

Great Jawa Build – Jawa Fabric Build Thread

Getting started:

You will need:

- 6-8 yards of brown monk's cloth fabric* per adult jawa, 4-5 yards for a child
- An 38"x16" piece of generic black fabric to line the hood
- A piece of cable for the hood
- Notions – brown thread, safety pins, straight pins, etc. for sewing.
Tip: fit your sewing machine with a needle for heavy fabrics. Size 14 works, but a 16 is better.
- A yard stick (or other long straight edge) and a Sharpie or fabric marker

* Fabric Note:

Traditional Jawa robes are made with brown monk's cloth. You can find white or natural monk's cloth easily at Joann and other fabric stores. Dye the fabric using two (2) bottles of RIT Liquid Dark Brown AND one (1) bottle of RIT Liquid Tangerine, with one (1) cup of table salt. Here is the method that we used to dye our fabric in a top-loading washing machine:

1. Turn up the temperature on your hot water heater. Hot water is key, so I was able to set my heater to 140°F. *Be careful while your heater is set this high!*
2. Prep the fabric by hemming the ends – just use a straight stitch to hem the ends to prevent the fabric from fraying during the process.
3. Wash the fabric in cold water with a regular detergent (just a normal wash cycle) – this removes any finishes.
4. Dry the fabric on low heat. *For a 10 yard bold, this took 90 minutes* – this helps pre-shrink the fabric and removes a lot of the lint. *Be sure to clean your lint catcher after this step.*
5. Rinse the fabric in your machine using a regular rinse cycle so it goes into the dye bath wet.
6. Fill the washer with HOT water. While filling add 1 cup of regular table salt. Stir a bit to dissolve. Then (while still filling) add the three bottles of dye.
7. When the washer is almost full of water (before it starts to agitate), add the fabric. Try not to wrap it around the agitator too much; I worked each bolt back and forth when I put it in. Push the fabric down so that it is all submerged.
8. All the machine to run its longest cycle. (My machine has an 18 minute "super wash" cycle.)
9. Remove dyed cloth at the end and dry in your dryer on low heat.

There are other methods dying listed on the RIT website, if you have a front loading washer or if you prefer to dye in a tub.

Note – there may be some uneven places in the fabric. This is actually nice, as it makes the cloth look a little bit weathered.

To make the Robes:

1. Have the jawannabe stand up straight. Hold the monk's cloth up to the person's shoulders to get the length needed for the robe. Fold the cloth there and cut a slit for the neck. Put the monk's cloth over the person's head then cut at the bottom.



Get length



Cut hole



Make sure it's straight



Cut the bottom – *NOTE: for kids, leave the robes long if they need room to grow – if you do this you will have to hem the robes! Also – make sure your jawannabe is not bending over to watch you!*

2. Have the jawannabe hold arms straight out so you find location of armpits. Use a safety pin to mark this spot, making sure to pin through both layers of fabric. Note – this is where the sleeve will attach, so you want to be a little loose. (Not right up in the pit!) Do this on both sides.

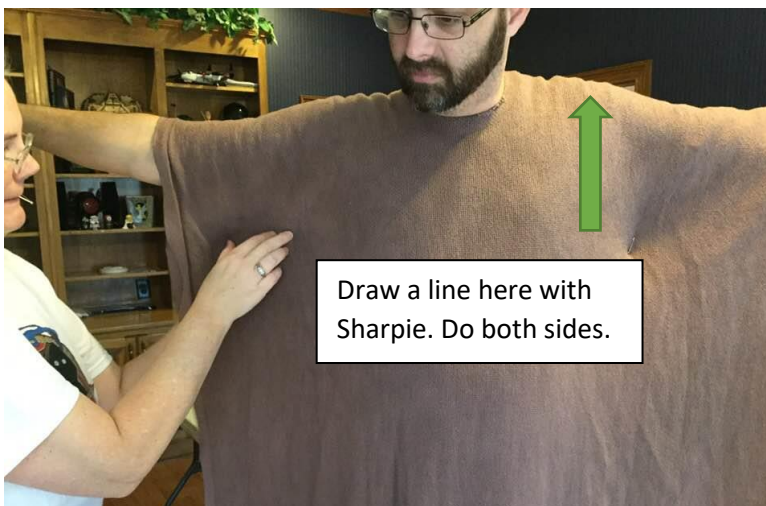


Find the pit.



Pin the pit. Be sure you get both front and back panels of fabric.

