

apple cyder's "clever little cape" tutorial

Before You Begin

Keep in mind that this cape is intended for play, so don't sweat any small mistakes and have fun sewing. Depending on how you embellish your cape, these can make great birthday party favors, gifts, or even valentines for your kiddo and friends. Make a green cape with a shamrock for St. Patrick's Day, a pastel-colored one with a bunny for Easter, or toss on a beer stein appliqué for Oktoberfest.... You get the idea.

For your reference, I have included photos of some of the steps following the written instructions.

List of Materials

- 23" (59 cm) square printed fabric
- 23" (59 cm) square coordinating solid fabric
- 1 yard (90 cm) ribbon. *I prefer to use 1" (2.54 cm) grosgrain ribbon.*
- Coordinating thread

Prep

1) Print pattern and tape pattern pieces together in this order (see photo):

1.	2.
3.	4.

- 2) Cut out the paper pattern piece.
- 3) Fold your printed fabric square in half with right-sides together. Line up the straight edge of the paper pattern piece with the folded side of the fabric. (Refer to photo below.)
- 4) Trace the outline of the pattern piece onto your fabric, marking the opening for the ribbon.
- 5) Cut fabric along all three curved sides of the pattern outline. **DO NOT CUT THE STRAIGHT EDGE ALONG THE FOLD.** *If you do, you will cut your cape in half.*
- 6) Repeat steps 3,4 and 5 using your solid fabric.

Side Note

If you would like to embellish your cape with appliqué, now is the time to do it. Use your scraps to make your appliqué shape. I like to make the appliqué using the printed fabric which I sew onto the solid fabric, but you can do the opposite as well. Or you can do both. Sometimes I use a freezer paper appliqué technique with the edges turned under before machine sewing. When I need to be quick, I simply cut out the appliqué shape and top-stitch it onto the fabric, without folding the raw edges under. The raw edges may fray and get "fluffy" but that is fine because this cape is intended for play and won't get thrown into the wash very often. You could also use a fusible adhesive to avoid fraying.

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More Prep

- 7) Pull your ribbon taut and lay it flat on your work surface.
- 8) Lay out your printed piece of fabric right-side-facing-up ON TOP OF the ribbon. Make sure that the ribbon is lined up along the neck of the cape and that each end of the ribbon comes out of the "ribbon openings" that you marked. (Refer to photo below.)
- 9) Pin the ribbon into place along the neck of the cape.
- 10) Fasten the ends of the ribbon on top of the printed fabric. I use packing tape for this step. I suppose you could use pins too, but I don't like to risk sticking myself. *This step is important because you don't want to mistakenly sew the ends of the ribbon into your seam.*
- 11) Lay your solid fabric piece on top of the printed piece right-side-facing-down. *The right sides of your fabrics will be facing each other and the ribbon ends will be placed carefully in between. The middle part of the ribbon will be under your fabric sandwich. (See photo below.)*
- 12) Pin the two pieces of fabric together.

The Fun Part

- 13) Using a 1/4" (.63 cm) seam allowance, sew all the way around the edges, making sure to leave an opening that is big enough so that you can fit your fist inside. Don't forget to backstitch at the beginning and the end of your seam.
- 14) Put your hand in the opening and pull the cape inside out. The right sides of your fabric will be showing and the ribbon ends will be sticking out.
- 15) Turn under the extra fabric at your opening and iron the cape smooth.
- 16) Top stitch with coordinating thread all along the sides of the cape. Make sure that you close up the opening.

The Really Fun Part

Tie cape around the neck of some poor, unsuspecting kid who will twirl around and look adorable wearing it. Beware of cape-induced furniture jumping urges that may be harmful to the health of your well-accessorized superhero.

Feedback

Are you really going to make a cape? Great! Please let me know how it turns out. My email is [acyder{at}gmail{dot}com](mailto:acyder@gmail.com) and my blog is <http://applecyder.com/> Also, the complaint department is open. Send any and all grumblings my way if you find errors or are confused by the instructions.

