

# ⊕ P U S R E L I N Q U E

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## Laced Bio Mask



By Discipulus | December 6, 2011

## 1) INTRODUCTION

Though mouth-masks are widely popular within more electro-driven gothic scenes, it can be strikingly difficult to find one that properly adjusts to the shape of your face, which is why I initially developed a pattern that worked for mine, and for which I've made quite a few variations since, one of the most appreciated of those being the Laced Bio Mask described in this tutorial.

## 2) ELABORATION

The Laced Bio-Mask consists out of three individually finished parts (a combined front and two separate side pieces) that are bound together by a cord lacing, completing the design to fully take over the shape of the face in covering mouth, chin and nose, while having a mounting- elastic, ranged between the mask's ends forming two loops, one to traverse the scalp and another to support in the neck, both continually pulling the mask close, adjusting to the head's movement.

As this concept of mask is highly customizable, with a little bit of original thinking in choosing resources and finishing one can easily create a whole different-looking outcome using the enclosed patterns.

The mask as pictured was made using the same materials and techniques as used for the bracers in the previous tutorial (October 12), so it might be interesting to quickly read through that one again. Advised is still the use of a more rigid kind of fabric (or leather), and to either press or top-stitch your seams flat.

The steps in this tutorial suggest the use of lining, as well as bias tape for finishing off seams. Though they're not both strictly necessary, I highly advise on using at least the lining as it makes the mask a lot more comfortable to wear and also helps a great deal with transpiration during the warmer nights.

## 3) REQUIREMENTS

Specifics: one 20cm by 30cm rectangular piece of leather or sturdy textile, a likewise sized piece of soft lining, 62cm of bias tape, 24 eyelets (4mm), 1.50m elastic cord (3mm)

General: Sewing machine, needle and thread, scissors, (steam)-iron and board, scotch-tape, eyelet-puncher pliers or a hammer.

