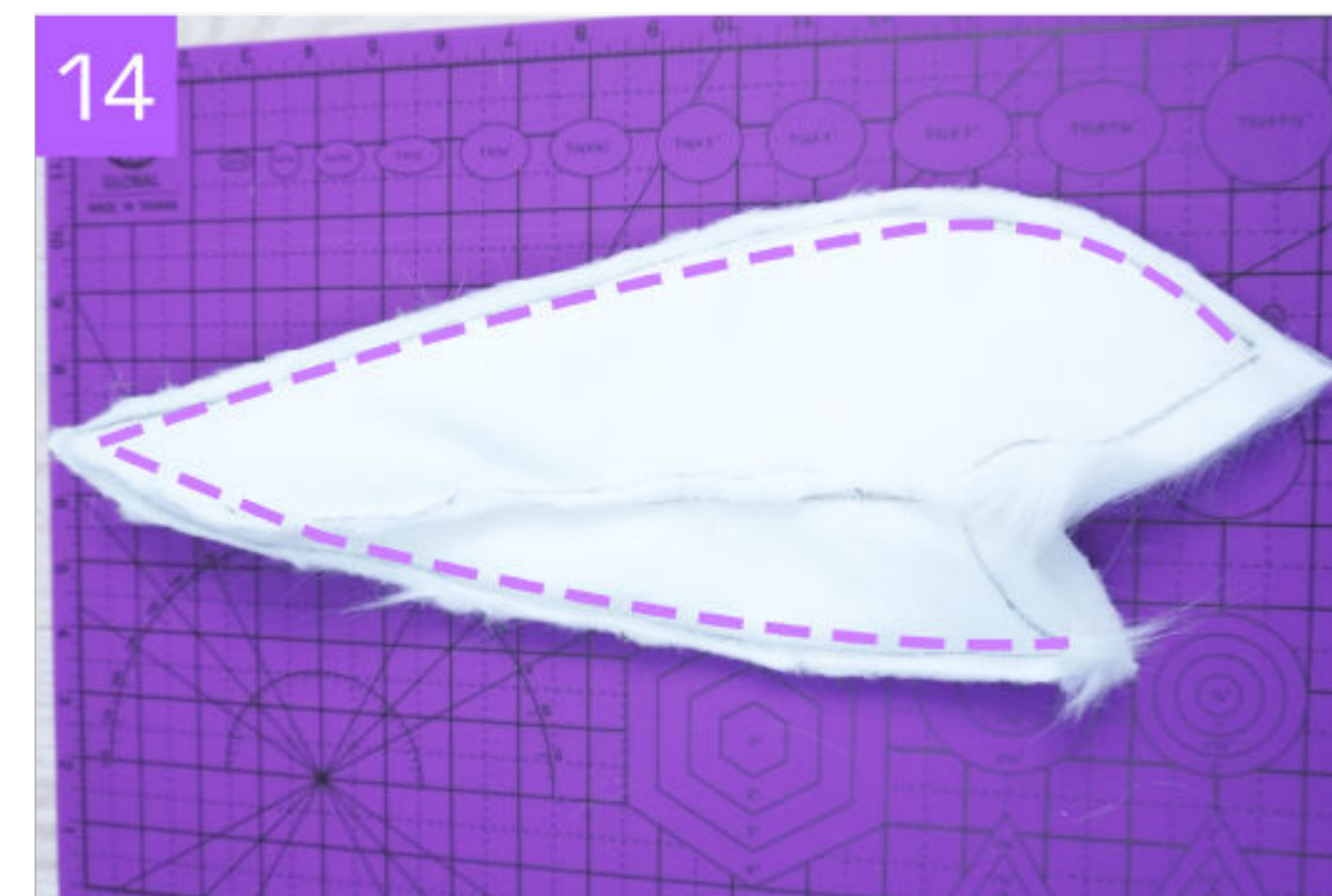
After that you can pin the pieces together and sew along the edges. (See fig. 12-14)



Now you should have a fluffy cover and your foam and Worbla ear base. (See fig. 15)

Pull the cover over the ear to make sure it fits snugly. (See fig. 16-17)

Now you will need to shape the fur with a shaver and scissors. Trim most of the fur on the outside of the ear short and leave longer tufts of fur on the inside of the ear. (See fig. 18)



Now that your fur covers are shaved you can permanently attach them to our ears. Apply contact glue to the ear base. (See fig. 19)

Then carefully pull the ear cover over and press it into place. You can trim off any excess at the bottom of the ears. (See fig. 20-21)

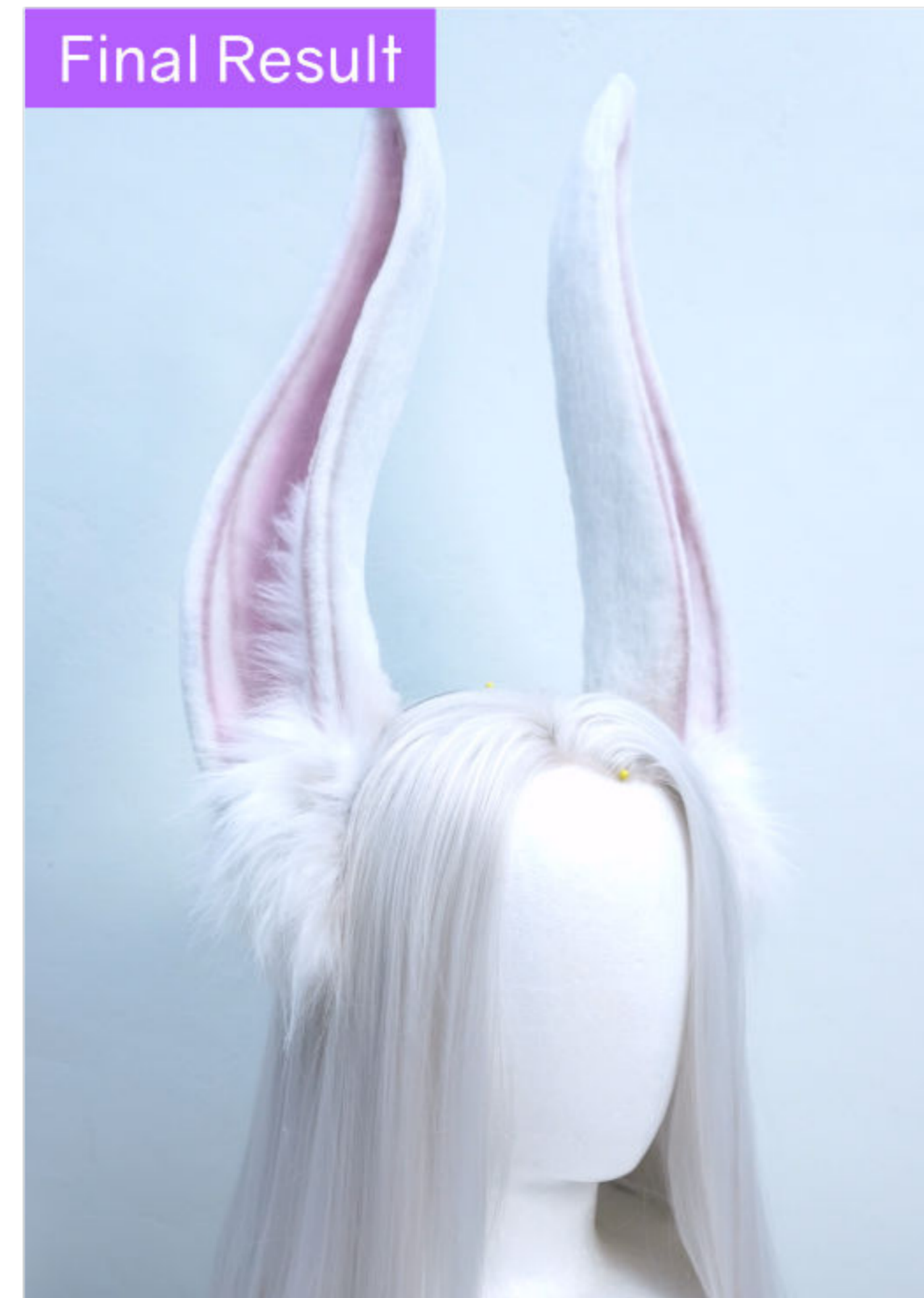
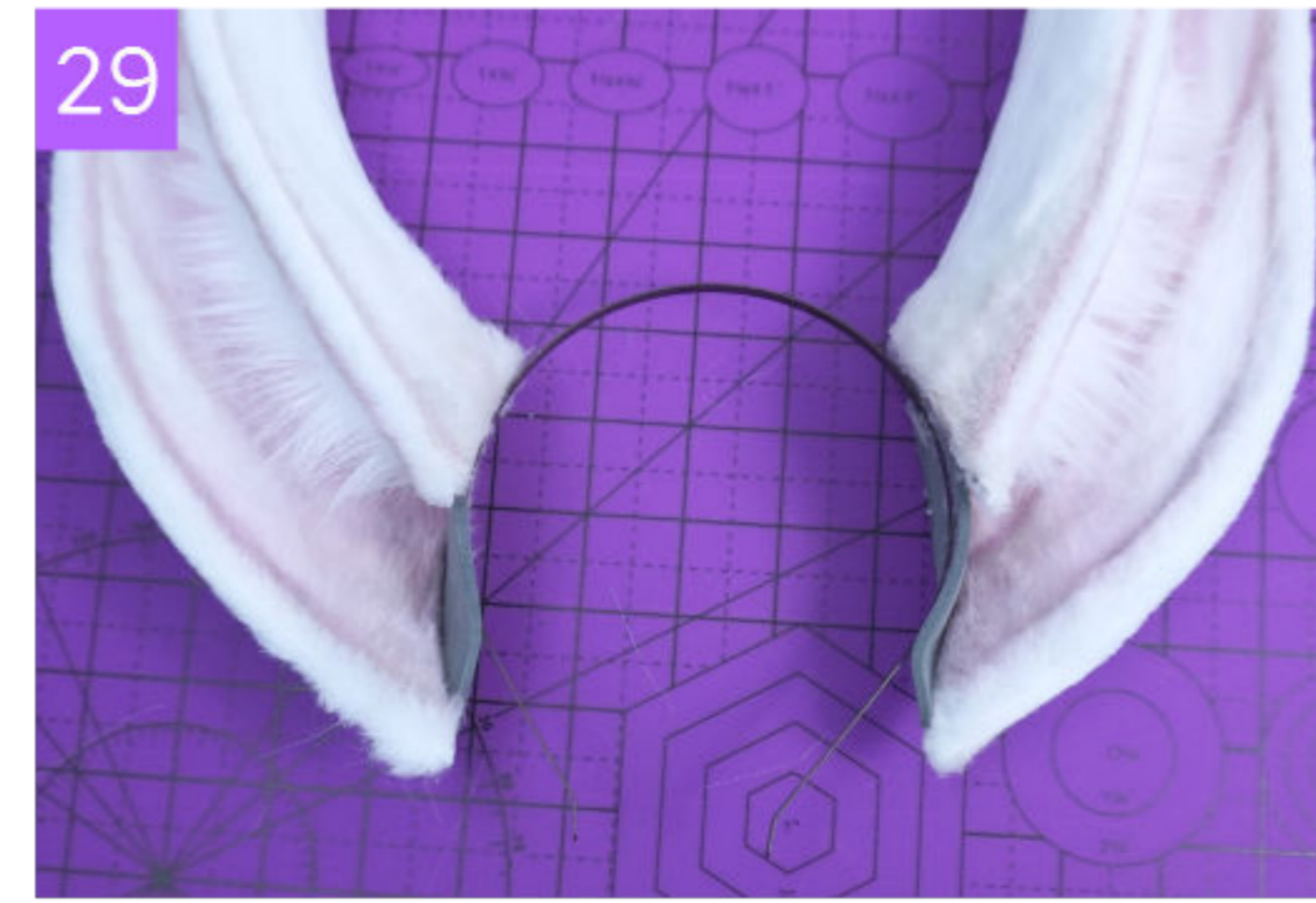
The colors on Miruko's ears are very light and soft. So for this we are using hair chalk and eye shadow to create the shadows. (yes you can use makeup to color ears too!)

Take a pink hair chalk and apply it to the inside of the ears. You can also draw on some detail lines around the edges of your ears. (See fig. 22-23)

After that you can take a light gray / brown shade of eye shadow and apply it into the very inside of the ear and along the detail lines for more definition. You can set this in place with hairspray. (See fig. 24-26)

To help attach the ears, trace around the base of them onto more 2mm EVA foam and cut out the pieces. (See fig. 27)

You can then hot glue these into place. (See fig. 28)



Take your ears and glue them onto a headband with more hot glue. This will give you a strong sturdy attachment but you won't be able to move the position on them so place them carefully! (See fig. 29)

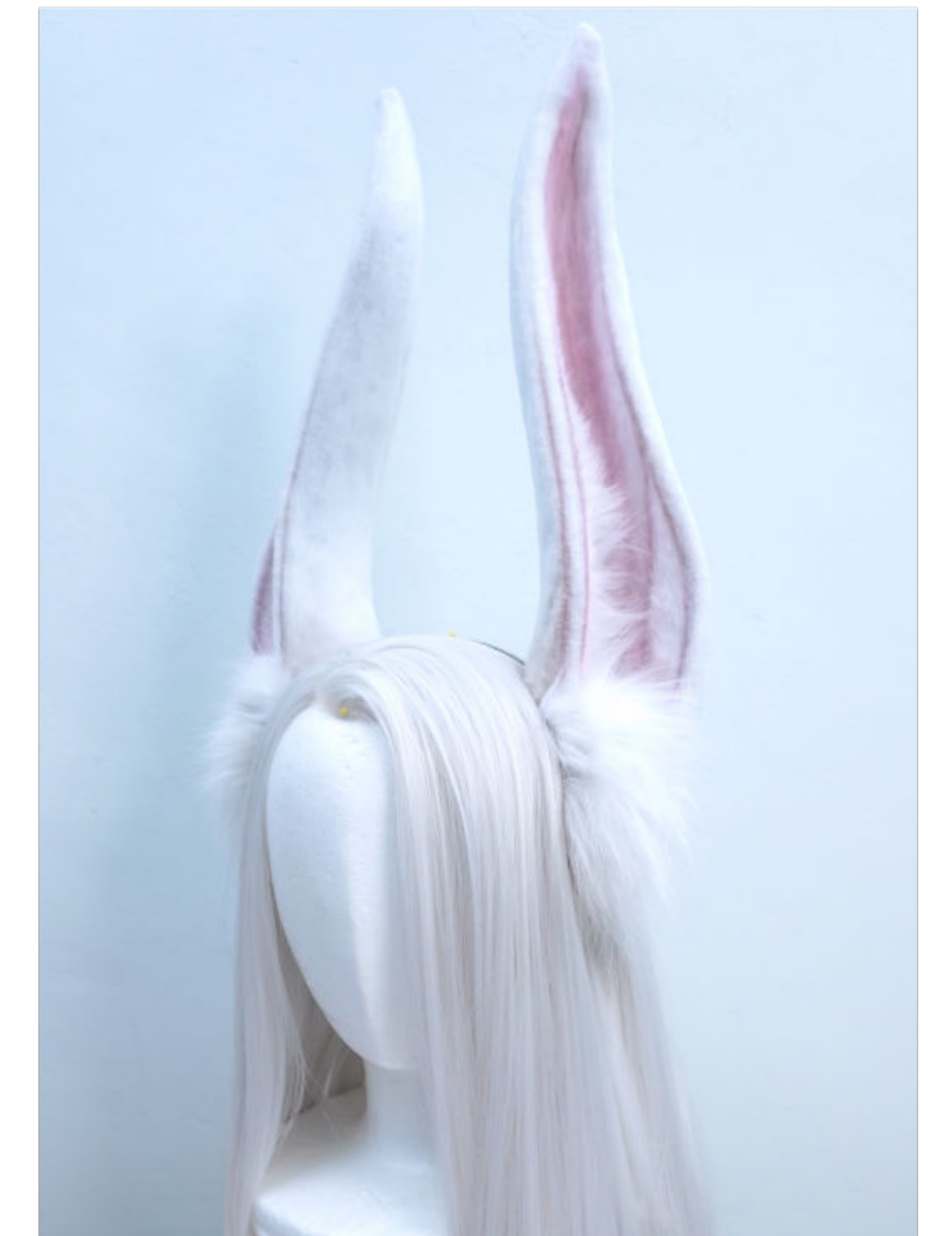
For the fluffy tufts at the bottom of the ears you can sew 2 white half pom poms. (See fig. 30)

Then glue them directly onto the ears.

Now the ears are complete!

Crafting Note:

To help big heavy ears like this stay on you can tuck the ends of the headband into your wig. You can also secure them with hair pins.





Two-Tone Tail

Magnetic Fox Tail

This tutorial will show you how to create a two-toned fox tail with a magnetic harness attachment.

This method of tail making is the standard method I use to create most of my tails for costumes! It's very simple and will work for almost any kind of tail you need to make. You will also learn how to create tails with multiple colors by sewing different pieces of fur together in interesting patterns!

To make a tail like this you will need orange and white fur and pillow stuffing. (See fig. 1-2)

Draw out the shape of your tail onto paper, including where you want your different colors to be on the design. (See fig. 3)

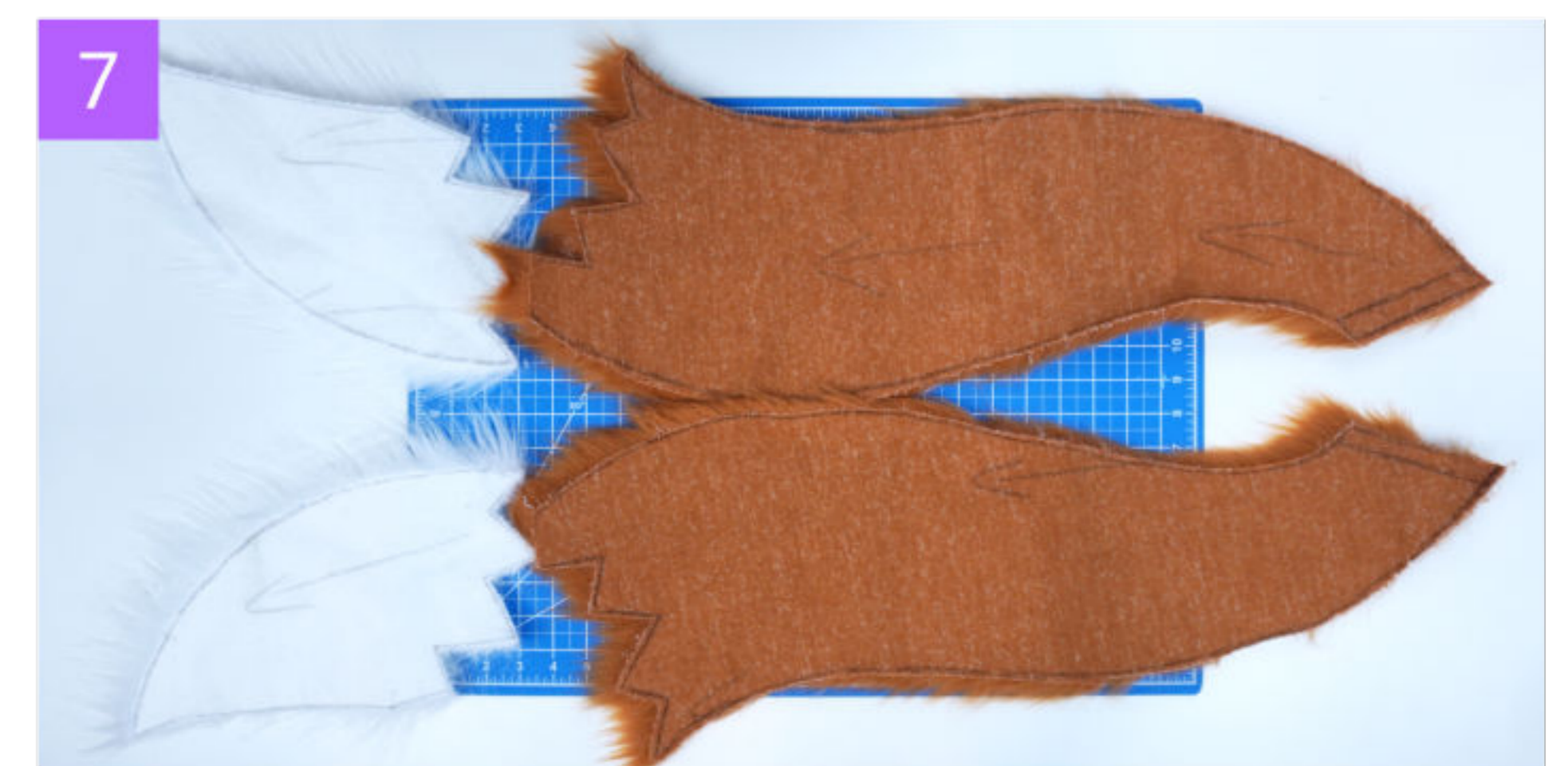
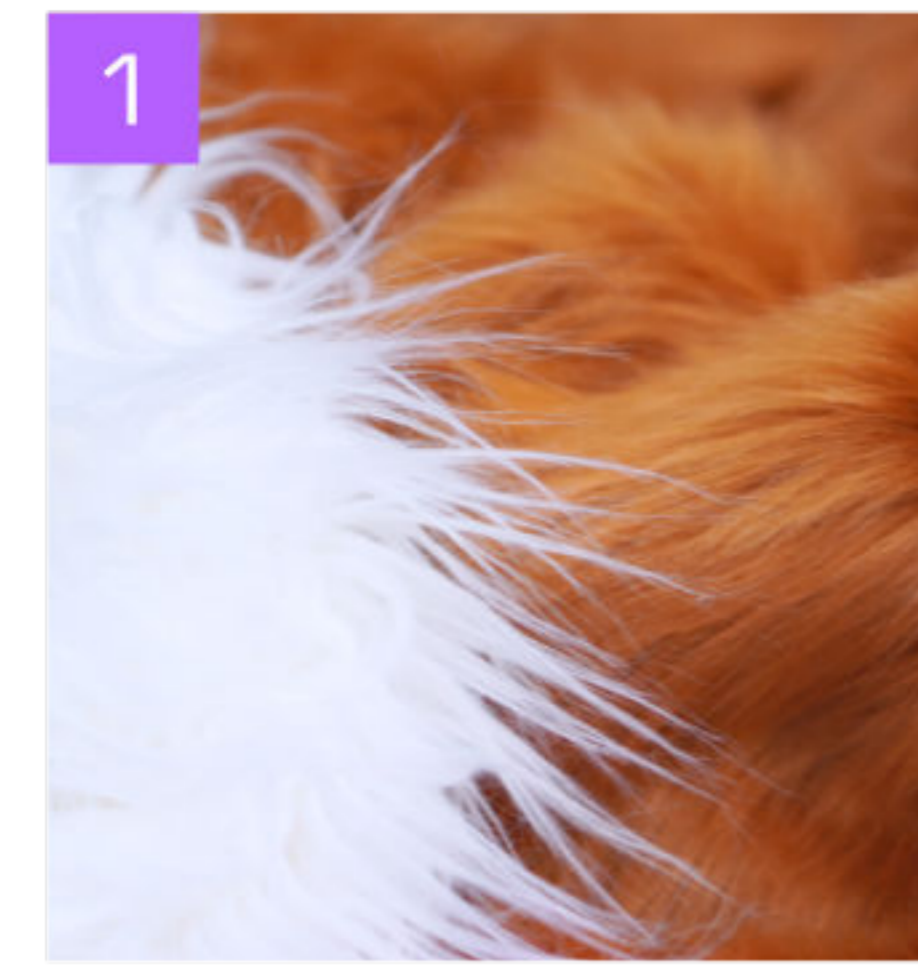
You can just draw a straight line where the two colors will join, but for this tail I wanted to create an interesting pattern. Once you finish drawing cut out the pattern pieces for each color

Take the pattern for the white part of the tail and draw it onto the back of the fur. Pay close attention to the direction of the fur. Mirror your pattern for the other half of the tail. (See fig. 4)

Add on 5mm Seam allowance and cut out the pieces. (See fig. 5)

Then trace the pieces for the orange section onto the fur, mirror the pattern for the other side, add 5mm seam allowance and cut them out. (See fig. 6)

You should now have 2 separate white tips and 2 orange pieces. (See fig. 7)





You now need to attach the white tip to the orange section. If you are creating a join with a straight line its very easy! Just pin the sections together and sew across them. But for weird shapes like this it will be a bit different.

