



MISSOURI STAR

13 TIPS FOR EMBELLISHING CLOTHING

1. Save your scraps! They're perfect for patchwork.
2. If you want to achieve a patchwork look, try playing around with color and shape placement for a lively look, but stick to a few simple measurements so everything will sew together easily. In this case, Misty uses 2.5" squares and 2.5" x 4.5" rectangles.
3. You'll want to be sure to add your ¼" seam allowance any time you cut out new pieces so they'll be the correct size after sewing (You'll be sewing all your pieces with your standard ¼" seam!).
4. You can use your seam ripper to remove any seams you want to open up to add fabric to. Just be careful not to stretch the fabric (particularly if it's jersey or other stretchable fabric) and rip only your stitches carefully! (Hint: Turn the ball of the seam reaper down). Also, you can turn the garment inside out as needed to make this process easier.
5. Save any pieces you remove from your clothing to use as "templates" for what you'll replace it with. Trace those pieces on paper and save them for later!
6. Add Pellon Shape Flex or your favorite interfacing to stabilize your fabrics. It will help keep jersey fabric from stretching and add a bit of body to quilting cotton as you add it into your garments. You can also use the interfacing to hide many of the raw-edge seams (Sew it right sides together and flip it inside out. Don't forget to cut a small slit or leave a small opening in your seam so you can turn it easily).
7. If you're modifying sleeves, be sure to measure the outer edge of the sleeve as the straight edge.
8. Use clips or pins as needed to hold everything in place as you get ready to sew!
9. If you're working with a cotton and a stretch fabric, keep the stretch fabric on the top so it won't get caught in the feed dogs!
10. Clip your corners and keep your seam allowance to ¼" to reduce bulk in the finished garment.
11. Top stitching your seams adds a nice detail. When you top stitch, match your thread to your fabric for a beautiful, professional finish!
12. If you have a Serger, you can use it to finish seams inside the garment, or can just sew it on your domestic machine.
13. If you're creating stripes in your garments (like Misty does on Craig's sleeves), make sure you line up the stripes so they match at the seam!