



PURPLE WATCH PATTERN

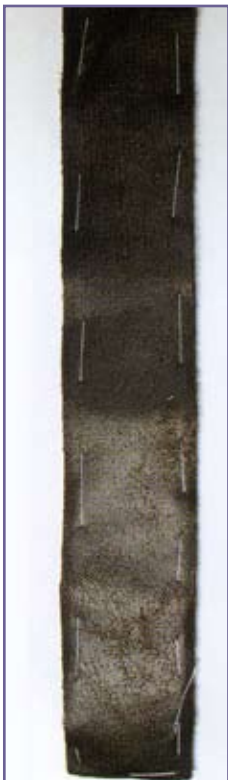
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Materials Needed

- Foam – Softsculpt, Plastazote or Funky Foam
- Fabric – old silk tie, an old dressing gown and various small bits of non-fraying embellishments such as Tyvek, Angelina, fake fur, etc.
- Thread – Madeira FS 2/2 No442, plain silver
- Machine needles suitable for the thread you are using
- Beads
- Beading thread
- Small embroidery hoop
- An old watch

Note! You need to consider that the bottom layer (old dressing gown in the materials list) will be next to your skin, so should be soft and porous to allow moisture to move away from the skin and not irritate.

STEP 1: First make a template out of paper, remembering to allow sufficient overlap around your wrist. The thicker the layers the longer the template needs to be; the dimensions will usually fall between 7.5 inches (19cm) and 8.5 inches (21.5cm) for most female wrists.



Step 4.

STEP 2: Use the template to cut out a piece of foam that is two or three millimetres thick, by placing the template on the foam and drawing round it with a pen, or using a pencil to make an impression and then cutting around it with scissors or a craft knife.

STEP 3: Tack the top surface fabric you have chosen (silk tie in the materials list) to the foam and trim it almost to the foam, leaving about 1mm of fabric beyond.

STEP 4: Tack the chosen base fabric (dressing gown in the materials list) on the other side of the foam and trim that to the foam as with the top. This method of assembly is the most accurate way to prepare the sandwich of three layers.

Note! As you machine-stitch into it later the foam squishes a bit and can squeeze out from between the layers like a soft sandwich filling, so trim it thinner now. With small sharp scissors, chamfer along both perimeter edges of the foam at an angle to reduce its thickness.

STEP 5: The top layer can now be embellished with scraps of fabric, painted Tyvek, painted Vilene, fur fabric, etc. – anything that is decorative, resists fraying and allows a needle through. Tack each piece down firmly, as it will have a tendency to move once you start machining. Care and accuracy at this early stage will give you the best results in the end.

STEP 6: Hoop us the dissolving film as tautly as possible into a hoop big enough to take your piece, its fringing and the spare space you need around the edges for the machine foot, and tack your watch strap firmly onto the film.



Note! Never stitch your piece to the loose film and then hoop it up as this is likely to distort your fabric. Always tack rather than pin as the layers need to be secure, and pins can also distort the whole thing.

STEP 7: Proceed to embroider with the machine by stitching a medium width sparse zigzag around the edges first, to firmly secure the strap to the film, and then stitch down any surface additions with straight stitch. When you have done this, it is time to remove any tacking stitching if you have not used dissolving thread.

STEP 8: With your machine set to straight stitch, begin to make the whiskery edges by working around the edges of the strap, moving the hoop smoothly. Stitch forward onto the film and back onto the fabric, progressing carefully along the edges until you reach the point that you started. Go around again, filling any gaps as you move. You need to bring your stitching well back onto the fabric or your decorative edging will part company with your strap.

STEP 9: Continue to embroider (doodle) across the main body, adding further stitching to any applied pieces to cover any raw edges. Be generous with the stitching and make the thread an integral part of the whole design, not just an excuse to cover the edges. As you progress with the machine stitching on the body of the strap, you may notice that some earlier stitches appear loose. This is because the foam is becoming more compressed the more you stitch, so if you feel they need it, go over these loose stitches again to hold them down.

STEP 10: Small looped straps of folded stitched fabric are then created to attach the watch to the wristband; this has the added advantage of taking stress away from the watch fittings. Choose fabric fine enough to be folded over in three thicknesses and still fit through the gaps for the strap on each side of your watch.



Step 11: Fold the strip of fabric over three times to fit the width of the aperture, with the raw edge just hidden underneath, and tack it in place. Secure it with the raw edge underneath your ready-hooped dissolving film and stitch all over it, removing the tacking when secure.

STEP 12: Cut it out of the film. Measure a piece long enough doubled to attach to one side of the watch face and cut it to size. Fold it in half and reapply it to some more dissolving film. Stitch over the bottom third, leaving plenty of opening space at the folded end and cover the raw ends in stitching, creating a decorative shape with stitches on the film. When finished, do the other to match and dissolve both.

STEP 13: When dry, attach these small strips to your watch by removing the tiny pins on the side of the watch and threading them through the folded ends of the fabric. Then secure the pins carefully back onto the watch.



Step 13

STEP 14: It is now time to place these mini straps correctly onto the larger band. Never do this when it is placed flat as when you try to wear it the curve of your wrist will pull on the straps and the watch will be under too much tension. Put the large watchstrap on your wrist and mark where the mini strap ends should go, then remove and stitch them on by hand, further decorating the straps with beads or other embellishments.



Step 14

STEP 15: The safety chain is just a string of beads joining one end of the watch strap to the other. Always use a beading thread and go through the beads at least twice. Check you can still pass the strap over your hand before securing permanently.

Tip! You may have a watch with a different or more complex arrangement for the attachment. A little adaptation using braids, cords or ribbons to thread through more easily could be the answer. The raw ends can be finished off in the same way as the fabric ones.

