

21 Easy

Sewing Projects

DIY Designs & Sewing Craft Ideas



fave crafts   

21 Easy Sewing Projects: DIY Designs and Sewing Craft Ideas

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Letter from the Editors

Greetings Sewers and Crafters,

Everyone has to start somewhere. If you're completely new to the world of sewing, have no fear! There are plenty of fantastic beginner sewing patterns for you to enjoy. Try something new and get a little creative – you can't go wrong when it comes to crafting.

In this eBook, you'll find patterns for clothes, bags and so much more. Try a few different projects and discover your new favorite tutorial. There are seasonal projects as well as crafts you can make all year long, so you won't ever be bored with this handy guide! Now get to work – there are just "sew" many crafts to make!

You can find more sewing patterns, free knitting patterns, craft projects and extensive decorating ideas at FaveCrafts.com.

Our eBooks, like all our craft projects, are absolutely FREE to members of our crafting 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 Crafting,

The Editors of FaveCrafts

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Learn to Sew Clothes

Girls Tiered Skirt

By: Kelly Savery from Mini Me Clothing

This is a must-have for every little girl. This free easy sewing pattern uses beautiful fabrics and basic techniques to create a fantastic tiered skirt that your little girl will love.



Materials:

- Fabric
 - Yardage varies: the least you would need is ½ yard. More for longer skirt.
- Scissors

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- Elastic
- Surger
- Thread
- Ruler
- Rotary cutter

Instructions:

1. Choose 2-4 different kinds of coordinating fabric.
2. Cut them in strips from selvage to selvage of various widths, depending how long I want the skirt to be, usually for little sizes like 3-4 I use 3 strips about 4" wide.
3. Take two of the strips and lay them good side to good side and pin them down the middle. Surge them together and repeat this process with the other strips until they are all sewn to each other.
4. Between steps, iron fabric strips as you sew them together.
5. Take the selvage ends good to good and sew them together. By now it is starting to resemble a skirt.
6. Trim both ends with a rotary cutter to be sure they are even.
7. After deciding which fabric you want to be the top of the skirt, fold over and iron about 1" twice so no raw edges are showing and do the same with the bottom.
8. Sew (with a traditional machine, do not surge) around the top leaving an opening for the elastic, and do the same to the bottom with no opening.
9. Choose the width of your elastic, I like to use $\frac{1}{2}$ ", the length will be determined by the size of skirt you want to make, for instance for size 3-4 I use 18" and then increase a $\frac{1}{2}$ " for each size above that, now put it through the top and sew the ends of the elastic together and close the opening in the waist band.
10. Turn right side out and your skirt is done!

Reversible Scrap Fabric Apron

By: Jennifer Juniper from [Hope Studios](#)

Create an adorable half-apron with scraps of fabric from around the house. Reverse the apron when you are bored of the design or find yourself with a stain. This Reversible Scrap Fabric Apron is a great gift for an aspiring chef - give one for a birthday or during the holiday season. The stylish, old-school look makes this design a true original.



Materials:

- Fabric Scraps
- Various Trims
- Sewing machine
- Iron

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- Needle and Thread
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Cut your fabric into strips and squares of various widths and press. Don't stress, you can't mess this up. Just make sure your scraps have straight edges.



2. Sew right sides together, to form a patchwork from all your strips and squares. The dimensions should be 27 inches x 21 inches for your panel. You can measure and cut to size after you piece your scraps together.



3. Press everything flat.

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4. Here are my **TWO** 27" X 21" panels, remember, it's reversible! I got impatient with my reverse side and used larger pieces of fabric.



5. Measure 14 inches from the top of the fabric panels, fold, and then press. Now bring the pressed fold up until it is 3 inches from the top of the apron panel, forming a deep pocket. You will do this with both panels. Pin to hold.



6. See? Now press. Do this with both panels.

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7. Now, place the two panels right sides together and pin.



8. Mark three inches down from the top on both sides. This will remain unsewn to allow you to turn the apron right side out and also give you a spot to attach your apron ties.



9. Sew the two panels together, careful not to sew shut the 3 inch spaces you marked!



10. Pull the panels right side out through one of the openings you left unsewn, then press. You will now have one long pocket on the right sides. You can then sew down the center

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of the pocket to form two pockets, or three, or as many as you wish!



11. Let's make the apron ties. Cut a length of fabric 6-½" X 20". Fold the fabric in half length-wise and sew, leaving one end open. Now make another for the other side.
12. Pull the tube right side out through the open end and press.



13. Slide the open end into the unsewn spaces in the apron. Pin and sew, topstitching the ties in place.



14. Here is one side of the apron. Let's embellish it with the trims. I have a friend that calls me "the queen of random", I do random well. Mix it up with unexpected combos of fabric and trim. Don't be too matchy-matchy.

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15. Hand-stitch your trims...



Easy Appliqué Flowers

By: Jenya from MyEvaForeva

Even if you don't own a sewing machine, you can easily add interesting appliqué flowers to any garment. This tutorial shows you how to dress up clothing in a simple and inexpensive way with scrap fabric pieces.



Materials:

- Scrap fabric
- Pins
- Sewing machine or needle and thread

Instructions:

1. Sculpt a flowery form with your hands.

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2. You can pin it first (I am way too impatient) and sew it in. I used my sewing machine but you can just do it by hand.



3. Make sure to secure it nicely.



4. Move on to the next one.



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5. Make as many as you'd like.



6. Cut all remaining threads and you are all done!



Reborn Convertible Blouson Tunic

By: Carly J. Cais from [Chic Steals](#)

Take a few frumpy and boxy men's sweatshirts and turn them into a cute one-size-fits-all convertible tunic. This tutorial shows you how to turn 3 XL sweatshirts, elastic and buttons into an adorable tunic with basic sewing tools.



Materials:

- 3 men's XL sweatshirts (we will call them Sweatshirts A, B, and C)**
- 10 buttons 3/4" diameter (shanked, not the kind with holes on the face)
- 104" of round cord elastic, any color (will be trimmed to around 54" in Step 8)
- 3/8" wide elastic, any color (see Step 11) for length)
- Sewing Machine
- Sewing machine needle (Med. Weight Knits)
- All-purpose thread matching your sweatshirts

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- Zigzag foot
- Straight stitch foot
- Buttonhole foot (optional)
- Fabric scissors
- Hand sewing needle
- Safety pin/bodkin
- Iron & ironing board (optional)

Instructions:

1. Cut Sweatshirts A, B, and C as above, straight across under the arms. Set aside the neck/sleeve areas (we won't be using them).



Now we will call each piece we just cut Piece A, Piece B, and Piece C.

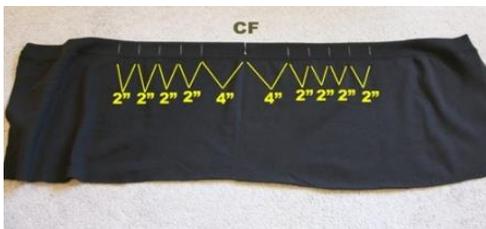
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2. Cut down one side of Piece A and Piece B, and open each piece flat. These will be both the front and the back of your garment. (Piece C we'll deal with later.)

