



<http://www.halloweenonlinemagazine.com/makeup/cloak1-1.html>

MAKING A CLOAK

A cloak is an integral part of any classic Witch or Vampire costume or wardrobe. Not only do they look classy but they are also great for those cold nights in the winter as they keep the wind off and the rain out, although some of us would argue that a cape billowing romantically in the wind is far more important. Halloween can be a cold night in some areas of the country and wearing a cloak would compliment a costume far better than a down jacket.

Making a cloak isn't difficult, in fact it's pretty easy. A sewing machine is useful for some of the patterns here as they contain quite a lot of stitching. Even if you aren't handy with a sewing machine, don't be put off, it's pretty easy straight line stuff.

Home made patterns

There are several patterns that are pretty easy and are available here. None of them are particularly complex and can all be made with little effort.

Commercially available patterns

The best commercially available pattern is by Simplicity (Pattern No. 8010). It's actually a fancy dress pattern for a Robin Hood costume and can also be used with a Vampire and is quite excellent.

The cloak style is 3/4 circle with a nice shaped hood, and takes about 4 1/2 yards of 60" fabric, with enough left for the hood, pouches and whatever. The tunic and cowl are nice too. Ignore the instructions to buy felt and fuse it with Wundaweb! unless this is a one time use and you want to make it fast, using an iron. Instead, use wool or polywool and a sewing machine for a lasting cape.

Special thanks to Mike at Aldebaran

This article is adapted from an article in Living Legends #1 By Liz Bates.

This pattern is a little more complex than the basic rectangular pattern but it does produce a very nice cloak without too much effort. I have used it to make three cloaks so far and will probably make more in the future. My favourite for this one is crushed velvet. Other than that I would recommend either cotton or polycotton. You can use pretty much any material but really cheap fabrics tend not to hang very well.

Obtained from
Omarshauntedtrail.com

Materials:-

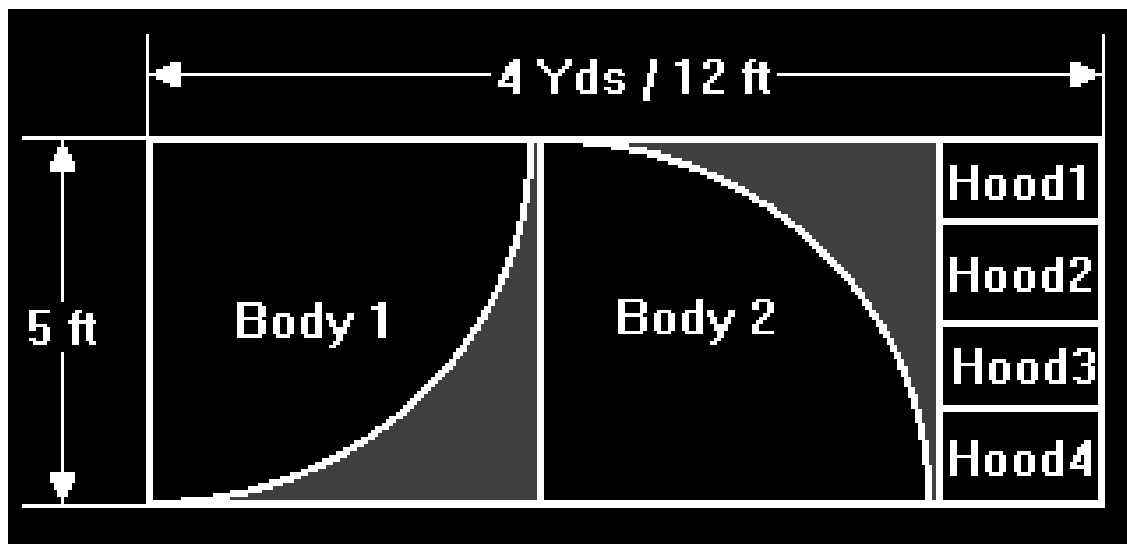
- 4 yards of 60 inch wide fabric.
- Cotton.
- Some form of fastener.

