



1





TO WEAR



Ruched Belt

Ruched Belt

This project is a great way to add some spunk to your wardrobe. Simple gathers on the face of the piece elevate it to more than just another fabric belt!

Finished
Measurement

Sample shown is 42" long

SUPPLIES

2 fat quarters in contrasting colors. Fabric A is the back of the belt, the tail, and the edges visible from the front. Fabric B is the ruched front of the belt.

2 D-rings, 1½" size

Medium-weight fusible interfacing

TO START, MEASURE

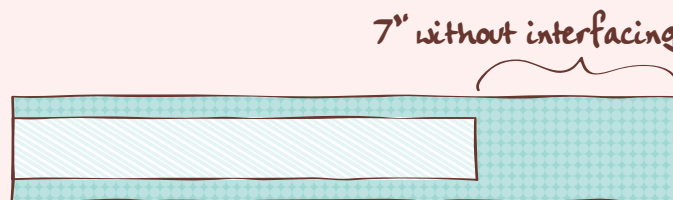
- 1 Measure the point on your waist or hips where you would like the belt to rest. Write that measurement down.
- 2 Add 16" to your measurement to determine the length needed for Fabric A and make note of this number. This measurement accounts for the tail of the belt and the fabric needed to attach the D-ring.
- 3 To figure the length of the interfacing strip, subtract 7" from the length of Fabric A. Make note of this measurement.

MAKE THE BELT BODY

- 4 Cut three 3"-wide strips from the 22" length of Fabric A. With the right sides together, stitch two of the pieces together at the short ends using a ½" seam allowance, backstitching to secure at the beginning and end of each seam. Press the seam open. With the right sides together, stitch the third strip to a short end of the piece you just created using a ½" seam allowance. Press the second seam open.

NOTE: The instructions in Step 4 equal a finished belt length of 56". If you desire a longer belt, cut as many additional 3"-wide strips as needed.

- 5 Trim the long strip of fabric you created in Step 4 to the length you figured for Fabric A in Step 2. Set aside.
- 6 Cut a 1½"-wide strip of fusible interfacing to the length you figured for the interfacing in Step 3.
- 7 With Fabric A right side down, place the interfacing on top of it, centered across the width of the fabric and lined up with one short end. There should be 7" of fabric at one end that won't be covered by interfacing. Fuse the interfacing to the fabric according to the manufacturer's directions.



Step 7

- 8 Fold and press the long edges of Fabric A toward the center over the interfacing. Do this along the whole length of the belt. Don't worry if the long edges of Fabric A don't meet exactly in the center. The center won't be visible on the finished belt.



Step 8

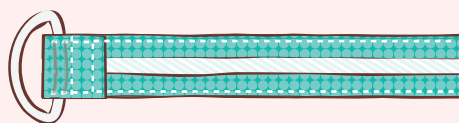
9 Take the 7" length of fabric that isn't covered by interfacing and fold it back over the belt. Your fold should be where the interfacing starts. Pin.

10 Topstitch all four sides of the belt $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge. The stitching along the top and bottom shows on the front of the finished belt, so choose an appropriate color of thread.



Steps 9 and 10

11 Fold the unfinished short end 1" to the wrong side (the side with the interfacing). Slip both D-rings into the fold and sew the fold as close as possible to the D-rings. The raw edge doesn't need to be finished because the ruched fabric covers it.



Step 11

ADD THE RUCHING

12 Cut two 3"-wide strips from the 22" length of Fabric B. With the right sides together, stitch the two pieces at one short end using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, backstitching to secure at the beginning and end of each seam. Press the seams open.

13 With the fabric right side down, fold both long edges and one short edge a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press.

14 Cover the raw edge of Fabric A (near the D-rings) with the folded-in short end of Fabric B. Pin the bottom corner of Fabric B to the bottom of the belt base.



Step 14

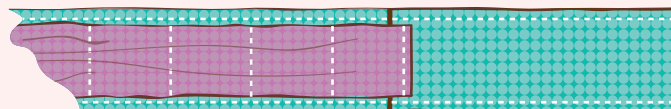
15 At the pinned corner, drop the sewing machine needle into the two layers, remove the pin and backstitch to secure. Make two stitches. With the needle down, lift the foot. Gather Fabric B to create irregular folds, making sure that the piece of Fabric B ends just shy of the edge of the belt base. Drop the foot and sew to the end. Backstitch to secure.



Step 15

16 Continue to stitch Fabric B to the belt base at 2" intervals, ruching as you go. Adjust the width of the ruching to make sure the topstitching on the belt base is visible, which provides contrast and interest.

17 When you reach the opposite end of the belt, trim Fabric B to 1" beyond where it meets the raw edge of Fabric A, 7" from the end. Fold Fabric B under $\frac{1}{2}$ " and gather it as you did at the opposite end, aligning Fabric B with the top and bottom of the belt base. It's okay to cover the topstitching on the belt base at the beginning and end of the ruching.



Steps 16 and 17

18 Now you get to decide how you're going to wear your belt. Of course it looks awesome paired with jeans and a plain shirt, but try experimenting! Show off your work by really featuring the belt in an outfit, perhaps using it to cinch an oversized cardigan or a slouchy dress.



Band Tee



Band Tee

Finally! You can sew something for a guy and he'll actually want to wear it! Embellishments of fabric bands and irregular stitching give an inside-out tee some edge.

Finished
Measurement

any size men's T-shirt

SUPPLIES

1 men's T-shirt

1 coordinating fat quarter

Thread in a coordinating color

TO START, MAKE THE BANDS

1 From the fat quarter, cut three 2" × 18" strips. With the right sides together, use a ½" seam allowance and sew two of the three strips together along one short end to create one long strip. Press the seam to one side. The long strip is the back band and the shorter strip is the sleeve band. On both strips, fold the long sides ½" to the wrong side and press to create a finished edge. Set aside.

2 From the remaining fabric, cut two 4" × 18" strips. Put the right sides together and stitch along one short edge to create one long strip for the front band. Press the seam to one side and then fold and press the long edges, as you did in Step 1.

EMBELLISH THE SHIRT

3 Turn the T-shirt inside out and snip off the tag (the seams will be showing when your shirt is finished). Place the wider front band vertically from shoulder to hem, just beyond the neckband on one side of the shirt. Make sure the fabric extends 1" beyond the shoulder seam of the shirt and allow the excess fabric to trail beyond the hem of the shirt. Pin the strip in place.

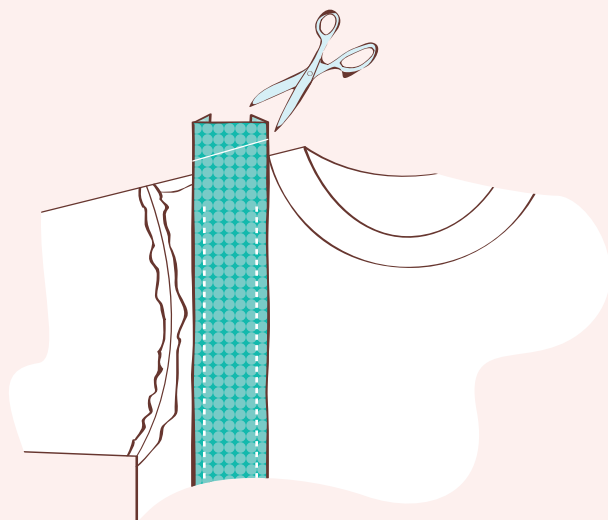
4 Start 1" down from the shoulder seam on the side closest to the arm and topstitch the strip to the shirt ¼" from the folded-in edge. Sew until you reach the bottom of the T-shirt's hem and backstitch. (Make sure you sew only through the front of the shirt!)

5 Smooth the fabric and, if necessary, readjust the strip so it lies flat. Starting at the top, topstitch the other long edge of the band.



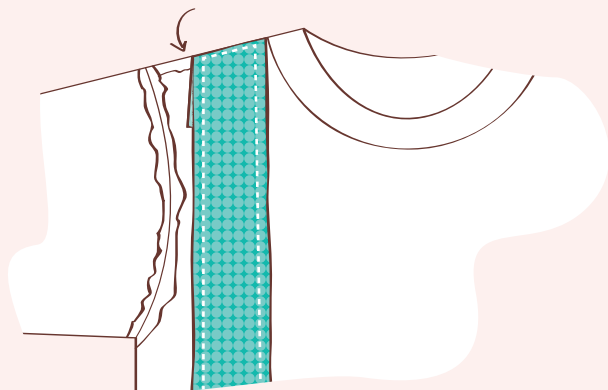
Steps 3 through 5

6 At an angle that matches the shoulder seam, trim the excess fabric from the top of shirt, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ " extending beyond the shirt. Tuck under the fabric so it neatly rests against the shoulder seam and stitch it in place $\frac{1}{4}$ " from edge.



