

Pet Patterns and Costume Ideas

By Reba Burns

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How to make fun things for your pets

All the patterns in this book will need to be adapted to fit your pet. The patterns are simple in construction so drawing them out free hand on large pieces of paper or tissue paper will be relatively easy. If they seem a little challenging and you don't think you can enlarge the patterns to fit your pet, we have other options for costuming and dressing your pals.

Even though this book was written with mainly dogs in mind. Many of the patterns and suggestions will work for cats too.

Making Costumes or clothing for your dog can be quick and easy or it can get really involved. Most of the time unless you have an extremely small dog, baby, toddler and children's clothes can be altered to fit your pet, if you don't want to really get into sewing. If you want to start from scratch there are patterns later in this book.

If that's the case, then pop into a second-hand children's store to pick-up a slightly used Halloween costume or stop by your local goodwill store to see what they may have in stock. Sleepers, sweatshirts, sweaters and just about anything else you can think of can be adjusted and altered to fit your pooch.

If your dog is on the small side, then doll clothes are probably more suiting for the little one. Cabbage Patch Kid clothes come in a variety of styles. American girl doll clothes for a smaller pet and there are plenty more, again you could probably pick something up at a second hand store or on sale, or maybe at a garage sale.

Children's hats, doll hats and scarves really add to your pet's attire.

The best thing to look for in children's clothes are clothing that closes in the back, if the costume or the clothes have feet in them that's

even better. To adapt a one piece costume or clothing to for your pet is really pretty simple. The first thing you need to do is see how close the costume is to fitting your pet.

Unbutton or unzip the back of the costume, put your dog's front legs into the legs of the costume, see how close it is to fastening around the dog's neck while allowing the arms of the costume to hang free. Do not fasten the costume at this time, as it could be way too tight and constricting to your pet. You want the costume to fairly flat against your pet's chest. If it doesn't appear to lay flat, then open the back seam of the costume a little until it lays flat at the chest. To do this clip the stitching that holds the seam together with a seam ripper or scissors.

You will need to make hands for the arms of the costume. They do not have to be fancy at all, just draw a mitten style hand on a piece of paper. You will need to cut four mittens out of a flesh colored material. Felt works great for this because it doesn't fray. Sew two of the mittens together leaving them open at the wrist. Turn the mitten inside out so the sewn edge does not show. Stuff the mittens with batting or a lightweight material. Stitch the opened end of the mitten shut. You can top stitch the mitten to form fingers if you want, it makes the mittens look more like hands.

Turn the costume inside out and put the mittens into the sleeve of the costume, you can either hand stitch the mittens to the sleeve or use a sewing machine if you want. Just make sure you sew it right. You want to be able to turn the costume right side out with the mittens hanging at the sewn end of the arms on the costume.

Fill the sleeves of the costume with batting or material to make it look like there are arms already in the costume. Stitch them closed close to the shoulder so the batting doesn't come out when you try to dress your pet.

If the costume has feet in it, very carefully cut the feet open at the very bottom. You need to do this so your dog does not slip and fall. You can attach a thin piece of elastic that runs across the bottom of the foot area to hold the costume's leg down. Just make sure it does

not make your pet uncomfortable. If it does then just remove the elastic and you may have to adjust the costume more often.

Try the costume on your dog. Do not fasten the costume at this time! Measure the distance between each side of the costume and your pet's neck. You will need to attach ribbon or Velcro to each side of the neck to insure it is not too tight around your dog's neck. Make sure you give your pet enough room so that it does not bind up on them.

Hats can have elastic attached to the sides, so your dog can wear them. If your pet is too small to wear children's hats then go to your local craft store and check out the hats they have for dolls. Hats can be adorned with feathers, scarves and bandanas. You can usually find a hat that will fit your pet. If it's the wrong color, spray paint it with craft paint or fabric paint. There's really no end to what you can do with a hat.

A witches' hat can be turned into a princess hat by attaching some tulle to the tip of the hat. You can turn your dog into a fairy by adding a crown and adding children's fairy wings, or insect wings. Again if your dog is small they have wings for dolls too!

Capes are a pretty simple thing to add to a costume. If you don't think you can sew one, make it out of felt. Then you will only have to tack on ribbon to tie at the neck.

You can add a frill by using tulle to make your little one a ballerina. If you buy tulle in six inch wide you can gather it at one end to make a ruffled edge. Top stitch it with your machine so it doesn't come apart. Sew one-inch ribbon (or smaller depending on the size of the dog) to the gathered tulle to make a band and ties for the tutu. You will want the tutu to reach completely around your pet and then you will be able to tie it together to make a complete circle around your dog's middle.

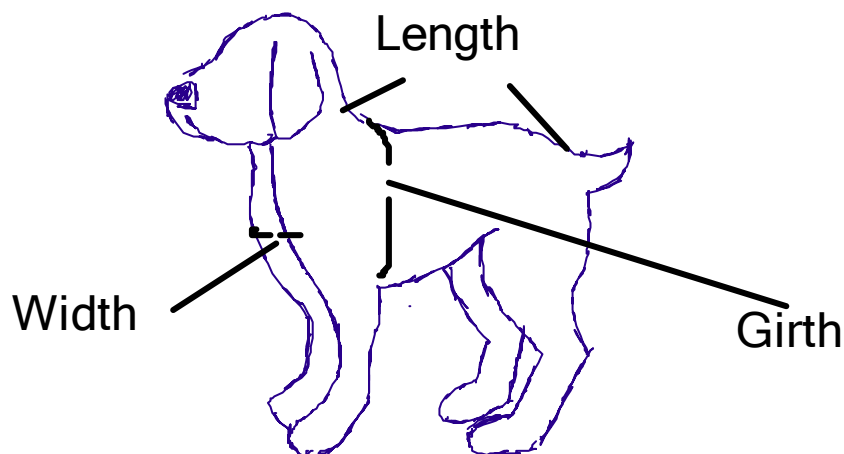
You can make a clown collar by applying the same technique but it would go around the dog's neck instead of its middle. A couple different layers of tulle in different colors would add the special effects you would need for a clown collar.

If you want your dog to sport a wig, attach it to the hat. That way the elastic that is holding the hat on will keep the hair in place. You don't want to try to keep hair and hat adjusted. Sewing them together to make one item works better.

Now onto the patterns and custom costumes for your dog.

The following patterns were made for dogs in a variety of sizes. By taking your dog's measurements, the patterns can be adjusted to fit your pet. The following method of measuring will help you adjust the patterns to fit your pet.

- Length - From where the neck bends and becomes the back to where the tail starts
- Girth - Biggest distance around the chest, just behind the front legs
- Width - Distance across chest as you look straight on at the dog
- Neck Length - Distance from where the neck bends and becomes the back over the head to the eyes.



Let's start out with a Visor

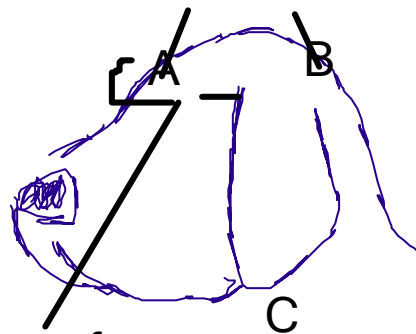
Read all of the instructions for the Visor first

Materials:

- Cardboard, Buckram, Craft foam sheets or another type of stiff material for visor brim
- Material (amount depends on size of pet)
- Velcro and or elastic (width of elastic depends on pet size)
- Bias Tape is optional

Measure your pet's head:

Measure front to back for Visors

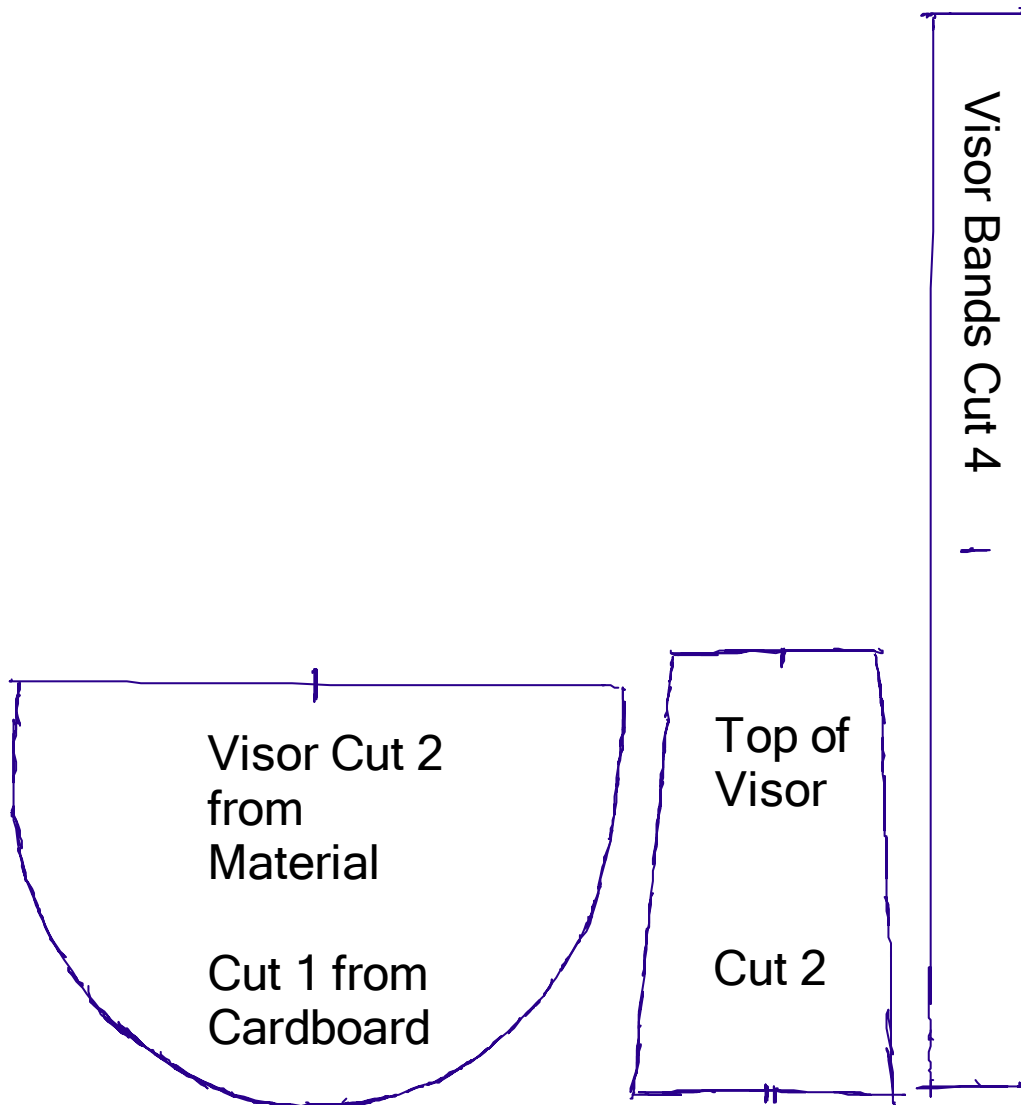


Ear to ear for
Visor width

Measure the distance across the front of the head between the ears. This will be the width of the visor. Measure the distance for the front band (Area A) by measuring under one ear going across the front of the head to the back of the other ear. (Like the visor measurement but you measure to the back of each ear. For the rear band (Area B&C), measure all the way around the pet's upper neck. Going

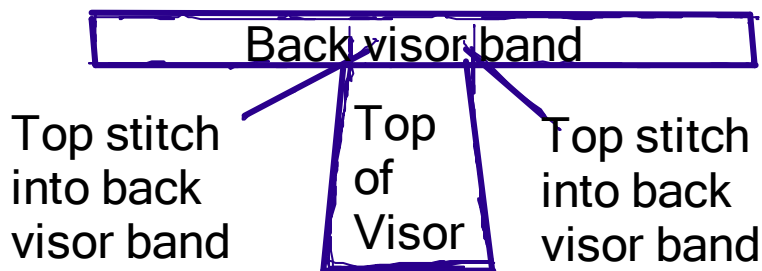
around the areas B and C. Add at least 1" to that measurement. It may need to be longer depending on the size of your pet.
(See fig. Above)

Now measure the distance from front to back A to B between your pet's ears. This will be the length of the Top of the Visor. (See pattern below) When figuring out the width of the Top of the Visor, the smaller end will be attached to the flat edge of the visor, this needs to be narrow enough, so it doesn't rub against your pet's ears. The larger end is attached to the back Visor Band. (When making your patterns make sure you try them on your pet if you can before you cut out any material. This pattern does not have a seam allowance so make sure to add 1/4" around the pattern for sewing the seams.



