

Fabric Flowers 101

Have you found yourself trying to make a beautiful flower to decorate your handbag, tunic or quilt, and you simply CAN'T make it because it seems difficult?

If you are one of them, let me show you the EASIEST method I have found!!

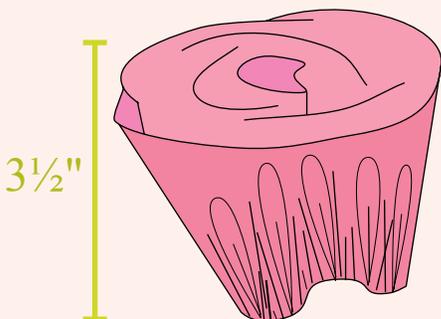
We see flowers in millions of places... and they are sooo fashionable in clothing right now! Well, let me share with you that I love to use them on everything I can: not only on handbags, but in pillows, blouses, hats, shoes, and even in quilts -yes, QUILTS! You will see some pictures at the end this tutorial in where I use them tons!

The tutorial you are about to follow is going to teach you how to make a rose. You can make it the size you want in height and width; the secret to calculate the cutting for the height is to **double** the desired height plus $1/4$ " for seam allowances. For the width of the flower, the length of the strip should be based on how skinny or fat you want the flower to be. The taller the flower, the longer the fabric strip.

Remember this rule:

DOUBLE THE HEIGHT PLUS SEAM ALLOWANCES

Let me show you what I mean by that:



If you plan to make a $3\frac{1}{2}$ " tall flower, you need to cut a strip $7\frac{1}{2}$ " wide by the length you desire. In this case, I cut it 43" long, that is the complete width of fabric (WOF)

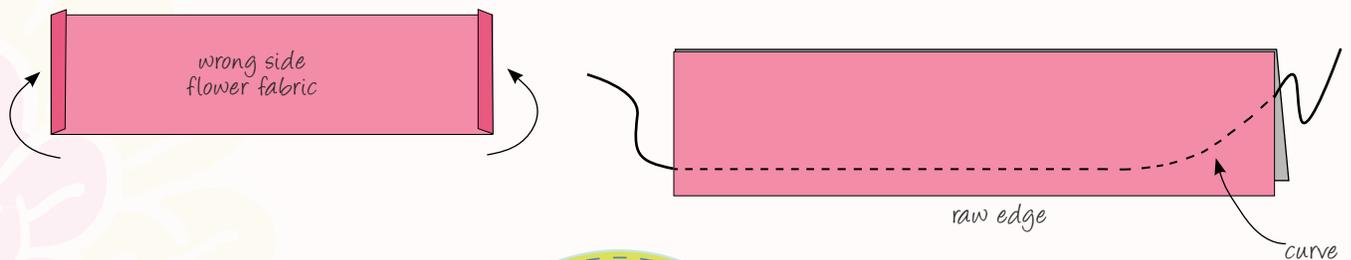
Wouldn't you LOVE to have hundred of flowers to adorn all cloths and accessories?

Make them in all sizes and fabric combinations... no fancy tools or equipment is required!

Let's do the complete tutorial making a fat rose $2\frac{1}{2}$ " tall :

STEP 1

Cut a strip of fabric that will measure $5\frac{1}{2}$ " by 30". Fold each short end $\frac{1}{4}$ " towards the wrong side, and press. Fold the entire strip in half lengthwise, matching right sides. Pin in place. Draw a line on one of the extremes of the folded fabric strip beginning at $\frac{1}{2}$ " and continue curving up to $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the raw edge of the fabric. Sew along the line, until you reach a $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge, and keep stitching with $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance (including the folded edge on the opposite short side). Trim excess fabric to $\frac{1}{4}$ " on the curve. Turn the tube inside out. Press with the seam allowance pointing to the bottom.

