

Projects > Camera Strap: Part 2

In Raechel Myers' Part 1 video of how to make a personalized Camera Strap, she went over how to make a universal cover with a hand-gathered knit ruffle. In this Part 2, she demonstrates how to create a custom fit cover with fleece lining, a ruffle made by using the ruffler foot (with video) and the raw edges serged into a rolled hem using my Brother serger (another video). Here is her tutorial:

Materials and Supplies

- [Brother Sewing/Embroidery Machine](#)
- Scissors or rotary cutter and cutting board
- Sewing machine loaded with coordinating thread
- Tailor tape
- Iron and ironing board
- Ruffler foot (you can find one [here](#) or [here](#))
- An 8"x30" piece of fusible fleece (you can get this at JoAnns or [here](#))
- A serger (you can find the one I use - and love - [here](#) or [here](#))
- Up to two coordinating fabrics (I used quilting weight cotton for both: [Theory Rain Forest Leaves](#) and [Laurel Dots in Periwinkle](#))

Instructions

1. In order to custom fit your camera strap, you'll need some paper, a pen and some tailor tape. I love graphing paper, so that's what I'm using here.
2. Measure the widest point of your camera strap (likely the leather binding at the ends). **See Figure #1.**
3. and the length of your strap. You will want your cover to go all the way down over the leather binding. Feel free to be a bit generous here.
4. Now draw on your grid paper the finished size you'd like your strap to be (2"x27" in my case).
5. To figure out the cut size you'll multiply the width (2") by 2 (for both sides) and add 1" for seam allowance (1/2" for each side). That equals 5".
6. For the cut size of the length, just add 1/2" to each side of the finished length (27") to get 28".
7. Now we know to cut our body fabric 5"x28".

Figure #1



Figure #2



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8. Your dimensions may be different, but using these formulas you should have no trouble determining the cut size.
9. If you plan to add a ruffle you will want to cut it about twice as long as your body piece and just about as wide as your finished width of your cover. I cut mine $1\frac{3}{4}$ " wide and 60" long.
10. (Note: If you do not have a serger and cannot stitch a rolled hem, you will want to add additional width so that you can turn each side in twice and create a narrow hem. Take this into consideration when you are figuring the width of your ruffle.)
11. Now, cut your fabric to the sizes you calculated. You will probably need to piece your ruffle fabric together to get 60 inches, so do that next. Then you will have all of your fabric ready to go.
12. Now we'll finish the raw edges of the ruffle fabric. I'll use the rolled hem setting on my serger. If you don't have a serger, turn each side in twice about $\frac{1}{4}$ " and stitch the narrow hem closed.
13. If you have a serger, finish the edges with the rolled hem setting. **See Figure #2.**
14. Here's a video in which I tell and show you how to use your serger to create a rolled hem. Also in which I sound like a big dork. (Oh goodness, I'm so embarrassed - please be gentle!)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2vGqsMfHdk&feature=player_embedded
15. Alright, that wasn't too painful, right? Right?
16. Now that your ruffle is ready to roll (ha - get it?), we need to make a mark on your body fabric so we know exactly where to attach it.
17. This drawing is to scale (the other one wasn't), and each square represents $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The width of my body fabric was 5" (10 squares). I marked my seam allowances on the outside and the center of the fabric. **See Figure #3.**

Figure #3

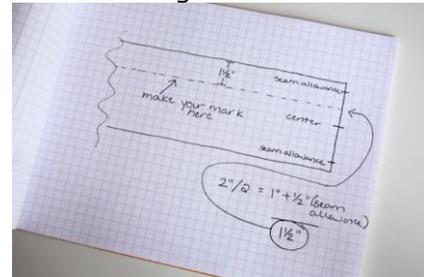


Figure #4

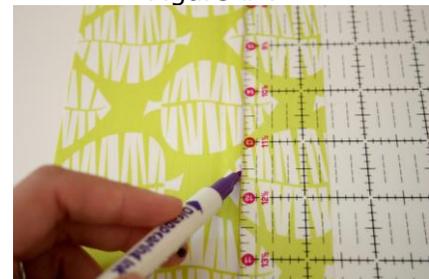


Figure #5



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18. From there, I need to find the center distance between one seam allowance and the center mark. That's where I want to center my ruffle. (In my case, the mark I need to make is ultimately 1.5" from the right side.)

19. Make that mark all the way down your main body fabric using an air soluble marker if you have one. (Pay no attention to the fact that my ruler slipped off the line when I took the picture. It really should be 1.5".)

See Figure #4.

20. Now, on to the machine of glory. Hello, old friend. **See Figure #5.**

21. But wait. First, I want to introduce you to a new friend! Y'all, this is my ruffler foot. **See Figure #6.**

22. Yes, it looks intimidating. Let's be honest - it *is* a little intimidating. But once you figure out all the glorious things it can do, you'll be glad you got to know it! It goes far beyond camera strap covers, y'all.