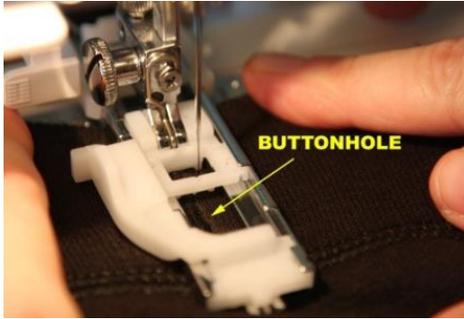


3. (*Optional:* You may want to iron Piece A and Piece B at this point in order to flatten any creases that occurred along their sides - we want the center front of the garment to be as crease-free as possible.) Locate the center of Piece A (Center Front - referred to as CF from here on). At 4" on EITHER side Piece A's CF, mark two vertical buttonholes (large enough to accommodate your buttons), centered vertically in the ribbing area. Mark more buttonholes further outwards, spacing them 2" apart, until you have marked 10 buttonholes (5 on either side of CF). Mark Piece B in exactly the same manner for your buttons.



4. Sew the buttonholes on Piece A using your sewing machine (you will not need stabilizer on the wrong side of the fabric as long as you choose a wide enough setting for stitch width). You can determine the length of your buttonholes by measuring the diameter of your button, adding the height of your shank, and adding 1/8". (*Tip:* Make a practice buttonhole on some scrap fabric - or in the sleeve ribbing of one of the sweatshirts you cut up in Step 1). Test to see if your button will go through the hole and sit properly; if not, adjust accordingly.) Cut buttonholes open. (*Tip:* If you're not sure how to sew a buttonhole, check out [this tutorial](#) here.)

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Hand-sew on your buttons onto Piece B at the marks you made in Step 3). Sew on all 10 buttons, and shank them several times by winding the thread around your stitches.



5. Place Piece A and Piece B right sides together, and sew side seams together with a 3/8" seam allowance. We will call this Piece A/B from here.



6. Make a double knot in the end of your round cord elastic. Place on top of the side seam on the wrong side of Piece A/B, approximately 3/8" from cut edge of the Piece. Using a zigzag stitch on your machine, zigzag over the cord elastic, sewing it all the way around the cut edge of Piece A/B. (Start sewing just below the knot you made in the elastic, and backstitch several times to secure.) **DO NOT SEW THROUGH THE CORD ELASTIC;** the elastic must remain moveable underneath the zigzagging stitches.

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7. When you get all the way around the edge of Piece A/B, backstitch a few times over the cord elastic, and remove from your machine. Trim thread ends.



Pull on the elastic firmly and pull the fabric in the opposite direction - this will create a gathered effect. Keep gathering your fabric by pulling on the cord elastic until cut edge of Piece A/B is the same size as cut edge of Piece C.



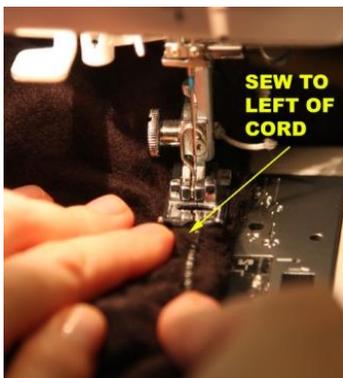
8. Double-knot cord elastic and trim end.



9. Insert Piece C inside Piece A/B, matching cut edges, right sides together. Pin together.



Sew top of C to gathered bottom of A/B, sewing to the left of the line of zigzag stitches so that none will be visible on the right side of the garment.



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10. Determine length of bottom elastic. Button all buttons on your garment, and try it on. Wrap a measuring tape around your body at the point where the bottom ribbing hits on you. Add 1" - this will be your 3/8" wide elastic length, so cut elastic accordingly.
11. Cut a small hole in bottom ribbing of Piece C on the wrong side of the garment. Attach a bodkin or safety pin to the end of the 3/8" wide elastic, and thread it through the ribbing, all the way around. Pull the other end all out the hole- and stitch the ends together overlapping about 1/2". Feed back into the hole you made - and if you're a perfectionist, hand-stitch that hole closed.



Notes:

1. A Men's XL sweatshirt measures approximately 26" from side to side, and 30" long from side of neck to hem.
2. Do not use sweatshirts with front kangaroo pocket - this will have to be removed. Style of neck does not matter (crewneck, v-neck).
3. Medium-weight fleeced sweatshirts are used for this project.
4. Sweatshirts can be printed on the front/back as long as you can salvage a piece of fabric 15" high, measured from hem upwards. Therefore, if there is writing on the chest or sleeves, it won't matter because we won't be using those parts. Or, if the design extends below that 15" high measurement, you will have to incorporate it into the finished project.

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5. Sweatshirts A and B must be exactly the same size, shape, style, and color - or else the front and back of your finished tunic will be different - which could be an interesting harlequin effect, if you will.
6. Sweatshirt A **MUST** have no side seams unless you want a seam running down the center front of your finished tunic.
7. Sweatshirt C may be smaller than XL.
8. You can use women's sweatshirts instead of men's for all 3 sweatshirts as long as you have garments that are approximately the same measurements as the men's below...and the sides of the sweatshirts are not tapered or "fitted" to the body. The sweatshirts need to be boxy in order to create the ruching in the finished garment.
9. This is a "one-size-fits all" loose garment - on Misses' small or petite sizes it will appear oversized (so you may want to use L sweatshirts instead), and on Misses' L sizes it will appear closer to body measurements (there will still be at least several inches of ease). Women's sizes: use XXL or larger - and adjust required elastic lengths accordingly (you may want to add two or more extra buttons and buttonholes for stability at the neck).

Quick and Easy Half Apron

By: Ashley Johnston from [Make It and Love It](http://MakeItandLoveIt.com)

This simple sewing project is great for beginners, but also makes a quick gift for Mother's Day, birthdays and more. For a touch of personalization, try embroidering the monogram of your recipient.



Materials:

- Fabric pieces:
 - 18" X 25" (main piece)
 - 4" X 25" (waistband)
 - 2 pieces – 4" X 35" inches (ties)
 - 6" X 8" inches (pocket)

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- Coordinating thread
- Scissors, sewing machine, etc.

Instructions:

1. Start by making the ties. Sew along the long side, with right sides together. Curve your seam at one end, if you want, to give it a more finished look.



2. Like this. Then trim. Turn them both right side out. Iron flat.



3. Top-stitch really close to the edge, all the way around both ties.

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4. Next, fold over the long edges of your waistband, about 1/4 inch. Iron. Then fold over the ends a 1/4 inch and iron.



5. Then fold the whole waistband in half lengthwise and iron.



6. Next, you're going to sew around 3 edges of the main piece. The 2 sides (shorter sides) and the bottom (one of the longer sides). Turn under each edge a 1/4 inch, and then 1/4 inch again. Sew.

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7. See all 3 sides that are sewn?



8. Next, lay your main piece right side up with the unfinished edge at the top. Align your waistband up at the top.



9. And fold the other half of the waistband over the top. Pin in place and sew close to the bottom edge, leaving the 2 ends open.

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10. Next, you're going to attach the 2 ties to each end. But first, you'll need to fold each unfinished end just a little bit so that it will fit nicely into the opening. If you'd rather not do this, just make your strips 4 x 34 inches (instead of 4 x 35) and they should slide right in without folding. I just like the look of it.



