

MAKE, DO & TREND

DIY FABRIC WRAPS - SEWING TECHNIQUE

Materials

2x Pieces of Cotton Fabric (or cotton blend/ quilting fabric) enough for 47x47cm per piece. Fat quarters make the perfect size and are a cost effective purchase. They can be purchased from your local fabric shop, Hobbycraft, online, eBay and even The Range and Dunelm!

Satin Ribbon (I use 1.1/2" width and like to work with a length of 52cm for each piece but you could buy a 1m length and it would still be enough) Again, the ribbon can be purchased from fabric shops, Dunelm (they do cut lengths too) but I buy a ribbon reel of 25m online. It just depends how many wraps you want to make or with different ribbon tie colours!

Sewing Machine I use a basic machine from John Lewis.

Tape Measure or ruler, any type will do.

Thread You can buy matching thread to the colour of your fabrics in the same shops but I have used white here to show you easily but it doesn't matter too much as the thread won't show when it's sewn together.

Hemming Web 1cm width (optional) I LOVE hemming web and it's what I use for the no-sew technique of making these wraps. You will only need a small piece (6cm ish) to close up the end if you'd prefer not to invisible stitch. I buy this from eBay but you can also buy in the above-mentioned shops and I've also seen it in Wilko. If the one you buy's width is wider than 1cm, you can just trim it down with scissors to fit so don't panic!

Iron & Ironing board or surface suitable to iron onto.

Scissors

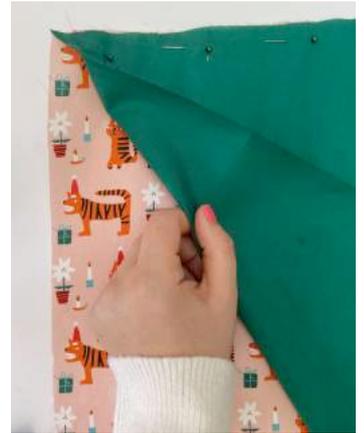
Pins

Instructions

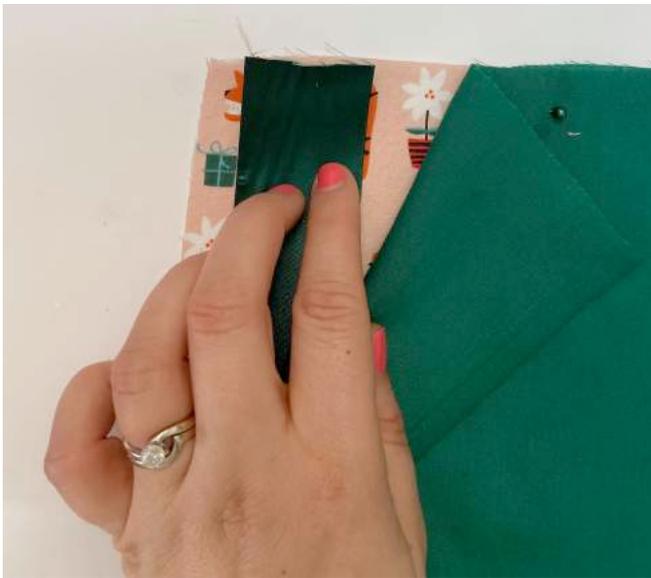
1. Choose your fabric for the front and back of the fabric wrap. Using a tape measure or square pattern, cut each piece 47x47cm (this allows for a 1cm seam allowance around the edges). Cut two pieces of ribbon angled at the ends, making them 52cm at the longest part.



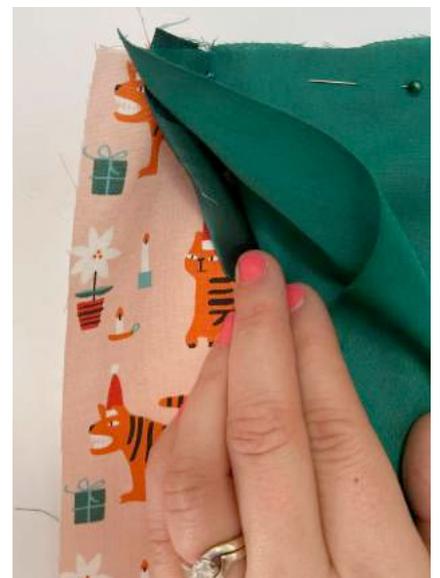
2. Place the 'wrong' sides to your fabric together and start pinning along the top edge, leaving a 1cm seam allowance. Leave a gap on the far left side for now (you are going to place the ribbon in here!)