3. Once you have pinned both pits, have the person put arms down to the side, and use your sharpie to make a mark at the top of the shoulder. *This is important. To be approved, the seam on the sleeve has to be on top of the shoulder – it cannot drop down to the arm. So mark the top of the shoulder, so you know where to cut the top of the hold in the step 7.*



4. Lay the robe flat. Using a straight edge and a sharpie, draw a line from the armpit safety pin to the bottom the robe. Make an A shape – so the line goes out to the side edge at the bottom. (The pictures show only a slight A, as our model was big!) *Note – the fabric may not lay completely flat at the pinned area, because everyone is larger on the front compared to the back, so go with the fabric...don't fight it.) REMOVE THE SAFETY PINS BEFORE THEY GET TOO TANGLED.*

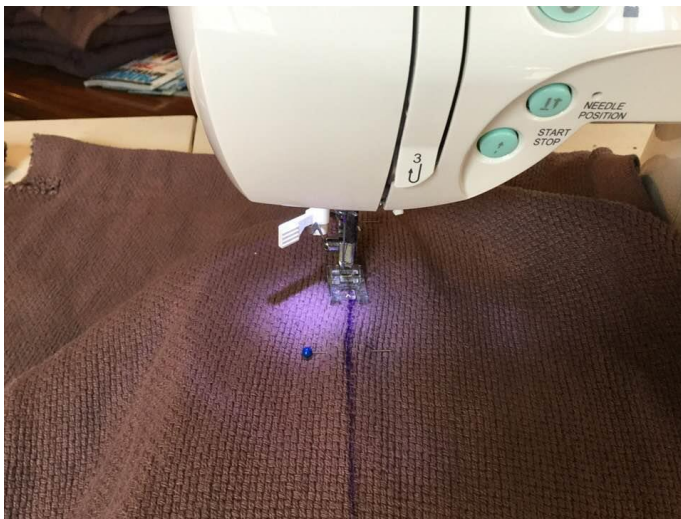


For little kids, you can often get the sleeves out of the single width of cloth. Use your straight edge to mark where the sleeves will go, making a “snow angel” shape . Pin along that bottom sleeve edge too.

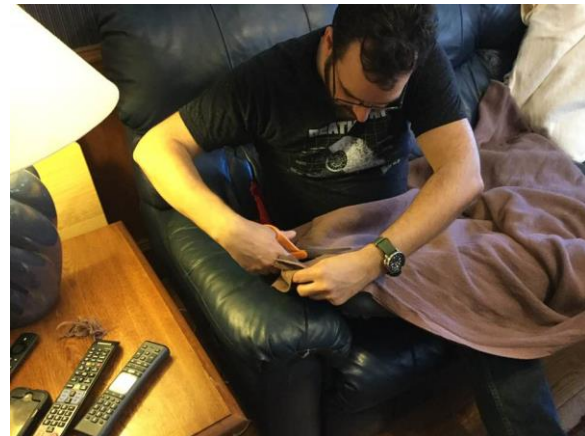
5. Pin top and bottom of the fabric along the line. (This is from armpit pin to the floor.)



6. **Using a ZIG ZAG stitch** (to prevent unraveling), sew along the line. *Note – I learned that if I turned my machine off, the stitch resets to 001. Be sure you’re set to zig zag for each step below!*



7. Once both sides are sewn, try the robe back on. If the width is good, then cut off the excess fabric, leaving approximately ½ inch from the top of stitch to edge of fabric. **For the area between the stitched end to the shoulder, angle the cut slightly towards the neck – finishing at the mark you made for the shoulder. This is the armhole.** *(The shoulder seam should not fall below the natural shoulder edge.)* Save scraps to cover boots!



8. Take the fabric cut off from the bottom of the robe, and make a fold. This will make a sleeve. You want to match up the sleeve with the armhole. NOTE – this is the width of the bolt – for most people, you can cut in half to make both sleeves from this. Other people have longer arms, so you need to use a whole length of fabric for their arms. *This is really what determines how much fabric you need for each person!*



9. Once you have a sense of the size, cut the sleeve out. LESSON LEARNED – CUT OFF THE SELVAGE EDGE, SO YOU ARE PINNING LOOSE CLOTH TO LOOSE CLOTH – THEY WILL MOVE TOGETHER WHEN YOU SE.



Roll the sleeve up from the bottom – starting at Leigh’s left hand, roll the fabric towards the robe. (This fabric is not pinned.)



Put the rolled fabric within the armhole, leaving the edge of fabric at edge of armhole. Now pin sleeve into the hole on the robe. The sleeve will be on the inside of the robe at this point. *Remember that you are working everything at this point with the robe being INSIDE OUT.





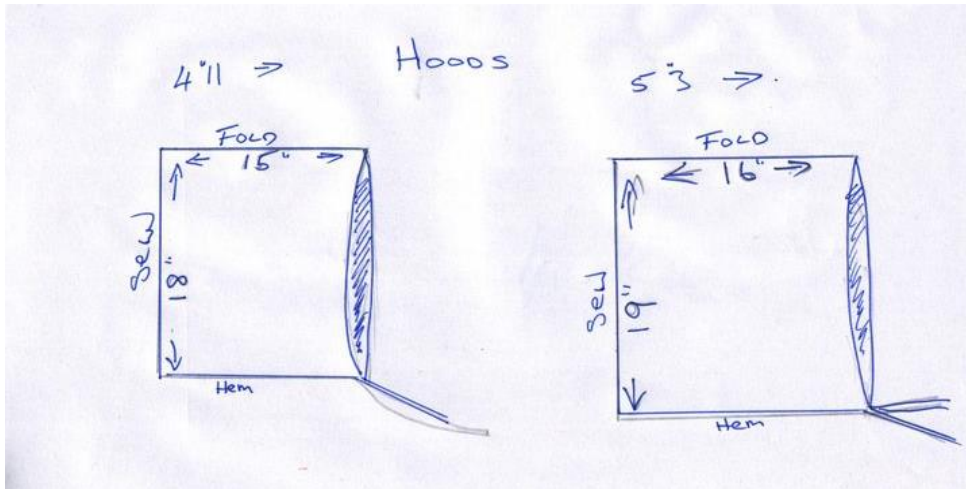
Now sew the sleeve into the hole, LEAVING THE BOTTOM OPEN. Once the armhole has been sewn, pull the sleeve from the robe and sew the fabric together STARTING AT YOUR SIDE SEAM, along the length of sleeve using your zig zag stitch. SO YOU STICH UP THE SIDE AND DOWN ALONG THE SLEEVE. Make sure you don't have any gaps at the armpit. (Pin the fabric in the pit if needed.)

10. Turn the robes right side out, so they seams are inside. Have the jawannabe put the robe back on and hold arms straight out to the sides. Mark where the person's knuckles are in the sleeves. Take the robes off, cut the sleeves off at the mark, and then sew a zigzag stich around the bottom of the sleeves about an inch from the edge. (Sleeves are not hemmed – they fray up to the zigzag.)
11. Sew a zig zag stich around the bottom of the robes. (Robes are not hemmed – they fray to the zigzag.) *BUT – if you are doing a kid's robe and need extra length for growth, go ahead and give it a big ole hem!*
12. Roll the fabric around the neck and sew it so that it does not fray. (Any messy hem works!) *Note – if the hole is too big, you can add a small piece of Velcro to close in the back.*

Robes are done!

To make the Hood:

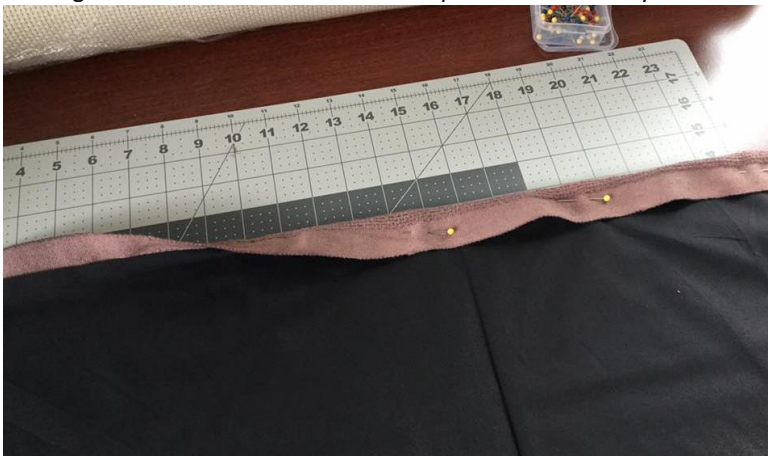
Here is the basic pattern



1. From the remaining monk's cloth, cut a piece that is 38 x 16 inches (scale down for smaller adults and scale way down kids). Fold on the long side, so that you have a 19 by 16" rectangle – see the pattern. Also cut 2 stipes folded side, so you have 2 38"x2" ribbons to use as the ties for the hood.



2. Using your zig zag stitch, sew along all four sides of both of the ribbons, to keep them from fraying. Set aside.
3. Open the hood and lay out your black fabric liner inside. (Trim these to match smaller hoods.) Then fold the edge over about one inch to make a pocket into which you will insert the cable. Pin and sew the pocket.





Sew towards the inside edge, to give you room for the cable.

4. Fold the hood so that it is inside out (lining out) and sew the back seam, using a zig zag stitch.



5. Fold, pin and hem the bottom of the hood, leaving an inch or so open at the front, so you can insert the cable.

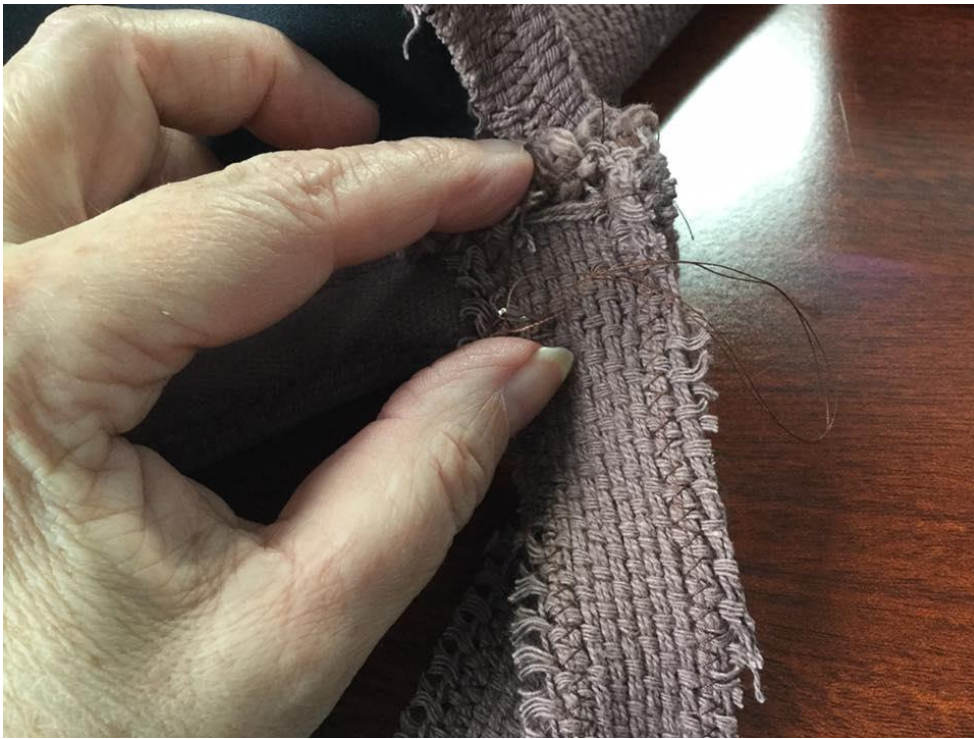


6. Turn the hood right side out, then insert the cable. (Wiggle to work it along the pocket.)



7. Take the 2 pre-seamed ribbons of monks cloth and sew them to the front of the hood, closing the opening where you inserted the cable. These will hand down the back of the Jawa when you were the costume.





Hood is done!



Final Finishing:

1. Check the length:

Make sure that the robe length is good. Our robes were all generally a little bit too long, so most need some trimming. You can also trim the robes if they stretch over time. Just mark the length you want (generally top of the foot, marked while wearing shoes), then trim to that spot. When the length is set, you'll need to "finish" the bottom. Using a zig-zag stitch, run a line around the bottom edge about an inch up, so that the ends can fray a little bit (but they won't fray past the stitch line).

You can also shorten the sleeves as needed, also making sure to zig zag along the edge to prevent fraying.

2. Add boots:

You can use any cheap pair of mid-calf, slip on boots. (Ugg knock-offs from Walmart are popular.) Using the fabric scraps, especially what you've cut off the sleeves/bottom, cover the boots. To do this, use hot glue to affix strips of fabric to the boot. You don't cover the bottom (sole) of the boot, but it's best to start where the boot fabric meets the sole and work up to the top. You can tie the strips as well, to make it look interesting. Here is one of mine:



Note that you can see the finished (selvage) edge of the fabric at the very top. That's ok – prevents it from fraying at the top, and it's not visible there - but you need to make sure the selvage edge is not visible on the wrapped part of the boot itself.

4. Weather the kit. You need to weather the robes and boots with some tan/light brown paint. (See the CRL for pictures.) We applied the paint with a balled-up plastic bag or a dry pine cone. Using a dry brush helps give it that dusty, sandy, dirty look. Note – paint has to be tan or brown. Do NOT weather with anything black. (It seems like motor oil would be canon, but the judges reject those.)

You also want to lightly weather your bandolier.

6. Add a pair of black gloves (long opera gloves or any black cotton gloves – I like cotton better, but then you need a long sleeve black shirt under. If you use opera gloves, you don't need the long sleeve shirt.)

UTINNI!