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## **Simplicity Sewing: Make Furry Animal Hats** with Michele Muska

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### **Chapter 1 - Introduction**

#### Overview

- Hi, I'm Michele Muska. I'm a fiber artist, and I've been working for Simplicity for over 10 years. I have a renewed love in sewing because of all the little ones in my family. I've been really enjoying learning patterns again, and making these really great, fun, fur hats. It had been a really long time since I worked with a pattern, so I wanted to refresh my memory. And, what better way was to send my sewing machine down to the pattern department, and have the experts there at Simplicity help me. Today, I'm going to show you how to make these really fun, faux fur, animal hats. We're going to learn how to read a pattern, work with faux fur, and then I'm gonna show you how to sew it all together. It'll be really fun and easy. So, let's get started.

### **Chapter 2 - Materials**

#### Materials

- Before we get started, let's talk a little bit about the tools and materials that we're gonna need to make this pattern. We're going to be working with pattern 1514 by Simplicity, and it's with our designer, Elaine Heigl. ^You can also find a printed copy of this pattern online ^or at your favorite fabric store. ^The fabrics you're going to need are some faux fur. I've chosen a low pile faux fur, just because it's easier to get started with. When you're working with a high pile, there's a lot of tricks and techniques I'll show you later on in how to manage those. So you need a 1/2 a yard of the outside hood, which I've chosen a tan. A contrasting fur, which I chose white. And then, this is for the ears, so you need two five-inch squares. You can also use this really luxurious, furry pile, a high pile. And then there's a lot of different styles of hats. And then if we turn our pattern over, we're going to see the different views, and all the different requirements of the different types of fabrics that you can use, and the yardage that you'll need, and some of the different materials. If you're actually doing view a or b, you will need some fusible webbing, which is right here, and you iron that onto a piece of felt. And you'll put the applique piece of pattern onto that. And you'll also need your typical sewing supplies, scissors, measuring tape, all purpose thread. And I like to use some little snips to get in close. My favorite tool, of course, is a seam ripper. A fabric marker. And the pins that I like to use have a head on them, either a glass or a plastic head. And that's really helpful when you're working with a high pile faux fur, that you don't lose your pins in them. You'll need about a yard of cording, if you're gonna do the pom-pom version, which is a separate version that I'll be showing you a little bit later. And if you're going to be using the braid version, you'll need about eight yards of coordinating yarn. And you'll need an iron, and an ironing pad, or an ironing board. And then your home sewing machine.

### **Chapter 3 - Getting Started**

#### Cut out pattern pieces

- Let's take a look at our pattern instructions and the pattern tissue itself. This is going to tell us what pieces that we need and what we need to cut out. We're going to be making view C, the faux-fur fox hood, today. Look below, and you'll see all the pattern pieces, and they're going to correspond with a number that will be on your tissue. Look down here, and you're going to find view C, and it shows hat is number six, and the ear is number seven. We're going to open our tissue,