When sewing pointed lines like this I recommend sewing one edge at a time. Pin together the corresponding edge, then stitch along it to join them.

For the next edge, pin the pieces together, then sew moving towards your previously joined edge. This will ensure you get a nice crisp point. (See fig. 8-9)

Continue to sew the pieces in this manner until you reach the end. (See fig. 10)



When you flip the fabric over you will see the fur has now been joined in a really cool zigzag pattern! (See fig. 11)

Finish joining the pieces until each half of the tail is fully constructed (See fig. 12)

When both halves are done you can pin them together with the fur inside. Then stitch around the edges to join them. Leave the end of the tail open. (See fig. 13-14)

Flip the fabric inside out through the opening so the fur is on the outside. (See fig. 15)



This is how most tails are constructed! The idea is that you simply sew together two halves of your tail, and this is what forms the shape! (See fig. 16)

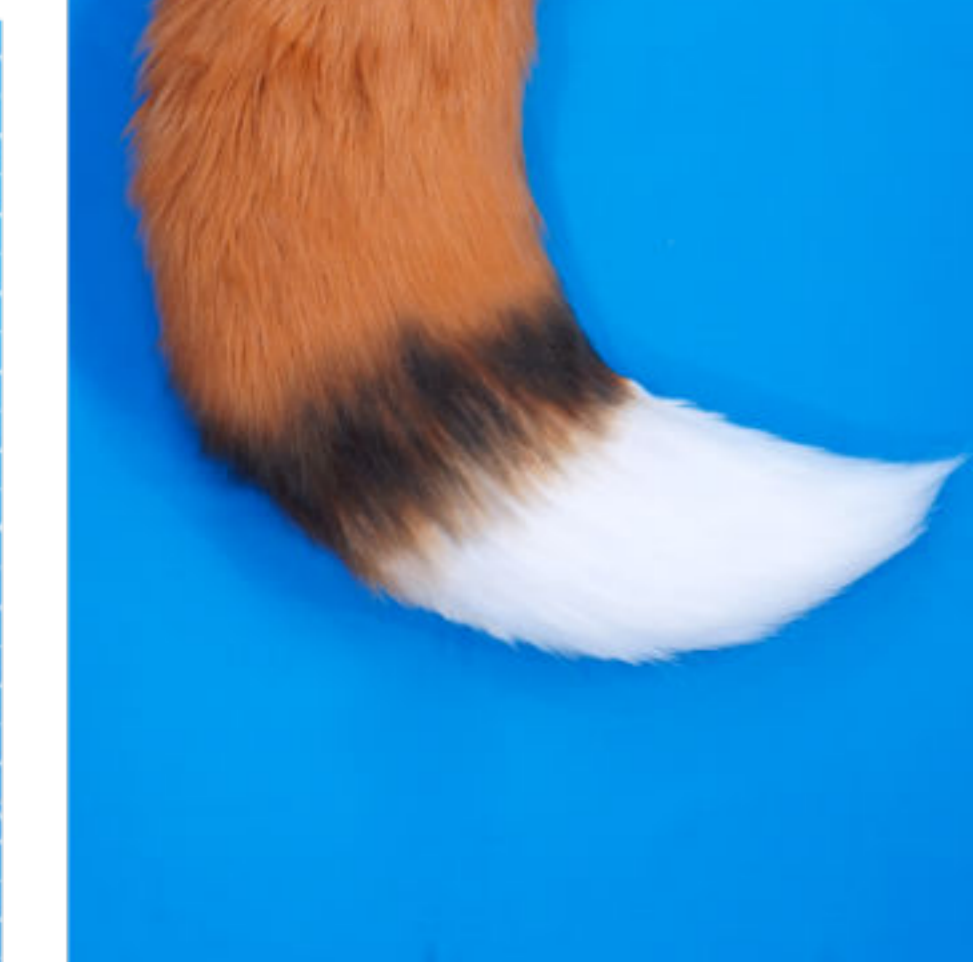
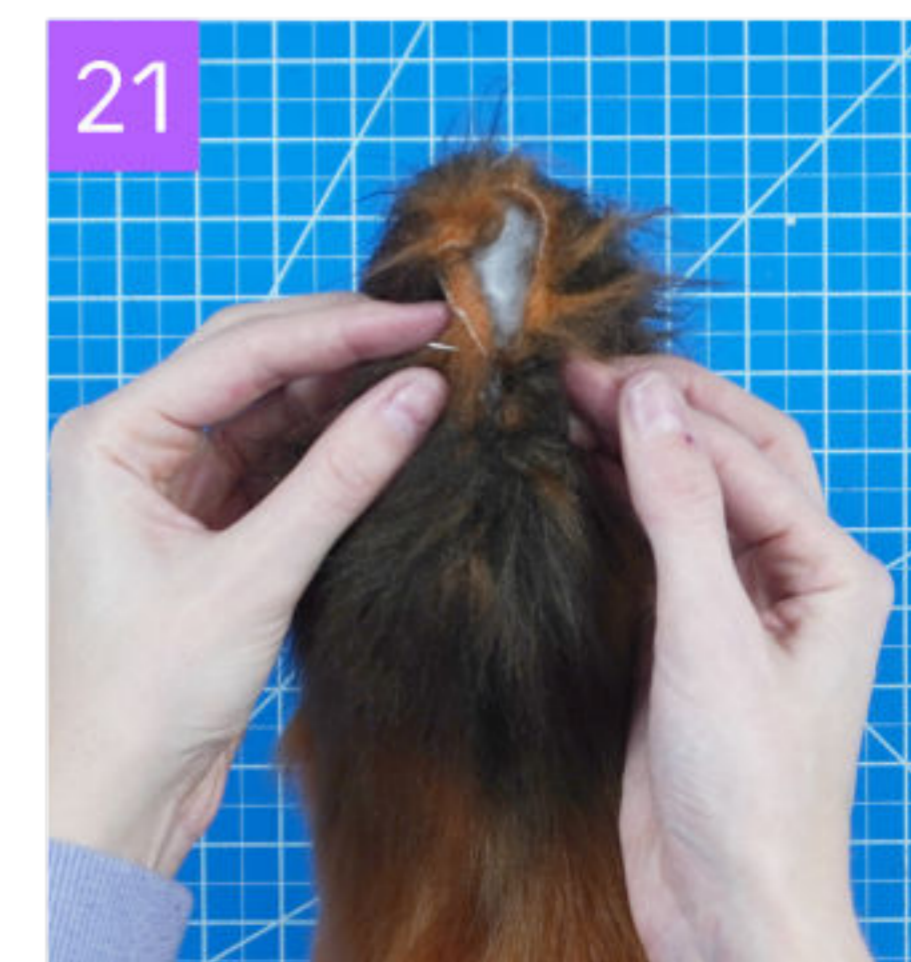
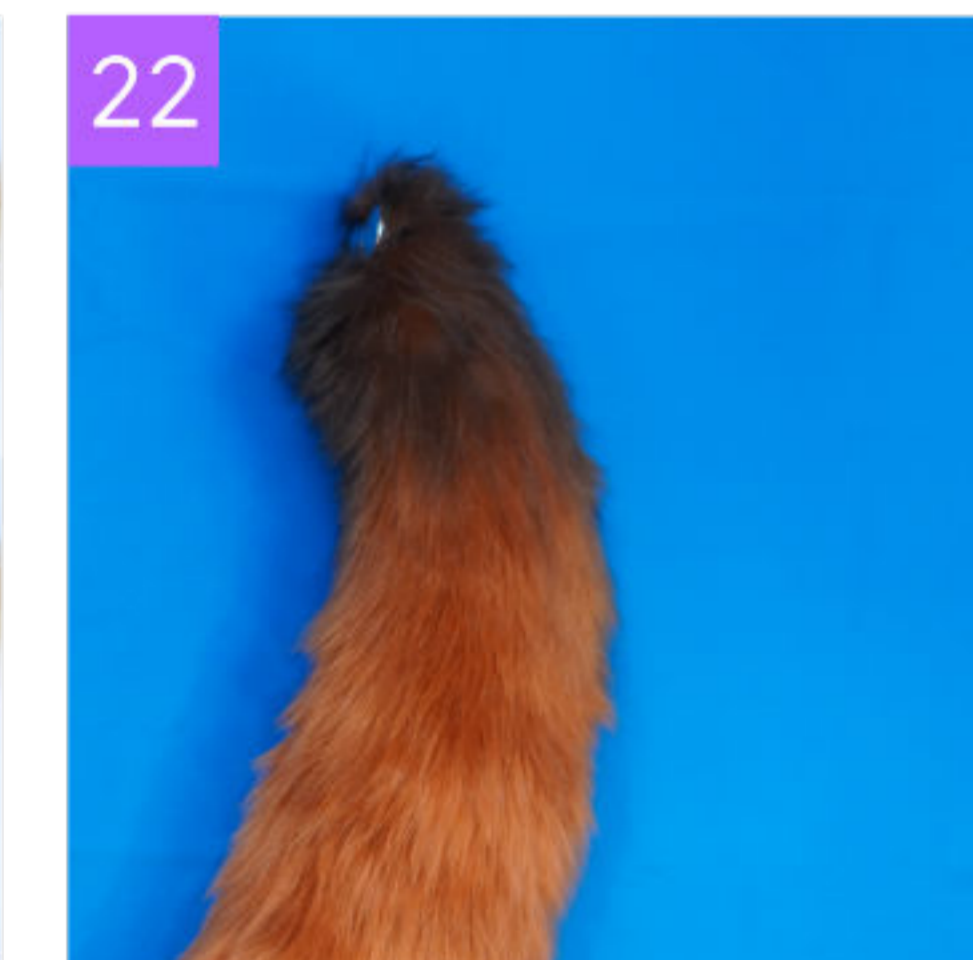
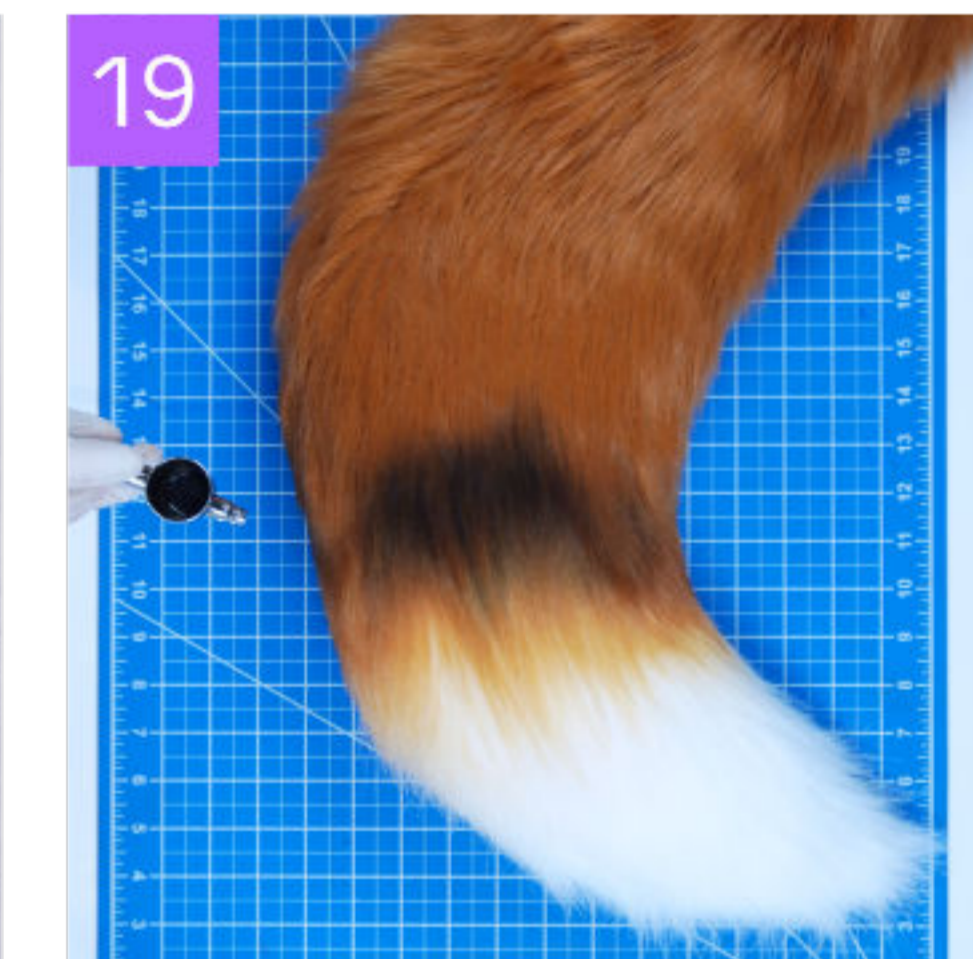
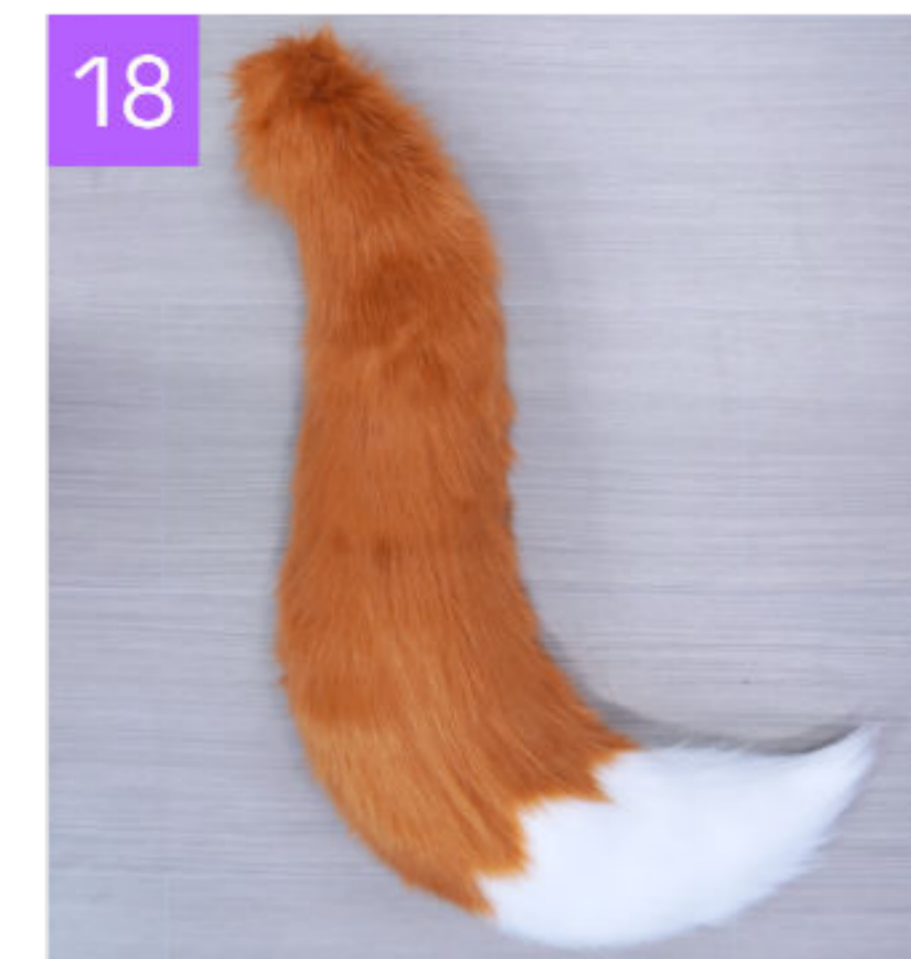
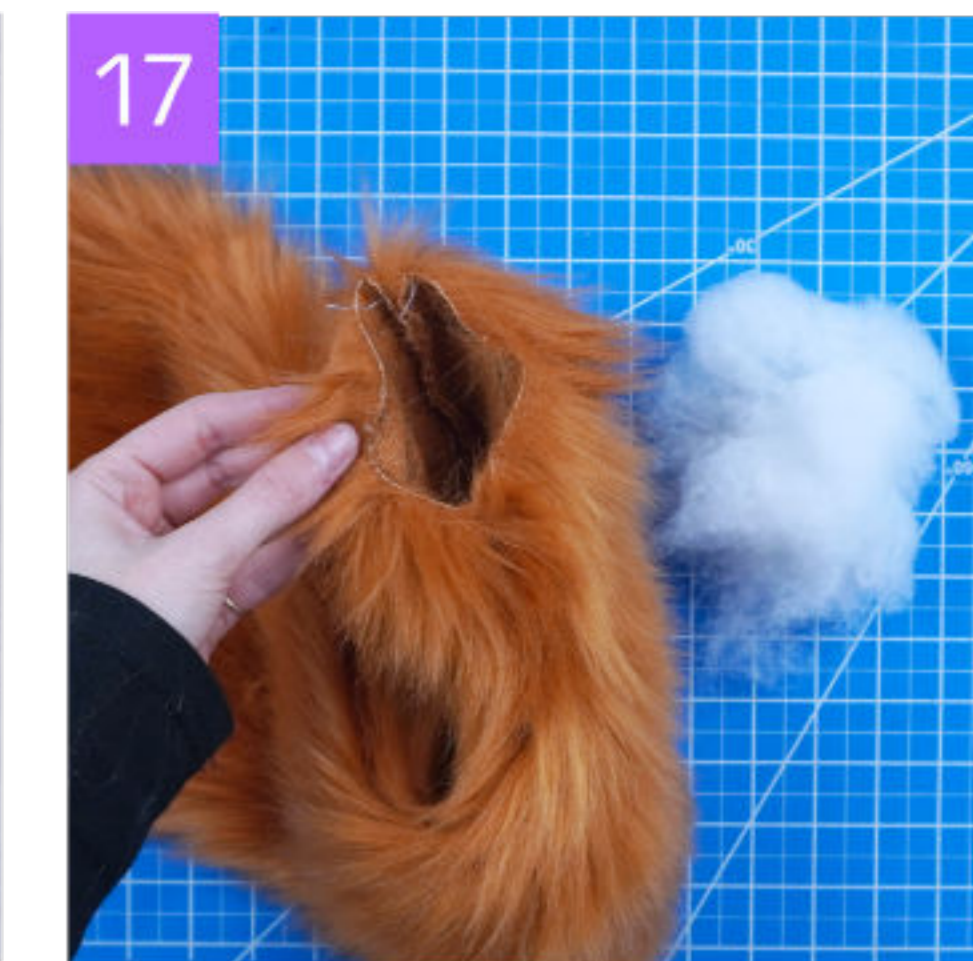
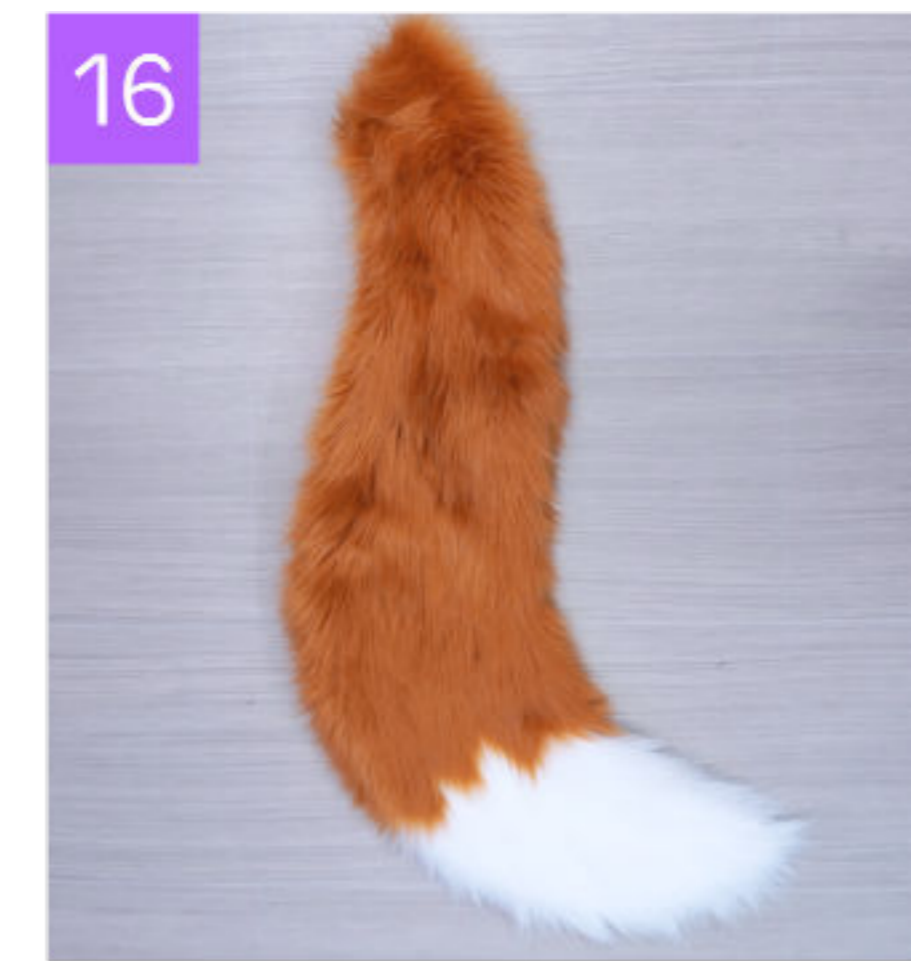
To add more volume to the tail you will need to stuff it with pillow stuffing. Push in pieces through the opening and try to spread it evenly. (See fig. 17)