11. Then sew close to the edge to secure the ties in place. Cute, right?



12. Lastly, the pocket. Fold over the top edge (one of the shorter ends) 1/4 inch with wrong sides together. Then flip that sewn edge back and fold over 1 inch with right side together. Sew along the edge, 1/4 seam allowance. Trim the corners.

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13. Then turn that section right side out. This is the top of your pocket. It makes it all nice and neat looking.

14. Now fold the 2 sides in 1/4 inch and then fold the bottom up 1/4 inch. Iron into place.



15. Then pin your pocket onto your apron. (You'll notice my ties aren't sewn on yet. I did it in a different order.)



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16. Now, sew around the sides and bottom of the pocket to secure it to the main section.



Rocking Reverse Applique Shirt

By: Melissa Boclair from [Three Prince Designs](#)

This free applique pattern really rocks the house. Use leftover fabric to create a brand new shirt for your favorite little guy. A long-sleeved striped shirt shows through the guitar shape in the t-shirt on top for a very cool look. Kids will love showing off the design to all of their friends.



Materials:

- Two t-shirts

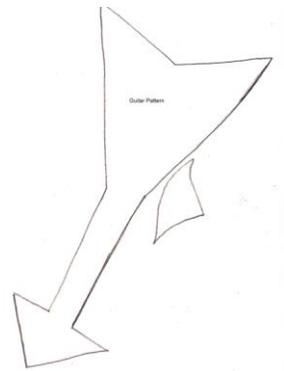
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Instructions:

1. So first find 2 coordinating shirts (preferably one with long sleeve and a pattern on it if possible). Next place the patterned shirt inside the other shirt and line up all seams, shoulder, and neck.



2. Next print off your guitar pattern and cut out the 2 pieces along the solid lines.



3. Next pin the guitar pattern on the shirt in the direction you want. Pin thru the paper and top 2 shirt layers.



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4. Next sew about a 1/8 inch along the outside of the paper template. Only sew thru the top 2 layers of the shirt.



5. After sewing along all the edges- remove the pins and paper. Next carefully cut out only the top shirt fabric inside the guitar pattern you just sewed on. Cut close to the thread- but make sure not to cut thru the thread!!



6. Next sew a zigzag stitch with coordinating thread all around the cut edges. Next take the small piece of pattern you cut out earlier and pin in place. Zig Zag Stitch around the edges to hold in place.

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Sweet Collar Sewing Tutorial

By: Jenya from [MyEvaForeva](http://MyEvaForeva.com)

Create a fun and pretty collar to wear over any outfit with this easy sewing tutorial. Anyone can make this tie-on collar in the fabric of your choice.



Materials:

- Fabric
- Scissors
- Sewing machine
- Embellishments
- String

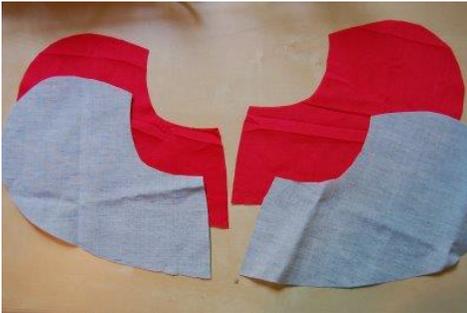
Instructions:

1. Make a mock out of another fabric. When you do it, just make sure you measure your neck circumference and incorporate it in your template.

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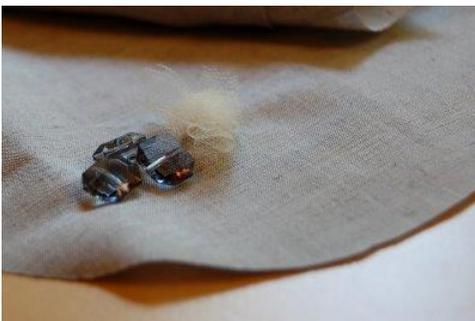
2. Cut out four pieces (two of each color) giving about quarter of an inch around it.



3. Sew the pieces that are the same color together in the middle.



4. Now it the fun part – embellishes it, attach your label, or draw on it, whatever...



5. Fold two pieces together the right side in.

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6. Take two pieces of yarn and pin them in both corners as shown. Make sure you put long parts of them inside your collar pieces so that when you turn it inside out they will be long enough.



7. Sew around leaving only the middle inside part open big enough to turn it inside out.



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8. When you turn it inside out, I recommend ironing it.



9. Now sew the edges to give them a finished look. Start with that inside middle part that is still open.



Men's Shirt Dress

By: Tatyana Chambers from Wool Thumb Creations

Take a large shirt and transform it into a cute and stylish dress. You won't believe how easy it is to follow this pattern and design a one-of-a-kind piece. Head over to your local thrift shop for the shirt – the best part of this project is you don't have to spend a lot to get great results.



Materials:

- One man's shirt (L, XL or bigger, depends on your own size)
- Sewing notions – thread, scissors, sewing machine, measuring tape, cutting board, tailor's chalk, straight pins.
- 0.5-1 yard of coordinating fabric for ruffles
- Pin backing
- Bias tape

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- Buttons

Instructions:

1. Lay your shirt out, cut the sleeves off, and rip the pocket, if it has any, cut off the collar and buttons (or you can leave it and then you will have a shirt-dress, which you can tailor closer).



2. To control the depth of the neck and armholes, lay one of your shirts/tanks/tops on the top of it, and draw around it with tailors chalk. Or if you are a pro - use your favorite pattern for the top. Cut. Pin the shoulders, try on. Mine looked like this at this stage. Wow! I am wearing a tent!



3. Put it on inside out, pin where you want to cut it - tailor to your body (or dress form if you have one), sew together, cut excess and etc. At this point, if you've decided to leave

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buttons on (maybe changing them for something fancier later), you can mark vertical darts, starting from the highest points of your breasts, and down, and ones on the back - just to make it fit better. I showed it here.



4. I am NOT making a shirt-dress; I've sewn my button part shut, and left the shirt A-shaped.



5. Next - using bias tape, trim your armholes and sew the tape on. Ignore the pleats on the photo, we are not there yet.



6. From sleeves cut as many long strips, as you can - that will be your pleats. I didn't do ruffles, because I think that pleats look a bit more sophisticated. I cut my strips about 3 inches wide, then sewn them together at the short edges, pressed the seams open, and ended up with one long loop. I did satin stitch on one edge of my "ruffle" (to do it set your zig-zag at stitch length = 0.5, and stitch width from 2 to 4, I did 3 and liked it), it will give you nice edge, like one you can see on some lingerie. I also hate hemming and don't have a serger, so I use whatever I can.
7. Depending on how many pleats you want, measure your neckline, times 2 or 1.5 = how long you want your strip. Which then I folded in half and pinned each end to the shoulders (my dress inside on the loop), edges of both fabrics should be facing in the same direction, and they should be face-to-face!
8. Then I marked the center of each part (front and back) and pinned it to the middle of the front/back of my neckline. That way I have equal amount of fabric for each part of the pleated ruffle.
7. I started to work on my pleats, folding them all in one direction, trying to keep them at the same depth and width. Mind the different fabric in the photo - it is my bottom pleated ruffle, which was made the same way, I just forgot to take picture while working on the neck. Oh, well, I told you, I am not a pro ;). After you are done, fold them down, check on how they lay, adjust, if needed, and then stitch them to the neckline.



