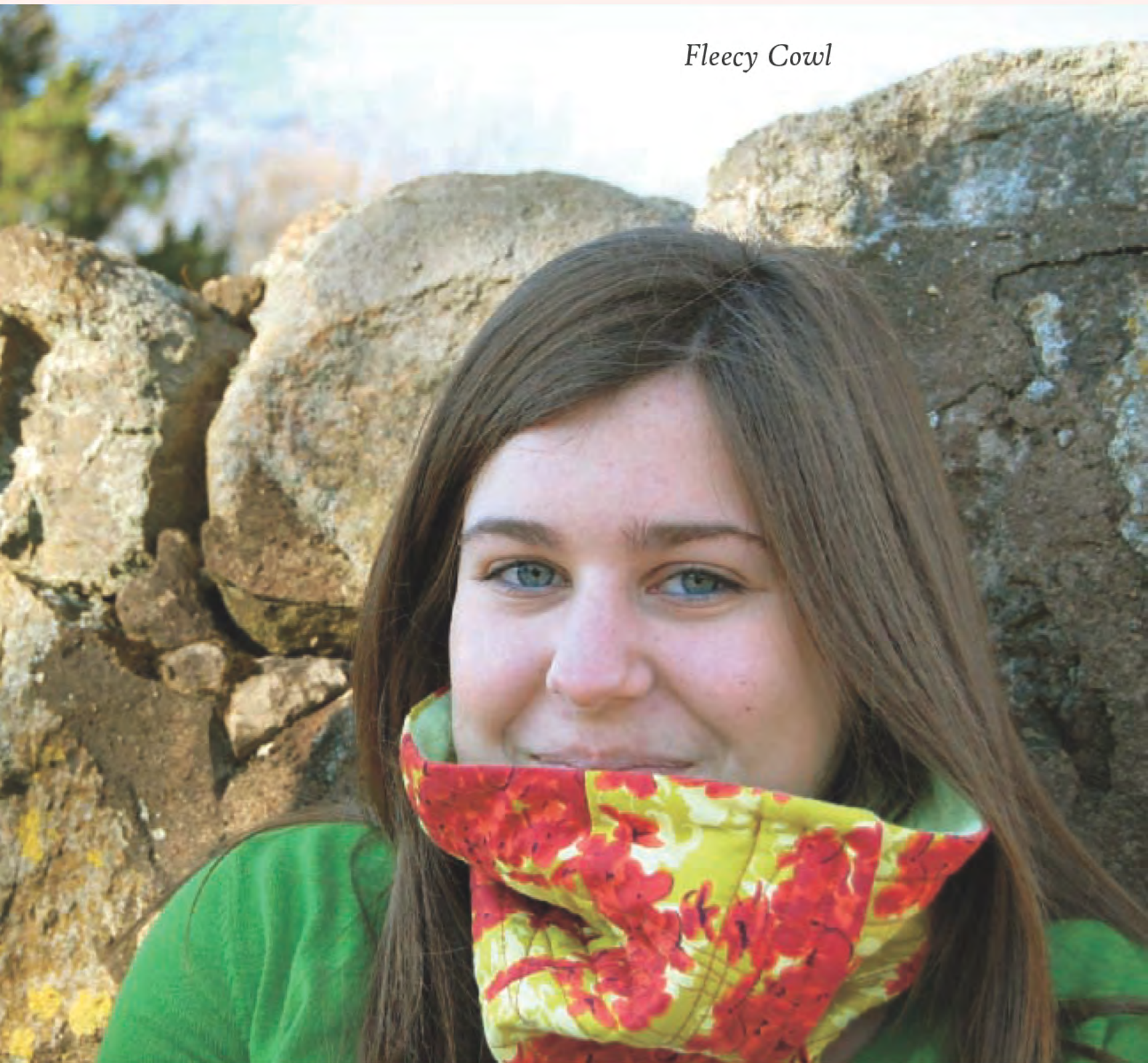


Fleecy Cowl



Fleecy Cowl

Whip up one of these snuggly cowls in fabric that coordinates with your favorite coat and you'll be as stylish as you are warm! Random stitch lines add flair to this easy-to-make cold-weather necessity.

Finished
Measurement

25" in diameter by 8½" tall

SUPPLIES

1 fat quarter
¼ yard Polar Fleece

TO START, PREPARE THE FLEECE AND FAT QUARTER

- 1 From the Polar Fleece, cut a rectangle measuring 28" × 10".
- 2 From the fat quarter, cut along the 18" edge to make one rectangle measuring 10" × 18". Cut a second rectangle measuring 10" × 11".
- 3 With the right sides of the fabric together, stitch the two pieces from the fat quarter along one 10" side, with a ½" seam allowance. This creates a 28" × 10" piece that matches the size of the fleece.
- 4 Press the seam to one side.

SEW THE FLEECE AND FAT QUARTER

- 5 Lay the fabric on top of the fleece with the right sides together. Pin along all four sides.

- 6 Using a ½" seam allowance, stitch along three sides, leaving one short end open for turning the cowl right side out. Trim the corners.

- 7 Turn right side out and, with the fat quarter fabric on top, press using an iron set on low heat. Don't melt the fleece!

- 8 On the open end, tuck the edges in about ½". Press. Stitch closed. You now have what looks like a short scarf.

ADD OPTIONAL DECORATIVE STITCHING

- 9 Now is the time to add some random (or, for you Type A people, perfectly orderly) stitching. Decorative stitching adds interest and texture.

