

Teaching Guide for Ami Simms' Rag Fur Jacket Pattern ©2005 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

By Ami Simms and Nanette S. Zeller

It takes about 20 hours to make this jacket. Obviously, the more time the student can work on the project at home, the less you have to charge for a class. However, students enjoy the camaraderie of their classmates; they often don't have time for homework; and they truly appreciate the success of having a completed project at the end of the class. With these factors in mind, this outline was developed as a two sessions class, one 5 hours long and the other 3 hours. The sessions are intended to provide hands-on guided instruction and leave homework to topics that have been thoroughly explained/demonstrated in class.

The sessions are divided into 4 lessons that are approximately 1.5 to 2 hours long. The lessons can be used as convenient stopping points for breaks or can be used to divide the class into more frequent class meetings. (Times are approximate. Your mileage may vary.) Be forewarned that in lesson 1, students will be handling lots of fabric yardage. Be sure to allow adequate workspace.

For best results, the teacher should have made at least one Rag Fur Jacket before class starts rather than working "one step ahead" of the students. Finished jackets in a variety of fabric combinations are helpful for inspiring your students. Teachers and students can go to Ami's web site to see completed Rag Fur Jackets in many color combinations (<http://www.amisimms.com/youragfurja.html>). Demo jackets that are in various stages of construction are helpful in demonstrating the concepts. With your guidance, even novice sewers with basic sewing skills can make this jacket. Above all, have fun!

Supply List:

Pattern: *Rag Fur Jacket* by Ami Simms

Fringe Fabric (see pattern back for size & yardage requirements); must be tightly woven 100% cotton with equal color saturation on all sides.

Base Jacket Fabric (see pattern back for size & yardage requirements); same as fringe fabric or may be any quilting weight cotton or blend.

Rotary Cutter

Rotary Mat

6" x 24" Omnigrip Ruler

Yardstick (Omnigrid brand is quite helpful)

Tape measure

Washout fabric pencil

Fiskars® Softouch® Home and Office Scissors (or other heavy duty sewing scissors)

Small scissors (for clipping threads while sewing)

Straight Pins

Safety pins

Hand-sewing needles

Matching and contrasting thread

Bobbins (2) loaded with matching thread

Sewing machine (in good working condition).

Since all machines work differently, please bring a sewing machine that you are familiar with using. To make the most productive use of your in-class time, before your first class please know the following about your machine:

- How to thread the machine
- How to wind and thread a bobbin
- How to sew a straight line and zig-zag stitch, change stitch length, and adjust thread tension.

Pre-Class Preparation: The Importance of Selecting Good Fabric

In-shop:

Provide shop sample (when they see it, they'll love it)

Supply list (please feel free to copy and use the supply list provided at the end of this document)

Educate sales staff on fabric and sizing requirements (See back cover of pattern)

Discuss need for tightly woven fabric with consistent color saturation on "right" and "wrong" sides for fringe (not mandatory for jacket base). The best quality batiks will not fray much; therefore, the jacket will endure a longer life. The higher the thread count the longer the jacket will last.

Students: Purchase, pre-wash and iron fabric. (Note: if fabric is not pre-washed sizing is not guaranteed.)

Teacher: Contact students before class to be sure they've purchased appropriate fabric (and pre-washed and ironed it), make sure they have all necessary supplies, and ask if they have any questions or special needs. This pre-class contact will help break the ice and get things rolling quicker during the first lesson.

(**Note:** I have found that having demo jackets in various stages of assembly help demonstrate the techniques. It will be almost impossible to have students do all the work in-class. Some students may even fall behind. The demo jackets work wonders helping everyone keep up and "see" the work in progress. I have included photos of the 4 demo jackets I use. I have positioned them within this document under the session heading for which they are used in-class. Make your demos using muslin for the Base Jacket and colorful fabric for fringe, cuff and neckband. It is more affordable and allows high contrast for steps.)

