

# SEWING WITH CORDUROY - FREE DOWNLOAD

*Posted on October 15, 2020 by Stephanie Triplett*



**Corduroy**, known for its vertical wales and velvet-like texture, is a fabric staple for cool-weather wardrobes. A successful corduroy garment starts with quality fabric and ends with a prepared sewist to make construction a breeze. Keep reading to make your next corduroy garment with ease.

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# SEWING WITH CORDUROY

CORDUROY, VERY SIMILAR TO VELVET, IS A PILE FABRIC THAT HAS A RAISED SURFACE CONSISTING OF UPRIGHT LOOPS. THE PILE IS THEN CUT TO CREATE **WALES**, OR RIBS THAT RUN ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE FABRIC. SOME WALES ACTUALLY RUN VERTICAL WHICH CAN BE A GREAT DESIGN FEATURE.

## CONTENT

CORDUROY IS MOSTLY MADE WITH EITHER 100% COTTON OR A COTTON/POLYESTER BLEND. A HIGH GRADE GOOD QUALITY CORDUROY WILL ALMOST ALWAYS BE MADE FROM **100% COTTON**. DEPENDING ON YOUR DESIGN, YOU MAY WANT TO CHOOSE A SPANDEX BLEND TO ALLOW FOR STRETCH

## CONSTRUCTION

IT IS SUGGESTED THAT WHEN USING CORDUROY, CHOOSE A DESIGN WITH CLEAN LINES AND MINIMAL SEAMS. A SIMPLE DESIGN WILL HIGHLIGHT THE FABRIC WHICH IS ULTIMATELY THE MAIN DESIGN FEATURE. MAKE SURE TO **FOLLOW THE NAP DIRECTION** WHEN ARRANGING YOUR PATTERN PIECES.

CORDUROY IS AVAILABLE IN A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT WEIGHTS. THEY ARE MEASURED BY THE NUMBER OF **WALES PER SQUARE INCH**. THIS DETERMINES THE WEIGHT OF THE FABRIC. HIGHER WALE COUNT IS GOOD FOR FASHION FABRIC, AND A LOW WALE COUNT WOULD BE GREAT FOR UPHOLSTERY.

## CARE



CORDUROY IS TYPICALLY AN EASY FABRIC TO CARE FOR.

BECAUSE IT'S GENERALLY MADE FROM 100% COTTON, IT CAN BE MACHINE WASHED AND HUNG TO DRY. CORDUROY SHOULD **NEVER BE IRONED**. STEAMING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED INSTEAD. PRESSING WITH DIRECT HEAT CAN RUIN THE FABRIC'S LUSTER AND NAP.

## SEWING

UNIVERSAL SEWING MACHINE NEEDLES SIZE 70/10 ARE GREAT FOR SEWING FASHION WEIGHT CORDUROY. USE SIZE 80/12 FOR LARGER WALES. FOR CLEAN FLAT SEAMS, IT'S BEST TO USE A SERGER TO FINISH THE EDGES. **NEVER USE A FUSIBLE** INTERFACING. A SEW-IN INTERFACING DOESN'T REQUIRE HEAT AND WILL HAVE BETTER RESULTS.



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## 1. SELECTING FABRIC

- 100% cotton corduroy is going to last longer than corduroy with a polyester blend.
- Avoid corduroy that has a cloud of powdery dust or looks discolored when scratched with a fingernail. These are signs of low-quality corduroy.

- Check the backside of the corduroy to make sure it's firm and tightly woven
- A high sheen is a good sign of high-quality corduroy.

## 2. CUTTING

- Identify the nap and decide what way you want your pile to lie and keep it consistent when cutting out your pattern pieces.
- Make sure its vertical lines are straight when cutting and sewing to keep everything aligned.
- Corduroy sheds a lot when being cut and sewn, so keep a **lint roller** handy for easy cleanup.
- Preshrink the fabric before cutting to avoid shrinkage later.
- Cutting in a single layer will encourage straight vertical ribs that line up from one layer to the next.
- A sharp pair of **shears** or a **rotary cutter** will cut back on the amount of fuzz and fraying produced.

## 3. PRESSING

- To open up seams, use the finger press method first.
  - If a deeper press is necessary, then use a small scrap of the fabric you're using as a pressing cloth to press the fabric to avoid crushing the ribbed piles.
- Use steam when possible and a light touch. Unwanted iron indentions will show up on corduroy.

## 4. SEWING

- To avoid any *pile-ups* when sewing, lift the presser foot and lower the tension on the sewing machine or use a walking foot, which will keep the pile from being disrupted.
- Let ribbed texture be the star by keeping the silhouette relatively simple and streamlined.
- Clip curves and corners to reduce bulk.
- Use a heavyweight or **denim needle** when sewing.
- **All-purpose thread** is suitable for corduroy or a type that has the same content as the fabric you're using.
- Use a wide stitch length.
- Use **fabric weights** inside of pins or wonder clips to avoid bending or nap indentions.
- Grade seam allowances to make for smooth sewing and less bulk.

- Use a zigzag or overlock stitch to finish seam allowances and stop fraying in its tracks.
- Perform fits tests throughout construction— corduroy will show off any signs of stress.

## Pattern Suggestions

- [Overalls](#)
- [Cassia Skirt](#)
- [The Pinafore Collection](#)
- [Forsythia Jeans](#)
- [Cypress Dress](#)

By taking the time to select a quality fabric, cut with caution, and sew with care, you'll be sewing corduroy like a pro in no time. Give your wardrobe the gift of texture with corduroy pieces that will carry you through fall and winter. Don't be afraid to share the wealth— Leave a comment below with your favorite tips for sewing with corduroy.