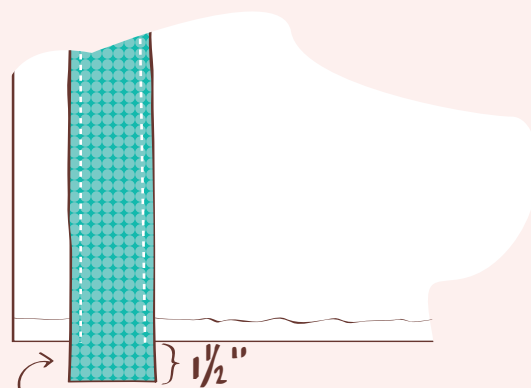
Step 6

Fold and tuck under
stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from folded top



Step 6

7 At the bottom hem, trim the excess fabric, leaving $1\frac{1}{2}$ " extending from the shirt. Fold the raw edge $\frac{1}{2}$ " toward the back of the shirt and press. Pin in place and stitch horizontally, following the stitch line of the shirt's hem. Embellish the band with some irregular vertical lines of stitching.

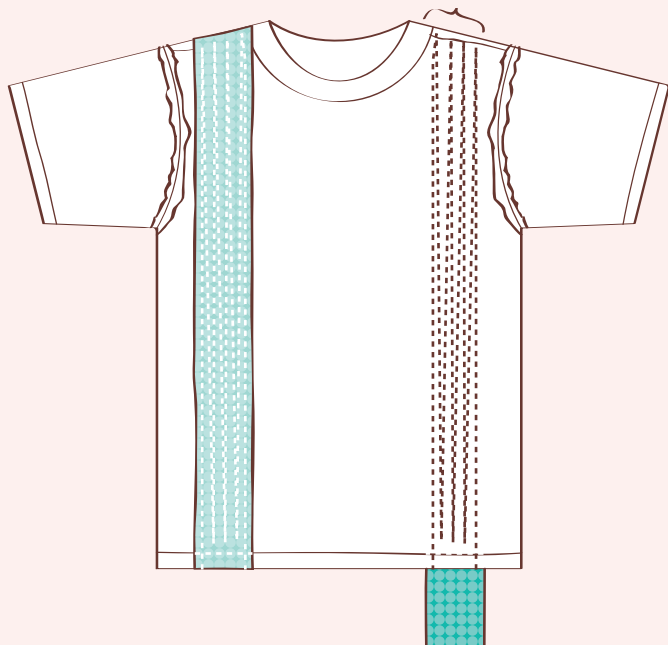


Trim excess fabric
leaving $1\frac{1}{2}$ " extending

Step 7

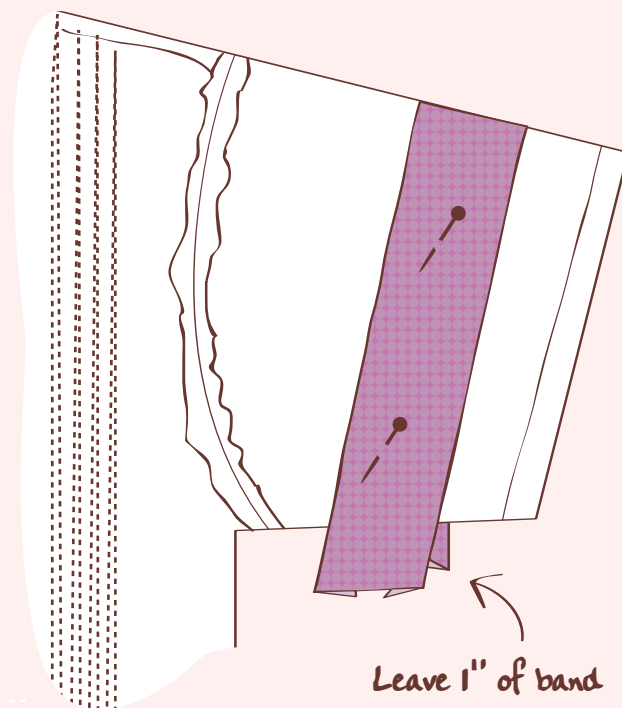
8 On the front of the shirt on the side opposite the front band, use chalk to mark a 2"-wide stripe from the shoulder seam to the hem (parallel with the fabric band). Using the chalk marks as a guide, sew more irregular lines vertically within the marked area. The stitching adds texture and interest. If you want it to be subtle, use a thread similar in color to the shirt. If you prefer more "pop," use a contrasting color.

*Mark 2" band and
make vertical lines of
stitching on t-shirt*



Step 8

9 Now add the sleeve band to the sleeve on the same side of the shirt as the decorative stitching you just made. Leave 1" of the band extending beyond the underside of the sleeve and pin the sleeve band around sleeve on the side closest to the sleeve's hem. When you've pinned all the way around the sleeve and reach the seam again, snip off all but 1" of the extra fabric.

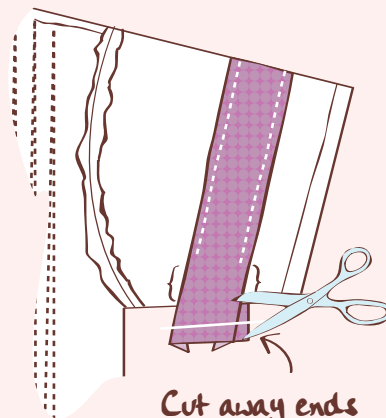


*Leave 1" of band
extending on
each end*

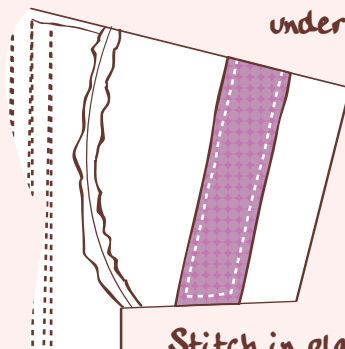
Step 9

10 Start 1" from the sleeve's underarm seam and topstitch along one edge. Starting 1" from the seam allows room for tucking under the short end. (You shouldn't tuck under the short end first because the T-shirt fabric will shift during sewing.) Stop topstitching 1" before you reach the seam on the other side. Repeat this process to topstitch the other edge of the sleeve band.

11 At an angle that matches the underarm seam, cut the fabric ends so that you have $\frac{1}{2}$ " to tuck under, with the fold snug against the seam. Topstitch the remainder of the band in place.



*Cut away ends
except $\frac{1}{2}$ " and
fold remaining
under*



Stitch in place





Silk Scarf

Silk Scarf

Simple construction and luscious silk result in a stunning scarf that's suitable for all seasons. You can express your creativity and add some edginess to this beauty with the freestyle stitching. Friends and family will be so impressed with your style that you might be asked to whip a few of these up to give as holiday gifts!

Finished
Measurement **85" × 4"**

SUPPLIES

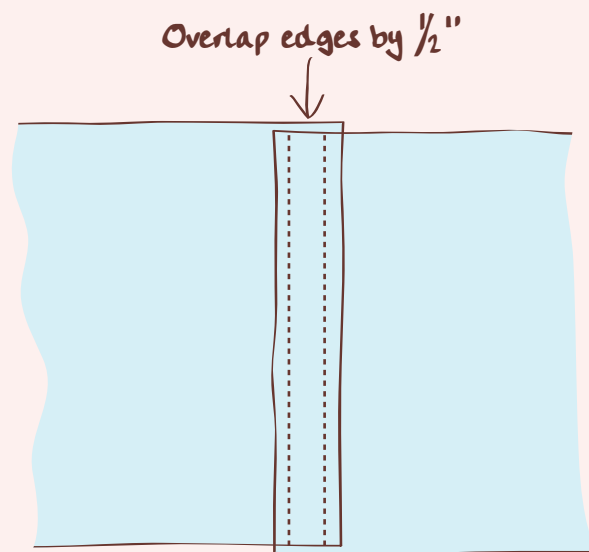
1 fat quarter

¼ yard 44" to 45" dupioni silk

TO START, PREPARE THE SILK

1 Cut the piece of silk in half the long way, which gives you two 4½" × 44" strips.

2 Lay the two pieces out end to end with the short side of one piece overlapping the short side of the other by ½". Because these are selvedge edges that won't fray, you don't need to turn them under.



Step 2

3 Holding the silk in place (I don't pin it because the silk is so delicate), stitch the two pieces together close to one of the edges, and do the same close to the other edge. The result is two rows of parallel stitching.

4 Begin creating random stitching to add texture. Working back and forth across the width of the scarf, add topstitching in a basic stitch, experiment with a satin stitch, or try some of your machine's decorative stitches. Make the lines parallel or occasionally criss-cross them. Don't sweat it; you're just adding some texture. There is no wrong way to do this.

NOTE: You may notice that the edges of the silk are wont to fray and unravel. Do your best not to pull at any of the silk threads that come loose! Just snip them off if they bother you. You will encase these raw edges with the fat quarter binding soon enough. Be patient with the inevitable messiness of the silk. It will be worth it!

5 After you have an area of stitching that spans a couple of inches, move about 6" down the scarf and repeat Step 4.

6 Repeat Steps 4 and 5 until the entire scarf has been embellished.

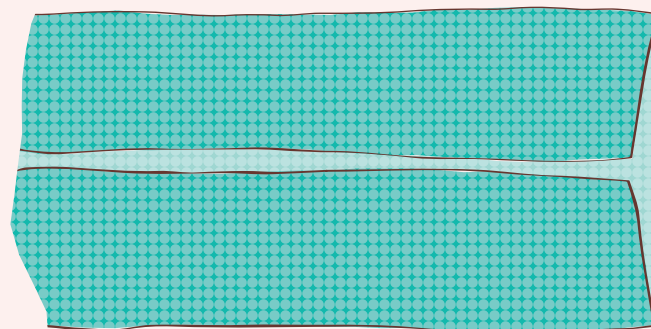
PREPARE THE BINDING

7 Cut the fat quarter along the 22" length into nine 2" strips.

8 Hold two strips with the right sides together and make a seam along one short end. Use a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, backstitching at the beginning and end.

