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Embellished Vest

Vests are the ultimate dress-up/dress-down accessory, turning an otherwise simple garment into something that will turn heads. Make any plain vest extraordinary by combining machine and hand techniques to create texture and dimension. We'll combine fabric, threads and heavier fibers, baubles, bangles and beads, and a few unusual items to create a walking work of art.

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Supply List

Sewing Machine- needs to be able to do both straight and zigzag stitching. You will find a darning foot and a couching foot very handy.

Basic sewing supplies, including extra sewing machine needles-(Sharps and topstitching needles suggested), hand sewing needles (you'll want size 20 chenille needles for heavier threads). and size 10 or 11 beading needles.

Tear away stabilizer- buy enough for the main pattern pieces of your vest plus ½ yard.

Flannel- enough for the main pattern pieces of your vest.

Fabric- choose something that doesn't have a definite pattern. I find that batiks and hand-dyes work very well for this project, but highly patterned fabric tends to distract from the embellishments.

-scraps of fabrics to be used for faced shapes, yoyos and rouches circles (consider using some velvet or other interesting fabrics)

Threads and fibers- your choice of rayon/metallic/cotton threads for machine embroidery, as well as invisible thread for couching. You'll also want heavier threads like chenille, nubby knitting yarn, etc. to couch and some hand embroidery threads like perle cotton (size 8 or 12). Remember to choose something that will show up on your base fabric. For the beadwork, either "D"weight Nyo or "A" weight Silamide beading thread will serve.