Now the tail is constructed! (See fig. 18)

You can leave the tail as is for a more stylized effect, or you can add additional shading with paint! Airbrush around the top of the tail and around where the two colors join to give it a more realistic look. (See fig. 19)

Let the paint dry fully. The fur might be a bit crusty afterwards. You can brush this out to make it fluffy again. (See fig. 20)

You can then sew up the end of the tail by hand to close it. (See fig. 21-22)



Now you need to make a harness to attach this tail to. For this tail we will be creating a magnetic harness. This method is good for smaller, lighter tails. Unfortunately this doesn't work very well for very large or upright tails as the magnets are just not strong enough.

You will need expanded PVC foam board, 2-4 Neodymium magnets, Strapping and Velcro pieces. (See fig. 23)

Cut out a piece of the PVC foam board big enough for 2 magnets to fit on. (See fig. 24)

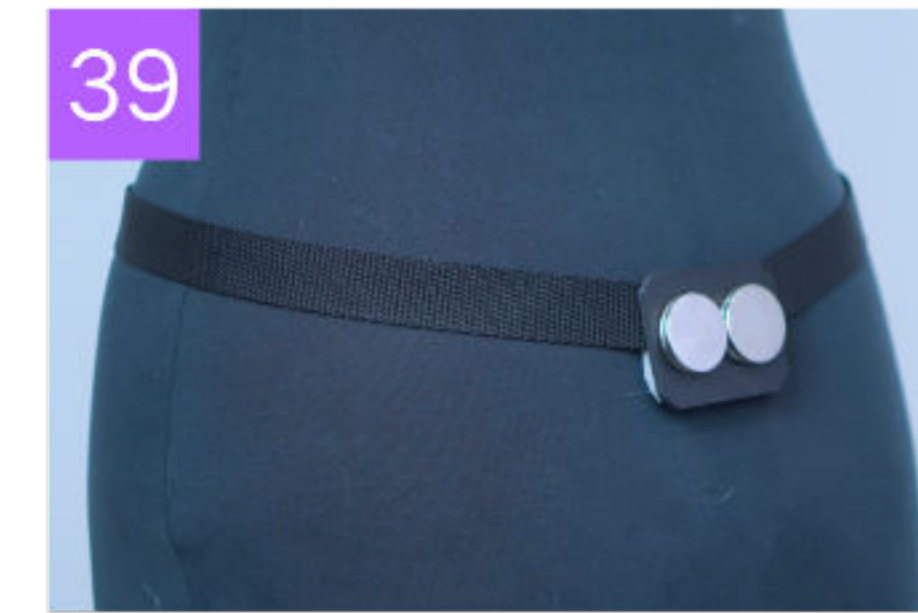
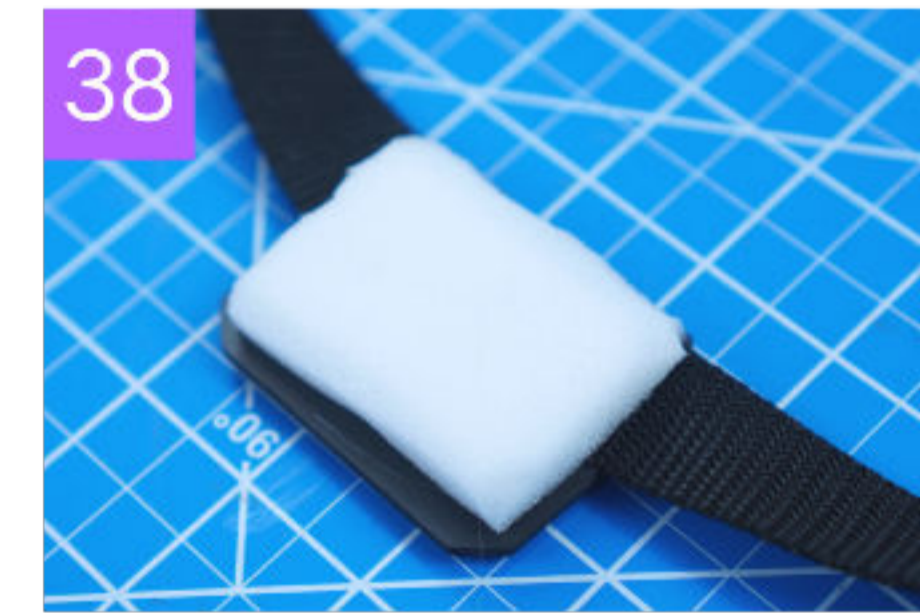
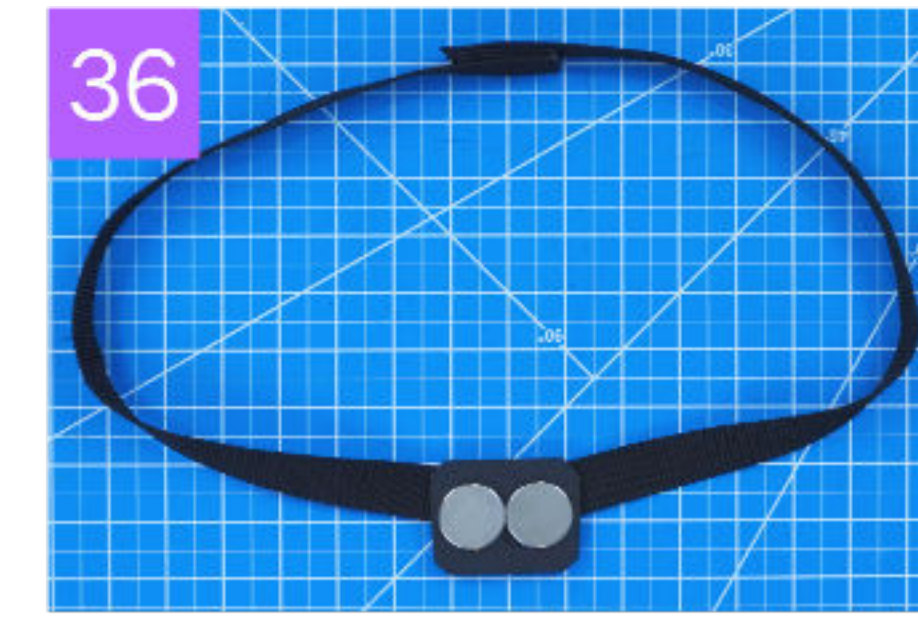
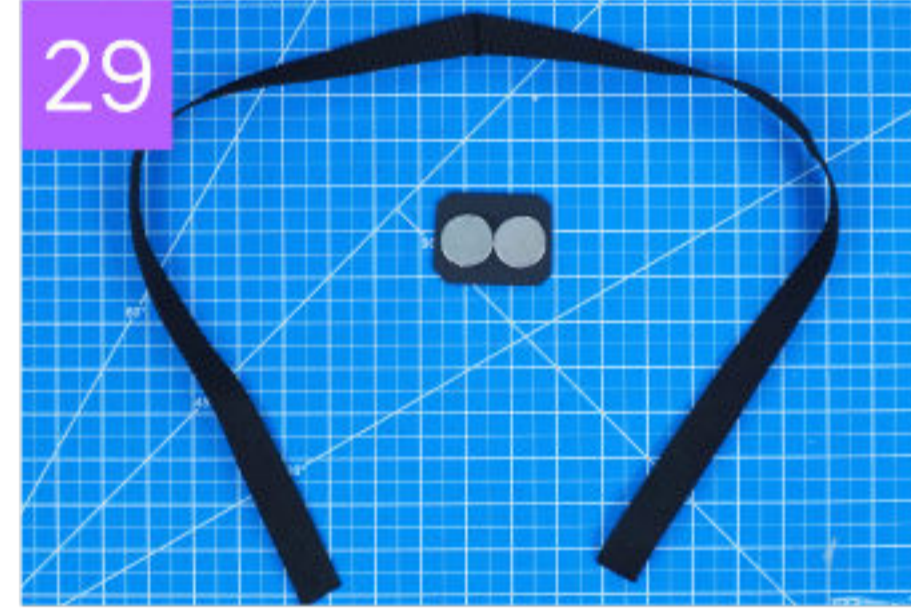
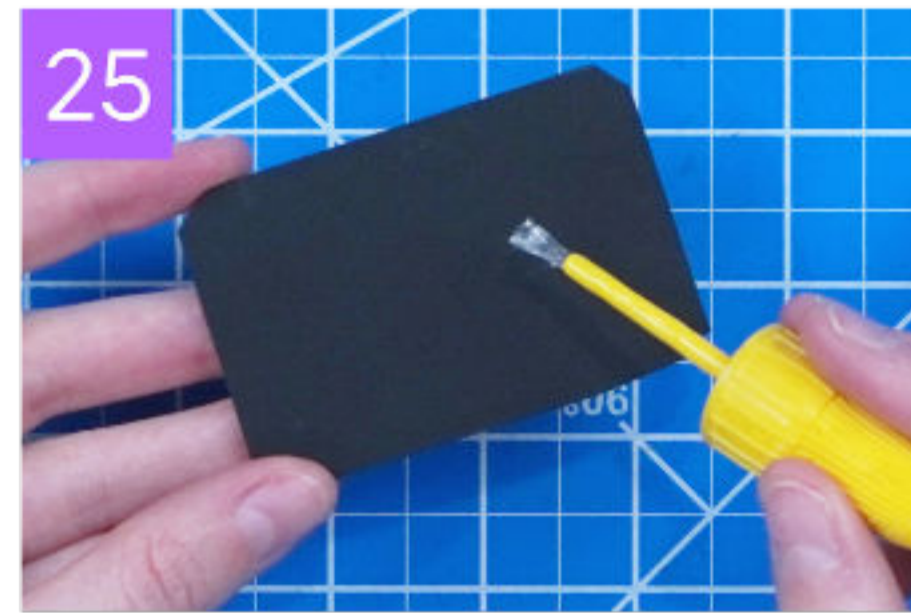
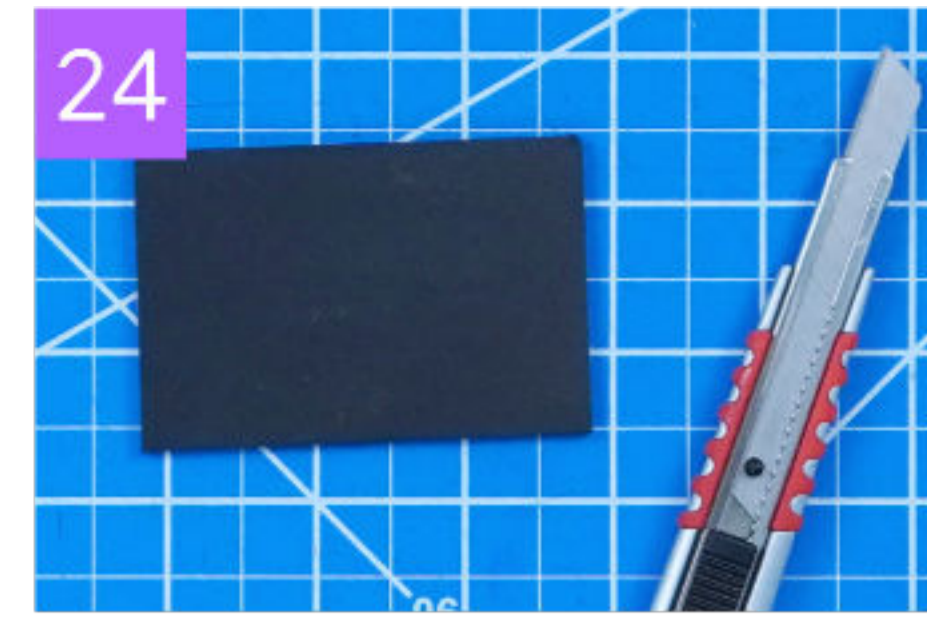
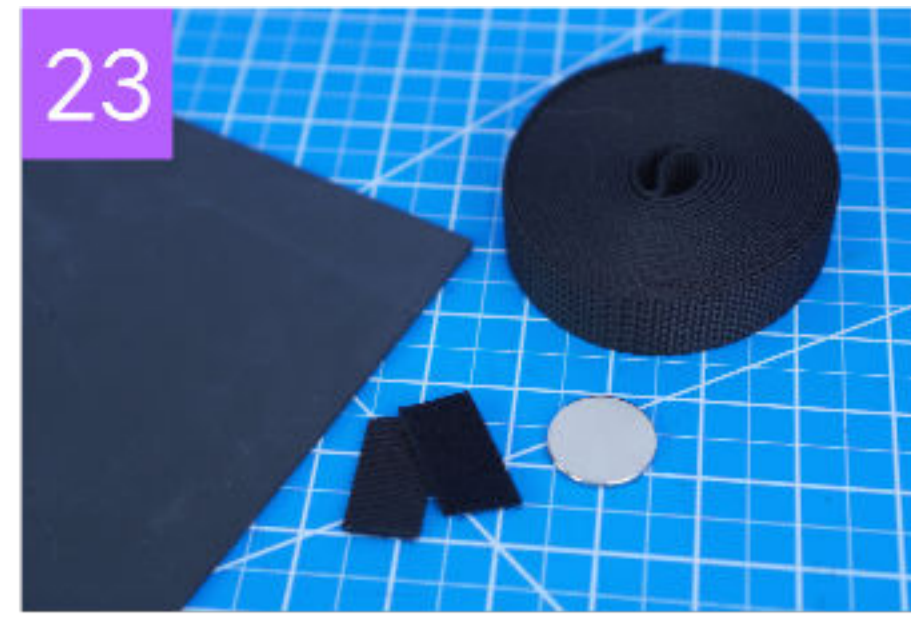
Attach the magnets onto the PVC board with super glue. Be careful handling the magnets, if they snap together they can pinch your skin. (See fig. 25-27)

Now measure around your hips where you want the belt to sit, add 6-8cm extra for your Velcro pieces. Use this measurement to cut a piece of strapping the same length. (See fig. 28-29)

Cut out 2 pieces of Velcro / hook loop fabric (See fig. 30)

Attach each half of the Velcro to the ends of your straps either with hot glue or by sewing them in place. (See fig. 32-33).

Take a craft knife and score the back of the PVC foam (See fig. 34)



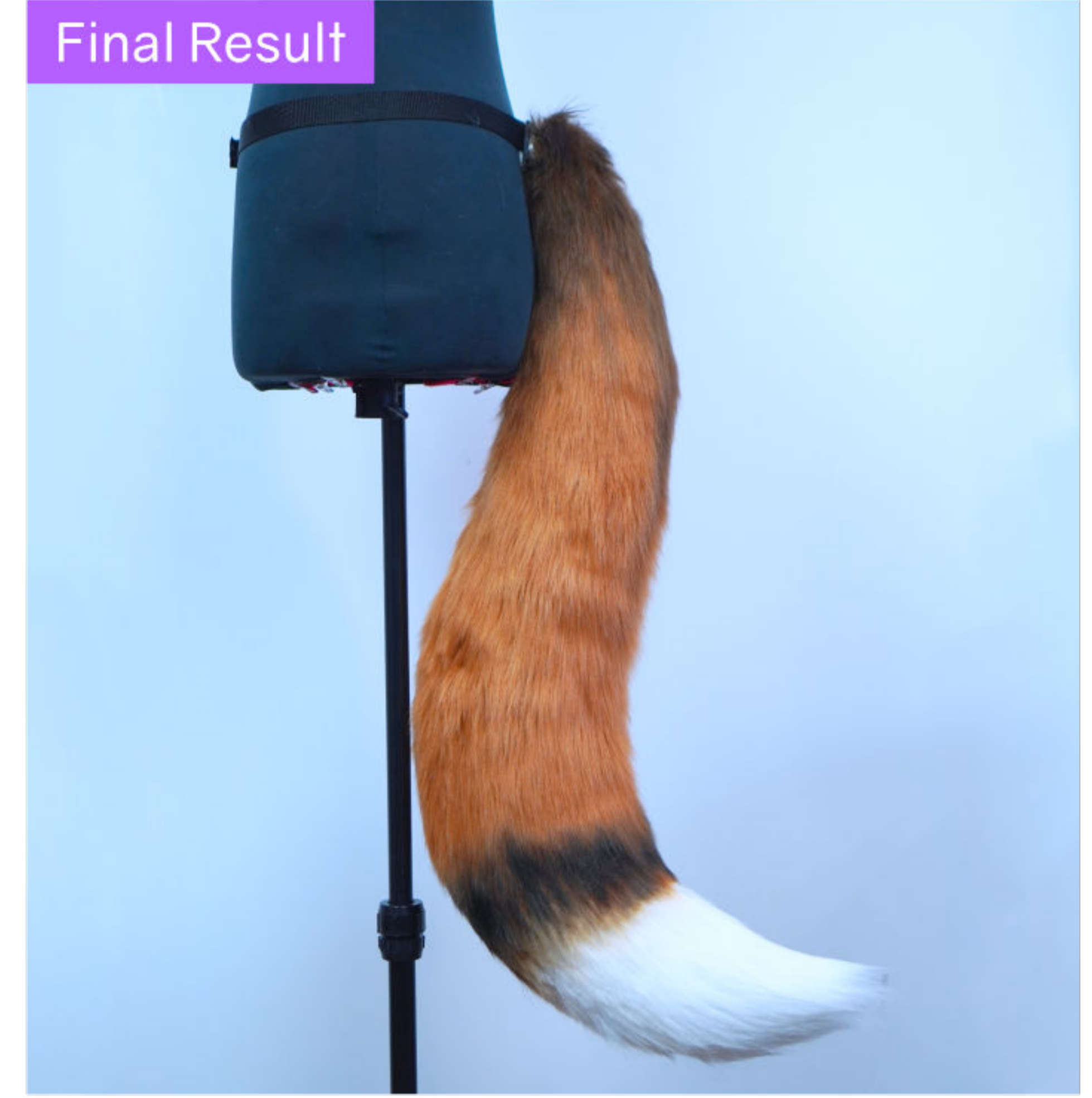
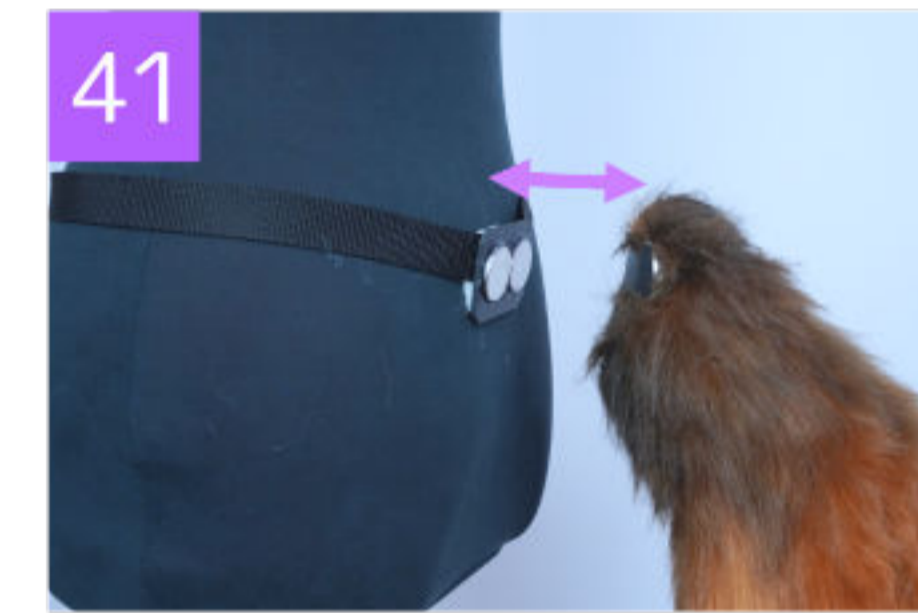
Then glue this to the center of your strap at the back with hot glue. (See fig. 35-36)

You can glue on a piece of upholstery foam on the inside for extra comfort. (See fig. 37-38)

Now your harness belt is complete. (See fig. 39)

Glue the other 2 matching magnets directly onto your fur tail with hot glue, make sure they have a good bond so they magnets don't pull off. (See fig. 40)

Now your tail will magnetically attach to the belt. This means you can put this belt under clothing and the tail can seamlessly attach on the outside and the harness will be hidden. (See fig. 41-42)





Poseable Tail

Tabby Cat Tail

This method will show you how to create a poseable tail using an aluminum wire frame as the support structure inside. Having a poseable tail will allow you to change and alter the curve of the tail and you can position it as you like. This tutorial also looks at how to create long thin tails which can be used for animals like cats, mice, monkeys and even lizards.

