

# The Caribou Cape Instructions

## Our Lady of Leisure

DIVINE SEWING PATTERNS



The Caribou Cape is a chic, luxurious and fashionable cape designed as a transitional garment.

This lovely cape has a striking silhouette, and closes with a your choice of toggle or frog clasp at the collar. This pattern is a great introduction to outerwear.

### Skill Level

These instructions are aimed at beginners. If you never worked with outerwear before, this is an excellent place to start. The construction is simple and quick.

### Material Requirements

This pattern is designed for wool coating fabrics. It is especially suited to boiled wool, felted wool, tweed and flannel. "Bonded" boucles will also work well.

Not recommended for very loosely woven fabrics or stretch knits, unless fully interlined.

### You'll Need...

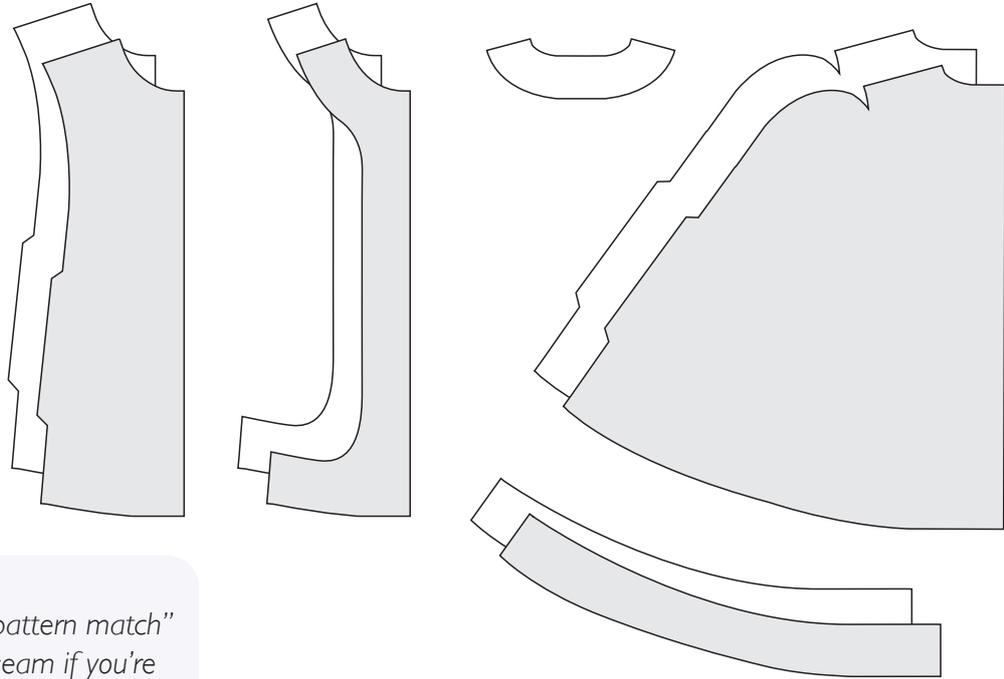
- **1.8m (2 yards)** of fabric with a 144cm (55") width.  
OR
- **2.5m (2.7 yards)** of fabric with a 112cm (44") width.
- **45cm (18")** of high quality woven fusible interfacing.
- **1 x duffel coat closure**, for example a toggle clasp, frog clasp or even a cloak chain if you're feeling fancy.

### Before you begin...

- The Caribou Cape pattern pieces all include 1 cm (3/8") seam allowances.
- The Caribou Cape can be sewn with a straight stitch on a standard sewing machine. Optional overlocking/serging instructions are included.

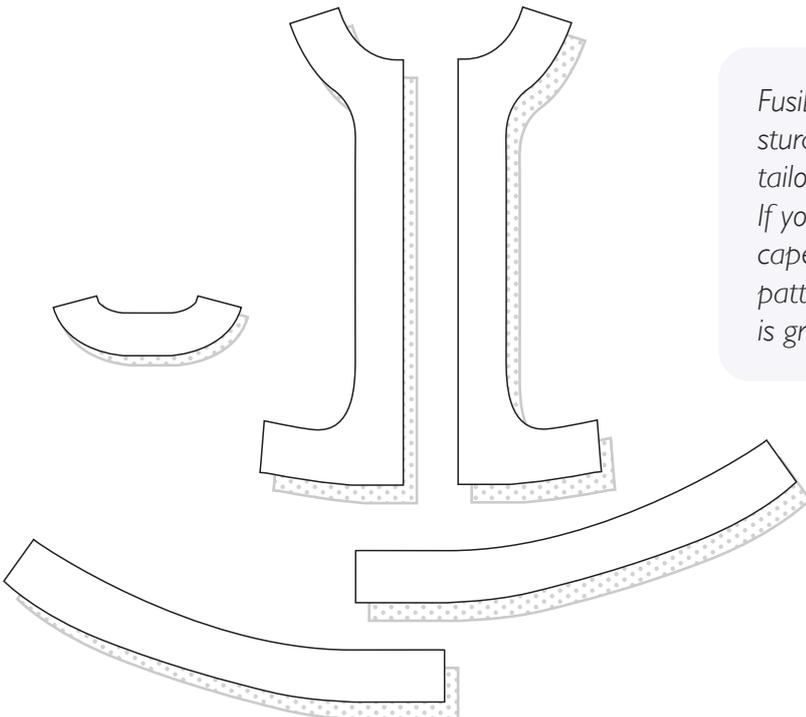
## Let's begin!

