



# The Koos Loop

A designer's spin on  
the infinity scarf

BY LINDA CHANG TEUFEL

For many years, I've enjoyed a friendship and collaboration with Dutch-born designer Koos van den Akker. Koos is known as "The Master of Fabric Collage," and his genius is to discover daring fabric combinations and innovative construction techniques. This project is a perfect example, and Koos was generous enough to share his methods, through me, with *Threads* readers.

I spotted this unique "loop" scarf in his New York City studio and had to figure it out. I realized that this scarf's construction is similar to the cardboard tube within a paper towel roll. A long seam forms a flat fabric rectangle into a spiral tube. When the tube's ends are joined, the loop has a twist that imparts a graceful drape. The construction is ingenious, and very easy to do. Once you make one, you'll want to try more.

Another Koos touch is that this project combines multiple materials and bindings, the better to play up the twisting formation. This project relies on long fabric strips. When I checked my stash, it was a pleasant surprise to realize how many remnants I had that I could use for this project.

I measured a few of Koos' finished scarves and the widths and lengths varied. The width-to-length ratio influences the degree of twist in the finished loop, from a half to a full revolution of the tube. Try the example measurements as a guide, but to truly emulate Koos' creativity, experiment! We hope you enjoy the unique results.

*Koos van den Akker's scarf features rayon brocade strips and silk dupioni bindings on a wool jersey base.*

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*Linda Chang Teufel is the founder and owner of Dragon Threads. She is the author of *Koos Couture Collage* (Dragon Threads, 2002) among many works. Her website is [DragonThreads.com](http://DragonThreads.com).*



# Create a strip collage

Select a base fabric, a ground to overlay with fashion fabric strips and bindings. Though there is leeway in fabric choice for this project, select textiles that drape and feel good against the skin.

**1 Cut a base fabric piece.** The example is 20 inches by 70 inches, including ½-inch seam allowances. Cut fashion fabric and binding strips as long as the base fabric for embellishment.

Microfiber faux suede base fabric

Silk dupioni single-fold binding strips

Silk charmeuse fashion fabric strips

*Our sample loop combines faux suede and silk fabrics.*

**2 Adhere the fashion fabric strips to the base fabric.** Use a permanent but repositionable adhesive on a strip's wrong side, and focus it on the lengthwise center (away from the seam allowances). Place the sticky side down, on the base fabric's right side. Align the short ends, and keep the long edges parallel. Apply additional fashion fabric strips, parallel to the first. To secure the strips in place, you can baste ¼ inch from each strip's long edges.

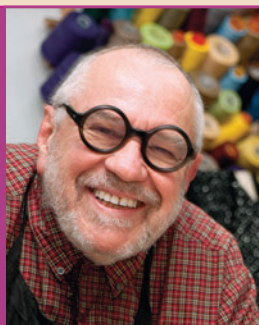
*Use spray adhesive to position the fashion fabric strips.*

70 inches

Grainline

20 inches

**3 Apply ½-inch-wide, single-fold binding.** Single-fold binding is folded on each long edge. Edgestitch the binding over the fashion fabric's raw edges to the base fabric. If you make your own binding, it's not necessary to cut it on the bias, since all seams are straight. Cut 1-inch strips, and use a bias-tape maker or hand-fold each long edge ¼ inch to the wrong side.



*Koos van den Akker is renowned for his multi-fabric designs. He lives and creates in New York City. His originals are sold in the Koos boutique on Madison Avenue and inspire several Vogue patterns a year. Visit Facebook to see his fan page.*



BASE FABRIC (RS)

Single-fold binding

Fashion fabric strips

*Use binding to cover the fashion fabric strips' raw edges over the base fabric.*

continued >>>

# Sew a spiral tube

This scarf is a tube with a seam that spirals around it. All it takes is several folds and some straight stitching to turn a flat fabric rectangle into this new shape.