which I've already done here, and we're going to locate the pattern pieces on here. So here is number six, and this is the body of the hat, and this is number seven, which is for the ear, the inner ear and the outer ear. I'm also going to show you, if you want to take a look at this doll hood, which is number 12, and then the ear is number 11. So you can just see the difference in sizes, and you just want to make sure that you're cutting out the right pattern pieces. You're also going to notice that some of the tissue can be crinkled. You know, don't worry about that now. I'll show you how to iron your pieces out later. Next, we want to rough cut around the pattern pieces that we've identified that we needed. In this case, it's number six and seven. So I'll take my shears, and I'll just, you know, cut maybe an inch around the pattern if it allows me to. I'd like you to take a little look at some of the other pattern pieces. If you're going to be making the view with the long tail, like number one here, this long tail, note that the top of this pattern piece is the same as the one that we're working with for the faux-fur fox hat. Once we learn how to do this hat, we'll be able to make all the views. I've already rough-cut out the two pattern pieces that we'll need for our faux-fox-fur hood, and it's number six and number seven. You'll notice that some of the pattern pieces can be a little wrinkly, so what you want to do is iron these pieces on a medium setting, maybe wool, but make sure it's a dry iron because there is ink. What this does, it allows the pattern to be laid out flat, and to make sure that you're taking advantage to the sizing, and it will all fit. It actually is more important when you're working with apparel, especially arms, set-in sleeves, and things like that, but it will also matter for your craft patterns as well. Next, we're going to start cutting out your pattern pieces. Refer to your instructions, and it will tell you exactly how to lay out the pieces. You'll notice on this one that the pattern pieces are in two different colors. The white indicates the top of the pattern, and then you'll flip it over, which is the grayed side of the pattern. So let's pin and get started cutting. Here's your pattern piece, and I have it laid out on the fur. You'll notice a few things on the pattern that will help you. There's a grain line right here. That would make a difference if you have a fabric going a certain way or a pile that's a little bit higher. This faux fur has such a low pile, you really don't have to worry about the knap. It's kinda fuzzy all over, so it's a little bit easier. The tissue will also indicate that you cut two of the fabric, and then it has all these little lines around here, and you'll see up here it has S, M, L for small, medium, and large. You'll choose whichever one you want to do, and you'll pin and then cut on the outside of the line. So before you start pinning, make sure that you have enough fabric. You want to lay your piece out, according to your instructions, one on the right side. And then you can kinda gauge and lift up and fold it over here. So it looks like we're all set to get pinning. And remember, earlier I mentioned about the pins. It's really important, especially when you're working with faux fur, to have a pin with a head on it. Because the tissue is really light, and your fur is a little stronger, it might tear. Plus, it also gets lost in the pile. So, I'm just going to place some around the outside. And you notice I still have the rough-cut edge around the pattern piece itself. But you'll be able to use your pattern piece over and over 'cause you're gonna want to make these fur hoods for everybody. I also like to put a few in the middle, just to get it nice and stable. And we're ready to cut. It's easier to cut on the back side of the fur, especially when you have a large pile. We're gonna start right along the edge. (scissors cutting) And here's where your different lines are coming in for the different sizes, so just make sure you're on the size that you want. And I'm just showing you the large. And you might need a few more pins than I have. I'm used to doing this, so whatever you feel comfortable with. Okay. And I'm gonna cut across this way, and this is a little bit tricky here in the middle 'cause you have a deep V, so I'm gonna go down one side and stop there. And that's why it's nice to have a pin there to hold your pattern in place. And then I'm gonna come to this side, and it should meet right in the middle. Here's your cut-out pattern

piece, and we're going to remove all the pins. And then remember, we're gonna flip it over to this side, and we're gonna cut this out. And you want to make sure that you only do one layer at a time, especially if you have a high pile like this fur over here. Low knap, you could actually do it if you folded the fabric in half, but if you want to have more accuracy, I would suggest one at a time. And once you've cut out the outer pattern, you're going to do the exact same thing to the inner lining and cut two pieces. (scissors cutting) We're ready to cut out the ears. The pattern piece is actually going to show you a right and a wrong side, like it did with the hood. The white side is the right side of the pattern, and the gray is the back side of the pattern. So cut single thickness like you did with the hood, and just reverse your pattern piece. I chose a high pile faux fur for the outside contrast of the ears. If you take a look at the pile here, it actually has a knap, so it's going in one direction, and I'm thinking that I would like the pieces to go up so it shows as little tufts of the ear. So you want to make sure that your fur is going the same way for both pieces. So, going to put my pattern piece on and pin it. And it's a little bit smaller, so these large pins have to be a little carefuler with. And before we start cutting, just make sure that your grain line is going in the direction that you want your fur, the knap of your fur to be. Now we can cut. (scissors cutting) Here's where it gets a little messy. So take your pins out. And then I would suggest just taking your hands and just pulling at the edges to release any of the fur that was cut, like this. And then here's a little trick. Since you're going to be putting this in your seam allowance, you could take your shears, and you can just cut off about a half inch of the fur around the edge. And this will really help, especially in the tip of the ear. You won't have as much bulk. And pretty much, you only have to do this with the really heavy pile fur. So, and then pull it off again. And so you can kinda see around the edge that now you have a lower pile fur, and that will make it easier to sew. Take your pattern piece and turn it over. Again, make sure that the arrow is going with the knap of your fur 'cause you want both ears to be the same. And then you'll just repeat the same technique with pulling the fur off the edge and then shearing the outer edges. And then next you're gonna do the exact same thing with the inner ear, and you're going to place the pattern on there, and you don't have to worry about the grain line this time because we're using the low pile fur. Continue to cut out your inner ear pattern pieces just like you did with the outer ear with the black fur. And now that you have that done, you should have all your pattern pieces prepared to start sewing. So let's review what we have so far. The outer piece right here with the tan piled fabric, and then we have two of the inner contrasting fabric, and then you have two white and two of the black, so you have the inner ear and the outer ear. The two ear pieces will be joined together like this, and then you'll be all set. So let's get sewing.