To make this tail you will need gray faux fur, 8 or 10 gauge aluminum wire, and pillow stuffing. (See fig. 1)

Start by drawing out the shape of your tail onto paper. Then cut this out and use this as your template. (See fig. 2)

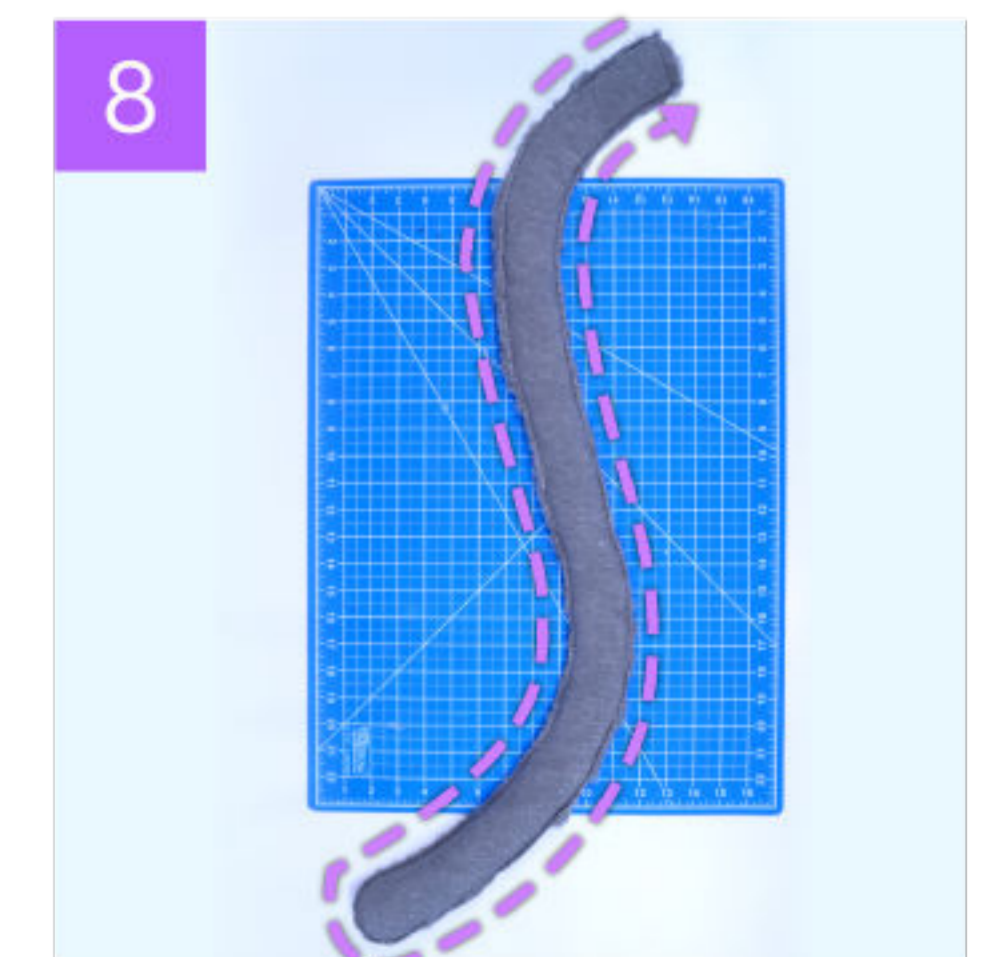
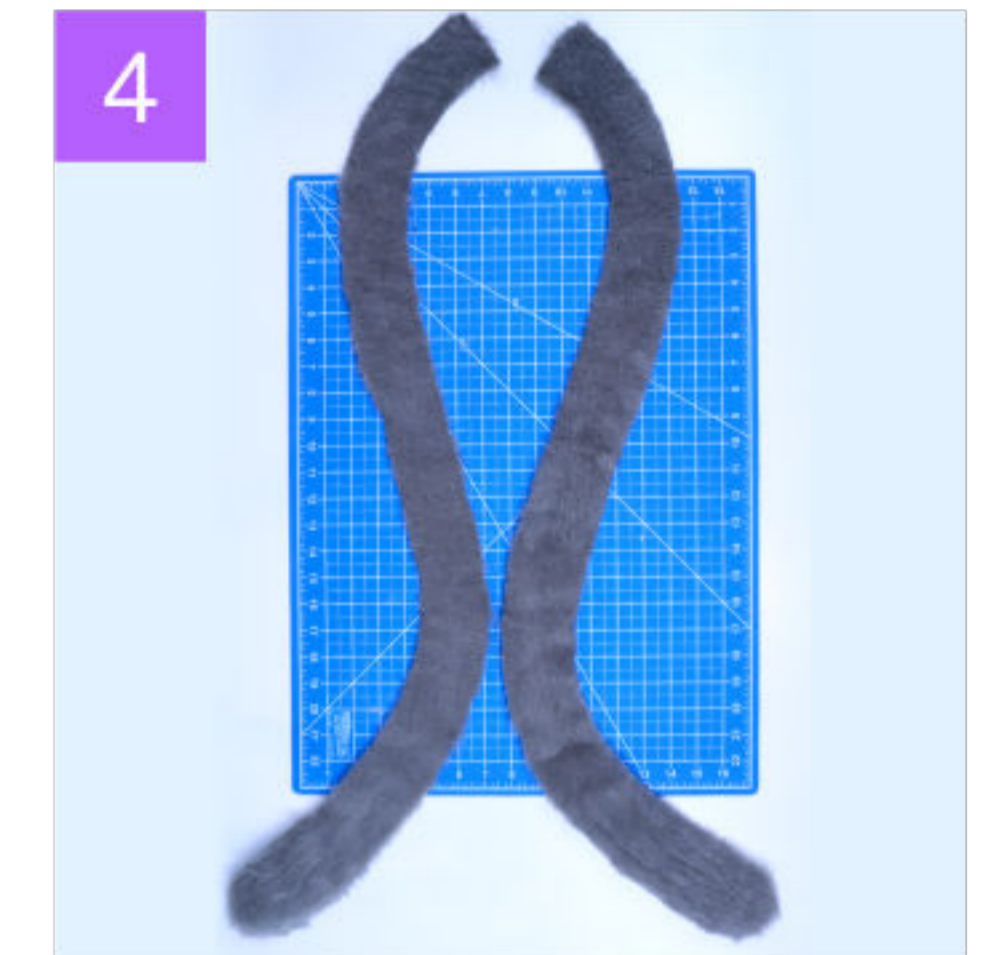
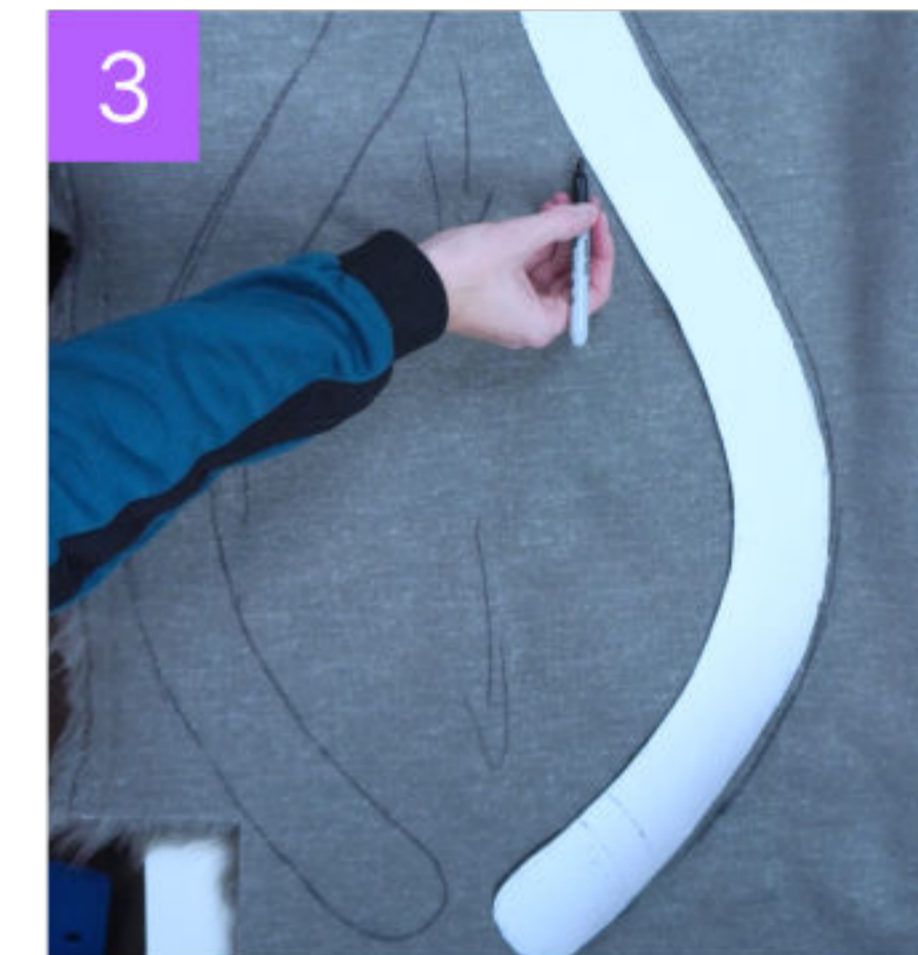
Trace the pattern onto the back of the fur, mirror the pattern to create the other half of the tail. add a 5mm Seam allowance around the edges (See fig. 3)

Then cut out the pieces. (See fig. 4)

The fur I have is too long for the cat tail I want to make. If you are unable to find short fur in the color you need you can shave down the long fur to the desired length. When making thin tails like this I recommend shaving the fur before sewing so it's easy to flip inside out. (See fig. 5-6)

After shaving take your two tail pieces and pin them together with the fur sides facing each other. Tuck in the fur as you pin the pieces together so none of it is sticking out the sides. (See fig. 7)

Stitch around the edges to join them. Leave the very end of the tail open. (See fig. 8-9)



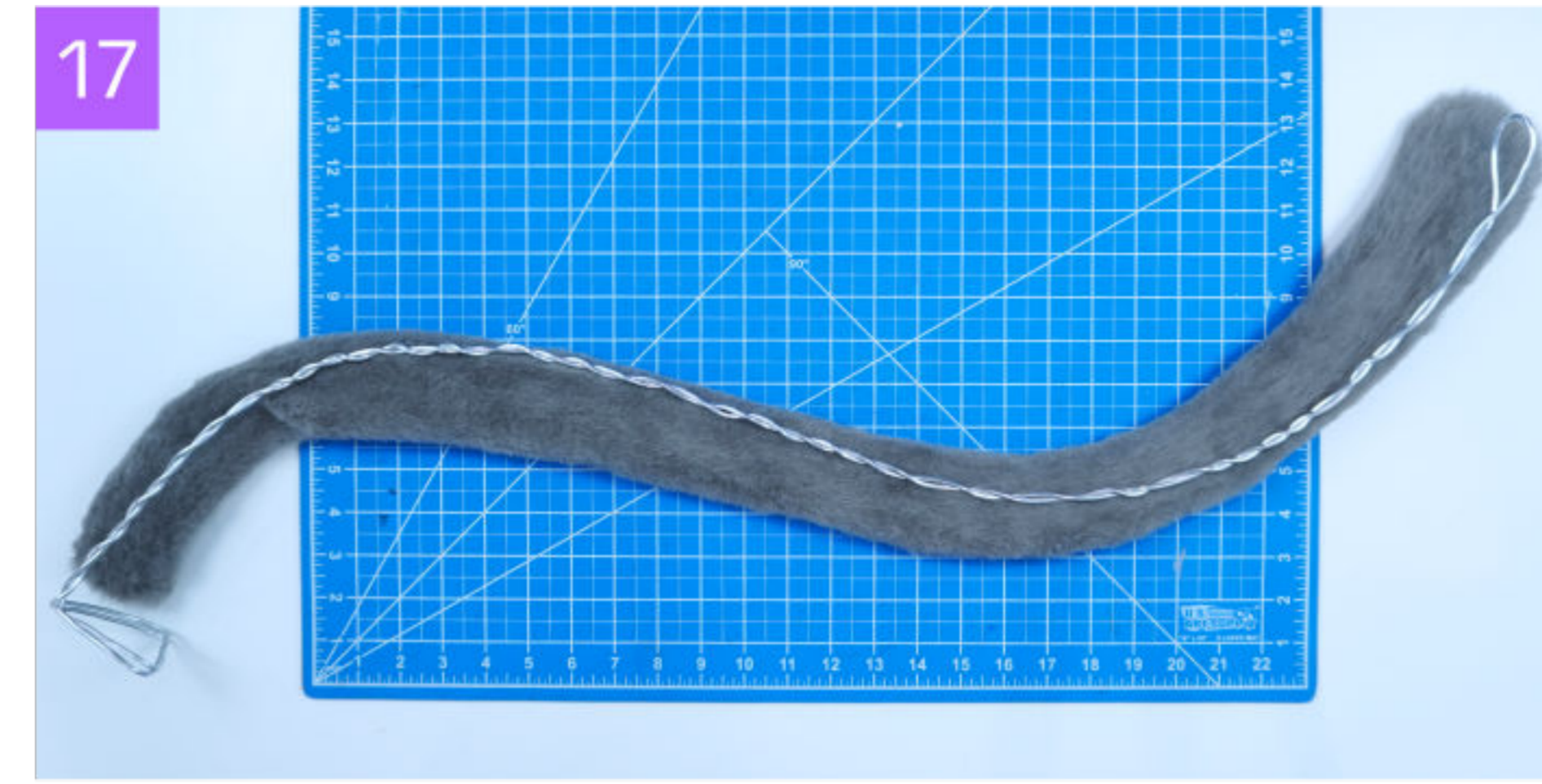
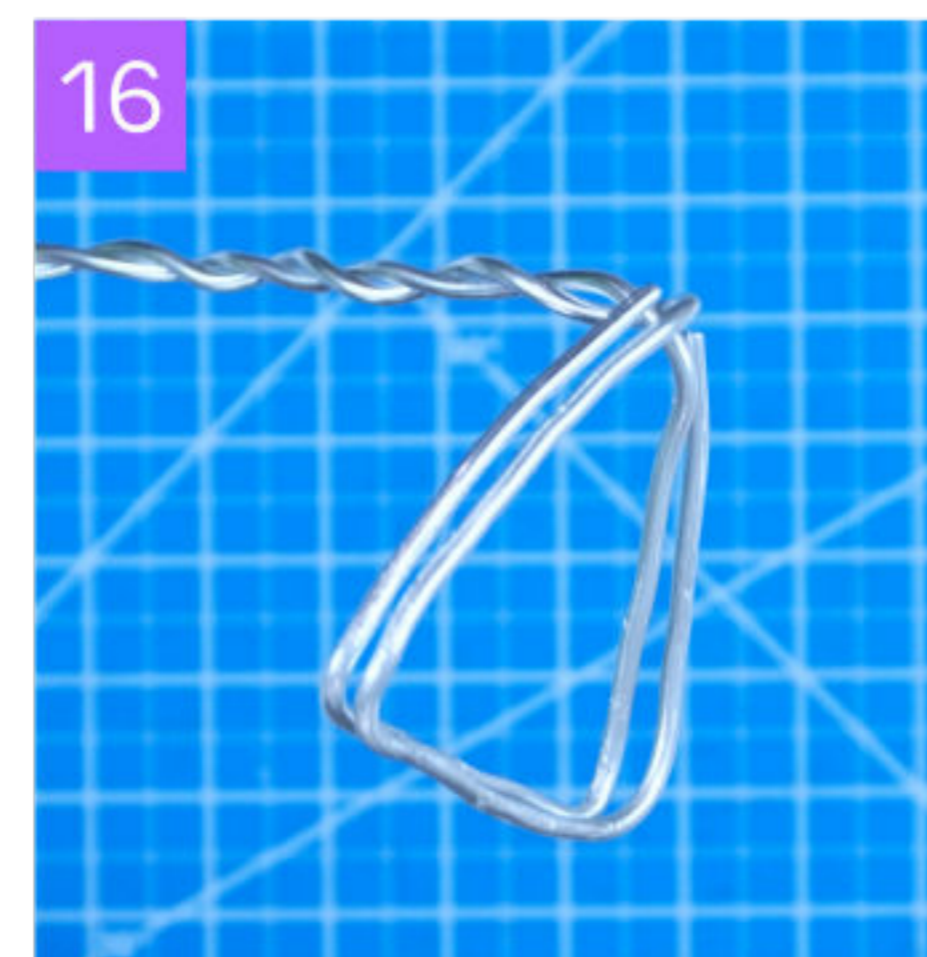
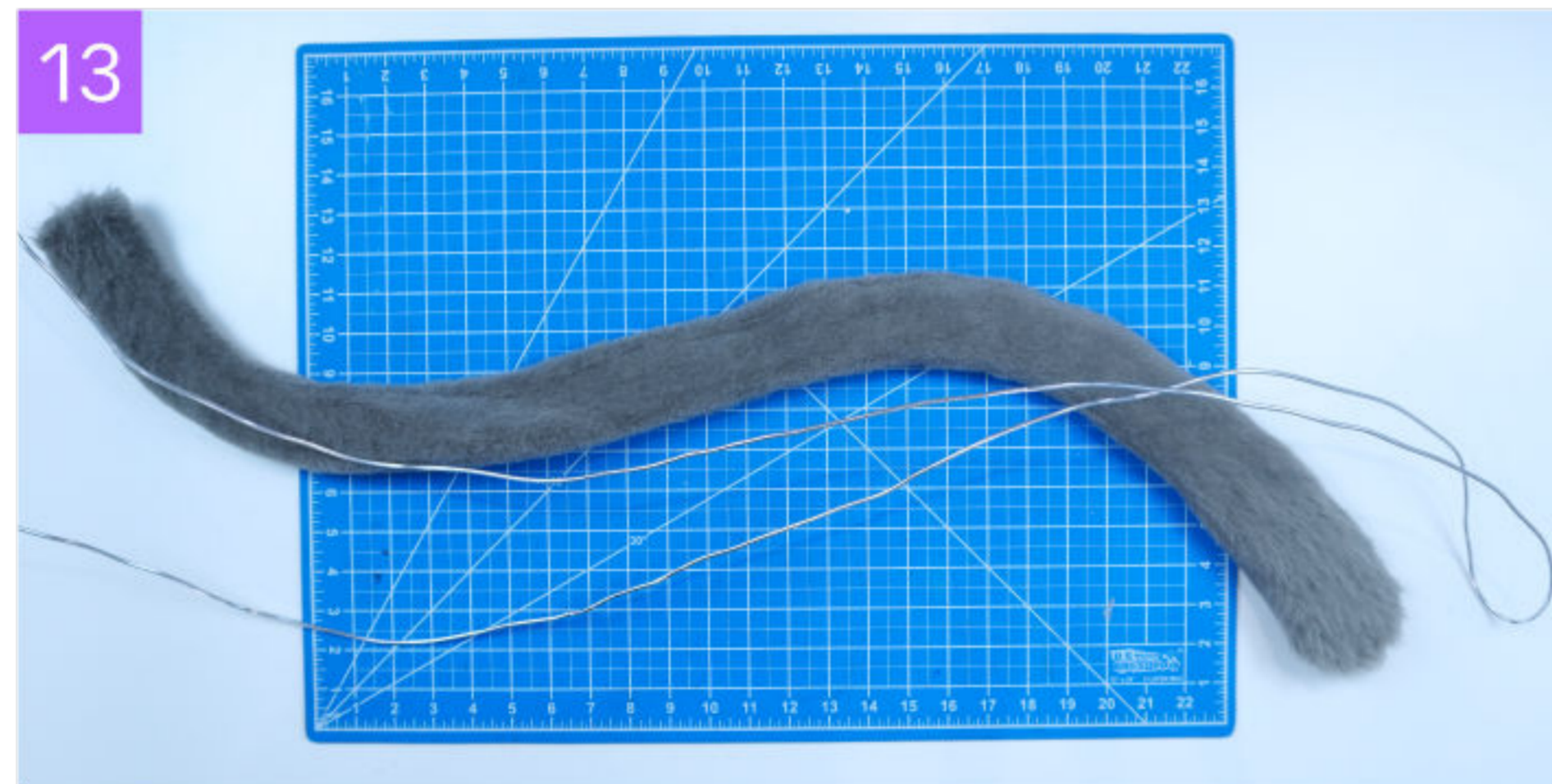
Now turn the tail inside out so the fur is exposed again. You can use a long stick or pole to help with this process. (See fig. 10-12)

Now you need to stuff the tail and add the aluminum wire frame. Cut a piece of wire twice the length of your tail. Bend the wire in the center. (See fig. 13)

Then twist the wire together to make one piece. Aluminum is a very soft wire so doubling it up like this will add more strength.. (See fig. 14-15)

For a stronger frame you can use steel wire, but it is a lot heavier and can be difficult to cut.