Fair Play

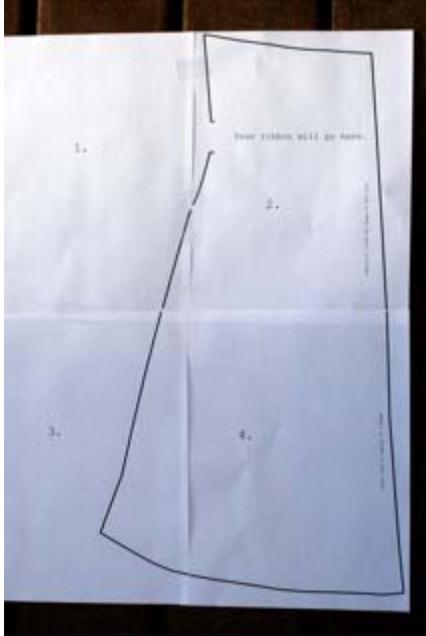
This free pattern and tutorial is for personal use only. Make a bunch of capes for all the kiddos in your life, but please don't sell capes made using this pattern. Thank you!

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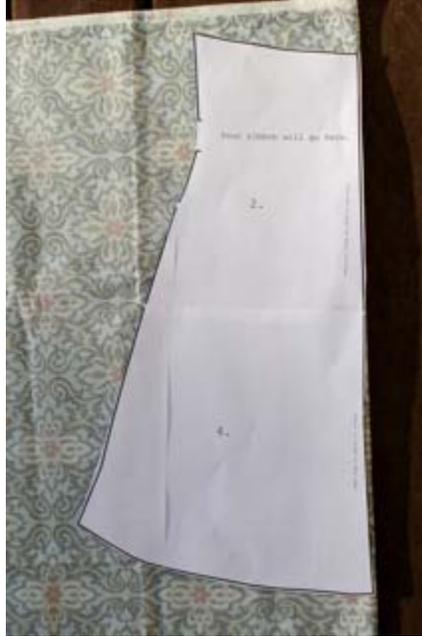
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Photos

