

11 Sewing Patterns

for Women's Dresses
& Other Pretty Projects



ALLFREESEWING



11 Sewing Patterns for Women's Dresses & Other Pretty Projects

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Letter from the Editors

Hi Sewists,

While we recognize that anyone (male or female) can be a sewist, every now and then we like to focus on lovely patterns made specifically for women. Why? There's something about a special handmade dress that we know our readers adore. And we can't blame you! With the help of some of our talented designer friends, we've put together a collection of dresses and other lovely projects we know you'll enjoy making. From outfits perfect for spring parties, to home décor inspired by the things you've seen in stores, explore this free eBook full of fresh ideas.

Happy Sewing!

You can find additional wardrobe projects, home décor ideas and more at www.AllFreeSewing.com.

Our eBooks, like all our sewing projects, are absolutely FREE to members of our sewing community. Please feel free to share with family and friends and ask them to sign up at our website for our [free e-mail newsletter](#).

Happy Sewing,

The Editors of AllFreeSewing

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Mama's Got a New Dress

By: Alexis Meschi for Made by Lex

Take an old T-shirt and a mere yard of fabric and turn it into a trendy new dress. It's one cohesive outfit that looks like two pieces. Show up to your next party in this little number and you'll not only look great, you'll be comfortable too!



Materials:

- Old T-Shirt and coordinating fabric
- Old men's shirt or fabric to match

1) I started with an old T-shirt and a yard of coordinating fabric. Originally I was going to use an old men's shirt for the skirt part, but this fabric matched too well to not use it.



2) Find your natural waist line and cut the shirt at that point. Save the scraps!



3) Then I cut out a few more scraps. I cut out a piece from my skirt fabric and a piece of coordinating cream chiffon.



4) Fold them in half and ruffle them.



5) I knew that adding a lot of detail to this T-shirt would weight it down a lot. So, I added a piece of lightweight interfacing to the inside of the shirt.



6) Now add your first layer of the ruffle bib. Start with the outer layer. You may want to lay them all out beforehand so you can mark where they will need to be sewn. Pin the first layer in place then stitch.



7) Add the second. Pin, then sew.



8) Repeat with the third.



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9) I wanted the front to look completed so I added a button strip. I just cut this off another shirt. But you could create one by adding piece of fabric then sewing on some old buttons.



10) I ironed the edges in then pinned it in the center.



11) After that, fold it over the top of the shirt and pin down. Then stitch it in place.



12) Determine the length you want your skirt to be. Before attaching it to the top I like to hem it. I did a wide hem.



13) Here's another little extra step I did. I really wanted to bring the color of the dark top down to the bottom so it would look really put together and well thought out. So, on the underside of the skirt I added a little dark grey hem tape just peeping out. It really made this dress look more complete.



14) Very slightly ruffle the top of your skirt. Then stitch the ends together to create your skirt piece.



15) Now it's time to attach it to the top. Let me explain what I'm going to do here first so these next steps make more sense. I wanted to create a drawstring waistline so you could adjust it for your own waist without adding a zipper. In order to do that you need to leave an overhand as shown on the inside of the skirt. Pin and sew the skirt to the top.



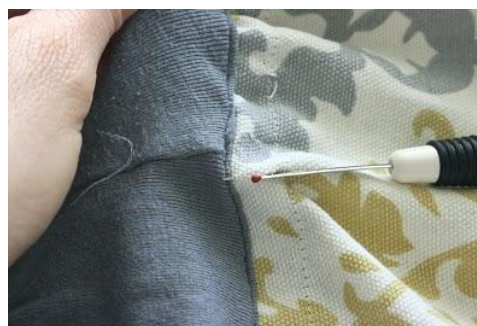
16) Now fold that flap over and pin it to the inside of the skirt. Stitch it closed.



17) Once you turn it right side out, this is what it will look like. You now have a little pocket to pull a drawstring through.



18) On the side seam, create two small holes for your drawstring. I just used my seam ripper.



19) Grab whatever you want to use for your drawstring and pull it all the way through.



20) And now you're done!



The "Lemonade" Dress

By: Disney Powless for Ruffles and Stuff

The Lemonade Dress is a free sewing pattern that joins together a T-shirt and a gathered skirt to make a brand new dress. It screams spring or summer and can be worn with or without a sash.



Materials:

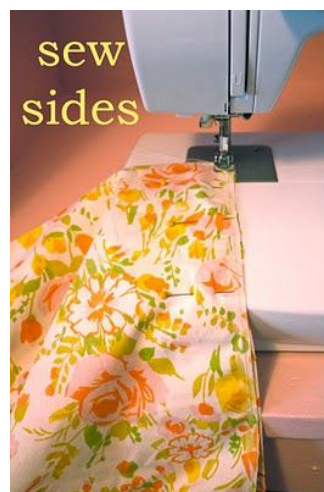
- 1 fitted T-shirt or tank top
- Fabric (Vintage sheets work well for this project)



1) Start with a shirt or tank that fits you well (it won't work as well with a baggy shirt) and some fabric. I like using vintage sheets for mine because then it's already hemmed! You'll need enough fabric for 1.5 x your hip measurement, cut to about 20" in length.