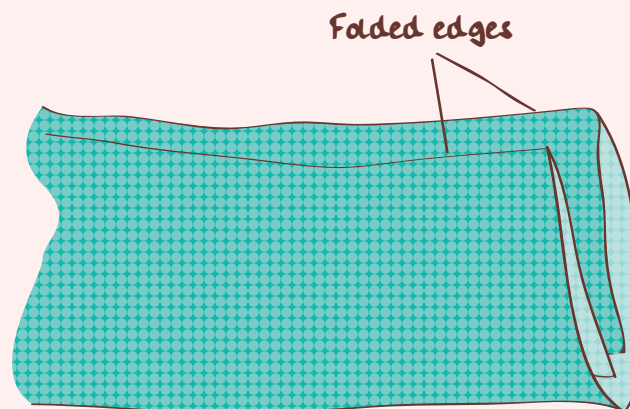
9 Continue attaching the remaining strips as you did in Step 8 to create one long strip. Press the seams to one side.

10 Place the strip right side down on the ironing board and fold the long edges in until they just meet at the center. Press. You can do the edges one at a time or do both at the same time. Use whichever method makes you more comfortable.



Step 10

11 Fold the strip in half lengthwise so that the raw edges are enclosed and the two folded edges meet. Press the entire strip well to finish your binding tape.



Step 11

ATTACH THE BINDING

12 Carefully snip any loose threads.

13 Open the folded binding and start tucking one of the long edges of the silk piece into the fold.

14 Align one end of the binding with the one end of the silk and hold the first few inches in place with your fingers. As I mentioned earlier, I don't use pins on this project because it makes the silk more fragile.

15 Using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, stitch the binding to the silk, being careful to catch the silk between the two layers of the binding. Pause every few inches to make sure that the silk is sandwiched in the binding and that everything lines up properly. Continue sewing in this manner until you reach the end of the silk piece.

16 When you reach the end of the silk, cut the binding flush with the end of the silk piece. You will seam this raw edge later.

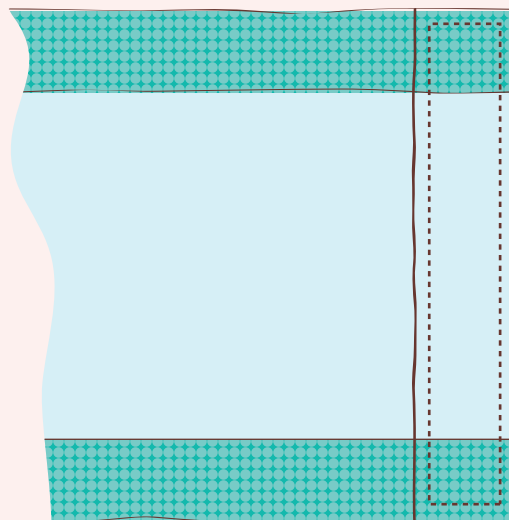
17 Use the remaining binding to repeat Steps 12–16 on the opposite side of the silk scarf.

FINISH THE ENDS

18 On one short end of the scarf, fold the end $\frac{1}{2}$ " to the wrong side and press.

19 Fold the end over another $\frac{1}{2}$ " and press.

20 Stitch along all four edges of this thin rectangle of folded fabric, backstitching at the beginning and end.



Step 20

21 Repeat Steps 18–20 on the other end to complete the scarf.

22 Now wrap this stunner around that lovely little neck of yours and prepare to turn some heads.



Yoga Pants Rehab

Yoga Pants Rehab

Whether in yoga class or out running errands, add a little spice to your ensemble with this simple customization. If you've been afraid to work with knits, this is a good project to get your feet wet.

Finished
Measurement

two cuffs 3" long × 18" in diameter

SUPPLIES

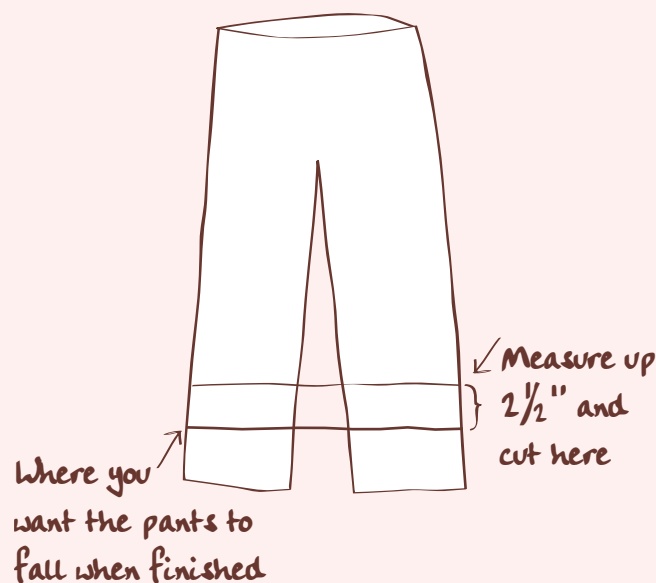
1 fat quarter

Yoga pants with some stretch that are in need of a makeover. The pants must be loose from the calf down (often the style is referred to as boot-cut). To figure out if you have the right type of pants, try them on and take a look at where you'll be adding the fabric. If that spot needs to stretch for you to wear the pants, then these aren't the right type of pants for this project.

Chalk or disappearing fabric marker

TO START, MEASURE AND TRIM THE PANTS

1 Put on the pants, and make a chalk mark where you want the finished hem to be. Take off the pants. (Optional: Put on some other pants so you aren't naked.) Lay the pants flat and make a second chalk mark $2\frac{1}{2}$ " higher on the pant leg than your original chalk mark. Make sure the layers of the pant leg are flat and even. Cut across the leg at the new chalk mark.



Step 1

- 2** Cut the second pant leg so that it's even with the first.
- 3** Because the pants are made from a stretchy fabric, you need to stitch along the bottom of the pant close to the raw edge you just cut. This stay-stitching keeps the fabric stable and makes it compatible with the non-stretchy fat quarter. To stay-stitch, stitch around the opening of each leg $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the raw edge.



Step 3

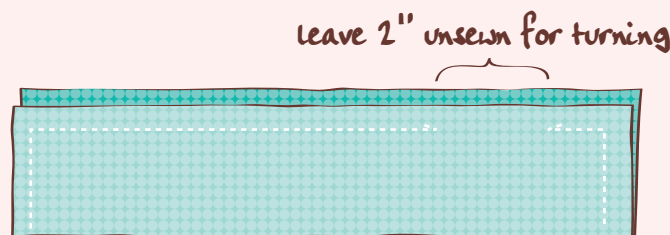
4 Lay the pant legs flat and measure across the width from side seam to side seam just above your cut. Double the measurement to determine the width of the opening. For example, my pant legs are 9" wide, which means they have an 18" opening. I've based the directions on these measurements. If the measurements of your pants differ, make the appropriate adjustments in the following steps.

MAKE THE BAND

5 Cut two 19" x 8" pieces from the fat quarter. (Remember: If your pant leg openings aren't 18", add 1" to the measurement for your pants.)

6 Fold one piece of fabric in half lengthwise with the right sides together. Press.

7 Starting with your needle at the folded edge of one short side, stitch around the raw edges using a 1/2" seam allowance. Stop about three-quarters of the way along the long edge and backstitch. Leave a 2" opening, then continue the seam along the long side, turn, and stitch down the other short side, backstitching at each end of the seam to secure.



Step 7

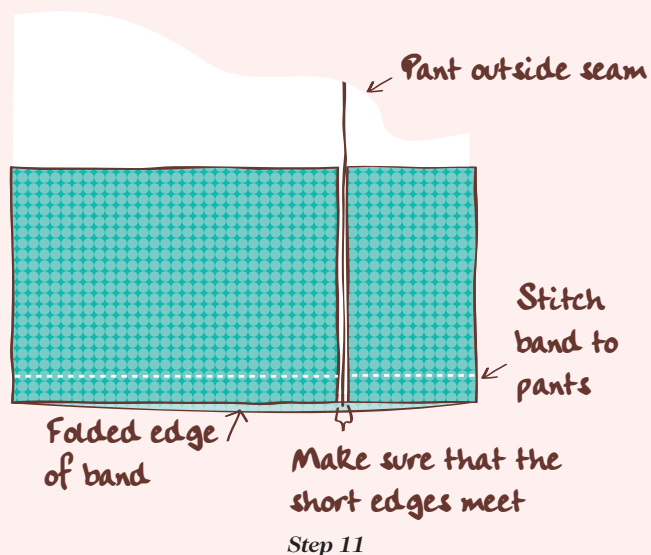
8 Clip the corners, taking care not to cut the stitches. Press the seams to one side.