**Step 1.** Welcome to your Caribou Cape pattern! Begin by cutting the pattern pieces from your chosen fabric. If your fabric has a 'nap' or a directional pattern, as coat fabrics often do, be sure to cut all pieces in the same direction.



Don't forget to "pattern match" the centre back seam if you're using a plaid or tartan fabric.

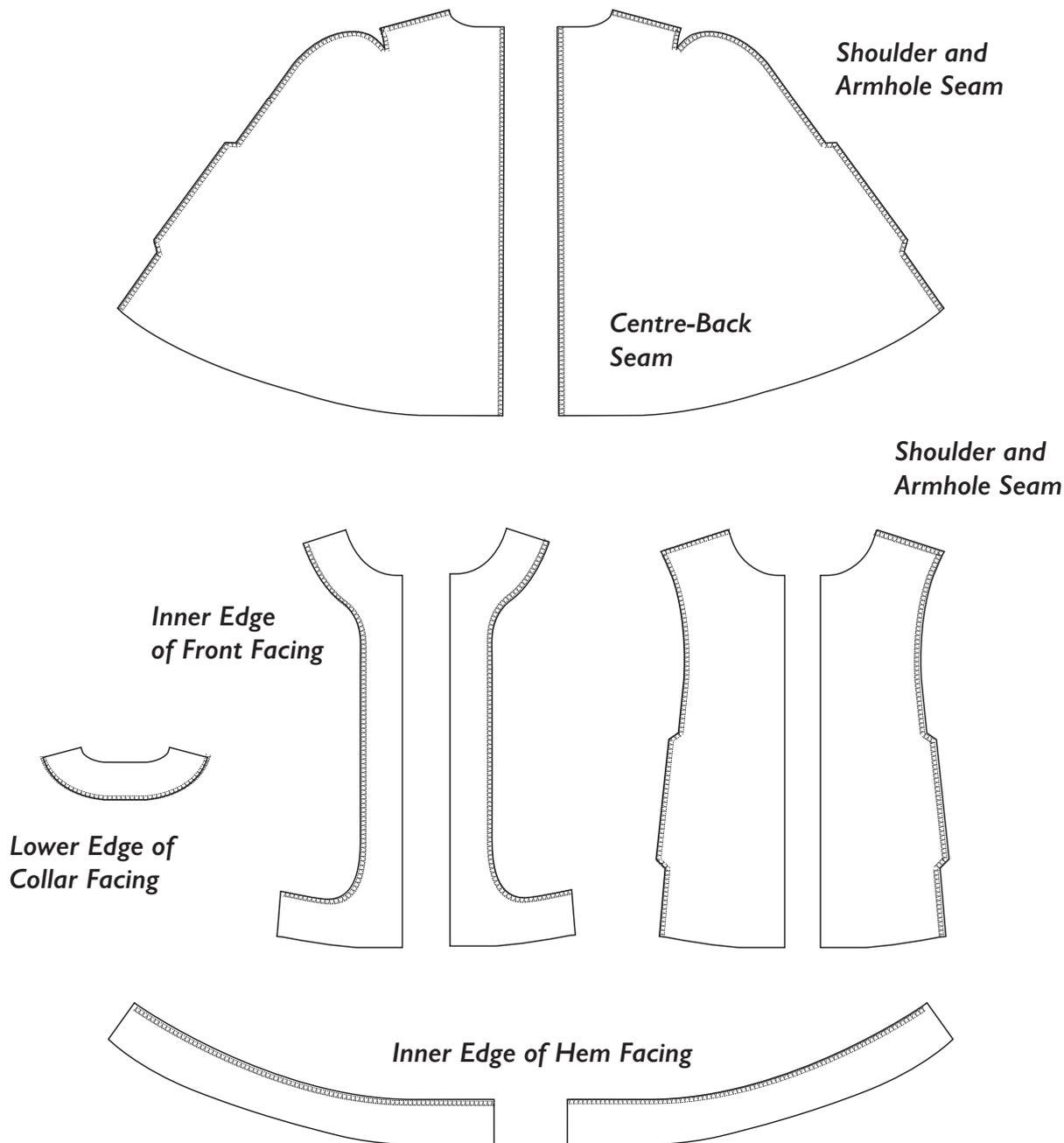
**Step 2.** Fuse the **Collar Facing**, **Back Facings** and **Front Facings** to high quality iron-on interfacing. We recommend woven interfacing for this garment because it gives a superior shape and fuses better to wool.