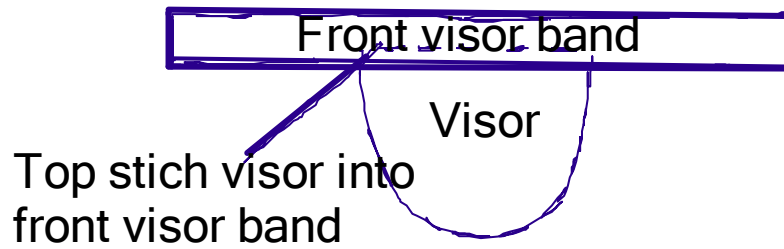
There are a couple of different ways you can assemble a visor. The easiest way is with cardboard as the stiffener for your visor, you cut two pieces of material 1/4" larger than the cardboard all the way around visor adding 1" to the visor length at the back. (1" from the straight line of the pattern) The extra material will be sewn into the front visor band. If you use cardboard, then you can glue the fabric to the cardboard, but do not put any glue on the material that will be sewn under the front visor band. Trim the material close to the cardboard after the glue has dried. Again do not cut the extra material that goes in the front visor band. Glue bias tape around the brim of the visor covering the raw edge of the material. If you prefer to sew the visor brim, then you put the two pieces of material for the visor right sides together and sew all the way around the visor except for the straight edge. Turn the visor material right side out and insert the cardboard.

Finish cutting out the rest of the material. Turn right sides together for the top of the visor. Sew all sides except the narrow end that is top stitched to the back visor band. Turn the right sides together on the back visor band. Sew all sides together except the bottom. Fold the bottom raw edge of the back visor band in 1/4". Insert the narrow end of the top of the visor into the bottom of the back visor band. Top stitch the bottom of the back visor band close to the edge. Top stitch a square on the back of the visor band tacking all sides of the top of the visor that has been inserted into the back visor band.

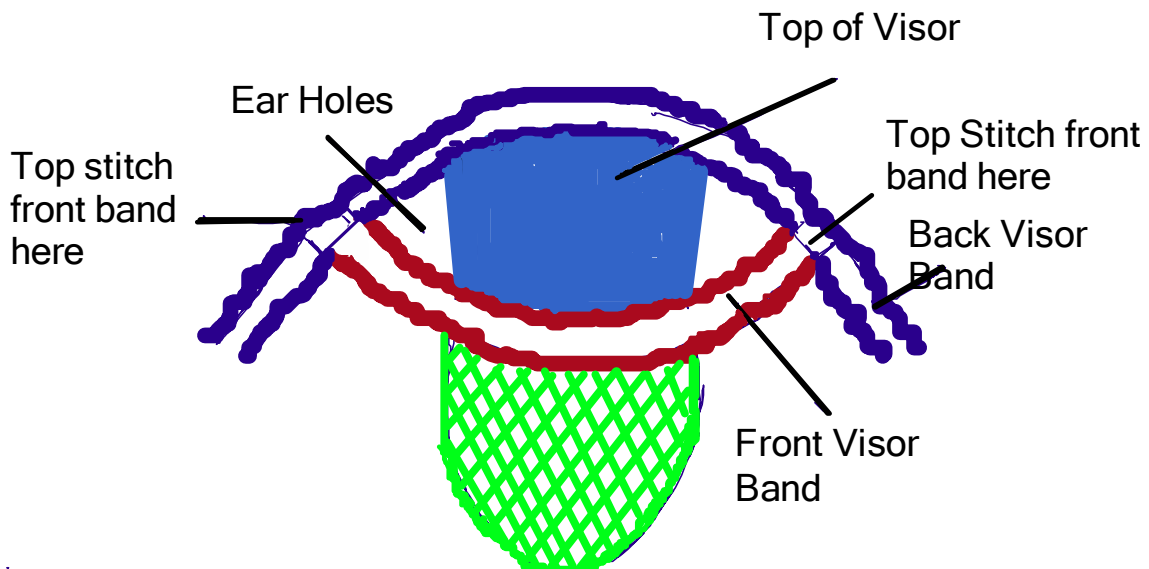


Sew the front visor band the same way you just sewed the back visor band, leaving the bottom of the front visor band open. Insert the raw edge of the visor into the bottom of the front visor band. Double top

stitch the bottom edge of the front visor band. Double stitching will help keep the visor secure.



Now it's time to check our measurements. Safety pin the visor together as shown below. Try the visor on your pet. At this point you can make adjustments to ensure a good fit. Once you have adjusted the visor, Top stitch the front of the visor top to the underside of the front visor band, stitching all the way around the part of the top visor that is resting on the back visor band. Top stitch both sides of the front visor band to the bottom side of the back visor band. You should end up with a square that should rest beneath each ear of your pet. Now put the visor on your pet and mark where to place the Velcro on the back visor band. The Velcro fasteners are used to secure the visor to your pet's head. Just make sure you don't pull it too tight. Put the visor on your pet. Isn't it beautiful?



I usually offset the back visor band so the Velcro fastens on the side of my pets face instead of under the chin. You will find out what works best for you and your pet after you have done a few of them. Fun

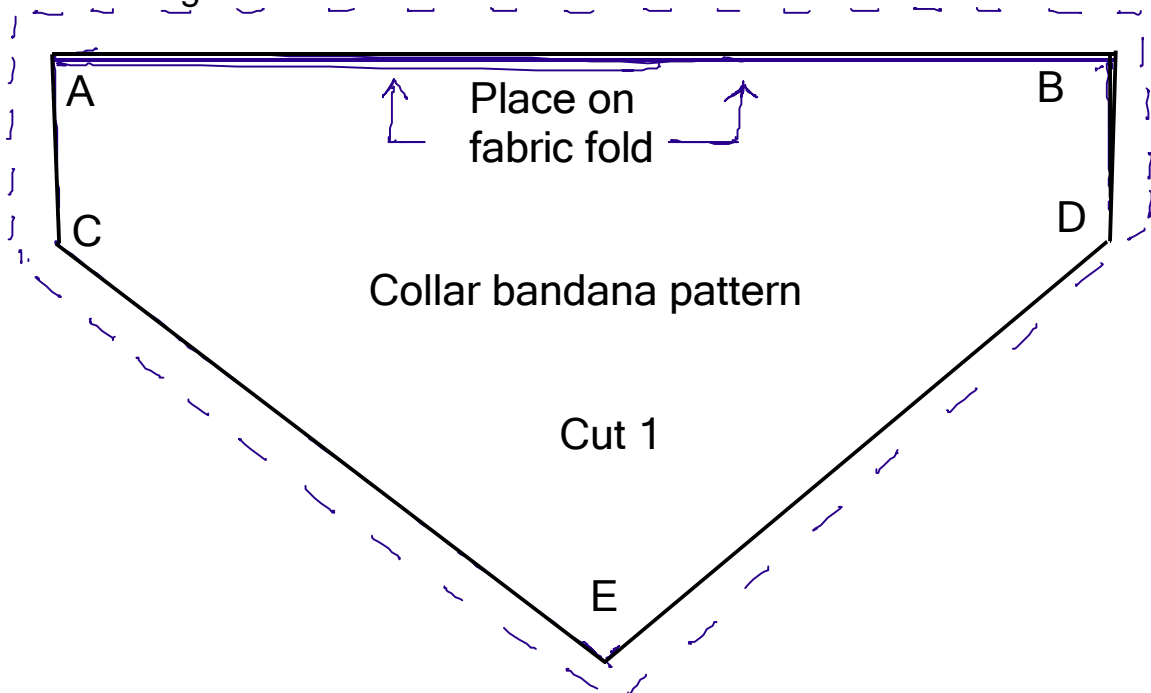
foam works great for stiffener inside the visor, especially if your pet likes water. Or if they wear they visors in the rain. Buckram is a stiffener that is used for making hats or as a stiffener in other areas of sewing. If you use buckram, you can use fusible webbing to adhere your material to your stiffener (buckram in this case).

Now, How About A Bandana?

There are three different ways you can make a bandana for your pets. There are probably more, but these are the ones I use. The first is a simple one-sided triangle. Sew a rolled hem all the way around the triangle. Tie it around your pet's neck.

The second one is a square with a rolled hem all the way around the square. You fold the square in half to make a triangle and tie it around your pet's neck.

The third bandana is used with a collar. To make a bandana that slides on your pets collar, cut out your desired material according to the pattern layout below. Take a measurement of your pet's neck, that will be the distance from A to B. The distance from A to C and B to D is the width of the pet's collar plus one half (making sure you have enough room to slide the finished bandana on the collar).



Measure from the top of your pet's collar (while it is on the pet) to approximately where you would like the bottom of the bandana to hang and that is the length of the bandana. Open up the bandana and hem all the way around the material. Fold the bandana in half so it looks like the pattern. Top stitch the area from C to E and E to D. Make sure to leave A to C open and B to D open, that is where you slide the collar through. Top stitch a straight line from C to D. Now if you didn't make your opening too narrow, the bandana should be ready to slide on your pet's collar. That's it!

Hooded Hound Coat Instructions



This hooded hound coat pattern was derived from a drawing in a magazine from 1910 (actually for a whippet, but I scaled it up a bit). I doubt that they had the benefit of Velcro and plastic drawstring stoppers, but the design is quite flattering to the build of the greyhound. When done in velvety fabric, your hound will take on a wonderful Victorian look. When done in upholstery fabric with fleece inside, it will be a real cold-buster. They stay put very well, even on fidgety dogs. They're easy to put on and take off when made with the single Velcro fastener and drawstring stopper described here. Oh, yes, and, they keep your hound warm--the purpose of a coat. We make these out of any kind of fabric we find, but have had the best luck with heavy upholstery/decorating fabric and winter wool blends for the warm coats. Consider odd sources of fabric, such as old blankets, drapes or rugs. It sounds weird, but these are typically thick heavy fabrics that wear and wash well. And they're warm. Using velvety or plush fabrics with satin inside will result in a stunning, although not very warm, look for your hound. Throughout these instructions we refer to the inner fabric and the outer fabric. The coats actually end up fully reversible, so this is just to make it easier to explain what's going on. You'll probably never

actually reverse it if you're using a wooly fleece for one side, but it's a cool feature if you're making a spring/fall-weight coat and can't decide which color looks best on your hound.

