

Fiskers Unzipped - Extra Special Obi Belt-singed handmade flower detail

By: nyphertiti

<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/fiskers-unzipped-extra-spec>



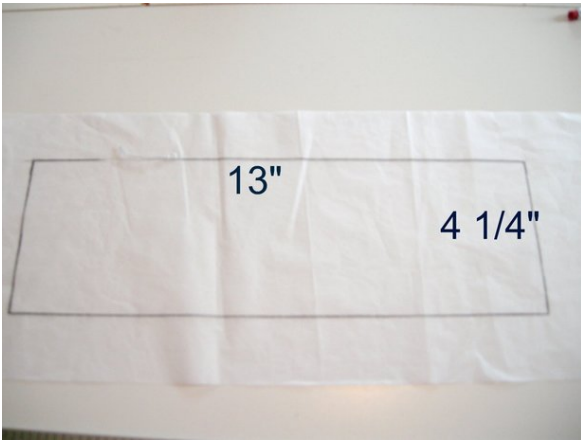
I think one of the most flattering belts out there is the Obi belt. Not only are they pretty, but they are super simple to make. Today I made one from scratch and added some extra special embellishments just to take it to the next level. This is going to seem like a long tutorial, but trust me, it is a very easy project.

Step 1 — Materials



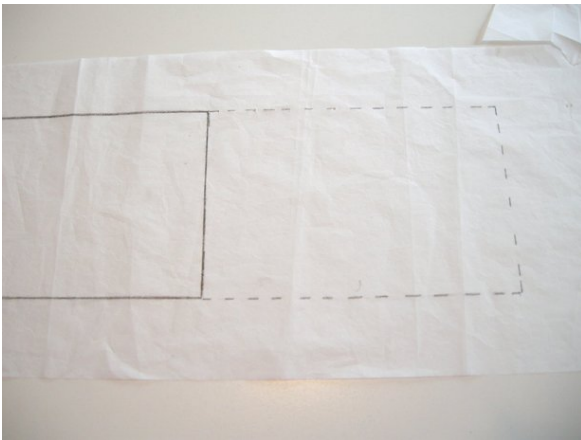
Here's what you need to complete the project.

Step 2 — The Pattern



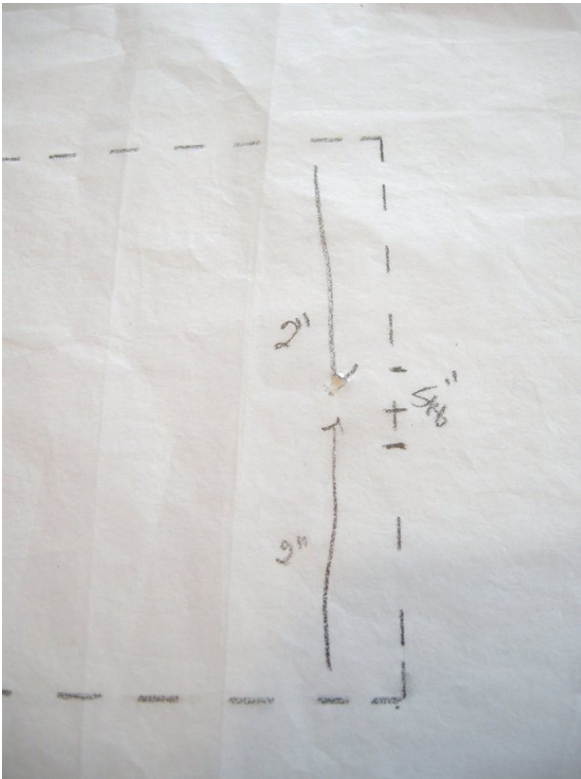
First weâ— ll make a quick pattern, because once you make one of these, you know youâ— ll want to make more. I used tissue paper for my pattern but you can easily just tape some regular old office printer paper together and itâ— ll work just fine. Draw a rectangle on your paper. Iâ— m a bit on the small side so mine measures 13" (33cm) X 4 1/4"(11cm). Add another inch or two for medium or larger.

Step 3 — The Pattern



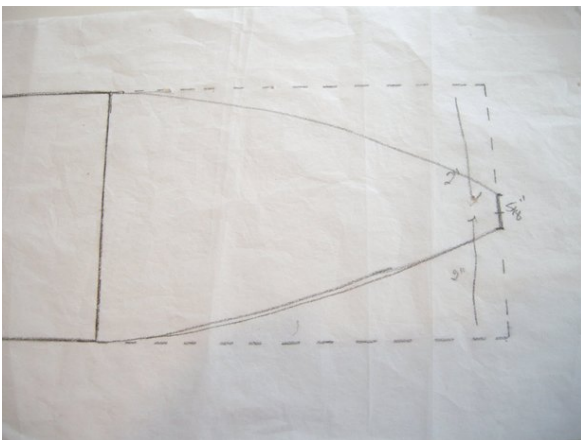
Now extend your rectangle another 6" (15cm) on each side but just draw a dotted line.