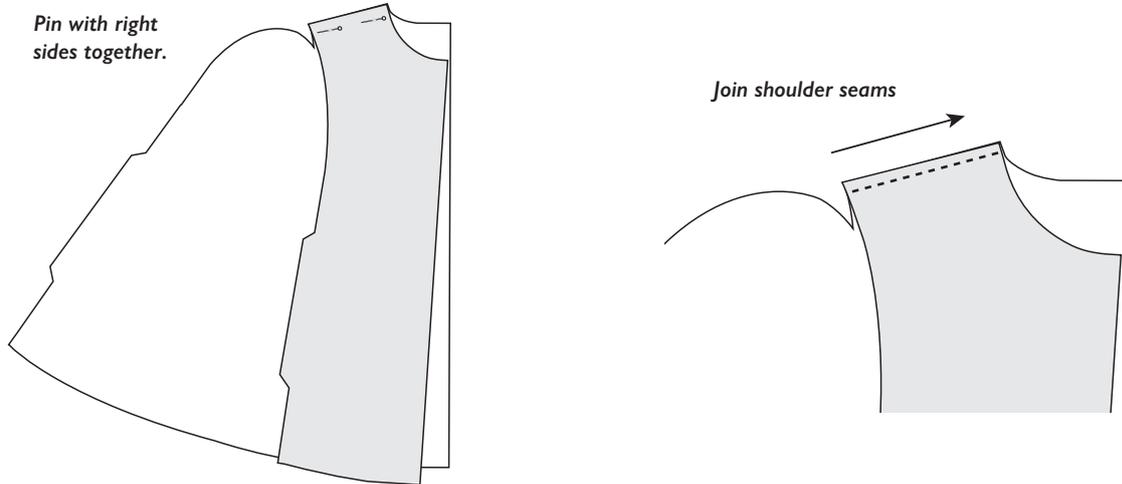
Fusible interfacing makes the fabric sturdier and gives the cape a more tailored look, and it also adds warmth. If you'd like an extra-warm winter cape, you can fuse the remaining pattern pieces too! The extra insulation is great for cold climates.

**Step 3. (optional)** *Most coat fabrics don't require any seam finishing, as they're usually boiled, felted or otherwise "pre-shrunk", which prevents them from fraying. The exception is loose woven wools like boucles or loose tweeds. Test your fabric by pulling gently at the raw edges. If it frays easily, you'll need to finish the seams.*

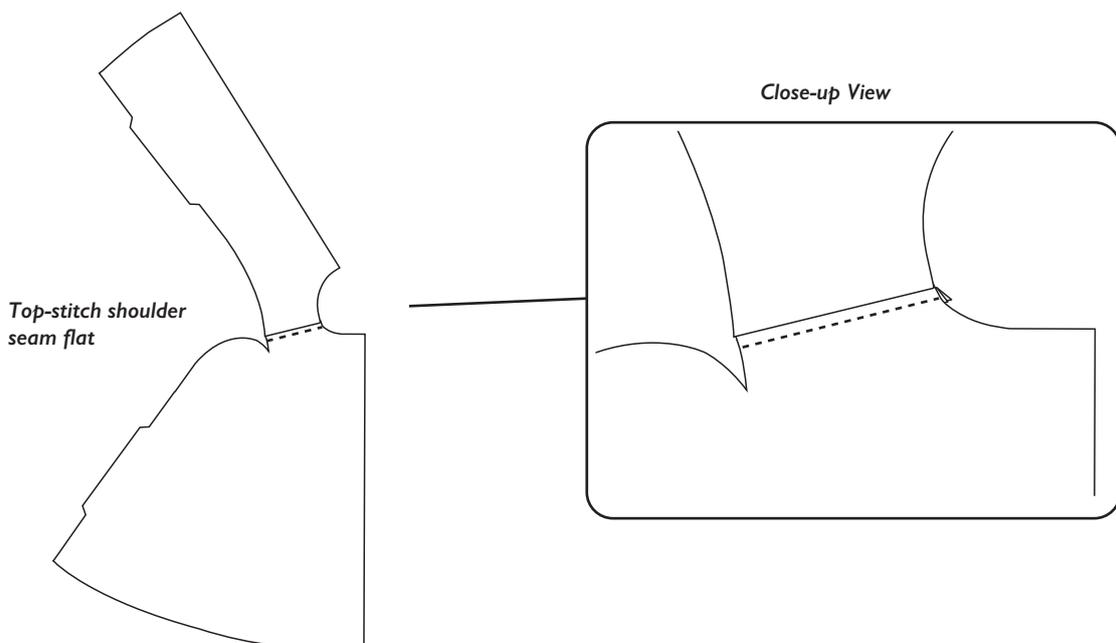
*If you do need to finish your seams, you can use overlocking (serging), zig zag stitch, or you can trim along the edges with pinking shears. The suggested seams to finish are shown in the diagram below.*



