

Duvet Cover Tutorial

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This tutorial is for using material and not sheets. You will notice a change in fabric as we go along that is because I forgot to take pictures of the top of my duvet cover so it is the back fabric.

Fabric - I chose three different fabric, two for the top and one for the bottom. You can pick one fabric, it is your own creation so go with the flow. I did and it was a lot of fun.

Ribbon or Cotton Twill – 32”

Scissors or rotary cutter (I prefer rotary as I can't cut straight to save my life and it helps to use the rotary with a ruler).

Ruler - I would suggest one that is 36" or buy one of the quilter rulers that is half of a piece of fabric. I used a 50% off coupon when I bought mine, as they can be on the expensive side.

Thread to match

Seam Ripper

Sewing machine, and

Pins

First thing you need to do is measure the comforter or duvet you are going to use or you can measure your bed. About.com has a nice page on sizes. I measured my bed from side to side and since I wanted a nice over hang I added that on, then I measured from top to bottom.

I will be talking about the top of the duvet cover, remember you will have to repeat these steps again for the back, think of this when you are buying your material. You will also need to know that material comes in different widths and more than likely you will have to add on to the width of the fabric. I will show you how to do that in these lessons. For now let us say that the width of the material is 45" wide. Since this is not going to be wide enough for your bed double the length of material you will buy. Here is an **example** - the measurement you have for your bed is 85" wide by 103" and say you are figuring on seams and hems (for each side of the duvet you will have 4 seams for the width, 1 seam and 1 hem for the length) for 1/4" seams for width you will have to add an inch to your calculations, and for the length you will have to add 1/4" seam and I would go at least 2" for the hem (this is where you will have your buttonholes and buttons, I suggest 1 inch then fold another 1 inch and sew, but we will get to that later). I bought 3 yards of one material and 3 yards of another, for the back I bought 6 yards, I figured the extra would be fine just in case. That would be 216" long and 45" wide. Now you will have to cut the 6 yards in half so you have two 3 yard pieces. I would suggest ironing and making a nice sharp crease to follow for cutting. It also helps if you have a yard stick or nice sturdy ruler to use. I use a rotary cutter so I just need to follow along the ruler's edge when I cut.



Now you will have to cut one of the 3 yards of material in half along the width, so you will be making that 45" piece of fabric into two 22.5". Again I would suggest ironing and making a nice sharp crease. I am anal, so I also took a ruler (since my fabric was 44" my ruler mark will be different in the picture) and at the halfway mark, 22.5" for a 45" wide of fabric, I placed my ruler and used the edge for my rotary cutter to follow.



Now pin one half of the cut material to the left side of your 45" piece of fabric 1/4" and the other half another 1/4" to the right side. So now you will have an 89" piece of fabric.



Sew these two seams allowing for a 1/4 seam allowance.



Repeat these instructions for the back of the duvet cover.

Just because I am anal and I wanted to make sure I didn't screw up on my inch figuring, once the fabric was pinned at the widths I laid them out on the floor and put my comforter, queen size, on it, just to eyeball to see if it would fit. I also put on my down duvet which is a king size, that fit also so I knew I was all set.

Any questions don't hesitate to ask. I have plenty of pictures also, so if you want to see something because you aren't sure, ask me and I'll send it on to you.

Now you should have two pieces, the top and the bottom.

Here is where you will need to make some decisions

- 1- Do you want your closures to be ribbons, snaps, velcro, buttons, or whatever else you can think of.
- 2- We will be adding some cotton ribbon inside the duvet at the four corners, these will be used to tie your duvet corners and keep everything together instead of sliding around. (Thank you Martha Stewart for this tip) You need to decide if you are going to sew them into the seam or add them afterwards.
- 3- If you bought 6 yards of fabric for the top and the bottom you might have an extra 14-16 inches (depending on what size duvet you are making). You can leave this extra on, just sew up the two side seams and turn duvet right side out and sew across the extra fabric where you would have sewn the seam. Now you can fold your material over when on the bed and have a decorated "flap" (if you used two different materials for the top and bottom).

The following instructions will be worked with the duvet cover inside out and not using the extra inches for a "flap."

Pin down the sides and across what you want to be the top of the sheet (one of the smaller ends). Pin the ribbons into the hem if you want to do them here. Once that is pinned go ahead and sew the hem closed.

