

Module 4

UNIT 4

CREATIVE TAILORING
APPLICATIONS

Duration: 20 hours



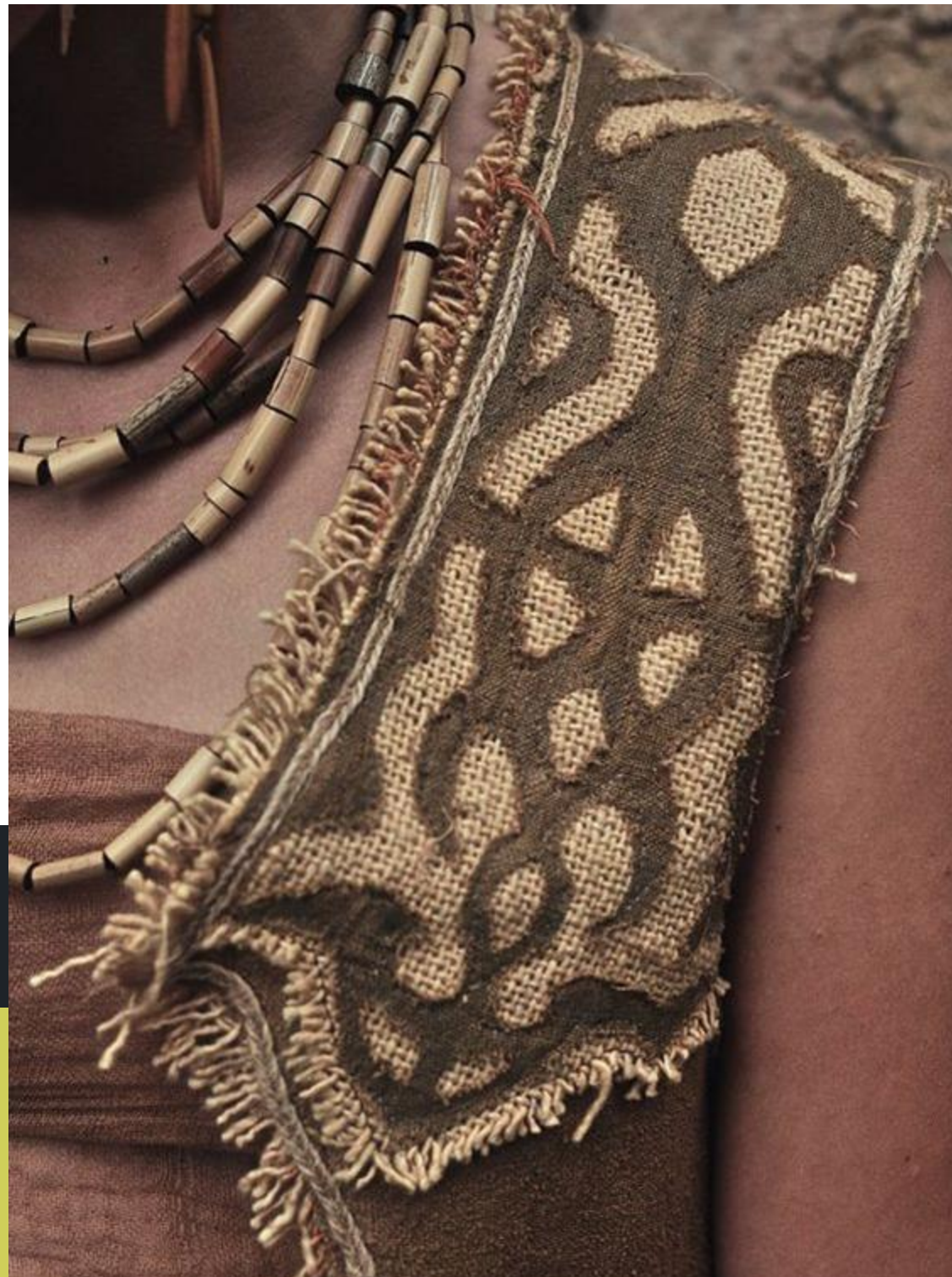
Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.





Overview of the Unit

This unit invites you to explore a range of creative tailoring applications, such as adding embellishments and decorative elements to upcycled garments, which can transform simple clothing into standout pieces. The unit will also cover techniques for combining different fabrics and textures, allowing for innovative and personalized designs. By mastering these skills, you will be able to demonstrate the power of creative tailoring in the upcycling process.



Expected Learning Outcomes

By the end of this Unit, you will be able to do:

Apply creative tailoring techniques:

- Techniques for combining different fabrics and textures
- Adding embellishments and decorative elements to upcycled garments

Pre-requisite knowledge

Prior experience in working with a sewing machine is recommended.

Estimated Reading Time

20 minutes



Learning Objective

This unit focuses on how tailoring and customization techniques can significantly add value to a garment. Students will learn how to elevate the aesthetic appeal and individuality of upcycled garments.



Target Audience

This Unit targets people/learners/entrepreneurs, young with legal age and adults including: NEETs, low skilled adults looking for a job, professionals already working in the artisanal tailoring area, students graduated by Secondary Schools with fashion design and/or textiles clothing production curricula. A special regard will be given to women with economic fragilities or due to their refugee and migrant condition.

Key concepts

customization, embellissement, appliqué and patchwork

For this Unit's practical part, you will need sewing machine, pins, chalk or similar, fabric scissors, paper pattern, measuring tape, pattern making rulers, second hand garments and deadstock fabric and a variety of trims(ribbons, beads, buttons, yarn ...).

Necessary equipment





01

Teacher's Profile

Expertise in advanced tailoring techniques, plus specialized skills in working with different fabric types

01

Methodology

Small theoretical explanations with demonstrations of hand and machine sewing techniques as well as garment alterations, followed by practical exercises..

Overview

Creative Tailoring Techniques

Combining different fabrics and textures

- Patchwork
- Appliqué

Adding decorative elements

- Embroidering: beads, buttons, yarn ...
- Sewing: ribbons, string, trims ...



Combining different fabrics and textures

Basic Notions

Combining different fabrics and textures opens up a world of creativity and possibility, specially when working with upcycling. With the proper techniques you'll be able transform your upcycling projects into remarkable showpieces.

BASIC TIPS:

- Pre-wash and press all fabrics to identify shrinkage issues and achieve a smooth surface. Check the compatibility of the fabrics in terms of washing and drying.
- Choose appropriate needles and use a walking foot to handle different fabric weights and textures.
- Balance fabric weights with stabilizers to prevent puckering and ensure durability.
- Test fabric combinations with small samples to adjust machine settings for optimal results.
- Use clips or basting instead of pins to maintain fabric alignment and prevent shifting.



Combining different fabrics and textures

Basic Notions



SOME MORE SPECIFIC TIPS:

- **Combining Light and Heavy Fabrics**

straight stitch; walking foot, Test on swatches and adjust stitch length and foot pressure if necessary

- **Combining Slippery and Sturdy Fabrics**

walking foot ; slippery fabrics on top, hand basting or use fabric clips; lower stitch length

- **Combining Decorative and Plain Fabrics**

Remove decorative elements from the seam allowances; se perpendicular pins; use a zipper foot; finish seam allowances toward the plain fabric

- **Combining High-Pile and Plain Fabrics**

Use masking tape to control the pile; use perpendicular pins; use hand basting; keep the plain fabric on top; end with trimming excess fibers on the pile

- **Combining Loosely-Woven and Plain Fabrics**

Use staystitching on the loosely woven; Use hand basting; use zigzag stitch to join; avoid trimming seam allowances



