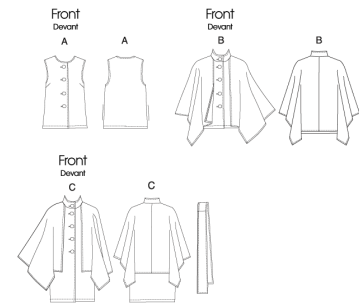




Sewing Secrets

Vogue 8674

Very Easy Very Vogue



What we like: This pattern includes all of the advantages of a cape without the logistics problems! You won't be getting tangled up in this one! Or fall out of it! Because the cape is attached to the vest at the neckline, it is very easy to wear, even if you are very active! Because the vest is a "Custom Fit," you can rest assured that you will easily accommodate any bust size. The vest itself is a very nice design, but we couldn't resist putting the cape on, too! The shop sample is made in View B.

Timing: This design is more complicated than most of the Very Easy Very Vogue series, particularly when you are making the caped versions. Even still, you can make this easily in one day, unless you decide to do a lot of hand work. On the shop sample, I did all of the hems and seam finishes of the cape by hand, which takes longer than everything else combined! I just couldn't bring myself to machine topstitch over that gorgeous embroidery!

Fabric selection: Pick a really special fabric for the cape and the vest lining! The wrong side of the cape will show, so this is a great opportunity to showcase a fabric that is beautiful on both sides. In the shop sample, we used an embroidered wool knit that deserved to be showcased! The vest can be a more subdued choice. We liked a more flamboyant choice of lining, to echo the beauty of the cape fabric. Be sure to find some fabulous buttons, too! This vest can support some fun big ones!

Fabric requirements: If you have a cape fabric that is a good 58-60 inches wide and if you do not usually add length to your sleeves, you can get away with purchasing only 1 3/8 yards of cape fabric. This also allows you to cut the back of the cape on the fold, rather than seaming. In our shop sample, with the beautiful embroidered fabric, this was an important design change. The cape itself is designed to hang well below wrist length, so we found that shortening the wingspan of the cape made it more wearable.

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

If you are making a size 14 or less, and if you enjoy the ability to get your hands out when you need them, then you can get just the 1 3/8 yards, assuming that you cut the back on the fold. On the other hand, if you are lucky enough to have long arms, you'll need to buy twice that amount of fabric for the cape.

If you are making the vest in a different color than the cape, you will need to add 1/8 yards to the fabric requirements as shown for View A, to allow enough for the collar (assuming that you are making View B rather than View C).

The lining requirements are good as shown on the pattern.

Fitting: The Custom Cup series are so easy to fit! You can select the size that you REALLY are, and then make adjustments for your bust by selecting your pattern piece by your cup size. If you are smaller in the bust than you are in the hip, select your pattern size by your bust, then create a slight A-line in the vest to accommodate your hips. The View B that we made just skims the hips, so this is a great pattern to adjust with a small A-line. If you are making view C, it will require a bit more fitting.

Sewing: The instructions for lining and turning View A are good, but I didn't like using that approach for View B. I found it easier to sew the side seams first, leaving the shoulder seams unsewn. Since the neck seam is left open for Views B&C, it is easy to turn right side out. The shoulder seams are very easy to sew after turning, unlike the side seams, with the pockets and all.