2) Sew the two 20" sides of fabric together, with right sides facing each other.



3) Sew a straight stitch on the longest length, all the way around the top of your skirt piece and pull one of the threads to gather until it's the same size as your shirt hem.



4) Pin and sew to the inside of the bottom of your shirt, using a zig-zag stitch. Try to match up your stitches with the shirt's existing hem and avoid letting your shirt fabric stretch.



5) If you'd like to make a sash (useful for cuteness, and hiding any rumpled seams for the beginner sewer!) cut an 8" length of fabric that is your hip measurement + 50 inches. You will probably have to piece two together to get the length, which is fine!



6) With right sides together, fold the sash in half length-wise and sew three of the four sides, leaving one end open.



7) Turn the sash right-side-out, fold the edges of the open end under, and stitch closed.



8) Wrap it around yourself, and tie in a bow!



10) It's plenty cute without the sash, too!



11) Or with a bow!



Strapless Maxi Dress

By: Sharon for Sharon Sews

Here's the perfect project for a beginner sewist. Beat the summer heat in this trendy and stylish Strapless Maxi Dress. Learn how to sew a dress with this helpful tutorial and your summer wardrobe will be full of fun maxi dresses!



Materials:

- Lightweight woven fabric 45" wide - enough yardage to cut two dress lengths. You'll determine the dress length in the next step.
- Choose a lightweight fabric as the width of the dress is about 64" when sewn. If you want less ease just cut your rectangles narrower.
- Thread
- 1/2" elastic
- Bias tape
- Tape measure
- Chalk or other marking pen
- Sewing machine
- Fabric scissors

Determine the length of the dress

- Measure from your underarm to the floor (or where you want your dress to end).
- Add 3 inches to this measurement for upper casing and hem. This will be the length you cut each rectangle. I cut my dress 50" long.

Cut the fabric

- Lay your fabric on a large flat surface. I used my cutting table, but the floor works just as well.



- Cut two rectangles 33" wide by the length you determined in the step above.
- If you want a closer fitting dress this is where you'll want to cut a narrower rectangle.
- If you want a looser fit, cut the rectangle wider.

Sew the side seams

- With right sides together pin the two large rectangles together along the long edges, which are the side seams.

- Using a 1/2" seam allowance, stitch the side seams.
- If desired, finish the seams with a serger, a zig zag stitch, or pinking shears. Some seam finish examples can be viewed [here](#).
- Press the seams open.

Optional walking slits: If you want a walking slit, stop sewing the side seam about 18" from the lower edge on one or both sides. If you do that be sure to turn under and hem those raw edges!

Create the casings

- Turn under 1/4" on the top edge of the dress. Press.



- Turn under another 3/4" on the top edge. Press.
- This is the upper casing of the dress.



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- Stitch close to pressed edge forming the casing.



- Leave a 1" opening to insert the elastic.



- Turn the dress so the wrong side of the fabric is facing out.
- From the top edge of the dress, measure down 9" and mark with chalk or pen.



- Continue measuring and marking 9" down from the top edge of the dress until you've drawn a solid line around the entire dress. This is the line for the waist casing.
- Starting at one side seam, place one edge of the seam binding along the line you just drew.
- Pin in place.
- Stitch close to both edges of the seam binding. Be sure to leave a 1" opening at one side seam to insert elastic.

Insert the upper casing elastic

- Cut a piece of 1/2" elastic that fits snugly around your chest (above your bust). Place a safety pin on one end of the elastic and thread it through the upper casing.



- Don't forget to pin the other end of the elastic to the garment or you'll lose the elastic in the casing when you begin to pull to thread the elastic through.
- Once the elastic is all the way through, secure the elastic to the dress by pinning both ends to the dress seam.
- Try the dress on to make sure the elastic is tight enough to hold the dress up. Adjust if necessary.

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- Remove the pins, overlap the two edges of elastic, stitch together securely (you don't want that elastic to come undone while you're wearing the dress now do you?) and tuck into the casing.
- Sew the casing opening closed.

Insert the waistline casing elastic

- Cut a piece of 1/2" elastic that fits comfortably around your waist.
- Place a safety pin on one end of the elastic and thread it through the waist casing you just created with the seam binding.
- Once again, don't forget to pin the other end of the elastic to the garment.
- Overlap the two edges of elastic, stitch together securely and tuck into the casing.

Hem the dress

- The hem of the dress is created the same way as the upper casing.
- Turn under 1/4" on the bottom edge of the dress. Press.
- Turn under another 3/4" on the top edge. Press.
- Stitch close to the pressed edge.

Done!

Add a belt, some great costume jewelry and go enjoy the compliments you'll get while wearing your new dress.

Strapless Ruffled Maxi Dress

By: Sharon for Sharon Sews

You've seen this trendy dress in the magazines and on all the celebrities. Impress your friends by creating the look for yourself! Use this free pattern to make the Strapless Ruffled Maxi Dress. Style it with fun jewelry for a fashion-forward outfit.