Combining different fabrics and textures

Basic Notions

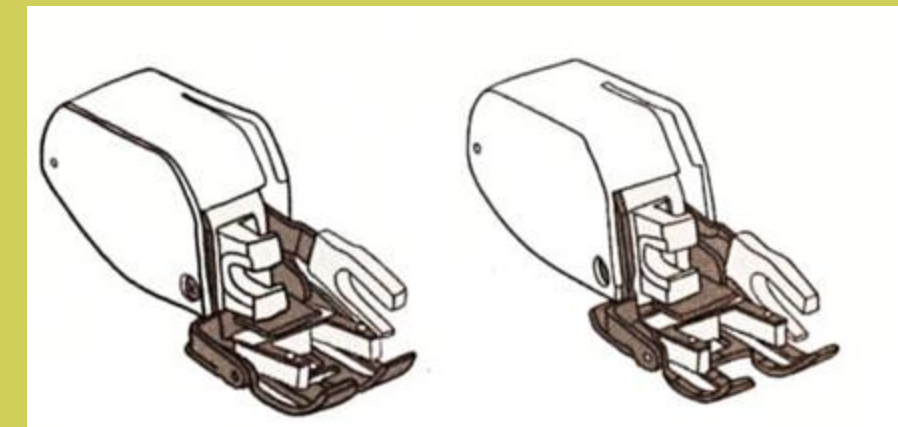
Troubleshooting Common Issues:

Puckering and Skipping Stitches

- ★ When dealing with different fabric weights, adjust your sewing machine tension to suit the lighter fabric on top.
- ★ Use hand basting to align slippery materials, and ensure you use the correct needle type.
- ★ A walking foot can also help prevent puckering by providing consistent feeding.

Uneven Seams

- ★ This happens more often when one of the fabrics is knit or stretchy. To tackle this, use a walking foot for even feeding and baste layers to maintain alignment.
- ★ Adjust machine tension and regularly press seams to ensure a smooth finish.



Walking foot

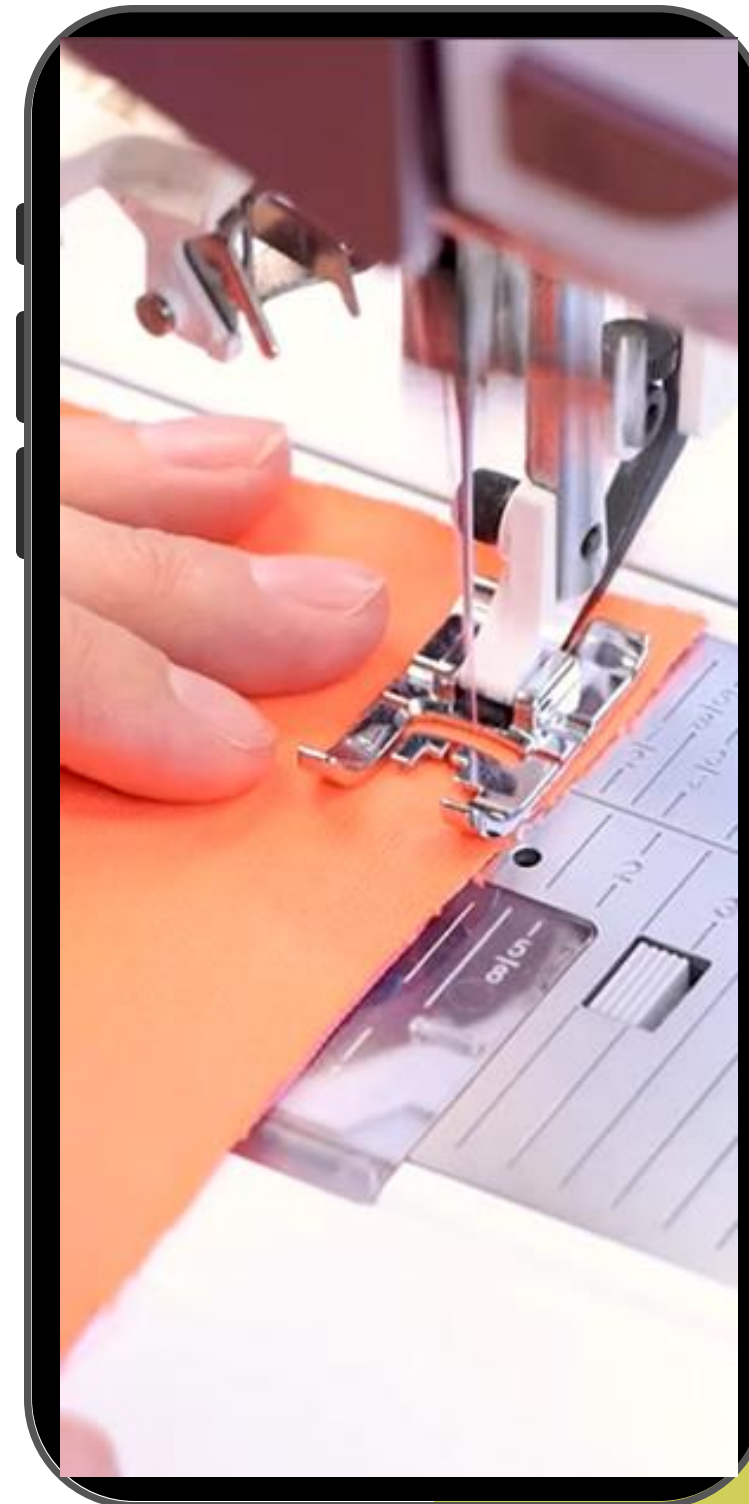
Combining different fabrics and textures

In this video we can see how to combine woven and knit fabrics at the seam so they end up looking smooth and are joined flawlessly.

Watch here



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puGEV33rw2c>



Combining different fabrics and textures – Patchwork



Traditional Patchwork: This technique involves sewing together fabric pieces in geometric shapes such as squares, rectangles, triangles, and diamonds. Traditional patchwork often follows established patterns like the Log Cabin, Nine Patch, or Irish Chain.

SOME TIPS:

1. Make the most of your yardage. Cut out the larger shapes before turning to the smaller ones.
2. Use tools wisely. When rotary cutting, start with the blade about ½” up on the ruler, then cut it back to the tip and then cut forward.
3. Be precise. To ensure points and seams match perfectly, you must cut correctly, sew accurately, and press precisely. Make sure to press each seam before moving onto the next step.
4. Press correctly. Pressing is achieved by moving the iron up and down on the fabric to prevent the fabric from stretching
5. Prevent shadows. To avoid shadowing when working with high-contrast fabrics, such as red and white, press the fabric seam open.



Schmidt Takahashi

Front part made from squared from used jeans.
Back part made from 100% cotton twill

Combining different fabrics and textures – Patchwork



Crazy Patchwork: is a free-form patchwork technique where fabric pieces of various shapes and sizes are stitched together in a random and asymmetrical manner.

Embellishments such as embroidery, beads, and lace are often added to enhance the decorative effect.



Dior, Fall/Winter 2018
made from different fabric scraps and finished with hand embroidery

Irregular Patchwork - SOME TIPS:

1. Use a base fabric that will always serve as a third layer when sewing the fabric pieces together
2. Whenever you come across curved or angled edges you should fold the seam allowances of the piece you want to apply to that area, with it's right side up, before basting
3. Just sew directly on the sewing machine on the wrong side, right sides together, if the seam is straight and does not interfere with any other piece already sewn. Otherwise, always baste on the right side before deciding how the final seam will look.
4. After applying a piece, trim the seam allowance or any edges that are sticking out before moving on to the next piece.
5. Always iron every each application.
6. Finish your work by applying the final stitch that will secure your patchwork. This can be done by machine or by hand, depending on the final result you want (see unit 2).

Combining different fabrics and textures – Patchwork



Using layers of fabric :

On top of combining the fabrics by sewing them together, using different patchwork techniques we can also combine them through layering.

Here are some **TIPS:**

1. The fabric on top should be the lighter one and also the most transparent
2. Feel free to play with different textures and patterns
3. To keep the fabrics together during the process of sewing the piece you can join them by using water-soluble interlining
4. Use bonding web between your fabrics if you want them to be fused together permanently



Schmidt Takahashi

A sweater with different textures and a floral lace insert on each side. extra fine wool. organic cotton. Cotton, silk and other fibers.



