

Late 15th century White hood/coif

THL Lucrece de Montsoreau - Eoforwic, Ealdormere

These are the measurements I use for my head, which is quite small, you may need to adjust the size for yourself.

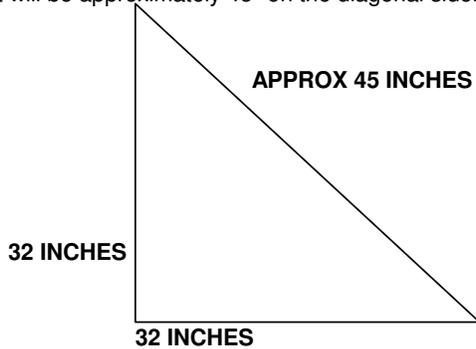
All sewing is done with: running stitch, back stitch, whip or hem stitch as suits the seam being sewn.

The hood is cut on the bias so it's important to remember the seams will be stretchy, and the thread needs to stretch with it. Back stitch takes longer, but you won't have to worry about tension or the thread snapping when you try to wear the hood. Hem stitch and whip stitch seem to have enough natural give to avoid problems. For the straight seams I actually use a running/back stitch hybrid. I work a running stitch carefully to avoid too much or too little tension, and I take one back stitch every 1/2 inch or so to allow for more give. My stitches are also very tiny which helps.

I use a light-weight linen for this, 3.5 to 4 ounces. One with a fairly crisp hand works well.

1) Start with a 32 inch square of fabric - will make 2 hoods

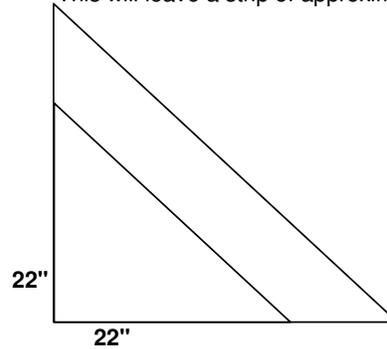
Cut in half diagonally so you have a triangle, 32" on two sides it will be approximately 45" on the diagonal side.



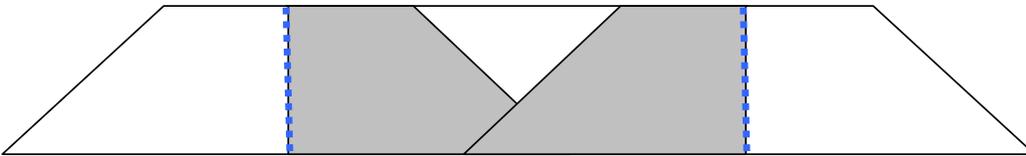
2) Cut a smaller triangle out of the corner

22" on the straight sides

This will leave a strip of approximately 7" wide.



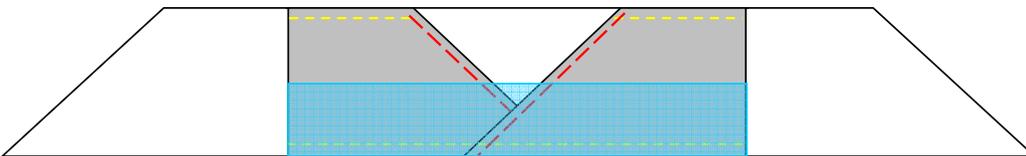
3) Take the strip and fold its corners inward on the dotted lines to create a 20" long, 7" wide rectangle.



You are now looking at the wrong side of the fabric.

4) Turn a 1/4" seam allowance on the diagonal edges (marked with the red dashed line) toward the wrong side

Remember you are looking at the wrong side, so don't turn them under, under would be toward the good side.



4a) Optional, add stiffener to the brim.

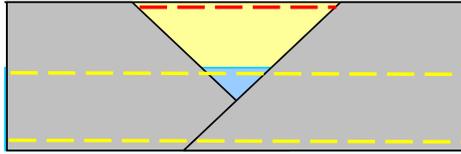
The stiffener will keep the brim looking nice and smooth - not wavy. Use a strip of stiff fabric, linen canvas or similar, cut on the straight-grain, not on the bias, 3" wide and 20" long. Line it up with the brim edge (shown shaded blue).

5) Sew with hybrid running or back stitch, where indicated by the yellow dashed lines.

Use a 1/2 inch seam allowance. When you're done, clip your corners and allowances as you see fit.

6) Now turn inside out, so the seams are now inside. Notice the stiffener is also inside now.

Press. Also press a 1/2" seam allowance toward the wrong side of the fabric - shown with a red dashed line

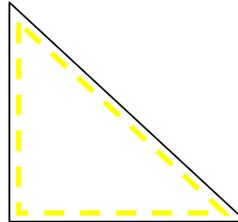


6 a) Sew the stiffener down. You can sew through the stiffener and both layers of the hood, or, if you'd rather the stitches didn't show from the outside, sew just through the stiffener and inside layer of the hood making sure your needle doesn't go all the way through. If you don't sew the stiffener down, first time you wash this, it will end up all bunched up inside. Use hybrid running stitch since the stiffener prevents the brim from stretching very much.

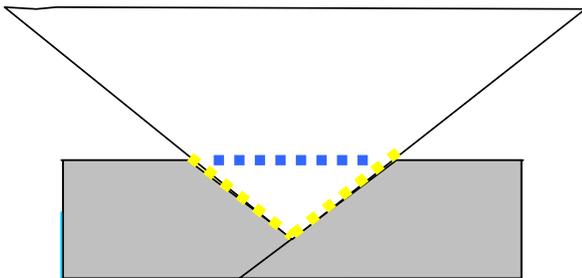
6 b) Optional. Top stitch the edge of the brim to keep the fold crisp. It's worth it! Use hybrid running stitch.

7) Hem the smaller triangle you cut off earlier

Use a small hem - 1/8" to 1/4" at most.
Press it. Press everything. Press everything a lot.
Pressing is your friend.



8) Place the point of the hemmed triangle into the triangular opening of the brim piece, hem side up.



Whip stitch the triangle to the brim piece along the yellow dotted line. Turn over and stitch down the remaining open seam which is shown here as the dotted purple line -except it will be on the other side

9) Fold in half and stitch at nape of neck. 1/4 to 1/2" - Fini!

