

Get this sleek,
Parisian-
inspired look

Chic Cape

While living in Paris last winter, I saw one garment on many chic Parisian ladies: the cape. Many of the capes were long and had arm slits that went all the way to the hem, rather than a short opening at waist level. This type of opening allows your arms a full range of motion so you can hold your purse and get out your Metro ticket with ease. The cape shown here follows those fashionable Parisian trends. It's easy enough for you to whip up today and wear out tonight!

I recommend lightweight wool or a heavy double knit for this cape. The fabric needs some weight and structure but shouldn't be too thick. Since the cape is not lined, the best fabric is equally pretty on the wrong and right sides. The seam allowances are finished with bias tape, so the inside looks nice and tidy. Use a contrasting bias tape for extra panache.

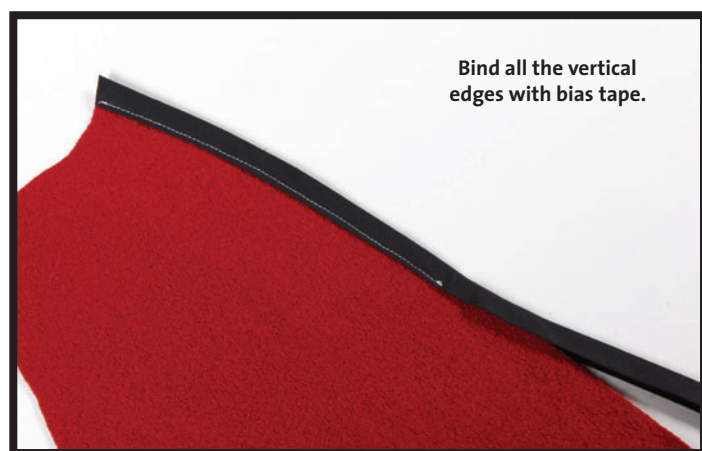
CHRISTINE HAYNES *designs, sews, and writes in Los Angeles, California.*

Supplies

- Fabric
 - > 1 3/4 yards 60-inch-wide fabric
 - > 15 yards 1/2-inch-wide, double-fold bias tape
 - > 3 yards 1-inch-wide, double-fold bias tape
- Pattern paper
- Thread (Note: The thread is visible on the fabric and bias tape.)

Cut and sew the cape

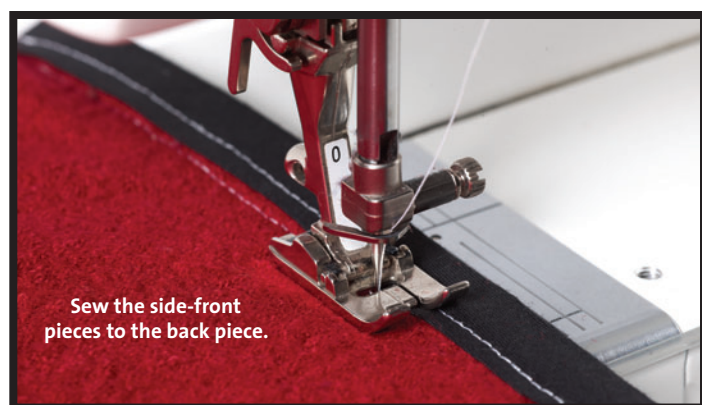
Finish all the vertical edges with 1/2-inch-wide bias tape to keep things neat and pretty. Then construct the cape with four simple seams. Use a 3/8-inch-wide seam allowance unless otherwise indicated.



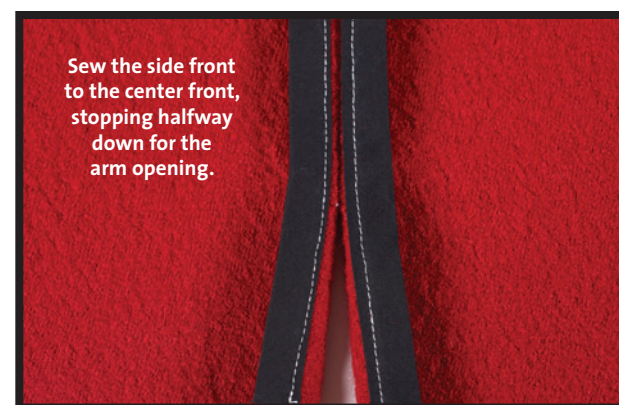
{1} ENLARGE THE PATTERN ON PAGE 94. Transfer all markings.

{2} CUT OUT THE CAPE. Cut one back piece on the fold, two center-front pieces, and two side-front pieces.

{3} ENCASE THE BACK PIECE'S VERTICAL RAW EDGES WITH BIAS TAPE. Stitch the bias tape in place, sewing close to the inside fold. Repeat on the side and front pieces' vertical edges.



{4} SEW THE SIDE SEAMS. With right sides together, and bound edges aligned, join the side-front pieces to the back piece; press the seam allowances open. Press the curved seams over a pressing ham.

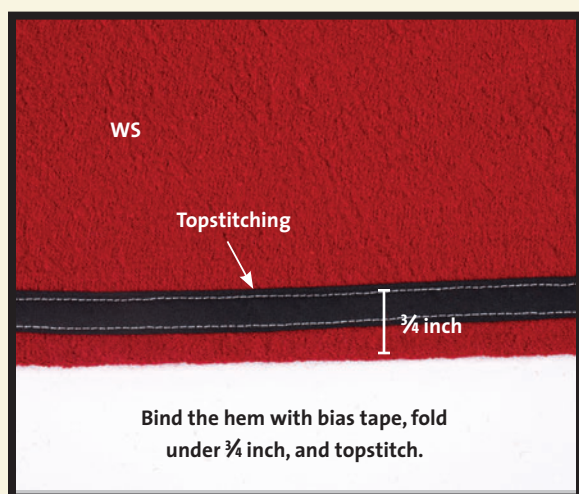


{5} SEW THE SIDE-FRONT SEAM. With right sides together, stitch the center-front pieces to the side-front pieces. Start at the neck edge, and sew down to the slit mark. Reinforce with a backstitch at the bottom of the stitching. Do not press the seam allowances open.