Session 1. Getting Started: (approx 5 hours)

Lesson 1. Cut out Jacket Base & Learn to Cut Fringe (approx. 1.5 hours)

In-class: (See page 1 & 2: Getting Ready)

Measure students for proper jacket sizing.

Cut pattern pieces apart; iron with warm iron.

Lay pattern pieces on fabric for jacket base, pin, cut.

Transfer pattern dots to fabric and cut slits at Fringe Placement Lines and Fold Lines.

Put cuff and neckband put in a safe place for Session 2.

(See page 4 and 5: Making The Rag Fur Fringe)

Demonstrate folding fabric and use of Omnigrip® 6" x 24" ruler to cut 18" bias strips

Demonstrate use of Fiskars® Softouch® Home & Office Scissors to cut slits in strips

Make 3 squares from fringe fabric; from one square make 3 strips of fringe for use in class (lesson 3).

Homework:

Make fringe from 2 folded squares of fringe fabric; save the 3rd square to cut fringe strips "as needed" (makes for more useable leftovers).

Lesson 2. Prepare Jacket Base for Fringe (approx. 2 hours)

In-class: (See pages 2 and 3: Preparing The Jacket Base)

Sew Jacket Backs together, zigzag seam

Mark Master Fringe Placement Lines with Omnigrid® Yardstick on Fronts and Backs

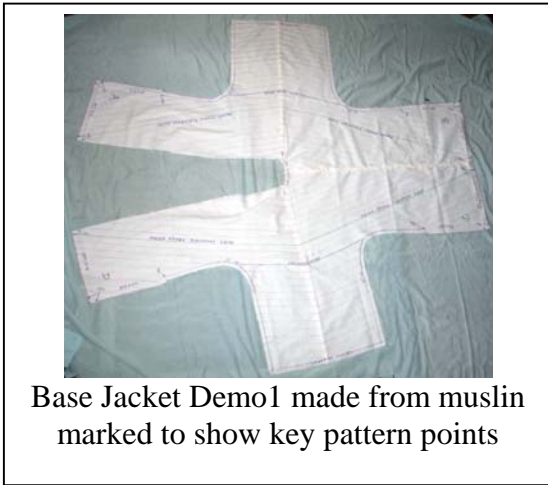
Sew shoulder seam, zigzag, press

Mark remaining fringe placement lines 1" apart. (I learned that using the yardstick with 2" masking tape at the edge does this better than the 6" x 12" ruler.)

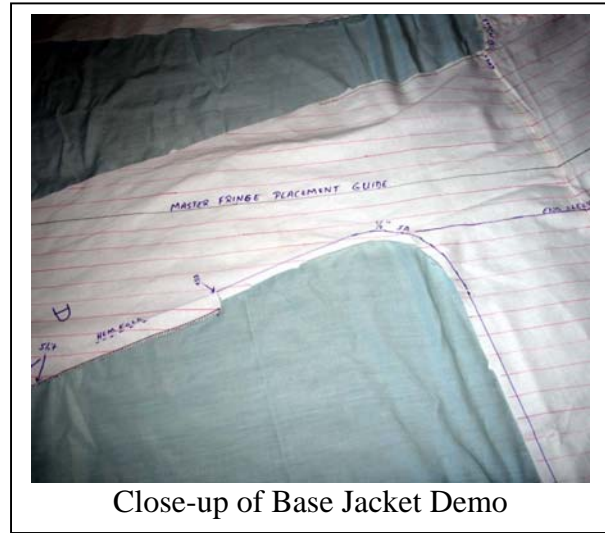
Clip seam of Side Vent Allowance; sew hems.

Mark ½" seam allowance guide around raw edges of underarm/side seam

Confirm Sleeve length and sew gathering stitches



Base Jacket Demo1 made from muslin marked to show key pattern points



Close-up of Base Jacket Demo

Homework:

Finish tasks from class if needed; mark grid lines, cut fringe.

