



“How to Customize a Dog Coat Pattern”

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Description: This workbook was written to show how to customize an Industry Dog Coat Pattern for a specific breed. Color pictures will help detail the process.



Finished Coat

Materials needed :

Industry Pattern of your choice

Material to complete your project as per your pattern instructions

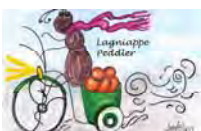
Sewing machine, various notions, scissors, measuring tape or ruler, accessory feet for sewing machine

Matching Thread

Marking pen or chalk

Basting Spray

Binding material





The first thing we did was decide on a particular pattern and our desired finished coat. We used Simplicity 1239 to begin our project. On the front cover there are several different options. If you look at the pictures, it looks like the pattern will fit various size dogs. This is a little misleading as the pattern has a small, medium and large cutting size available. You will need to take some measurements of your furry buddy to decide which one will work best for you.

As you can see from the picture above, we did a drawing of Jean Luc and then took several different measurements. He is a French Bulldog, and while they are considered to be a medium size dog, they do have some very distinct characteristics. They are a short breed, but stocky. The breadth of their torso is wide at the front and then narrow toward the back. They have a very pronounced stance with thick shoulders. If we used a purchased coat and tried to make the neck fit, it would probably be too long on the body. If we got one to fit the body length, it would not fit around the neck or belly. Don't be surprised if you have some of these issues also with your dog. Just like people, sewing for dogs will mean adjusting your pattern.



Our measurements focused on Jean Luc's Neck, Length and Belly Girth



Once we had these measurements, we looked at our pattern and decided on the largest size. This would ensure that the neck would fit and we knew we would have to do some adjusting later. This picture shows the main pattern piece cut out. If we measured the length at this point you could foresee that a lot of extra fabric would be in the coat.



Our objective for this coat was to have something warm and water resistant. We also wanted something easy to put on and take off. We chose a fleece inner lining and a Rip Stop fabric for the outside. The first thing we did was cut an outer piece from our pattern and a lining piece. We carefully used the basting spray to adhere the layers wrong sides together



We knew that the most important part of the pattern piece was the neck size and radius. We would be cutting the piece down after we quilted the fabric. We used a quilting foot to make sure the fabric did not slide around too much.



Once we had all of our quilting done, we looked at our measurements again. You can see from the picture that we cut a large amount from the end as it was too long. We also cut the protruding pieces that were meant to go around the neck and belly as it did not hit the right spots due to the length. All of this was done by holding the piece of quilted fabric around Jean Luc and then marking the areas with our chalk that needed to be cut. This may take a couple of adjustments.



Since we cut the protruding neck and belly band off, we used our neck measurement to add a rectangular piece from that extra fabric that would go around the chest. Here you can see two pieces of Velcro pinned that will be used to adhere the front together. You can also see how the piece will be attached to the main fabric. Everything is pinned at this point before any stitching happens. Once you have the front flap in place, you can try it on for size.



Here is another view showing the main piece folded in half and what will be the front flap with Velcro. All of these elements can still be moved and adjusted as needed before you actually sew anything together. If the neck is not large enough you could trim little by little along the radius as needed.





Once you have all of your adjustments made you can sew the front flap to the main piece as well as sew on the Velcro. At this point if you wanted to do an overcast stitch or a small hem all the way around you could. Another option to give it a finished look is to do a binding all the way around.

Next we measured the belly band area and cut out a piece of fabric in preparation to quilt.



Once quilted, we sewed our binding around the belly band piece.

Using a tape measure, we decided where we would need to attach the belly band to the main piece. Velcro was attached on the belly band and on the main piece here also.





We did an applique from another piece of fabric on our front flap by sewing a zig zag seam all the way around.



Finished Custom Dog Coat.



Enjoy!