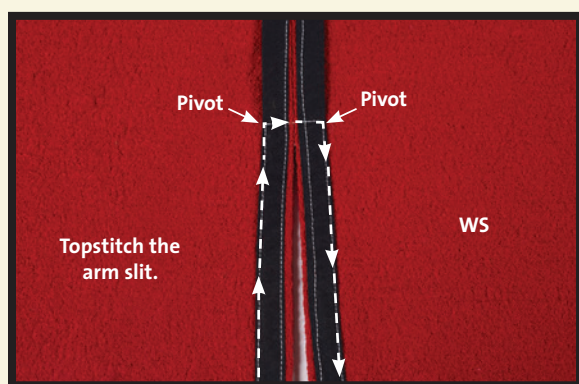
Finish the edges

Bias binding ensures that every edge of your cape is clean and looks elegant.

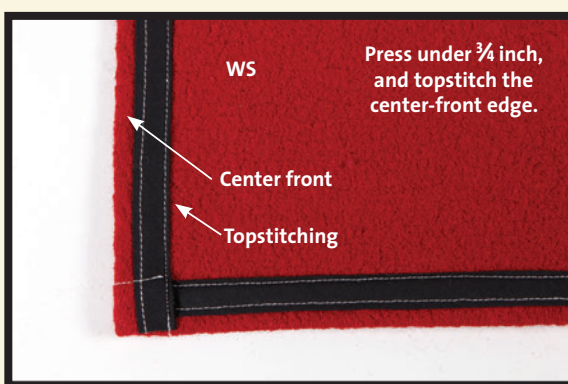
- {1} BIND THE HEM WITH BIAS TAPE.** Use one long strip for the side-front/back unit and two shorter lengths for the center-front pieces.



- {2} FOLD THE HEM UNDER 3/4 INCH, AND PRESS IN PLACE.** Topstitch the hem, sewing close to the bias tape's bottom edge.



- {3} PRESS THE SIDE-FRONT SEAM ALLOWANCES OPEN.** Topstitch the arm slit, stitching along the bias tape's inside edge. Start at the hem, pivot at the top of the opening, and return down the other side to the hem.



- {4} HEM THE CENTER FRONT.** Press under 3/4 inch on the center-front edges. Topstitch in place, stitching along the bias tape's inside edge.

PHOTOS: SLOAN HOWARD; STYLIST: JESSICA SAAL; HAIR AND MAKEUP: RICHARD COOLEY/UTOPIANVC.COM.
ILLUSTRATIONS: MELANIE MENCARELLI; STYLING CREDITS: TOP—J. HEART; RONSEN (JCPENNEY.COM); PANTS—
JONES NEW YORK (MACYS.COM); BRACELET—(JCPENNEY.COM); HAT—(BLOOMINGDALES.COM); GLOVES—
(LORDANDTAYLOR.COM); BAG—MNG BY MANGO (JCPENNEY.COM); SHOES—CHRISTIAN SIRIANO (PAYLESS.COM)

Tie it with a bow

Finish the cape with a sweet bow. Bind the neckline, and make the tie with 1-inch-wide bias tape cut 90 inches long.



Sew the bias tape ends, right sides together.

{1} UNFOLD THE BIAS TAPE A FEW INCHES AT THE END, AND REFOLD WITH RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER. Stitch the end closed with a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch seam allowance and trim. Turn right side out, fitting the folds back into the tape, leaving a clean-finished end. Repeat on the opposite end.



Pin the bias tape to the neckline.

{2} ENCASE THE NECKLINE WITH THE BIAS TAPE. Match the center of the bias tape with the neckline center back. Pin in place around the neckline, letting the excess bias tape extend beyond the neckline's front edge.



Sew the bias tape from one tape end, around the neckline, and continuing to the other tape end.

{3} STARTING AT ONE END OF THE BIAS TAPE, EDGESTITCH THE LONG EDGES TOGETHER. When you reach the neckline, continue stitching along the edge, securing the bias tape to the neckline. Continue off the neckline to the tape's opposite end.

Famous capes

Capes are important garments to some of our best-loved characters.



Guinevere

The love of King Arthur (and Sir Lancelot) is a darling of legend. Beloved for centuries, she is always pictured as poised, stately, and beautifully dressed.



Puss in Boots

A cunning hero, Puss in Boots comes to the rescue! With a great fashion sense, including an awesome cape, he's well-dressed for every adventure.



Little Red Riding Hood

Sweet Little Red may have been deceived for a moment, but, in the end, she was saved from the wolf—and well-remembered for bravely trekking through the woods in a fabulous red cape.



Prince Charming

You don't know who Prince Charming is? He's the dashing fellow wearing a regal cape that flutters behind him as he rides in on a white horse.



Superhero

Everybody loves a superhero, who often sweeps onto the scene—with the help of a cape—to fight off evil villains and make the world a safer place.

CHIC CAPE P. 44

Enlarge the pattern 980 percent. All
seam allowances are included.