8. When done, remove the pins (I remove them as I go on my sewing machine), press them flat, carefully making the folds. Try not to pull it down too hard, or your wrong side of the neckline might be exposed. I also did zig-zag on the inside edge of the pleat, and on

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the other seams, where I thought it was needed.



9. Now cut and hem your bottom part, if you want to leave it like a shirt. You might want to use a belt, but I used a 5.5" ruffle to make it longer (appropriate for wearing like a dress that is even though only with leggings in my case) - fabric was cotton/linen blend, leftover from my floppy hat. I might have made it longer, but I was short on fabric. Anyway - make a ruffle just the way you did on the neckline, only a bit bigger. Sew, fold, press...



10. I made a flower-pin (which I can move) from two of my fabrics leftovers with buttons in the middle, then chose more buttons, which I've sewn at the front - just like a decoration. That's it!



Free Sewing Patterns for the Holidays

Easter Daisy and Fabric Topiary

By: [Chica and Jo](#)

Creating a fabric and daisy topiary that's perfect for Easter decorating. The project cleverly uses Styrofoam balls at the base for the topiary. Use as a table centerpiece or place in your entryway to greet guests. Get started on this project now to allow time for the grass to sprout in the pot!



Materials:

- Medium-sized flower pot
- 6" diameter Styrofoam ball
- 8" diameter Styrofoam ball

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- Short tree branches for "trunk"
- Fabric to wrap balls and pot
- Fresh or silk daisies
- Sewing machine
- Needle/thread

Instructions:

Prepare the base components:

Before you can decorate your lovely topiary, you need to build it. Start with a medium-sized flower pot that you've filled with potting soil and planted with grass seed. Let it sit for a week or two until the bright green grass begins to sprout. If you're in a hurry, try looking for small pots of live wheat grass for sale in grocery or home improvement stores. You can just pop the plant out of the container and plop it into place in your flower pot.



For the Styrofoam balls that make up the topiary, you'll need one that is 6 inches in diameter and one that is 8 inches in diameter. Now get some short pieces of tree branches from the yard and use them to create the "trunk". Use one piece to connect the top ball to the bottom one, and another daisy topiary piece to connect the bottom ball to the flower pot. Make sure the sticks are long enough to poke into the Styrofoam far enough to hold it securely.



This is also a good time to decorate the flower pot. Cut a long strip of your fabric and hem the edges. Wrap the band around the flower pot and secure with a pin (or use hot glue for a permanent bond).



Cut the fabric pieces:

Now it's time to cover the Styrofoam with your pretty fabric. In order to cover a round ball with flat fabric, you'll need to do some clever sewing. To make it easier for you, we've created patterns to use for cutting out the fabric. Use our [8 inch pattern](#) to cut 7 pieces of fabric for the 8 inch ball. Use our [6 inch pattern](#) to cut 6 pieces of fabric for the 6 inch ball.



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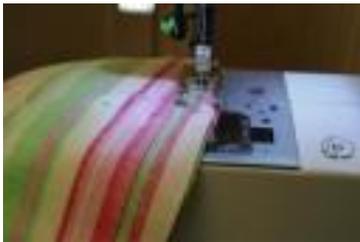
Sew the buttonholes

If you're going to stick flowers in this topiary, they'll need somewhere to go! You'll accomplish this by dotting the fabric with cute buttonholes. Use your sewing machine to sew several buttonholes on each piece of fabric. To help with placement, look back at our patterns. For the 8" pattern pieces, mark half of them with the "A" buttonholes (A1, A2, and A3), and half of them with the "B" buttonholes (B1 and B2). Do the same for the 6" pattern pieces, marking half of them with the "A" and half with the "B" buttonholes.



Sew the covers together:

Take the 7 pieces of fabric for the 8" ball and sew them, right sides together, along both long sides, leaving a 3/8" seam allowance. Be sure to alternate your "A" and "B" buttonhole pieces as you go. Sew all the seams together except the last one. You should have something resembling an inside-out ball now. Flip the fabric right side out and slip it carefully over the 8" ball. Use a needle and thread to sew the remaining seam closed with a slip stitch.



Repeat this process for the 6" ball. When both balls are covered, place them back on the sticks in your topiary. Now you're ready to decorate them with flowers!

Insert the flowers:

The buttonholes in your fabric will give your flowers somewhere to enter the ball, but Styrofoam is a bit too firm for most flowers to go into without breaking. To make it easier to insert the flowers, start the hole by inserting the handle of a paint brush into the Styrofoam at each buttonhole, and make a nice space for the flower to go.

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Then trim each of your daisies so that the stem is about 2 inches long, and attach each one to a wired wood pick. Wrap the wire around the flower, holding it in place. The pick will keep your flowers straight and strong, and allow you to push them into the Styrofoam with ease. Put one flower into each one buttonhole.



The finished topiary is adorable and would look great anywhere in the home. Fresh daisies will last a day or two, so if you're doing this for a party, wait to assemble it until a few hours before guests are arriving for maximum freshness.

Fleece Gnome Hat

By: Beth Ritzman from [BabyEtte Boutique](#)

This fleece baby's gnome hat is adorable for the cold weather. It is easy to make following this quick tutorial and it will keep your little one warm while looking super cute.



Materials:

- No-pill fleece about 24" square
- Matching thread
- Sewing shears
- Pins
- Baby's head measurement

Instructions:

1. First, cut your fleece into 2 rectangles and lay them right sides together. Take your baby's head measurement and add 1" for ease and 1" for seam allowance, for a total of 2" extra. Then divide this by 2. Use this number to measure out from one side along the bottom and mark that place with a pin. You can also use another of your child's hats as a guide.



2. Now, here you can have a bit of free-form fun. Start at the place you just marked, and think about the shape of hat you'd like. How long and pointy do you want it? Would you like a symmetrical hat, or one that places the point towards the back of the head? You can even make 2 points if you'd like... have fun with it!



3. I like my Gnome Hats to have a really long point, and to aim the point towards the back, so the shape I'm choosing will have one straight seam for the back, and one curved seam for the front. Remember, while cutting, you want to keep about 5" of the crown of the hat close to the head measurement before swooping in toward the point. My total length here is about 20". Pin around the 2 seams. You want to leave the bottom open of course!



4. Use a straight stitch to sew up one side and down the other, leaving a 1/2" seam.



5. Trim your seam allowance and the tip of the hat, being careful not to cut any stitches.



6. Now we're going to turn the point inside out. I've found the best way to do this is reach one hand inside and then poke the tip between your fingers from the outside. Grab the point and pull it out! Work as much of the point through as you can by hand, and then use a bone turner or some fancy tool to gently poke out the tip of the hat. Me? I really go for it and use my closed shears. But don't worry, I'm careful.

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7. Now that everything has turned out well... let's give this hat a hem! Turn the bottom in about $\frac{1}{4}$ " and run it through your machine, folding as you go. You could measure and pin first... but really? Do we really need all that measuring and pinning? Be instinctual... It will be OK! Fleece is very forgiving.

Easter Chick Appliqué Shirt

By: Amanda Cusick from [Kitschy Coo](#)

Learn how to create a very cool kids' shirt using a basic tee. While perfect for Easter eggs hunts, kids (and fun-loving adults) can wear this shirt throughout the spring and even in the summer.