Time Needed:

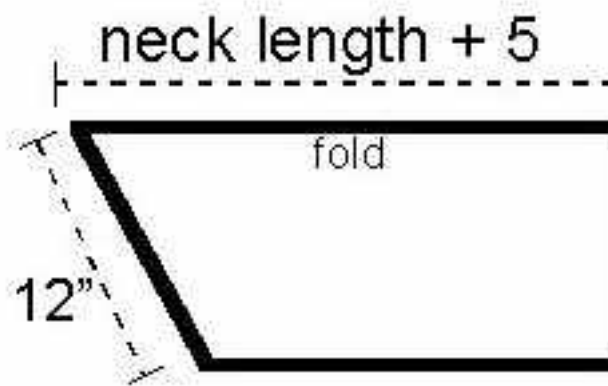
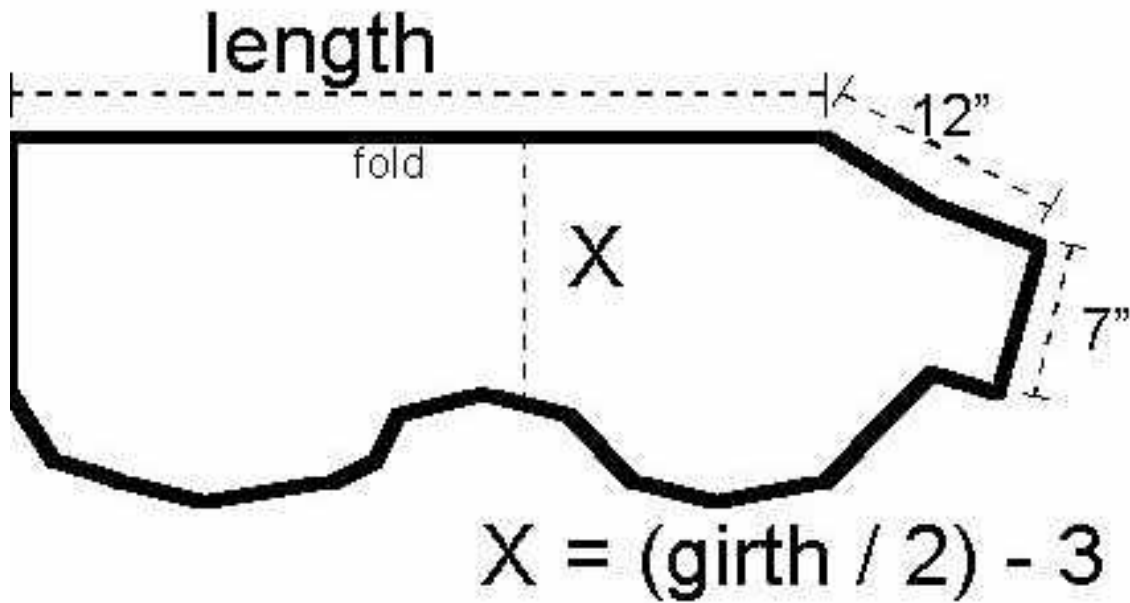
Each coat takes me 45-60 minutes to make. I don't pin stuff and my patterns are already made, so it may take you slightly longer, especially for your first coat.

Materials Needed:

- 5" strip of 2" wide sew-on Velcro (or 10" strip of 1" wide Velcro)
- 1 Plastic Drawstring Stopper (most fabric stores have these, but they're small and hard to find without asking)
- 2 foot piece of string or ribbon for drawstring
- 1 yard of outer fabric
- 1 yard of inner fabric
- Large sheet of paper, a paper bag cut open, news paper or tissue paper (for pattern)

Step 1 - Measure Your Dog and Make Full-Size Pattern

First, measure your dog write down the measurements.



Next, take a large sheet of paper and draw out your pattern similar to the one above, but to the size you measured on your hound. Don't worry about matching the drawing above exactly. Generally, you want the coat full around the chest and rear and thinner in the stomach

region. The rounded corners on the tail end add a very nice look and make later steps easier.

To figure out the X measurement in the drawing above, divide your hound's girth by 2, then subtract 3 inches.

Now take the pattern to your hound. This is a tough job, but worth the effort. Hold the pattern in place along the hound's spine and make sure the coat falls, as you would like. Make sure the butt is covered. Make sure the coat is long enough for the hound. Make sure the coat will cover the chest but not drown it. Hold the neckpiece to your hound's neck. Verify that it will loosely make it around your hound's neck. Don't worry if the neck seems too long. You will be folding it over to allow for the drawstring. If you need to make changes, do it now--even if you have to do the pattern over. Once you get a perfect pattern for your hound, you'll never have to go through this again.

Step 2 - Cut Fabric

Fold the inner fabric in half. Place the long straight side of the pattern pieces for the body and the neck along the fold. You can put a few pins in at this point if you'd like, but I don't. I just hold the pattern in place while I cut. Precision is not that important here.

THIS IS IMPORTANT! Allow 1/4" - 1/2" extra around the pattern as you cut the fabric. This will be your seam allowance. If I know I'll be top stitching (which I do with all but the bulkiest fabrics), I go with a 1/4" seam allowance. Otherwise I go with 1/2".

Next, fold the outer fabric in half. Don't use the pattern to cut the outer fabric. Instead, use the folded inner fabric pieces as the pattern. This will assure you that the two sides will match perfectly. Cut the outer fabric to match the inner fabric shape.

Finally, cut the stomach strap pieces. Cut two 5 1/2" x 7" rectangle of the inner fabric and two of the outer fabric. (If you're working with a bulky inner fabric such as wooly fleece, use the outer fabric for all 4 of these pieces. It's yucky working with Velcro on fleece.)

Step 3 - Construct Stomach Straps

Place one inner fabric and one outer fabric 5 1/2" x 7" rectangle on top of each other using a 1/4" seam allowance, stitch along three sides, leaving a 5 1/2" edge open, forming a pocket. Repeat this for

the other two squares. Turn the pockets right side out. You can topstitch these at this point, but I find it unnecessary.

Trim the Velcro to be 1/8" shorter than the pocket on each side. Place the fuzzy side (as opposed to the hook side) of the 2" Velcro on the inner fabric about 1/8" from the sewn edges and topstitch into place. (If you are using the 1" Velcro, cut two pieces and place them side by side and stitch into place.)

Read this carefully. It's where I sometimes get mixed up. Place the hook side of the 2" Velcro on the OUTER fabric of the other stomach strap and topstitch into place. (If you are using the 1" Velcro, cut two pieces and place them side by side and stitch into place.)

Step 4 - Sew Body of Coat

Unfold and align the inner and outer coat pieces, right sides together with the inner fabric on the bottom. Place the stomach straps in between the inner and outer coat pieces. We made these bigger than they needed to be, so they will stick out of the coat. (This allows you to make adjustments later if needed.) When placing these, you want to make sure they'll fall behind the front legs. On males, you want these as close to the front legs as possible to avoid tinkle damage. Place the straps with the inner fabric down. (Don't think about the Velcro if you can avoid it, or you'll confuse yourself. Just put them with the inner fabric down. If you used the same fabric for both sides of the straps, put one with the Velcro up and one with the Velcro down.) Allow about an inch of each strap to extend out of the coat as shown above. If you have to make adjustments later, this will be the place, so I just allow for it from the start. Pin the straps into place. If you're one who likes to pin stuff, pin all the way around the coat. I find that I only need to pin the stomach straps in place to get a good result.

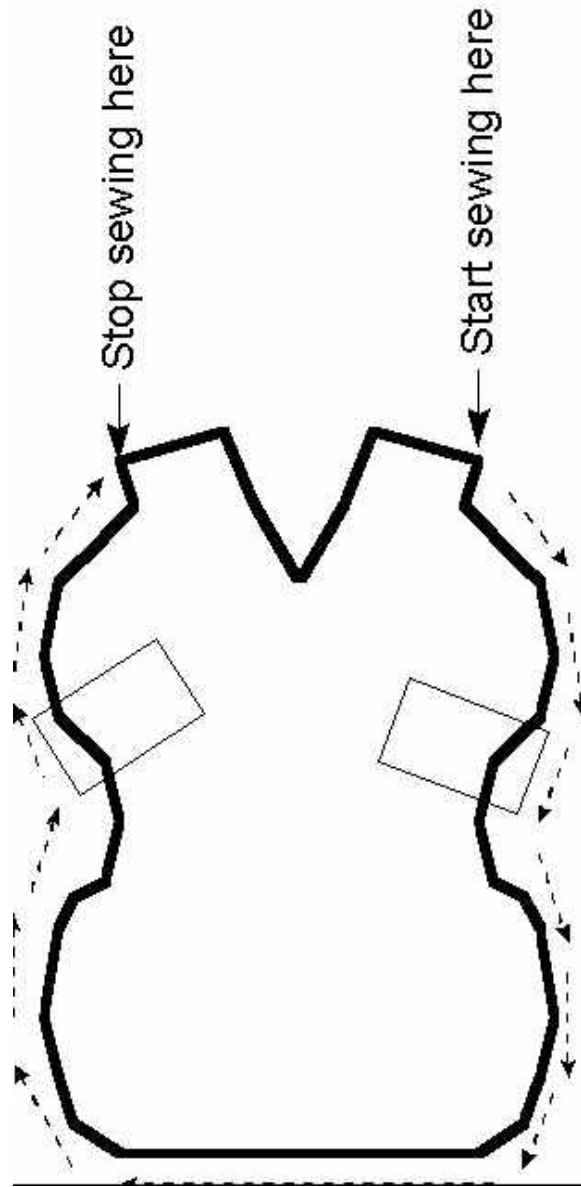
Now sew the two pieces together. You'll leave the chest straps and neck unsewn. This will allow you to add the neck. Start sewing as indicated on the diagram. Sew around almost the entire coat, sewing over the stomach straps to trap them in place. Stop as indicated on the diagram.

Clip curves and turn right side out.

Don't skip this step. Take the coat to your hound and try it on. Make sure the stomach straps are an appropriate length to fit snugly but

not too tightly. Check the length of the coat. (You can make the coat shorter, but not longer at this point.)

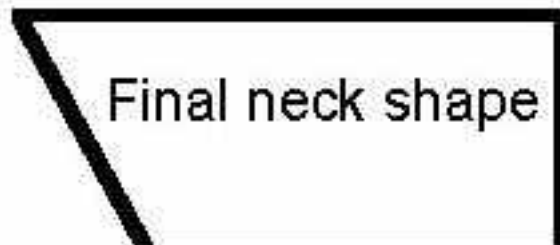
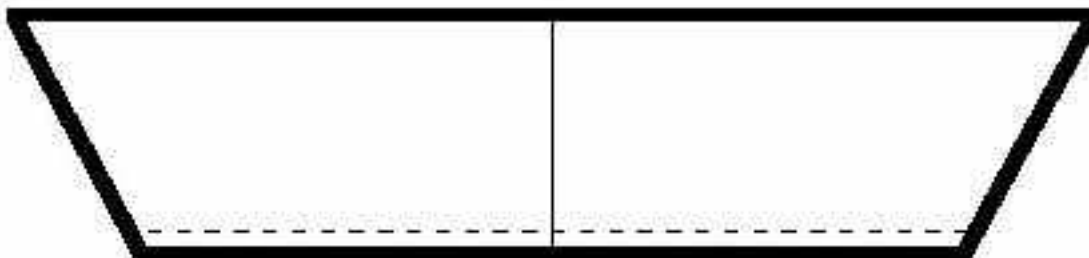
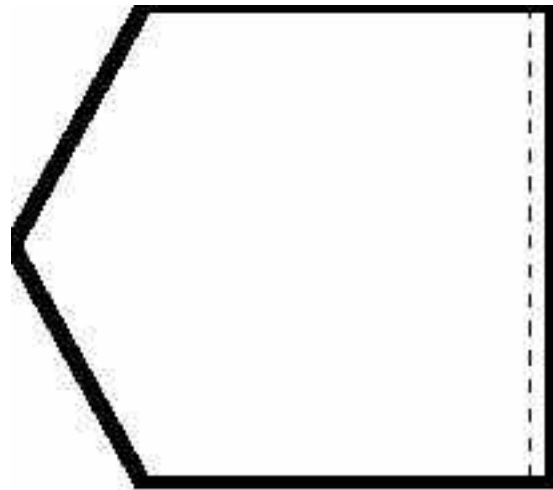
Pull the chest strap across the hound's chest and mark where the seam should lie for a perfect fit. Don't worry if the chest strap is a few inches too long. You can trim it to a proper length before the final sewing



If you need to adjust anything, turn the coat wrong side out, pull out the necessary stitches and do it now.

Step 5 - Sew the Neck Parts Together

Unfold the two neck parts and place them with right sides together. Sew along the straight edge opposite the point as shown in the diagram. Open the assembly you've just sewn. Fold it in half lengthwise with right sides together. Stitch along the shorter of the long sides as shown in the diagram. Turn this assembly right side out. Remember that you'll have right sides on both the inside of the neck and the outside of the neck when the coat is finished. For now, turn the whole thing right side out.