Lesson 3: Sew On The Lunatic Fringe (approx.1.5 hour)

In-class:

Part 1, Sewing Fringe to Sleeves: (approx. 1 hour)

(See page 5 and 6: Sewing on the Lunatic Fringe. *STOP at Jacket Center Front & Center Back*)

Demonstrate sewing on the Fringe to sleeves.

Give students sufficient time to sew on sleeve fringe. Before they leave class, they should be comfortable with the process of sewing fringe 1/2" apart, overlapping at shoulder seams, avoiding 1/2" seam allowance, and sewing "in the round" from sleeve to sleeve. Most likely they will not make it very far on the Sleeves; this will be their homework.



Base Jacket Demo2 Starting Fringe (a Base Jacket made from muslin would have been a better choice for this demo)



Fringe close-up (Jacket Back)



Fringe close-up (Sleeve)

Part 2, Sewing Fringe to Fronts, Backs, and Center Back: (approx. 30 minutes)

(See page 6: Jacket Center Front & Center Back)

Demonstrate sewing of Fringe Strips Front/Back and on Center Back (V-overlap). A partially assembled jacket that is fringed to the Center Back would be helpful for this demonstration. Demonstrate adding the final layer of fringe around the neck opening.



Base Jacket Demo3 – back Fringe technique (a Base Jacket made of muslin would have been a better choice for this demo)



Fringe close-up

Homework:

Complete sewing all Fringe. Sew Fringe on Sleeves, Fronts and Backs and Center back.

Session 2. Completing the Jacket: (approx. 2 hours)

Lesson 4: Sewing Underarm/Side Seam & Attaching Neckband and Cuffs (2 hours)

In-class: (See page 7 and 8.)

Answer questions & complete sewing any remaining fringe to jacket.

Sew Underarm/Side Seam

(See page 7: Making the Cuffs & Neckband)

Demonstrate making the Cuffs & Neckband. Pay special attention to folding of Cuff (step 2)

Gather Sleeves and attach Cuff.

Attach Neckband and blind-stitch.

Topstitch Cuffs and Neckband

Homework:

Finish tasks from class if needed.

Machine wash and dry completed jacket and enjoy!

Fashion Show Time! Have students model their completed jackets, take pictures and share them on your website. Send photos of your Rag Fur Jackets to Ami Simms AmiSimms@aol.com and she'll put them on her website.



Base Jacket Demo 4 – Partial attachment of cuff and neckband (**Note:** only half of neckband is ready to hand sew.)

Rag Fur Jacket Supply List

Pattern: (required)

"Rag Fur Jacket" by Ami Simms – Pattern includes instruction booklet and tissue paper pattern for sizes XXS-XXXL.

Fabric: (see pattern back for size & yardage requirements)

(*Before purchasing your fabrics, please read "Selecting Fabric" on page 1 in the instruction booklet! You will be investing a lot of time into making this fun jacket. **Purchase high-quality fabrics to insure your jacket holds up to many years of use.**)

- **Fringe Fabric** - must be tightly woven 100% cotton batiks* with equal color saturation on all sides.
- **Base Jacket Fabric** - same as fringe fabric or may be any quilting weight cotton or blend.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Pre-wash and iron fabric before class (if fabric is not pre-washed sizing cannot be guaranteed).

Basic Sewing Supplies:

- Rotary Cutter
- Rotary Mat
- 6" x 24" Omnigrip Ruler
- Yardstick (Omnigrid brand is quite helpful)
- Tape measure
- Washout fabric pencil
- Pencil Sharpener
- Fiskars® Softouch® Home and Office Scissors (or other heavy duty sewing scissors)
- Small scissors (for clipping threads while sewing)
- Straight Pins
- Safety pins
- Hand-sewing needles
- Matching and contrasting thread
- Bobbins (2) loaded with matching thread
- Sewing machine (in good working condition).
 - Since all machines work differently, please bring a sewing machine that you are familiar with using. To make the most productive use of your in-class time, before your first class please know the following about your machine:
 - How to thread the machine
 - How to wind and thread a bobbin
 - How to sew a straight line and zig-zag stitch, change stitch length, and adjust thread tension.