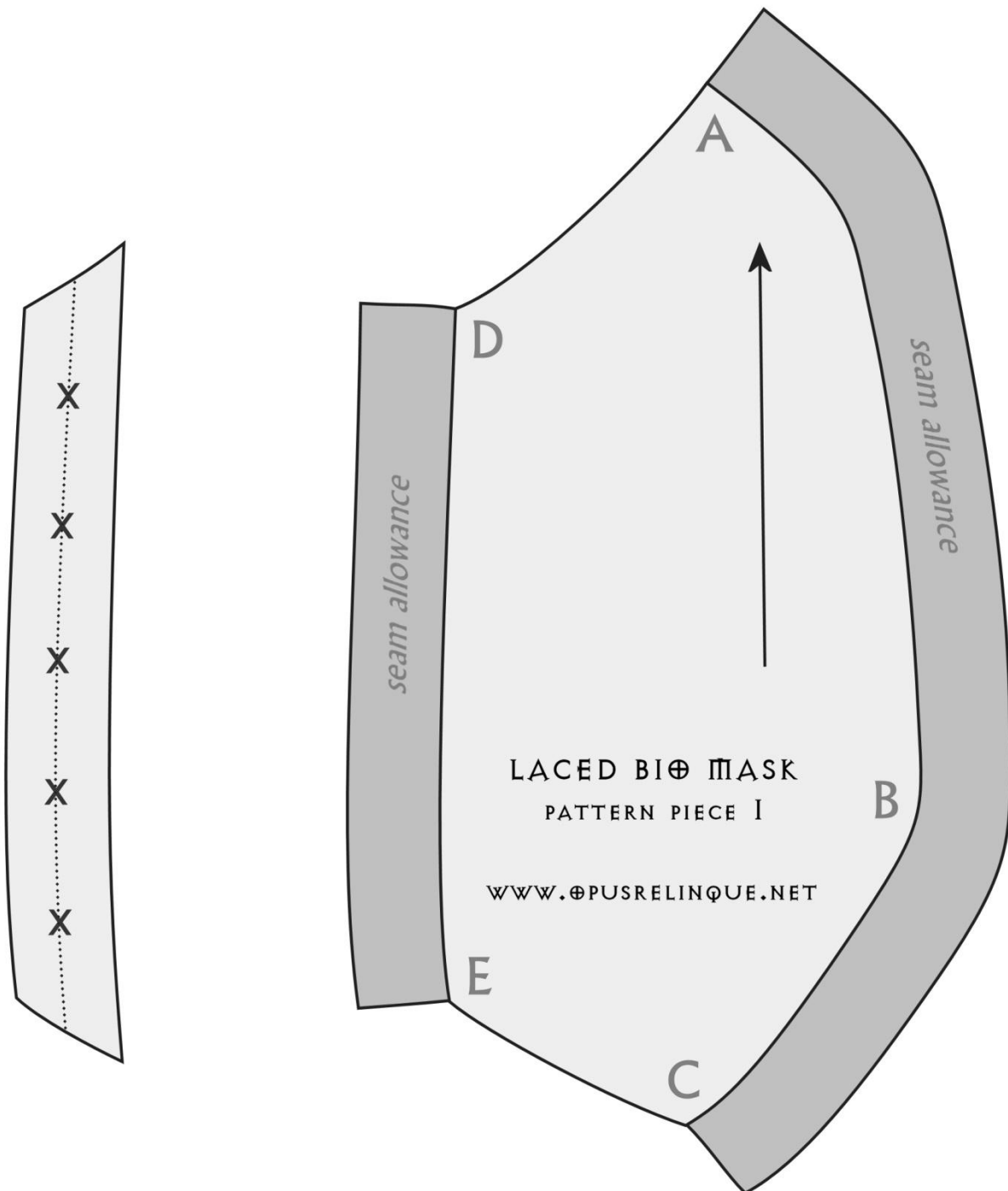
## 4) PATTERNS

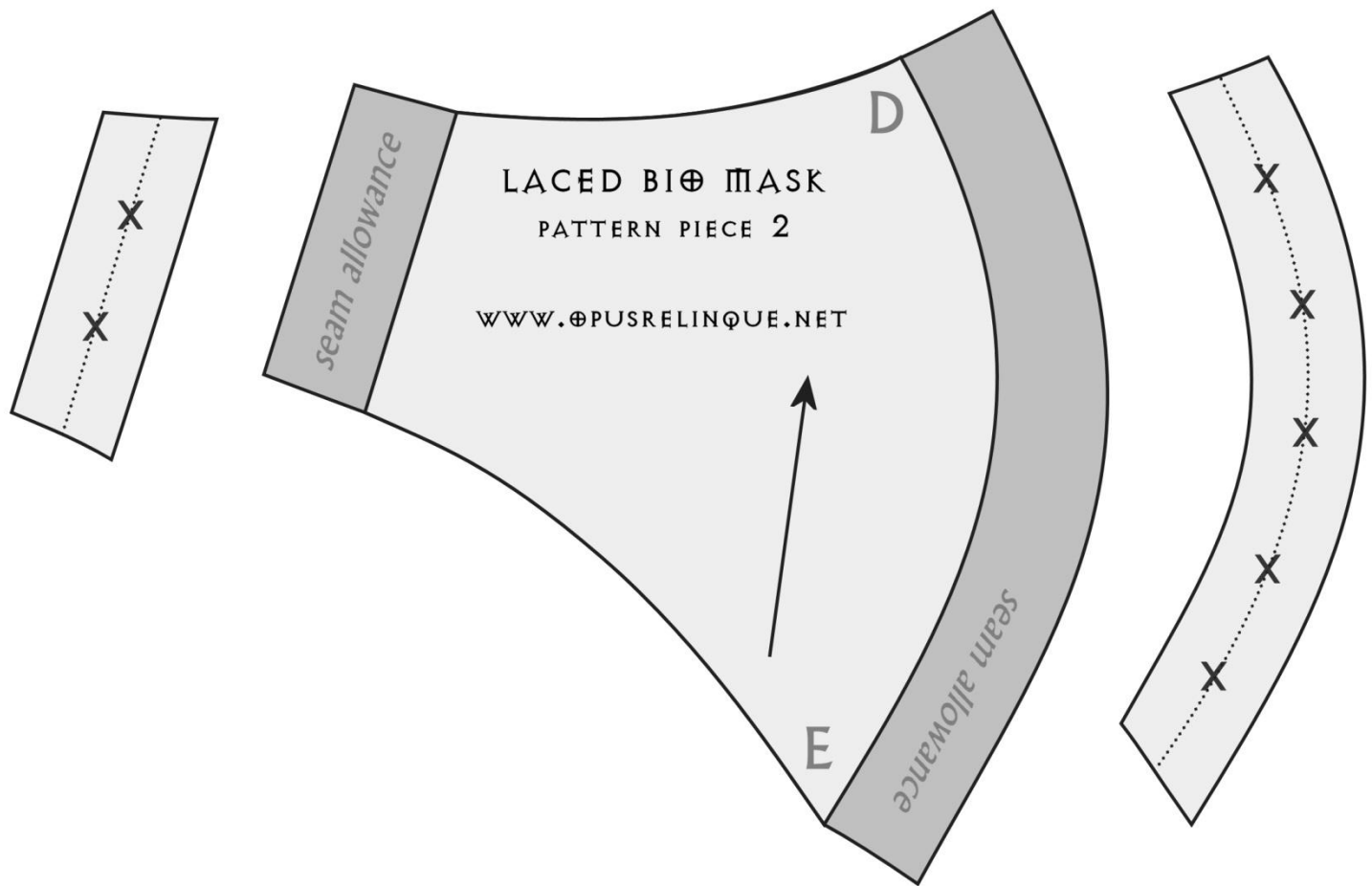
There are only two pieces to this pattern, a frontal piece and a side piece, both are cut in double. The two frontal halves are stitched together and connect to their sides through lacing whilst having their corners secured by a few hand-stitches. The side-pieces have extra eyelets for the mounting-elastic.