Tools:-

- Chalk for marking out.
- A length of string (5 ft).
- Sharp scissors.
- Pins.
- Sewing machine. You can sew this pattern by hand if you don't have a sewing machine but it will take a long time.

Take the fabric and cut out the pieces of the cloak as shown. It is possible to get all the pieces out of 4 Yds of fabric and have a small strip left at the end.

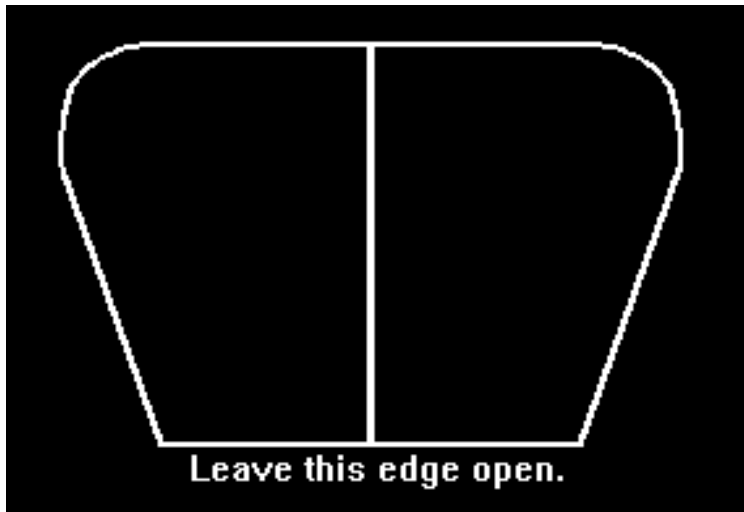
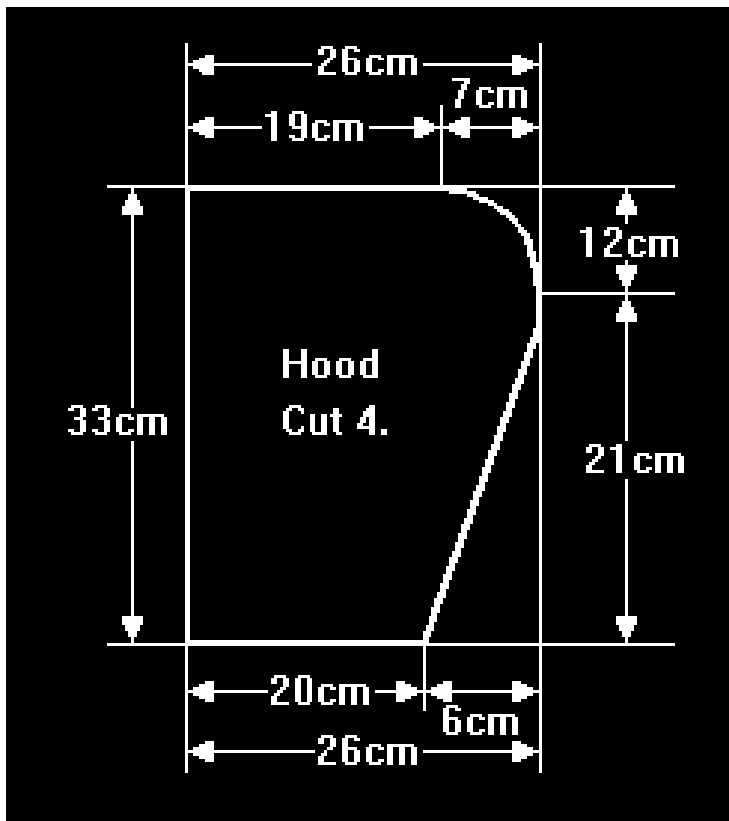
To mark out the body sections use a length of string and a pin to act as a giant compass. (Make sure you don't get stretchy string though!)



This pattern produces a cloak with a lined hood.

The instructions here assume that the hood will be lined with the same material that the cloak is made from so that it will appear the same from both sides.

If you want to line the hood with a different material simply cut two sections for the hood from the main material and two from the lining material you wish to use.