Supplies:

- Gauze or other lightweight fabric
- 1/4" elastic
- Single fold bias tape
- Thread

The finished length of the dress is approximately 51" measured along the side seam. Lengthen or shorten as needed.

Make your dress pattern

Measurement A

Measure your bust around the fullest part.

Add 12" (this is the ease) and divide by two.

Example: Full bust = 36" + 12" = 48" / 2 = 24"

Measurement B

Measure your hip around the fullest part.

Add 12" (this is the ease) and divide by two.

Example: Full hip = 38" + 12" = 50" / 2 = 25"

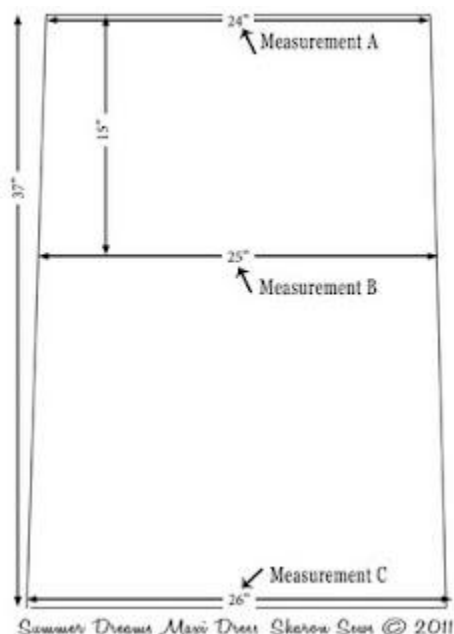
Measurement C

Add 1" to measurement B

Example: Measurement B = 25" + 1" = 26"

- On a large sheet of paper draw a vertical line 37" long down the center of your paper.
- Measure 15" down from the top of the vertical line and make a mark.
- Starting at the top of the line draw a horizontal line equal to measurement A centered on the vertical line.
- Starting at the 15" mark draw a horizontal line equal to measurement B centered on the vertical line.
- Starting at the bottom of the line draw a horizontal line equal to measurement C centered on the vertical line.
- Connect the top line to the bottom line along both sides.

- This is the front and back of the maxi dress.
- If you're full busted, on the front piece measure 1" to the top of the vertical line. Make a mark. Use a French curve to draw a gently curved line from the each side seam to the mark at the center front.



Cut the dress

- Cut 1 dress front
- Cut 1 dress back

Calculate and cut the upper ruffle length

Multiply *measurement A* by 1.5. This is the ruffle length *Measurement D*.

The ruffle width is 10"

Cut 1 front bodice ruffle *measurement D* x 10"

Cut 1 back bodice ruffle *measurement D* x 10

Example: *Measurement A* = 24" x 1.5 = 36" so

the ruffles to be cut are 36" x 10"

Cut 1 front bodice ruffle *measurement D* x 10"

Cut 1 back bodice ruffle *measurement D* x 10

Example: *Measurement A* = 24" x 1.5 = 36" so
the ruffles to be cut are 36" x 10"

Calculate and cut the lower ruffle length

Multiply *measurement C* by 3. This is the ruffle length *Measurement E*.

The ruffle width is 17"

Cut enough lower ruffle pieces to equal
measurement E x 17"

You'll need to piece the ruffle to get the desired
length

Example: *Measurement C* = 26" x 3 = 78"

You now have the upper ruffle, the dress, and
the lower ruffle.



Sew the dress

- Pin the front and back dress right sides together.
- Stitch side seams.



- From the top of the dress measure down 10" on the wrong side and make a mark.



- Draw a line around the entire dress.
- Be sure to use a removable fabric pen or chalk.
- This is the line for the waistline casing. Eliminate this step if you do not want an elasticized waist.



- Pin the single-fold bias tape on the inside of the dress aligning the bottom

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edge of tape on the marked line.



- Stitch in place close to each edge of the bias tape.



- Pin the front and back upper bodice ruffles right sides together.
- Stitch side seams.
- Turn bottom edge 1/4" to the wrong side; press. Turn under 1/4" again to the wrong side; press. Stitch in place.
- Gather the upper edge of the ruffle. To gather use a long stitch length and stitch along the upper edge 1/2" from the edge leaving thread tails at each end. Stitch a second row of stitches 1/4" away from the edge.
- With right sides up (wrong side of ruffle to right side of bodice), pin ruffle to upper edge of bodice matching side seams.
- Adjust gathers to fit.



- Stitch ruffle in place.



- Finish raw edge of seam with bias binding.



- To create the casing turn under 3/4" on the upper edge of the bodice; press.
- Stitch casing to the bodice 1/2" from the top fold being sure to keep the ruffle free. Leave a 1" opening to insert the elastic.



- Cut a piece of 1/4" elastic a comfortable upper chest measurement plus 1/2".
- Attach a safety pin to one end of the elastic and insert in the casing.



- Pull elastic through the casing. Lap the elastic ends by 1/2" and stitch together securely.



- Pin the lower ruffles right sides together. Stitch seams.