Step 1



Step 3



Step 8



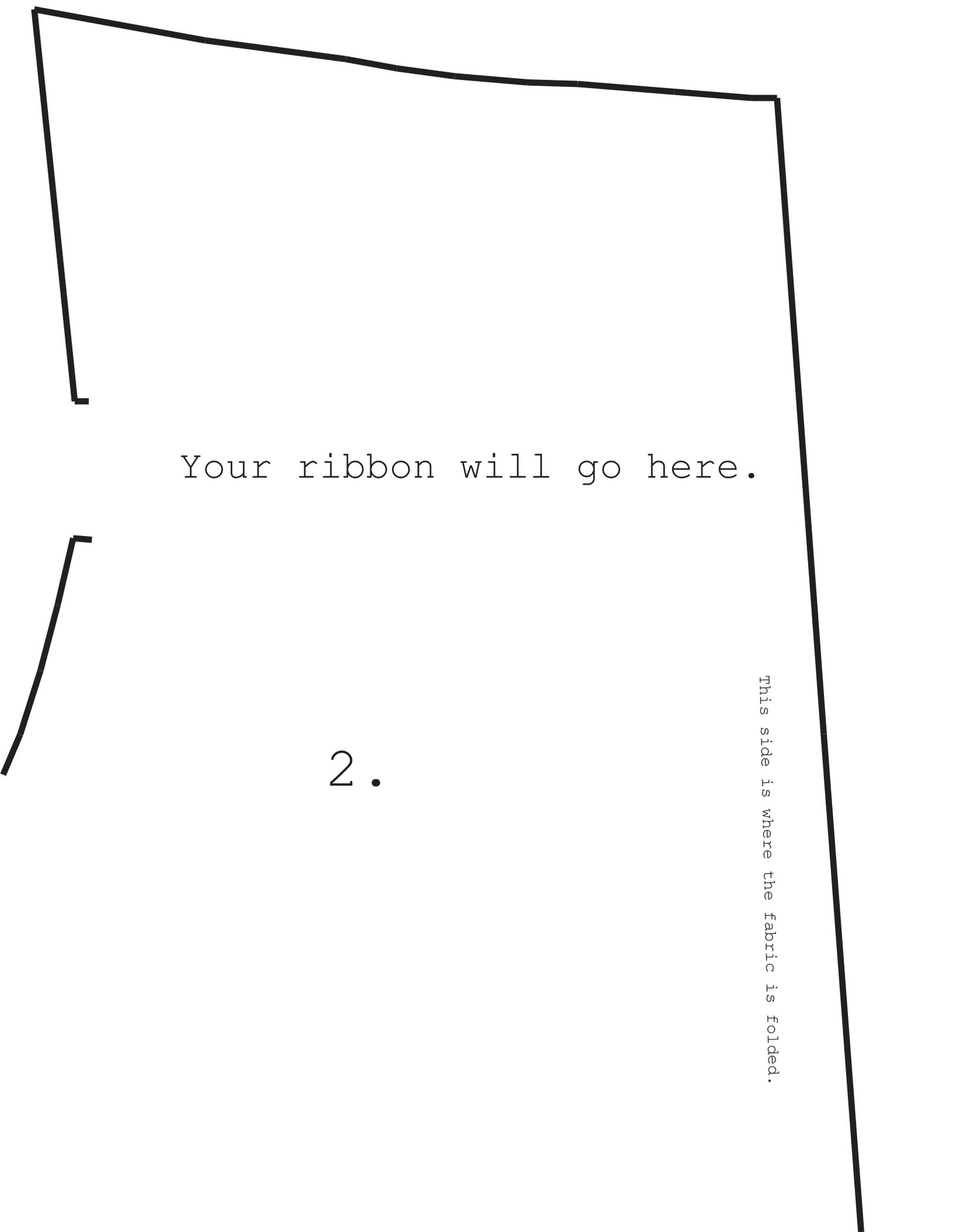
Step 11



This shows the solid fabric *in the process* of being layed out. You should lay it out so that the entire solid piece of fabric is flat.

1.



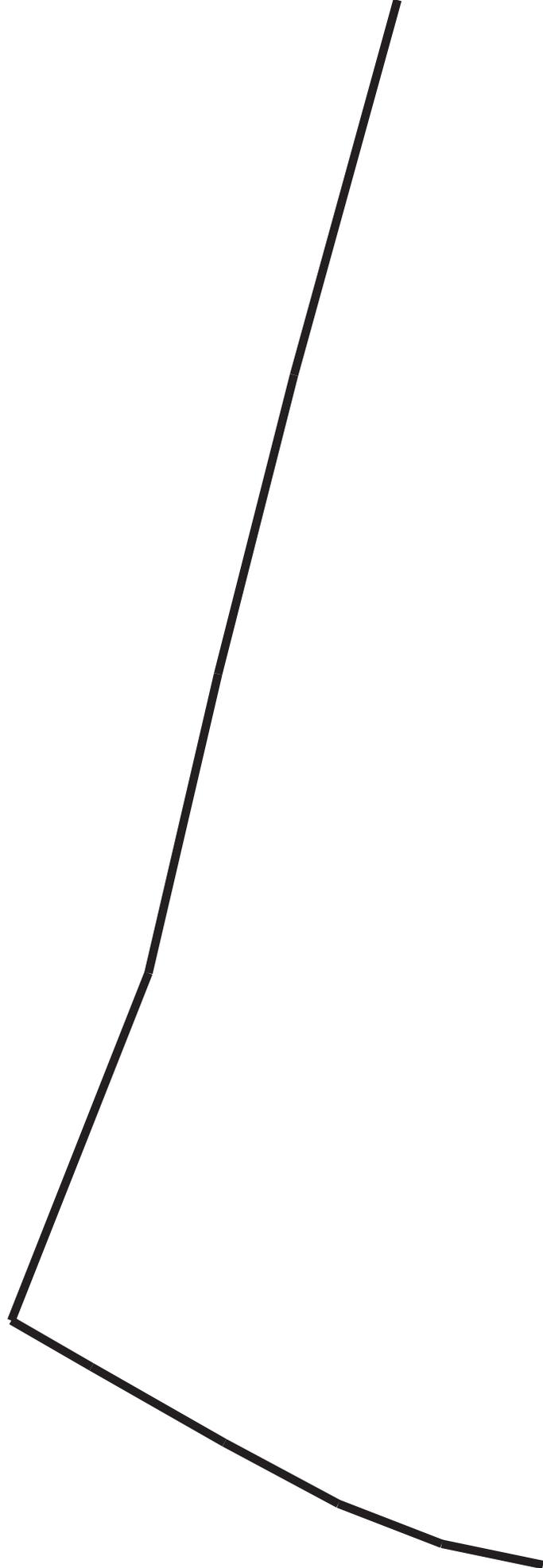


Your ribbon will go here.

2.

This side is where the fabric is folded.

3.



Fabric is folded on this side.

4 .