

# One-seam poncho

For instant style, fold a fabric rectangle in half, then sew a shoulder seam

I love designing accessories that have what I call “easy elegance,” and one of my top sellers is a one-seam poncho. It is a statement piece that can adorn any outfit and is an especially pretty cover-up for evening attire. It’s also one-size-fits-all, so it makes a wonderful gift. Your friends will think you spent a week slaving over it, but only you will know the truth: This sophisticated poncho can be cut and sewn in less than an hour.

## IT'S EASY TO MIX IT UP

I manage an independent fabric store, so I fold and unfold many beautiful designer fabrics every day. I've experimented with many different textiles in this poncho design, and the best choices are slinky, soft knits or wovens that have plenty of inherent drape. My favorites, by far, are vibrant, lush burnout velvets in a variety of prints. You can also easily transform a wide, already-hemmed scarf or shawl into a poncho.

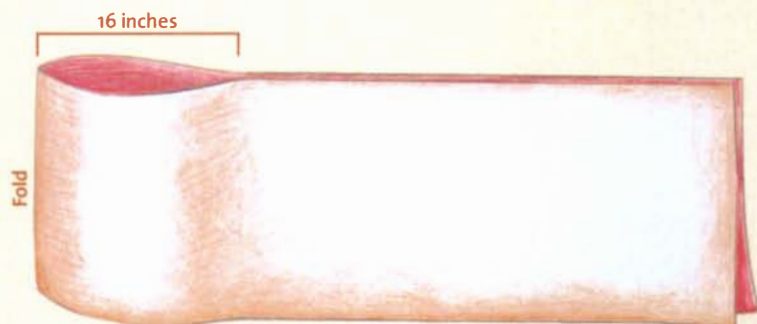
The one-seam poncho lends itself to different design options, so I encourage you to experiment once you have the basic construction down pat. Instead of sewing the shoulder seam completely, for example, you can tack the seam every couple of inches for sexy peekaboo slits. Or gather the unsewn shoulder section to make the garment even more asymmetrical; you can also add trims, fringe, or charms to the edges or corners. Once you make one of these easy, elegant ponchos, you'll be itching to whip out more in a medley of fabrics and style variations.

*Lori Hill designs unique accessories and manages Banksville Designer Fabrics (BanksvilleDesignerFabrics.com) in Norwalk, Connecticut.*

*This simple, asymmetrical poncho lets the fabric shine. The large peacock print of this burnout velvet is shown off to the best advantage.*

## Cut to Size

To make this poncho, you'll need a fabric rectangle 22 inches wide by 72 inches long. You can cut it wider, but 22 inches is comfortable for most sizes. Two yards of 45-inch-wide fabric yields two ponchos. Just trim off the selvages (tightly woven edges), then cut the fabric down the center, lengthwise.



*You can also wear this poncho as a cape. Flip the arm seam to the back and drape the front into a loose cowl neck.*



## Then Sew It Up

Choose between two construction techniques: an enclosed seam or an exposed, serged seam. Both are fast and easy.

### FOR AN ENCLOSED SEAM

- 1 Fold right sides together, and sew a  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch seam.** Pin the two layers together along one long edge. Starting 16 inches from the fold, as marked above, straight-stitch to the end.
- 2 Roll under all raw edges to the wrong side. Hand-tack.** Or press the raw edges under, and machine-topstitch.



Enclosed seam

### FOR AN EXPOSED SEAM

- 1 Serge-hem all four sides of the rectangle.** Apply Fray Check to secure the thread ends at the corners.
- 2 Fold wrong sides together, and zigzag-stitch.** Pin the two layers together along one long edge. Starting 16 inches from the fold, zigzag-stitch to the end, or use a straight stitch for an even flatter result.



Exposed seam

*Burnout velvet for casual styles? You bet. This slinky fabric looks great with jeans and a tank.*