9 Using the 2" opening, turn the band right side out. Turn in the seam allowance at the opening and press again.

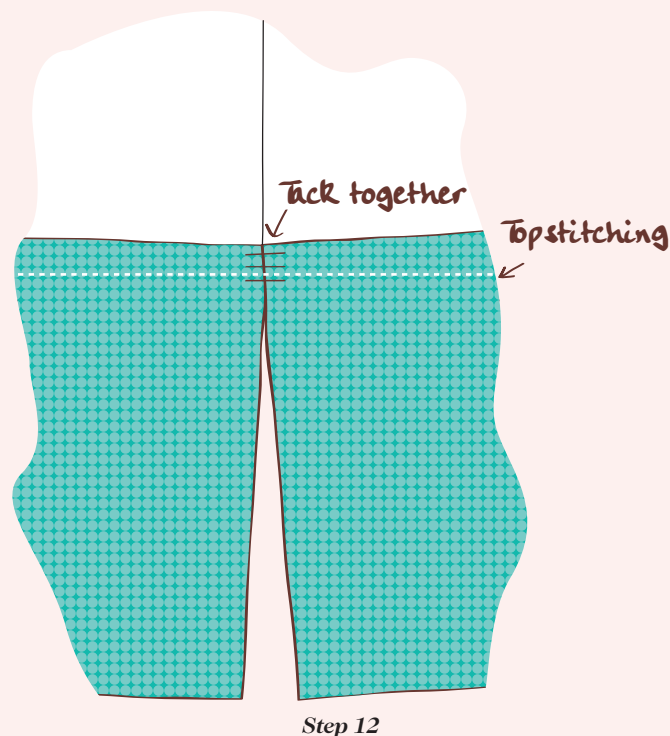
ATTACH THE BAND

10 Starting at the outside seam of the pant leg and working around the opening of the leg, pin the band's folded edge to the right side of the pant leg, aligning the edges of the band and the pants. The ends of the band should meet at the outside seam of the pant leg.

11 Double-check that the two ends of the band just touch at the outside seam and then, with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, sew around the bottom of the pant leg to attach the band to the pants. Press the seam toward the fabric band.



12 Fold the band down so it hangs from the bottom of the pants. Press and topstitch the cuff $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the seam, being careful to catch the back of the yoga pants material with the stitching.



13 Hold the two edges of the band together snugly and tack them by hand with a needle and thread.

14 Yay! Now you're ready to get your *om* on!



Necklace

Necklace

Braided strips of fabric create a simple but striking necklace. Fabric and ribbon choice will dictate the look from preppy to bohemian, so make it work for your style.

Finished
Measurement 20"–36"

SUPPLIES

1 fat quarter (makes two necklaces)

40" of 1½"-wide satin or soft grosgrain ribbon in a coordinating color

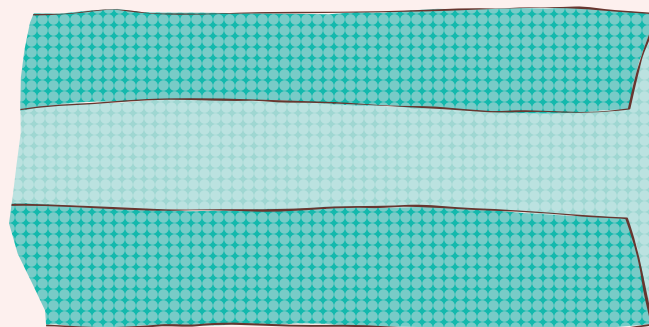
Thread to match ribbon

Hand-sewing needle

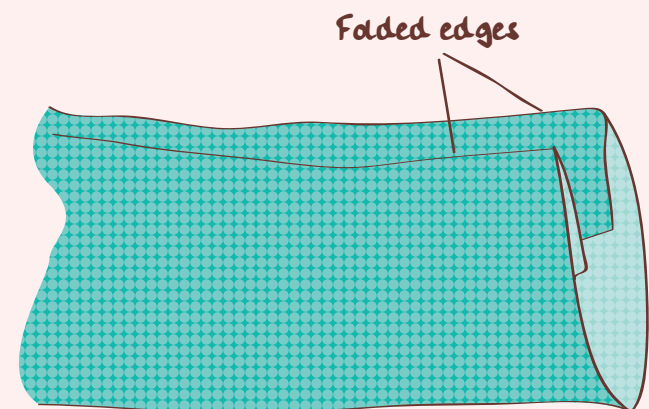
NOTE: Make sure to use a high-quality ribbon intended for sewing projects. The cheap satiny ribbon that is used in floral arrangements is not ideal because it is scratchy and doesn't lie nicely against the skin. Experiment with different kinds of ribbon to see what type you prefer for this project; simply tie a bow with the prospective ribbon and see if you like how the bow hangs. I prefer mine to be floppy, but you might prefer yours to be structured so you have a more crisp look.

TO START, MAKE A BRAID

- 1 Cut three strips from the fat quarter, each 3" × 22".
- 2 Place one strip right side down on the ironing board and fold the long edges in ½". Press. You can do the edges one at a time, or both at the same time if you are more comfortable with that method. Fold the fabric in half lengthwise and line up the folded edges. Press.



Step 2



Step 2

- 3 Stitch the folded edges together along the full length of the strip, ¼" from the edge.
- 4 Repeat Steps 2 and 3 for the remaining strips.

5 Stack the three strips with the stitched edges aligned and sew them together at one short end, $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge.

6 Use a safety pin to secure the stitched edge to a surface that can withstand some tugging as you braid the strips. Try using a pillow or the knee of your jeans. Braid the strips, until $\frac{1}{2}$ " remains unbraided. Secure the loose end of the braid with a safety pin.

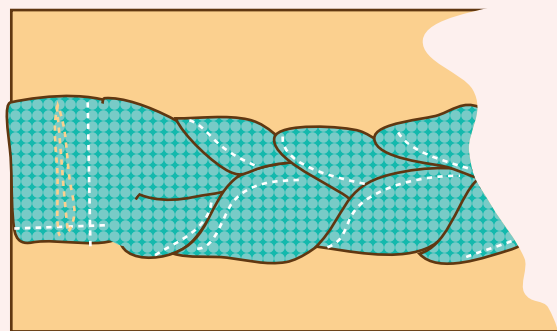
7 Place the braid around your neck and decide whether you are happy with the length or if you'd prefer the necklace to be shorter. If you want it to be shorter, unbraid the fabric to the desired length, re-pin at the loose end, and trim away the excess fabric, leaving $\frac{1}{2}$ " of unbraided edge after the pin.

8 Remove the safety pin and stitch the braid together $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the end, just as you stitched the opposite end in Step 5.

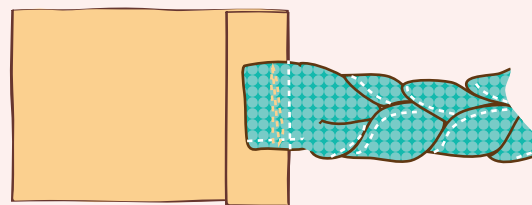
ATTACH THE RIBBON

9 Cut the ribbon into two 20" lengths.

10 Place one length of ribbon right side down on top of the braid, with one end of the ribbon lined up with one end of the braid. Stitch together using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Fold the ribbon away from the braid.

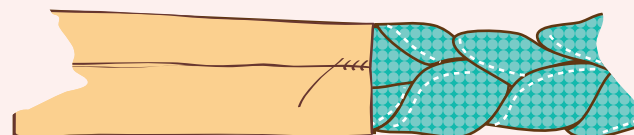


Step 10: Stitch the ribbon to the braid . . .



Step 10: . . . and then fold the ribbon away from the braid.

11 Flip the piece over and fold the sides of the ribbon around the end of the braid to cover the end of the braid. Holding the sides together securely, whip-stitch the edges of the ribbon together with needle and thread, making sure to catch some of the fabric with each stitch. Continue stitching $\frac{1}{2}$ " beyond the end of the braid. Knot and secure the thread.



