

SUPPLIES

0.6m of 150cm wide woollen or similar suiting fabric.

0.8m of 120cm wide silky lining fabric.

50cm of matching soft shiny cord such as rattail or readymade rouleau. If you want a perfect match you can make rouleau from bias strips of your lining fabric. There are several good tutorials on the internet.

BEFORE YOU START

Print out and assemble the pattern pages, following the pale grey grid guide. Each square should be 10cm x 10cm.

The pattern has 1cm seam allowances included.

Please read the instructions carefully before starting and follow along carefully.

INSTRUCTIONS

1

Cut out cape pattern pieces in both main fabric and lining. Make sure the back panel is cut on the fold of the fabric, and make sure the grain line is parallel to the selvages for each piece so the cape will sit nicely when it's finished.

2

Follow the dotted line for the top of the sleeve section when cutting the lining, so you don't have too much ease for the lighter weight fabric.

3

You will also need a strip cut on the bias (exactly diagonal to the grain) to bind the neckline with. The length and width depend on the thickness of the fabric, but a good starting size would be 50cm x 6cm.

4

Mark notches with a shallow clip. In thick fabric, clip a small V out of the seam allowance. Make sure the clip isn't deeper than your 1cm seam allowance.

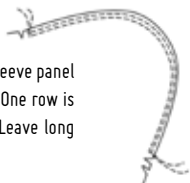


5

Sew the shoulder seams together, and press them open.

6

Use a long stitch to sew two rows of gathering stitches on the sleeve panel from the double notches on the back to the single front notch. One row is on the stitching line, and the other is closer to the cut edge. Leave long thread tails and don't backstitch.



7

Pin the panels together, matching the notches and pulling the two rows of stitching up until the sleeve panel is the same length as the body panels over the shoulder. It should make a gentle cupped shape that will hug the top of the arm. Sew carefully, stitching over the gathering threads.



8

Sew the lining together the same way, however, you may find that because the lining is a lighter weight it might not make a smooth cupped shape, but instead have a gathered look (this is ok).

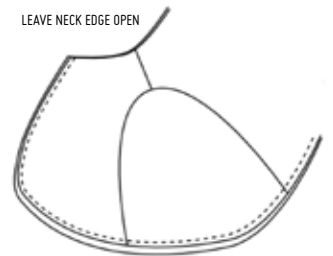
9

Press both outer and lining capes, with the seam allowances open from the notch down and facing the sleeve from the notches up. Let the seam allowance find its own way where they change direction, no need to clip anything.

10

Put the outer and inner capes together with the right sides facing each other and pin around the outer edge, matching edges and seams.

LEAVE NECK EDGE OPEN



11

Sew carefully from the front neck edge all the way around to the other side. Leave the neck edge open. Turn the cape right side out and press the edges carefully so the join rolls a little to the inside of the cape.

12

Reach into the neck between both layers and adjust the seam allowances on the shoulder so they lay outwards. Use a handsewing needle and thread to join the lining to the outer fabric through all layers. Hide the stitches in the machine sewn seam.

13

Once all the layers are the right way out again and it's sitting smoothly, sew the two layers together at the neck so they don't shift about as you sew the binding on.

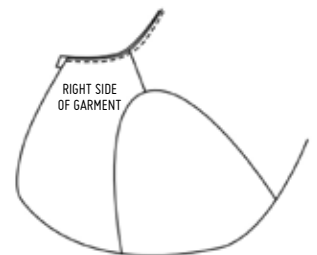
14

Now you need to use the matching cord to make a chinese ball button and loop. There are many tutorials on the internet for sewing chinese ball buttons, try this one here: <http://perfectpatterns.tripod.com/frogs.html>

Put the button aside until you are ready to finish the ends of the binding.

15

To make the bound neck, pin the bias strip to the inside of the neckline without stretching it. Sew with a very accurate seam allowance, as this will determine how smooth and even the binding is.



16

Roll the binding to the outside, tucking in the ends neatly and trimming the width if you need to in order to make a smooth roll around the neckline. Pin in place, then handsew the binding just over the joining seam.

17

Just before sewing the ends shut, slip the "legs" of the button into the roll and secure with handstitches. Make a loop just big enough for the button on the other side. The button usually goes on the left front and the loop on the right.

18

You can use a fairly wide binding to make the binding look very soft and rounded, which suits the thicker fabric. It may be worth testing a few widths on a scrap of the fabric first to see what will give you the effect you want. Enjoy!