



MAKING A CAPOTE WITH TROOP 6

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 2, plus about 10"	
BC	Height - shoulder to ground		Subtract about 10"	
	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:

Measure & mark the height of the capote body (B-C). Use a yard stick to be sure your edges & cuts are straight.

Rip or cut the blanket in two from points A to B. (Ripping will keep the blanket from fraying at the edges & is easier to get a straight line.) Use a serger on the edges if available.

Before you trim the width of the body (A-B), fit it by wrapping it around you with a coat on & make sure the front flaps overlap at least 6" in the front. Trim off the excess.

Fold & identify the middle of the back & mark it. (dotted line)

Locate the arm holes and mark them. They should be ½ the back width from the center line.

Make the arm holes by cutting down 15". Use the yard stick for a straight edge - or tear the blanket. (This is for 12" sleeves, if you want them smaller, then shorten this measurement & adjust the sleeves.)

Mark points 3" down on the sleeve holes for the shoulders. Make this shorter for a smaller person.

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.

Sleeves: Lay out the remainder of your blanket & locate the sleeves. The decorative stripe should be along the forearm. Allow 3" length for a cuff and 7" for the shoulder fringe. Mark the 7" shoulder fringe.

Measure & mark the sleeves at 25" wide (to fit the slits in the body that you cut earlier.) The width is the size of your arm hole plus 1" so a 9" sleeve would be 19" wide.

Cut out the sleeves fold and sew, except for the 7" fringe. Turn the sleeves right side out & fold back the fringe.

Hood. You will need a piece about 26" long by 30" wide. Identify the center line. Make the face hole centered 24"

long. Orient the stripe 1 ½” above this line if possible. Make a fringe cuff 1 1/2” x 24” 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 ½” around the face hole for fringe.

Extra pieces:

- Cut the **cape** (about 10”x20”), it will run from one shoulder to the other at the back. This adds strength to the seam & keeps your shoulders warm.

- **Belt** 4” 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.

Attach the Sleeves:

Sew the sleeves into the arm holes making sure that the sleeves are right side out, the 7” fringe is folded back, the

capote is inside out, & the sleeve seam is at the bottom of the arm slit. You will be sewing through 3 layers.

Put the cape in across the back & sew the shoulder seams together through these 3 layers.

Sew on the hood:

Leave the hood right side out. Pin it into the capote making sure that the hood seam is aligned with the center of the back & that the cape is in place.

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 front on each side.

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 edge that was 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.