Combining different fabrics and textures – Patchwork



Paulina Plizga
Made from Fabric Scraps

Strip Piecing: Strip piecing involves sewing fabric strips together to form larger panels or blocks. These panels can then be cut into smaller pieces and rearranged to create different designs.



Finishing with raw edges on the outside:

The key to sewing deconstructed or raw seams is to overlap them rather than sewing right sides together, and then topstitching in place using your choice of stitch. It will fray gently along the raw edge but still be secured by the topstitching. In most cases, you'll need to trim your seam allowance down first

Chenille Technique combine tucking, strip piecing and reverse appliqué - (check unit 3 for tucking)

Using fabrics in different shades of predominantly the same color will result in a look that is solid colored with flecks. You could choose a plaid color in the middle of the solid colors. Multi Colored fabrics produce a multi colored chenille but placement of the layered fabrics causes different threads to dominate.



Combining different fabrics and textures - Patchwork



Curve Piecing: Curve piecing involves sewing curved fabric together in a way the result is a flat surface. This demands a specific cutting technique of mirrored cuts and the marking of notches for accuracy.

Flatlock Stitch as a seam finishing:

A flatlock can be used in a variety of instances. The key advantage is that it has very little bulk because the raw edges of fabric are completely encased in the stitching and looper threads. It's also a great stitch for super-fitted items like activewear.



Steinwiddler - Trespass
Made from used t-shirts

Patchwork

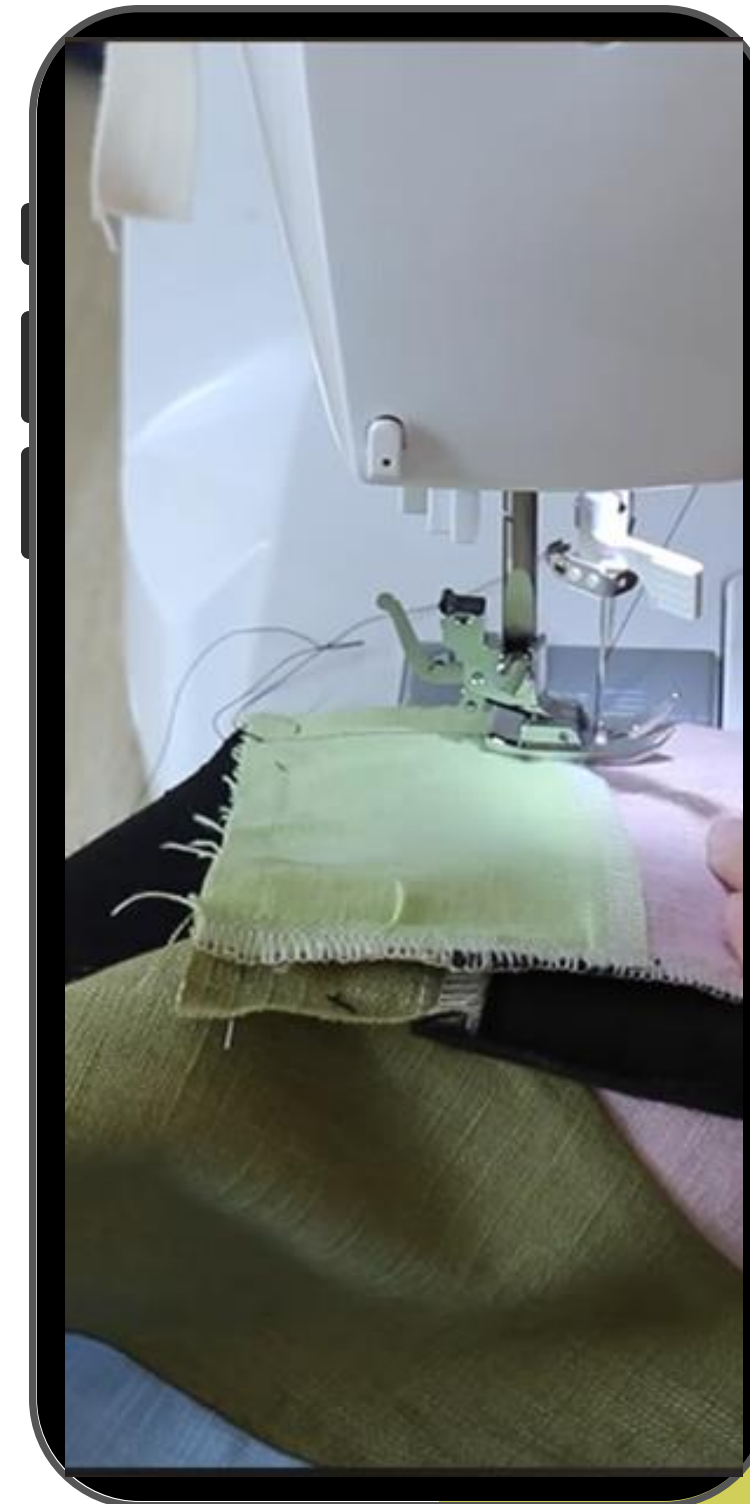
On this video we are going to see how to do patchwork using fabric scraps.

In the video she is using leftovers from previous sewing projects and is going to create a patchwork fabric which then she will use to make a top.

Watch here



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9j0OAR-VOW>



Combining different fabrics and textures

Appliqué

Appliqué is the process of sewing smaller pieces of fabric onto a larger piece to create designs or motifs. These smaller pieces can be stitched on using various methods such as hand appliqué, machine appliqué, or fusible appliqué. Here we are going to explore the machine appliqué.

BASIC TIPS on the first steps:

- Make a template, out of strong paper from a drawing that will fit where you want to put the appliqué, cut it along the contours. If your appliqué is composed by more than one piece, make a copy of each piece and make sure that the outlines you trace are covered by the other piece, rather than fitting together; make a mark on the right side identifying each piece
- Gather the scraps and leftover fabrics to choose which ones you will use in your appliqué. Try to harmonize the colors, prints and textures of the different fabrics.
- Check the compatibility of the application fabrics and the base in terms of washing and drying.

Basic Notions

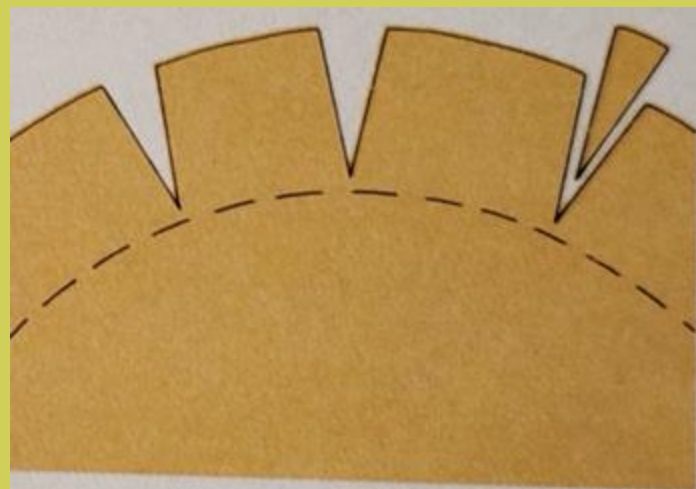


R13 Spring 2025
Ready-to-Wear Collection

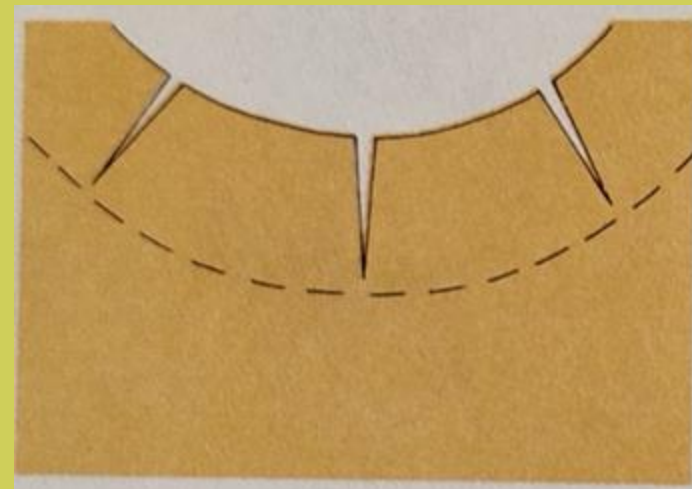
Combining different fabrics and textures – Appliqué