Step 6 - Sew Neck to Body

This part is confusing and it will seem like it's not going to work. It always does, though. Really. Take the point of the neckpiece with the right side of the inner fabric. Place it on the point of the body against the right side of the inner fabric. The points will point in opposite directions when you hold them together. Just line up the fabric edges to allow for the proper seam allowance. Now start sewing. In all, you will sew four edges. Make sure you're always attaching inner fabric to inner fabric and outer fabric to outer fabric. You will have to do some weird turns when you get to the points for the outer fabric. Just line up the fabric edges to allow for your seam allowance and you'll be fine.

Step 7 - Turn Right Side Out and Press

Clip near the points, and then turn the coat right side out. (You're actually only turning the neck at this point. Press the seams all around the coat.

Step 8 - Make Drawstring Channel

Fold the end of the neck over toward the inside about an inch and stitch in place to form the channel for the drawstring.

Step 9 - Connect Chest Strap



You can do part of this step with the machine, but you will also have to do some hand stitching. You can stitch this entire section by hand if you'd like. All that is left is to connect the seams that will form the chest strap in the front of the coat. Put right sides of the outer fabric together and start stitching. You will soon hit the inner fabric, which you want to also place with right sides together. Eventually you'll get to a point where you'll have to topstitch the seam to fully close it. The final shape of the coat is shown in the diagram above.

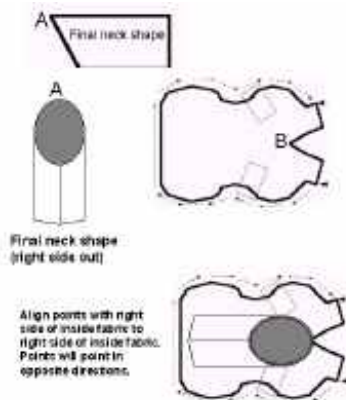
Step 10 - Feed the Drawstring Through

Make two small slits in folded over drawstring channel. Make the slits in the inside of the neck. Use a safety pin on the end of the drawstring to feed it through the channel of the hood. Slip the plastic drawstring stopper onto the drawstring and tie knots in the end of the drawstrings. I usually let the drawstrings hang about 4 inches on each side when the hood is fully open. This is plenty if your using the drawstring stopper. If you're just going to tie the hood, you'll need to leave a longer drawstring.

OPTIONAL: Step 11 - Make Leash Slit

Some people like to put their hound's collar on the outside of the hood for walks to maximize warmth. They don't like a gaping slit for a leash letting air inside the coat. If you're one of those, you're done. Others like to have the collar on the inside, close to the hound's neck. If you're one of those, you'll need to add an extra-long buttonhole to the coat so the leash can be attached while the coat is on your hound. The leash slit should be at least 2 inches long and is better if it's 3 inches long to allow for play in the leash and collar. The slit should be placed in the neck part of the coat, an inch or two from the point formed on the top of the coat where the neck meets the body. That's it. You're done. Now take that fashionable hound for a walk. You both deserve it!

And if you need a little extra help on assembling the coat, here is another diagram that has helped some other sewers.



Courtesy of:

Greyhound Manor Crafts, Jack & Amy Corrigan, P.O. Box 206
New Berlinville, PA 19545

Fleece Sweater

Although the pattern can be scaled to fit your dog and fleece is stretchy, the tube-type construction of this sweater makes it hard to put on and take off of large dogs. This pattern is more suited to medium-sized and smaller dogs. For larger dogs, I suggest using a coat-style pattern that lies like a blanket across the back and closes with straps under the tummy and across the chest. Many of the sweaters for greyhounds have this type of construction.

Size:

This pattern fits a 40 lb shorthaired female mixed breed with

- Neck circumference: 17"
- Girth at chest: 27"
- Waist circumference: 21"
- Body length (collar to tail): 24"
- Chest width (shoulder to shoulder): 5"

Materials:

- 1 yard of polyester fleece material, 200 weight
- Thread to match
- *Optional:* matching or contrasting lycra material for binding

Cut: One of each pattern piece

Instructions: (seam allowance is 1/4" for a plain seam or 1/2" for a top-stitched seam)

- With right sides together, stitch BACK shoulders **AB** to CHEST shoulders **AB**.
- Match backside **CD** to CHEST side **CD** and sew right sides together.
- Repeat 1st and 2nd steps for the other side of the sweater.
- With right sides together, fold COLLAR crosswise and sew ends **EF** together.
- Turn COLLAR to right side.
- With the right side out, fold COLLAR to match raw edges.
- Match COLLAR out side to sweater body right side and sew together.
- Finish the sweater with either a 1/4" or 1/2" hem or a Lycra binding.

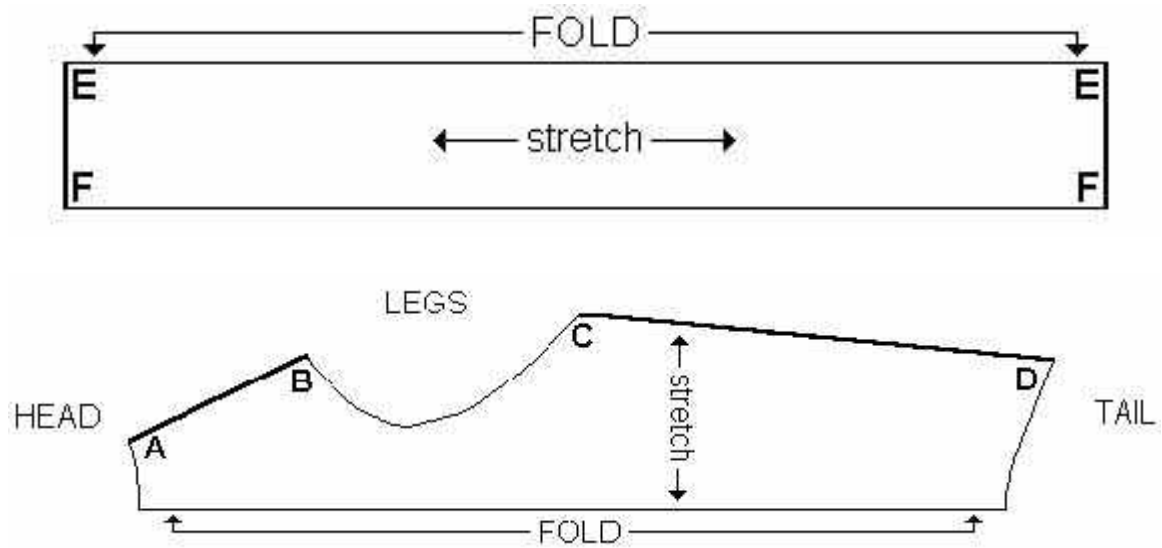
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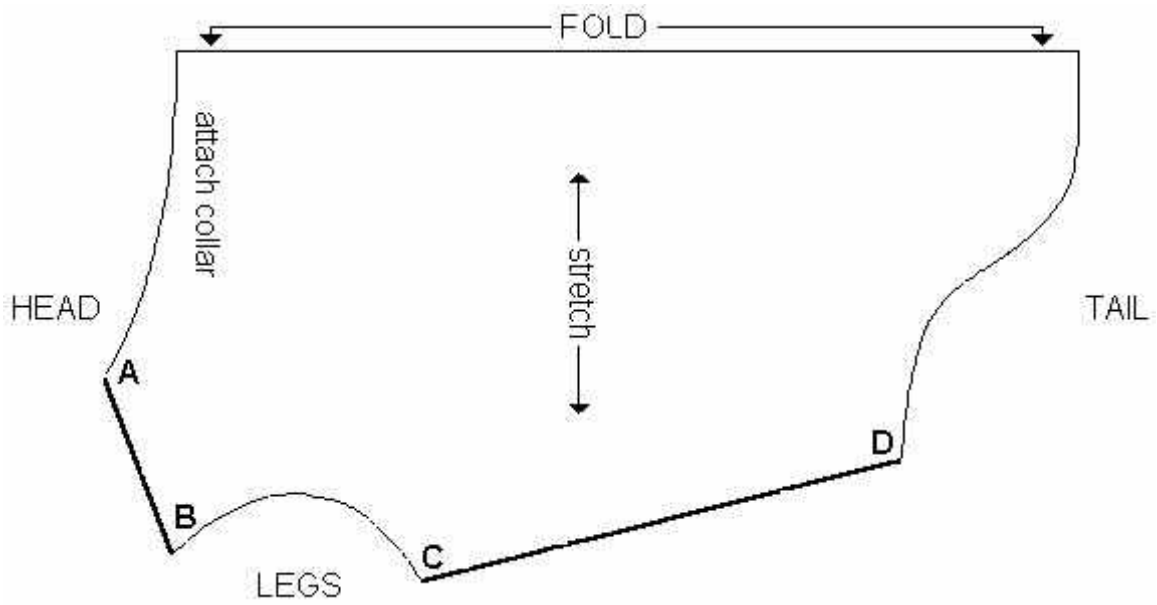
- If you are making this sweater for a male dog, you may want to make the curve deeper on the tail end of the pattern to expose more of the tummy area.

Pattern Pieces:

- Seam allowances are **NOT** included.

Pattern





How About A Hat?

Whether it's picnic time, Halloween or the winter doldrums, the time is always right for a snappy hat for your hound. Here are the instructions for some of our favorite styles.

Floral Wreath Hat



These simple-to-make floral wreaths bring out the medieval grace and elegance of your grey girl. They're flashy yet tasteful and stay on the head well. We know--we've tested them. If you want to participate in costume contests, but don't want your hound to look goofy, these are a nice choice.

Materials Needed:

- 4-inch grapevine wreath (or make your own out of any vinery)
- Bit of spanish moss
- 10 or more feet of thin satin ribbon (use one color or several)
- 8-12 small satin roses in coordinating colors
- 11-inch piece of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch elastic

Instructions

1. Attach the 11-inch piece of elastic to the bottom of the wreath to form a chinstrap. I usually hand-sew this on, but hot glue would also work.
2. Cut 6-8 18-inch pieces of satin ribbon and tie them to one strand in the wreath. Make the knot be in the middle of the length of ribbon, forming two ribbon streamers out of each piece. I concentrate them on the bottom of the

wreath on the side that will be the part of the wreath nearest the neck of the hound.

3. Hot glue the spanish moss to the top of the wreath. Glue it really well to hold up to the head shaking and such.
4. Take a 2-foot piece of satin ribbon. Hot glue one end to the wreath in an inconspicuous place. Gently and loosely wrap the ribbon around the wreath 5-7 times. You should end up where you started. Hot glue this and trim any excess ribbon.
5. Hot glue satin ribbons into place.

Sporty Irish Hat



These sporty Irish hats fit well with the character of most greyhounds. You can make them out of any fabric, but the Irish plaids seem to look the best to us. This is a very nice distinguished yet playful look for your hound.

Materials Needed:

- ¼ yard of fabric - tweeds and plaid wools work best
- 5-inch circle of poster board or thin cardboard
- 11-inch piece of ¼ elastic

Instructions

1. Cut one 11-inch circle of fabric and two 5 ½-inch circles of fabric.
2. Cut a 5-inch circle of poster board or thin cardboard.

3. Use a 1-inch basting to hand-baste $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the edge of the 11-inch circle. When all the way around the circle, pull the threads to draw the circle as tightly together as possible. (This will form a bag-like item. Be sure the right side of the fabric is out.) Tie the threads to secure the circle.
4. Place right sides together on the 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch fabric circles and sew with a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam allowance around the entire circle. Clip curves.
5. Carefully cut an X in one of the fabric circles and turn the circles right side out. Iron flat.
6. Carefully squish and squeeze the poster board into the circle just made. Don't worry if the poster board bends-- it's okay.
7. Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the edge. That's right; sew through the poster board and the layers of fabric. This is now the brim of your hat.
8. Attach the brim to the first circle. Be sure to put the side of the brim with the X cut in it to the side of the big circle with the gathers. You may want to slightly offset the brim circle from the large circle so the brim sticks out slightly. You can hot glue these together or hand-stitch them.
9. Attach the elastic to the brim to form a chinstrap. The hat will lay best if you attach the elastic about 1 inch in from the edge of the hat on each side. You can hot glue this or sew it. Since it takes a lot of pressure, I usually sew it.