- Turn bottom edge 1/4" to the wrong side; press. Turn under 1/4" again to the wrong side; press. Stitch in place.
- Gather the upper edge of the ruffle.
- Pin ruffle to lower edge of dress right sides together matching side seams.
- Adjust gathers to fit. Stitch.
- Cut a piece of elastic a comfortable waist measurement plus 1/2".
- Attach a safety pin to one end of the elastic and insert in the casing.
- Pull elastic through the casing. Lap the elastic ends by 1/2" and stitch together securely.

Done!



30 Minute 4 Seam Caftan

By: Robie Kay Dodson for So Sew Something

Want to make a unique, flowing maxi dress? Within a half hour you can create this 30 Minute 4 Seam Caftan. Whether you're a mom on the go or getting ready for a night out, this free dress pattern delivers a dress that's great for several occasions.



Materials:

- 3 ¼ yards of fabric
- 4 seams, 4 buttonholes, one long tube to use as a sash



1) Start with your fabric. I used 100% light

weight polyester. Next time, however, I think I'll switch to a breathable fabric - 100% cotton for sure.

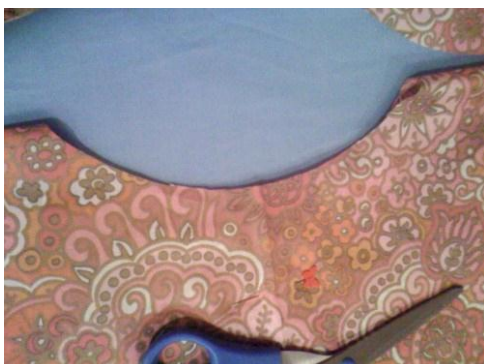


2) First, if your fabric has a factory fold that run along the length of the fabric, open it up so that you are facing the entire width of the fabric. Then, fold the fabric in half, right sides together, keeping the fold at the top. This means you'll have two equal halves measuring about 1 5/8 yards with the fold at the top.

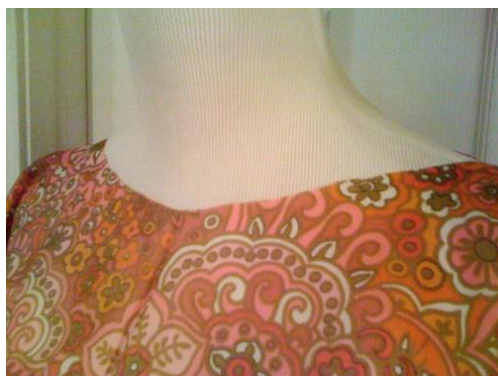


3) To create your sleeves and side seams, measure down along the selvages on each side about 12". Place a pin. Sew all the way down from the pin to the end of the fabric.

(Be sure to reverse stitch at the beginning since this opening is your sleeve.)



4) Now that you've created your side seams and your sleeves, you need to create your neckline. I pinned my fabric right to my ironing board, and then I started guessing how big the opening should be. Start small on this guess - you can always go bigger but you can't go smaller! After trying to pull it over my head the first time, I had to go back and make it a bit bigger.



5) Next, you'll need to add bias binding along your neckline. If you have enough fabric, create bias tape from the dress fabric. Otherwise, use store bought or coordinating bias tape.

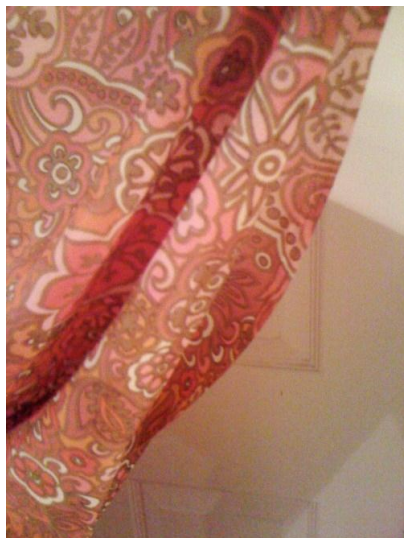


6) Now you need to add 4 buttonholes at the waist - front and back right side, front and back left side. To decide where, I held the dress up to me and went to a mirror. I located my waist and put a pin at the very right side and the very left side. Then, back at the ironing board (where I do all my pinning), I used those pins to also mark the identical spots on the back left and back right. (These button holes are used to hold your belt in place. See photo below) Also, when opening up your buttonhole with a seam ripper, please be sure it's not too dull. Or else you'll end up with puckered buttonholes, like I did!



7) Finally, hem the bottom and create a quick tube for the sash. Thread the sash to the front

from the back buttonholes. You've got yourself a fabulous caftan, maxi dress, billowy dress!



If you're wondering about hemming the sleeves, you use the selvege so there's no need!
This truly is a 4 seam, 4 buttonhole, 1 sash piece
- easy peasy!

The Jersey Skirt

By: Disney of Ruffles & Stuff

You'll have a hard time finding anything more comfortable than The Jersey Skirt. It's also one of the easiest skirts to make! This simple sewing project makes a great skirt for any season.



