

Vivienne Vest

I love argyle patterns, but sometimes they can be a bit, well, stuffy. With its frayed edges and yarn embroidery, this vest is more punk rock than prep school, à la Vivienne Westwood, one of my favorite designers. If you don't like vests, this pattern can easily be adapted to a skirt, a dress, or even a tote bag.

Materials

Chalk-backed dressmaker's paper
Pencil
Lightweight cardboard
Paper scissors
Tailor's chalk
Old plaid wool skirt or ¼ yd. (.23m) plaid wool fabric
Vest in wool or synthetic knit
Fusible webbing
Iron
Sewing machine
Matching sewing thread
Worsted-weight yarn in three colors
Size 18 chenille needle

Step 1 Enlarge diamond pattern on page 171 to 250 percent or desired size. Use dressmaker's paper to transfer diamond onto cardboard. Cut out template. (See "Transferring with chalk-backed dressmaker's paper" on page 30.)

Step 2 Trace around template using tailor's chalk onto plaid wool. Make sure that fabric weave is

parallel with edges of diamond. Cut out three diamonds. Then fray ¾ in. (19mm) fringe on all edges.

Step 3 Mark a line down center of vest using tailor's chalk.

Step 4 Cut fusible webbing for each diamond. Remove paper from one side of webbing. Following manufacturer's directions, use iron to fuse webbing to wrong side of each diamond. (See "Appliqué" on page 56.)

Step 5 Remove paper from webbing. Place top diamond on vest approximately 2 in. (5.1cm) below neckline. Have points of diamond on chalk line. Use iron to fuse diamond to vest. Fuse middle and bottom diamonds to vest along chalk line, making sure points of diamonds touch slightly.

Step 6 Using straight stitch, machine-sew diamonds to vest ¾ in. (19mm) from all edges.

Step 7 Referring to photograph, use chalk to draw stitching lines for embroidered diamonds. Use running stitch and yarn to embroider fabric diamonds along stitching lines and chalk-marked diamonds. An embroidery hoop isn't necessary. (See "Running stitch" on page 20.)