Variation: Instead of a solid-colored 11-inch circle, sew 6 pie-shaped pieces of fabric of different colors to form the initial circle. This results in a very nice look.

Pillbox Hat and Tutu



The look of glamour is achieved in these simple satin pillbox hats embellished with sequins, tulle and rhinestones. Add a simple tutu and you've got a very flashy look in no time.

Materials Needed:

- Hat: $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of fabric - satin or linings work best
- Hat: Piece of poster board or thin cardboard at least 18" long
- Hat: 11-inch piece of $\frac{1}{4}$ elastic
- Hat: 5-inch square of paper-backed fusible web (like Heat 'n Bond)
- Tutu: 1-3 yards of tulle or netting. (The more you use, the fuller the skirt will be.)
- Tutu: 2 feet of 1-inch elastic

Hat Instructions

1. Cut a 1-inch strip of poster board at least 18 inches long. (A rotary cutter works great for this.)
2. Cut an oval out of the poster board. The exact shape is not important--it really doesn't show much after all the embellishments. Aim to have it be 4 inches the long way and 3 inches the short way.
3. Carefully hot glue the 1-inch strip to the edge of the oval to form the pillbox shape. You might want to work on a surface you can easily remove hot glue from, as you're likely to have some ooze out of the seams. Finish the strip

by overlapping it onto itself by about 1 inch and gluing securely. Trim off any extra. Don't worry about glue glop or irregularities. They'll all be covered up.

4. Iron the 5-inch square of paper-backed fusible web to the wrong side of the fabric. Place your poster board hat on the paper side of the fusible web and loosely draw about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch extra around the shape of the hat. No need to be exact here. Cut on the line you just drew.
5. Be careful here. You can burn your fingers. Remove the paper backing and iron the fabric oval on to the top of the hat, leaving the $\frac{1}{2}$ inch overhang all the way around. Don't leave the iron on the fabric too long or the hot glue you used to construct the hat will melt.
6. Snip the overhang every $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or so. Now go back to the iron and iron down each little "spoke" of the overhang created by the snip. This will form a smooth top with a nice corner.
7. Place the hat on the remaining fabric and draw around the edge. Cut just inside this line to form an oval just the side of the hat. Hot glue this oval with right side up to the inside of the hat.
8. Cut a $3 \frac{7}{8}$ inch strip of the fabric, at least 18 inches long. (Longer is okay and will give you a fudge factor.) Iron this in half with right sides out to form a long 2' strip. Open this up and iron each side in to the center crease with right sides out. Fold the strip in half along the original first crease and press again. The result is a 1" strip with nice, clean edges.
9. Hot glue the strip to the hat. First glue the outside all the way around, then the inside. The folds and creases in the strip will line up perfectly with the top and inside edges of the band of the hat. When you get to the end, fold over and glue. Don't worry about imperfections--your embellishments will cover them.
10. Hot glue the elastic strip to the inside of the band of the hat to form a chinstrap.
11. Now the fun part. Embellish your hat with sequins, silk flowers, and bits of tulle, ribbons, bows, rhinestones, plastic fruit or whatever you have.

Tutu Instructions

1. Fold the tulle or netting in half and half again to form as many layers as you'd like in the skirt. For 1 yard of tulle, I usually have 4 layers. For 2 yards, I'd have 8. Do not cut the folds on either edge. It's much easier to work with this way.
2. Pin the tulle at the fold on the side where the elastic will go. It's going to look like the tulle is much too long and could be wrapped around your girl several times. It will shorten considerably when you add the elastic.
3. Secure the tulle to the elastic with a few stitches. Now the hard part. Stretch the elastic (from both the front and back of the presser foot) while you sew it onto the tulle. You'll be sewing down the middle of the elastic, which may end up giving you a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch seam allowance. Stretch the elastic as much as you can to get the maximum fullness in the final tutu. You will have extra elastic when you get to the end of the tulle.
4. Loop the extra elastic back to where you started sewing and secure with a few stitches. This will form the waistband of the tutu.
5. Now cut the folds left in the tulle. You might also want to round off any square edges left on the sides of the tulle. Fluff the tulle and you're done.

Hound Tuxedo Instructions



Our hound tuxedos are very popular. The design is very flattering to the build of a greyhound. They stay put very well, even on fidgety

dogs. They're easy to put on and take off when made with the single Velcro fastener described here. And don't they make for a dapper looking hound? Perfect for weddings and formal events.

We make these out of any dark fabric we find, but get the best results with black and charcoal gray summer weight wools. These fabrics hang very well.

Throughout these instructions we refer to the inner fabric and the outer fabric. We find it easiest to use just one fabric for both the inner shell and the outer. However, when low on a particularly good outer fabric, we will use a different fabric for the inner shell.

Time Needed:

Each tux takes me about an hour and a half to make. About a half an hour of this is the hand sewing of the finishing touches and can be done while watching television or riding in the car. I don't pin stuff and my patterns are already made, so it may take you slightly longer, especially for your first coat.

Materials Needed:

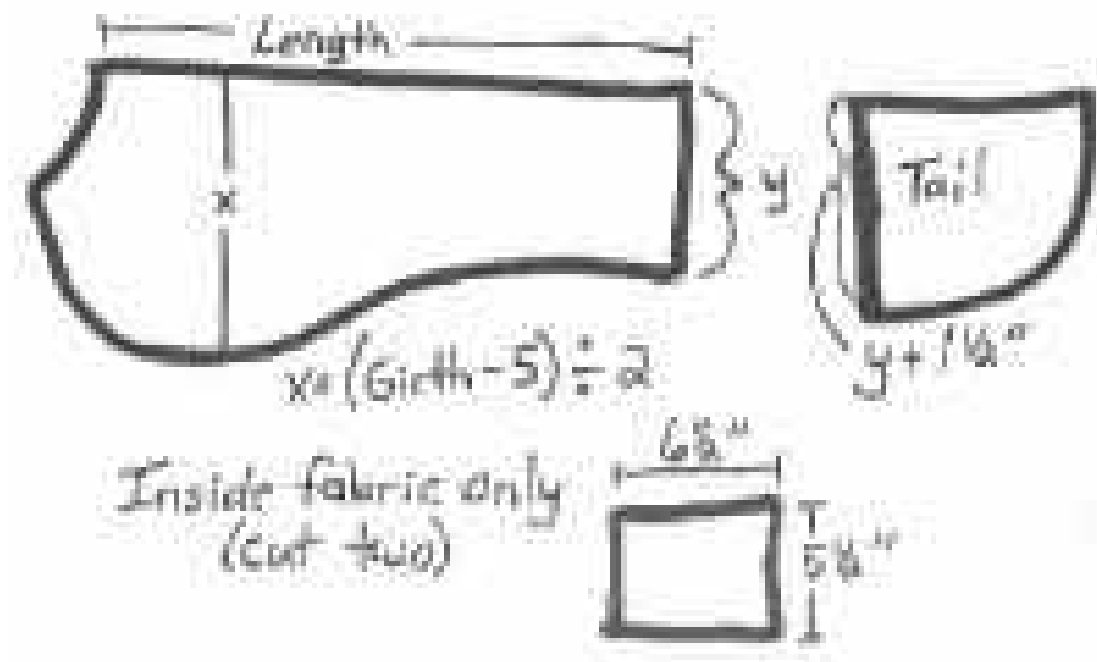
- 5" strip of 2" wide sew-on Velcro (or 10" strip of 1" wide Velcro)
- 1 yard of outer fabric (44" or 54" wide)
- 1 yard of inner fabric (44" or 54" wide)
- 1 10" x 30" piece of white fabric for shirt
- 1 36" x 8" piece of black velvet or black satin for the collar of the tux
- 1/4 yard of satin for cummerbun and tie
- 6 gold or pearl buttons for front of coat
- 2 gold buttons and a 4" length of gold chain for tail buttons
- OPTIONAL: 1 12" x 18" piece of white fabric for French cuffs
- OPTIONAL: 1 2" length of 1" wide sew-on Velcro for French cuffs
- OPTIONAL: 1 felt top hat (find this in the doll section of your craft store)
- OPTIONAL: 1 sheet of black plastic canvas to make top hat sturdy

- OPTIONAL: 1 8" length of black 1/4" elastic for hat strap
- Large sheet of paper or a paper bag cut open (for pattern)

Step 1 - Measure Hound and Make Full-Size Pattern

First, measure your hound in these three places and write down the measurements.

- Length - From where the neck bends and becomes the back to where the tail starts (usually 26" - 30")
- Girth - Biggest distance around the chest, just behind the front legs (usually 28" - 32")
- Width - Distance across chest as you look straight on at the hound (usually 6"-9")



Next, take a large sheet of paper and draw out your pattern similar to the one above, but to the size you measured on your hound. Don't worry about matching the drawing above exactly. Generally, you want the coat full around the chest and you want it to taper as it moves toward the rear. The rear end should end just where the tail starts and the ends must be squared off to accept the "tails" of the tuxedo.

To figure out the X measurement in the drawing above, subtract 5 inches from your hound's girth, and then divide the result by 2. Now take the pattern to your hound. This is a tough job, but worth the effort. Hold the pattern in place along the hound's spine and make sure the coat falls, as you would like. Make sure the coat will cover the chest but not drown it. If you need to make changes, do it now--even if you have to do the pattern over. Once you get a perfect pattern for your hound, you'll never have to go through this again. The other pattern piece you'll need is the tail of the tux. (This is the flap that hangs down over the butt. For this, you'll need to measure the width of your first pattern piece at the rear end. Mine usually end up being 6-8". Now add 1 1/2" to this measurement and draw a line that length on your pattern paper. Draw a line at a right angle to this and make it 8" long. Now draw a curved line to connect to two endpoints. You should have a pie-shaped piece.

Step 2 - Cut Inner Fabric

Fold the inner fabric in half. Place the long straight side of the main pattern piece along the fold. You can put a few pins in at this point if you'd like, but I don't. I just hold the pattern in place while I cut.

Precision is not that important here.

THIS IS IMPORTANT! Allow 1/4" - 1/2" extra around the pattern as you cut the fabric. This will be your seam allowance. I usually go with a 3/8" seam allowance, but use what you're comfortable with.

Then place the tail pattern piece along the fold and cut it out, allowing for your seam allowance. Cut along the fold so that you have two pieces that are mirror images of each other.

Finally, cut two 6 1/2" by 5 1/2" rectangles of the inner fabric.

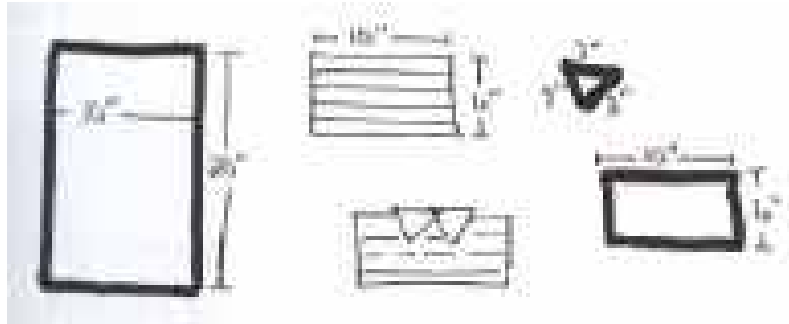
Step 3 - Cut Outer Fabric

Next, fold the outer fabric in half. Don't use the pattern to cut the outer fabric. Instead, use the folded inner fabric as the pattern. This will assure you that the two sides will match perfectly. Cut the outer fabric to match the inner fabric shape.

Now lay one of the tail pieces (inner fabric) on the fold of the outer fabric. Cut the outer fabric tail pieces to match.

There are no rectangles of the outer fabric needed.

Step 4 - Construct the Shirt and Tie



Cut a rectangle of white fabric 10" x 20". Fold the fabric into pleats and iron them one by one. After folding and ironing the pleats you should end up with a piece that is 10" by around 6".