Materials:

- Jersey Yardage for an adult skirt
- T-shirt for a child's skirt
- Thread
- Sewing Machine

For a child's skirt, you can probably use a T-shirt that you have lying around, but for an adult skirt you'll need to get your hands on some jersey yardage.

Before you start: Fabrics usually have more stretch on one side than the other, so be sure that you cut your fabric with the stretchy side goes around you!

1) Measure around your hips (or wherever you wear your skirts). Then cut a waistband that is

3/4 your measurement, and twice as tall as you want your waistband to be. I think mine was 26"x11". (You can also just stretch the fabric around you until it's fairly tight, but not uncomfortable, and use that as your measurement).

2) Cut a skirt piece that is about twice the measurement of your waistband, and however long you want it to be. Mine is 25" long.

3) Using your machine's longest strait stitch, sew all the way down the top side of the skirt panel. Then pull the top thread to gather, until it's the same length as your waistband.



4) Fold the waistband in half width-wise, and lay the skirt panel on top of the open edges. Try to line it up so that the skirt panel hangs over the waistband edges a little bit.

5) Sew the skirt panel onto the waistband, using a zig-zag stitch.



8) Sew the open ends of your skirt together with right sides facing each other, and you're done!

6) Cut out two pocket pieces. Mine were 11" on the top, 6" on the bottom, and 7.5" on the sides. Make sure it's big enough to fit your hands in once sewn!



7) Hold your skirt up to yourself and mark where you want your pockets to be. Pin your pocket onto your skirt and sew on the side with the gathered top showing. For a slouchy pocket, you want your pocket to have extra fabric in the middle, so pin it about 6" apart on top, with about a 4" pleated bottom. (see second photo)



The Craf Tee Tote

By: Megan of Brassy Apple

Here's a DIY refashion project that truly calls for a creative mind. Dress up your bag as uniquely as you want because The Craf Tee Tote is meant to be one of a kind! Learn how to make a tote bag and give this fun project a try.



Materials:

- 1 T-shirt for the handbag (used yellow youth tee size 10-12)
- 1 Embroidery hoop set (2 rings) mine where about 9" – handles
- Ribbon (5 1/4 yards)
- Glue gun
- Scissors
- Sewing machine
- 2 large grommets
- Hammer
- Embellishments - buttons, zippers, fabric, T-shirt scraps, etc.

Step 1: Turn the T-shirt you are using for the main handbag inside out and lay flat. Fold in half lengthwise. Round the bottom by cutting

only the bottom hemline about about 5 inches up the side.



Cut a diagonal line a few inches under the arm to the middle of the T-shirt. Open and lay flat.



My shirt ending up measuring about 17.5 inches from top point to bottom. Turn right side out.



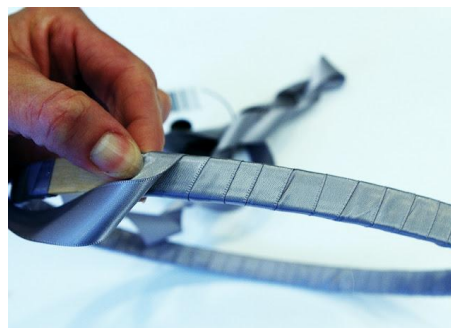
Step 2: Embellish! Cut out shapes from fabric lay out in a design you like, pin and sew. Add ruffles, rosettes, buttons, sequins, etc.



Step 3: Once it is embellished turn right side out. Pin the bottom edge rounded edge together and sew closed with your sewing machine.

Step 4: Handles - Wrap each embroidery hoop with wide ribbon. Use hot glue to secure the end and wrap tightly overlapping the ribbon. Every few inches add another drop of hot glue

to keep the ribbon in place and from unraveling.



Step 5: Attaching the handles - Lay out the purse and fold back the top. Place the handle so there is about 3 1/2 - 4" from the handle to the top point.



Add a small running bead of hot glue to the handle and fold the fabric over it. This will help the fabric from bunching up too tightly and keep it spread out wide. Repeat on the opposite side with the other handle.



Step 6: Finishing - Keep the folded triangle piece around the handle in place (and for some extra design interest) by adding a large grommet to the center under each handle.



And you are done! My total cost was \$3.75!



Chevron Swing Top

By: Megan for Brassy Apple

You're sure to get compliments with this one! The Chevron Swing Top is easy to make and incorporates one of the latest trends. If you've been meaning to give chevron a try, use this free sewing pattern and get ready to impress.



Materials:

- 1 yard of knit/poly fabric
- Scissors
- Measuring tape
- Straight pins
- Seam ripper (optional)
- Sewing machine
- Coordinating thread
- Chevron stencil/template pattern to trace (my chevron was 2 - 2.5" wide)

Step 1: Lay your fabric flat and cut a 27x27" inch square on the fold. Cut down the fold to create two 27x27" squares.

Step 2: Cut a strip 2" x 58" long. This will be threaded through the neckline. Place right sides together lengthwise. Sew along the top creating a tube. Turn right side out and tie a simple knot in each end.



