

Medieval Circlet Tutorial by Laura Marsh Designs

Making a circlet to go with your Medieval costume is very simple and should only take you about 30mins.

What you will need:

Left over fabric (from your dress if you've made it or another fabric), you'll only need a small piece but it need to be twice the circumference of your head.

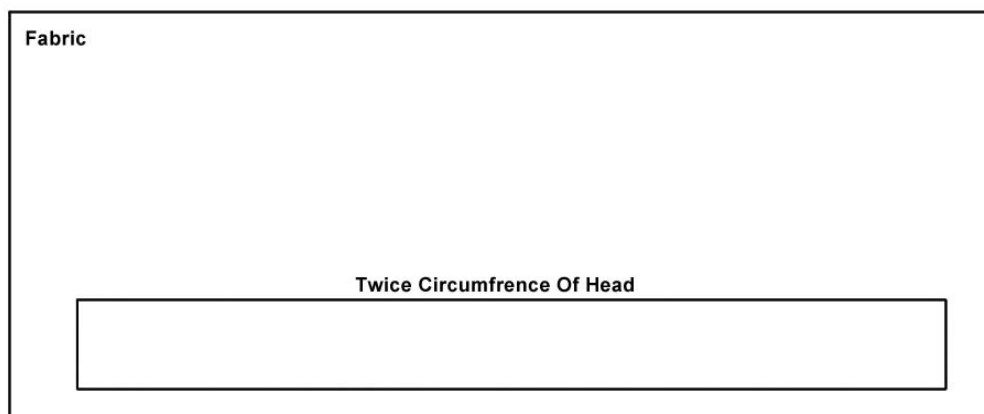
Toy stuffing or fabric scraps.

A sewing machine or a needle and thread.

Ribbon or cord to decorate.

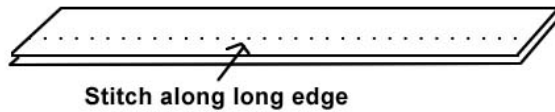
Voile/organza fabric (about ½ meter) if adding a veil.

1. You first need to cut your fabric to the right shape. Decide how large you'd like the roll of the circlet to be. A good size is between 12cm and 18cm (you could go larger if you like, but smaller would look a bit too small). Then add seam allowances, 1.5cm (5/8inch for each side) so add 3 cm to your total. Draw this line onto your fabric, either across or down, depending on the type of fabric and if it has a pattern etc.
2. Next you need to measure your head. Above I have said you need twice the circumference of your head in fabric, this is not entirely true, but it's a good guide when you make the first one, you can then cut off the excess and you'll know how much you'll need for next time. So measure around your head twice, and then finish marking this on the fabric. You should be left with a very long and thin rectangle on your fabric.

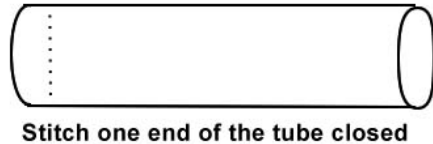


3. Cut it out.
4. Fold the rectangle in half, so the right sides are together, with the long edges touching. You need to stitch along the long edge, using 1.5cm seam allowance (5/8inch). Finish this seam either by overlocking (serging) or using a zigzag stitch, this is important as you don't want it coming undone while you're

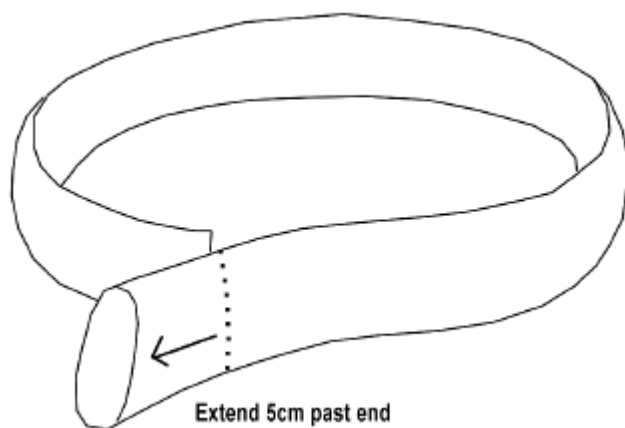
wearing. If you're hand stitching you'll need to bind the edge with a smaller piece of fabric.