At the end of the tail form the extra wire into a triangle shape, this will act like a support against your back when wearing the tail. (See fig. 16)



Now your wire frame should look something like this! (See fig. 17)

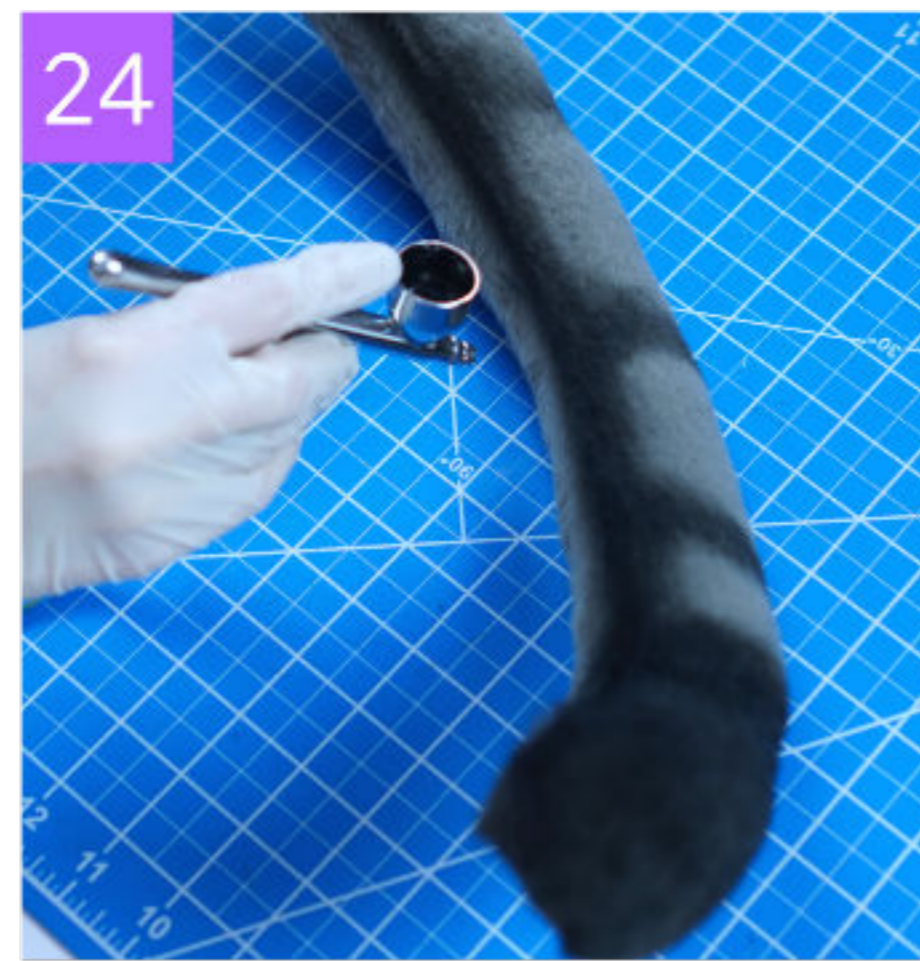
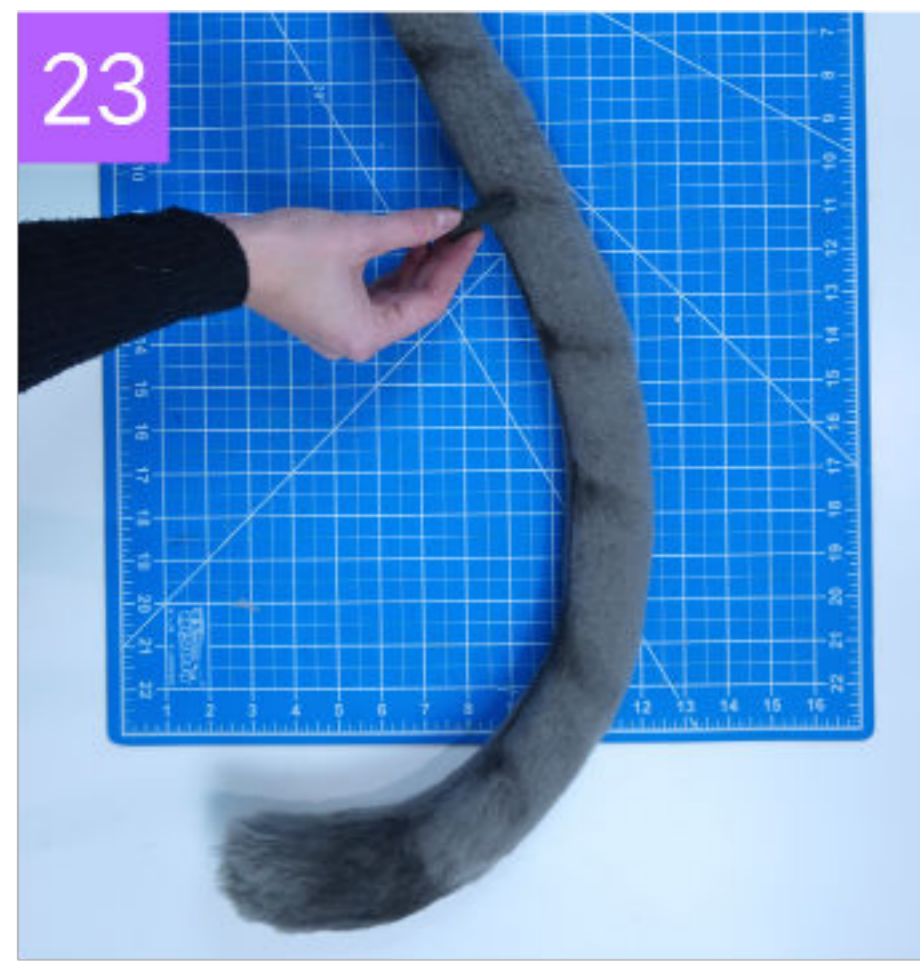
Take the wire and insert it into the tail through the opening at the end. (See fig. 18)

After that you can add in pieces of stuffing. For thin tails like this you will need to add small pieces at a time and use a rod or pipe to help move the stuffing to the base of the tail.

Continue to go piece by piece until the tail is stuffed all the way to the opening. (See fig. 19-20)

Now your tail will have some more shape to it, and you can pose it into different shapes and curls with the wire. (See fig. 21-22)





To finish the tail you can add more markings and color so it looks like a tabby cat tail. Start by drawing onto the tail with black chalk to mark the stripes and sections. (See fig. 23)

You can then make the stripes and marking darker with black paint and apply it with either a toothbrush or an airbrush. (See fig. 24)



Use hot glue to close up the end of the tail and attach the fur to the wire triangle. (See fig. 25)

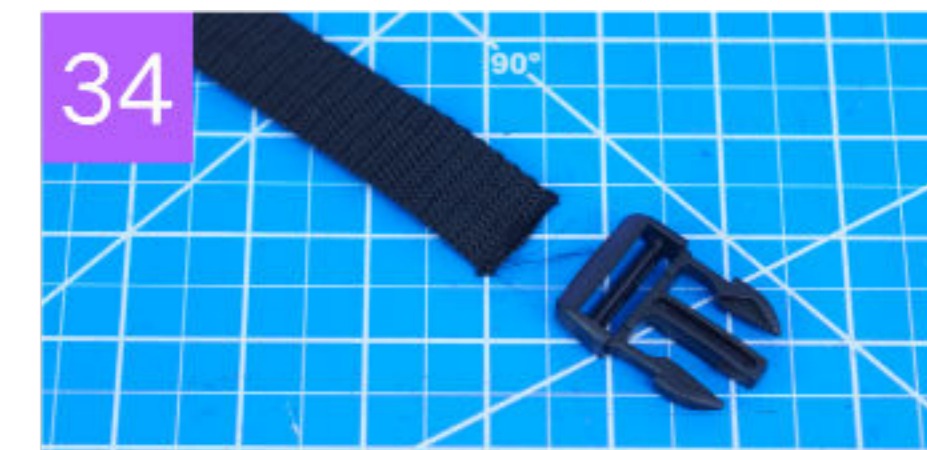
As extra detail you can also add on bows and bells. (See fig. 26)

To cover the exposed wire you can sew together two pieces of black stretch fabric to go over it. (See fig. 27)



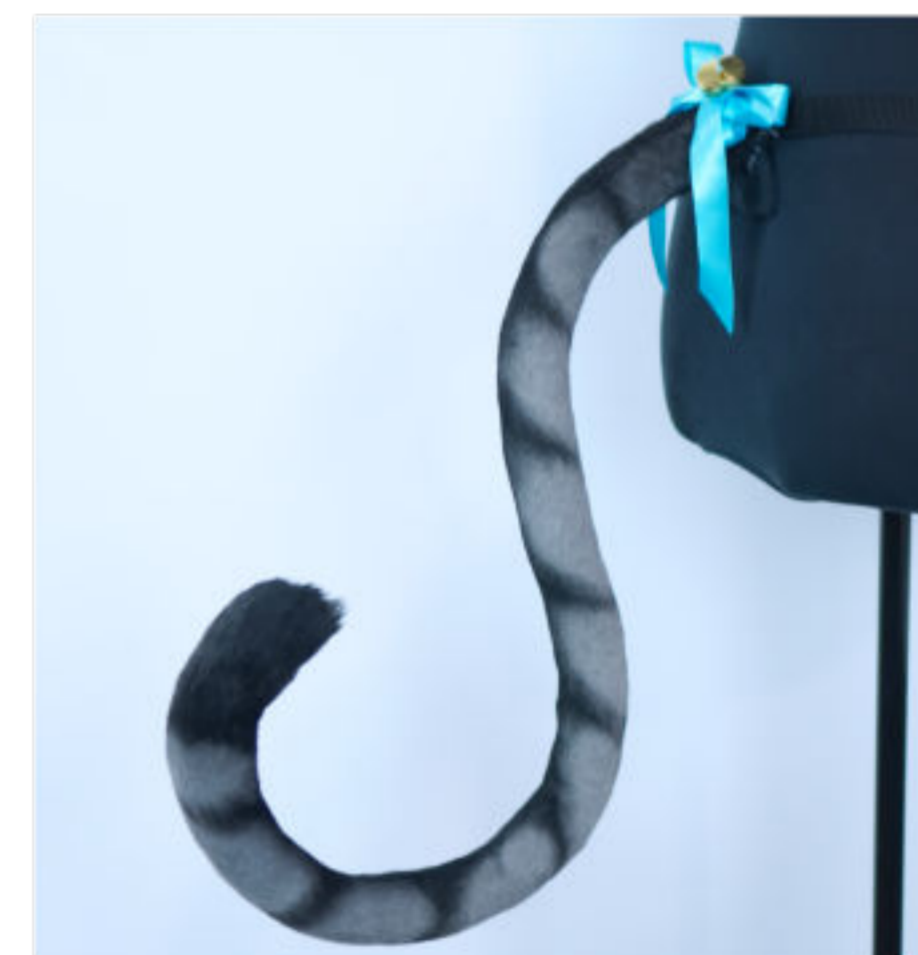
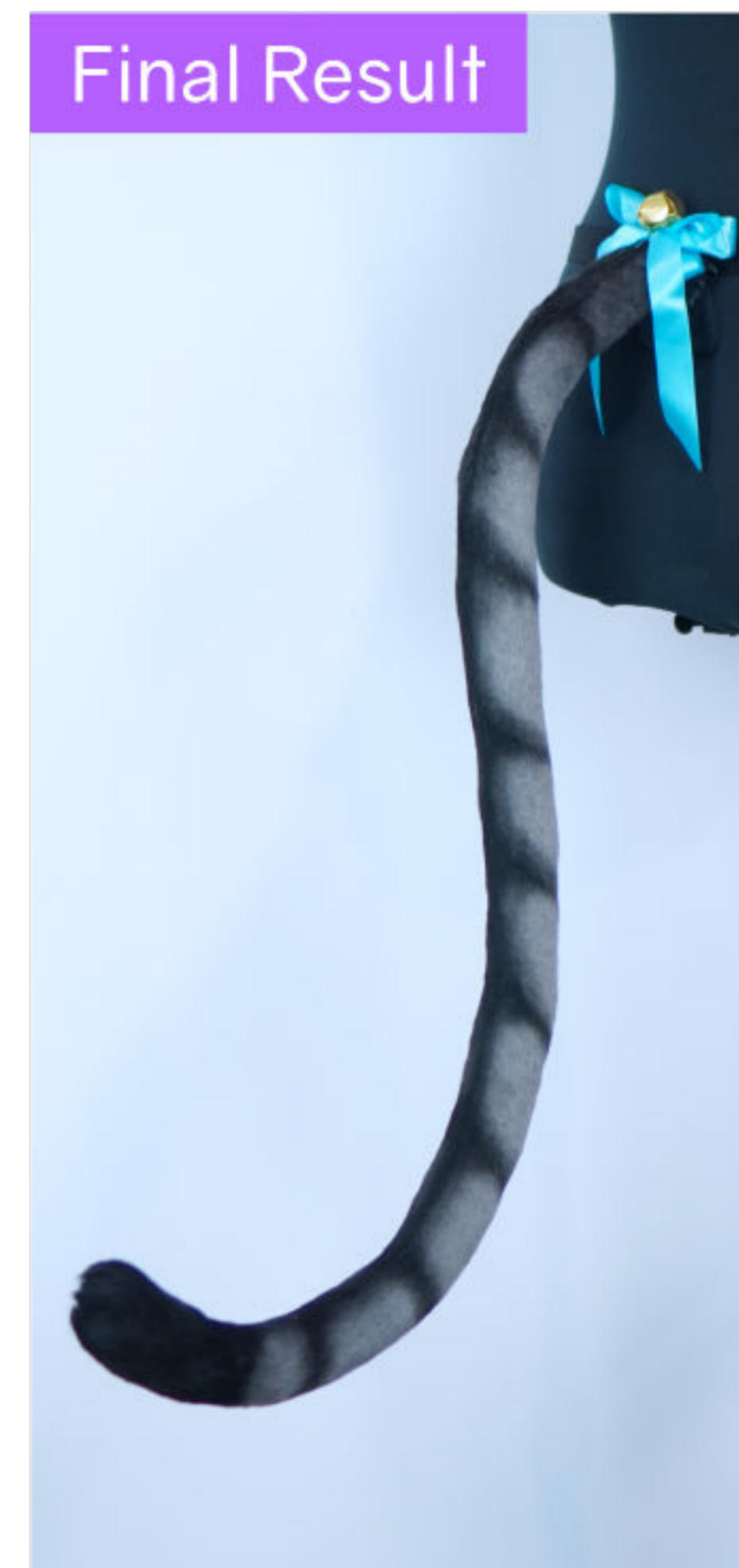
Slide this over the wires and glue this into place with more hot glue. (See fig. 28-29)

Now you will need to attach the tail to a belt so you can wear it. For an adjustable belt you will need straps and a buckle. (See fig. 30)



Measure around your hips where you want the belt to sit. Add about 10cm extra to this for the buckles. Then cut out a piece of strapping using this measurement. (See fig. 31)

Take your strap and feed it through one end of the buckle. Then sew this into place. (See fig. 32-33)



Now take the other end of the strap and feed it through the other end of the buckle. This is where you can adjust the belt length (See fig. 34-35)

Once your belt is complete, hot glue this to the base of your tail. (See fig. 34)

Now your Tail is finished! You can clip the belt into place to wear it easily. And you can pose it and change how the tail sits with the wire structure.





Upright Foam Tail

Blue Fox Tail - Spirit Blossom Ahri

This final tutorial will show you how to create an upright tail and harness with a removable fur cover! The base of this tail is made from EVA foam so it is lightweight and holds its shape very well. By creating removable fur covers you can reuse this base and completely change the look. This tail could be used for squirrels, wolves and foxes all by just using different color fur covers! The harness is very heavy duty with an aluminum flat bar as the main tail support which will allow the tail to be held upright. The harness can also be reused again, the Chicago screws allow you to remove the metal frame and swap it out for an entirely different tail. These interchangeable and removable features make the tail very versatile!

To create the pattern for your tail you can start by making a small scale sculpture / 3D print to work from. We created a 3D model for the shape of our tail and we then made a mini 3D print of half of it to make the pattern from. (See fig. 1)

Cover the small sculpture in paper tape. (See fig. 2)

