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Tricia Waddell demonstrates the right techniques for sewing on pleather.

Watch the video for this project online at:
<http://youtu.be/HL2qjMMmnsk>



Techniques and Tips for Sewing Faux Leather



General Tips

- Faux leather is available in a variety of weights from lightweight to heavier upholstery weight. The weight will determine your seaming options.
- Faux leathers do not have a grainline. However they usually have a knit or woven backing. Pay attention to which direction (crosswise or lengthwise) has the most stretch (usually crosswise) when laying out your pattern.
- Choose a pattern with simple lines and few construction details.
- Purchase a little extra fabric to practice stitching on before you begin sewing your project

Cutting and Marking

- Cut faux leather using a rotary cutter and self-healing cutting mat using a “with nap” layout to avoid shading concerns.
- Do not use a tracing wheel on faux leather because it will damage it. Instead use a chalk wheel to mark pattern lines on the right side and tailor’s chalk or a fabric pen to mark pattern lines on the backing. Cut snips in the faux leather for pattern notches.

Seaming

- Pins will damage faux leather by causing permanent pin holes. If you must use pins, only pin within the seam allowance.
- Use binder clips or Wonder Clips (from Clover) to hold faux leather together for seaming. Double-sided tape made especially for fabric (so that the tape residue is easily removed) can also be used inside the seam allowance to hold fabric layers together while seaming. Remove the tape after seaming.
- For seaming, you can use a regular foot but if it is hard to feed the fabric through (especially on the right side) use a Teflon foot, roller foot or leather foot. If you are using a regular foot and the faux leather is sticking to the foot, put masking tape along the bottom of the foot, use a layer of tissue paper between the foot and the fabric, or dust the leather with cornstarch or talcum powder.
- Use Microtex/sharp sewing machine needles when sewing faux leather to minimize the size of the holes. Use a heavier needle if sewing on heavyweight faux leather. A twin needle can also be used for decorative topstitching. Use a longer stitch length, at least 3.5mm.
- Do not use an iron on faux leather. Topstitch seam allowances open or to one side (depending on fabric weight) instead to get them to lay flat.

Edge Finishes

- Since faux leather does not ravel, edges can be left raw or cut with decorative scissors.
- Edges can be finished with bindings and bands if they are not attached to a lining.
- If using a folded hem, stitch the hem by hand catching only the backing fabric or topstitch the hem.

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