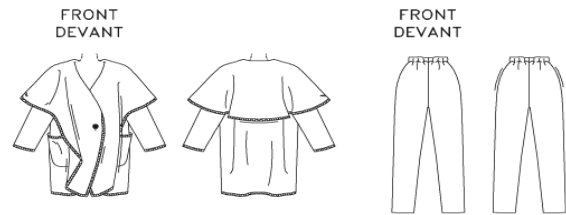




Sewing Secrets

Vogue 1145



What we like: This is a great coat, with only 4 pattern pieces, so it is easy to make. It is a good opportunity to mix two fabrics, with the collar in something luscious. It is quite easy to wear, as it is loose and easy to layer on top of a jacket or sweater. Because this pattern is designed for serged (or raw) edges, it is an excellent choice for a light weight boiled wool. The collar has two big darts, so be sure to select a fabric that is lightweight enough to do darts well.

Timing: If you make this coat as it is written, with serged or raw edges, you can be done in about 4 hours. If you want to add a lining, then double that time. If you decide to make your own ruffle, as described here, it will take a whole lot more time!

Fabric selection: Beware of stripes that go lengthwise on the bolt, as these will sew up as horizontal stripes. Stripes that are crosswise on the bolt, though, will sew up into vertical stripes. Don't even think about using a strongly napped fabric, such as a faux fur, as the nap/fur will run sideways, too! If you want to wear the coat with the collar pulled across, as in the larger photo above, make sure that your collar fabric looks good on both sides.

Embellishments: If you decide to put a purchased braid or ruffle all around the collar, you will need about 3.5 yards. Add another 1.25 yards if you want to put something around the cuffs. If you are crazy enough to want to make your own ruffle, you will need $\frac{3}{4}$ yards of some wonderful silk or other natural fabric. Don't try to make a ruffle from a synthetic fiber, as it will not do well with the friction and heat that is generated from turning a tube that is 10-15 yards long.

Fabric requirements: If you wish to cut the collar out of a different fabric, you will need $2\frac{1}{4}$ yards for the collar (of either 45" or 60" wide). In addition, you will need $2\frac{3}{4}$ yards for the coat (60"). If you are using a 45" fabric, then you'll need 3 yards for the coat. If you are planning to line the coat, you'll need 3 yards of a 45" fabric. These requirements are for the XS. If you are making a bigger size, or if you need to lengthen the arms, then add more fabric to these yardages.

Sizing: This is a generously dimensioned coat, so be careful to make a small enough size. For those of us who are vertically challenged and somewhat “fluffy,” be sure to use a smaller size! Otherwise, the coat will look like it belongs to your big sister. The XS is 51” at the bust and 50” at the waist, so if that fits around you, use the XS. Likewise, for the small (53”) and the medium (56”). The sample in the store is made as an XS.

Cutting: Keep in mind that there are no hems allowed for on the sleeves or the collar or the bottom of the coat. If you want hems, be sure to add fabric in these places. You might want to add an inch to the sleeves anyway, particularly if you have chosen to make a size smaller than usual.

Sewing: The picture in step #4 is a bit misleading – be sure to sew all seams, not just those that are shown as sewn. Other than that, the instructions are good and easy to follow.

Lining: If you decide to line the coat, just cut pieces 2 & 3 out of lining. On the back (#3), add an extra inch along the fold, so that you can create a pleat at the center back. On the sleeves, add another inch, so that you have some wearing ease there, too. If you want to line the pockets, add 1.5” to the top of the pocket pieces that you cut from the main fabric and subtract 1.5” from the top of the pocket pieces that you cut from the lining. Then, sew the top of the pocket to the top of the lining, leaving a 2-3” opening to turn. Fold the pocket, right sides together, lining against fabric, and sew the bottom U. Turn through the hole and sew to the coat.

Ruffle: If you are crazy enough to want to make your own ruffles, here’s how: cut your fabric into 3” strips and seam together into one long piece. Measure the length of ruffle that is needed and make your long piece twice that long. The sample in the store was made with a piece that is three times as long, but it is a bit over-ruffled. Fold the ruffle in half lengthwise (but do not press!) and sew a ¼ inch seam. Turn the entire thing, using a safety pin to wiggle one end through. Press the ribbon flat, pulling the seam out to one edge. Run a long basting stitch from one end to the other, 3/8” from the edge with the seam. Pull the basting thread to gather the whole thing up evenly and to the required size. Sew to the edge of the collar on top of the basting stitch. Trim the fabric, if desired, and hand stitch the edge of the ruffle to the underside of the collar.

If you are making a ruffle for the sleeves of a lined coat, you don’t have to have finished edges on both sides, which makes the process a bit easier. To make this ruffle, cut one long piece twice the length needed. Sew the two short ends together to make a circle. Fold in half lengthwise and press. Run two basting threads around, 3/8” and 6/8” from the raw edges. Pull both basting threads at the same time to gather the ruffle up evenly, to the required size. Sew to the bottom of the sleeve, with all raw edges together. Cover the raw edges with the bottom of the lining piece, with a 5/8” hem in the lining, and sew in place by hand. Pull out any basting threads that show on the ruffle.

Buttonholes: DO NOT PUT IN THE BUTTONHOLES AS MARKED! Be sure to try on the coat first, as the buttons and buttonholes are in a very strange location. In the shop sample, the button is in a totally different location. You will want to play with this collar before deciding how to do the closures.

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Feel free to join us for Sewing on Sundays, if you would like more support and help!