Materials:

- Garment to appliqué
- [Template](#)
- Sewing machine capable of zig zag stitch
- Two contrasting scrap fabrics
- Double sided fusible web
- Tear away stabilizer
- Thread
- Button

Instructions:

1. Heat-fuse both your scrap fabrics with double sided fusible web, with sticky side (the side without paper) facing the wrong side of your fabric.
2. Trace and cut the bird body from scrap one.
3. Trace and cut the bird wing from scrap two.
4. Peel off the backing paper and position on your garment.
5. Heat-fuse the bird appliqué to your garment.
6. Cut the tear away stabilizer to a size bigger than your chick (including legs and beak).
7. Pin the stabilizer to the underside of your garment. This picture shows your fused pieces, and the pins indicate the size of the stabilizer required.



8. Set your sewing to a machine to tight zigzag (I use 2.5 width and 0.5 length).
9. Stitch all the way around the body of the bird, with one side of the stitch on the garment and the other side of the stitch in your appliqué (binding and hiding the raw edges). The green lines in the picture show how your zigzag stitch straddles the raw edge. It helps to lessen the foot pressure of your machine so it is easier to turn around curves and it doesn't put as much pressure on the fabric causing waviness. Where you change direction or need a tighter curve, lower your needle down into the fabric, lift your foot and pivot.



10. Stitch all the way around your wing.
11. Draw your beak and legs onto the garment with washable fabric pen or tailor's chalk.
12. Set your machine to a wider zigzag (I use 3.5 and 0.5).
13. With your drawn lines at the center, zigzag stitch over the top of the lines to form your beak and legs.
14. Place your button for the eye and stitch securely with a needle and thread.
15. Rip off your tear-away stabilizer.

Mother's Day Sleep Mask

By: Meg from [The Closet Seamstress](#)

With this easy-to-follow tutorial, create a sleep mask for Mom to wear on flights, or anywhere she likes. Use her favorite colors and add embellishments that match her personality.



Materials:

- Fat quarters
 - Fabric (for the outside of the mask)
 - Black satin (for the inside of the mask)
 - Fusible facing
- ½" wide piece of elastic
- Embellishments
- 1 safety pin
- [Pattern](#)

Instructions:

1. Use a tape measure to measure around your head, going over your eyes and behind the back of your head. Take this measurement take off 8". Cut your elastic to be that length.
2. Cut a strip of fabric from the main fabric measuring about 2"x18" This is the casing for your elastic.
3. Cut out the sleep mask pattern at the end of this tutorial & add on ½" seam allowance.
4. Use the pattern to cut one mask shape out of the main fabric, the satin & the facing.



5. Iron the fusible facing to the wrong side of the main fabric.
6. Fold the strip of fabric in half. And sew ½" from the edge.

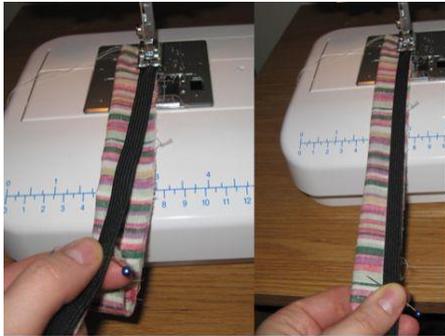


7. Pin the elastic to the seam allowance of the fabric strip at both ends and the midpoint.

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8. Sew the elastic to the seam allowance using a large zig zag stitch and stretching the elastic as you go. Attaching the elastic to the casing will ensure that it doesn't twist inside and stays flat.



9. Pin the safety pin to the elastic, then push it into the fabric tube, so that you are turning the fabric casing the right way round and encasing the elastic in the casing.



10. Pin the elastic & casing to the main fabric on the right side. Sew in place.

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11. Pin the satin on the main fabric so that the right sides are together, and sew all the way round $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge and leaving a 2" gap.



12. Clip all of the curved edges.



13. Turn the mask inside out through the gap in the sewing, and hand-sew the last bit with the mask right side round.

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14. Iron flat.



15. Then decorate as you like! Here are some sleep masks I made for my mom, I printed a message on iron on paper and ironed it to the mask for one, and for the other I stuck stick on jewels on it.



Egg Cup Pincushion

By: Christina Lane from [The Sometimes Crafter](#)

Use this free sewing pattern to create an adorable egg cup pincushion. This project is perfect for Easter, but you can make one anytime you want a little color in your surroundings. Use fabric scraps left over from a project to create several of these adorable pincushions



Materials:

- Egg cup
- Fabric scrap (approx. 5" square)
- Polyfill
- Needle Thread
- Glue gun

Instructions:

1. Draw a 4" circle on the back of your fabric scrap. I used the bottom of a small dish to trace around. Cut out around the circle, approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ " from your drawn line.



2. Baste stitch around your drawn line, leaving long tails at the start and finish.



3. Pull your long ends on one side (I pulled on the back side of the fabric) to gather into a pouch.



4. Stuff the pouch with Polyfill, keeping thread pulled tight.

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5. Knot your threads, keeping the opening on the pouch as small as possible. Stuff with a little more Polyfill if you need to. The firmer you stuff it, the more rounded your cushion.



6. With your needle and thread stitch the opening all the way closed. I worked from one side to the opposite for a few stitches, and then did the opposite direction a few times.



7. You should now have a closed cushion as shown.

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8. Take a nice sized wad of Polyfill and roll it around in your hands to mat it together a little. Stuff inside your egg cup. You want it to fill the cup about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way when compressed slightly.



9. Run a line of hot glue around the top edge of your egg cup.



10. Press your stuffed cushion inside of the egg cup and hold for a few seconds, allowing for the glue to dry.

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11. That's it! You're done. You now have an egg cup pincushion. Now go make some more!



Home Decor Sewing Ideas for Beginners

Framed Monogram

By: Abby Welker from [A Feathered Nest](#)

Learn how to create a beautiful, framed monogram with felt and fabric. A bird embellishment tops of a simple sewn creation for truly creative decor. Make one for every member of the family!



Materials:

- Picture Frame
- Cardstock
- Fabric the size of your frame
- One sheet of matching felt
- Additional felt for embellishments

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- DMC Floss or thread in a contrasting color
- Hand-sewing needle (needs a sharp tip, not a blunt tip)
- Fabric glue
- Thin piece of cardboard the size of your frame. (I cut up a cereal box)

Instructions:

1. Find a font you like, print your monogram letter on cardstock and carefully cut out the monogram. Since you'll be tracing with a felt-tip marker, turn your letter face-down so it's reversed. Trace with a felt-tip marker, cut out your monogram, and since you traced in reverse, you won't see any of the markings.



2. Position your monogram on your fabric and press it down firmly with your hand. The felt should stick to the fabric a little.



3. In order to secure the monogram so you can hand-stitch without it slipping, we're going to glue it down. Without lifting the monogram off of the fabric, because you've already positioned it, carefully lift parts of the monogram and apply a tiny bit of glue down the center of the letter. Remember that you'll be stitching along the outer edges so you'll want

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to keep them clear of glue. Press everything down neatly and let the glue set for a few minutes.



4. With either 2 lengths of DMC floss or sewing thread, thread your needle and put a knot in the end. If your letter has a rounded center, like e, a, d, p, etc. start your thread on the inside circle so you can work your way around the letter without having to stop.