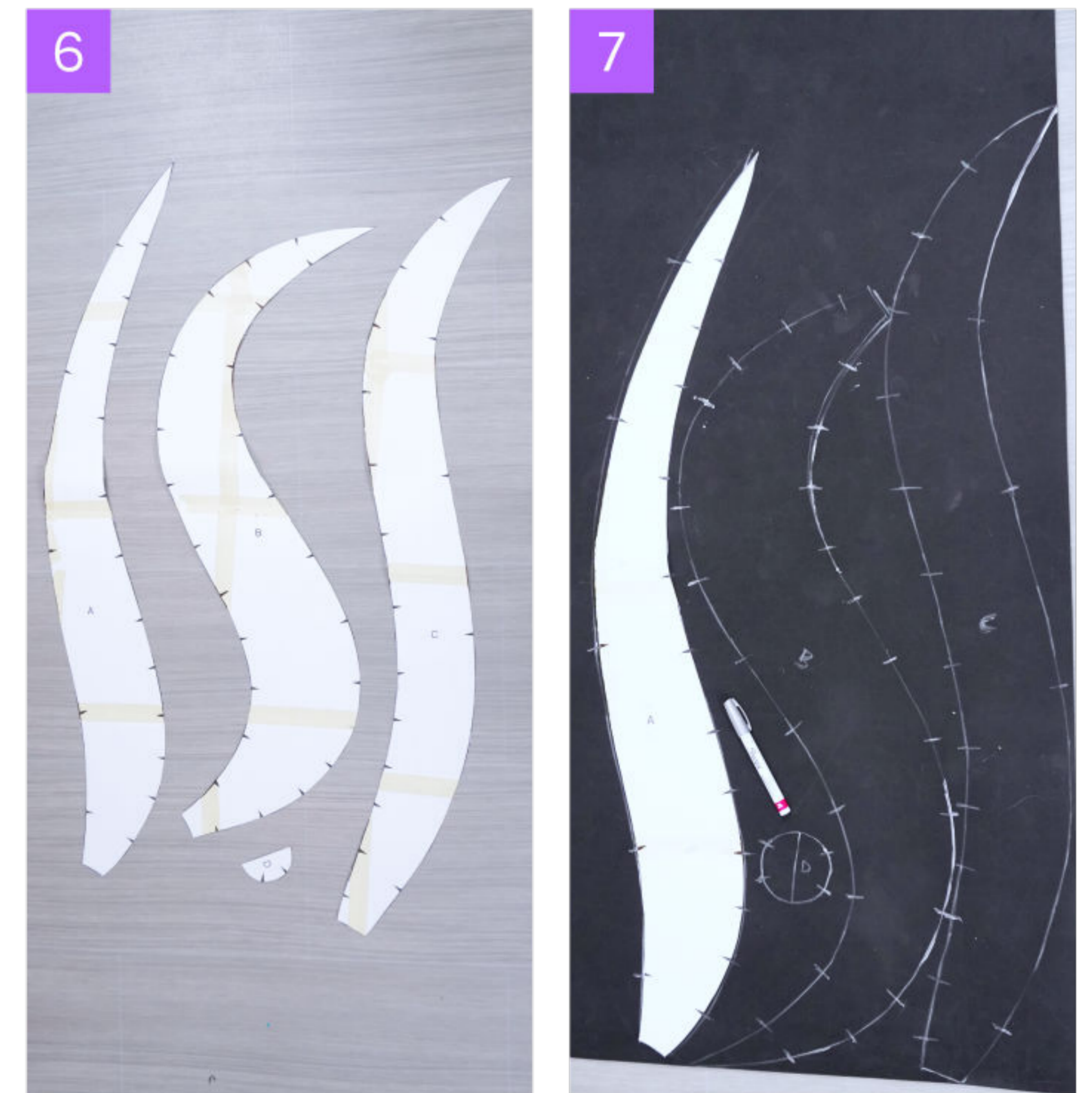
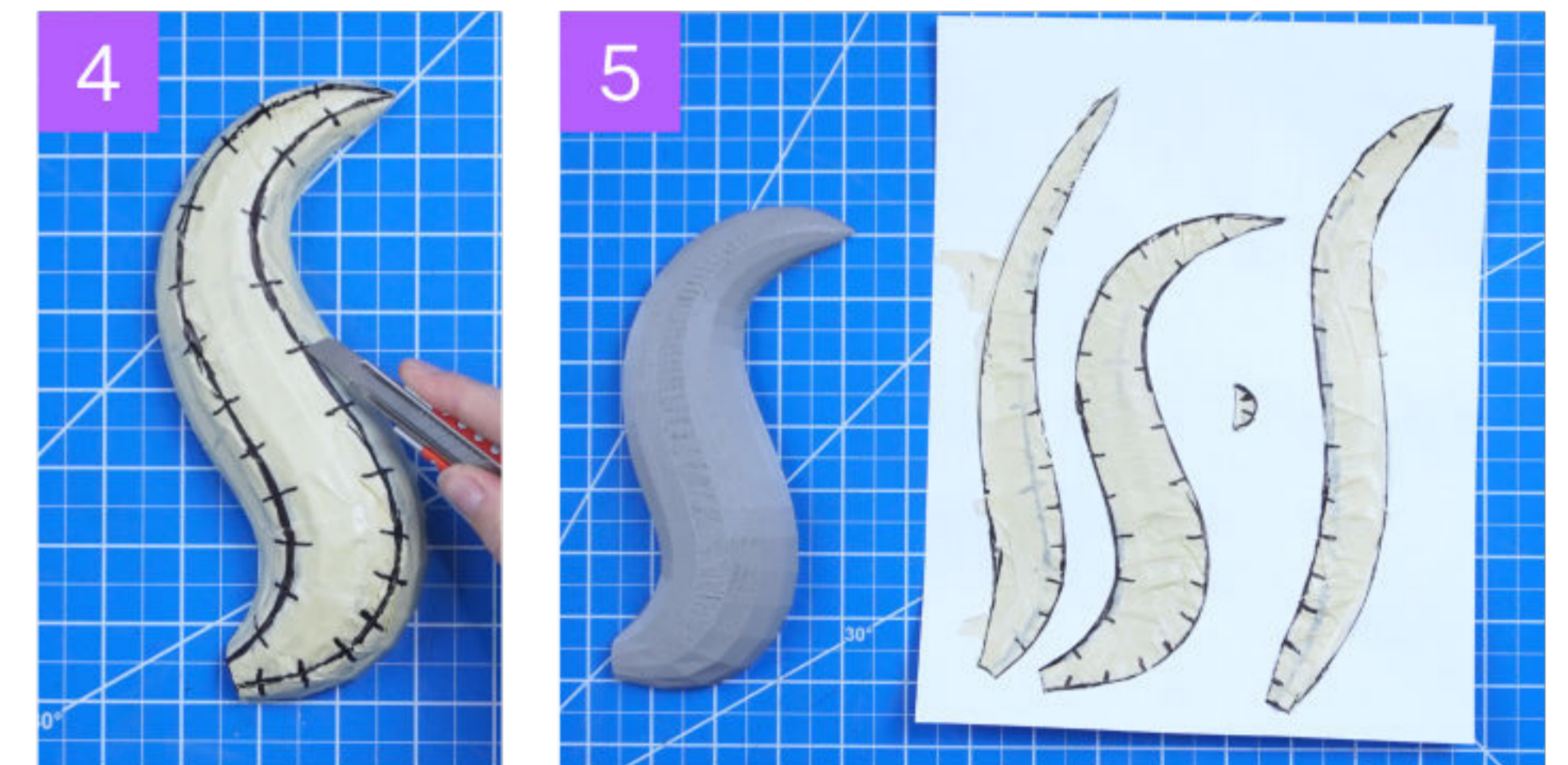
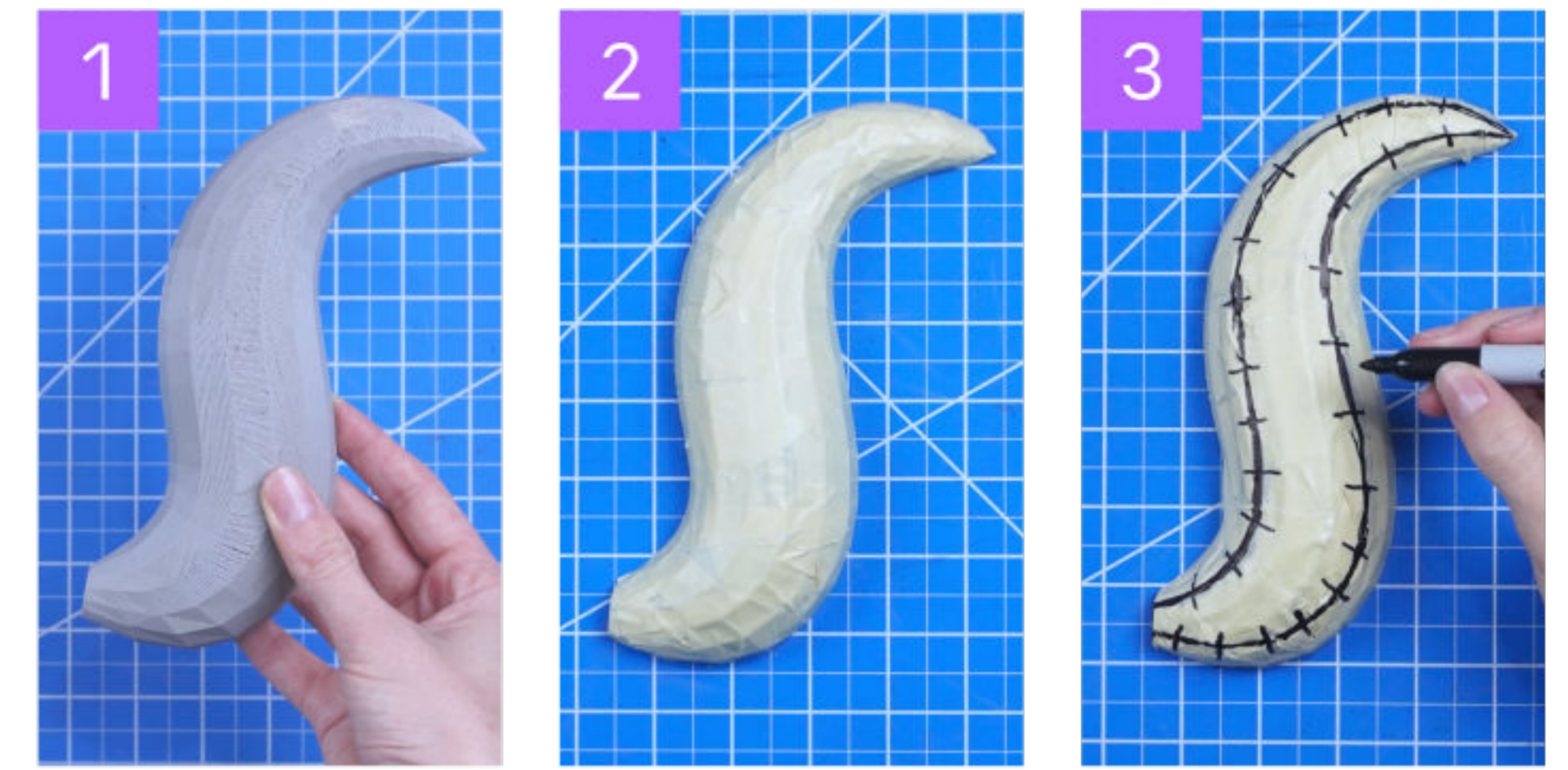
Then draw on where your lines and seams will go. You want the pattern to lay completely flat at the end. Make sure to include registration marks to help you reconstruct the pieces. (See fig. 3)

You can then use a craft knife to cut the seams and remove the mini tape pattern. Glue this onto a sheet of paper and scan it into your computer. (See fig. 4-5)

Then print it out at a larger, life size scale for your final pattern (See fig. 6)

To make this foam base tail we recommend using 5mm EVA foam.

Trace out your pattern pieces onto the EVA foam with the registration marks. Mirror the pattern for the other half of the tail. (See fig. 7)



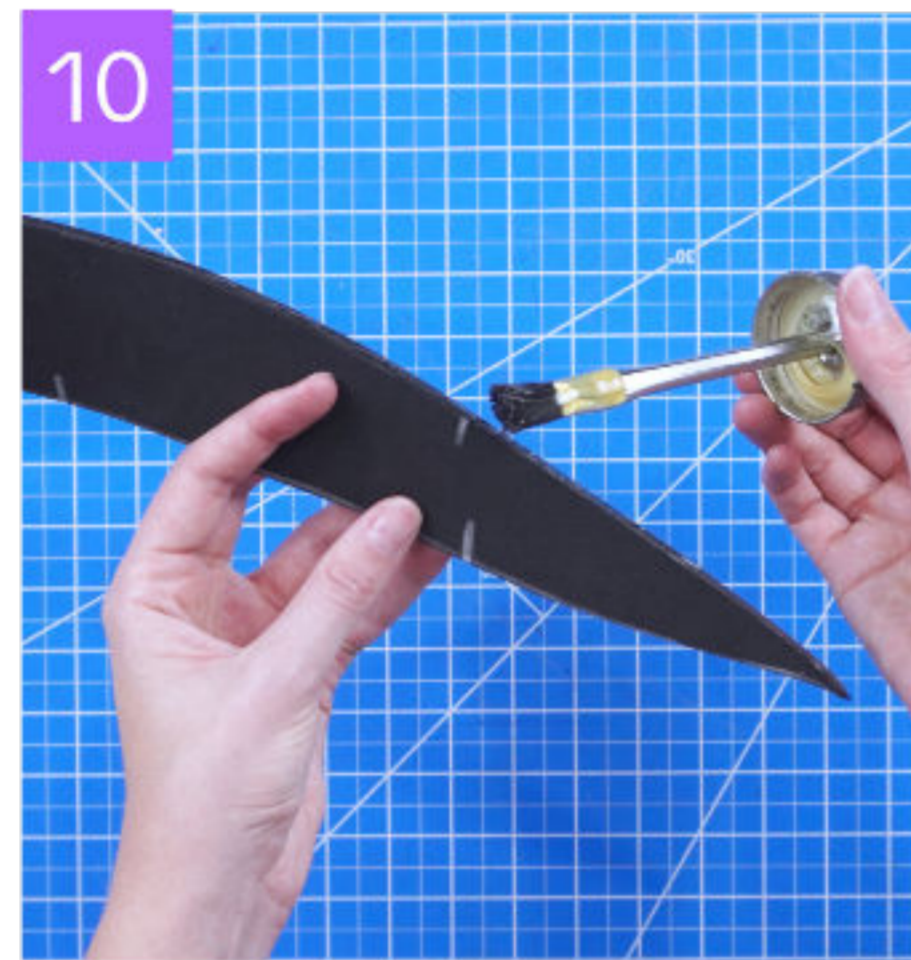
Then cut out the pieces for the tail with a craft knife. (See fig. 8-9)

To connect the EVA foam pieces we recommend using contact adhesive. Apply the adhesive to both edges you will be gluing together. (See fig. 10)

Let the glue get tacky. Then you can press the pieces together, lining up the registration marks. (See fig. 11)

Continue to glue the pieces together until you have built each half of the tail. (See fig. 12-13)

Then you can use more contact adhesive to join the two halves together at the center. (See fig. 14-15)



Finally you can glue in the round piece to the end of the tail. (See fig. 16)

Now you will have your finished foam base. (See fig. 17)

For the tail cover you can either use your original tail pattern again or create a new pattern. We created a new pattern in order to have less seam lines, but it can also be useful to make a new pattern if you want to create a tail with more than one color like we showed in the 2 tone tail section of this book.

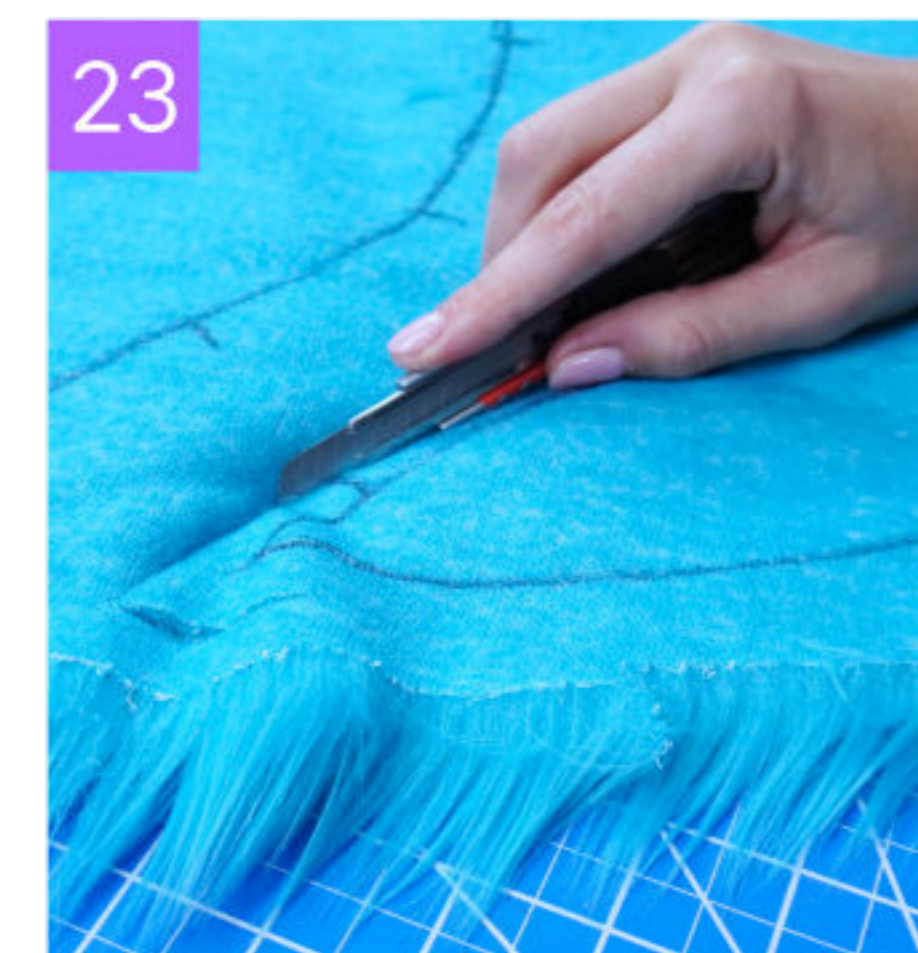
To make the pattern, start by wrapping the tail in cling wrap. Then cover the tail in duct tape and draw on the lines for your seams. (See fig. 18-19)

When you are happy with your pattern you can remove it from the tail and cut up the pieces. (See fig. 20)

To make the cover you will then need faux fur. For this tail we are using a 35mm long pile fur in turquoise (See fig. 21)

Trace your pattern onto the back side of the fur, adding 10mm of seam allowance around the edges. (See fig. 22)

Then cut out the pieces with a craft knife. (See fig. 23-24)





25

Pin the pieces together that form each half of your tail cover respectively, lining up the registration marks. (See fig. 25)

Then stitch along the line and join the pieces. (See fig. 26-27)

Once you have both halves of the cover sewn, pin them together with the fur facing inwards. (See fig. 28)



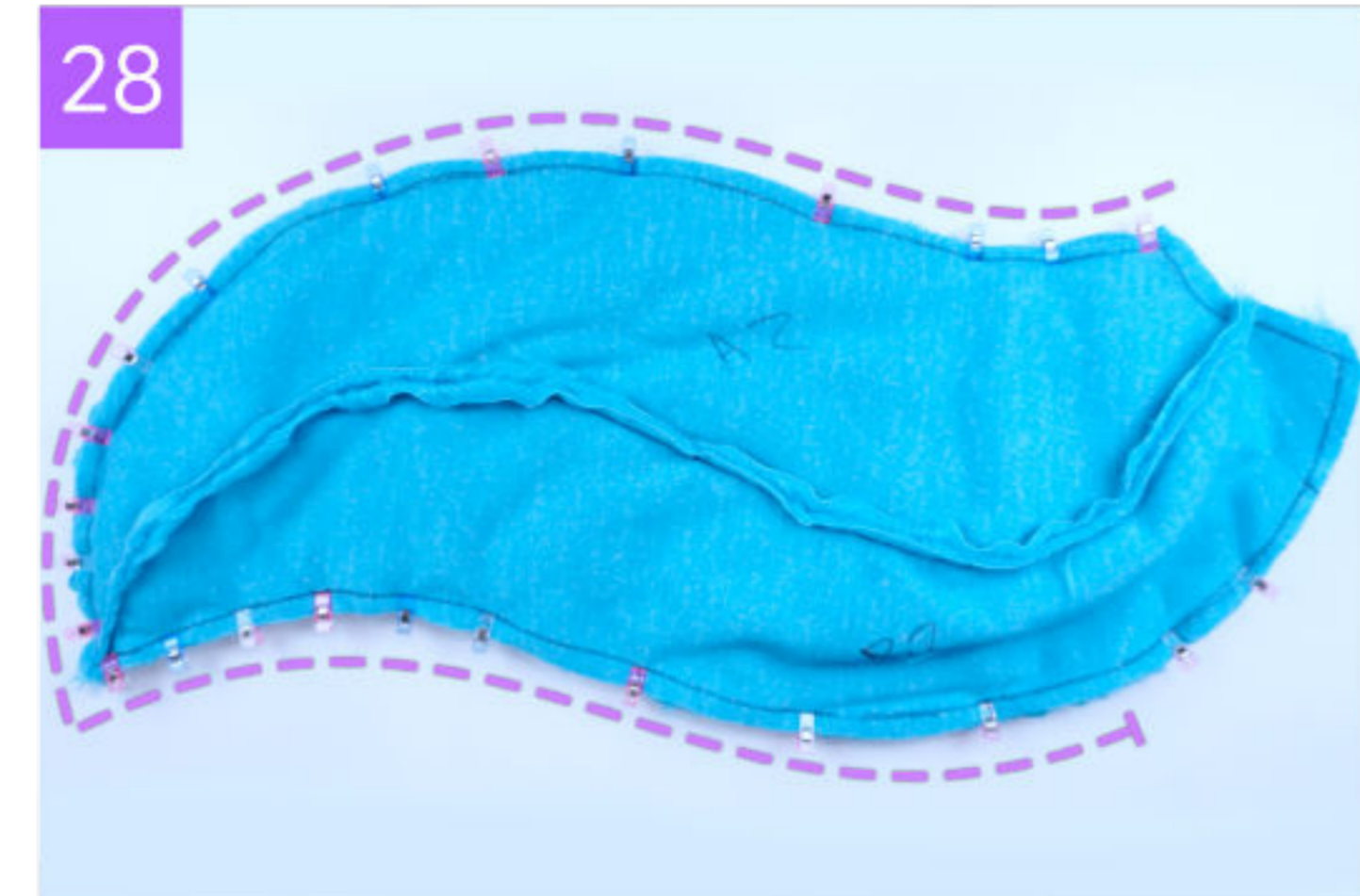
26

Leave a section at the bottom of the tail open, approximately 20cm. This is where the tail will close later so the cover can be removed. (See fig. 29)

Then stitch around the edges with a sewing machine then you can flip the tail inside out (See fig. 30)



27



28



29



30

Now you can pull the cover over the foam base. If you cannot get the tail cover over the foam piece you will need to make the opening you left at the bottom of the tail longer. (See fig. 31)

Once the cover is pulled over and you are happy with how it fits you will then need to close up the remaining section of the cover that was left open. (See fig. 32)

To do this you can use Velcro pieces. Start by hot gluing a piece of Velcro to one side of the opening. Glue it on the inside with the fabric backing. (See fig. 33-34)

The other piece of Velcro will need to be glued to the other side of the opening on top where the fur is. So you will need to trim down the fur first where the Velcro will be glued. (See fig. 35)

Once you trim down the fur you can then hot glue the Velcro piece into place. (See fig. 36)

Now you can use these Velcro pieces to close up the end of the tail. (See fig. 37)