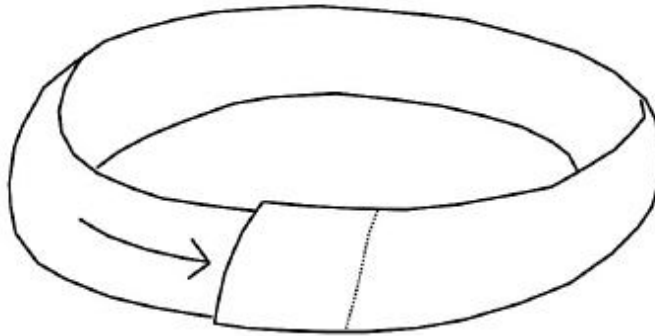
5. You should now have a long thin tube of fabric. You need to stitch one end of the tube to close it.



6. Turn the tube right side out.
7. Stuff the tube, if you can you'll get better results from using fabric scraps as they are firmer than toy stuffing, and pack it in tightly. The circlet should be quite firm.
8. As you stuff your circlet you need to check the sizing against your head, just keep putting it up to your head to see if the two ends touch.
9. Once the two ends of the circlet touch, measure an extra 5cm (2inches) of fabric and then cut the rest off.



10. You'll now need to push the closed end of the circlet into the open end, to form a ring. You may need to force this in quite hard.



Push closed end into open end

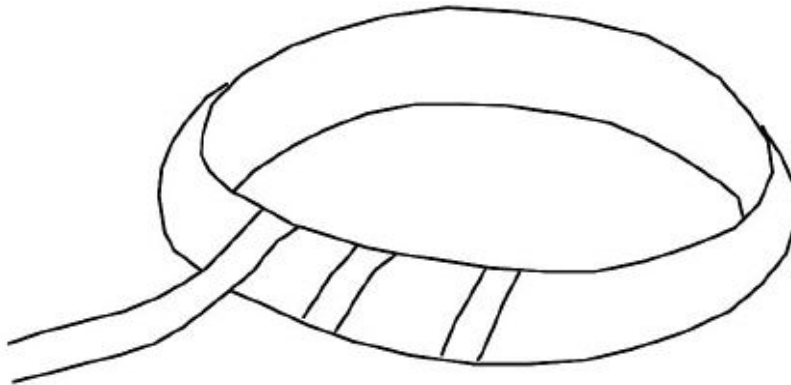
11. There will still be a raw edge of fabric showing, this should be overlapping the closed end of the circlet by 5cm (2inches), fold the raw edge under and pin in place. Then make sure you're happy with the shape and size of the circlet and hand stitch all the way around this folded edge so it is firmly attached to the closed end of the circlet.



Hand Stitch Down

12. You now have a finished circlet.

13. If you wish to embellish your circlet, and easy way is with ribbon. Take a length of ribbon, and starting at the back, pin it in place and simply evenly wind it all the way around the circlet until the two ends meet. You can either join the two ends together with the aid of a few hand stitches or you can stitch the whole length of the ribbon down so it will not move, it's a personal preference.



Wrap with ribbon

14. Adding a veil. A nice easy way to add a veil to your circlet so it will not come off have the way through your event, is to attach it to your circlet. To make your veil, put your circlet on and get a friend to measure from your circlet down to where you'd like your veil to finish. This is the length, then to find the width, measure half the inner circumference of your circlet and times it by 3. Draw this rectangle shape out on to your fabric and cut it out.
15. When using voile or organza fabric for a veil you'll need to finish the edges, if you have an overlocker/serger, simply do a rolled hem around the edges. For those who do not, do a narrow rolled hem by hand or bind with ribbon.
16. Along the top edge of the veil, run a line of loose stitches, then gather the veil along these stitches. And on the inside back half of the circlet hand stitch the top of the veil to the fabric. It's a good idea to make sure the veil sits towards the bottom so it cannot be seen from the top when worn, and try stitching the gathers down for more comfort.

You should now have one finished circlet complete with ribbon decoration and veil to go with your medieval dress. If you're feeling creative why not add a few beads or a metallic cord as well?

Do you have a dress to go with your circlet? Laura Marsh Designs offer dress and costume patterns for only £2.99 each. Visit www.lauramarshdesigns.co.uk to find out more!

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