Ruffled Radiance

{ by Cheryl Stranges }

Kwik Sew 3781 (modified)

Add a layer of luxury to a party outfit with a glamorous bolero jacket. For a truly unique look, embellish the fabric with decorative stitching and beading.

Supplies

- Jacket pattern (See "Sources.")
- Light- to mediumweight fabric (amount indicated on pattern envelope plus ¼ yard)
- Notions (as indicated on pattern envelope)
- Thread: 30-wt. rayon embroidery, matching all-purpose or polyester serger & polyester invisible (optional)
- 1½ yards of beaded trim
- Serger with chainstich capability (optional; see "Sources")
- Serger or conventional beading foot (optional)

If you don't have a serger, use a conventional machine to embellish the jacket collar with decorative or free-motion stitching.

Prepare

From the fabric, cut the collar 1½″ beyond the pattern lines to account for any fabric shrinkage that may occur after the decorative chainstitching is added. Cut the remaining pattern pieces, following the pattern guidesheet. Cut two sleeve ruffles 4″x the sleeve lower-edge length.

Set the serger to a chainstitch, following the machine manual. Thread the chainstitch looper with 30-wt. rayon thread, and thread the needle with matching polyester serger thread. Test-serge on fabric scraps to determine the appropriate tension and feed settings.

With the fabric wrong side up, chainstitch the entire collar surface as desired. For the featured jacket, chain-stitching was added in free-form, interlocking wavy lines **(1)**. Once the chainstitching is complete, compare the collar to the original paper pattern piece, trimming the edges as needed to match.

Construct

Construct the jacket, following the pattern guide-sheet; leave the sleeve lower edges raw. If using a serger for construction, use a 4-thread overlock stitch and make sure that the knife and blade are set to the correct seam allowance setting.

If desired, edgestitch the collar-elastic casing outer edge before inserting the elastic **(2)**.

From the beaded trim, cut two lengths equal to the sleeve-ruffle length. Designate one ruffle long edge as the lower edge. Position one bead length along the ruffle lower edge on the fabric right side.

If using a beading foot, install it on the machine or serger. If using a serger, thread the needle with matching all-purpose thread, and then thread the upper looper with invisible thread.

Stitch the beading to the ruffle edge, following the beading foot manufacturer's instructions **(3)**. If not using a beading foot, use one of the beading application methods in "Basic Skills" on page 24.

Serge- or zigzag-finish the ruffle upper edge. With right sides together, align the ruffle short edges; pin, and then stitch or serge, being careful not to stitch over the beading along the lower edge.

Edgestitch.

Fold one sleeve lower edge toward the wrong side, according to the casing measurement indicated on the pattern. Position the ruffle upper edge ⅝″ under the folded lower edge; align the seams, and then pin.

Stitch the sleeve-elastic casing seam through all layers, following the pattern guidesheet. Edgestitch the sleeve folded edge to secure the ruffle **(4)**. Insert the sleeve lower–edge elastic into the casing, following the pattern guidesheet.

Repeat to construct and attach to the remaining ruffle to the opposite sleeve. ✄