

### **Directions for "Party Animal" Mask / April 2003**

Everyone is familiar with letters - but if you think of them a bit more abstractly, as interesting designs, more possibility may occur to you.

This project features the large letter B from our Teen Monogram Set. An interesting shape in its own right, if you turn it sideways it suddenly becomes a festive mask, like the kind seen at Mardi Gras in New Orleans! It's the perfect size for a stuffed animal - for those late-night sleepover parties.

#### *Step 1. Print the instructions.*

These are .pdf files, and require Adobe Acrobat Reader software in order to view and print.

#### *Step 2. Hoop the felt.*

We chose a grey felt as the fabric for this project. It is easily available, adds a plush depth to embroidery, has a softer look, and can be easily trimmed after the embroidery has been completed without the edges of the fabric unravelling.

We used a layer of medium weight tear-away backing, which was hooped along with the felt.

#### *Step 3. Sew out the large letter B.*

This project is about transforming a letter of the alphabet into something new by doing something extremely simple - rotating it 90 degrees to the left.

Other letters from our Teen Monogram Set suggest other things if they are rotated, but the letter B suggests a festive mask.

While you can rotate the design within your embroidery software, it isn't necessary. Just sew the design in its regular orientation, then turn it before using it as a stuffed animal mask.

#### *Step 4. Trim the mask.*

Using a sharp pair of scissors, trim the felt approx 1/8" (3mm) away from the edge of the embroidery. We did not try to trim all the way into the curl of the letter, preferring to give this section some extra stability.

Trim away the felt inside the loops of the B. This will create the eyeholes for the mask.

#### *Step 5. Apply the mask to your favorite stuffed animal.*

Rotate the letter 90 degrees to the left, and pin it to the face of your favorite stuffed animal (smaller animal faces work best, but the mask also looks cute on larger ones) using straight pins. Or, for a more authentic mask, attach a thin elastic cord through holes on either side.

**Congratulations! Your project is complete.**

#### Sources for Materials

##### *Felt, Stabilizer:*

Widely available from fabric stores