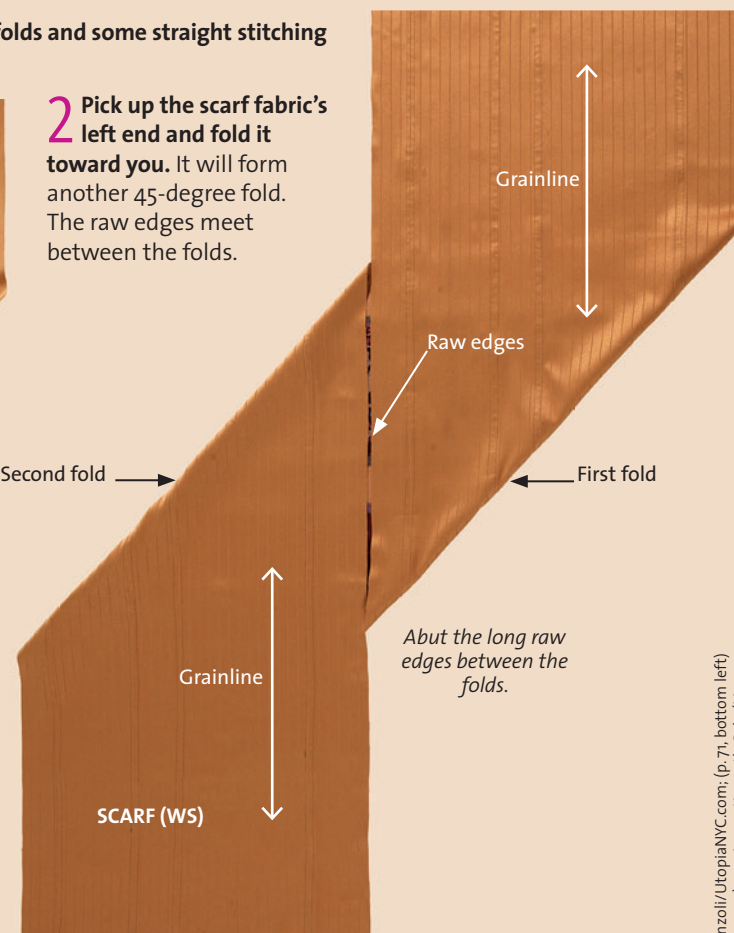
**1** Lay the scarf fabric flat, right side up and horizontally in front of you.

Pick up the right end and fold it perpendicular to the rest of the scarf fabric.



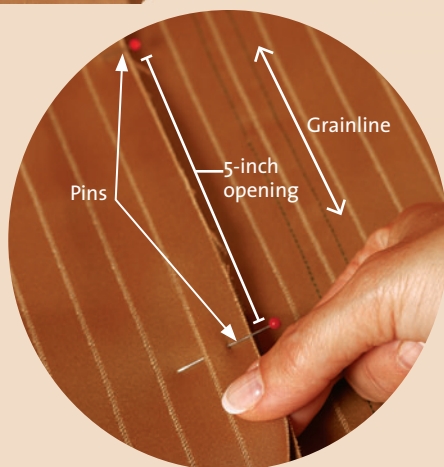
**2** Pick up the scarf fabric's left end and fold it toward you.

It will form another 45-degree fold. The raw edges meet between the folds.



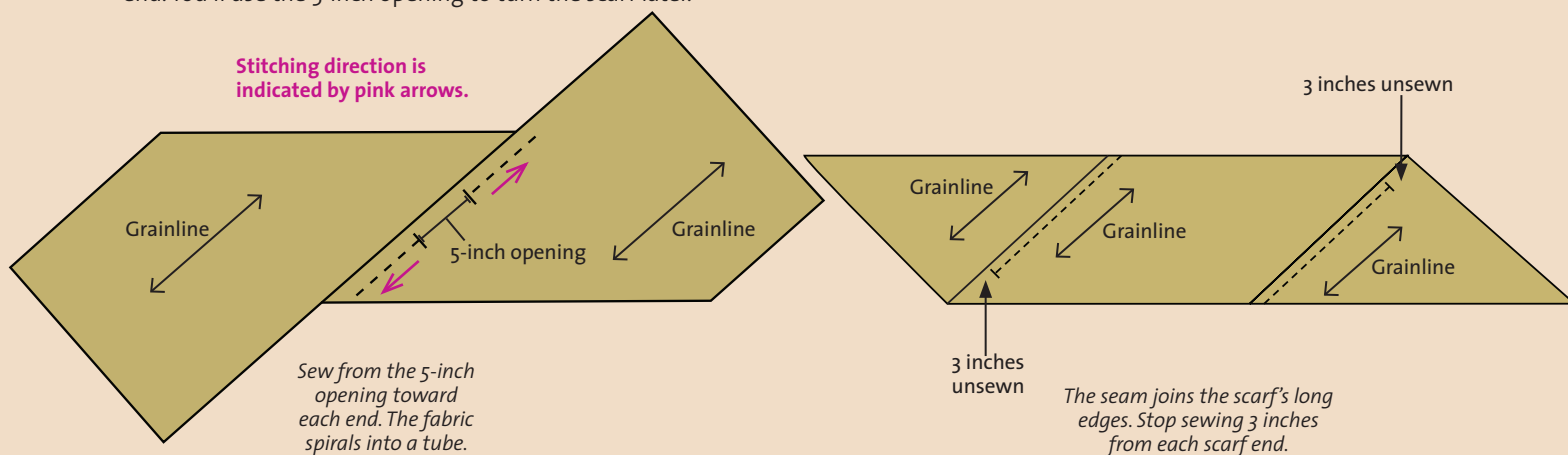
**3** Pinch the abutted raw edges and align them as seam allowances, right sides together.