31



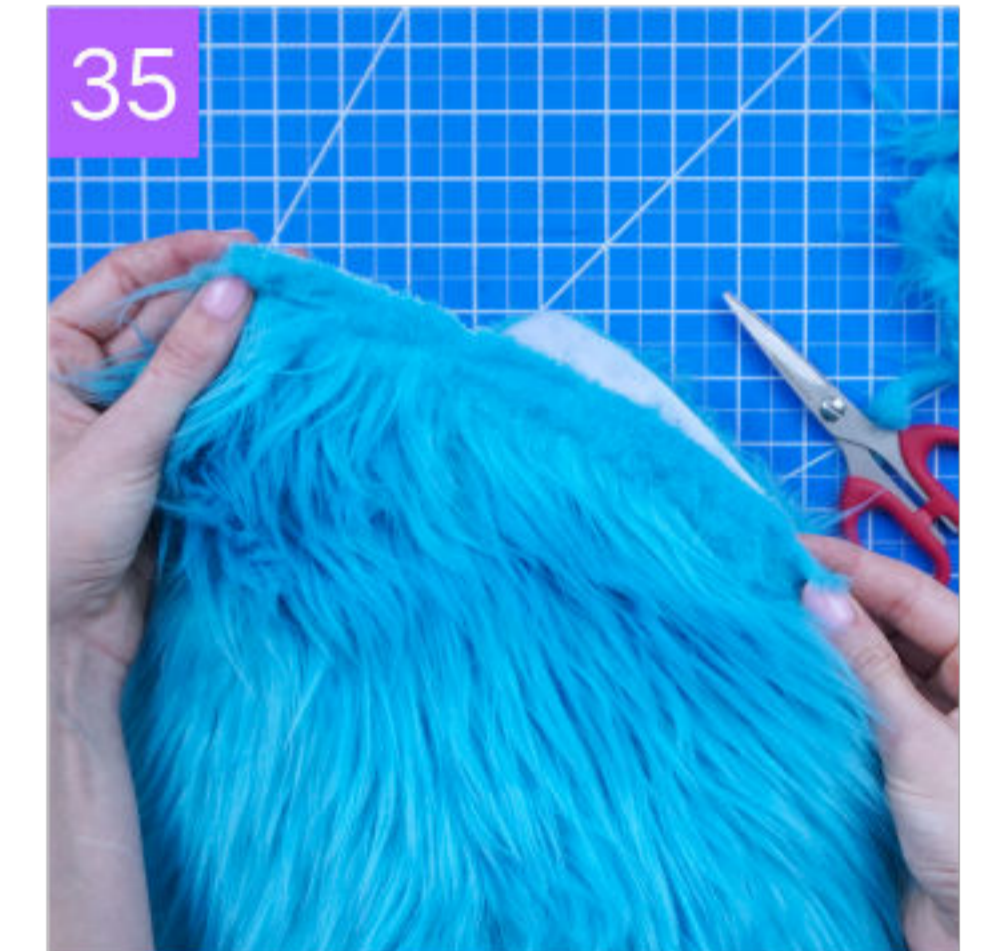
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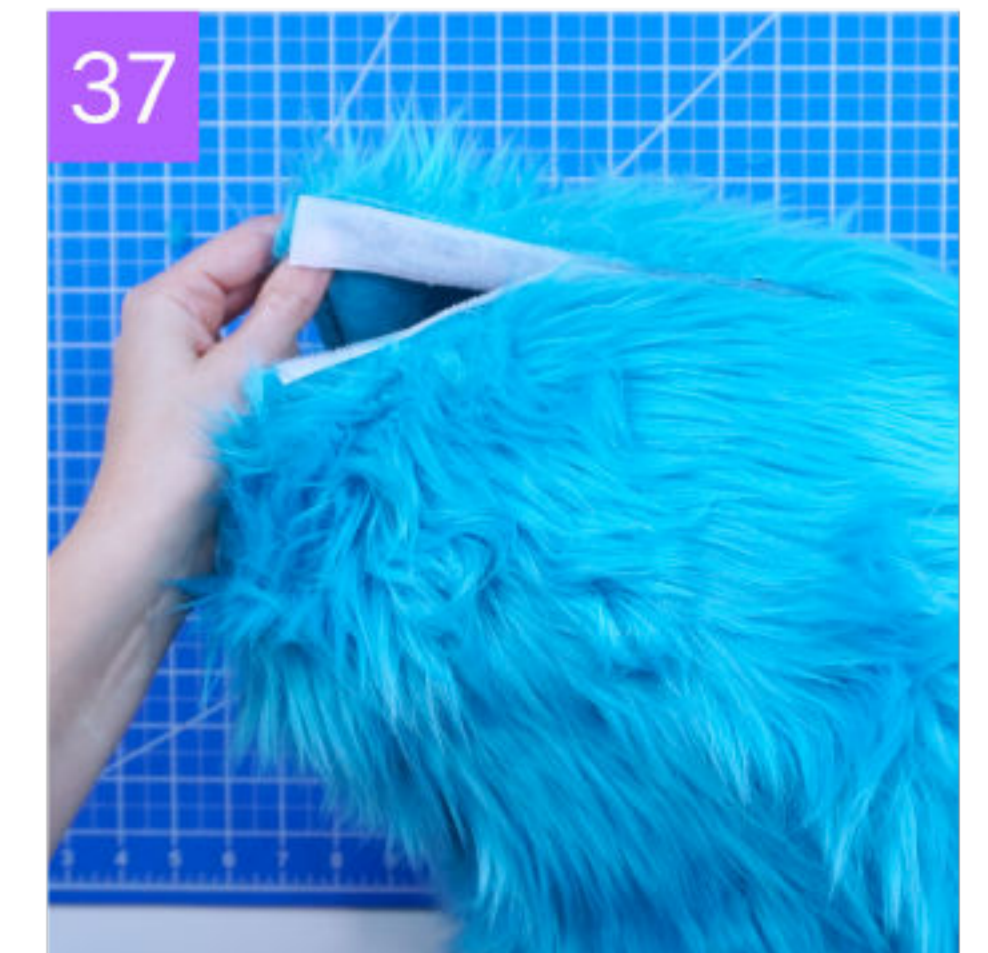
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36



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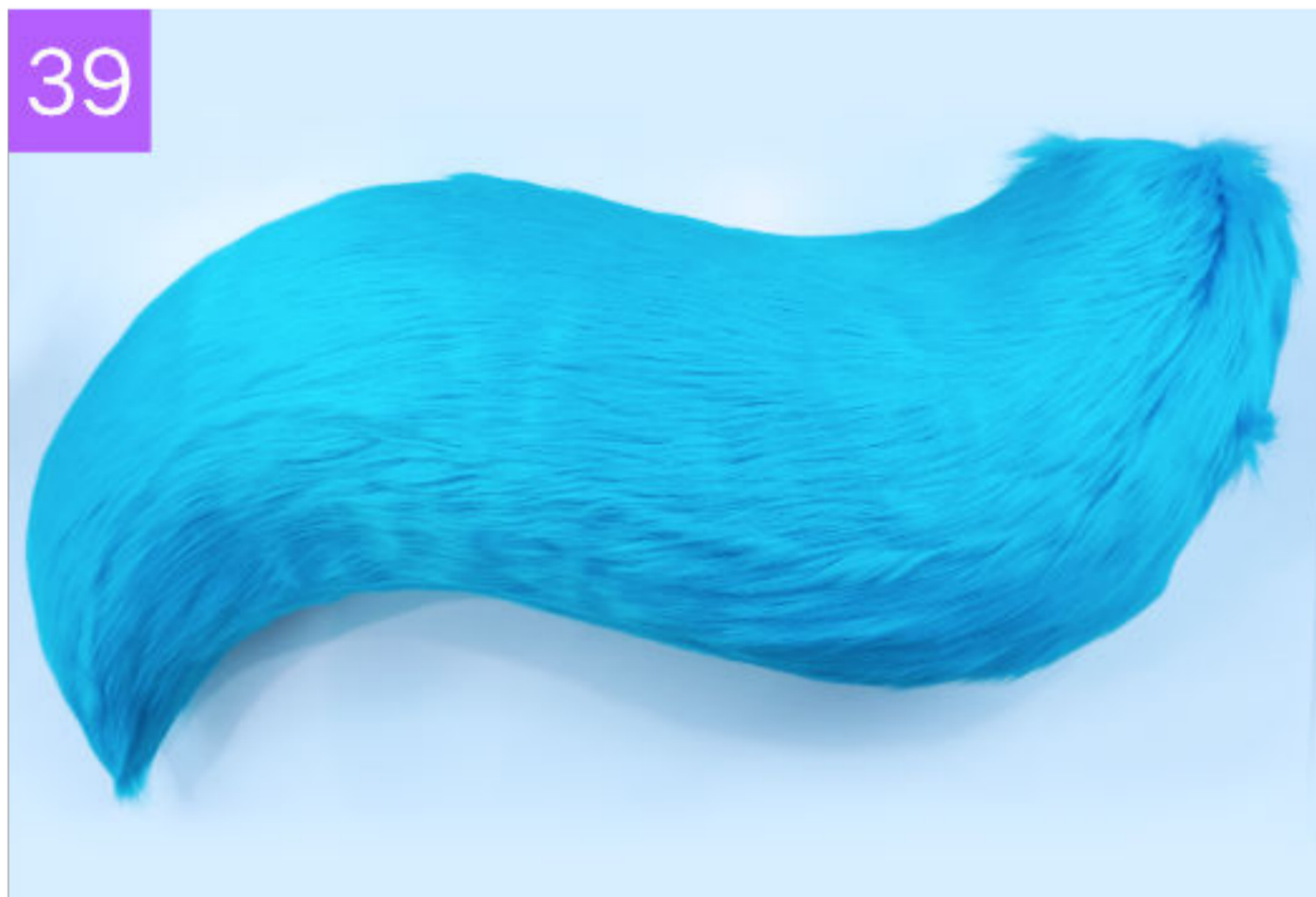
38

The very fluffy fur fibers help hide the seam where it closes, and now this cover can be detached and changed at any time and the foam piece can be reused.

To finish the tail cover and make it look like the spirit blossom ahri tail you can add more detail with an airbrush. (See fig. 38-39)

Mask off the lines on the tail with paper cut outs and pinned into place. (See fig. 40)

Then you can airbrush a darker shade of blue around the lines and towards the base of the tail. (See fig. 41-42)



39



40



41



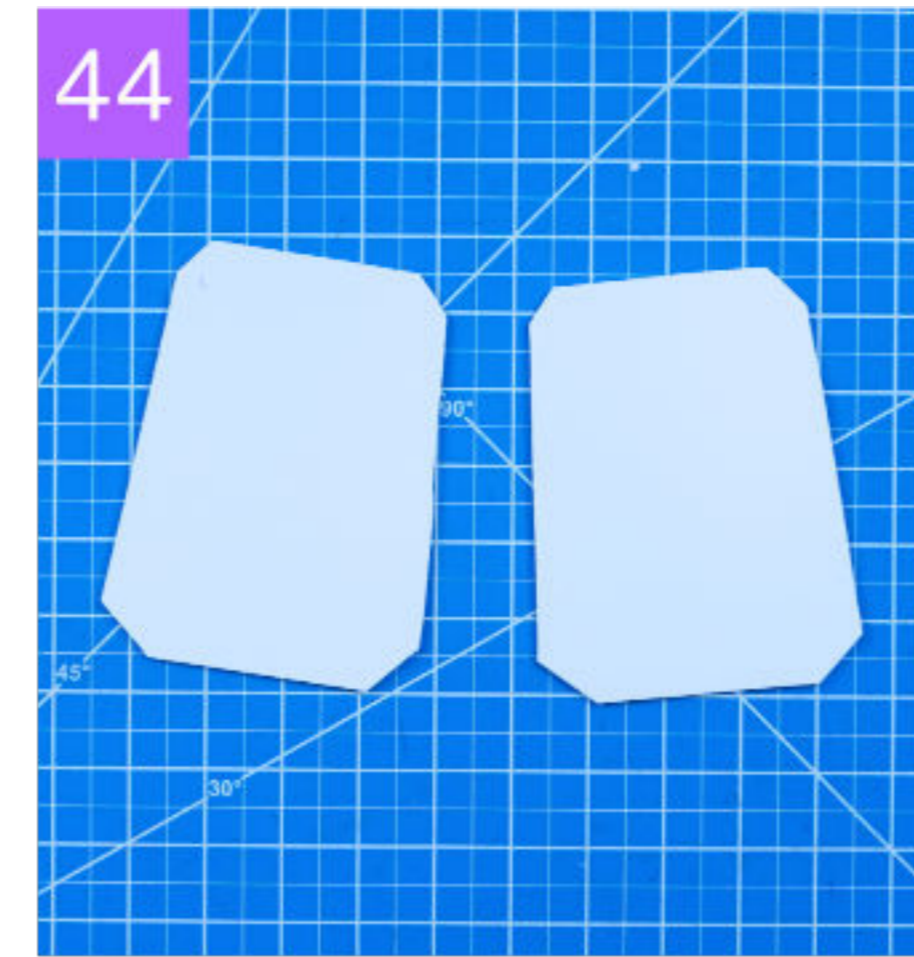
42

To create the harness for the tail you will need a piece of expanded PVC foam board, an aluminum flat bar, Strapping, Velcro and Chicago screws. (See fig. 43)

The base of the harness is going to be made from 3mm expanded PVC foam board.



43



44



45

Start by cutting out 2 pieces of sintra approximately 10cm x 15cm for the base of the harness. You can cut the edges round (See fig. 44)

Then glue the pieces together with super glue. (See fig. 45)



46



47

The main support for the tail is then going to be the aluminum flat bar. Take your bar and mark 3 holes on it with a pen approximately 2cm apart. (See fig. 46)

Then use a drill with a drill bit 5mm or larger to drill holes through the bar. Make sure the bit is rated to be used for metal. (See fig. 47)



48



49

You can then bend the bar into a 90 degree angle on the 3rd hole you drilled. The hole makes bending the metal easier. (See fig. 48)

Take the short end of the bar and use this to trace onto your sintra board and mark the 2 holes so they line up.



50

Drill holes through your board either using a drill or a rotary tool bit. (See fig. 49)

Bend and shape your bar to match the shape of your tail. Keep the section of the bar with the holes drilled through it facing downwards. (See fig. 50)

If your bar is too long for your tail you can cut it shorter by using a rotary tool with a metal cutting disk. (See fig. 51)

The bar will then go inside the foam tail through the hole that was left earlier. (See fig. 52)

To secure the bar to the board you will need Chicago screws.