## **Chapter 4 - Make Hat**

### **Stitch ears and hat**

- We're now ready to start sewing your hood together. So let's talk a little bit about your machine first. So I have my home sewing machine already set up. And I chose to use a red thread for the top stitch as well as the bobbin. And I did that, actually, for your benefit, just to see where I'm sewing, it might be a little bit easier. If I were at home and I was going to make a hood, I would probably use a neutral color, or a contrasting color if I wanted to do a little top stitching. So it's really up to you. I'm going to start with our ears. I have our two pieces. As you remember earlier, I suggested possibly shearing the edges of a long pile fur. So that's exactly what I did here. So that actually creates a little less bulk when you're sewing small pieces together. And you'll see when you have to turn the ear inside out that it's really helpful. So take a look at your instructions. We're on the third page of our pattern, 15-14. And you're going to see here it says child's and doll hat c. So that's what we're

working on. There is a notation about your quarter-inch seam allowance and that is only for the doll hat, cause it's so small. But we're gonna be using a half-inch seam, which is what most craft patterns use. I kind of marked up my pattern a little bit here. And you should feel free to do that. If you wanna do it in pencil or red pen. It's just some little references that maybe I forget, and I wanna remind myself. That's exactly what I did here. Here is going to tell us to start using view three, four, five, and six for our instructions. And interestingly enough, it's exact same steps that you would use to make one of the fur hats that have the long tails. So now we're ready to start sewing the ears. So it's referred due to step three, which is going to tell you to take your two ears and put them right sides together, and then I'll pin it. Just a few pins around the edge. And I'm going to sew a half-inch seam all the way around. So now I'm going to slide it underneath, put my needle in, and I'm going to backstitch a little bit. And I'm going to follow my guideline for a half-inch all the way around the two sides. So here I'm going to leave my needle down, lift my presser foot up, take that pin out, and then I'm going to keep going this way. Slow down. Okay, and there we go. We've sewn both sides around, now we're going to take our scissors, and we're going to clip the top off, the corner, and then we're gonna very carefully trim in a little bit, almost all the way to the seam. And what this does is allow the curve to turn better. So it gives you a little bit more flexibility. So we're gonna turn this in. And you can use your scissors or a pencil to poke the ear up, and there's your ear. You can also trim the edges off the points. And then you can look for a pen or your pencil, and you can start pulling out the little pieces of fur that were caught inside the seam, and that will give you some nice fuzzy edges. There, then you can do that all the way around. Then I have a piece already here. I'm going to base the bottom with a needle and thread. You can also use a long machine stitch for that. So I'm going to sew several stitches. And they can be about a quarter of an inch apart. And as you see I can take this and I gently will pull and gather. And then I'll come back through and sew that down across so it stays gathered. You can just go through a few times and that should keep it in place. Whip stitch it into place. That just means running your thread in and out a few times and cutting it off. So this actually kind of gathers your ear and makes it a little bit more natural, so it has a space in there. I made one ear and then I made another, so I have two, and now we're going to attach it to the pattern. I want you to take a look at your pattern. You're going to see two small circles, and both have an L. That's where your ear is going to go, right in here. So you can use pins on your pattern piece, on your fabric, or you can even use a marking pen, which is a fabric marker, and put a couple of little red marks there. You can fit your ear in there, right along the edge, and then you can pin it. Right sides together. And you're ready to sew. And sometimes I find the little numbers on my machine hard to follow. So I'm gonna take a little piece of Washi tape, and just lay it right across the half-inch seam. So when you do your half-inch seam here, it will cover up your basting stitch. In order to fit your ear in between the two marks, you might have to pull or adjust your basting stitches a little bit. So this looks pretty good. Gonna put it right underneath here. And this is a little bit thicker, so, you might have to just gently guide it through. Gonna put my needle down. Back stitch a little bit. And there we go. Trim your threads and take a look at my ear. So now that I've already sewn one ear on, you should go ahead and do that, and then sew your second ear on, which I've done. Prior to doing that, you might want to pin it in the seams and take a look to make sure that the ears are going in the correct manner. So you have an inner and an outer curve to them. Next we wanna fold the ears down. I often will put a little pin in there to hold it in place, and now you can see why those pins with the heads on it are really important. Cause you have such a high pile fur here. I'm going to do that to both sides. Our next step will be our first seam, which will be joining the top of the hood together. So, I got the two pieces right there, and I'm gonna pin

