

Projects

How to Match Plaids



This child's coat is a great project try when practicing to match plaids. Use a large plaid pattern for simpler matching, and remember to keep many pins on hand. Pinning is key when successfully matching plaids.

Skill Level: Intermediate

Created by: Diane Kron, Embroidery and Software Project Manager

Supplies:

Baby Lock® Sewing Machine

Black and white plaid fabric for main areas on the coat

Black velveteen fabric for collar and pockets

Lining fabric (red floral cotton)

Sew Classic Clothes for Girls Lindsay Wilkes

Walking foot

Pins

Ruler and marking pen (optional)

Tips:

- Buy extra fabric. Allow extra fabric to match stripes or plaids. Buy approximately 25% more than what the pattern calls for. If you have a very large plaid buy additional yardage.
- This coat pattern that is being used is perfect for this project since it doesn't have too many pattern pieces. The more seams that you have the additional matching will be required. In the coat, there are two side seams and the two seams for the sleeves. The collar and the pockets used a solid black velveteen fabric.

At the Cutting Table:

1. First, lay out your fabric on your cutting table, folding in half (as shown below in the illustration). See how quickly the stripes become un-aligned.



2. Match the plaid strips both vertical and horizontal. What we're going to do is line up *every plaid intersection* and pin them together. This is the best way to ensure perfectly-matching plaids for both layers.



3. Now line up the intersections one by one. Starting close to the fold line, push the first pin through both layers of fabric and notice where the pin enters the second layer. If it does not intersect at the same position as the first layer, adjust the position on the second layer so that the plaids match. Once they are lined up, pin the intersection. Work across the fabric toward the salvages pinning each intersection so that the top and bottom layers match. Repeat for all of the rows where the plaids intersect. This will be time consuming, but the end result will look great. Before you move on to the next intersection, always double check to be sure that the plaids are perfectly aligned. Place all the pins in the same directions. This will help for removal of the pins later.



4. After you have a section large enough for the pattern back section of the coat, place the pattern piece on the fold line on the fabric. Cut out the section, but be aware of the location of the pins. Remove pins as needed while maintaining the position of the layers. **Tip:** If you have enough pins, you could pin all intersections until your whole piece of fabric is pinned. I didn't because I don't have that many pins, and pinning can be boring. If you get into a groove, by all means pin the entire length. Alternative: you could open the fabric and cut each pattern piece twice. That would mean less matching of plaid intersections, but more marking of plaid lines on pattern pieces.
5. Since the pattern that is being used is for a child, and the width of the fabric is 60" wide, both the front and back sections will fit on the same width of the fabric. Pin the front pattern section next to the pattern back section. In order for the side seam plaids to match with the back section plaid, match the positioning of notches on the front pattern piece with the notches on the back pattern piece. Always double check to be sure that the plaids match.
6. Match the plaids for the sleeve section.
7. Place the pattern for the sleeve on the fabric. Match the notches on the sleeve to the notches on the front and back pattern sections. Cut out the sleeves. Don't forget to remove the pins as needed before cutting.
8. In the sample, velveteen fabric was used for the collar and the pockets.
9. Continue to follow the instructions from the pattern book to finish the coat. In the sample, velveteen fabric was used for the collar and the pockets. Cut them out at this time.
10. Using the red floral cotton cut out the lining, ruffle for the bottom edge of the sleeve and the tie for the coat.

At the Sewing Machine:

1. Set the machine up for sewing and attach the walking foot. The walking foot will work great when sewing the seams together so that both top and bottom sections will feed at the same speed. This means that the bottom section will feed at the same speed as the top section keeping the plaids matched.
2. Follow the directions from the pattern book for assembling the coat. When sewing the side seams, pin the front and back together being careful that the plaids match. Sew the seams together using the walking foot.

For other exciting projects like this one, visit our website at www.babylock.com