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Print out these pattern-pages on regular A4-sized paper to cut them out along with puncture guides.

Obviously each face is different and these proportions just happen to be mine, so best is to quickly measure the distance from your nose to your chin and compare this (+half a cm) with the two dinks in seam ABC and alter the line accordingly. If in doubt, it might be best to make a rapid cotton base to fit the pattern before cutting a proper material. If doing so, just sew the DE-seams like regular seams.





## 5) INSTRUCTIONS

- Cut each piece twice from fabric/leather and twice from lining.
- Pin seam connecting two front halves, matching letter points ABC. Baste, sew, iron/press seam open, top stitch (3mm), cut darts in seam allowance and iron to shape.
- Pin, baste, stitch, iron corresponding lining pieces.
- Pin, baste, sew front piece and its lining right sides together, using the DE seams on both layers. Press seams closed, turn right-side-out, top-stitch (3mm).
- Use bias tape to finish top and bottom edges.
- Align pattern one puncture guide with DE edge to place eyelets along the sides. [figure 1]
- Repeat the same process for creating the two side-sides, using both piece 2 puncture guides for placing eyelets as pictured. [figure 2]
- Hand-sew sides to front through a few well-aimed stitches at the back of the bias-tape. [figure 4]
- Lace up the DE seams (bottom-up), place a tight knot and secure it with a few stitches [figure 5]
- Insert mounting elastic, with two knots placed at the same side [figure 6]



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6) PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 1: combined front part.



Figure 2: left and right side-pieces.



Figure 3: right piece, front part, left piece.



Figure 4: parts connected at bias tape.



Figure 5: inserting lacing.



Figure 6: finished mask.



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Figure 7: frontal view.



Figure 8: side view.



## 7) WEARING

With the mounting-elastic only tied down in one of the sides-pieces the two loops can easily be re-arranged while putting on the mask, allowing you to find the right proportions once it is in place and fixing the loops tight using bobby-pins, one loop on top of the head and the other in the back of the neck, continually pulling the mask in place from both directions. To hide them, the elastics can either be combed into the hair, or be hidden underneath a wig or various kinds of hair-decoration.

A second great aspect of the elastic is that it allows for the mask to be repositioned underneath the chin where it can rest during food or beverage usage and be easily returned to its belonging place by sliding the mask back towards the nose, without further adjustment.

Besides their esthetical appeal, the lacings forming the DE seams also allow for a natural air-flow throughout the mask, as breathing within an encapsulation as close as this might not always be a given, or so have taught my other masks me. Compared to fully closed masks, these vents will also make you a bit more understandable when speaking, though you might still wish to pull it down during the more lengthy conversations.

## 8) APPRECIATION

Seeing how there is always a lot of interest in my masks, I hope I have made the right choice by writing this tutorial instead of placing them up for sale, showing a little piece like this is actually not too difficult to make, and can easily be given a lot of personalization.

For questions and comments, visit <http://www.opusrelinque.net/2011/12/06/laced-bio-mask/>.

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