those. Right sides together. And if you feel more comfortable, you can always baste your fabrics together, which is really quickly done. You'll be more comfortable as you start to sew a little bit more. I'm gonna bring it over to the machine and slip it underneath the presser foot and take out my first pin. And this is where the Washi tape really comes in handy. I'm gonna lower my needle, press the presser foot down, and start. I always like to backstitch a little bit. And you can go slow and take the needles out as you go along. So be careful, you're gonna see this lump in here, and that's your ear. So be careful not to sew your ears into the seam. But if you do, you have a seam ripper. That always (chuckles) comes in handy. And I'm gonna backstitch a little bit and then snip it off. And we have our first seam done. It's time to sew up the back seam. So I'm going to put those together and I'm going to put a few pins in there, and don't worry if it's a tiny bit off. You can fudge it a little bit and stretch one side. It's a little bit stretchy. And we're ready to go to the machine again. So I'm gonna place it in the machine. Lower your needle and your presser foot. And I like to backstitch a little bit, just to hold everything in place. Just follow that curve, nice and easy. And you're done with that. Remove your pins. And clip your thread. Just like any curve that you have in the pattern, like we did with the ears, you're going to clip along, so you can have that ease when you turn it the other way, the right side out. And you'll get a nice, soft curve. There. So just really be careful that you don't clip the threads. And if you do, you can just go over it on your machine a little bit. There's always a way to fix it. Just kind of turn this right side out, just so you can see how nice the curve is. So, it really helps when you do a lot of clipping. I'm gonna turn that inside out again, and we're gonna make our last seam in the top hood. So, this is a little bit tricky but I'll show you a little technique that helps. We're actually making darts. So you're going to see on your pattern that we're making two darts, almost like one on each side of the top of the hood. And you always sew into your dart. You never start at the narrow and come up. And this is also really helpful, we have four pieces here, we're gonna stick those together. I often stick a pin right through each seam. And that really helps me line my seams up. So, gonna do that. And you're gonna lay this flat, so make sure you have your ears in there. Come over to the machine, and we'll put the needle right in that seam there, so we know it's gonna stay. And we're going to backstitch a little bit. Now you're going to run into all this thickness cause we have the two layers and we have the ears, so just guide it through slowly. On someone's machine, you might need to adjust the tension of the foot. Okay, and so here we are, coming to the point of the dart. And you wanna get it nice and narrow. And instead of clipping it, we can just let it run off. And it basically ties the threads together, and creates a little knot. And then you're all set. If you're having difficulty finding the end of where the dart should go, I would suggest you holding your pattern up here, to the piece and you can take your marker, and don't forget you have your seam allowance there, and you can just put a little red dot. Or you can put a pin there, it doesn't matter. So now I'm going to pin this side. And remember I wanna start from here, so I might need to turn the hat to the other side. And I'm going to pin. And I'm going to follow right down to where the dot is. And that's going to be where you're going to end sewing. So I'm going to bring this over to the machine, put it down into the seam, and backstitch a little bit, and you can see how that bright Washi tape is really helpful for your guide. Again, you're going through several layers so you wanna go nice and slow. And you're gonna follow right to the red dot, and then, stitch off a little bit. So this is a little trick, in the pattern, it's going to tell you to leave a long tail, and you can tie it off into a knot, but this works just as well. So we're going to trim up our threads. And here we are again, with another curve, so, we're going to do what we did before. And we're gonna gently cut. You might feel more comfortable with a small pair of scissors or shears and so go ahead and use that if you like. I'm always worried about cutting it, but there. Alright. When



working with faux fur, I like to clip the curve, but you can also iron open the seam. Just make sure when you're using faux fur that you use a pressing cloth. So now we're ready to reveal the ears. And you're going to pull that out. You're about halfway done. We're ready to go on to the lining.

