

Make the

Fur Fly

Sew a luxurious
boa in an evening

Sewing fur is so easy even a caveman can do it. But fur has improved over the millennia to the point that there isn't even any hide tanning—just go to the fabric store and buy your favorite animal look-alike. No animals were harmed in the making of this article.

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Supplies

- 1 3/8 yards faux fur fabric
- 2/3 yard velvet cord
- Fiberfill
- 2 3/4 yards polyester batting
- Chalk
- Scissors
- Sewing machine
- Thread

Optional:

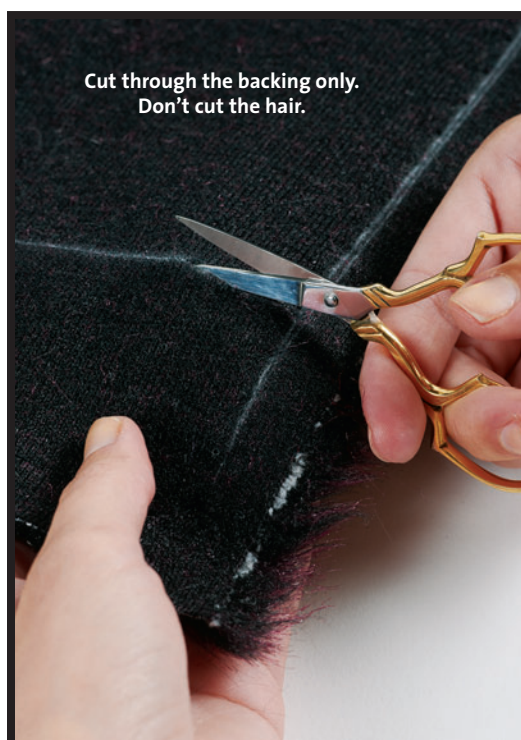
- Hand-sewing needle
- Knitting needle

Cut right

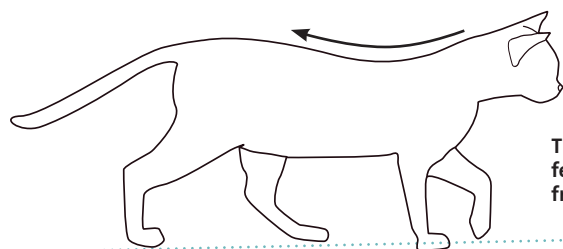
Faux fur has a fabric backing. When you cut it from the wrong side, there are two things to remember: Don't cut through the hair, and omit the seam allowances. For a wrap like this, you don't need a pattern or seam allowances. Cut two rectangles 47 inches long and 15 inches wide. (Change the proportions as you desire to best suit your size and the amount of fur fabric you have.)



{1} DRAW THE RECTANGLE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE FABRIC WITH CHALK. Position your fabric so the fur pile runs with the length of the scarf. Mark two identical strips half the length of the finished scarf, which you will use with the fur going in opposite directions.



{2} CUT THE TWO PIECES. Use the tip of your scissors to cut through the backing only, taking tiny snips. Don't cut the pile.

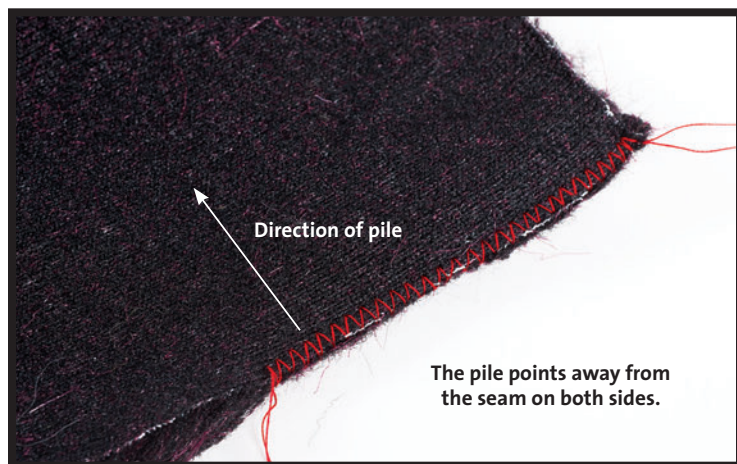


The faux fur pile direction feels just like petting a cat from head to tail.