5. Once you've brought your needle up and your knot is secure in the back of your fabric, make even stitches all along your monogram. It's easier to take 2 or 3 stitches at one time rather than one at a time. When you're done, tie a knot with your thread in the back of your fabric.



6. If you are going to make any embellishments for your monogram, attach them now. Using cardstock templates make shapes and cut them out. Simple shapes are best: bird, flower, tree, hearts, a square house with triangle roof, etc. Be careful, however, not to make your embellishment too thick because remember that this is all going in a frame.



7. Using hot glue or tacky glue, affix your fabric to the piece of cardboard. To make sure your cardboard is the right size, trace the glass pane from your frame and when you cut out your cardboard, make sure to cut it a few millimeters shorter than your traced shape since you'll be wrapping fabric around it.

Embellished Tea Towel

By: Ashley Johnston from [Make It and Love It](#)

Tie the colors together in your kitchen with a stripe of fabric sewn onto plain tea towels. This is an easy sewing project for gift-giving. Use holiday fabric for holiday tea towels.



Materials

- Plain cotton tea towel
- Colorful fabric scrap
- Coordinating color for fabric yo-yo
- Needle and thread
- Iron
- Sewing machine

Instructions:

1. Add ¼-inch fabric scraps to all sides and cut out a strip measuring 2.5" X 18.5". Tuck under each side a ¼ inch and iron it flat. Then, pin the strip about 2.5 inches from the bottom (just eye it and place it wherever you'd like) and sew around the strip, very close to the folded edge.



Heating Pillow with Buckwheat

By: Jenya from MyEvaForeva

Sew up a pillow filled with buckwheat and use it as a heating pad. Buckwheat holds the heat (or cold) better than rice or other grains and is hypoallergenic. Add a few drops of your favorite fragrance oil, or just enjoy the smell of buckwheat. You can also use this pillow as a wrist pillow when working with your computer mouse.



Materials:

- Hand-knitted piece (optional, but if you do use it – only natural yarn like wool or cotton)
- Piece of fabric (preferably cotton) that is at least twice bigger than your knitted piece
- Sewing machine
- Needle and threads
- Scissors
- Piece of paper
- Buckwheat

Instructions:

1. Knit a cover piece; make it the shape you want your heating pad to be. Place your hand knitted piece in a flat position and slightly stretch.



2. Cut your cotton into two exactly the same pieces so that they are slightly bigger than your knitted piece.



3. Take two cotton pieces and place the knitted piece in between like in the photo.



4. Sew around the edges making sure you get all three layers. Leave an opening about 2” long.

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5. Turn it inside out.



6. Make a little fennel out of paper and use it to fill up the sack with your precious buckwheat about half way so the sack is rather loose – this way it will take a shape of whatever you want to warm up easier.



7. Use blind stitch to close it up.

How to Sew for Beginners: Bag Patterns

Bow Bag

By: Beccy Ridsdel from [Wipster](#)

Use scraps of upholstery fabric and an old pair of jeans to make this cute Bow Bag. The top has a drawstring so it can expand if necessary, but you can still draw it up for security (and cuteness).



Materials:

- 1 yard x 12" main fabric
- 1 yard x 12" lining fabric
- Ribbon
- 5" elastic
- Dinner plate

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Instructions:

1. Use an A4 sheet of paper as a template.
2. Use a dinner plate to draw a curve around one corner (adjust the size of the curve by choosing smaller or bigger circular things).



3. Cut the curve. This is the basic template; the straight edge on the right is the fold line.



4. Cut 1 (back) piece on the fold and two half (front) pieces. Add extra seam allowance to these two pieces. Cut two pieces on the fold for the lining.



5. Pin the two half front pieces face together and place a mark 2 inches from the top, then another 1 inch below that. This will be the opening for the drawstring casing. Sew up front pieces, leaving the 1 inch marked area open.

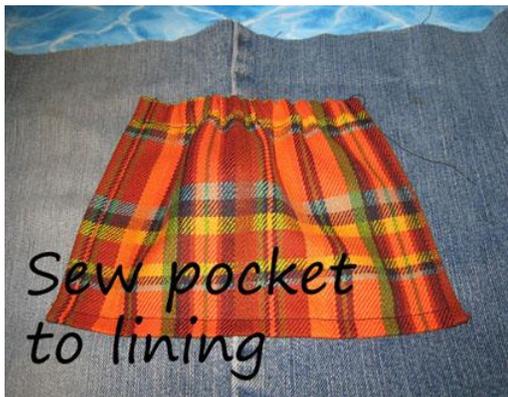


6. Open out the front piece and press the seam. Topstitch the front seam open.
7. Cut a piece for the pocket approximately 6x6 inches.
8. Fold and press the edges. Press the top edge deep enough to encase the elastic and sew this edge.
9. Thread elastic through casing using a safety pin, gather and secure at both ends.

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10. Sew the pocket to one of the lining pieces, approx 3" from the top.



11. Sew the two lining pieces together, leaving a 3" opening in the base.
12. Place the lining inside the outer, right sides together. Pin and sew.



13. Invert the bag by pulling all the fabric through the hole in the lining then sew up the hole.

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14. Press the bag and topstitch around the top of the bag, as close to the edge as possible.
15. Measure from the top of the bag to the opening of the ribbon casing. Mark where the casing needs to be at each side of pocket and sew around the whole bag, like tram-lines (avoiding the pocket, don't want to sew that baby shut).



16. Measure across your body to determine the length of the handle and cut two strips of fabric as long as you need (plus 1" seam allowance) by 2" wide.
17. Sew a point on one end of the handle, and half the point on the other (this will make life easier later) and trim the seams.



18. Use a knitting needle to turn the handle the right side out.



19. Press the handle flat.

20. Push the excess fabric inside to form the second point and press.

21. Topstitch the handle as close to the edge as possible.

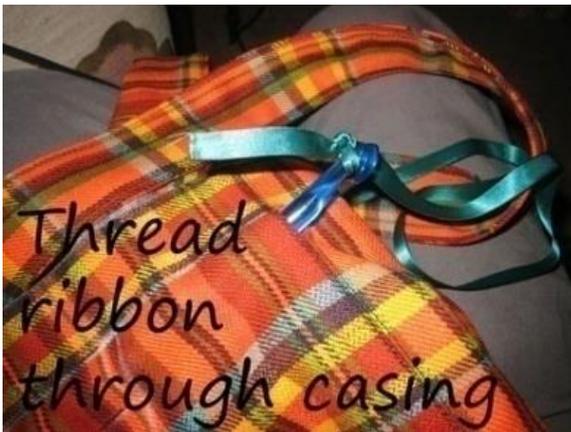
22. Line up the handle with the outer side seam of the bag and stitch across, following the topstitching on the bag. The handle should overlap the edge of the bag an inch or so, for decorative effect.

23. Sew a decorative vintage button to the pointed bit.

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24. Tie your ribbon to a crochet hook and thread through casing.