whip stitch

Step 11

12 Tie a loose knot in the ribbon right where it meets the braid.

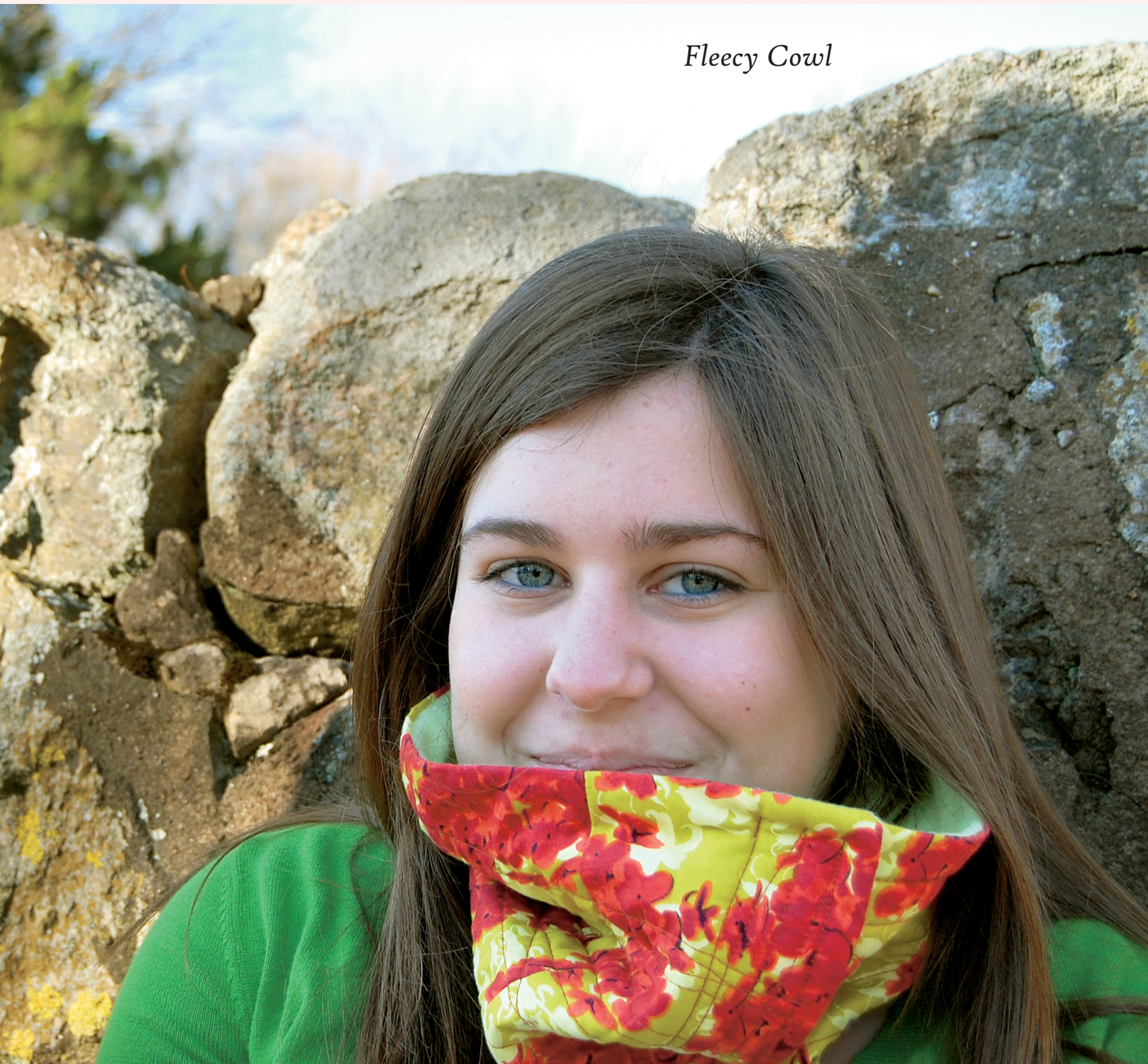


Step 12

13 Repeat Steps 10 through 12 on the other end of the braid to complete the necklace. Put the necklace around your neck and tie the ribbon into a bow. Adjust as needed to achieve the effect you want. It looks cute and sassy when the bow is worn on the front, just off to the side a bit. Wearing the necklace with the ribbon tied behind the neck creates a romantic look.



Fleecy Cowl



Fleecy Cowl

Whip up one of these snuggly cowls in fabric that coordinates with your favorite coat and you'll be as stylish as you are warm! Random stitch lines add flair to this easy-to-make cold-weather necessity.

Finished
Measurement

25" in diameter by 8½" tall

SUPPLIES

1 fat quarter

¼ yard Polar Fleece

TO START, PREPARE THE FLEECE AND FAT QUARTER

- 1 From the Polar Fleece, cut a rectangle measuring 28" × 10".
- 2 From the fat quarter, cut along the 18" edge to make one rectangle measuring 10" × 18". Cut a second rectangle measuring 10" × 11".
- 3 With the right sides of the fabric together, stitch the two pieces from the fat quarter along one 10" side, with a ½" seam allowance. This creates a 28" × 10" piece that matches the size of the fleece.
- 4 Press the seam to one side.

SEW THE FLEECE AND FAT QUARTER

- 5 Lay the fabric on top of the fleece with the right sides together. Pin along all four sides.

- 6 Using a ½" seam allowance, stitch along three sides, leaving one short end open for turning the cowl right side out. Trim the corners.

- 7 Turn right side out and, with the fat quarter fabric on top, press using an iron set on low heat. Don't melt the fleece!

- 8 On the open end, tuck the edges in about ½". Press. Stitch closed. You now have what looks like a short scarf.

ADD OPTIONAL DECORATIVE STITCHING

- 9 Now is the time to add some random (or, for you Type A people, perfectly orderly) stitching. Decorative stitching adds interest and texture.

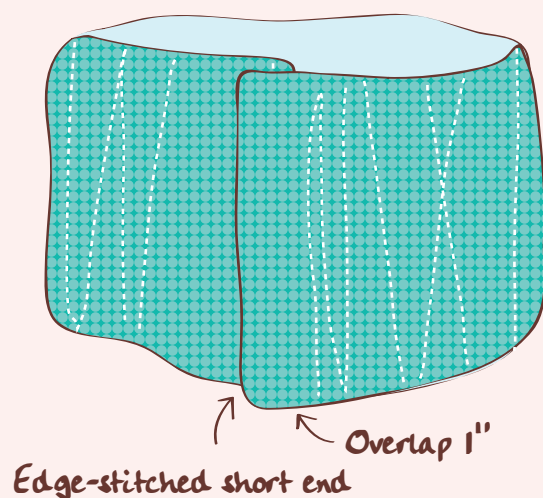
- 10 With a coordinating thread color and some full bobbins handy, turn the cowl fabric-side up and start doing some free-form stitch lines. If this kind of freedom freaks you out, here are some suggestions:

- ✿ Go back and forth the short way, in a straight or curving path, creating overlapping lines with different color threads.

- ✿ Set your machine to a zigzag stitch and change the settings to the shortest stitch length and a wide stitch width to get a nice satin stitch and do that in even lines down the whole length of the cowl (mark the lines with chalk and a ruler if you must).
- ✿ Take this chance to experiment with all those fancy decorative stitches on your machine. Relax and have fun. Be creative!

FINISH THE COWL

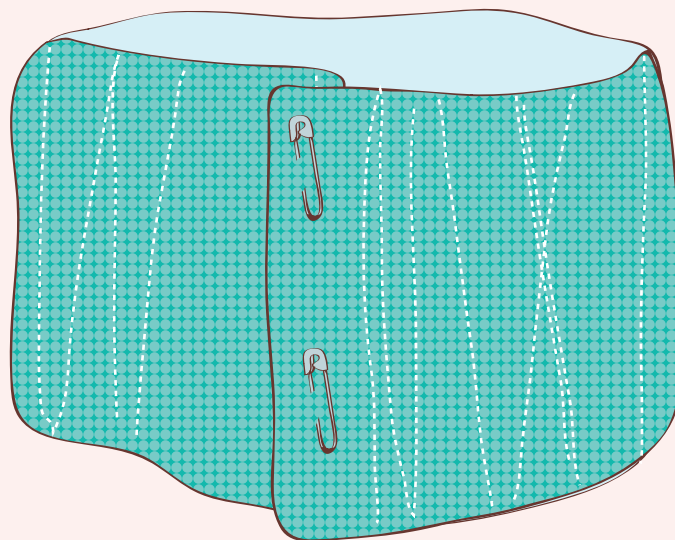
- 11 After you have embellished to your heart's content, form the piece into a cowl shape by bringing the two short ends together. The fabric side should be facing out.
- 12 Lay the edge-stitched short end under the other short end, overlapping about 1".



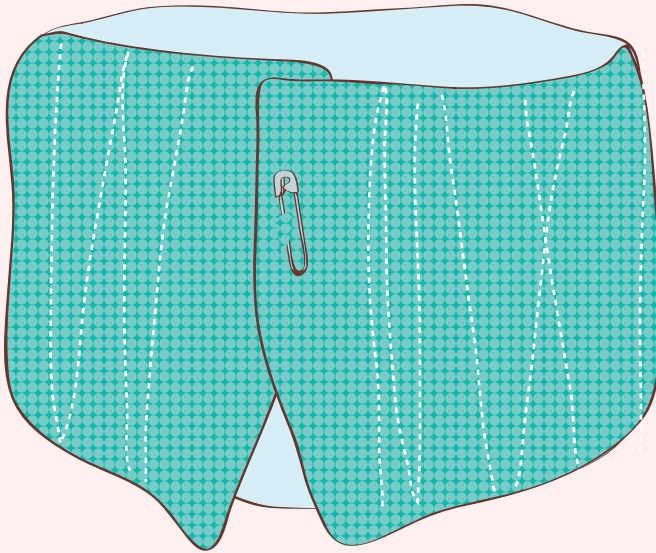
Step 12

- 13 Pin with safety pins, and slip the cowl over your head.

- 14 Look in a mirror to see if you like the cowl as it is or if you would prefer it to be a little more snug or loose. Decide if you want to close the cowl completely or if you prefer to leave a couple inches unstitched at the bottom so that the cowl splays apart.



Step 14: Closing the cowl completely.



Step 14: Leaving the cowl open at the bottom.

15 Adjust the pins accordingly and, with the two ends overlapping, stitch the ends together, backstitching at the beginning and end of your seam. If the edges overlap just $\frac{1}{2}$ " or so, a single seam is enough. If the overlap is 1"

or more, sew another seam $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the inside edge, so the piece that overlaps on the inside doesn't flap around. If straight seams are too bland for your style, add more decorative stitching with back and forth stitches or overlapping vertical lines.