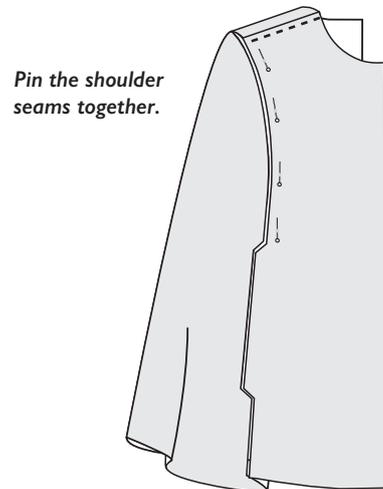
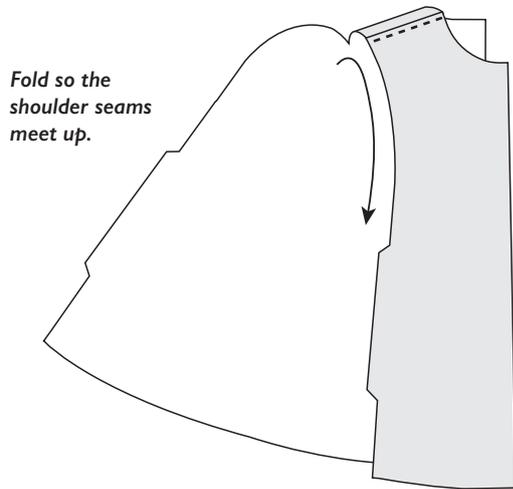
**Step 4.** Let's get sewing! Start with one of the **Coat Back** pieces, and it's matching **Coat Front**. With right sides together, use a 1 cm (3/8") seam allowance to stitch them together at the shoulder seams.



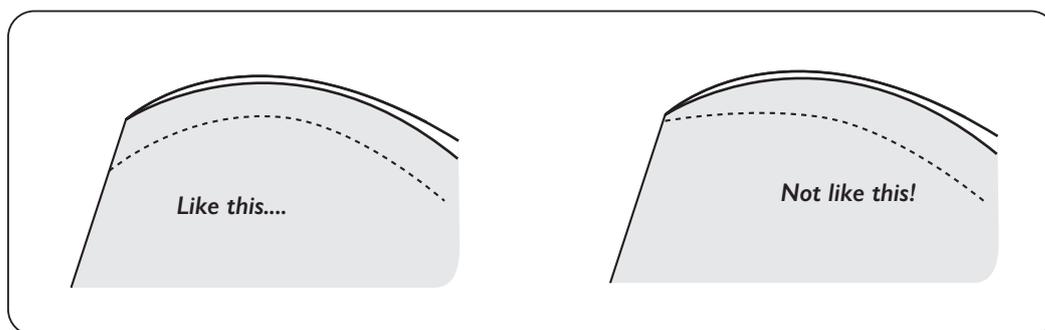
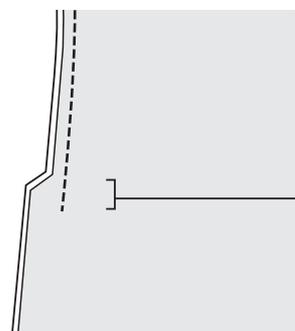
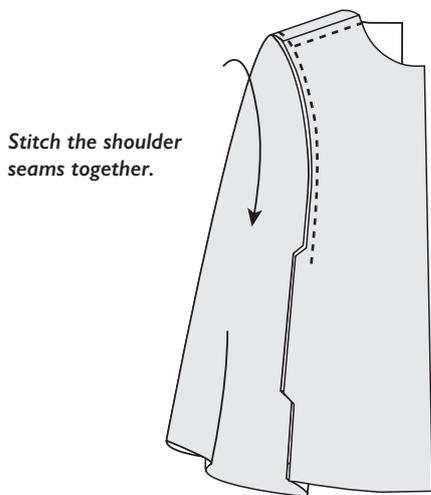
**Step 5.** We want the shoulder seams to sit nice and flat against the body, so we're going to top-stitch the seam allowance. Use a cool iron or your fingertips to press the seam allowance to one side, and then top-stitch alongside the seam. For the nicest finish, it's best to do this stitching from the right side (the outside) of the fabric.



**Step 6.** Now we're going to close the **Shoulder Seam**. Fold the **Back Coat** forward so the shoulders and armhole areas meet, as shown below. Pin the seam in place, distributing the curved area evenly between the pins. Pin along until you reach the armhole opening.



Then, using your 1 cm (3/8") seam allowance, stitch the shoulder seam closed. When you reach the indented armhole facing, continue stitching straight for about 2 cm (3/4").

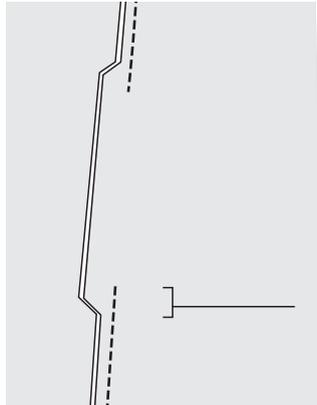
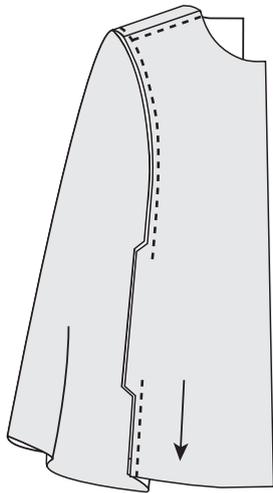


**Note:** Take care to maintain the 1 cm seam allowance all along the shoulder. If you 'taper off' your stitching accidentally, you'll end up with pointy shoulders!