23. You can see in the photo below that it has four settings. You can choose for it to ruffle every 1 stitch, every 6 stitches, or every 12 stitches. The star means that it won't pleat at all.

24. Once it's attached to your machine (just like any other foot, except that you'll slide the big black hook-shaped thing onto the top bar that moves up and down with your needle) it's a good idea to manually advance your needle to make sure that it can move safely in and out of the small hole in the ruffler foot (I've broken a few needles as a result of skipping this step).

25. You can adjust screws and settings according to the directions that come with it, but this is just a basic introduction. **See Figure #7.**

26. So, your ruffler is attached. Now we need to line up the fabrics and get them ready to go. Place your main body fabric under the ruffler foot and lay your ruffle fabric on top, centering it on the line you made.

Figure #6



Figure #7



Figure #8



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27. The ruffle material is being fed through the upper part of the foot and the main fabric is traveling below the foot. (This is the view from the left side of my sewing machine). **See Figure #8.**

28. Now, there's just no sense in me trying to *tell* you what it does in action when I could *show* you. So, lucky day that it is, here is video number two for y'all!
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=PNmRENyrEO4

29. You probably noticed me having to take a moment to move the ruffle out of the way at one point. I've found that the rolled hem makes the top layer slightly bulky to slide through the ruffler foot, so from time to time I have to move it out of the way with tweezers so it doesn't get caught in the stitch. I also keep pausing to check that it's centered on my purple line. I'm a bit of a perfectionist. BUT, can we talk about the fact that it's gathering the top layer WHILE attaching it to the un-phased bottom layer??? It's everything, y'all.

30. Okay, so once it passes through the miracle foot, it will likely need a little love from you. Just make sure all the ruffles are going in the right direction. Join me: be a perfectionist. Your camera will thank you! :)
See Figure #9.

31. We're getting closer.

32. Now grab your fusible interfacing and cut a piece just slightly smaller than your main fabric. (See all those little white dots on it? You can feel them too. That's the glue. When you press it onto your fabric with a hot iron - glue side down, of course - it will fuse the fleece to it and make a nice cushion for your neck. You neck will also thank you.) **See Figure #10.**

33. So I flipped my happy piece of camera-strap-cover-in-the-making over and laid out my fusible fleece. (Truth: I have been a fusible fleece hog lately and by the time I shot this tutorial I was out of pieces big enough to cover the entire area. I pieced them together though and no one will ever know. Well, you'll know, but just forget it if you can, mmkay?)
See Figure #11.

Figure #9



Figure #10



Figure #11



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34. And now for my useful tip of the day: lay a piece of scrap fabric over your interfacing when you iron it. Otherwise, the heat will be so intense that a little bit of glue might want to sneak through the loosely woven fleece and attack your iron. Just a warning.

35. Now it's backed with fleece and a little flatter for the wear. That's okay, it'll fluff again! Nice and even though, eh?

36. If you read my tutorial from yesterday ([Part 1 of the camera cover tutorials](#)), you'll know just what to do next. We're hemming the ends.

37. But first, I picked out a few of the stitches at each end so the ruffle could be straight on the end and tuck under nicely. Personal preference.

38. Now just fold each end under 1/2" and press. [See Figure #12.](#)

39. Then stitch the hem in place. I like to do a few rows of stitches. I think it looks nice. [See Figure #13.](#)

40. Okay, now we're really almost there!

41. Fold the cover right sides together lengthwise and stitch. Be sure to backstitch at the beginning and end so it won't come undone. [See Figure #14.](#)

42. Check.

43. Before we go any further, it's a good idea to double check and make sure your camera strap fits within the space you've made for it.

44. Check check.

45. Now trim your seam allowances to 1/4".

46. And it's time to invert. Not my favorite part of the project, but it's got to be done.

Figure #12



Figure #13



Figure #14



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47. I had a bright idea to pin the end of my camera strap to the inside of the cover so I could kill two birds with one stone: turning the cover and putting it on my strap. Not sure if it's anything genius, but it worked for me.

See Figure #15.

48. I used a small dowel rod to guide one end in through the body.

And finishing up. Yes, I realize it probably doesn't require five photos of me inverting the strap to make the point, but I'm an over-achiever. (ps - it helps to bend the leather ends of the strap in half to ease them through. A bonus tip!) **See Figure #16.**

49. Ah! All finished. (yes, I realize the cover is not attached to the camera in this picture. It's just too much trouble to do that since I actually need my camera to take the pictures. Sorry!) **See Figure #17.**

50.



Figure #15



Figure #16



Figure #17