NOTE: Now that you understand the basic construction, experiment! This project is based on a 28" \times 10" rectangle. To make a cowl that is longer vertically and scrunches more, increase the shorter measurement. To make a floppier piece that folds over and is more loose, increase the longer measurement. Experiment with materials such as velvet scraps, old t-shirts, felted wool, or knits. These cowls are so quick and simple to make, don't be afraid to experiment! If the cowl keeps your neck warm and looks cute then you did it right!

Sassy Shoelaces



Sassy Shoelaces

Make your cute sneaks even cuter with these custom shoelaces. It's super easy to give a little sass to your kicks with these laces of sewn strips of fabric capped with heat shrink tubing from an electronics store!

Finished Measurement two pair of 48" laces

SUPPLIES

1 fat quarter (yields two pairs of adult-sized 48" laces)

Embossing heat tool (used for rubber stamping, available at most craft stores)

4" length of heat shrink tubing, $\frac{1}{8}$ " diameter (available at most electronics stores)

Ruler

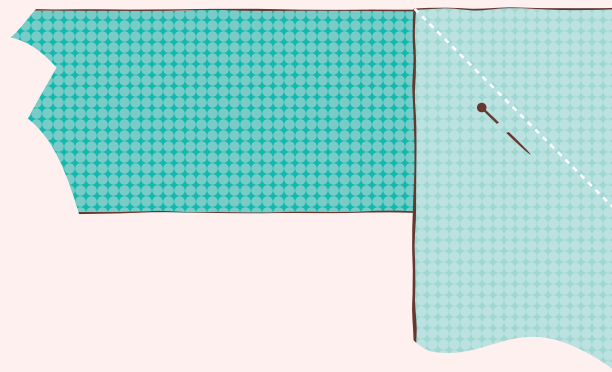
Rotary cutter

NOTE: Heat shrink tubing is available in a number of colors. If you can't find a color that works well with your chosen fabric, you can use clear.

TO START, BUILD THE SHOELACES

1 Using the ruler and rotary cutter, slice your fat quarter into five $1\frac{1}{2} \times 22$ " strips of fabric. Each shoelace uses $2\frac{1}{2}$ strips of fabric.

2 With the right sides together, hold two strips of fabric together so that they are perpendicular and form an L-shape. Pin in place and sew a diagonal line as shown in the illustration. This distributes the bulk of the seam over a larger area than a straight seam, and it enables the shoelace to fit through the eyelet of the shoe without getting stuck. Continue sewing all the strips together this way to form one long strip.



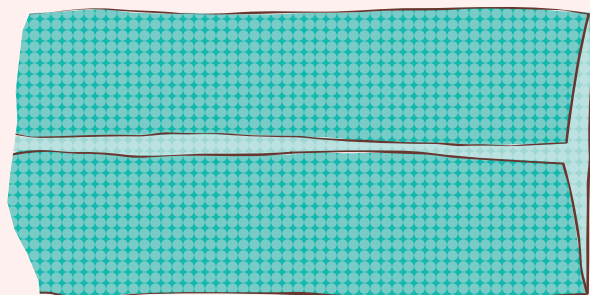
Step 2

3 Trim each seam, leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance and press the seams to one side.

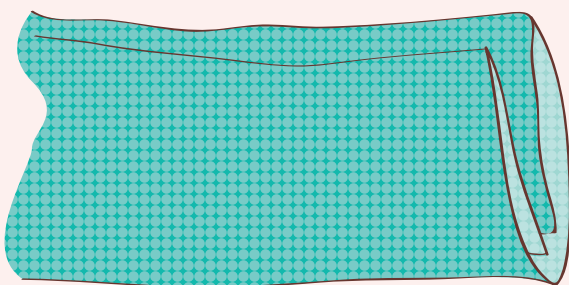
4 Cut two 50" lengths from the long strip you created.

5 Place one strip right side down on an ironing board and fold in the long edges until they just meet at the center. Press. You can do the edges one at a time, or both at the same time if you are more comfortable with that method.

6 After you have both long edges folded and pressed to the center, fold the strip lengthwise in half so the right sides are facing out and the raw edges are concealed within the fold. Match up the long folded edges and press along the entire length. Pin along the length of the strip.



Step 5



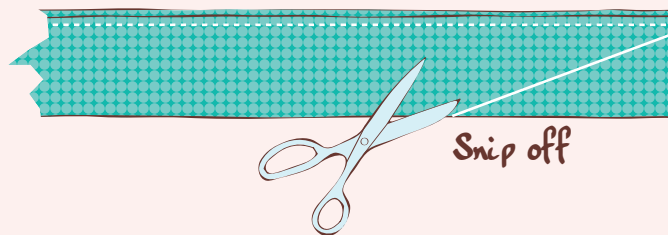
Step 6

7 Stitch along the folded-in edges, staying as close to the edge as possible and making sure the edges are lined up. Be careful to catch both edges with the stitching. You don't have to backstitch at each end because the ends will be cut off. Repeat Steps 5 through 7 for the second 50" strip.

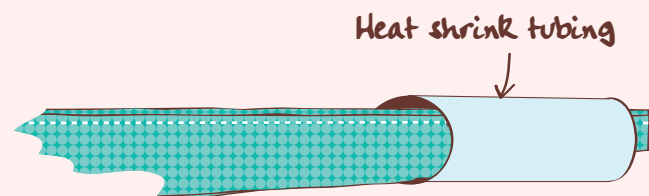
FINISH THE ENDS

8 From the heat shrink tubing, cut four 1" pieces.

9 Follow the illustration to cut a triangular piece of fabric from the folded side of the shoelace, starting your cut on the short edge just underneath the stitching and ending 1¼" up the folded side. Carefully thread the cut end through a piece of heat shrink tubing until the cut part has completely disappeared into the tube. Folding the shoelace in half lengthwise might make it easier for you to slip it into the tube. Don't worry about the cut end of the shoelace that hangs from the end of the tube; you will trim it away in Step 11.



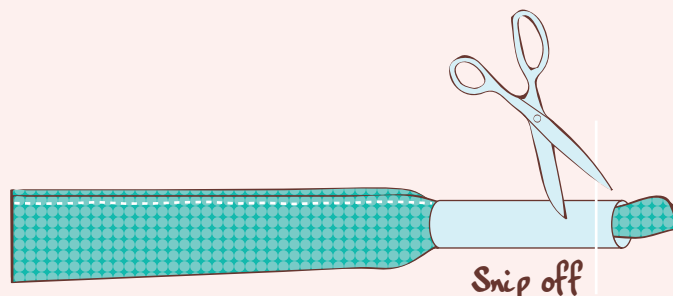
Step 9



Step 9

10 Following the manufacturer's instructions, use the heat tool to shrink the tube onto the end of the fabric. Give the tube a gentle tug to make sure the plastic has melted enough to grip the fabric. If it hasn't, heat it again until it's secure.

11 Trim the tube to ¾", cutting away the fabric and a bit of the tube to make the end flush.



Step 11

12 Repeat Steps 9 through 11 with the other shoelace ends and heat shrink tubing. Thread your laces through the eyelets of your favorite shoes and enjoy all the compliments you are bound to receive!





Strapping Bag

Strapping Bag

While the pieced patchwork strap on this bag takes some time to put together, the visual impact is worth the effort. Solid sides with subtle decorative stitching help set off the continuous strip that serves as both gusset and strap.

Finished
Measurement

25" handle, 7.5" tall, 12" wide

SUPPLIES

3 coordinating fat quarters:

Fat Quarter A for the bag lining

Fat Quarter B for the strap and interior pocket

Fat Quarter C for the strap

¼ yard of medium wale corduroy in a complementary color for the outside of the bag

1 package craft weight fusible interfacing (or ½ yard)

