

Faux Chenille Scarf made with 2 yards of woven fabric.

Press your fabric. Since you're messing around with bias edges, spray starch will help keep it from stretching out of whack.

The first fold will create the true bias. Lay the fabric on a large table, take the lower left corner and line the cut edge of the fabric with the top selvage furthest away from you.

To make it easier to cut such a long piece of fabric in your first cut, carefully pull the lower right corner to the upper left corner aligning the folded edges closest to you.

Lay your 6" or 6 1/2" wide ruler along the folded edges and make the first cut on the right, walking the ruler up the fabric if necessary to complete the long cut.

Without moving the fabric strip, cut the folded edge off. These will be the two longest strips.

Continue cutting strips trying to keep the bias from shifting, re-folding as necessary, and cut the entire 2 yards. There will most likely be one or two very small pieces unusable for the scarf, but possibly a good size for appliqué or another project.

You will have 3-4 very long strips. Reserve three; one for the center strip of the scarf that will stay intact, and two more; one for the top and one for the bottom. If you are using a striped fabric, you may opt to try keeping all the stripes going the same direction. This will be much easier with a yarn-dyed woven fabric than any other type, but flannel prints also work well.

Lay out the longest strip on your table. It will be about 60" long, so if you don't have a table big enough and your knees will let you, you could work on a floor. Wood, tile, or linoleum would be better than carpet as you are going to have to pin all the layers together. Carpets eat pins.

Mark the ends of your center strip so you'll know which one will not be cut. Normally, I use tailor's chalk or quilt marking pencils. For this sample, I used a permanent marker because I knew I would trim the marked ends off.

With the center layer marked, begin layering the cut pieces on top of the center layer, butting the edges together.

You may choose to overlap the edges for a less noticeable gap. Either method works well. The only time it really makes a difference is if you're using flannel or a printed fabric rather than woven. With printed flannel, you'll want to trim off all the selvage edges prior to layering since they are thicker than the fabric and very often are a different color as well.

When you add another layer, be sure to put a solid piece over the top of the butted or overlapped edges. This way, you will avoid any gaps in the finished scarf.

Once you have two to three layers on the center, place one of the reserved longer pieces on top. Gently flip the entire stack over and repeat the layering on the other side of the center strip, ending with the last reserved long strip.

Now draw a line down the center of the stack. Again, I used a permanent marker, because the fabric used for this scarf is colorful enough to cover the mark, but I'd recommend a quilt marker of some sort for the line.

Pin, pin, pin all along both sides.

Using a walking foot, begin stitching on the line drawn down the center of your stack of strips.

Stitch in rows at least 1/2" apart, to leave enough room for the chenille cutting tool.

Once you finish on one side of the center line, begin stitching on the other. When you get to the outside edge, leave at least 1/2" on the outside edge of the stack of strips.

When all the rows are finished, trim to 1/4" from the last (outside) row of stitching.

You may find it easier to use a small pair of scissors and start the rows by clipping each layer until you see your mark on the center fabric. DO NOT cut the center layer.

Slide the tongue of the chenille cutter into one of the slits made with your small scissors making sure you're not cutting the center layer. With moderate pressure, and keeping the cutter centered in the channel, cut all the way to the opposite end of the scarf. It helps to press one hand down on fabric behind the cutter.

If it becomes difficult to cut smoothly, the cutter is most likely jammed with fabric or fibers, so having an old toothbrush on hand will help clean it out, or you could take it apart, clean it, put it back together and it should work just fine. Replacement blades are available, but I've made over 20 scarves with one cutter without it getting dull.

If you'd like fringe, decide how long you'd like it and stitch across the end of your scarf, backstitching when you start and end for added strength.

If you don't want any fringe, simply stitch across the end about 1/2" in from the end, then trim at 1/4" from the stitched line.

You could round off the ends; leave them at the angle you laid them out; or trim to any angle you like.

After it's stitched across the width of the scarf, cut up to the stitching to create the fringe.

Wash your scarf with jeans, towels, etc., cool water, regular detergent.

Dry it and wear it!!

If it doesn't bloom as well as you wanted, wash and dry again, every time you wash it, it will soften up some more. Flannels might take a little longer than wovens to bloom.

Enjoy!