Cut one 10" by 6" rectangle of the white fabric as a backing.

Cut four triangles (to be used for the shirt collar). These should be about 3" along each side. Place two triangles right sides together and stitch along two sides. Repeat for the other pair of triangles. Turn right side out and iron.

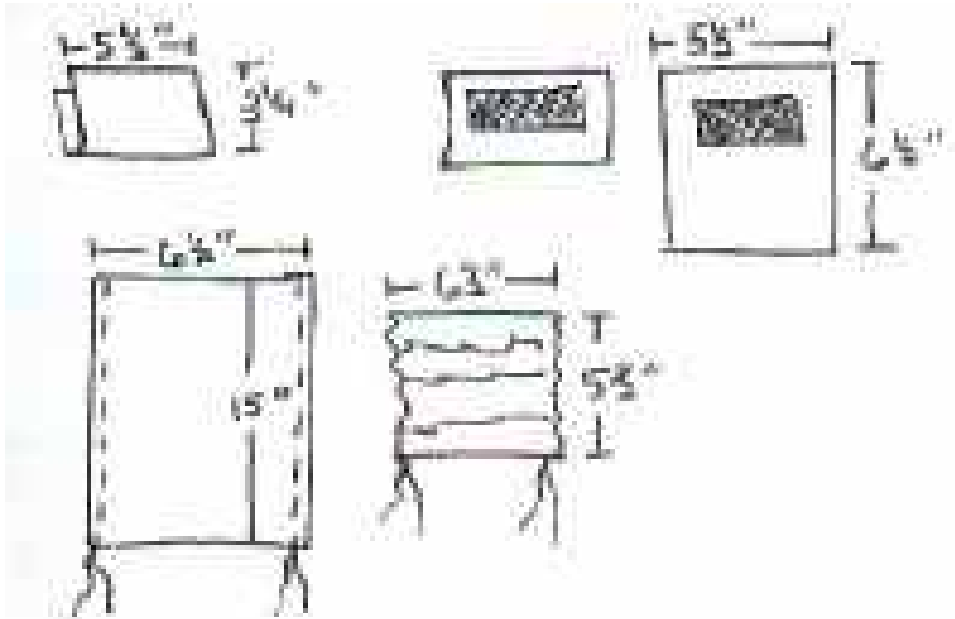
Place the pleated piece of fabric right side up on your work surface. Place the two triangles along the top edge. They should touch just at the top edge of the pleated piece of fabric and should be in about the middle of the width. They should be side by side. Place the 10" by 6" rectangle on top of this, right side down. Pin this construction together.

Carefully sew along the two short ends first. Then sew along the entire length of the top edge. (This will stitch the triangles into place.) Then sew about 1/3 of the distance across the bottom edge. Stop stitching and move 2" down. Finish sewing the bottom edge. Use the 2" space to turn the shirt right side out. Iron so the triangles form the collar. Hand-stitch closed the opening you used to turn the shirt right side out.

Cut a 2 1/2" x 24" rectangle of satin for the tie. Fold this lengthwise with right sides together. Stitch the length of the satin to form a tube. Turn the tube right side out. Tie into a bow of the appropriate size for the shirt. Using thread that matches the satin, stitch the long ends of

the bow under the collar triangles (while the bow is still tied. Trim the excess ends of the satin tube. Your shirtfront is now done.

Step 5 - Construct Cumberbun (Stomach Straps)



Fold one of the inner fabrics 5 1/2" by 6 1/2" rectangles in half, right sides together. You should have a rectangle 5 1/2" x 3 1/4". Stitch the two short sides using a 1/4" seam allowance. Turn this right side out. Sew the scratchy side of the Velcro to this rectangle; placing it as close to the finished (folded) edge as possible.

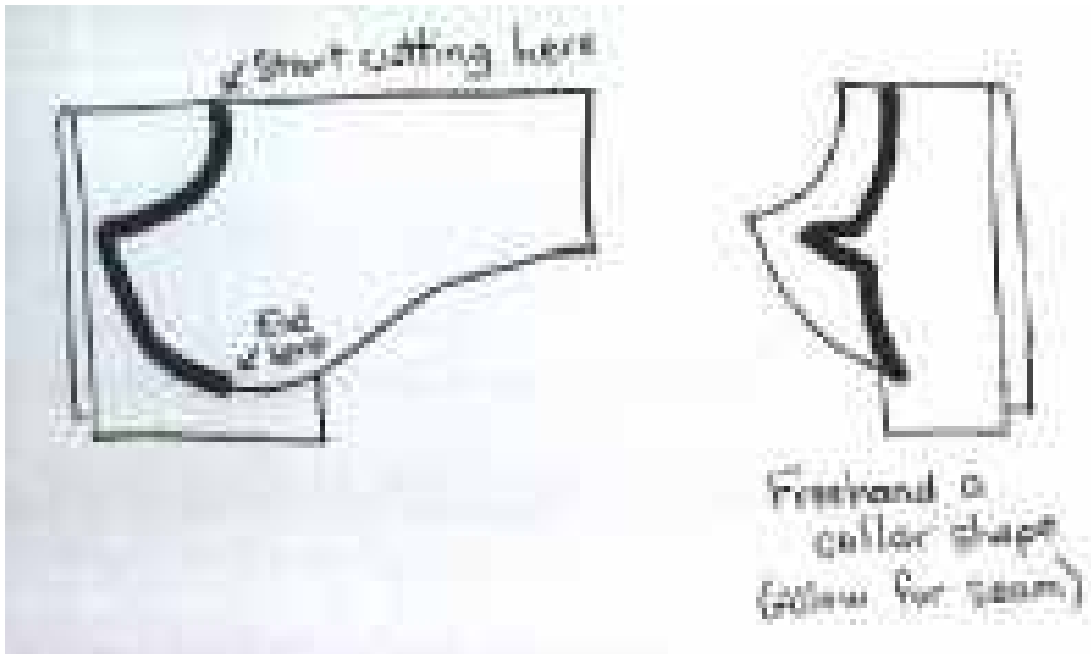
Sew the other side of the Velcro to the other 5 1/2" by 6 1/2" piece of inner fabric. Place it about 1/2" from the edge of one end. Remember, the finished stomach strap will be 6" long and 5" wide. Be sure to place the Velcro along one of the short sides of the rectangle.

Cut a rectangle of the satin 6 1/2" by 15" and iron it flat. Loosely baste along both of the long edges. Pull the threads to scrunch the piece into a 6 1/2" by 5 1/2" size. With right sides together, pin the inner fabric rectangle to the scrunched satin rectangle. The Velcro should be on the inside with the right side of the satin. Stitch the two basted (scrunched) edges first. Then stitch along the other two edges, making sure not to catch the folds of satin in the seam. Leave a 2" area unstitched along one of the edges so you can turn the assembly right side out. Turn the assembly right side out and hand-stitch closed the opening you left.

Step 6 - Stitch the Tail Pieces

Place one inner fabric tail piece and one outer fabric tail piece with right sides together. Stitch along the 8" side and the curved side, leaving the third side open. Place the other inner fabric tail piece and outer fabric tail piece with right sides together. The curved side of this tail piece should be on the opposite side from the first one you did. Stitch the 8" side and the curved side, leaving the third side open. Clip the corners and curves to promote a smooth seam. Turn both assemblies' right side out and iron flat.

Step 7 - Cut and Construct the Collar



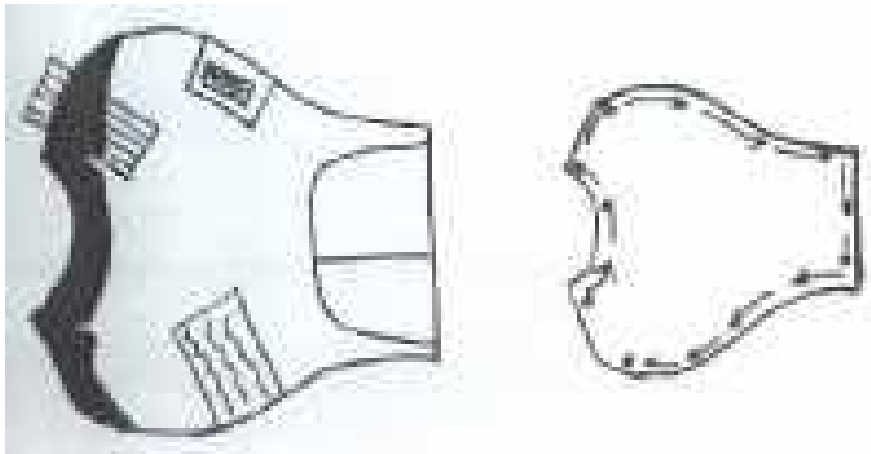
This part will scare you, but it always works out great if you just follow these steps. Really. Fold the collar fabric (velvet or satin) in half with right sides together. Lay this under the inner fabric coat piece with the folds together. Following the line of the inner fabric neckline cut the collar to precisely match the neckline. Follow the outline through the curve of the coat to about where the front legs will be. Now remove the inner fabric. Freehand a collar shape as you'd like it to lie on the coat. Be sure to add 1/2" for a seam allowance.

Now take the piece you just cut (with right sides together) and flip it so the right sides are out. Use this as the pattern to cut the backside of the collar. (You'll be cutting it out of the fabric with right sides still together. Only the pattern will be right sides out.) Cut it to match the first collar piece.

Unfold the collar pieces and place them right sides together. Stitch along your freehand edges, leaving the neckline edge open. Clip curves and corners and turn right side out.

Step 8 - Final Assembly

Lay out the inner fabric with right side facing up. Place the tail pieces on this. The raw edges of the tail assemblies should be aligned with tail edge of the coat. The two tail pieces should overlap in the center by a few inches. They should be placed so they are 3/8" from the outer edges of the sides of the coat. (This will allow them to flip out correctly when you turn the whole thing right side out.)



Place the stomach straps (cumberbun) in place. Put the satin piece with the satin facing up. Put the other strap with the Velcro facing up. They should be placed on the sides where the coat starts to curve along the chest. They should be placed so they will not interfere with the front legs when the tux is complete and they are fastened.

This order is important. Place the shirtfront with the TIE FACING UP as shown in the diagram. Then place the collar assembly in place, over the shirtfront.

Place the outer fabric in place, right side down. Pin all the parts in place.

Starting at the left side of the neckline, sew the pieces together. You'll leave a 4-5" opening near the collar. This will allow you to turn the coat right side out and do the final chest strap adjustments. Start sewing at the dot indicated on the diagram. (This will be 1/2" from the collar corner on the side of the coat that DOESN'T have the shirtfront pinned in place. Sew around almost the entire coat, sewing over the tails and stomach straps to trap them in place. Stop when you get to the second dot noted on the diagram. This will be 4-5" from the point where you started sewing.

Step 9 - Turn Right Side Out and Press

Clip all curves and corners, and then turn the coat right side out. Press the seam all around the coat. Be sure to press the seam for the opening in the coat. This will make the next step easier.

Step 10 - Test Drive the Coat and Mark Chest Strap

Don't skip this step. Take the coat to your hound and try it on. Make sure the stomach straps are an appropriate length to fit snugly but not too tightly. Check the length of the coat. (You can make the coat shorter, but not longer at this point.)

Pull the shirtfront across the hound's chest and mark where the seam should lie for a perfect fit. Don't worry if the chest strap is a few inches too long. You can trim it to a proper length before the final sewing.

If you need to adjust anything, turn the coat wrong side out, pull out the necessary stitches and do it now.

Step 11 - Connect Shirt Front

Poke the dangling end of the shirtfront into the coat body to the point you marked earlier. Use two pins to hold it in place. Make sure the seams are folded neatly on both sides and that they match up so that the top stitch will catch all pieces of fabric, including both layers of the collar. Hand-stitch the final seam using thread that coordinates with the collar.