1 package medium-weight fusible interfacing

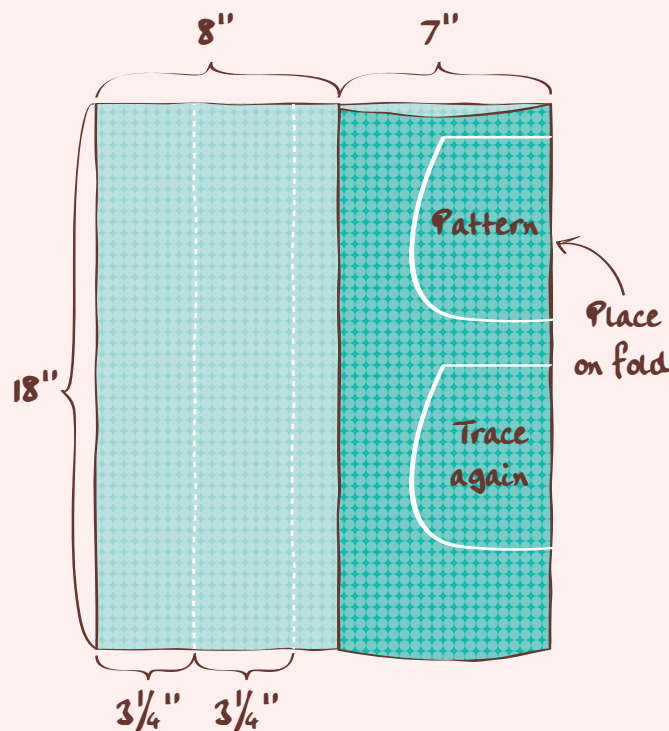
Coordinating thread

Optional: Magnetic snap

TO START, CUT THE BAG PIECES

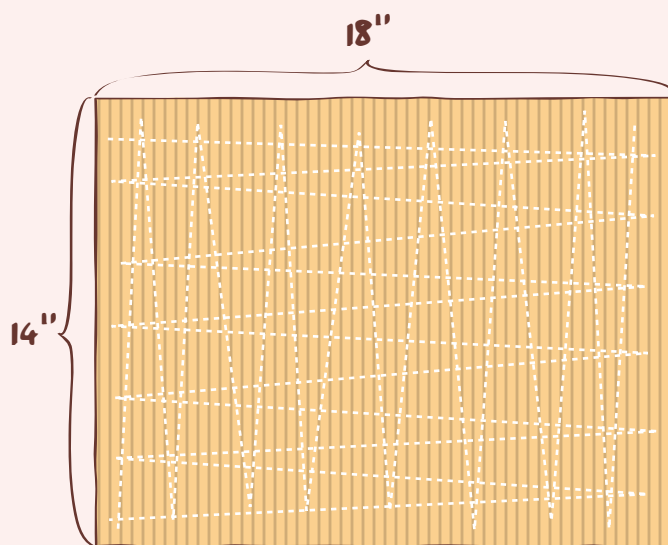
1 For the lining, along the 22" length of Fabric A, measure 7" from one end and fold the fabric over. Place the pattern piece from page 120 on the fold. Trace the pattern. Without moving the fabric, move the pattern piece down, again placing it on the fold, and trace a second piece. Pin the fabric and cut out both pieces, reserving the rest of the fabric. Set the pieces aside.

2 From the remainder of Fabric A, cut two 3¼" × 18" strips.



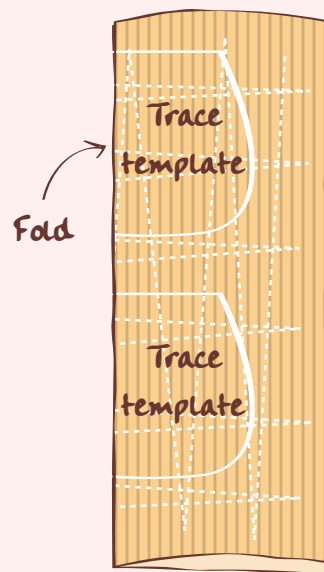
Steps 1 and 2

3 From the corduroy, cut a 14" × 18" piece and iron the craft weight interfacing onto the wrong side of this piece of corduroy. Create texture on the fabric by machine stitching randomly in a coordinating thread color, as shown in the sample. Stitch right up to the edge of the fabric and pivot as necessary to create a pattern of stitch lines all over the fabric.



Step 3

4 Fold the textured fabric in half to make an 18" × 7" rectangle. Place the pattern template on the fold and trace it twice, as you did in Step 1. Cut out the pieces.

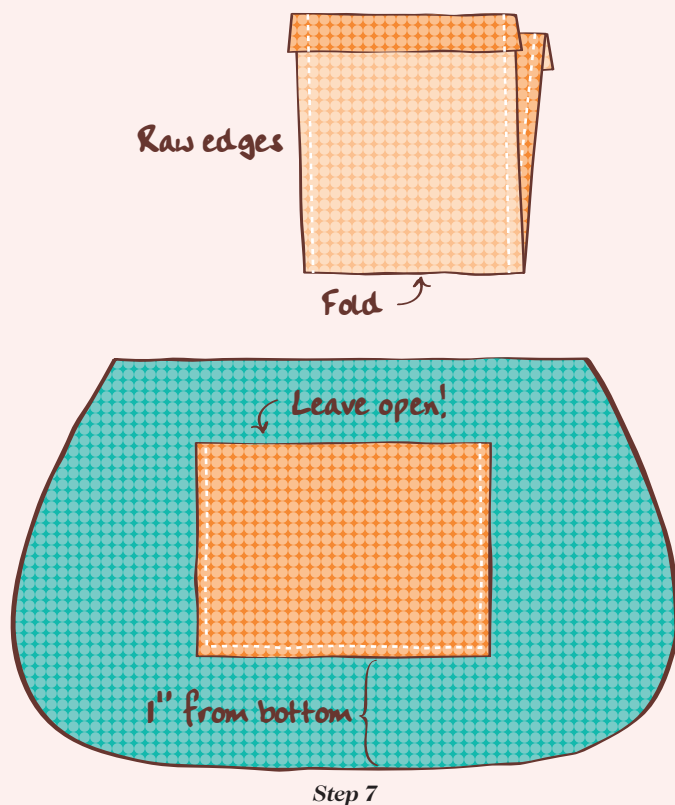


Step 4

- 5 Cut three 6.5" × 18" strips from Fabric B and three from Fabric C.
- 6 For the self-faced pocket, cut an 11" × 6" rectangle from Fabric C.

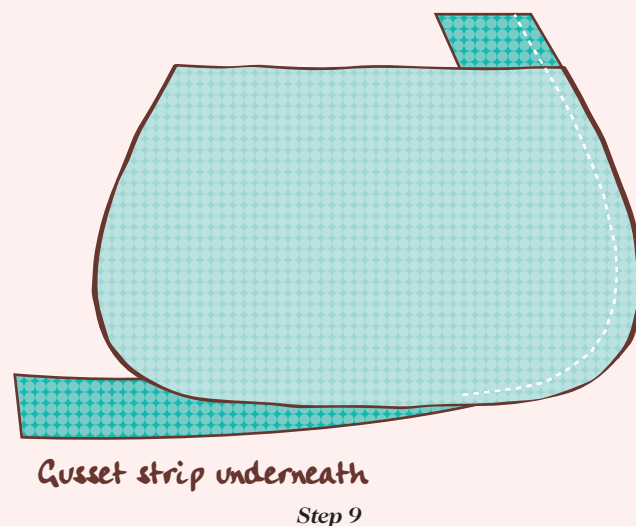
SEW THE BAG LINING

7 To make the pocket, turn under the short ends of the pocket piece of Fabric B $\frac{1}{2}$ " to the wrong side and press. Bring the folded-in edges together so the piece is folded in half with right sides together. With a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, sew the two raw edge sides. Turn right side out and press. Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge to close the opening; this seam is the top edge of the pocket. Center the pocket 1" from the bottom on the right side of one piece of the bag lining (Fabric A). Pin in place and topstitch the sides and bottom of the pocket to the lining $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge, backstitching at each end. Don't sew the top of the pocket closed!



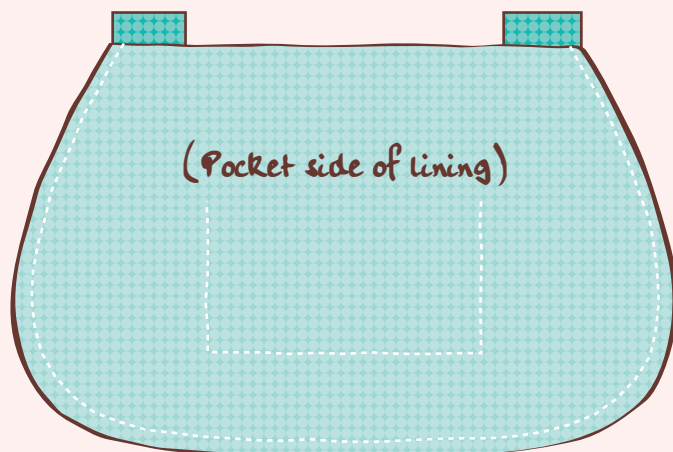
8 Stitch the two strips of Fabric A together at the short ends to make one long strip. Press the seam to one side. This is the gusset.

9 With the right sides together, hold the lining piece (the one with the pocket) and the strip for the gusset with one short end of the gusset extending just beyond the flat top side of the purse lining. Working down the side, across the bottom, and up the second side of the lining, pin the gusset in place, aligning the edges of the lining and the gusset. Stitch with $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, easing around the curves by lifting the presser foot and leaving the needle down to pivot the fabric as necessary.



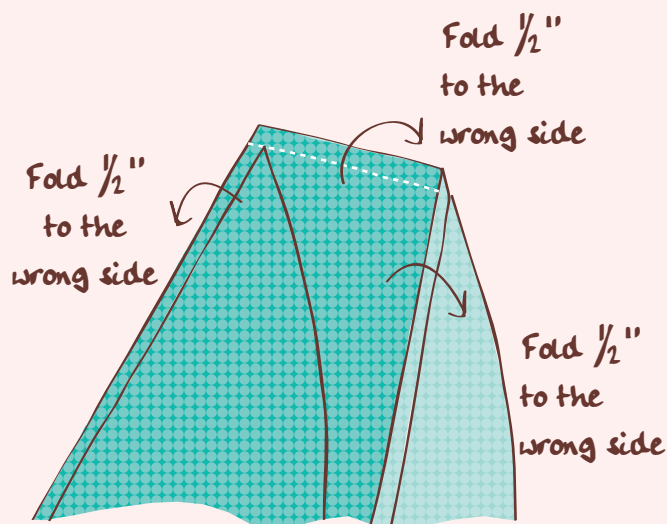
10 Press the seam allowance toward the gusset.

