

Vintage Chenille Bathrobe

Ah.... The luxury of a comfy warm bathrobe! One of my favorite pastimes is to go rummaging through old antique malls and estate sales to look for cotton chenille bedspreads in good condition. There are usually a few flaws such as chenille missing, a few holes, stains and perhaps threadbare in a few spots but that's OK, it adds to the charm as well as the challenge. These vintage beauties make fabulous bathrobes because they are not too thick, they are breathable cotton, they are already broken in and the designs are unique. Your best bet would be to make these on a serger and it may take about an hour to ninety minutes. At \$25.00 - \$65.00 per bedspread (depending on size, seller, condition) it is an investment that will hug you for years.



SUPPLIES:

1. Chenille Standard or queen bedspread
2. Favorite bathrobe pattern, scissors, pins
3. Serger or overcasting stitch and foot with matching thread

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Lay the bed spread face up on a large enough surface for the entire top to be flat. (I use the floor) *The layout* is **THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!** You can use and follow the directions from the bathrobe pattern of your

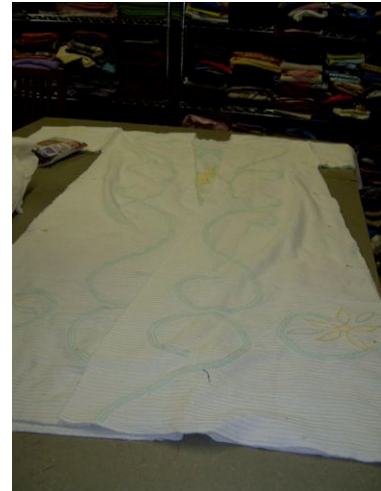


choice. Remember to measure & think it through **TWICE** before cutting! You only get ONE chance to get it right.

- a. Place your pattern pieces on the bedspread keeping in mind where you want the decorative chenille to be on the finished robe. This spread had a large bouquet that I didn't want to cut so I placed the center of the back piece over the center of the bouquet and used the swirly border edges for my fronts. **DO NOT CUT** the folded edge center portion of the back! Cut the top, bottom and side and fold the back over to make an outline to cut the opposite side. One front was cut first, then it was placed face down on the opposite side to match patterns. I also wanted to make sure that the yellow daisies were included so I positioned the sleeves over the remaining corner daisies. Same procedure for the sleeve.



2. Place fronts over back and sew at shoulder seam.
3. Pin sleeves in place and sew armcye connecting sleeve to robe.
4. Serge side seams from sleeve cuff to bottom edge.



5. The side bands on the spread were perfect for the front facing, sleeve cuffs, belt and belt loops. Measure the bottom of the sleeve circumference. Add an inch and cut two strips 6" X circumference sum. Fold in half and sew the 6" edges together. Press the circle in half with wrong sides together.
6. Pin the circular band to the outside bottom edge of the sleeve lining up seams. Serge around sleeve bottom through all three layers.



7. Repeat step 6&7 to make the front facing. Measure all the way from the bottom front edge up around the neck and back to the other side front bottom edge. Add one inch to this measurement. Divide the sum in half and cut two strips (from the perimeter of the bedspread) 6" X your difference. With right sides together, stitch together across 6" side. This will be your center back neck seam.
8. Fold lengthwise with wrong sides together and press. Starting at center back neck edge, pin folded band edge along right side front edge of robe. Serge.
9. Fold waistband lengthwise with wrong sides together and stitch three sides leaving a 3" space for turning near the middle of the waistband.
10. Turn right side out and stitch opening closed.
11. Triple fold belt loops lengthwise and top stitch. Sew onto outside of robe over each side seam just under the armpit and back tack in place.
12. Serge bottom and fold up one inch to topstitch in place. Your treasure is complete!