

General Tips for Sewing with Faux Fur

Shannon Fabrics produces a wide variety of faux furs. Our faux furs have knit backings which create a cut edge that will not fray and have a bit of stretch, making the fabric more forgiving and needing less finish work. The long hairs and nap can seem difficult, but the right techniques will make it easy to create the garments, home decor and play toys you want to sew.

- Don't be intimidated! Sewing fur can make a beginner look like an expert, because the nap, especially on long-haired furs, hides a lot.
- It is essential to mark the nap direction on the back of the fur. This ensures that the nap runs in the proper direction on all of your pieces. Always mark fur on the back; you can use a permanent marker or ballpoint pen.
- Cut from the back, using a new, sharp blade. You can use single-edge razor blades, craft knives, box knife, or any other kind of blade that is extremely sharp. You can cut backing only with small blade scissors as an alternative. Don't cut fur with a rotary cutter.
- Knit fur backings can be sewn with a "hinge seam," meaning the fur is cut with no seam allowances and sewn edge to edge with a zigzag stitch.
- Use a 1/4" to 1/2" seam allowance, if preferred.
- Stay seamlines before cutting fur. The professional product is called cold tape, but you can use 1/4" wide twill tape applied with white glue. Allow the glue to dry before cutting.
- Whenever possible, avoid hand sewing through fur. When securing hem and facings, sew a bias strip of lining fabric to the fur's cut edge, then sew through that bias strip to the back of the fur.
- Be adventurous with closures! Covered hooks are the classic way to close a fur coat, but try toggle closures or other bold fastenings to give your coat more personality, as well as make it easier to close.
- Use a 1/2" seam allowance with your walking foot attachment.
- Use a 110/18 or 100/16 universal needle and polyester or poly-cotton blend thread.
- Increase stitch length to 3.5. Sew with a straight stitch or very slight zig zag.