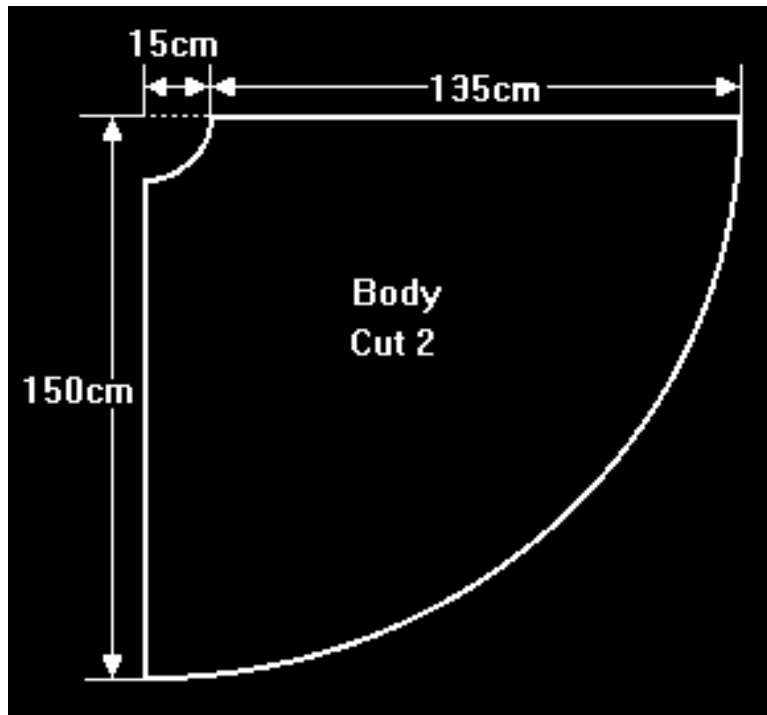


If you are using a fabric which has a right and wrong side such as velvet cut half the pieces so that they are mirror images of the other half.

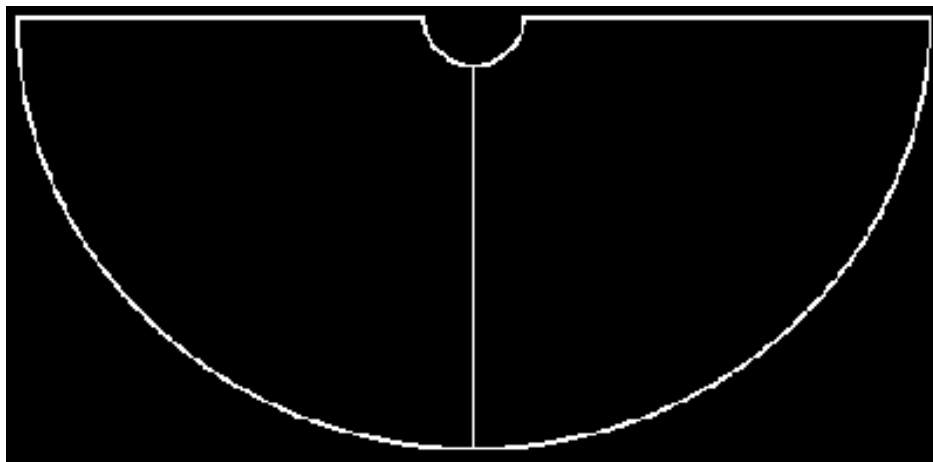
If you are using a plain material it doesn't matter as you can just turn the pieces over to obtain the mirror images.

Firstly take the two body sections and sew them together to form a semi-circle.

Next take the sections for the hood. Sew two of them together along the longer of the straight edges to form the shape shown below and repeat for the other pair (If you are lining the hood with a different material you should have one pair of the main material and one pair of the lining material). Now sew the two sections you have together with the back of the material towards the outside leaving it open along the edge indicated.



Now turn the hood the right way out. The next stage is to sew the hood onto the body of the cloak. Take your time lining the hood up so that the seam up the back of the hood lines up exactly with the seam along the back of the cloak or the cloak will look odd and the hood will tend to twist round while you are wearing it. Once you have attached the hood hem up all the way down both sides and all the way along the bottom edge (this is where the sewing machine really comes in useful).



Finally attach the fastener just below where the hood joins the body of the cloak.