Cutting and Preparing

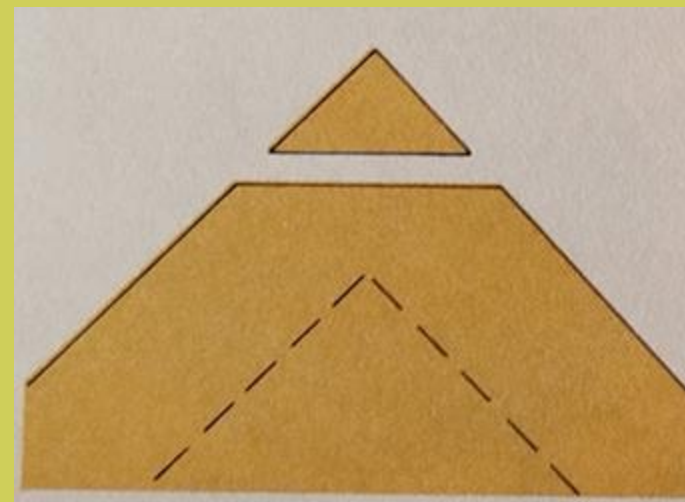
1. Pin the template to the right side of the fabric. Outline it with a dressmaker's pencil. Remove the template. Mark the seam allowance by drawing a second line 0.5 cm from the first (a little more on fabrics that fray).
1. Cut the applique fabric with a certain margin; it will be easier for you to do the staystitching in the next phase.
1. Make a staystitch slightly outside the first line you drew around the template; This stitch is intended to make it easier to fold the edges. Adjust the sewing machine stitch according to the nature of the fabric.
1. Trim the fabric along the second line you drew outside the template. Cut the fabric along curves and angles so that the edges will lay flat when turned:



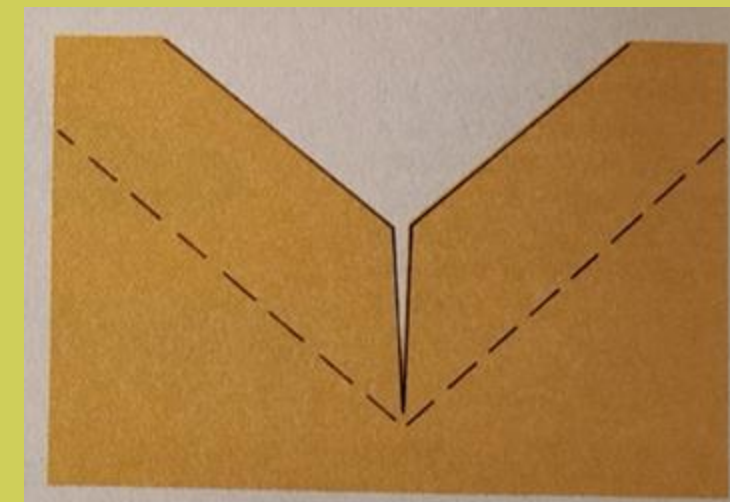
On the outside curves, notch the edges to prevent the fabric from rolling up when you turn them inward.



On the inside curves, strike the edges perpendicular to the seam. On sharper curves, give more strokes.



At the outside corners, cut the tip of the edges to reduce the volume where they are mitered.



On the inside corners, make a cut close to the fastening stitch so that the edges can turn inwards.

Combining different fabrics and textures –

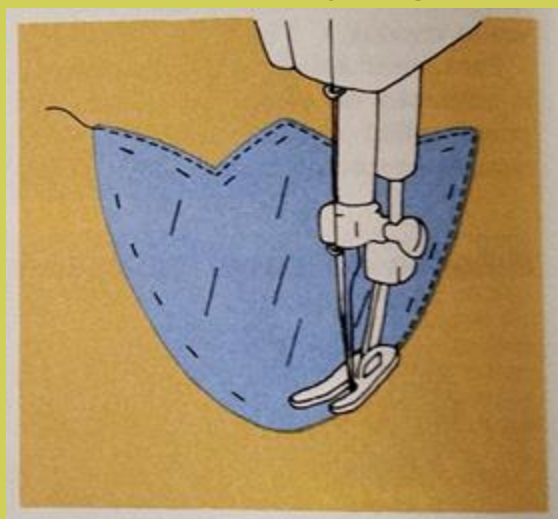
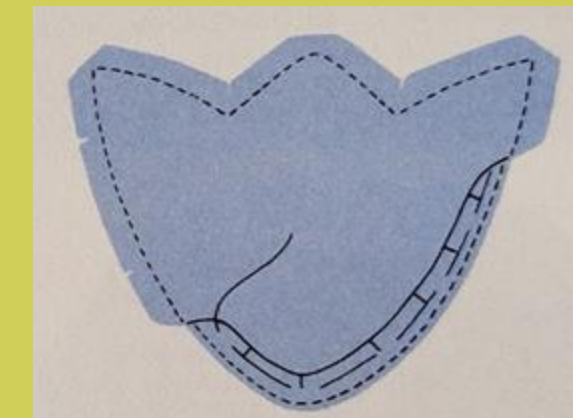
Appliqué

Attaching and Sewing

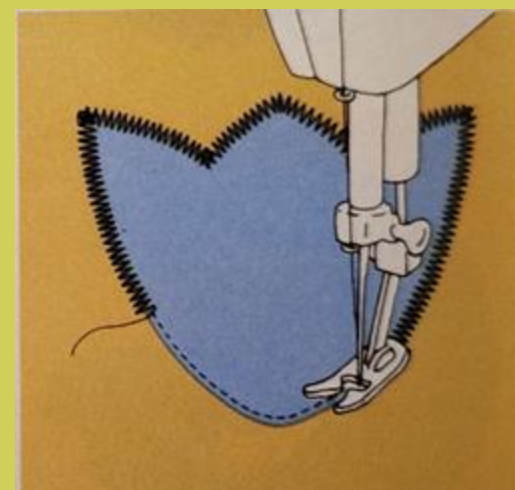
1. To center the motif accurately draw the center lines, vertical and horizontal by folding the fabric in half and back in half; press . Open the fabric and, if necessary, use a basting stitch along the folds
2. The placement of isolated applications is not necessarily marked on the background, as long as the central lines serve as a guide. However, this marking is advisable for greater accuracy.
3. For more accuracy transfer the design by placing the template on the fabric with the right side facing up, pin in place and trace the outline of the template using a pencil or a fabric marker

4. Fold the seam allowance to the wrong side along the staystitch; Press well with your fingers, basting as you go. The staystitch should be on the folded edge towards the wrong side.

5. Pin the appliqué to the background fabric and secure it with basting stitches. To prevent the fabric from fraying at corners and sharp curves, sew there with a slip stitch instead.



6. For sewing with a straight stitch: Set the machine stitch length to medium (each stitch = 2-2.5 cm). Sew along the edge of the appliqué. Pass the ends of the thread to the wrong side and tie knots.



7. After topstitching you can choose to do a zigzag stitch: Sew a narrow, tight zigzag stitch over the edges and across the topstitch. For sharp corners, just before you reach the tip start reducing the width of the zigzag.

Appliqué

This video is demonstrating how to do the most standard machine stitches, where to start and stop, and how to get around the corners in the appliqué technique.

