

Poncho on the Go

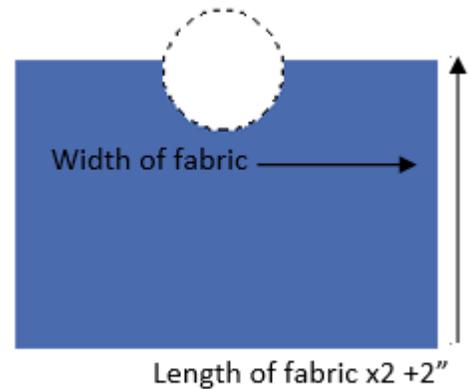


Materials List:

It is recommended that the reader read all the directions prior to starting as there is a variation to the poncho at the end of the document.

1. Approximately 2 yards of 58" wide flannel (this is enough for a tall person) 45" wide flannel would work for a smaller person or a child.

Many fabrics will work with this project. Flannel was used because it is available in a wide variety of locations. The flannel was prewashed in case of shrinkage. The high quality flannel did not shrink enough to notice the difference. The plaid was chosen since it looks like a nice lightweight wool and it won't show dirt. This really is an ideal garment for so many practical uses. Keep one in the car to have handy to grab anytime the weather turns cool. It is quick to throw on and still leaves the hands and arms free for carrying things. It feels less restrictive than a jacket, but provides the warmth needed. It will even roll up neatly to travel in a suitcase or tote to have handy when traveling.



- a. An easy formula is to stand with arms stretched out to the sides, measure from mid-arm (between the elbow and wrist) to mid-arm, that measurement is the width needed. It is easiest to purchase wider fabric and cut off any extra width.
 - b. Measure the distance from the shoulder to where the bottom edge will be and double it (if the measurement was 27", then 54" of fabric will be needed+ 2 inches for hemming. This makes a total of 56" long.
 - c. A fleece blanket that is about 50"x 58" may also be used to make an adult poncho. These blankets are often offered at great prices during the fall. A bonus is they are frequently offered in team colors with blanket stitching all the way around the outer edge! Using a similar blanket stitch for the neck finish is a nice touch. Just fold, cut the neck hole and hem the hole. Fleece does not ravel so it can just be turned under 1 time and stitched. Fleece baby blankets would work well for a child's poncho.
2. A Sewing Machine with some decorative stitches
 3. Thread for the machine and bobbin
 4. Tape measure
 5. Straight pins
 6. Fabric marker of choice
 7. Small paper plate, cd, or butter tub lid to use as a guide when drawing the cut line for the neck hole.
 8. Scissors and a piece of paper to create the pattern for an optional additional opening.

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Cutting and Sewing:

1. The fabric is actually already cut because the entire rectangle will be used. Trim off any selvages. (Did you know the cut off selvage edges make a nice strong string for tying up packages or house plants?)
2. Hem the outer edges by folding under about $\frac{1}{2}$ " and then another $\frac{1}{2}$ ", so the raw edge is rolled inside the hem. Pin to make it easier to keep the fabric flat while stitching. Stitch with a forgiving stitch. A forgiving stitch is one that meanders around a bit, so it always looks good. The stitched selected on the machine is a serpentine stitch.



This type of stitch is a superb choice for beginners. If your machine does not have a Serpentine stitch, some machines have the ability to create personal stitches easily. Many Brother machines have a program named My Custom Stitch that can be used to create a stitch that is similar to the serpentine stitch.

3. When the hemming is complete, fold the rectangle into $\frac{1}{4}$'s.
4. We will mark with pins and cut a small hole for slipping over the head.
5. Start with the end of the tape measure on the 4 corner fold and measure down $2\frac{1}{2}$ " on one folded side, mark with a pin.
6. Measure down $2\frac{1}{2}$ " on the other folded edge and mark with a pin.
7. To ensure the circle is cut smoothly, place a paper plate or cd so the edges touch the pins and draw a line connecting the pins. This is a cutting line. Cut through all 4 layers.
8. Open and try on. If it won't go over the head, fold again and cut it a little larger. It is easier to fold and cut again than to figure out how to fix a hole that was cut too large! Use the forgiving stitch to hem the circle just cut.
9. It is ready to wear.
10. If using a plain fabric, you may want to add additional rows of stitching. This is a place to let the creative juices flow. Adding decorative stitches, ribbons, buttons will add fun to the finished garment.

Making an opening down the front;



Do this *before* hemming the hole in the center.

Another fun finish for those who like a bigger head opening is to use the cut out circle as a facing.

1. Mark the center of the poncho front and mark the center of the cut out with a fold or chalk line.
2. Place the cut out circle right side down on top of the right side of the poncho, lining up the center lines. Make sure the top edge of the circle is at least even with the cut edge of the opening. It is OK for it to hang over the opening.
3. It is easier to make a paper template than to worry

about accuracy in measuring. Take a small piece of paper, fold in $\frac{1}{2}$ lengthwise.

4. Measure down about 2" from the top and mark that point.

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5. Cut in about a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " and then angle gently up for 2". It should look something like this. Center the folded lines over the folded lines on the poncho and pin in place.
6. Mark the line with a fabric marker or chalk.
7. Stitch on the line.
8. Trim out the center of the V area. It may be necessary to take a small clip at the inside corners on the narrow end of the v as shown by the arrows.
9. Turn the "facing" circle to the inside.
10. Press
11. Topstitch to hold it securely. You may stitch around the outside edge of the facing to prevent fraying.
12. Hem the circle by folding under 2 times and stitching to secure.
13. Add a bow, flower, or a button at the bottom of the opening for added interest.

