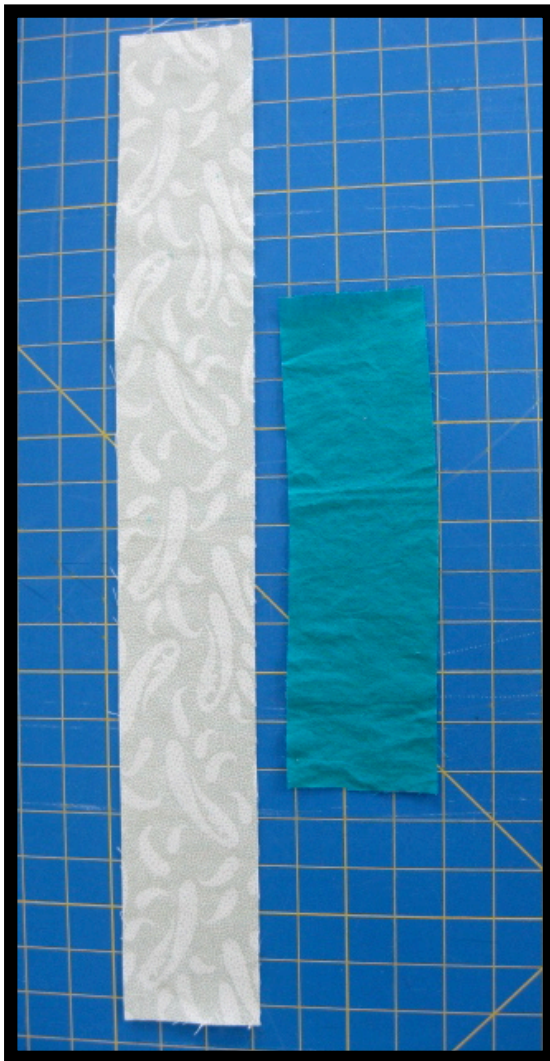


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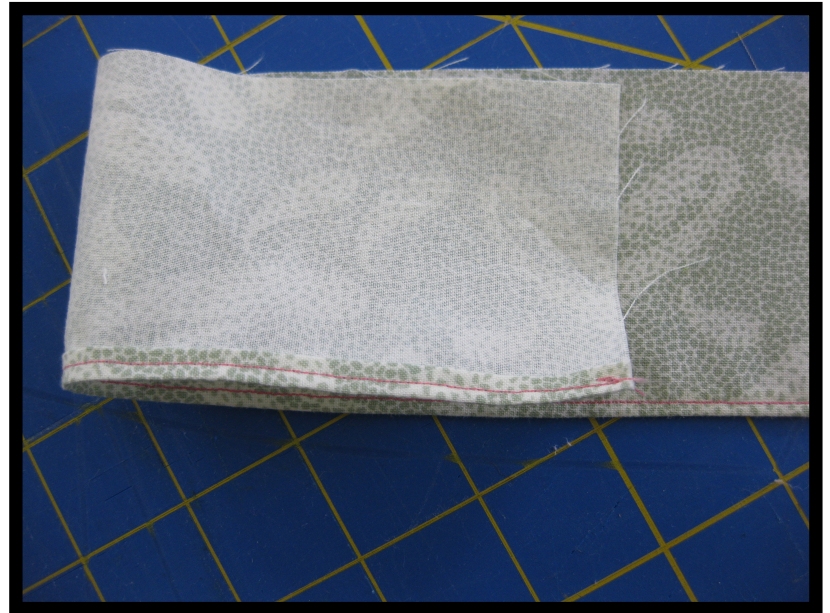
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Sewing Technique: Straight Ruffle

A straight ruffle is constructed by cutting a straight strip of fabric. Fullness is added to the finished garment or project by the use of a gathering stitch. For ease and consistency in the finished product, a lightweight fabric is recommended for this sewing technique.



STEP 1: The strip of fabric used to create the ruffle should be two to three times the finished width of garment piece, depending on desired fullness of the ruffle. Length is determined by adding seam allowance (allowing for two rows of basting stitches) and a hem allowance.



STEP 2: First hem one widthwise side of the strip of fabric using preferred hem method. The example above uses a basic machine hem.

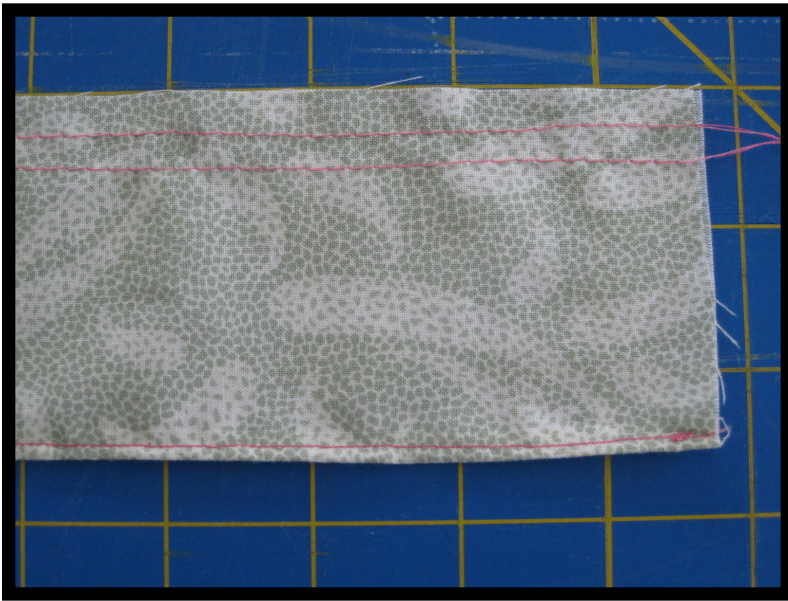


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STEP 3: Sew two rows of gathering stitches, $\frac{1}{4}$ " apart, inside the seam allowance. Be sure to leave long tails of thread on each end of the stitch for later gathering.



STEP 4: Pull the tails of basting stitches to gather the fabric to approximately the length of the garment edge. Distribute fullness evenly.



STEP 5: To ensure even gathering, pin the gathered strip to the garment with right sides together beginning at the edges.





STEP 6: Once evenly pinned, use a straight stitch to attach ruffle to garment. Make sure that gathering stitches are within the seam allowance.



STEP 7: Press the seam flat towards the garment and trim excess to reduce bulk as needed.

Industry Standards for a Well-Constructed Ruffle:

- Ruffle drape is pleasing to the eye
- Ruffle is dispersed evenly and smoothly throughout garment
- Ruffle is applied to garment with straight even stitches
- Ruffles were cut even and correctly
- Appropriate fabric was used

Industry Standards for a Well-Constructed Gathering Stitch:

- Gathering stitch is straight and parallel to edge of fabric
- Stay stitching is not seen from outside of garment
- Gathering is evenly distributed and pleasing to the eye

References:

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