Watch here



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QY8why6ggOc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGdH7TUOj8g>



Combining different fabrics and textures

Reverse Appliqué

The reverse appliqué consists of several layers of fabric that are worked in a different way to the classic surface application. In the inverted technique, the layers of fabric are superimposed and cuts are made in them to reveal the layers underneath. Cut edges are sewn to the bottom layer

BASIC TIPS on the first steps:

- The most suitable fabrics for this technique are those with a tight weave, light but opaque.
- Start by basting the different layers of fabric together (five, maximum) and only then are the shapes cut out.
- The top layer of fabric must be large enough to fit all the other smaller shapes.
- Sometimes a layer of fabric is exposed by cutting directly through the layers overlying it. You can also add small patches of other colors under the layers

Basic Notions



N°21 Ready To Wear
Spring Summer 2014

Combining different fabrics and textures – Reverse Appliqué

The Basics of Sewing:

- A. With the layers of fabric basted, draw the main shape on the top layer and cut, in just one layer, 1 cm inside the line. Topstitch on top of the line and trim the fabric close to the stitch. Sew with a zigzag stitch along the cut.
- B. Draw the parts of the motif that will be inside the main shape. Decide in what shape or shapes the third layer will be exposed. Cut and sew in the same way.

1. To skip a layer of fabric:

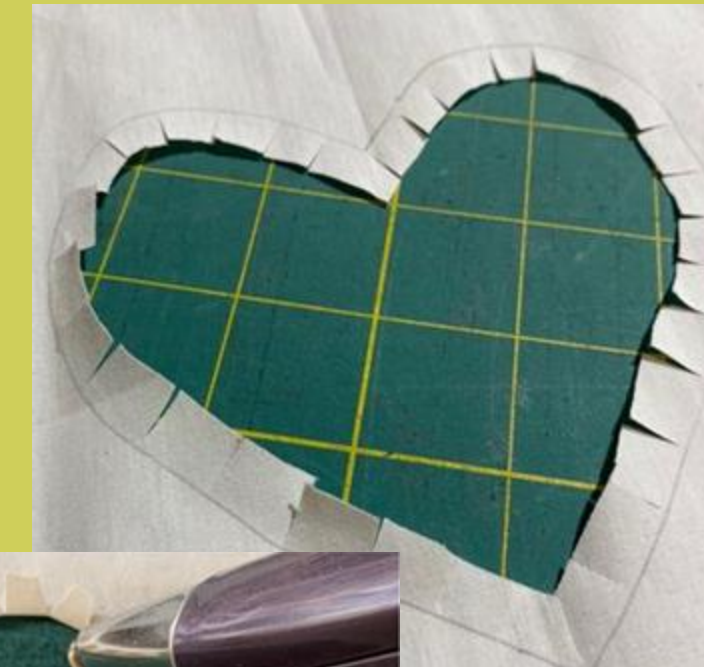
- ★ Outline the shape with a backstitch. Cut it out from the top two layers, leaving the fourth layer of fabric exposed.
- ★ Sew with a zigzag stitch over the outline of the shape, covering the topstitching and the edges of the first and second layers of fabric.

1. To work with shapes with matching edges:

- ★ Topstitch around the outline of the larger shape. Cut out this shape exactly inside the stitching. Trace the smaller shape and topstitch it onto the now exposed layer of fabric.
- ★ Cut out the small shape inside the stitching. Sew with a zigzag stitch along the cut edges of both shapes.

1. To add another color:

- ★ Draw the shape on the top fabric layer. Cut inside the outline 0.5 cm from this. Cut a piece of another color with the same shape, but 1 cm larger than the cut-out part.
- ★ Insert the new color scrap below the cut edges of the top layer. Make a backstitch over the marked contours. Trim the seam allowance as close to the machine stitch as possible. Cover with zigzag stitch



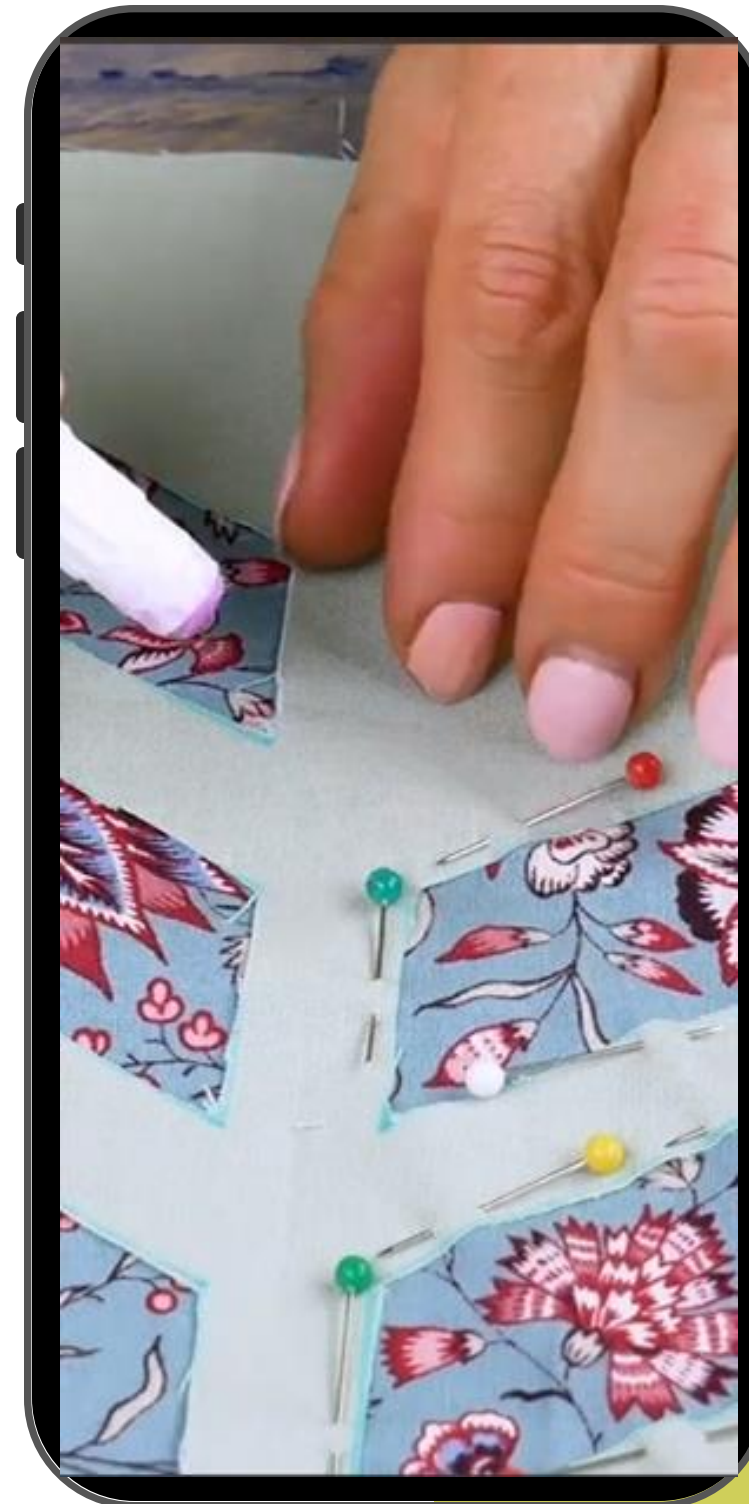
Reverse Appliqué

In this video we'll show you how to sew reverse appliqué, then turn it into a fun decorative pillow cover.

Watch here



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwVW-fGc83Q>



Adding decorative elements

Basic Notions

The final trimming must always be considered from the outset. You can combine pieces of ribbon and braid with strings of beads to create your own custom trims to match a particular fabric, or you may find it easier to start with a trim and then choose a fabric which either matches, or contrasts, perfectly.



Adding decorative elements

Beads, Buttons and Sequins

There are many different types of beads worldwide – from crystal drops to wood beads, metal beads to pearls. But only some of them are suitable for hand embroidery. So if you want to incorporate beads and sequins into your embroidery designs, look for these options.



Bugle beads are long, tube-shaped glass beads with flat ends. They look great in border hand embroidery designs and as filling beads.



Seed beads are tiny rounded shape beads made from glass. These beads are great for hand embroidery as it's easy to incorporate them in almost any design.