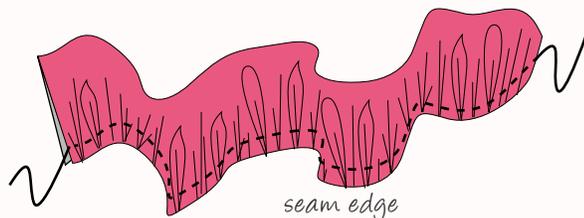


TIP:

To better turn the tube inside out, use a turning tool. It makes the process faster and simple

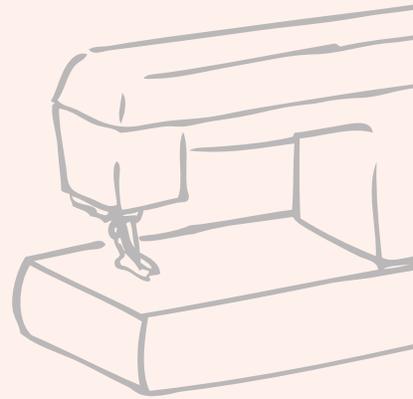
STEP 2

Sew a basting stitch $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the seam edge. DO NOT BACKSTITCH on any end. Make sure to leave a long tail of thread on each end and the color matches the fabric.



STEP 3

Begin pulling the thread ends, gathering the basting stitch, until the fabric strip becomes a little bit curly. Don't cut the thread tails yet.



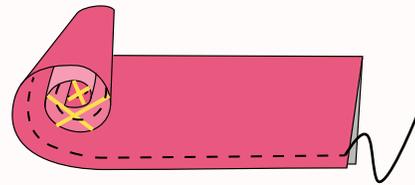
STEP 4

To start making the flower, begin rolling the narrowest end of the tube onto itself. Thread a sewing needle with color coordinated thread and hand stitch on the bottom edge to secure the center of the flower.



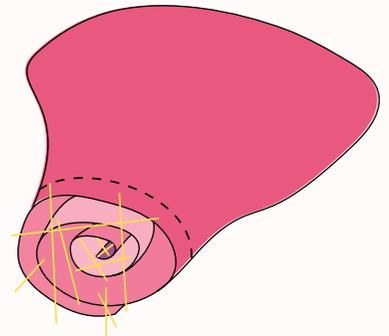
STEP 5

Continue folding the flower, taking a few stitches every fold. This will vary, depending on how loose or tight you want the flower to be. Begin giving shape to the petals with your hands, opening here and there.



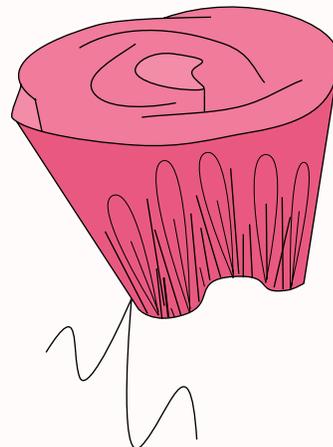
STEP 6

Keep folding the flower, making large hand stitches until you run out of length on the fabric tube. Make a couple more hand stitches and tie the hand stitching thread into a knot on the backside of the flower.



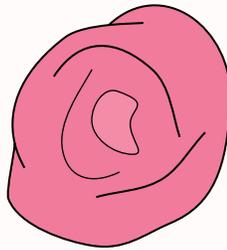
STEP 7

Remember the loose thread tails we left un-tied on Step 2? Tie those threads into knots and hide them into the backside of the flower.



STEP 8

Voilà!! You have your flower ready to use!! Open up the fabric petals giving a "rose appearance" shape.



view from the top of the flower



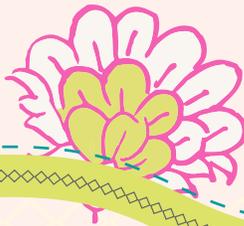
TIP:

For a 3½" tall flower make a strip 43" long. This length will ensure a full and thick rose bud and it will look awesome??

Make a sea of big flowers to decorate your house, and make many more in smaller sizes to accessorize your wardrobe!! Look at these pictures on the next page for inspiration!

Hope you enjoyed!!

*Handmade rocks...
so let's keep on stitching!*



Pat Bravo

Look for more tutorials, patterns and ideas at my blog
<http://artgalleryfabrics.typepad.com>