Leave a gap for the armhole, and then begin stitching again about 2cm before the facing ends.

**The armhole gap will be roughly 30cm (12”).**

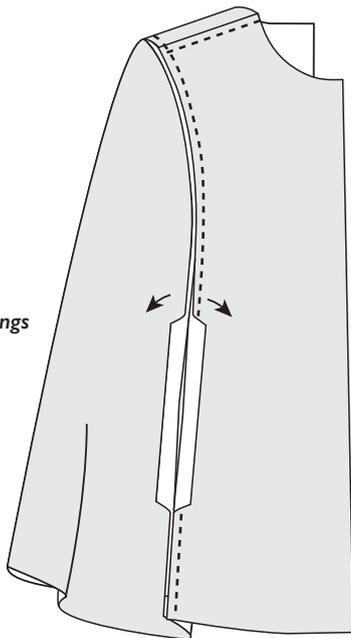
Leave a gap for the armhole, and then stitch the rest of the seam.



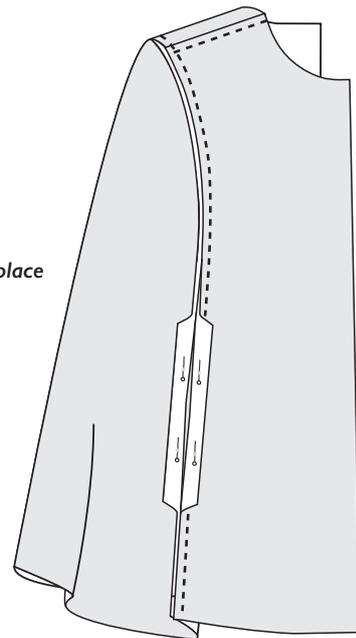
Begin stitching 2cm before the end of the facing.

**Step 7.** Next we will finish the **Armhole**. Fold the two **Armhole Facings** back and press them flat with a cool iron or your fingertips. Pin the facings in place.

Press the facings open.