Buttons have fastenning function, nevertheless they can also be used as an embellishment, specially since is very common to find old beautiful buttons on second hand shops or flea markets.



Sequins are round pieces of shiny plastic that can be sewn onto the fabric. They have one hole in the middle and a bowl-like center (some sequins are flat).

Adding decorative elements – Beads and Sequins



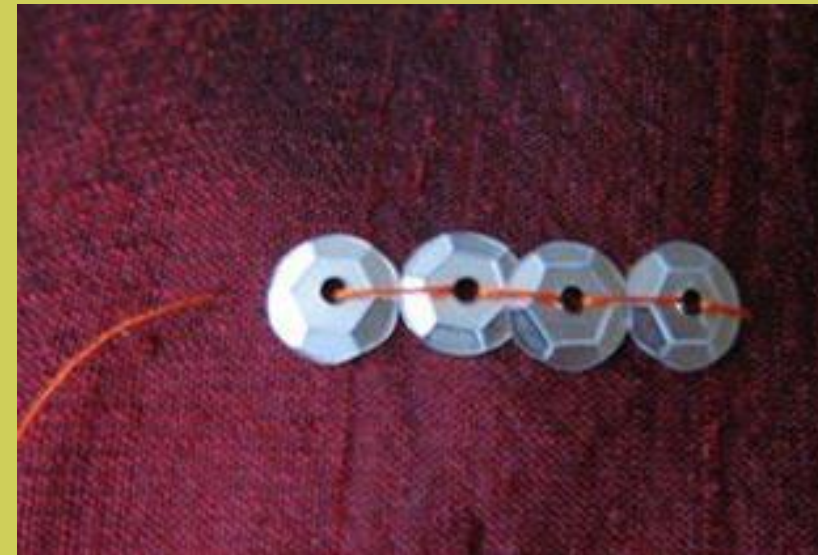
Embroidering with beads and sequins: you can use different type of embroidery stitches (check unit 2) when adding beads and sequins, just as an application technique or as a complementary decoration. Here are some of the most common:



Using a basic running stitch, you can embroider straight or curved lines you want to embellish. Just add a bead or a sequin in every running stitch you make.



The seed stitch is one of the basic embroidery stitches. This method to secure beads and sequins, just add a bead or a sequin in every stitch you make.



Backstitch stitch is another great way to add beads and sequins to any border design, straight or curved lines of the embroidery pattern. Add beads or sequins in every stitch



Feather stitch gives the beads and sequins a specific design, but you can play with it as you like.. Add the necessary amount of beads you need to fill the stitch length or make it equal to the length of the sequin. You can use beads to make curves between sequins.

Adding decorative elements - Buttons

To sew on your button, proceed as follows with the sewing machine:

1. First, prepare: If your sewing machine has a cover plate, place it on first and raise the needle and foot. Now you can place your garment and the button underneath.
2. Now lower the machine's stand head and you can sew on your button. Now select the zig-zag stitch.
3. Place the needle of your machine under a buttonhole. If it hits both buttonholes, then you have selected the optimum width.
4. Now it's time to sew! Choose one of the buttonholes and stitch through the holes with the machine. Make sure you hold the button firmly and check in between to make sure the button is tight enough.
5. Now take your garment out of the machine and knot the thread. You have now sewn your button on with the sewing machine.



Viktor & Rolf Fall 2016
Couture Paris

Watch here



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FLo7wQqtRQ>

Adding decorative elements

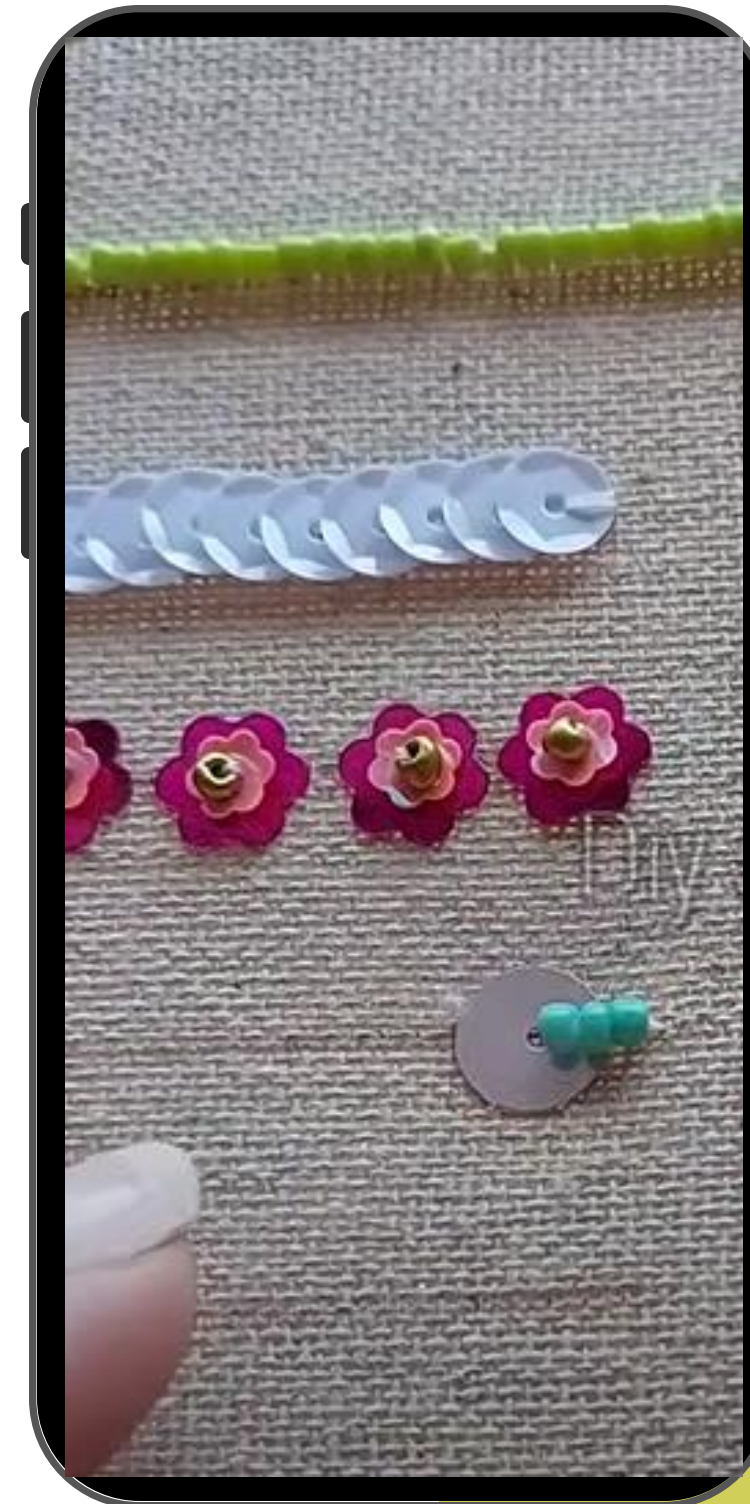
Beads and sequins

In this video we will learn how to do some basic embroidery stitches using beads and sequins for extra decoration.

Watch here



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AR0x-MBgN3c>



Adding decorative elements

Ribbons, String and Yarn

Decorative trims and embellishments, such as ribbons, strings and yarn may be added to a garment as one of the final stages, but some details are added before garment pieces are joined and lined to conceal the stitching. Let's look at the most common types of trims.



Rayon and Satin Ribbon are durable ribbons with a soft texture. Rayon being softer than satin, doesn't have the same beautiful sheen due to its weave, since it reflects the light.



Petersham is a stiff, closely woven tape with a pronounced edge. It comes in a variety of widths from 12mm to 10cm and may be straight or curved.



Grosgrain Ribbon is a stiff, ribbed ribbon. It is available in various widths and has a characteristic vertical rib, which gives it rigidity. It is available in widths from 6mm to 38mm, making it suitable for a variety of uses.