11 Repeat Steps 9 and 10 to attach the gusset to the second side of the lining. Press the seam toward the gusset.



Step 11

12 At the top of the bag lining, fold the edges under $\frac{1}{2}$ " toward the wrong side of the fabric and press. Set aside.

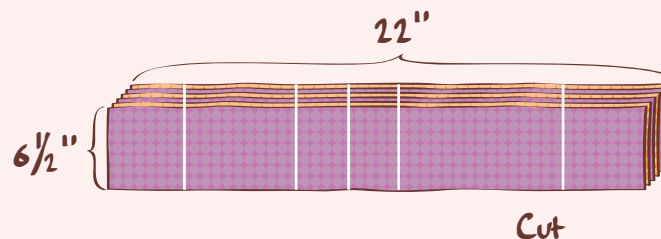


Step 12

PIECE THE STRAP AND OUTER GUSSET

13 Carefully lay all six of the previously cut $6\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide strips right side up on top of each other so you can cut through all the layers at once. Make sure the strips are straight and aligned. Being careful to make your cuts perpendicular to the length of the fabric, cut random segments of fabric that are 3" to 6" long. As long as the pieces are $6\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and cut straight, it doesn't matter how short or long you cut the strips. (Feel free to use the few inches of leftover Fabric A in this patchwork strip.)

Stack of fabrics B and C



Step 13: Cut random sections that are 3" to 6" long.

14 Using $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowances and with right sides together, stitch the segments together into one long strip, varying the fabrics so there aren't two strips of the same fabric next to each other. Press the seams to one side.

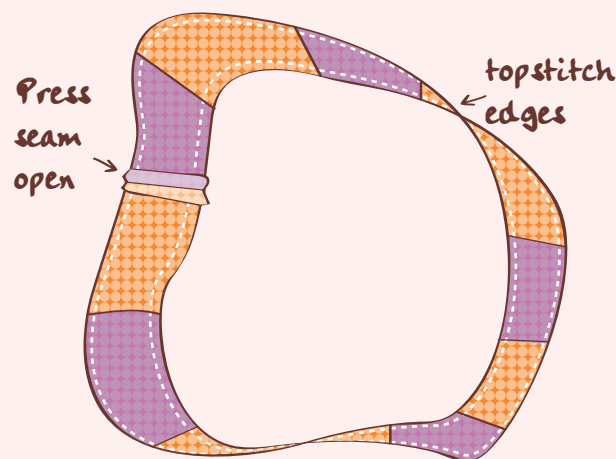


Step 14

15 From the pieced strip cut one 56" length and apply a $5\frac{1}{2}$ " \times 55" piece of fusible interfacing to the center of the wrong side of the strip.

16 With the right sides together, fold the strip in half lengthwise, press, and stitch closed on the long raw edge. Turn right side out and press. Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " from both long edges.

17 Fold the strip in half, aligning the short ends. Using a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, sew the two short edges together and press the seam open. Topstitch both sides of the seam allowance to the strip $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the seam. The circle you just created will become the bag gusset and handle.

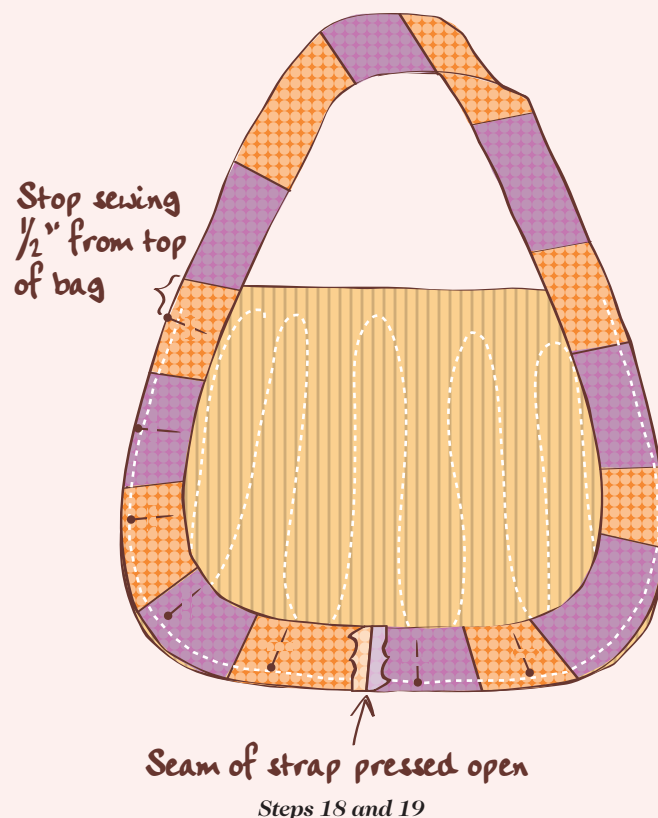


Steps 16 and 17

SEW THE BAG'S OUTSIDE

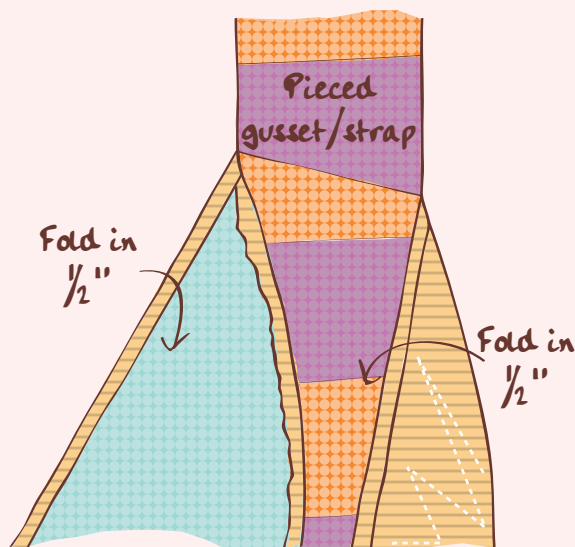
18 With the right sides together (the finished side of the seam from the previous step is on the right side), pin the strap to one of the bag outside pieces just as you did to attach the gusset to the lining in Step 9. Make sure that the seam you created in Step 17 is at the bottom of the bag. Sew these pieces together, starting and stopping $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the ends. Stitch with $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, easing around the curves by lifting the presser foot and leaving the needle down to pivot the fabric as necessary. Backstitch to secure at the beginning and end.

19 Align the second outside piece of the purse carefully so the tops of the purse sides are even, and with the right sides together, begin pinning the second outside piece to the other side of the strap. Stitch the outside piece to the strap, starting and stopping $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top edges of the purse. Stitch with $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance, easing around the curves by lifting the presser foot and leaving the needle down to pivot the fabric as necessary. Backstitch to secure at the beginning and end.



ASSEMBLE THE BAG

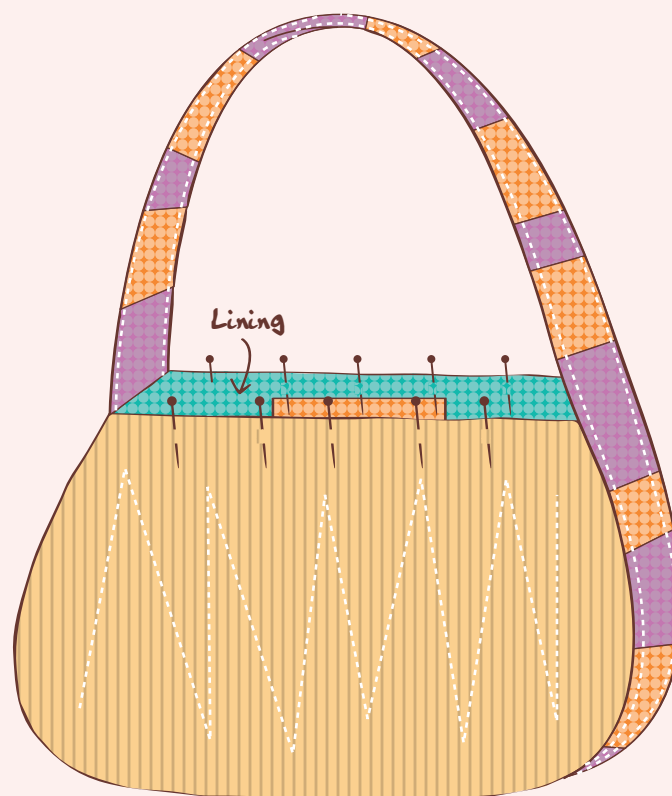
20 On the unfinished top of the bag, fold the edges $\frac{1}{2}$ " toward the inside of the bag.



Step 20

21 If you would like to put a closure on the bag, follow the manufacturer's instructions now to add the snap to the lining.

22 With the wrong sides together, place the lining inside the bag. Align the bag and the lining, making sure that the gussets match up. Pin around the edge of the bag opening to keep the bag and lining in place.



Step 22

23 Topstitch pinned edges $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge.

24 Now throw your essentials into this beauty, grab a friend, and get into some mischief!