Go With the Flow

{ by Sharon Madsen }

Transform a ready-made sweater into a flattering cardigan with a draped asymmetrical scarf.
Mixed Media
Combine three coordinating sheer fabrics to create an elegant draped sweater scarf—no serger needed.

Supplies
- Ready-made cardigan sweater
- 1/2 yard of 45”-wide lightweight fabric (A)
- 1/3 yard of 45”-wide lightweight fabric (B)
- 6” x 45” strip of 45”-wide lightweight fabric (C)
- All-purpose polyester thread
- 2” x 62” strip of lightweight fusible interfacing (adjust length to match sweater center-front/neckline opening)
- Removable fabric marker
- Hand sewing needle
- Rolled-hem foot (optional)

Prepare the Sweater
Carefully remove the buttons and neckline tags from the sweater.
Position the interfacing strip along the sweater center-front wrong side and neckline edge, abutting one strip edge with the ribbed band edge. Fuse, following the manufacturer’s instructions. Beginning at one lower edge, trim away the center-front/neckline band; discard. Mark the neckline center back.

Construct the Scarf
From fabric A, cut four 4 1/2” x 45” strips on the crossgrain.
From fabric B, cut four 3” x 45” strips on the crossgrain.
From fabric C, cut two 3” x 5” strips on the crossgrain.
With right sides together, align one fabric A strip with one fabric B strip. Stitch one long edge using a 1/8” seam allowance. Unfold the strips; press the seam to one side. Fold the strips along the seamline with wrong sides together; press. Stitch 3/8” from the fold. Press the seam to one side. Repeat to stitch one fabric C strip to the fabric B strip opposite edge. Stitch one fabric B strip to the fabric C strip opposite edge, and then stitch one fabric A strip to the opposite fabric B strip edge (1). Repeat to create a second pieced rectangle from the remaining strips.
Align the pieced rectangles with right sides together. Stitch one short edge using a 1/8” seam allowance; press open.

Construct
With wrong sides together, position the scarf along the sweater center-front/neckline edge, aligning the center-back mark and scarf seam. Stitch using a 1/8” seam allowance. Unfold, and then press the seam to one side. Fold the scarf and sweater with right sides together along the seamline; press. Stitch 1/8” from the fold. Press the seam toward the sweater. Mark one scarf lower edge 1/8” from the sweater lower edge. Draw a diagonal line connecting the mark to the scarf outer lower edge. Cut along the line (2). Repeat to cut the scarf lower opposite edge.
Finish the scarf raw edges using a rolled-hem foot. If you don’t have a rolled-hem foot, press the raw edge 1/2” toward the wrong side. With the fabric right side up, stitch very close to the fold. Carefully trim the seam allowance close to the stitching. Fold the hem toward the wrong side, and then stitch again, following the previous stitching line.

Finish
Fold the scarf center-back free edge in half lengthwise toward the wrong side. Align the scarf free edge with the sweater neckline edge between the shoulder seams; pin, and then slipstitch (3).

Tip: Have fun mixing fabrics for the sweater scarf, but don’t use a directional print or napped fabric.
Purple Pintucks

Use your serger rolled-hem function to create a pretty pintucked sweater scarf.

Supplies
- Ready-made V-neck cardigan sweater
- 1 1/4 yards of 56”-wide tissue-weight knit fabric
- All-purpose polyester serger thread
- 2” x 62” strip of lightweight fusible interfacing (adjust length to match sweater center-front/neckline opening)
- Removable fabric marker
- Seam sealant
- Hand sewing needle
- Serger

Prepare

Carefully remove the buttons and neckline tags from the sweater.

Position the interfacing strip along the sweater center-front wrong side and neckline edge, abutting one strip edge with the ribbed band edge. Fuse, following the manufacturer’s instructions. Beginning at one lower edge, trim away the center-front/neckline band; discard. Mark the neckline center back.

From the fabric, cut two 14” x 45” fabric rectangles. Align the rectangles with right sides together. Stitch one short edge, using a 1/2” seam allowance. Position the scarf right side up on a flat work surface. Using a removable fabric marker, draw a line 3 1/2” from and parallel to one long edge. Repeat to draw two more parallel lines every 3 1/2”.

Tip: To use a crew-neck cardigan, cut the center-front into a V-neck shape of the desired depth.

Tip: If you’ve never used a serger to create pintucks, practice on fabric scraps until you achieve the desired look.
**Tip:** To add stability when beginning a rolled hem, position tissue paper or a stabilizer scrap under the fabric edge. Begin serging, and then remove the paper or stabilizer after the seam is complete.

**Create Pintucks**
Refer to the manual to set the serger to a 3-thread rolled hem.
With wrong sides together, fold the scarf along the first drawn line; pin or baste the fold.
Disengage the serger knife. Using the serger knife as a seam guide, serge along the fold. Repeat to serge along the remaining drawn lines. The pintucked side is the scarf right side.

**Construct**
With right sides together, pin the scarf along the sweater center front/neckline edge, matching the scarf seam and sweater center-back mark; baste.
Set the serger to a 4-thread overlock stitch. (If the serger doesn’t have a 4-thread option, use a 3-thread overlock stitch.) Serge the scarf to the sweater.
Position the sweater on a flat work surface. Smooth the scarf lower edges until they’re completely flat.
Follow the instructions for the “Mixed Media” sweater to cut the scarf edges at an angle.
Set the serger to a 3-thread rolled hem; serge-finish the scarf raw edges, leaving a long thread tail at each seam end. Apply a small amount of seam sealant at each scarf corner; allow to dry. Trim the thread tails.

**Finish**
Fold the scarf center-back free edge in half lengthwise toward the wrong side. Align the scarf free edge with the sweater neckline edge between the shoulder seams; pin, and then slipstitch. 

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**RECYCLED ROSETTE**
Rather than tossing leftover knit fabric scraps, use them to create a rosette brooch to embellish your sweater.

**Supplies**
- One 2½” x 12” strip each of bias-cut fabric & tulle
- All-purpose thread
- 1½”-diameter felt circle
- Hand sewing needle
- Pinback
- Fabric glue

**CONSTRUCT**
Finish the bias strip edges using a 3-thread rolled hem or a narrow hem.
Position the bias strip wrong side down over the tulle strip. Set the machine to a basting stitch. Stitch ⅞” from one long strip edge, leaving long thread tails; stitch again 1” from the long edge.
Gently pull the bobbin thread tails until the strip measures 5”.
Lap one end over the other to form a circle; hand stitch.
Fluff the rosette layers, and then pinch the center from the wrong side. Tack the rosette center several times to secure.
Hand stitch a pinback to the felt-circle center. With wrong sides together, glue the felt circle over the rosette wrong-side center.

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**QUICK CHANGES**
Add customized details to your sweater for a designer finish.

- When creating the pintucks, thread a conventional sewing machine with contrasting thread. Fold the fabric along the drawn lines with wrong sides together, and then stitch ⅛” from the fold.
- Knit fabric doesn’t ravel, so it’s not necessary to finish the edges. Use a combination of knit fabrics to create the strips. Stitch the scarf strips with wrong sides together, and then leave the seams and outer edges raw for a deconstructed look.
- For extra flair, thread the serger with metallic or wooly nylon thread in the upper looper. Serge the pieced scarf strips using a 3-thread flatlock technique.