Bias Tape or bias binding is a narrow strip of fabric, typically plain weave, cut on the bias. As the weave of fabric is at a 45° angle, the resulting fabric strip is stretchier than a strip cut on the grain.

Adding decorative elements - Ribbons - Rayon and Satin



Use both **rayon ribbon** and **satin ribbon** as a trim on the hem of a skirt or dress or to embellish sleeves, cuffs and collars. For more practical purposes, use it as a closure in the form of ties or to finish raw edges and zips on the inside of garments. It can also be used for hanging loops to hold a garment on a hanger or as lingerie guards to control bra straps on the inside shoulder of a sleeveless dress. It can also be used to create different patterns through gathering or folding.

"Purled" or Ruched Ribbon Trim



Running stitches in a zig-zag pattern



Gently pull on the thread to ruche or gather the ribbon



Finished sample of "purled" or ruched ribbon trim applied on the garment

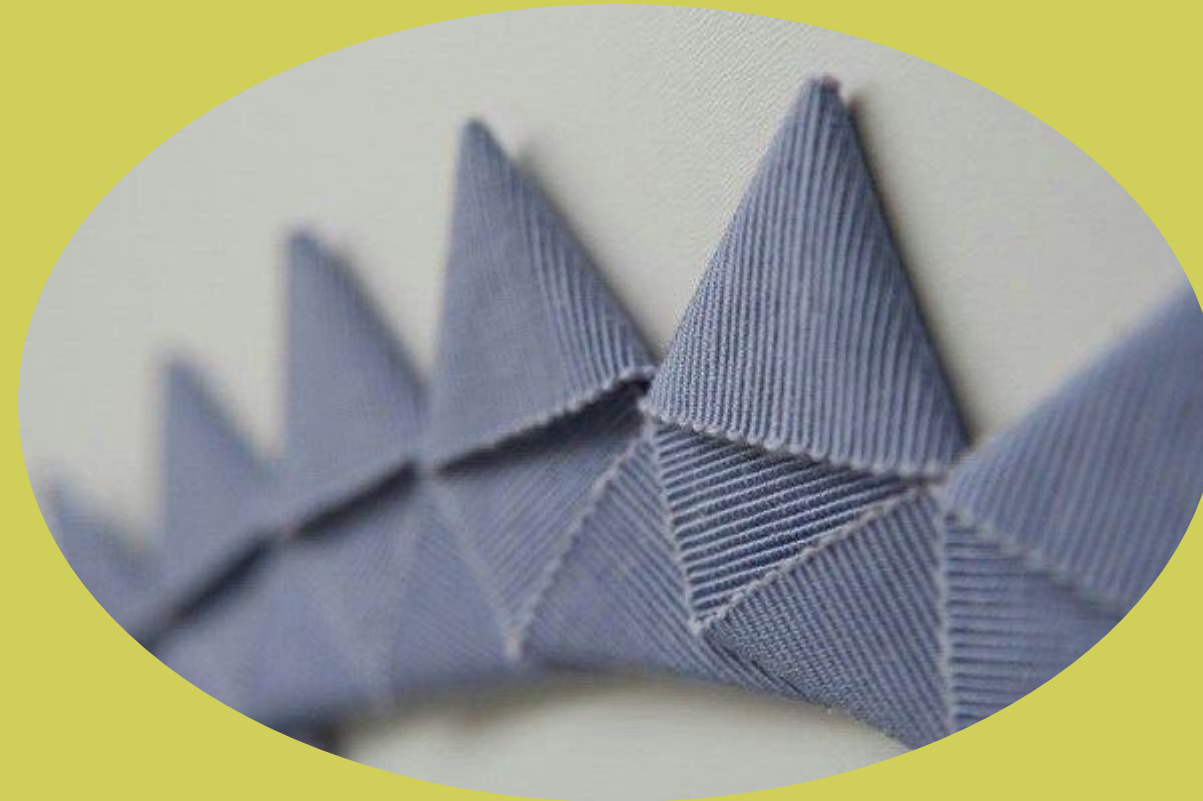
Adding decorative elements – Ribbons – Petersham



Petersham is often used to support the band of a waist in a skirt or a dress. It should fit the waist snugly and allow the garment to be anchored by it. A curved Petersham allows a waistband to tilt towards the upper body, giving a better fit. Petersham also provides a pretty detail when inserted into a flat fell seam with its edge peeking out of the finished, top-stitched seam. It can also be used to create different patterns through pleating or folding.



Petersham Peak Seam



Petersham Folds



Petersham Nautilus Shell

Adding decorative elements - Ribbons - Grosgrain

Use **grosgrain** ribbon as a waist stay inside a dress to anchor the waist, or use it as a belt backing to add stiffness to a dress fabric or trim. For a simple waist finish, lap grosgrain over the raw edge of a skirt and edge-stitch in place. Fold the ribbon to the wrong side, then edge-stitch again to hold it down. Alternatively, use it as a decorative trim in place of satin ribbon - it wears better and is considered less flashy. Use it on the inside of the cuffs of trousers to protect the edge from wear. It can also be used to make greek or any geometric motifs on a garments edged are, weaving motifs through interlacing and also folding into singular shapes.



Interlacing with grosgrain



Greek Motif with grosgrain application



Grosgrain Cockade

Adding decorative elements - Ribbons - Bias Tape

Bias tape is used in making piping, binding seams, finishing raw edges, and is also used decoratively. It is often used on the edges of quilts, placemats, and bibs, around armhole and neckline edges instead of a facing, and as a simple strap or tie for casual bags or clothing.

The bias strips that are available for purchase are useful and can be purchased in a wide range of colors. To make a bias strip, determine the full bias of the fabric by folding it diagonally so that a right edge of the cross grain is parallel to the length grain. Crease the fabric along the diagonal fold; then open it up and use the crease as a guide to mark parallel lines at intervals equal to the desired width, plus 1 cm for seam allowances.



Finishing with bias binding



Bias tape folding tool



Drawing with bias binding

Adding decorative elements

Ribbons - greek motif

This video shows the step-by-step process of creating the Greek key design.

Watch here



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VxpfPzcoHA>



Adding decorative elements

Ribbons, String and Yarn

Decorative trims and embellishments, such as ribbons, strings and yarn may be added to a garment as one of the final stages, but some details are added before garment pieces are joined and lined to conceal the stitching. Let's look at the most common types of trims.



Mousetail /Rattail is a tubular cord with a smooth, satin finish. It is available in many colours. Use rattail to create a channel or using with invisible threads for a decorative embellishment.



Yarn
Available for knitting and crochet, they can also be used as trims for garments. Can be used either individually or mixed together.



Decorative Trim can be rick rack braid, piping cords with a flange, textured braids, and roses and bows that can be sewn onto garments as embellishments.



Decorative Ribbon
There is a huge range of decorative ribbons available for sewing. Plaid, moiré, striped, metallic, chiffon, velvet and novelty ribbons .

Adding decorative elements - String and Yarn



Using Yarn on the inside - Cording

When cutting the pieces to be corded, just cut rectangles, with the lengthwise grain appropriately oriented relative to the placement of the pattern piece; you'll cut the exact shape from each pattern piece after the stitching is done.

Using Yarn on the outside

Couching is the method used to attach a thread or group of threads to fabric when they are too thick, too highly textured or too fragile to be stitched through the fabric. A second thread, normally finer, is used to stitch over the couched thread, thus anchoring it to the fabric. You can embroider it by hand or using the decorative stitches on a sewing machine. (see unit 2)



Adding decorative elements – Decorative Trims and Ribbons



Use **decorative trims** to adorn garments whether they are tailored, outerwear items, or lingerie. Choose hand sewing, using a short, fine needle and silk thread to secure decorative trims or, if using a sewing machine, select an appropriate foot attachment. A zip foot will allow you to make stitches on the edge of a trim with the bulk or texture in the centre. Choose good quality thread in a colour close to that of the ribbon, or use invisible nylon thread.

Tip: Select trims to suit the fabric they are to be sewn onto, matching the fibre content, and opt for dry-cleaning rather than washing to prolong their life.