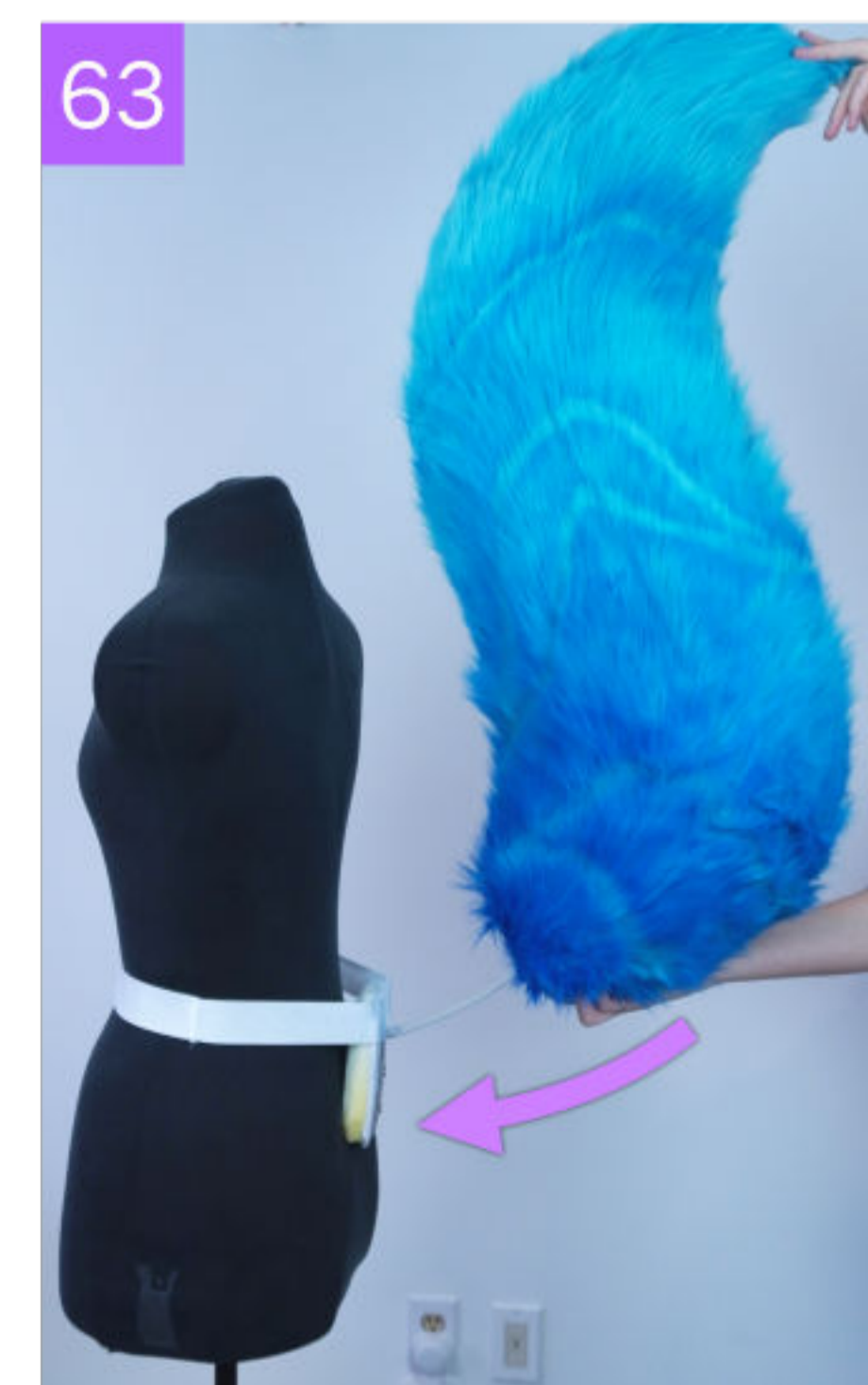
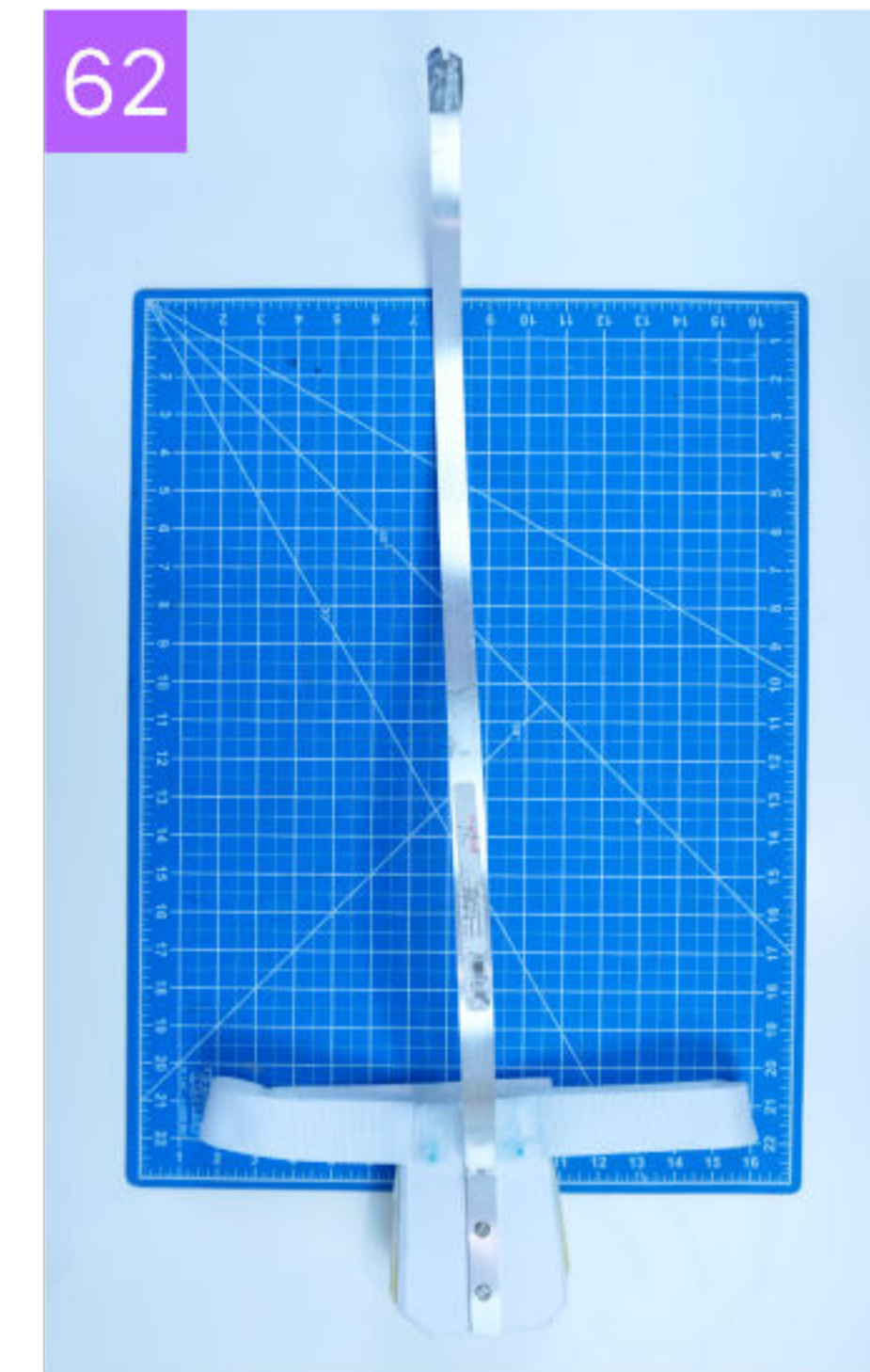
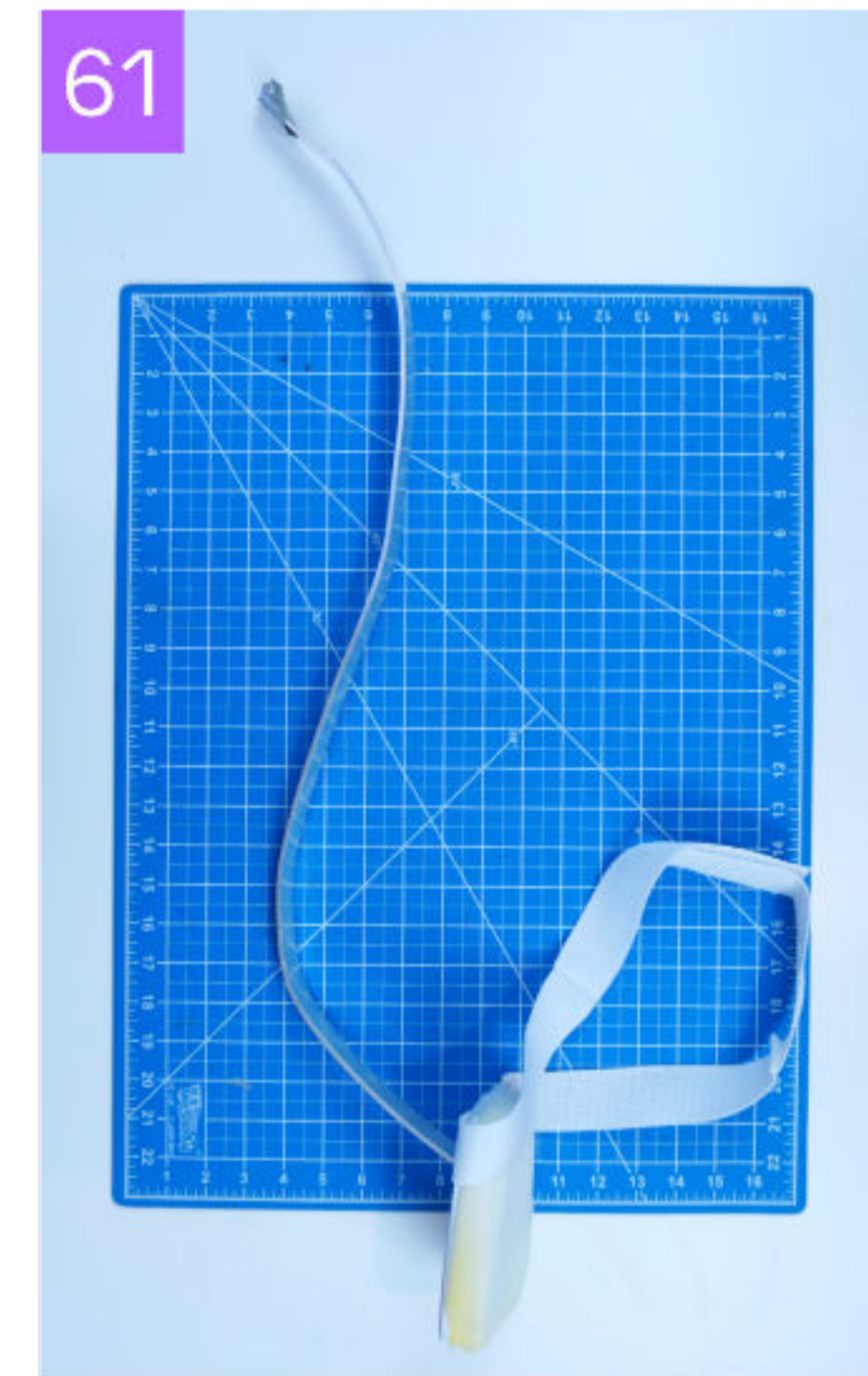
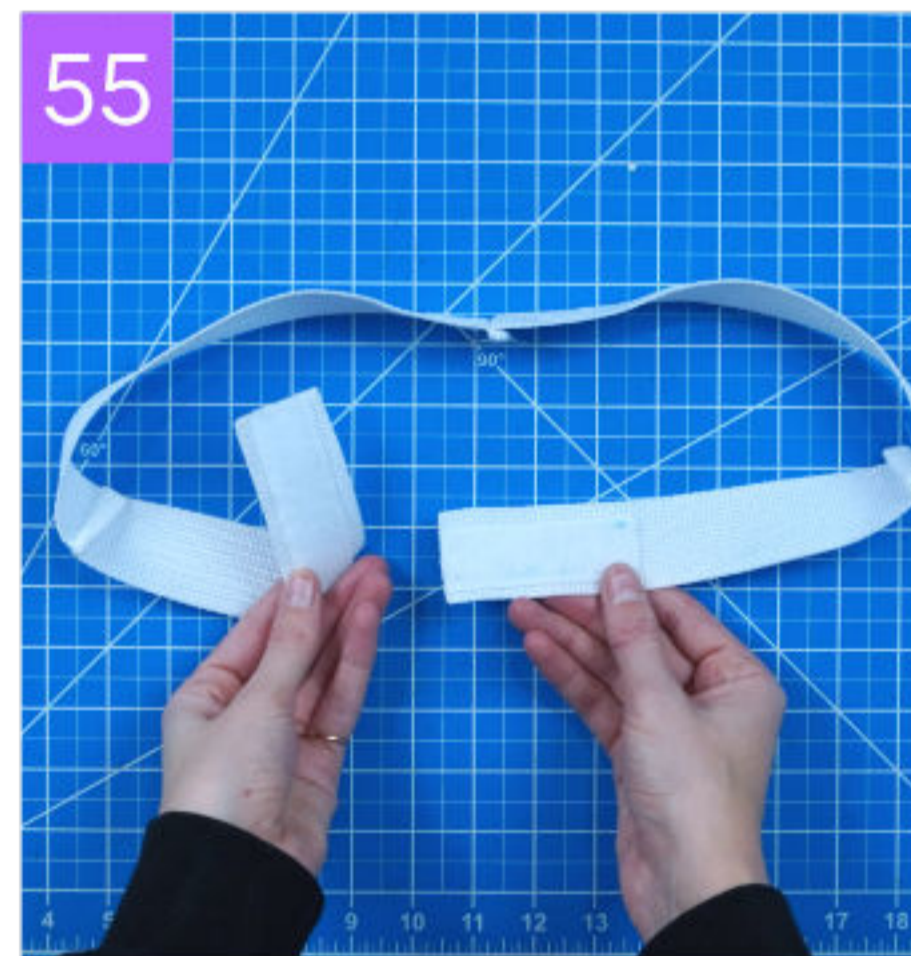
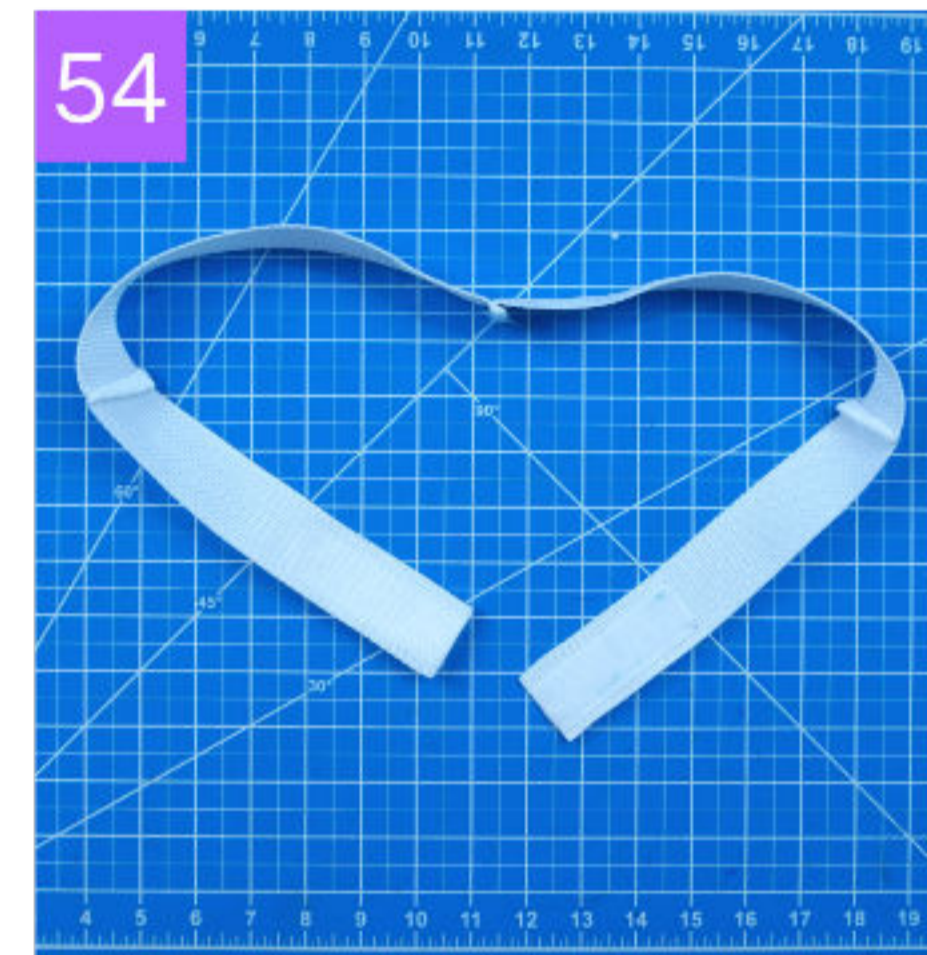
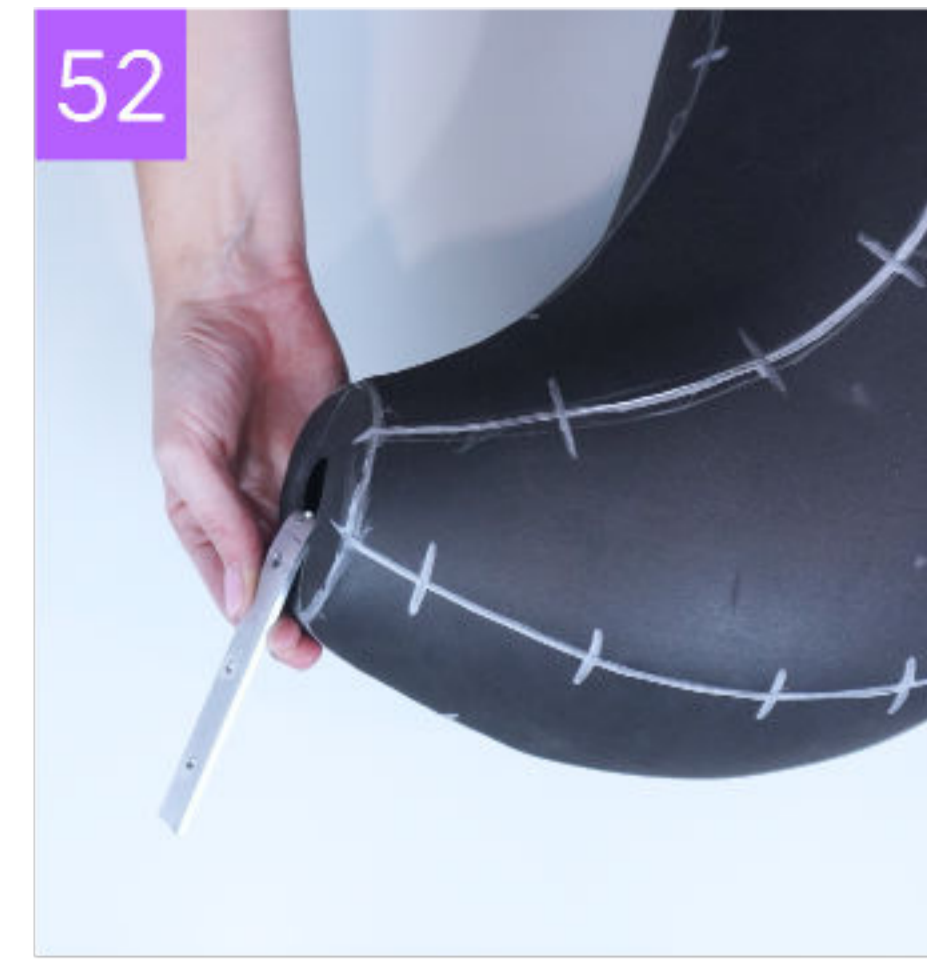
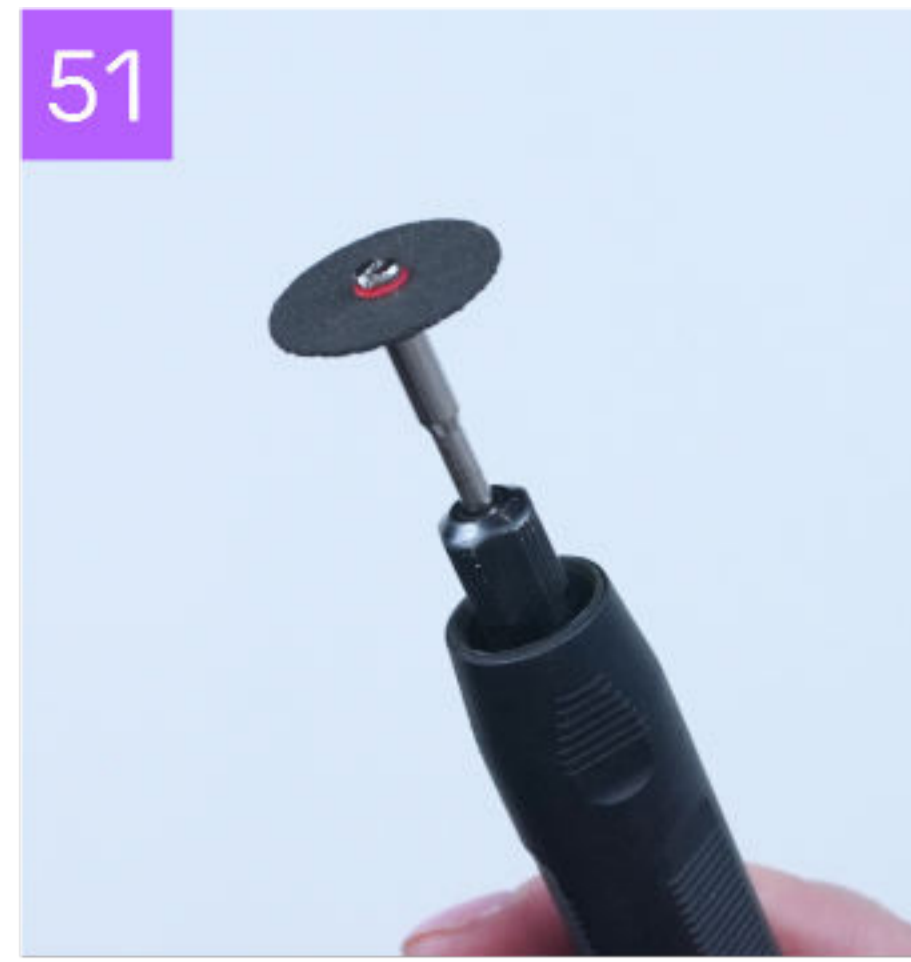
Take one end of the screw and put it through the back of the PVC board. Line up the holes on the bar and then screw in the other half of the screws to secure it in place. (See fig. 53)

To secure the harness to your body you will need straps and Velcro. Measure around your waist and cut a piece of the strap long enough, you can also make darts in the side and stitch them to make the strap curved. (See fig. 54)

Hot glue the Velcro pieces onto the ends of your strap (See fig. 55)

You can then glue the center of the strap to the top of the PVC board. (See fig. 56)

To make the backplate more comfortable you can also glue on a piece of upholstery foam to the inside. (See fig. 57-58)



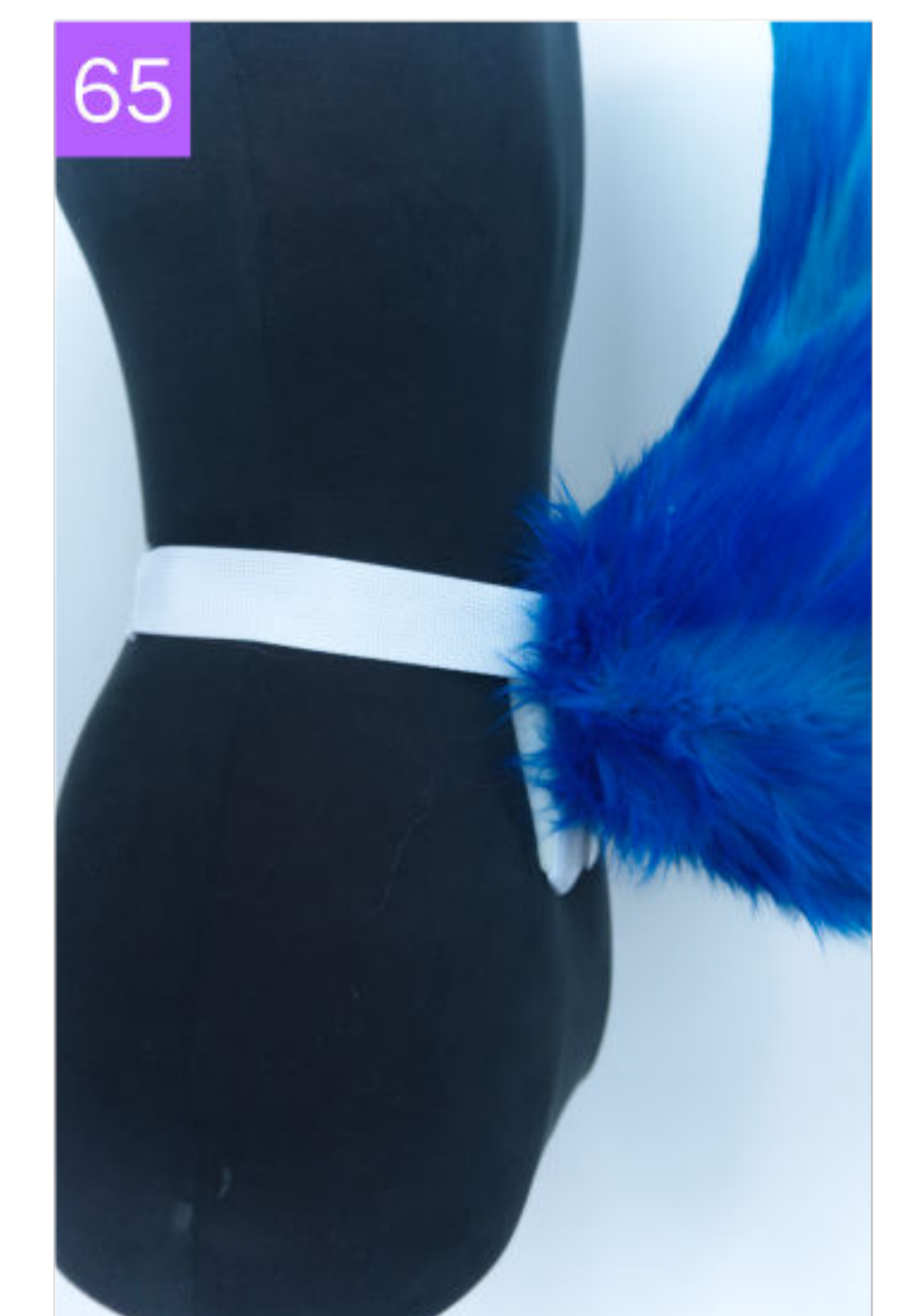
The last step is to make sure the foam tail stays in place on the harness. To do this glue 2 pieces of Velcro to the base of the foam tail. (See fig. 59)

Then glue the other 2 pieces to the harness where the tail will meet. (See fig. 60)

Now the harness is complete. (See fig. 61-62)

Slide your tail over the metal bar, and then press the Velcro pieces together. (See fig. 63-64)

Now the tail will stay in place on the harness. (See fig. 65)





66

To wear the harness under your costume you will need to make an opening at the back for the bar and Velcro tabs to fit through. (See fig. 66)

Once the tail is on it will also hide the opening in the costume and the harness will be hidden inside. (See fig. 67)



67



Final Result



Thank you!

Thank you so much for reading this book and for your support! We really hope its given you the confidence to try some new techniques, experiment and further your crafting! We cannot wait to see what you make! Happy Crafting!
- Tayla and Eric.

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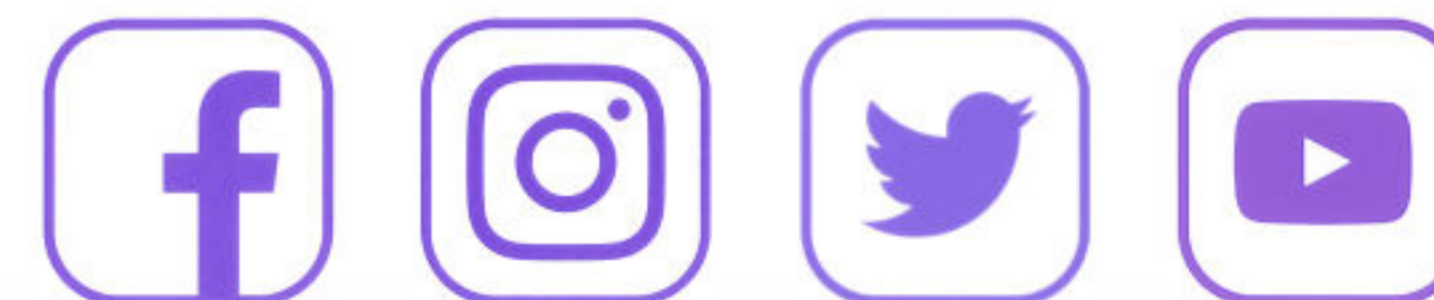
FOX TAIL PATTERN



MIRUKO COSPLAY TUTORIAL AND PATTERNS



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