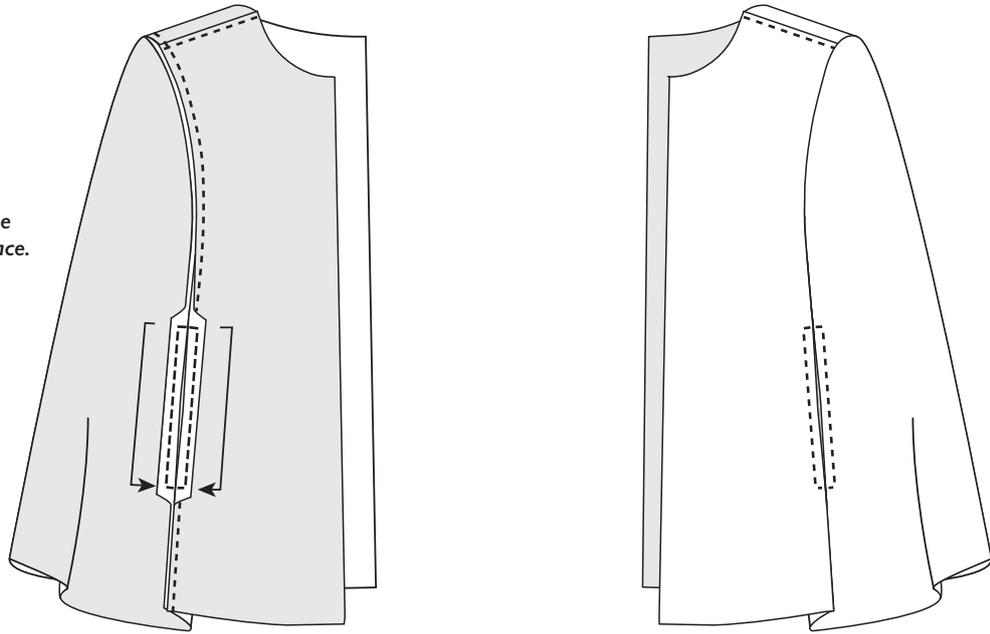


Pin them in place

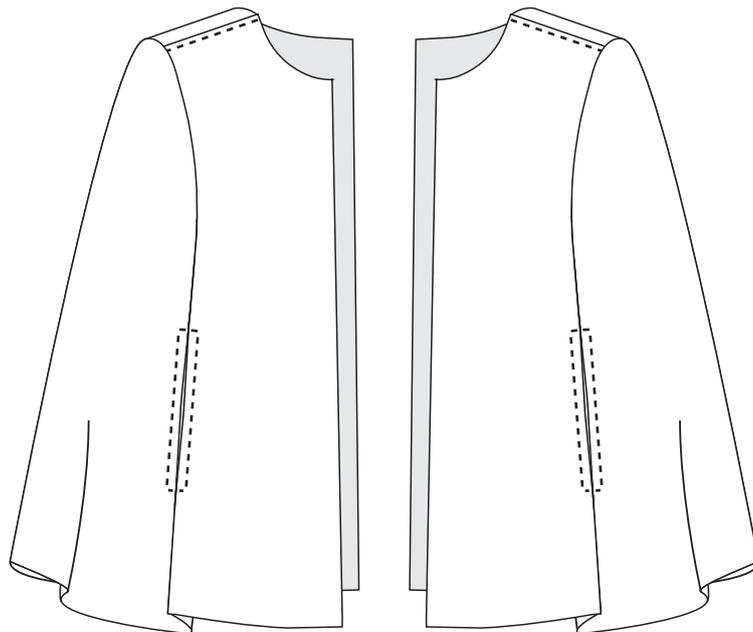


*Top-stitch around the armhole to hold the facings in place. If you're a confident sewer, you can do this stitching on the outside of the garment, for a neater finish.*

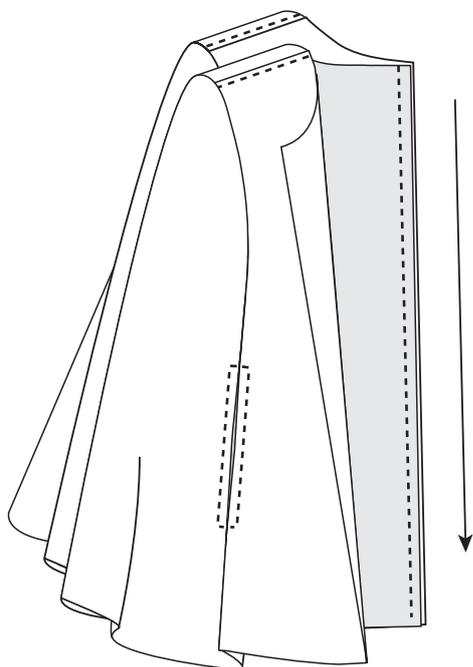
**Top-stitch the facings in place.**



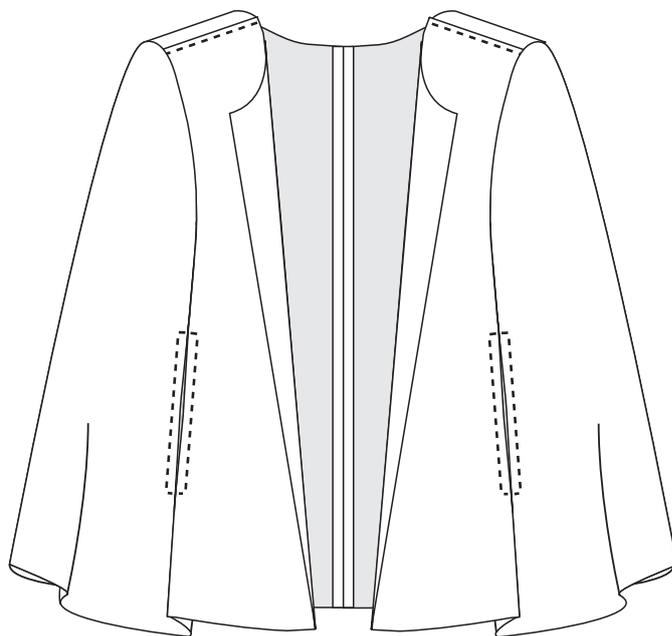
**Step 8.** Repeat all the steps with the other half of your cape.



**Step 9.** Now we'll join the two halves of the cape. Place the **Centre-Back** seams right-sides together, and stitch them together with a 1 cm (3/8") seam allowance.

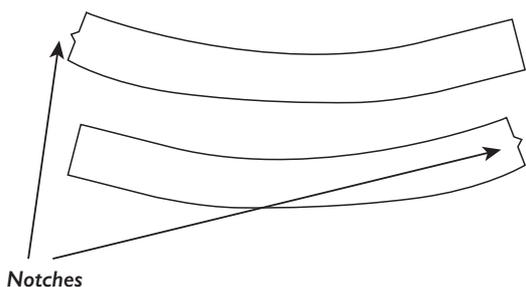


Join the Centre-Back seams.

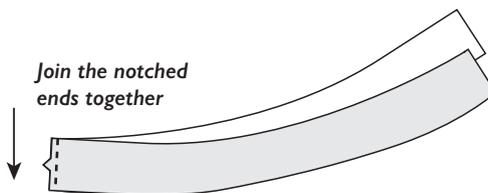


Press the Centre-Back seam open and set the coat aside.