#### Make braid and finish hat

- Now that you've finished the outer hood let's move on to the lining. So the lining is right here, and I'm going to mark it next to our pattern. It's sewn the exact the same way as you did the outer hood except for one exception. We actually need to leave a hole in the lining right here, and that's how we're going to turn the lining inside out when we're finished sewing it to the outer hood. So here, want you to notice that we have two little red marks, and that is your two holes right here, L and L. So I'm gonna match that up, and you can either mark it with a pen like this or you can mark it with your fabric marker which I did here. I've also sewn along from the starting point here up to the red mark, and then skipped over, and then started here at the red mark, and continued to the end, backstitching at each end, and then I also sewed along the top here, like we did with the outer hood. Next we're going to show how to do the darts again. So I folded it this way, and here again we're going to line up the seams, and pin it, and remember if you do need that marking spot to know where your dart ends you can do that with your little fabric marker, and then we're going to move over to the sewing machine. Put this right underneath the sewing machine, and lower it right in between the seam, and this is a great way to get your seams lined up, and we're gonna back stitch a little bit, and use the tape as our guide, and we're just gonna go right down nice long point, and finish it off. Kay, clip, and then we're gonna come around to the side, and do the same thing. So you can really see the curvature here with the red thread on the white. So I just wanted to get you to see a nice look at that. At this point I like to clip my curves, and we'll turn it inside out so you can see what that looks like. Again you won't be able to see the red stitching at all because like I said you'll use a neutral thread, and I'm just doing that to help you see how we're constructing the pattern together. So put your lining aside, and let's get going on the braids. The braids are the last thing you need to do before we assemble your hat. You can use three strands of chunky yarn, 40 inches long for each braid. I have a little bit thinner yarn, so I'm going to use six strands 40 inches long for each braid. So I'm gonna cut 40 inches, fold in half, and I'mma tie in a knot, get it about halfway, and pull and secure your knot, you're gonna lay it down and pin it. I'm pinning it to my iron pad, but you can do it to a piece of foam core, or a cardboard, whatever you have. So we're going to divide the strands of yarn into three sections, four strands each, and then we're just going to do a traditional braid. Now it's noted in the pattern that for child safety purposes you should keep your braid about nine inches long, and that's what we did on this one here. So we can just follow this one next to us, and we get near the bottom join everything together, and then just tie in a little slipknot like this, and pull through, and then you can just trim the bottom. I braided my strands first the pattern actually tells you to attach it to the hood, and then braid it. I just happened to find this easier to manage all the strands together. So you do whatever you feel is easiest for you, and I'm gonna show you next, we're gonna take our pattern, we're gonna lay it on top of the hood. You're gonna find the little dot on your pattern piece, and you can just move it up, and this is where you place your braid. So we're just gonna pin that right here, and you see on this one I've already did a red dot. I'm gonna pin it one this side. If you feel more comfortable you can actually baste this right down instead of leaving the pins, cause next we're going to attach the lining to the outer hood. So, and you can also just ya know, take a few pins, and bring your braid up here, and that will keep it out of the way of your seams. So you don't really have to worry about it. You don't have to worry about catching the

braid in your seams. This is where the magic happens. I'm going to join the lining to the outer hood together. So it's pretty exciting. I'm gonna take the hat, I'm gonna leave it as is, and I'm going to take, and join right sides together. So we're gonna lift, and put that right over here. We're going to line up the center seams, and as I showed you before if you stick a pin right in between the seams like this, and right through here, you'll do a pretty good job of keeping them lined up, and then we're going to pin all the way around, and make sure you pin a little bit, because remember we have a half inch seam there. That's why it's important to maintain your seam allowance. That way you can make sure everything fits together properly. We're now ready to go to the sewing machine, and this is the only part that's open. So, I can't tell you how many times I've sewn this up. So it's really important that's how you're gonna turn your hat right side out. So let's sew it up, and just remember gently follow your curves, and use your tape or your guide on your machine, and here we're coming to the braid. So remember you put that knot outside there. So, kind of goes over really easily, and around the second braid. You can see that's fitting together really nicely. I'm gonna go over the seam, backstitch, and we're done. Before the big reveal, we're going to clip our seams. At this point you can also trim your seams if you feel they're a little bit bulky, but I think it looks pretty good here. So we're just going to clip, and you can ya know, if it's a really tight curve, I would clip every ya know, half inch. If it's a little bit wider you can go further, and since the pattern is made up of all curves around the whole outside I just would go ahead and clip the whole thing. Okay, we're done. Now we're going to open up our little slit there, and we're gonna start pulling the hat right side out. So when I found a couple pins, so be careful. I left the pins in there with the braid. Kay, and since you have the braid sewn in there you can also use it to help you pull it, it's coming, kay. Have your hat ready, and then you're going to mold the lining into the outer hood, like this, and you're gonna pull out all your edges, kay. So you have that complete. Now you have the opening left, and what you're going to do is fold the seam over like this. I know it's white on white, so it's a little hard to see. Take a few pins, and sometimes the lining feels a little bulky, so you can actually take the seam, and adjust it a little bit, and you can tuck some of your lining into that. So it actually is a little bit smoother. The other tip that I can give you is that if you're using a very thick pile, you wanna end up tacking the lining to the outer side. So you'd wanna use a white thread here, and you would just tack the under part of your fur on this side, and that would hold it in place, but this is working out really good. So I don't think we need to do that here. We're going to finish off the seam with a slip stitch. So I'll use white. So catch your bottom fabric, your fur, and right along like this. Take your pin out. We're almost done. So tuck any threads under, and just a couple more stitches, and you're finished. I'm just going to sew that a couple of times. You can knot if you feel that would be more secure, but just a couple of stitches in and out should do it, and with that your hat is done, and regardless of who you made it for I'm sure you'll wanna try it on yourself.

