

COAT HANGER COVER

Written Sewing Instructions by Colleen Bell

Coat hanger covers are both practical and elegant. They can be simply made with muslin so that they can be used for preservation of heirloom garments or they can be elaborately embellished for a bridal trousseau, as well every day garment use with a calico. This project is for one lightly padded coat hanger cover that fits a 17" wide standard coat hanger with a 6" curve.

FINISHED SIZE:

17.5" by 6.5" (this can be varied by cutting a different size)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- **TEMPLATE** – from the website of *The Embroiderist*:
<http://www.the-embroiderist.com/coat-hanger-cover>
- **COAT HANGER** – A 17" hanger with a 6" curve. If it is to be used for a garment that is to be stored and preservation is important, it should be made out of polypropylene or polyethylene. If this is to be used for everyday garments, then wooden or any other product is suitable.
- **FABRIC** – 9" by the width of the fabric that has been pressed **Note:** *If this is to be used for an heirloom garment or stored, the fabric should be a natural (undyed and untreated) cotton muslin that has also been washed.*
- **Quilt Batting** – 1 yard at 9" wide (cotton, polyester or wool – be careful of fiber content if using it for preservation)
- **Thread** – good quality polyester or cotton in a coordinating color
- **Tailor's Ham** – This is helpful when pressing, but not important
- **Ribbons, Lace, and Trims** – any coordinating trims, lace, and ribbons that are to be added as decoration
- **OPTIONAL:** Zipper Foot Attachment – it is helpful to have this, but it is not necessary

NOTE: Please use a ½" seam allowance, except where noted below in the specific instructions.

PREPARATION STEPS:

1. Download the hanger cover template.
2. Print the hanger cover template.
3. Cut out the hanger cover template.
4. Using the hanger cover template and placing it on the fold, cut two pieces from the main fabric.
5. Using the hanger cover template and placing it on the fold, cut two pieces from the quilt batting.
6. Cut 2 rectangles from the main fabric that measure 1.25" by 4".
7. Press the two rectangles in half lengthwise with the wrong sides together. Each piece should now measure 1.25" by 2".

NOTE: If you want to embellish the outer portion of the hanger cover, you should do it now before construction begins, unless you want to glue the embellishments on after construction. Allow for a ½” seam allowance on both sides.

ASSEMBLY STEPS:

1. Place the batting on the wrong side of the main fabric cover and pin place or baste by machine using a ¼” seam allowance.
2. Lay one piece of the main fabric of the coat hanger on a flat surface with the right side up and batting down. The top of the hanger where the hook will be should be in the up/north position.
3. To provide an opening for the hook of the hanger, place the two rectangles fold to fold. Now line the two rectangles up on the top of the cover, i.e., along the 4 inch straight area at the top of the cover.
4. Sew these pieces together along the straight 4 inch top – batting on the bottom, main fabric on top of the batting and 2 rectangles side by side along the top of the main fabric. The two rectangles are in the fold to fold position, meeting at the center of the 4 inch straight area at the top. Be careful that the foot does not go under the second rectangle. Resume using a ½ inch seam allowance.
5. Follow steps 2-4 for the other side, but be careful not to sew the other side to this side. Keep them separate. They should only be connected at the 4 inches at the top. You now have an opening for the hook of the hanger.
6. Pin the front and backs together at the curves.
7. Sew the curved sides together starting at the bottom of the curve, i.e., the area farthest away from the opening. Be careful to keep the curves smooth while sewing, as any deviation will be noticeable. When you reach the 4 inch opening, stop sewing exactly on the previous seam. Do not sew even one stitch over this seam. If you do, please use your seam ripper to remove the stitch.
8. Clip the corners, being careful not to cut the stitching.
9. Using a tailor’s ham, press the seams open.
10. Turn the coat hanger right side out.
11. Insert the wooden or plastic hanger into the opening at the top of the cover and smooth the corners and make any adjustments.
12. Fold the bottom of the coat hanger up so that the raw edges are in inside the coat hanger and not in view. Leave approximately ½” from the bottom of the hanger. Press the bottom of the coat hanger and make sure the bottom edges are perfectly aligned.
13. Using a zipper foot or a standard foot, sew this seam from the outside (edgestitch) as close as possible to the edge of the fabric. Be careful not to run into the hanger itself.
14. Embellish the hanger as desired using a good quality fabric glue.