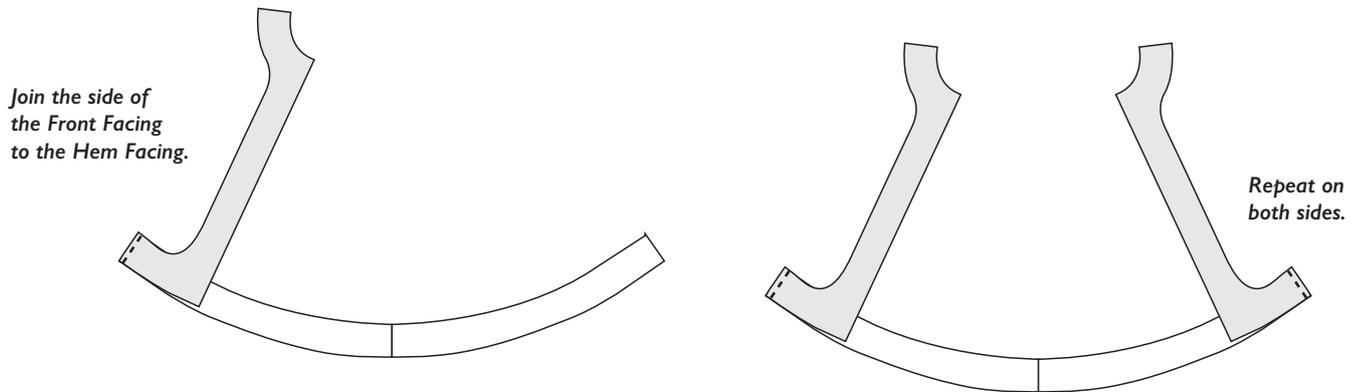
**Step 10.** Next we're going to assemble the cape **Facing**. Start with your two **Hem Facing** pieces. They each have a notch on one end, signifying Centre-Back. Place these two notched ends right-sides-together and join them with your 1 cm (3/8") seam allowance.



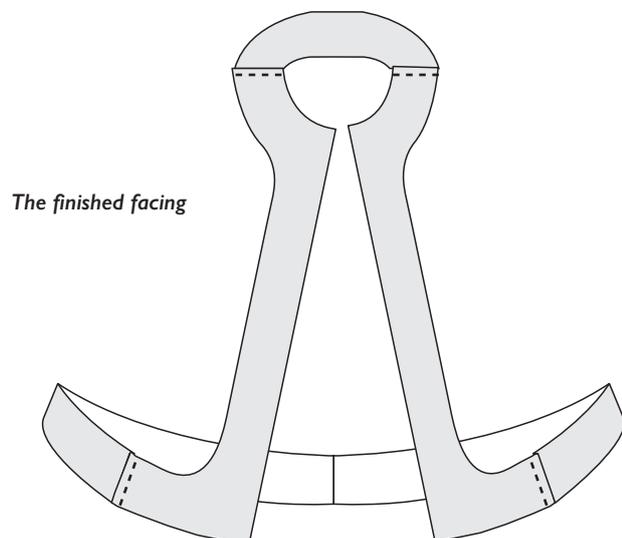
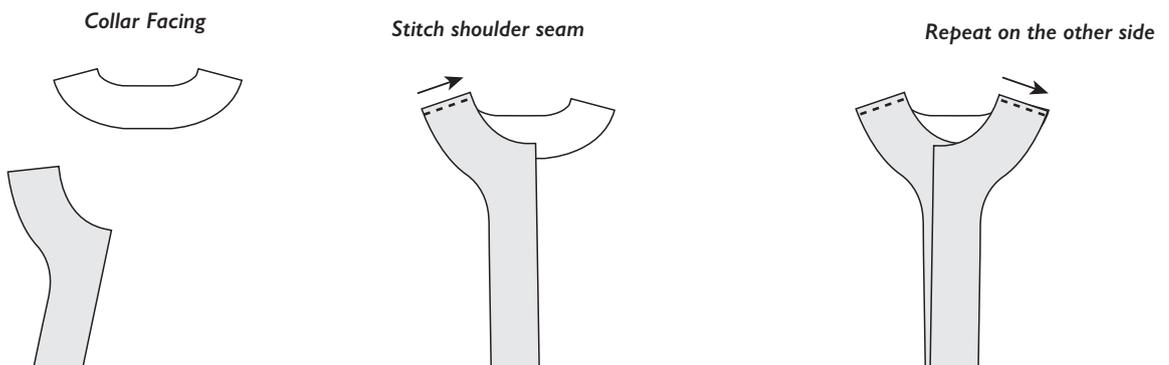
Join the notched ends together



Next attach the **Front Facings** to each end of the **Hem Facing**, as shown in the diagram below. As always, stitch them with right sides together and use a 1 cm (3/8") seam allowance!