Use **decorative ribbons** on the edges of collars or to trim cuffs or pockets. They may be used on a plain and simple. Sew decorative ribbons in place with a sewing machine using a straight stitch along each edge, or hand-sew in place with tiny catch stitches. Use a new and fine machine needle (9/70), considering the nature of the ribbon being sewn; a metallic needle may be necessary for some types. For hand-stitching choose a short, fine needle and silk thread.

Tips: When positioning ribbon before sewing, use very sharp pins and place them on the edges where the stitches will be



Adding decorative elements

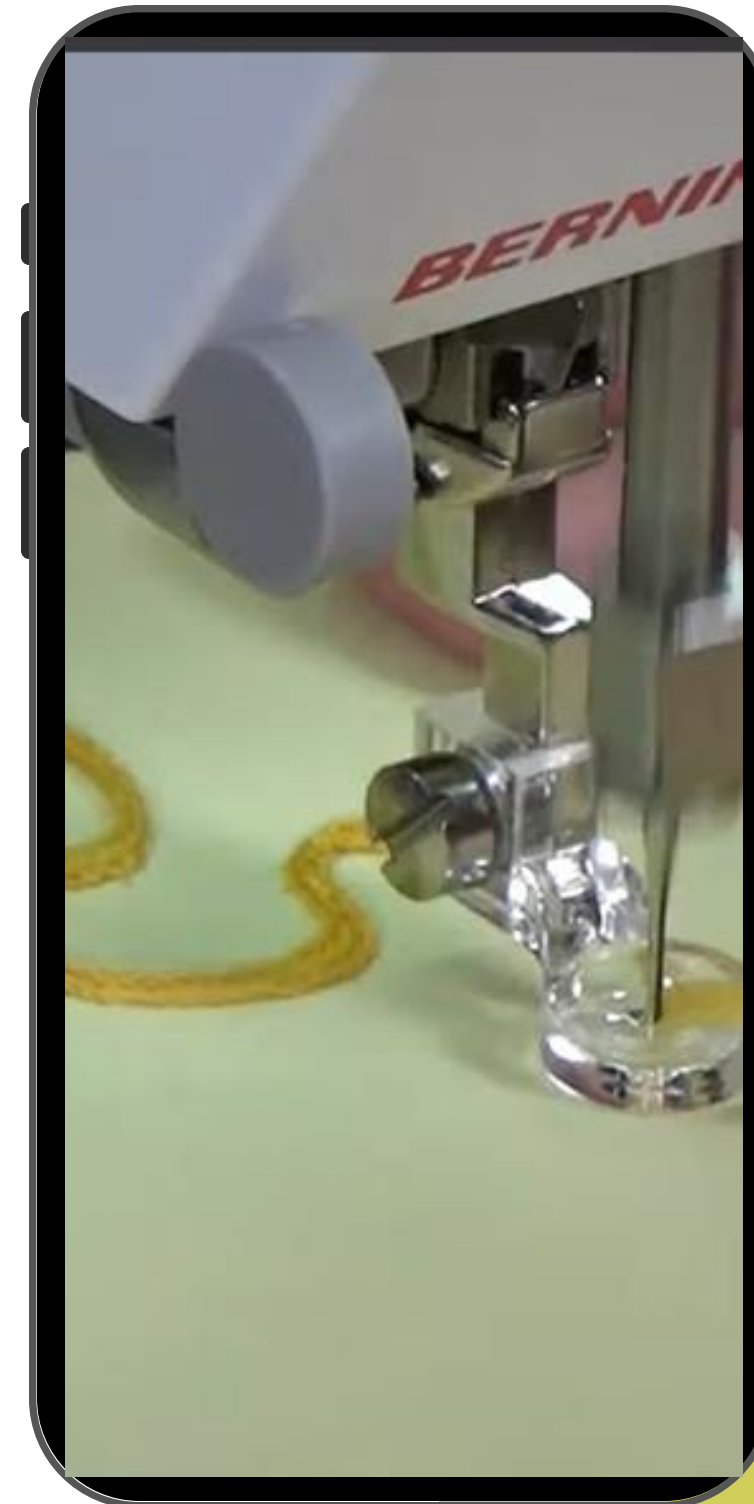
String and Yarn - Couching

Couching with a couching foot lets you sew over cords and yarns as you do free motion stitching on quilts or other embellishment projects. Let's see how to in this video:

Watch here



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hWJMZ8NbMo>





Practical application

This activity is for participants to work by themselves creating a new fabric with second hand clothes and fabric scraps. To enrich this new fabric participants have to choose some of the embellishing techniques learned.

Activity on Creating an Embellished Fabric

Using second hand clothes and fabric scraps the participants will have to create a new fabric using the learned techniques: combining different fabrics, using patchwork, appliqué and adding decorative elements.

01

Materials needed

- Sewing machine
- Embroidery material
- Decorative elements: beads, buttons, ribbons, yarn..
- Sewing kit
- Clothes for upcycling
- Fabric scraps

02

Objectives

- To understand how to combine different fabrics
- To be able to create new fabric through patchwork
- To be able to use appliqué as a decorative technique
- To understand how to apply decorative elements to embellish a fabric
- To be able to use different decorative elements in a harmonic way

03

Duration

4 hours

Setting

a room where you can put participants in individual table each with a sewing machine

Activity on Creating an Embellished Fabric



Plan

Time	Activity
00:00 – 00:20	Choose the materials and make a plan
00:20 – 01:00	Cut and assemble
01:00 – 03:00	Patchwork and Appliqué
03:00 – 4:00	Adding decorative elements

Activity on Creating an Embellished Fabric

Implementation

1. Start by choosing which fabrics you will use and make a plan on how you are going to combine them - plan already what other techniques you will apply to make sure all the elements work well together
2. Cut the fabrics and clothes components making sure they are the right size to use (always give extra measurement to be safe) and start by putting them next to each other as they're going to be sewn
3. Begin with the patchwork process, make sure to follow the tips that were given
4. After completing the patchwork you will have the base of your fabric, you can start sewing the appliqué and/or reverse appliqué, make sure to keep balanced in the aesthetic sense
5. The last part is the addition of decorative elements: the type and technique used is of your choice, use at least two decorative elements and techniques again trying to make all of it very balanced.



Unit Summary



In this Unit you have gone through the most decorative techniques to use in the upcycling process, looking into how to use them in a practical way. You have learned how to combine different fabrics and textures, more specifically through the patchwork technique.

You also learned the practical application of different techniques we can apply in the upcycling process when wanting to embellish a garment: appliqué and reverse appliqué, embroidering beads, sequins or buttons, sewing ribbons, yarn and other trims.

References

- Maynard, L. (2010) *Couture sewing techniques: The Dressmaker's Handbook of Couture Sewing Techniques*. Loveland, CO: Interweave Press.
- *Reader's Digest Grande Livro dos Lavo*res (1985). Porto: Ambar
- Thompson, H. and Whittington, N. (2012) *Remake it clothes: The Essential Guide to Resourceful Fashion: With over 500 tricks, tips and inspirational designs*. London: Thames & Hudson.
- Gao, C. (2024, December 2). How to Sew Different Fabrics Together: 8 Simple and Practical Tips. Longan Craft. <https://www.longancraft.com/blogs/sewing-tips/how-to-sew-different-fabrics-together-8-simple-and-practical-tips>
- Butler, J. (2023, June 16). 10 Expert Quilting Tips for Making a Good Quilt Great. Quilting Daily. <https://www.quiltingdaily.com/10-quilting-tips-for-making-a-good-quilt-great/>
- h, g. (2023, March 24). Nine Ways To Add Beads And Sequins To Your Embroidery - Creative Fabrica. Creative Fabrica. <https://www.creativefabrica.com/the-artistry/embroidery/nine-ways-to-add-beads-and-sequins-to-your-embroidery>
- (2018). Couching - RSN StitchBank. Rsnstitchbank.org; RSN StitchBank. <https://rsnstitchbank.org/stitch/couching-stitch>