Seam right

The seams in this scarf don't take stress during wear, so you can use a simple, overcast seam for quick construction.



{1} WITH RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER, ALIGN THE TWO SHORT EDGES TO SEW. Make sure the fur nap direction points away from this seam on both sides. Set your machine for a zigzag stitch 2 mm long and 3 mm wide. Stitch with the left side of the stitch landing on the edge of the backing, through both layers, and the right side of the stitch off the fabric.



{2} CONTROL THE FUR PILE. Use a knitting needle or long, narrow tool to tuck the hair between the layers of fabric as you sew. Open the scarf layers, and gently brush the nap out of the seam, in preparation for padding the boa.

Pad right

The fur used here has a short-hair pile, with fibers that are 1/2 inch long. To make it look more luxurious, pad the inside of the scarf. The padding also prevents the boa from collapsing into a flat band.



{1} CUT HIGH-LOFT POLYESTER BATTING IN ONE PIECE TO FIT THE TWO JOINED FUR PIECES. Lay the batting on the wrong side of the fur, and baste it to the fur backing. Take giant basting stitches (2 inches to 3 inches long) through the batting in two or three lengthwise rows to anchor it to the fabric.

{2} SEW THE LONG EDGES RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER, JUST AS YOU DID THE FIRST SHORT SEAM. Don't include the batting in the seam; push it out of the way as you sew. This makes a tube. Turn the tube right side out, and brush the seams to fluff the fur and hide the seamline.

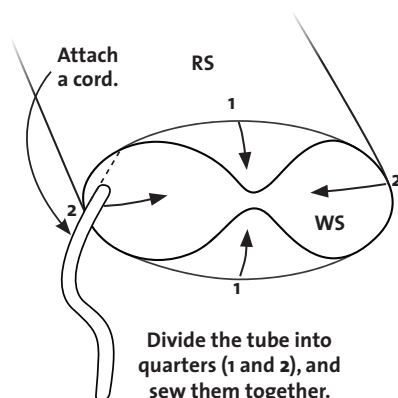
tip

FLUFF THE SEAMS

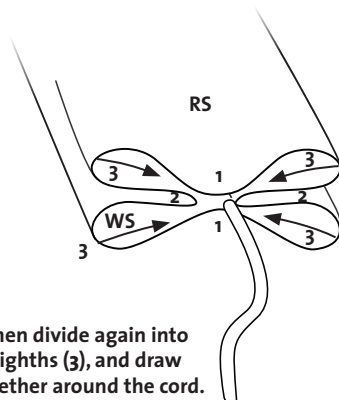
If you catch hairs in the seam when you're sewing, use a brush or a pick to pull them back up to the right side. The seams should disappear when the hairs are out of them.

Finish with a pom-pom

To finish your boa, add a cord, close each end, and make and attach the pom-poms.



Divide the tube into quarters (1 and 2), and sew them together.



Then divide again into eighths (3), and draw together around the cord.



{1} CUT TWO FINISHED CORDS 11 INCHES LONG.

I purchased velvet cording, but any $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch diameter finished cording will work. Sew one end securely to the seam inside the tube on each end.

{2} USE A DOUBLE THREAD TO CLOSE THE BOA ENDS.

Pull the open tube ends together in fourths (1 and 2) and then eighths (3) to close the end, leaving the cord hanging outside. Knot the thread securely.

{3} USE THE PATTERN ON PAGE 94 TO CUT THE POM-POMS.

Enlarge it so line AB is 13 inches long. Pin the pattern to the wrong side of the fur, with the pile pointing in the direction of the arrow. Cut two pieces.



{4} SEW ALL OF THE SEGMENTS TOGETHER BY HAND OR MACHINE.

Use the same zigzag stitch as before, or whipstitch each adjacent segment edge from the wrong side. The pile will run down on each pom-pom. Leave the top half of the last segment open.



{5} SEW 1 INCH OF A CORD END TO A SEAM EDGE.

Knot securely. Turn the pom-pom right side out.

{6} STUFF THE POM-POM.

Use polyester fiberfill to keep the pom-pom round but lightweight.

{7} BLIND-STITCH THE LAST SEGMENT SEAM CLOSED.

Repeat for the second pom-pom.



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This pattern has minimal seam allowances. Enlarge 390 percent to 13 inches long.

