

QUICK FLEECE HATS INSTRUCTIONS



YOU'LL NEED:

- ½ yd fleece for braided or ponytail hats (makes two hats)
- ⅓ yd fleece for short tassel hats (makes two hats)
- Matching all-purpose polyester thread: 1 spool
- Sewing machine, scissors, seam gauge, tape measure, nippers to cut threads.

GLOSSARY:

SA – Seam allowance. Amount of fabric between stitch line and raw edge. For this project, place the side of the presser foot in line with the raw edge.

RST – Right sides together.

WST – Wrong sides together.

SL = Stitch length

SW = Stitch width

EDGESTITCH – Stitch ⅛" from edge of fabric. Use guideline on presser foot.

STRAIGHT STITCH - 4.0 SL

ZIGZAG - SW 5.0, SL 5.0

HOT TIP:

- Match raw edges top, bottom and seam. Use fingers to keep edges matched while sewing instead of using pins. It's more accurate and faster!



BRAIDED HAT:

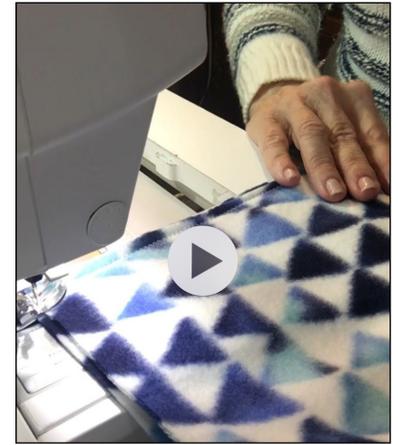
1. Cut a piece of fleece 22" wide by 18" long. Fold RST and zigzag down 18" length. Stitch a straight seam right next to zigzag. Fold bottom of hat up 1½" to make a hem and stitch top of hem with long zigzag (SL=4.0).
2. Turn right side out. Fold hat with seam on one side. Stitch across hat 8½" from hem. Cut down fold on each side from top of hat to stitching. Cut down middle from top off hat to stitchline. Repeat to cut top of hat to stitchline into fourths. Then cut each fourth into three strips.



1- Cut



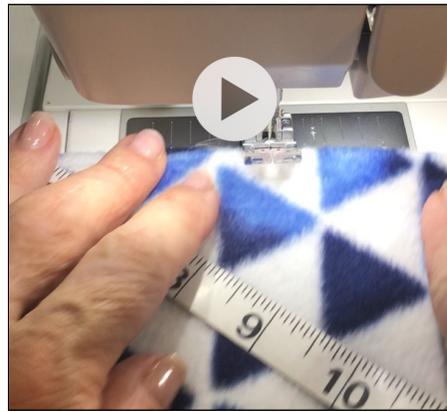
1-Fold in half RST



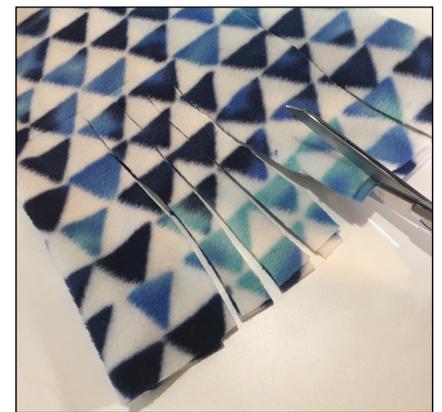
1-Zigzag & seam open side



1-Fold up 1 1/2" & zigzag



2-Sew 8 1/2" up from hem



2-Cut strips from top of hat to stitchline.

3. Braid three strips at a time. Tie each braid at top to secure. Repeat until all strips are braided.
4. With strip of fleece or piece of heavy thread, wrap hat on stitchline at base of braids to gather braids together. Knot fleece strip or heavy thread three times to secure. Hat is worn with seam in back.



PONYTAIL HAT:

1. Repeat step #1 above.
2. Turn right side out. Run a gather stitch (SL=6.0) 8 1/2" above hat bottom. Before pulling bobbin thread to gather, cut hat above stitchline into fourths, then cut each fourth into three pieces as in step #2
3. Pull bobbin thread to gather. With strip of fleece or piece of heavy thread, wrap hat on stitchline at base of strips to gather strips together in a ponytail. Knot fleece strip or heavy thread three times to secure. Hat is worn with seam in back.



SHORT TASSEL HAT:

1. Cut a 22" BY 11½" piece of fleece. Per step #1 above, fold RST and zigzag down 11½" length. Stitch a straight seam right next to zigzag stitches. Fold bottom of hat up 1½" to make a hem and stitch top of hem with long zigzag (SL=4.0).
2. Turn right side out. Run a gather stitch (SL=6.0) 1½" from top of hat. Before pulling bobbin thread to gather, clip every ¾" from top to stitch line.
3. Pull bobbin thread to gather. With strip of fleece or piece of heavy thread, wrap hat on stitchline at base of strips to gather strips together in a ponytail. Knot fleece strip or heavy thread three times to secure. Hat is worn with seam in back.



FUN FACTS ABOUT FLEECE

- Determine which is the "right" side. Most fleeces are double-sided. One exception: berber. Check by:
 - Deciding which side looks best to you.
 - Pulling the selvage. The fabric often will curl to the right side when pulled on the lengthwise grain.
 - Pouring water on it. The right side will be water repellent if the fabric has been so treated.
 - Roughing it up. The right side will pill less.
- Lay out all pattern pieces using the "with nap" layout.
- Mark all wrong sides with a chalk marker to keep your pieces straight.
- Don't prewash unless you're using this to rough up the fabric. Fleece is synthetic and should not shrink. Dry by shaking it out and hanging it. Machine drying can make it pill. Do not dry clean.
- Do not press. Your fabric will melt or indent. Finger press and topstitch to hold seam allowances down.
- Use polyester, all purpose sews-all thread.
- Use a universal 80/12 needle. Start with a fresh needle.
- Use the longest stitch length you can get away with: 7-9 stitches per inch or a stitch length of 4-5 mm). Too short a stitch length will make your fleece stretch and ripple.
- If you can, adjust the presser foot for a lighter pressure and use a walking or roller foot.