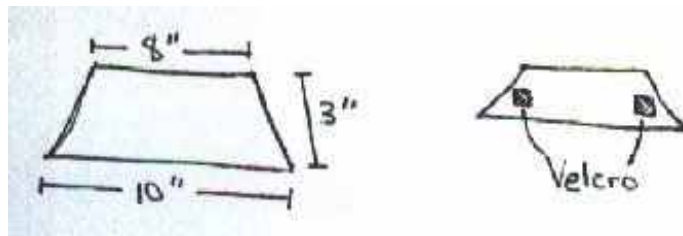
Step 12 - Add Final Touches

Thread a gold button and one end of the gold chain. Hand-sew this to the tails, just where they cross over each other. Thread the other gold button and the other end of the chain. Hand-sew this in place to the other side of the tail overlap. Be sure to leave a little slack so you get a graceful curve in the chain when it hangs.

Hand-sew the six pearl or gold buttons to the collar of the coat, just next to the shirtfront.

That's it. You're done. Now take that fashionable hound for a walk. You both deserve it!

Step 13 - OPTIONALLY Make French Cuffs



Fold the white fabric with right sides together and cut a trapezoid shape as shown in the diagram. Stitch almost all the way around, leaving a 2" opening. Turn right side out and iron. Topstitch around the edge, about 1/4" from the edge, all the way around the piece. Cut a 1" by 1" piece of Velcro. Sew the two sides of the Velcro to the same side of the trapezoid piece. Repeat these steps for the other cuff.

Step 14 - OPTIONALLY Strengthen and Add Strap to Top Hat

The felt top hats available in most doll aisles of the craft store are pretty flimsy. Here's how I strengthen them for use on a hound. Measure the height of the inside of your top hat. Cut a piece of plastic canvas in a rectangle that is just a little less than that height. The width of the rectangle should be just exactly the circumference of the hat (i.e., distance around the hat). Using a hot glue gun, glue one end of the 8" elastic strap to the inside of the hat. Then glue the other end

of the strap into place. Finally, glue the plastic canvas rectangle into the inside of the hat. Be sure to leave the smooth factory edge of the plastic canvas toward the hound's head.

Courtesy of:

Greyhound Manor Crafts, Jack & Amy Corrigan, P.O. Box 206
New Berlinville, PA 19545

Simple Coat

Can be converted into several costumes

In order to draw the appropriate size pattern for your pet you will need to take a few measurements. Take a measurement around the collar area. Take another measurement around your pet's girth. This is the largest area right behind their front legs. And the final measurement begins at the collar area and goes along your pets' back stopping at the beginning of the tail joint.

Make sure when you draw out the pattern that you add 1/4 of an inch all the way around the pattern pieces to allow for seam allowance, when sewing the coat together.

I always place the pattern on the dog after I have cut it out to make sure it is the right size. It is much easier to fix it before you place on material and cut it!

Notice the pattern is colored yellow and white. This will help in the final assembly of the coat.

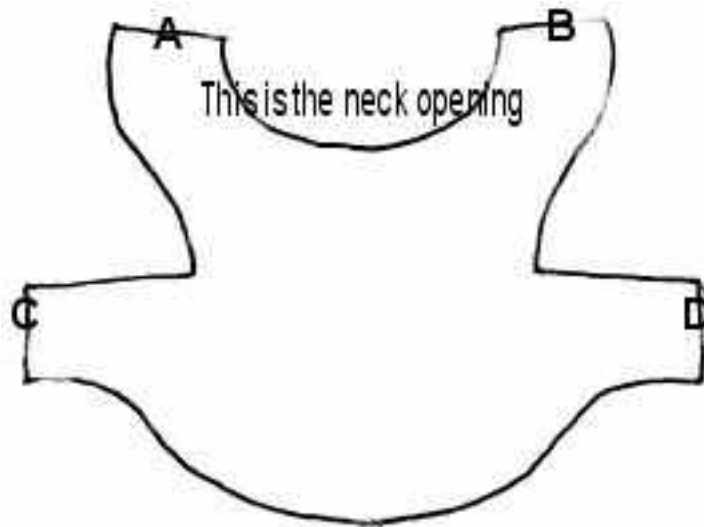
Materials Needed:

- Fabric

Note: If you will be using 2 different fabrics, to make a

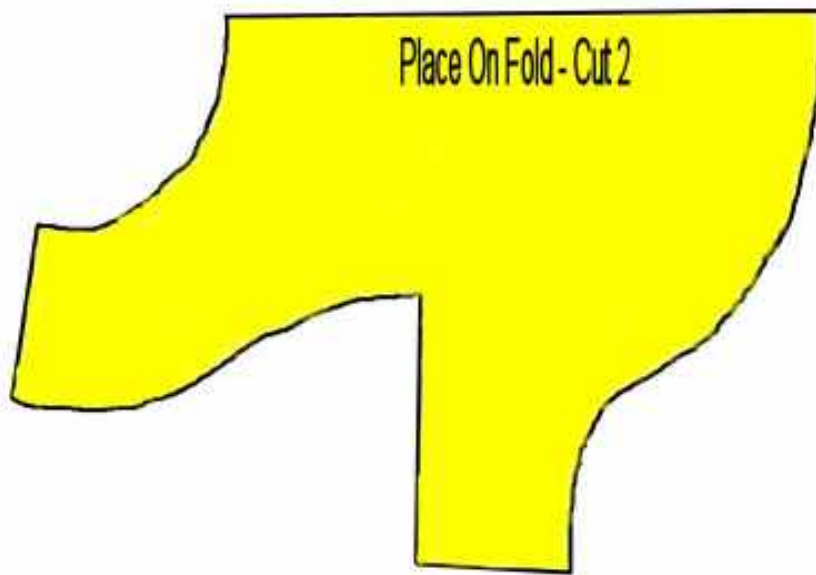
reversible vest, you will need 2 pieces of fabric, one each of the desired colors.

- One 1, 1/4 - 1 inch (the size of the Velcro depends of the size of your dog or pet) strip of sew-on Velcro.



When applying your pets' measurements to the pattern, the pattern needs to be 4 inches longer from point C to point D than your pets' girth.

Cutting out the fabric:



Place your pattern on the fold of your fabric. Cut 2 pieces of fabric. If you are using two different colors, cut one from each color. Again making sure you place it on the fold of the material. If you want to make it heavier for colder weather, you can cut out a piece of quilt batting so it is exactly like the 2 pieces of material. Unfold all of your material and batting if you are using it.

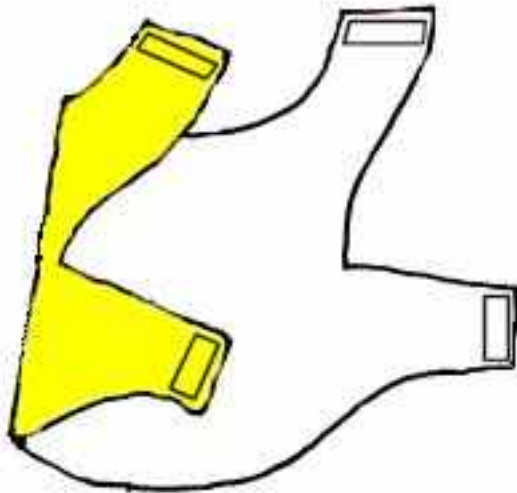
Sewing it together:

Lay your material out flat with the right sides together. If you are using batting make the batting the bottom layer to your stack of material. Sew all the pieces together allowing 1/4 of an inch seam allowance all the way around the pattern, except for the neck area. Leave this open to turn your fabric.

When you are finished sewing trim the corners and clip close to the seam at the sharp corners. This will help keep the material from bunching up. Once you have that completed,

turn the raw edges of the neck area in 1/4 of inch and either hand stitch it or top stitch it very close to the edge with your sewing machine.

The last step is sewing on the Velcro. Place your Velcro in the areas marked with squares like the pattern shown below. Sew the soft side of the Velcro on the white side and sew the rough side of the Velcro to the yellow side. (Of course yours won't be yellow and white, this just represents the inside and the outside of the coat.)



At this point if everything went correctly, you should be ready to put it on your pet!

How to turn a Sweatshirt into a Sweater For Your Dog

Step One

Make sure the sweatshirt will fit your dog.

Step Two

Measure your dog from the base of the neck to midway to his tail.

Step Three

Cut the sweatshirt to the measured length.

Step Four

Either sew the hem or use fusible webbing (iron on, or liquid stichery).

Step Five

Cut the sleeves so they hang just above the knee joint on your dog's front legs.

Step Six

Hem the sleeves as well, if you prefer the tailored look.

Step Seven

Place your dog's legs in the sweatshirt first and then stretch the neck opening over his head.

Helpful Hints & Tips:

When removing the sweatshirt, take it over your pet's head first and then over it's legs.

The neck hole will probably fit if you use a sweatshirt approximately the size of the dog.

Never leave your dog unattended with the sweatshirt on - it could get tangled in bushes, fences or elsewhere.

If your dog seems irritated or bothered by the sweatshirt, remove it immediately.

How About A Dress For The Girls?

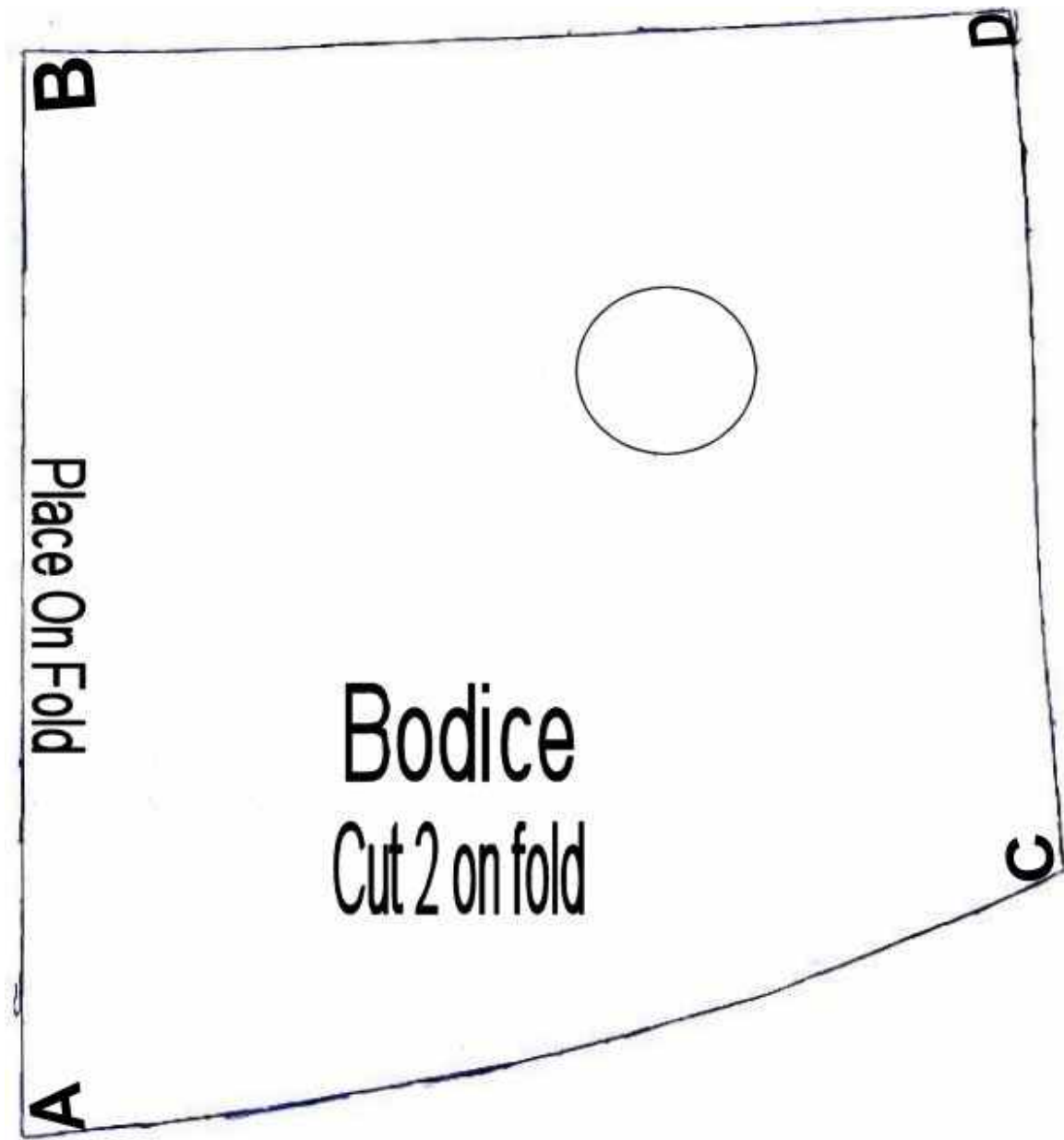
Materials Needed:

- The amount of fabric you will need depends on the size of your dog. One yard is usually enough for most small breeds.
- One 4-5 inch strip of sew-on Velcro.