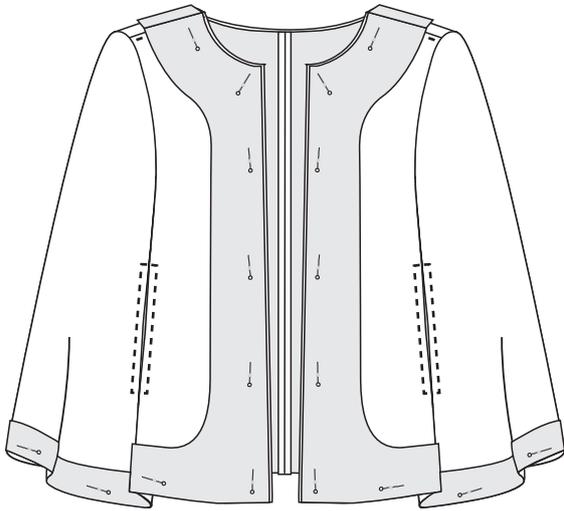


**Step 11.** Now, complete the facing by joining the shoulder seams of the **Front Facings**, to the **Collar Facing**, as shown.



**Step 12.** Next, position the Facing on the cape with right sides together. Take your time pinning the facing in place, being careful to line up the side seams and shoulder seams. Then, stitch the facing in place.

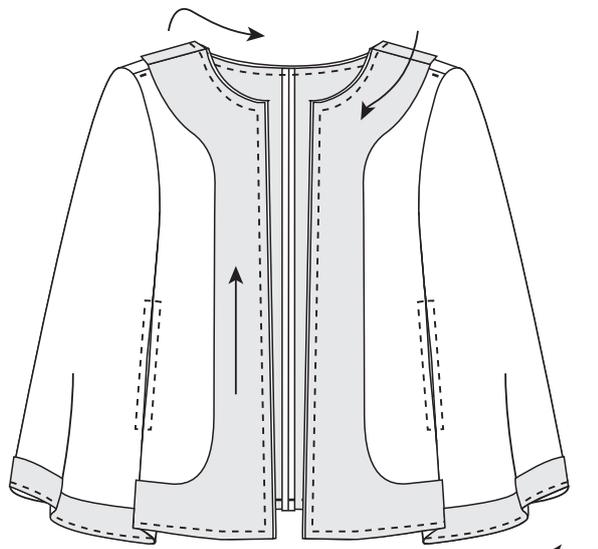
**Pin the Facing to the Cape**



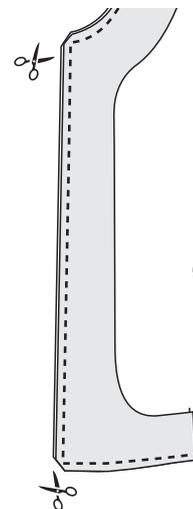
**Front View**



**Back View**



**Stitch the Facing in place**

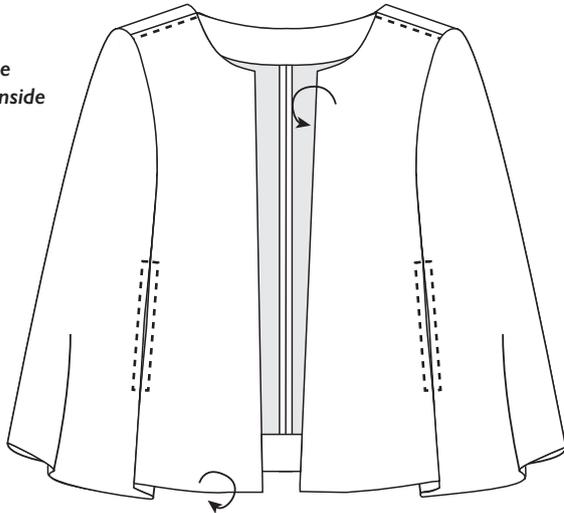


**Trim the excess seam allowance**

Trim the excess seam allowance from the corners, and any areas where multiple seams meet. Trimming any lumpy seams will help the cape look sharp and tailored.

Turn the facing inside the cape. Run a cool iron over the lapels and around the hem to get a sharp edge, and then top-stitch the facing in place. Stitch down centre-front, around the hem, and around the neckline.

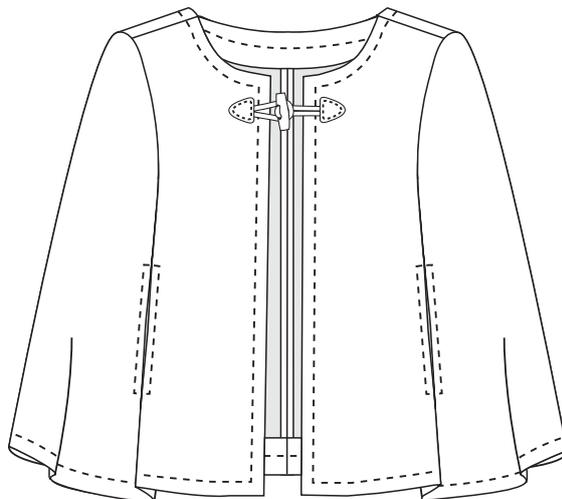
Turn the facing inside



Top-stitch around the neckline, centre-front and the hem.



**Step 13.** Finally, attach your chosen closure by following the instructions included with it. If you're using a 'duffle coat' or 'toggle' closure, this is as simple as stitching the closure to the lapels. If you're using a 'frog clasp' you will need to hand-stitch it in place.



**And that's it! You're done!**  
**Enjoy your cozy new Caribou Cape**