3. Line one of your ribbons in the top left corner 1cm away from the left-hand edge. The straight edge aligning with the top and then pin the ribbon in-between the fabrics.



4. Gather up the rest of the ribbon and pin it inside the fabric so that is away from the edges, you don't want to trap any of that loose ribbon when sewing the seams together, doing this just keeps it out the way!



5. Take your second piece of ribbon and place it at the bottom right. Pin it roughly, it is just in case you get carried away stitching and then realize you forgot to put the second ribbon in place!



6. Set up your sewing machine, these are the settings I use on my John Lewis machine. Set your machine foot to allow for a 1cm seam allowance; don't forget to do a little backstitch before you set off to secure the thread.



7. Take the pins out as you go along with the straight stitch and make sure you're keeping a 1cm allowance. Once you reach the end of the top seam, backstitch again to secure the stitch, cut the thread and remove from the machine.



8. Next, pin the right edge. (I find the best way to pin fabric is to put a pin in at the top, one at the bottom and one in the middle then if there is any fabric that is too much or little on your piece, you can distribute the fabric either side of the middle pin so it still creates a neat square that meets in the corner when sewn). Sew along the length of the edge and be careful not to sew any of your second ribbon!



9. Unpin the second ribbon and then arrange in the same way as before, leaving a 1cm seam allowance at the bottom. Do the same as before and tuck the ribbon between the fabric to keep out of the way and pin in place.



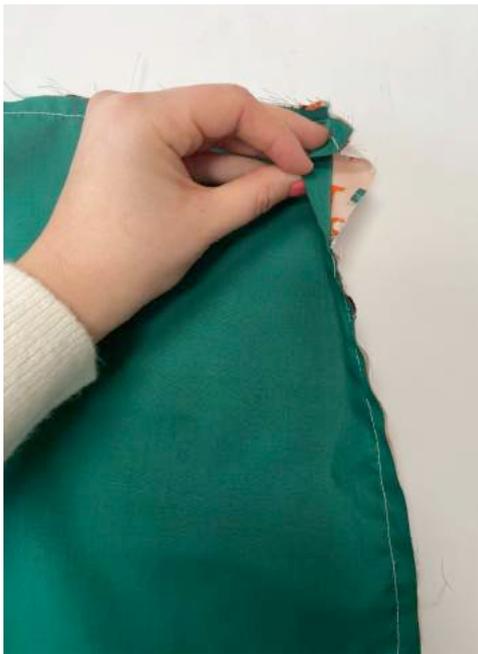
10. Pin along the bottom edge and then repeat the same steps for sewing a straight stitch. You now have 3 sewn edges!



11. Next, measure approx 6cm from the bottom seam along the remaining left hand edge and place a pin in sideways at this point (this is where you are not going to sew, so that you can pull the fabric back through the 'hole' to the right side of the fabric. Pin along the rest of the edge leaving a 1cm seam allowance and begin to sew from the 6cm pinpoint. Once you have repeated the same steps as before from the other 3 sides, you will be left with a complete sewn square with approx 6cm open area which you didn't sew.



12. Locate the 'open' area and start pulling the fabric back through to the right side.



13. Using your scissors, push into each corner to create a nice crisp corner. Your fabric wrap is nearly complete!

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14. Take a piece of your hemming web the same length as the open area that needs bonding. Slide it between the fabrics getting it as close to the edge as you can (not too close though as you don't want it sticking to the iron!) Press your iron down for a few seconds to bond the webbing. Alternatively you can hand sew an invisible stitch to close the seam.



15. Iron the wrap all over and neaten the edges. You can finish your ribbon by using some pinking shears, sharp scissors or applying some heat to the end to 'seal' it. Your Furoshiki inspired fabric wrap is complete!