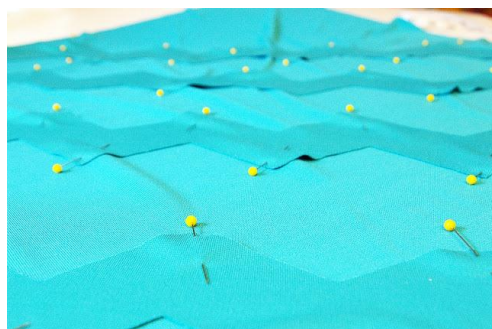
Step 3: Add interest to the front by adding a pattern and texture. Using a chevron template as a pattern, cut a couple of long strips using the same knit fabric OR cut strips from an accent color fabric.



Step 4: Measure out a 15x15" triangle. This will be folded over the back so do not place anything in this space.



Place and pin 1 chevron strip onto 1 of the 27x27" squares in a design that you like. Be sure to "tilt" the square or turn it to a diamond shape while placing and pinning the strips. Add the chevron strips just at the top, over the entire top, just around the edges, etc.



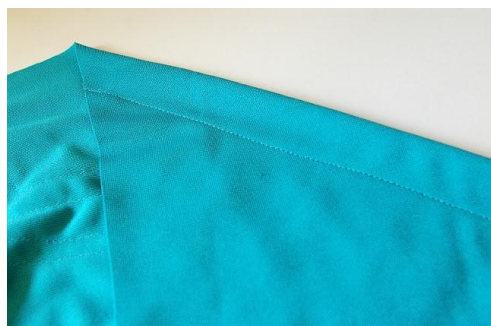
Step 5: Sew 4 lines on each Chevron strip. 1 along the top, 1 along the bottom and 2 in the middle (trying to keep equal spacing between the lines). Repeat on all the strips.



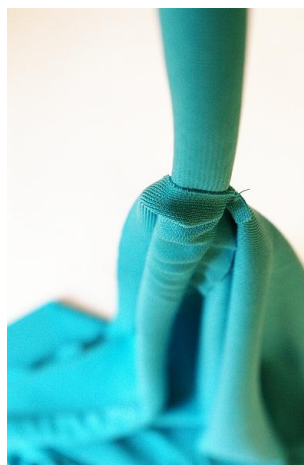
Step 6: Using a seam ripper or your sewing scissors, carefully clip in between the top 2 lines and the bottom 2 lines. ONLY cut through the top layer of each strip. This will create fun lines and texture on the top.



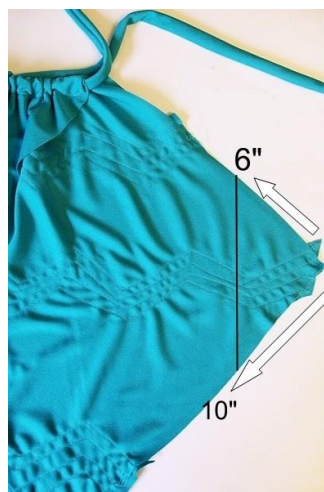
Step 7: Turn the main piece over and fold down the top corner creating a Triangle with sides that measure 15". Sew a 1" casing along the top. Repeat on the back square piece as well. Clip away the excess fabric.



Step 8: Take the finished strip from step 2 and thread it through the casing of both the front and back pieces.



Step 9: Lay the front and back piece flat with right sides together. Measure in from the corner on each side to sew the 2 pieces together. (I have a smaller frame so I measured in about 6" on the top and 10" on the bottom. Then drew a connecting line between those points and that is where I sewed the 2 pieces together) Trim the excess fabric.



Step 10: Turn right side out and slip on. Adjust the gathers to be the width you like and tie over 1 shoulder. Light and breezy summer top with texture that can still be layered upon if spring hasn't quite hit in your area yet like it hasn't in mine.



DIY Anthropologie Inspired Bolster Pillow

By: Jessica for Sew Homegrown

Looking for a way to make a trendy pillow without breaking the bank? The DIY Anthropologie Inspired Bolster Pillow is a great alternative. Make this cute pillow with fabric that fits your color scheme. It's a great way to get the look for less!



Materials:

- 2 bags of Polyfil or a 23x9 bolster pillow form (you would probably have to order it)
- A yard of colorful fabric (fabric A)
- 3/4 yard of contrasting fabric (fabric B)
- 3/4 of solid fabric for cording (fabric C) - you could possibly use fabric A remnants
- 2 1/2 yards of cable cord (don't be afraid of this, they sell it everywhere. It costs around .29 a yard)
- Perle Cotton Embroidery Floss
- Sewing Machine/thread
- Scissors
- Water Soluble pen
- Pins

Step 1: Once you have assembled your materials, you need to cut four pieces.

*one rectangle 29"x20" of fabric A

*one rectangle 29" x 4 1/4" out of fabric B



*two 10" circles out of fabric A

(you can draw your own or [print out my pattern here](#))

It's nice if you make the fabric pattern match.



Step 2: Lay the 4 1/2" strip on top of the rectangle, edge to edge, right sides together.



Pin together and sew using a 1/4" seam.

Open and press flat.



Step 3: Time to add the detail. The Anthro bolsters have pick-stitching detail.

