

Alternative N95 Mask Instructions

Using MERV13 Furnace Filters

Materials needed:

- Filtrete Elite Allergen air filters or another filter rated MERV 13 or above (filter that can catch the virus)
- Some sort of 6 ½" wire (for across the nose. This could be a twist tie, a piece of a pipe cleaner, or other thin piece of wire)
- Two 6" elastic strips for around the ears. Less than half inch wide or cord elastic.
- Sewing machine (You can hand sew them, but a sewing machine will speed things up a lot)
- Scissors
- Thread

Instructions:

1. Start with your filter and locate the side the arrow points to. Mark is somehow (i.e. with a 'I' or 'inside' – pictures below). This will be the inside of the mask. **This is very important.**



2. Remove all unneeded material on the air filters (i.e. cardboard and wires) so you are left with the filter material. Please note the air filters that are needed need the wire not within the filter itself.



3. If there is glue residue along the edges, you will need to remove it.



4. Cut the filter material into 7" x 7" squares. Premeasure the whole sheet to maximize the amount of masks from a single filter. Remember to mark the inside of each mask with an "I".



5. Sew the wire along the top edge. If you have a pipe cleaner trim off the fuzz so it doesn't bunch up. Place the wire on the edge of the material and sew a seam across the entire top of the mask to secure it in place.



6. Gather the existing folds on the side so that the new measurement is 4" (In sewing terms these are the pleats). Fold the material so it totals 4" and the folds are consistent. In the image under #6 the seams are visible, they don't really need to be folded over, just a line of thread to secure the pleats in place. Repeat on the second side.



7. Sew in the 6" elastic pieces into ear loops. Attach the elastic to the inner upper then lower corners. Repeat on the other side. Try to keep the stitches tight and that the elastic is not turned around/twisted at all.



8. This is what your finished piece should look like from the outside:

