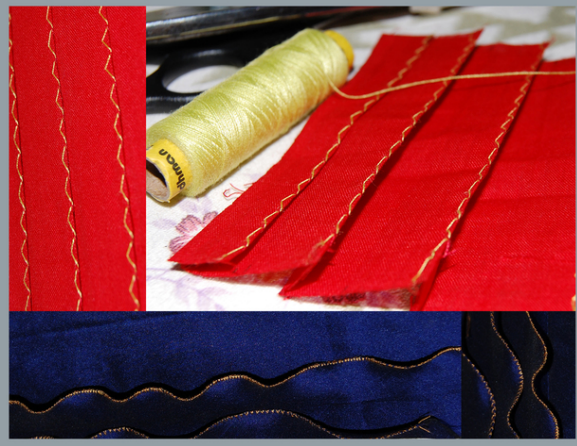


Pleats that last... and last!

By: magdamagda

<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/pleats-that-last-and-last>



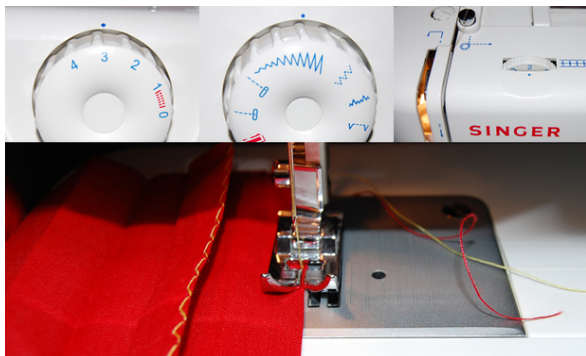
When you consider using pleats for an outfit there's always the question: what happens after washing? Will they look just as good? They will unfold a bit and the cloth may wrinkle a little also, so you will need to spend some considerable time ironing after every wash...What can you do to skip the ironing after, or at least make it a lot easier? There are some spray solutions for making pleats last or some recommend the use of vinegar, i will present an alternative that seems friendly to me, plus i love the look (also i'd be interested to know how all alternatives work for you).

Step 1 — Make the pleats!



The best combination for a perfect equation is a fabric that doesn't wrinkle and pleats that keep their shape. For fabric I prefer cotton mix - natural fibers for comfort and synthetic ones for shape. The first step is to make pleats using whatever method works for you, see these techniques for a quick reference <http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/make-box-and-inverted-box-pleats>, <http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/how-to-make-a-pleater-board>.

Step 2 — Zig and Zag!



After you've ironed them into shape use your zig zag pattern, set the pattern dial somewhere in the middle range like shown in the picture. Loosen the tension of the upper thread. Set the stitch length dial to 3 mm and stitch the edges on the right side of the fabric. I used a light green and a red thread (green is the upper thread).

Step 3 — Turn to the other side!



Turn to the wrong side of the fabric, here's the place to be discrete: i used only red thread.

Step 4 — Iron!



Yes ... iron! :)

Step 5 — Finished look!



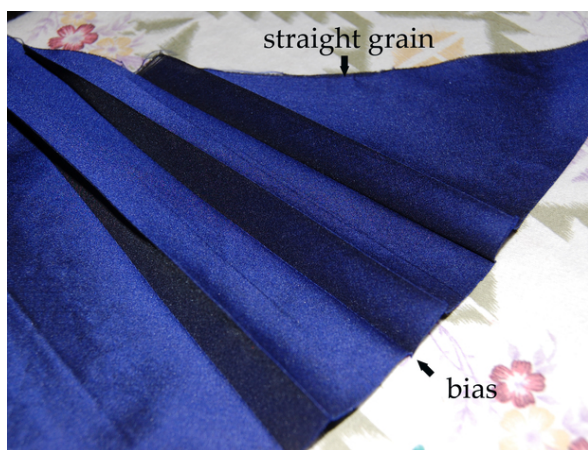
That's how it's going to look on the right side...

Step 6 — And that's what you get on the wrong side!...



...exactly!

Step 7 — Change of perspective!



We can change the data of the equation: let's make bias pleats and play with the zig zag - make it tighter and smaller... ..so first iron your pleats...
