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MAKING A CAPOTE WITH TROOP 6

Pep Talk: Mountain men would rip up wool blankets and sew the capotes by hand. Don't be afraid.

Things you will need:

- One full sized blanket or larger, or 1 & ½ army surplus twin blankets.
- A buddy to help with measurements & share the blanket.
- Yardstick, measuring tape, pins, sharpie or chalk.
- Sewing machine & sturdy thread.

Measurements:

| ref | | inches | adjust | cut |
|-----|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------|-----|
| AB | Back at the shoulders | | Times 3 | |
| BC | Height - shoulder to ground | | Subtract about 6" | |
| DE | Sleeve - Make Scout Sign | | plus about 10" | |

Parts: Body, 2 sleeves, hood, cape, belt, 2 pockets, belt loops, 2 tassels. Smaller parts can be from another blanket.

Body of the capote:

Width (points A-B). Wrap the blanket around it's owner 1.5 times so that the front is covered twice.

Length (points B-C). Mark the length at the cuff or just above Cut, or tear the body if possible.

Fold & identify the middle of the back & mark it. (dotted line). Don't make any cuts here.

Arm Holes: Fold the body into thirds and mark the arm slits at those folds.

Make the arm holes by cutting or tearing down 15".

Mark points 3" down on the sleeve holes for the shoulders.

Measure 5" from the center of the back, & mark on each side. This is the neck.

Draw lines from this point to the marks 3" down on the sleeve slit. Cut these triangular pieces out & you've got the shoulders.

Center & pin the cape at the center of the back.

Fold the capote into thirds again and sew from the top of an arm hole, across the back and to the other arm hole, closing up the shoulders.

Sleeves: Any decorative stripe should be along the forearm.

Sleeve length: Bent arm length plus 4" for fringe and 6" for cuff.

Sleeve Width: 25" Cut or tear the sleeves. Fold back the fringe and cut out about 1" at the seam. (the green boxes).

Sew the sleeve seams and turn them outside out.

Sewing the Sleeves into the Capote: Take care to pin the sleeve in correctly:

- The sleeve should be outside out.
- Fringe is folded back.
- The capote is inside out
- The sleeve seam is at the bottom of the arm slit.
- Sew around the sleeve through 3 layers.

Hood. You will need a piece about 26" long by 36" wide. Identify the center line. Make the face hole centered 30" long. Orient any stripe 1 1/2" above this line if possible. Make a fringe cuff 1 1/2" x 30" at the face line. Measure 10" out & back from the fringe at about a 45 degree angle at each side for the face hole. This will be for the neck.

Draw lines from the neck endpoints to the point at the back of the hood. This should be about 26" from the front. Cut out the hood. If you run short, you can put the hood together from two pieces.

Sew the cone of the hood together, cut off 2" at the point. Turn the hood right side out.

Cut out two tassels - about 24" long and 2" wide. , insert the tassels at the back point & sew them in.

Sew back 1 1/2" around the face hole for fringe.

Sew on the hood:

Leave the hood right side out. Pin it to the capote making sure that the hood seam is aligned with the center of the back.

Sew the hood on through the 3 layers of cloth (body, cape and hood.) It will attach to the 10" neck hole & also to about 5" of the capote lapel on each side.

Extra pieces:

- **Belt** 3" wide, from one edge of the blanket. It should be up to 24" longer than the body. You can sew 2 pieces together if necessary.

- **Pockets** - 9" wide by 12" long (this includes 3" for fringe at the top).

- **Belt loops** 2" wide by 6" long.

Sew on the pockets. To locate them, put the capote on, stand with arms at rest & make sure your hands will go in the pockets. Turn back 3" at the top for fringe, turn the edges under & sew.

Locate the belt by fitting on the capote, install the belt loops above & behind the pockets & turn under the edges before sewing.

Serge, blanket stitch or sew a **hem** along the exposed edges that were ripped or cut when the body was made. Use some parachute cord in this seam to make a button loop and attach a button at the neck for really cold weather. The two tassels are also used to close the neck in cold & wind.

Cut fringes about 1" wide - at the shoulders, cape & pockets.

Reinforce 3 way joints with any blanket you have left - at areas of stress - arm pits, & where the hood joins the shoulders. You can also line the cuffs & hood with fleece.