Pin the seam allowances at two points about 5 inches apart. The pins mark an opening in the spiral seam.



**4** Stitch from one pin toward the closer scarf end. Keep the raw edges aligned; the seam spirals, and the fabric rotates into a tube as you sew. Stop sewing about 3 inches from the scarf's short end. Sew from the second pin to 3 inches from the scarf's other short end. You'll use the 5-inch opening to turn the scarf later.

Stitching direction is indicated by pink arrows.



Photos: (p. 70 and p. 73, top left and bottom left) Jack Deutsch, stylist: Jessica Saal, hair and makeup: Clelia Bergonzoli/UtopiaNYC.com; (p. 71, bottom left) Richard Koek Photography; all others, Sloan Howard. Illustrations: Rosann Berry. Styling credits: (p. 70) coat—(Zara.com), earrings—Kenneth Cole (Macy's.com); (p. 73, top left) top—Bordeaux (Anthropologie.com), earrings—(BananaRepublic.com); (p. 73, bottom left) dress and jacket—(Zara.com).



*The completed loop scarf drapes as if bias-cut, but requires only on-grain fabric and straight seams.*



*This loop by Koos van den Akker is made with silk strips pieced on grain, without binding or a base fabric. Batting within adds volume.*

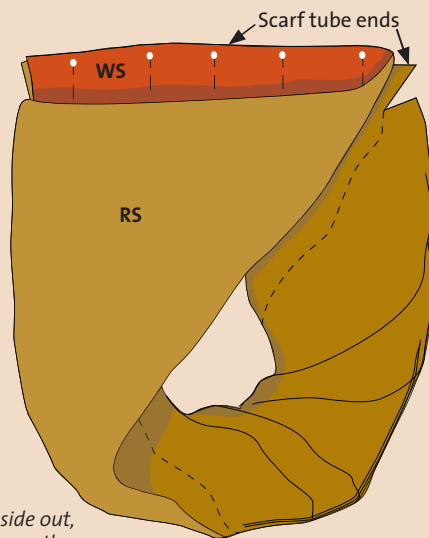


## Bring the seam full circle

The spiral seam runs the scarf tube's length. Connect the ends to create an easy-to-wear loop with a twist.

**1** Press open the seam allowances along the spiral seam sections. Turn the scarf tube right side out.

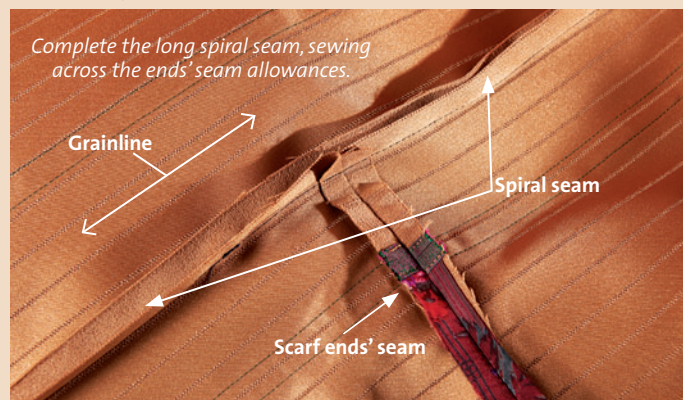
**2** Connect the ends. Fold the tube in half, putting right sides together, aligning the ends, and matching the fashion fabric strips. Pin the ends together, and check the loop for a twist. Twist and realign the ends if necessary. Sew the ends together. Press the seam allowances open.



*With the loop right side out, align, pin, and then sew the ends together.*

**3** Turn the loop wrong side out through the 5-inch opening. Sew the remainder of the spiral seam.

*Complete the long spiral seam, sewing across the ends' seam allowances.*



**4** Turn the loop right side out through the 5-inch opening. Whipstitch the opening closed.

*With the tube's ends joined, the finished scarf is a twisted loop.*