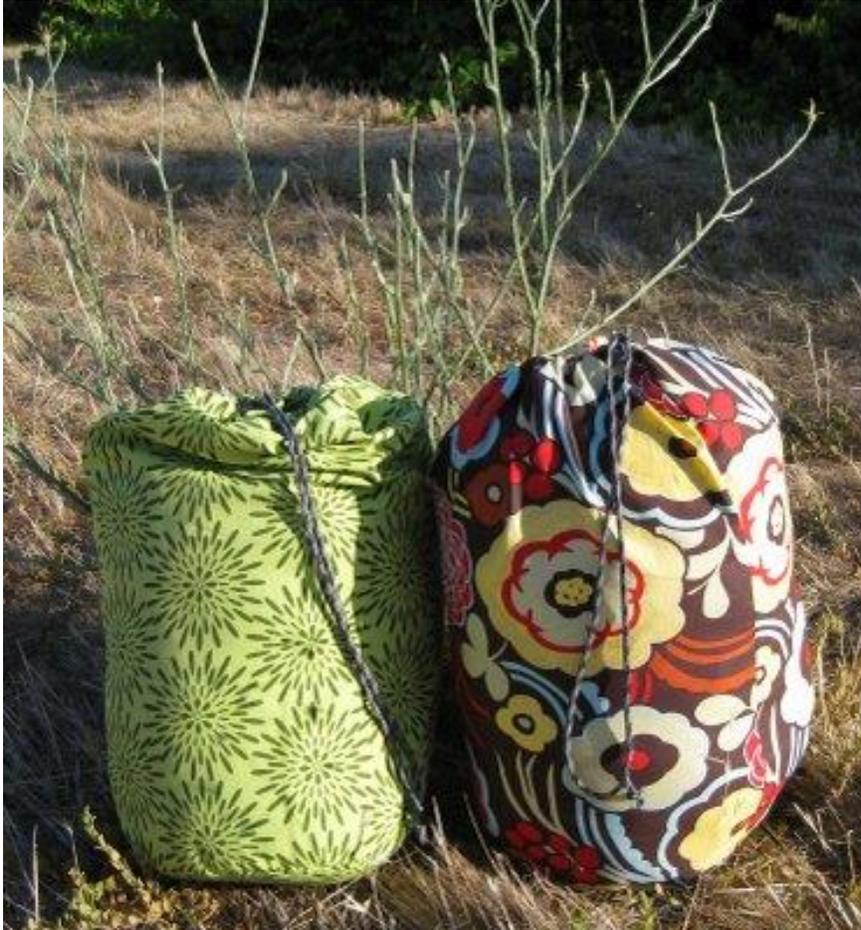


25. Gather the top of the bag slightly and tie a bow.

Camping Tote Bag

By: Noelle Beegle from [The Home Ec Teacher's Daughter](#)

Ever struggle to get your sleeping bag back into that tiny sack you bought it in? Get a little creative and sew up a much more convenient bag in colorful fabric to transport your sleeping bag and other essentials. These are great for kids going to sleepovers or anyone going on a camping trip.



Materials:

- Fabric (this will depend on the size of your sleeping bags ours were pretty small so half to three quarts of a yard were used.)
- String/Ribbon and Clip (I reused the string and the clip from the bags we originally got)
- Thread
- Sewing Machine
- Scissors, Pinking Shears, and Rotary cutter if you have one
- Ruler
- Iron and Ironing Board (this is a MUST!!!)
- Safety pin (a small one)

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- (You could also plan to add ribbon or ric-rac in the process as well. Another option would be to do some hand/Machine embroidery on the bag especially if you have kids)

Instructions:

1. Roll up the sleeping bag so you can get the measurements of the cylinder shape. Here are the measurements you will need:
 - a. Height + radius of top of bag
 - b. Diameter of the bottom
 - c. Width of the ribbon/string you will be using
2. From this we create the new measurements now this is where you have to get a little inventive on your own:
 - a. Increase the Diameter of the bottom by at least 1.5 inches.
 - b. You have to calculate the Circumference of the circle which is $\text{Pi} \times \text{Diameter}$ or $3.14 \times \text{Diameter} = 3.14 \times 9.5 = 30$ inches (approx.) and then add a seam allowance of half an inch so 30.5 inches
 - c. Add at least 4 inches to the height $13 + 4 = 17$ inches (you can add more to the height if you want the bag to be deeper to fit more items.
3. With the Second and Third measurements you will cut one large rectangle measuring 30.5 X 17 inches.



4. If you are using string or cording that is pretty thin, you need to cut a strip of fabric that is 1.5 inches x 30 inches. If you are using ribbon take the width and multiply by 2 and add 1 inch.
5. If you want to add embroidery or some ric-rac, this is the time to do it!
6. Take the small rectangle and fold the short edges over so they are $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch, iron flat, and sew down.

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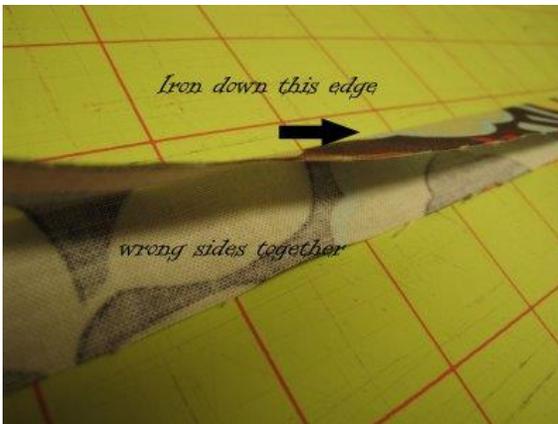
7. Next fold the long edge over in $\frac{1}{2}$ and iron flat.



8. Take the large square and on the long edge fold over $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and iron.
9. Pin the raw edge of the small rectangle under the flap on the large rectangle. Make sure you center it (there should be some of the large rectangle on either side).
10. Sew the flap down. There really is no seam allowance here, just try to make it in the middle of the flap. This makes a casing for the cord/ribbon.



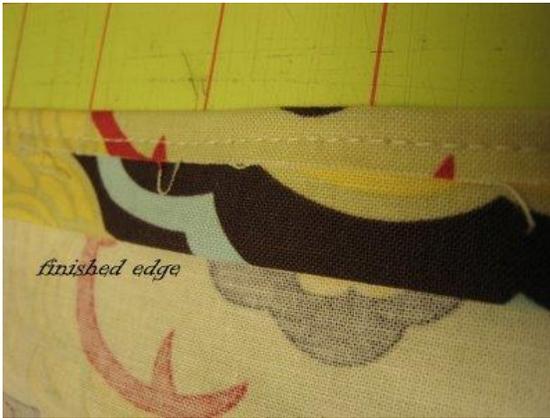
11. Enclose the raw edge of the flap on the large rectangle. This is going to sound difficult but it's really easy. Iron the casing so it's going up.



12. Next flip over the fabric so you are looking at the right side of all the fabrics and iron the seam you just made up over the raw edge. This will enclose the raw edge of the flap.



13. You can either pin this down or hold it down as you sew. When you sew it down you want to sew close to the first seam you made (you can do it on top of the first seam if you like). This will completely enclose all the raw edges on the top of the bag).



14. Fold your bag in half so the short edges meet up with the wrong sides of the fabric together. Sew a quarter inch seam on the edge of the fabric (you will be sewing on the right side of the fabric). Next, take pinking shears to the seam you just made, cutting it down a bit. Turn fabric so the wrong side of the fabric is on the outside and the right sides of the fabric are together. Iron the seam and sew down with a quarter inch seam. Turn so the right side is out and notice the seam is enclosed.