Measure your dog, the neck, the girth and length. Measuring the same as mentioned earlier in this book.

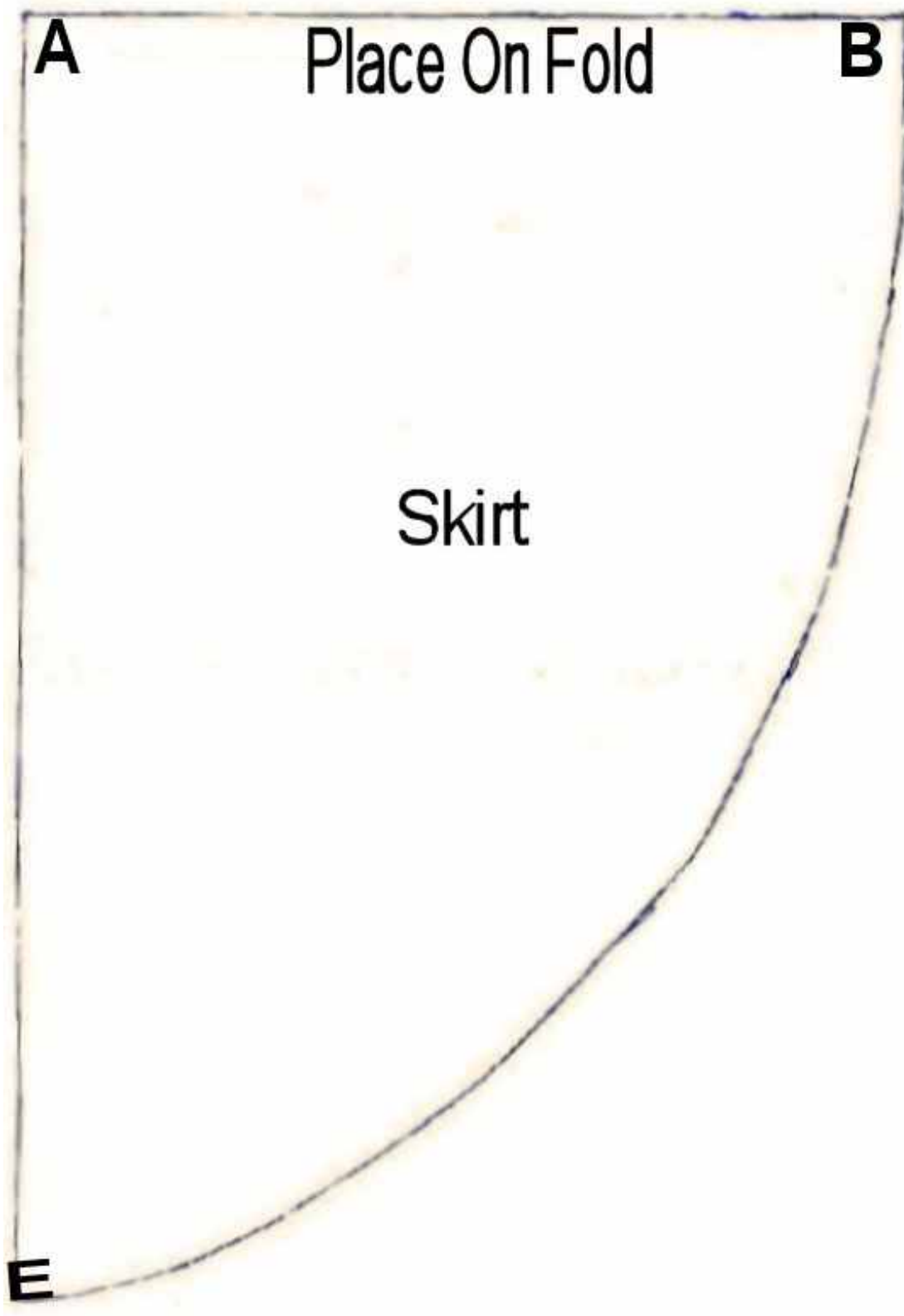
Resize the following pattern according to your dog's measurements.

Cut the bodice on the fold, open it up and lay it out so it is flat. To make sure it will fit, measure the distance from corner to corner along the straight edge closest to the holes for the legs. Be sure it's 2 1/2 inches larger than your dog's girth or chest.



Just be sure that the width from A to the B on the skirt is the same width as A to B on the bodice. To draw the skirt pattern, trace the line on the Bodice between A and B.

Next, draw the line between A and E to make the skirt pattern. This line should be almost double the distance between C and D on the Bodice. Now, just draw in the curved line and you'll have a pattern for the skirt.

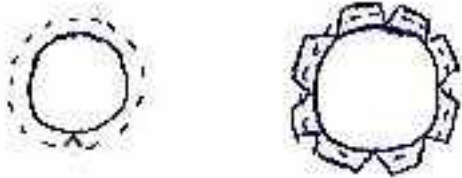


Step 2: Cutting Out the Pattern

Cut out the Skirt pattern making sure to place A and B along the fold of the material. Cut out two of the Bodice pattern making sure that A and B on the Bodice pattern is on the fold of the material. Cut out the arm openings. To do this, clip an X in the center of the circles and then carefully cut the area out.

Step 3: Sewing the Bodice

Sew around each of the armholes 1/4 of an inch in. Clip to the stitch about every 1/2 of an inch without cutting into it and turn the right side of the raw edge back towards the stitch you just sewed around the armholes. Press the raw edges of the armholes down so they lie flat. Place the two Bodice pieces right sides together and sew them together using a 1/4 of an inch seam allowance along the top and each side of the bodice, leaving the curved bottom edge open.



Now, turn this piece right side out and sew along the armhole openings, catching both layers of fabric, keeping as close to the edge of the material as possible. I usually use about 1/8 of an inch as a guide. You might need to sew this part by hand. Now turn the bottom edge of the Bodice in about it a 1/4 of an inch seam and press it flat. This will hide the raw edge of the Bodice when you so it to the Skirt.

After you are done with this part, try the Bodice on your dog to see if you need to add a pleat or two to the back of the neckline to get a good fit.

Step 4: Sewing the Skirt

The skirt has a hemline and a gather line. Hem the skirt first. You will probably want to iron the hem in first because the angle makes it a little difficult to hem.

Next, sew the gather line, but do not gather the last inch on both sides. The gather line would be the EAE line on the skirt pattern when you have unfolded it. Gather it enough so that the skirt fits between ACA line of the Bodice. This is where you will attach the skirt to the bodice. The EAE line of the skirt should meet the ACA line of the Bodice. This is why you hid the seams on the inside of the dress, pin the gathered skirt between the two layers of the Bodice and sew in place.

Add the Velcro to the sides of the Bodice so the dress closes on the under side of your dog's chest.

Additional Ideas and Suggestions



This is similar to the simply coat pattern. Very easily achieved by adding a hood, which would be in two pieces with a lining (four pieces total). The coat is in five pieces and is lined. You would not need to line the sleeves unless you wanted to. Just tack the lining at the shoulder of

the armholes. You will need to hem the sleeves though if you don't line them.

This is a great style to add ears and turn your pet into a bear, or a lion (add fur around the opening of the hood), a mouse, or just about any other animal. You can cover their back legs with leggings that are attached to each other by a piece of fabric that runs across the pet's backside under the coat.



Attach a belt and turn this little hooded coat into a real fashion statement.

Accessories

Bows can be added to collars, or use Velcro to attach them to their hair. You can make simple collar covers by using the technique similar to the bandana instructions. Just make a long tube of material to insert the collar in. If you make the tube twice the length of the collar you will end up with a nice ruffled collar. Add a bow if you want. Ears and bows can also be added to headbands. To make a headband that stays put, measure the distance between the pet's ears on the top of their head. This is the band's length, make the width suitable to your design. Add elastic or bands that you can Velcro under the pet's chin like we did in the visor pattern. Make sure you have the shorter band in the front that attaches to the back band so it anchors the headband via your pet's ear.

A simple costume would be a fancy bow on the top of the head and brightly painted toenails.

Well I hope I have helped you learn how you can make your own pet costumes. Just remember to be creative and a responsible pet owner as well.. Don't use anything that could potentially harm your pet and don't leave your pet alone where it could possible get its' costume or clothing caught on something and cause harm to them.

Halloween Safety for Pets

It might be fun to dress up your animals for the Holidays but just remember Children are not the only trick-or-treaters out this Halloween! Just like their two-legged counterparts, four-legged trick-or-treaters need to be kept safe. Here are ten ways to be sure your pet has a happy Halloween.

Always carry or have your pet on a leash when outside this season. During trick-or-treat times, pet costumes can be snagged on shrubs or parked vehicles. Costumed people may be scary for your pet and cause them to be unusually skittish or aggressive. Sadly, pets often become the mark of belligerent tricksters during Halloween, so never leave your pet unattended outside.

Be sure costumes are safe. While hats that slip over eyes and noses might be annoying for us, they can be scary for pets. Be sure that a pet has a clear view peripherally and that noses and whiskers are not covered. Any ties should be secured to a collar instead of around necks. Better yet, there are many costumes available now with safer Velcro closures.

Be visible. Add a reflector to your pet's costume for nighttime visibility. There are many new glowing and reflective collars and leashes available. Blinkers, mini LED lights that hook to collars, can be visible for up to half a mile away!

Human makeup and sprays are not for pets. While colored hair sprays and makeup may seem like a quick way to transform your pet, they can cause uncomfortable rashes and skin conditions that outlast Halloween night.

Hide your candy well. Candy will make pets sick. Chocolate can even kill a pet. So put your trick-or-treat stash in a safe location and just provide furry friends with their own special treats.

Make your own treats. Have fun by creating Halloween shaped cookies and treats for your pets. This is a fun way to be sure that your friend is only getting safe, healthy food.

Decorate safely. Light jack-o-lanterns with glow sticks instead of candles or be sure to place them out of reach of paws and tails. Hanging cords for electric lights are not much safer than candles since pets can become entangled.

Animals do NOT party. Let guests know that it is not okay to feed or give drinks to your pet. For guests that just can't resist, provide a well-marked jar of treats that they can give your companion. Consider taking your pet to a sitter during the party unless they are very friendly. The stress of a party may not be such a treat for your pet.

Make sure there is plenty of water available. Added stress and extra heat from costumes may cause your pet be dehydrated easily. Be sure that water bowls are kept full.

Current I.D. Just in case your beloved pet does get separated from you while trick-or-treating or escapes out the door during a party, be sure that your pet is carrying up to date I.D. tags on their collar.

Just remember to be considerate of your pet's feelings and safety this season and Halloween will be happy for the whole family!

If you would like free update of more ideas for your pets email me at reba@mydownloadnet.com. I will put you on my email list so I can update you with new ideas or an update of this book. I value your privacy. I do not trade or sell email addresses. Your email address is safe with me.

If you are a crafty person you might enjoy visiting www.theimaginationworkshop.com they are building a website for individuals that are interested in all forms of crafting. The site keeps growing.

For premade Halloween costumes for yourself or your pets, visit www.halloween.theimaginationworkshop.com, it's full costume ideas, party ideas, craft projects and more. It is definitely worth a look.