- 10 With a coordinating thread color and some full bobbins handy, turn the cowl fabric-side up and start doing some free-form stitch lines. If this kind of freedom freaks you out, here are some suggestions:

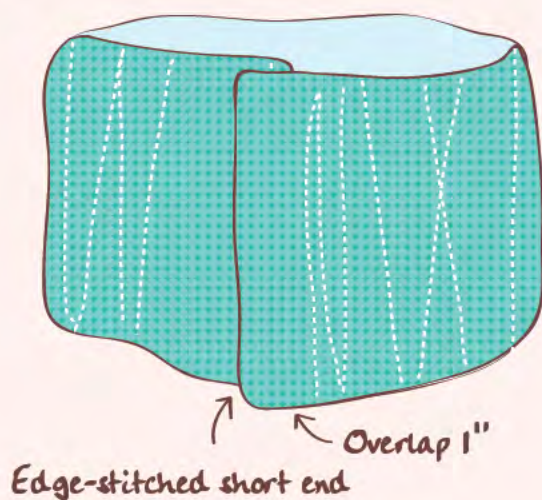
- Go back and forth the short way, in a straight or curving path, creating overlapping lines with different color threads.

- ✿ Set your machine to a zigzag stitch and change the settings to the shortest stitch length and a wide stitch width to get a nice satin stitch and do that in even lines down the whole length of the cowl (mark the lines with chalk and a ruler if you must).
- ✿ Take this chance to experiment with all those fancy decorative stitches on your machine. Relax and have fun. Be creative!

FINISH THE COWL

11 After you have embellished to your heart's content, form the piece into a cowl shape by bringing the two short ends together. The fabric side should be facing out.

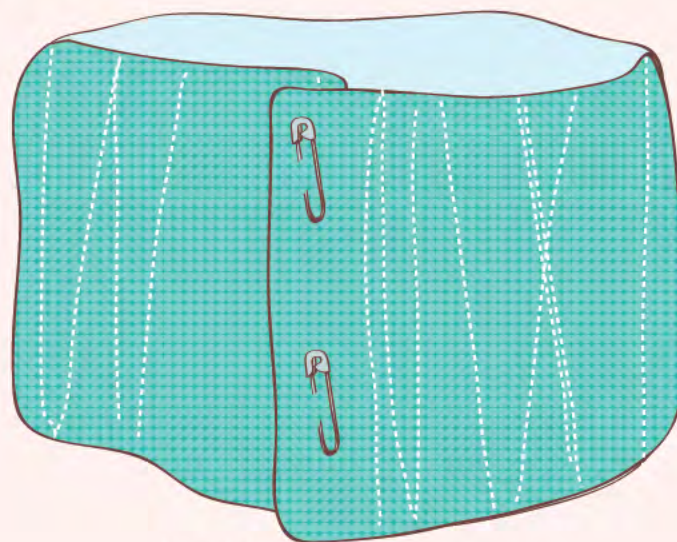
12 Lay the edge-stitched short end under the other short end, overlapping about 1".



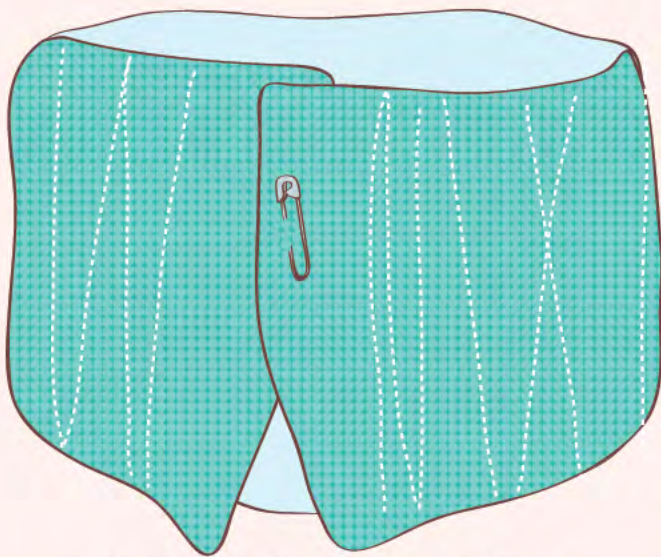
Step 12

13 Pin with safety pins, and slip the cowl over your head.

14 Look in a mirror to see if you like the cowl as it is or if you would prefer it to be a little more snug or loose. Decide if you want to close the cowl completely or if you prefer to leave a couple inches unstitched at the bottom so that the cowl splays apart.



Step 14: Closing the cowl completely.



Step 14: Leaving the cowl open at the bottom.

15 Adjust the pins accordingly and, with the two ends overlapping, stitch the ends together, backstitching at the beginning and end of your seam. If the edges overlap just $\frac{1}{2}$ " or so, a single seam is enough. If the overlap is 1"

or more, sew another seam $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the inside edge, so the piece that overlaps on the inside doesn't flap around. If straight seams are too bland for your style, add more decorative stitching with back and forth stitches or overlapping vertical lines.

NOTE: Now that you understand the basic construction, experiment! This project is based on a 28" \times 10" rectangle. To make a cowl that is longer vertically and scrunches more, increase the shorter measurement. To make a floppier piece that folds over and is more loose, increase the longer measurement. Experiment with materials such as velvet scraps, old t-shirts, felted wool, or knits. These cowls are so quick and simple to make, don't be afraid to experiment! If the cowl keeps your neck warm and looks cute then you did it right!