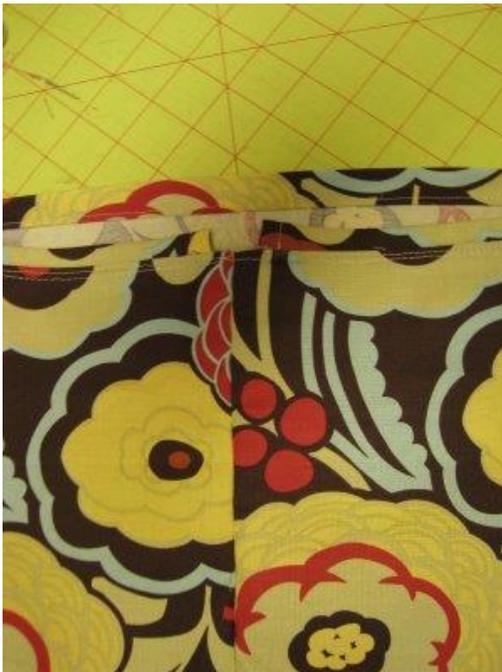
15. Now you're ready to attach the circle to the bottom. Turn the tube you just made so the wrong side of the fabric is on the outside. Pin the circle to the edges of the bottom of the tube (where the raw edge is). You may need to make some adjustments to the tube if it's too big. I just add a new seam that make the tube smaller at the bottom and then angle off to the old seam.

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16. Next sew the circle to the tube using a 3/8" seam. Add a zig zag stitch to finish the edge and using pinking shears to finish edges as well.





17. Take the safety pin and ribbon and thread through the casing you made add your clip or tie a bow and you're done.



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18. This project can be modified to make a dirty clothes bag, gift bags, makeup bags, etc.

Place Mat Purse

By: Vanessa from [MaxxSilly](#)

Turn an inexpensive place mat (perhaps a spare from your dining set) into a fun and functional clutch purse. This easy sewing project makes a great, quick gift.



Materials:

- Place mat
- Pins
- Embellishments such as clip-on earrings

Instructions:

1. Lay your placemat on a flat surface and decide how big you want your pouch to be. Fold the right sides together and pin along the edge.
2. My place mat was hemmed on all four sides. I sewed in from the hem you can choose based on how big you want your bag to be.
3. Turn the bag inside out. Be sure to push out your corners.
4. On the flap – folds in and again sew in from the hem or so it is lined up with the pouch.

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5. I used a clip on earring that I took apart and sewed on for a little decoration on the front. You can add a snap, ribbons or whatever you want – be sure to make it your own!
6. Fill it with what you need for a night on the town and enjoy

Dragonfly Coin Purse or Wallet

By: Christine Down from [Sew Christine](#)

This free sewing pattern makes a nice coin purse or small wallet. You can sew it yourself in a few quick and easy steps. Once it's created you can haul it around with you everywhere you go.



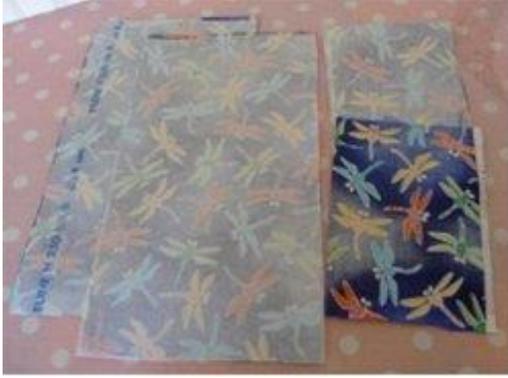
Materials:

- 2 pieces of iron-on interfacing (I use Vilene) to match the first fabric measurements
- 2 pieces of cotton fabric 9-½ inches (24.3 cms) long and 5-¼ inches (13.5 cms) wide
- 2 pieces of cotton fabric 5-¼ inches (13.5 cms) long and 3-½ inches (9 cms) wide
- 1 piece of Velcro approximately 1 ½ inches (4 cms) long
- 1 piece of ribbon and 1 metal clip
- 1 piece of iron-on interfacing to match the second fabric measurements
- Zip at least 6 inches (15-cms) long

Instructions:

1. Cut your fabric. Cut your Vilene. Apply to fabric with iron.

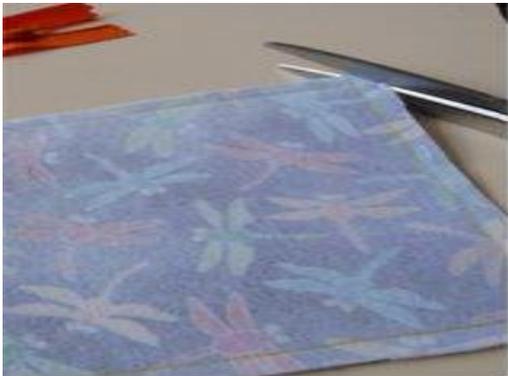
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2. Put the two large pieces together right sides touching and sew down both long sides and along the bottom.



3. Clip the corners and turn out the right side.



4. Place the two smaller pieces together right sides touching and sew down both long sides and along the bottom. Clip the corners and turn out the right side.
5. Put the metal clip onto the ribbon and stitch onto the larger piece about 5 inches from the bottom.

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6. Lay the zipper across the bottom of the larger piece and stitch into place.



7. Match up the smaller piece and stitch the zip into place.



8. Flip the small piece onto the large piece so that the zipper is at the bottom. Stitch across the raw edges of the smaller piece about ¼ inches from the edge.

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(Keep the right side of the zipper on the bottom.)

9. Trim zipper.



10. Fold about ½ inch to the inside on both sides of the raw edges of the large piece. Iron flat. Stitch close to the edge.



11. Fold the purse so that the stitching from the zipper pocket is at the bottom. Fold the top flap down (see photo). Mark with a pen where the Velcro is going to go. (I use sew on Velcro for purses as it lasts longer than iron-on. But if you prefer you can iron the Velcro on here.)

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12. Stitch around both pieces of Velcro. Make sure you use the zipper to open up the bottom piece as far as possible – don't stitch more than the front layer of the pocket!



13. Open the Velcro and then stitch down both sides of the purse ensuring that you back stitch over the ends of the zipper and at the bottom.



Muslin Snack Bags

By: Marica Thompson from Mountain Sketch

These little muslin snack bags are the perfect size for all your snacking needs and perfectly environmentally friendly saving all those plastic bags!



Materials:

- Muslin Fabric
- Embroidery Floss

Instructions:

1. To make one cut out a 5" X 12" piece of muslin fabric.
2. Fold the end of the fabric a 1/2" down on one of the 5" sides and hem leaving the ends open. Repeat on the opposite end.
3. Fold the cloth in half so the hemmed ends meet (stitching side out)
4. Sew around the edges first with a running stitch, than with the zigzag stitch.
5. Slip a 16" length of embroidery floss through the shaft to work as a drawstring and tie a knot.
6. Leave the stitching on the outside so food doesn't get caught in the thread.
7. Fill the bag with yummy snacks such as nuts, dried fruit, and pretzels.

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favecrafts

If you want to master the art of sewing but aren't sure how to get started, this is the perfect eBook for you. Inside these pages, you'll find patterns for bags, dresses and so much more. You'll also see how easy it is to repurpose old clothing items and turn them into stylish, form-fitting pieces. Get creative and try something new – you won't believe how much you can accomplish when you have this eBook as your guide!