I decided to mimic that look with a simple large quilting stitch.



Draw lines across the fabric, 2-3 inches apart (mine are 3"), using the water soluble pen.



I alternated embroidery floss colors every two rows

(the Anthro ones alternate every three).



You can skip this stitching detail step but that's what makes things special - detail.

Step 4: Cording Tutorial:



Lay your fabric out like this - selvage is on the right side of the photo:



Fold the bottom right corner of the selvage edge up to the top left corner of the cut edge:



I usually split that fold with my scissors:



Then measure along that diagonal edge you just split 1 1/2".



Cut both layers, resulting in two bias strips 1 1/2" x 31".



Now, fold one strip in half and place the cording in the crease.



pretty right?

You will probably need to put the zipper foot on. It looks like this:



Topstitch along the fabric right next to the cording.



Finished cording looks like this:

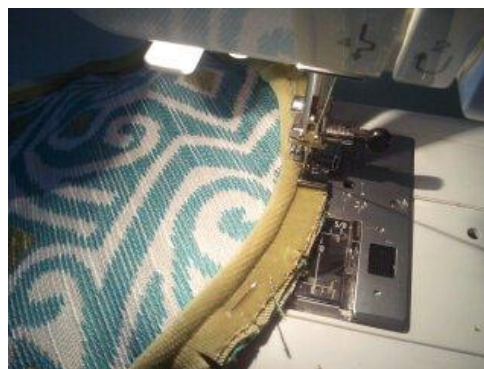
Step 5: Once you have finished both pieces of cording, snip 1/4" into the lip - this will make it fit around the circle gracefully.



Pin the cording lip to the right side of the circle. Match the raw edges of the circle and the cording.



When you make it all the way around the circle, this is how you join the two ends of cording. Open one end (you may need to rip the seam just a little) and fold the raw edge back.



Pretty circle, right?

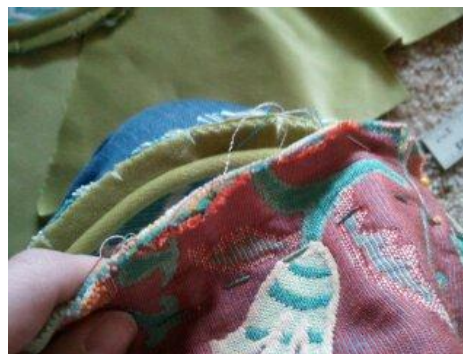
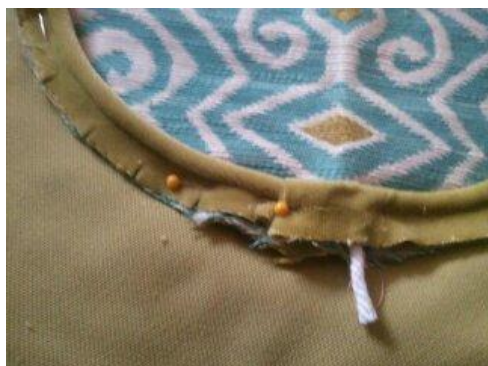
Pull that cording out of the way, and lay the other end of cording in its place.



Step 6: Right sides together, pin the 29" edge of the rectangle around the circle.

You will need to clip the edge of the rectangle just like you clipped the cording lip.

Close the fabric over the cord.



Topstitch it on like this:

Women's Dresses & Other Pretty Projects

Sew in place (still feeling for the cording - you don't want to sew over it).



{You basically sew right next to the cording three times - once while making the cording, once around the circle, and once around the rectangle.}

Repeat with the other side or the rectangle.



Flip it right side out to make certain it looks pretty.

Then flip it inside out and sew along the 24" side of the pillow - leave about a 6" opening for stuffing (if you are using a pillow form, you will need to leave a larger opening).

Step 7: Flip the pillow right side out and stuff well with polyfil. Pin the closing.



Step 8: Whipstitch or blind stitch the opening closed.



Now stare in AMAZEMENT at your success!

How to Make a Quick Cuff Bracelet

By: Robie for So Sew Something

Here's another great project for any beginner sewist. Follow this tutorial for how to make a quick cuff bracelet and you'll and you always have a cool accessory to throw on with any ensemble. Learning how to make jewelry is fun and simple.



Materials:

- "Jelly Roll" or Fabric scraps



I purchased this "jelly roll" on clearance for \$4.99!



I unrolled it to discover this selection of gorgeousness.



I very scientifically haphazardly wrapped my favorite strip around my wrist to determine where to trim off the excess. Cut two identical strips.



I chose my second favorite fabric to serve as the coordinating ruffle that I attached to the top and bottom of the cuff. I folded it in half, pressed, and trimmed off about 1/2"



Apply fusible interfacing to the second strip of the main fabric. Then, sew both main fabric strips together, right sides facing.



Sew the ruffle fabric onto the two sides, making your ruffles/pleats as you go. Of course you could opt to make your pleats/ruffles ahead of time, but yeah right! It's much faster just to wing it.