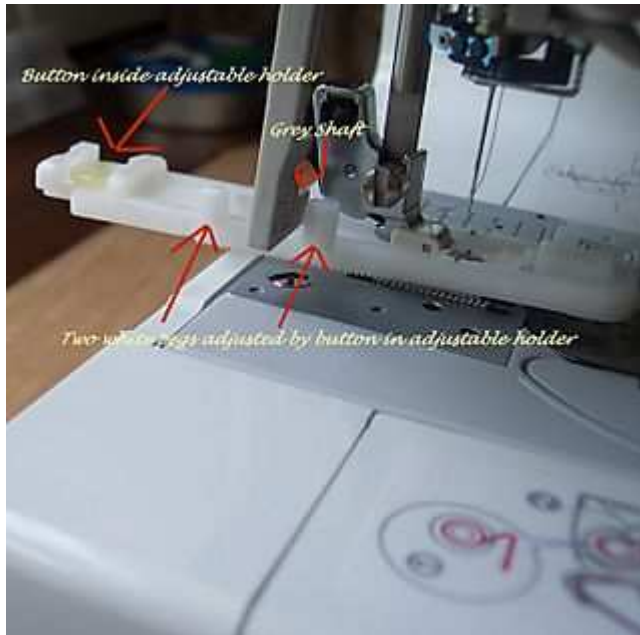
The next step is to put on your closure, I did buttonholes so that is what I will show you here. However if you add something else like snaps or velcro that should be easy enough to figure out. Where your opening (the bottom of the duvet) is, fold that over twice to make a nice 2" hem (you can make this smaller if wish just remember you will need room for your button and buttonhole).

Sew the hem. My hem isn't 2 inches because I miscalculated. It worked out fine because the buttons I picked out were small and I made my buttonholes horizontal.



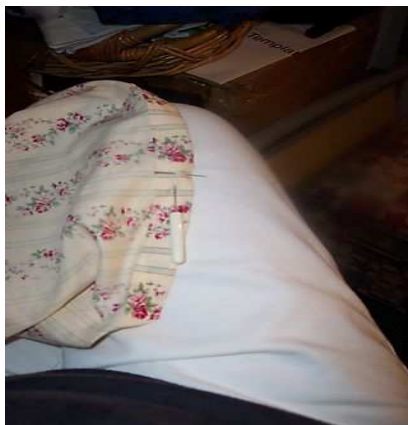
Mark out how far apart you want your buttonholes and where you will start to sew each buttonhole. I was lucky and my material was striped so I just did every three strips. You can easily see the striping in the above photo.

Okay now the fun part. I had a blast doing this even though it was my first time. Put on your buttonhole foot and follow your manufacturer's directions. I have a Brother and this was how I did it. I put one of the buttons onto the back of the buttonhole foot and closed it up to fit my button (see picture), then I press down a gray shaft that goes between two white bars. The white bars are set by your button being placed on the back and this is the height or width of your button and determines the size of the buttonhole sewed.



Now sew your buttonhole. This was fun because I didn't have to do a thing the machine did it all. When it was done I breathed a sigh of relief and my Mom's words rang in my ear "oh sewing a buttonhole is real easy, you shouldn't have a problem with it." Boy was she right, I wondered what I got all nervous about. Repeat this step as many times as you need to for the amount of buttons you will be sewing on.

I'll show a picture of the next step.



Now it is time to rip open your buttonhole. Take a pin and mark the top of your buttonhole (this will stop the seam ripper from cutting into your newly sewn buttonhole. I heard about a tool the other day that can do this for you but I haven't used it. Using your seam ripper cut it into the bottom of the buttonhole and push upwards to open the hole. Do this on all your buttonholes.

Okay this next part was just so much fun. I machine sewed my buttons on. OMG was this so easy compared to hand sewing.

First, use a pin to go through your newly made buttonhole as if it is a button, actually pinning the other hem where you will sew on your button. I found this was an excellent way to mark where my buttons will go. Put on your button foot. Measure the holes between the buttonholes; mine were 2.5mm, now set your width to 2.5mm. Line up your button under the foot, put the foot down, and now remove the pin. Using your hand, turn the wheel to make sure the needle will go into the first hole correctly without hitting the button. Keep turning the wheel until it goes into the second hole correctly. If the needle doesn't hit the button sew, if it does hit the button adjust so it doesn't hit the button, then sew. I just sat back and watched it sew on the button. I had four holes on my button, I just had to move my button up so it would do the second set.

Here is a picture. It is a little blurry but you can get the idea of the button and button foot.



Sew on all your buttons.

This is when I chose to put on my cotton ties. I cut off 4 8" pieces and folded them in half. I laid them out on each corner and sewed them on, going back and forth a couple of times.



Now turn your duvet cover right side out and VIOLA!!!! You are now the very proud owner of a new duvet cover.



Hugs!!!
Namaste!!!