## **Chapter 5 - Variations**

### Other versions

- Now that you've finished your hood, you can make all the different views on the pattern. So I'm gonna show you a few variations. I got creative and tried a few things. This one I made with fleece, and just so I want you to notice that the lining inside has a nap, so you need to be extra careful so the dogs aren't upside down. And then this hood has a little pocket, which is made of fleece to keep the little one's hands warm. And then we actually made a little applique of paws, so I took a piece of felt. And I took a fusible web, and I ironed it on. So here's what the webbing looks like underneath. So you can use some spray adhesive that's removable to spray your pattern piece on, especially

with the small ones it might be a little easier to cut out the little paws here. And then you just peel them off. You peel the paper off, and you'll iron 'em on. I thought I'd share my mistake that I made here in hopes that you won't do the same. When you're putting your applique paw on, I actually put this one on upside down. So when you put it on, see? So just be sure, you know. Put your placement on. Take a look. And then iron it on. This is one really cute variation with the little bear ears. And then we have many more to show you. This is the hood that we just made. The braids, so I actually did cording and pom poms. And I can show you quickly how to do that. This version of the tie, which is a pom pom on a cord is not in the pattern, so I can quickly show you how to do that. First, I cut a circle out of the coordinating fabric, about three, three and a half inches. And I did a running stitch around, and then I'm just going to gently start to pull that. Finish off my stitch. And then take some Poly-fil. Pop it in there and my cording. And I'll pull it tight. And then I'm going to sew right through the cord. And I'm using this orange thread just so hopefully you can see it a little bit better. I'm just gonna run that through several times. And then tie it off. You're actually going to put the cord, you're going to insert the cord into your seam allowance the same way you did your braid. Okay, so you're gonna just slip that stitch a few more times and then trim it off. But one tip I'd like to show you is that it's a little bit thick, so the cord, most cordings either have a filler inside that you can pull down and cut off. Or you can just unravel it like this for about, you know, a half inch or so. And then when you put that in the seam, you can sew over it nice and flat. So that's another tip. This is for the fox. And basically what we did is we cut the ears out with a pattern, and then we cut a smaller piece out, maybe about a third of the way down. And you can either put fusible webbing on it or baste it onto the right side of your fabric, and then just sew it as normal. And then when you turn it inside out, you come out with these nice little ears. That's one. And then here's another hood, and what I'd like to show you about this one is this is made with a really thick pile. So we really had to take our seam ripper or you can use a pen or a sharp pencil, and just pull it out there. And then this is also where fur is so forgiving. At the top, where we had those four pieces come together, you know, if they didn't come together so great, you can just take your seam ripper and pull that little pile out there. And then since this is such a thick pile, I also did the basting that we talked a little bit about earlier. I did some basting around the edge here to kind of hold it in place. And when you're doing that, a thick pile usually has a netted back, so it's really easy to hook your thread and needle onto that. And then I also used braids on this one, but I didn't insert it into my seam. I actually just tied the knot, and I sewed it on afterwards. So it was actually a little bit easier that way. We have one more hood variation. So this is actually done with a pre-quilted fabric, and it has a really cute flannel, plaid lining on the inside, and then I did the inserts of the ears. But in the seam, I put a little pom pom trim around that, and I did the pom poms on the end of the cording. So it's just another cute little variation. This is one of my favorites. It's made the exact same way that the hood was made, but you include the tail. It also has a really great texture with the fabric, so I kind of fussy cut, which is I put my pattern pieces over the dots that I really wanted to be in the tail. And it's made with a red fleece lining, so it's really nice and warm. And I did the coordinating ears on the inside. Well, this is my favorite. And it's really made for a doll, but I really think I want to see it on a cat 'cause everyone knows cats are the new dogs. I think it's really pretty cute. As you can see, I had a lot of fun making these hoods and hats, and I'm sure you will, too. So you can choose a wide variety of animal prints that look like they're from nature, or you can use some crazy, wild colors and camo. So be creative and have good time.