Turn right side out and press. Next, finish your two edges however you like. (I thought I was going to just serge my edges, but then I decided I wanted a more pristine finish. So, I had to pull back the seams a little at each end, turn down the orange and then fold in the blue on top. Hard to explain, but you'll see what I mean if you do it that way!)



Here is what I ended up with and I like it even more than I thought I would!



To fasten the two edges, I simply attached a snap.

Bachelorette Party Dress

By: Suzannah for Adventures in Dressmaking

There's nothing more fun than a night out with your girlfriends. For a bachelorette party (or really any fun occasion) the Bachelorette Party Dress makes for the perfect outfit. For instructions on how to sew a dress for a special night, follow this tutorial.



Materials:

- Ruffle Fabric
- Bodice Fabrics
- Strapless Dress Pattern
- Lace



1) I cut out the bodice of the under layer (pale pink twill), then cut out the lace with the same shape but with some extra to stick up off the top. With the seam allowances, I only needed an extra half inch at the most of the lace.

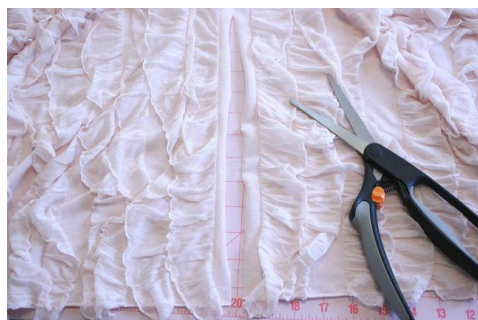


2) I had to overlap the bodice pieces 1" to allow for the 1/2" vertical seam allowance, so the lace would be the right size.



3) This dress zips up the back--if you change where yours zips, take note at that part of the tutorial.

4) Once the bodice was cut out, I tackled the skirt. Basically, measure yourself and decide what your skirt length should be. I wanted the skirt to come down to just above my knees. Cut out one panel (one width of the fabric), cutting halfway between the rows of ruffles.



5) Now, to make half of a second panel to drape with (the skirt will end up being 1.5 panels around), cut another piece the same length to about the middle of the fabric.

6) Now, cutting down the center of your folded fabric, along where the fold would be, cut vertically straight down to your cut edge.



7) Back to the full panel, you'll cut off one corner so you can round off what becomes the top edge, which will be gathered.



8) To round it off even more I cut off this tiny piece!



9) Sew your side seams like you would on any skirt. Sew two of your side seams, leaving the half piece open on whichever side you want to cross over it. The half-width panel will hang flat in the front, and one side of the full-width panel will cross over it.



10) Now gather your curved edge of the wide panel.



11) Now you have a long curved, gathered piece. Mark the sides so you know where they are.



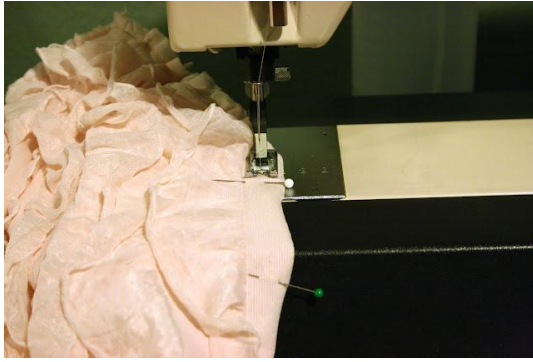
12) Arrange the gathers mostly concentrated at the point where the long edge touches the waist seam. Pin lots!



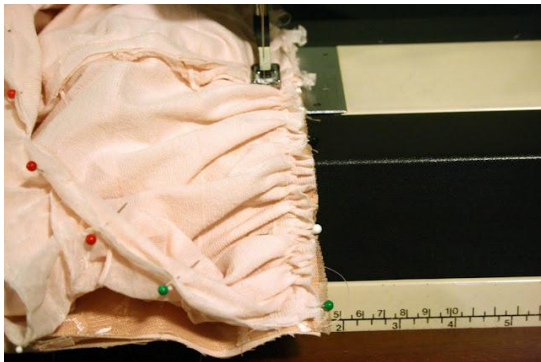
13) Now create a center back placket for your zipper. An invisible zipper is best with this fabric, I think!



14) Now, with all those pins still in place, gather all the way around the skirt, starting at the center back.



15) Now you can attach your skirt to your bodice! Watch where the center front swoopy part sits.



16) Flip and give it a little pressing so it stays flat at the waist, not too bulky.

17) I chose to gather the bottom few inches of the underskirt (the narrow piece) so it didn't risk hanging down below the swooped up overlap. I just did a gathering stitch with strong thread and tied off the ends.



And here it is!



11 Sewing Patterns for Women's Dresses & Other Pretty Projects



Included in this eBook:

- Women's Dresses
- Home Décor Ideas
- Jewelry and Bag Patterns



A special thanks to our contributors:

Jessica of [Sew Homegrown](#)

Lex of [Made by Lex](#)

Robie of [Sew Sew Something](#)

Suzannah of [Adventures in Dressmaking](#)

Sharon of [Sharon Sews](#)

Megan of [Brassy Apple](#)

Disney of [Ruffles & Stuff](#)

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