Step 4 — The Pattern



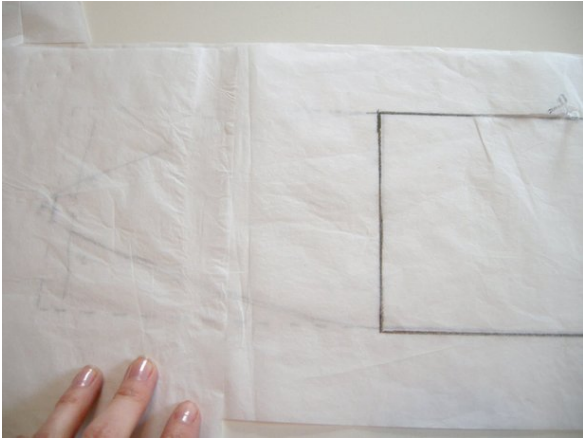
Find the centre of the side and draw a line that is 5.8" long (1.5cm).

Step 5 — The Pattern



Now connect each side of that small line to the corners of the original rectangle.

Step 6 — The Pattern



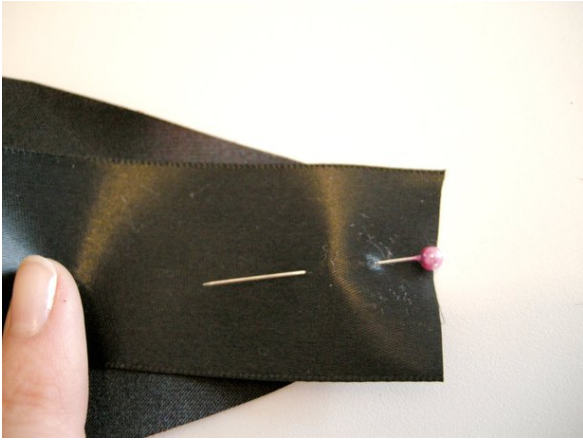
You can either do step 2 again on the other side, or you can just fold the original rectangle in half and trace the end piece. Once that's done, just cut your pattern out.

Step 7 — Cut your fabric



Fold your fabric with wrong sides together. Lay your belt pattern on top, pin, and cut.

Step 8 — The Belt



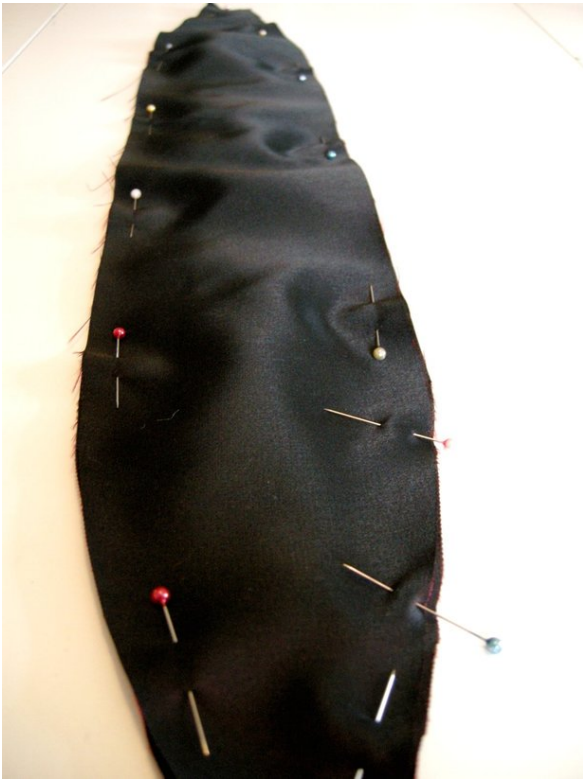
Cut two pieces of ribbon that will go around your waist one and half times. Lay one piece of ribbon flush with one end of your belt body and sew across with a $5/8$ " seam allowance. I'm using 1" wide ribbon only because that's what I had on hand. I suggest something narrower or gather the end so that it matches the width of the end of your belt. (Make sure you have right sides together and the length of the ribbon is towards the centre of your belt.) Do the same on the other end.

Step 9 — The Belt



Fold your ribbon pieces towards the inside and secure with a pin just so that you won't catch it in your seams when you sew the belt together.

Step 10 — The Belt



Place the other belt body, right sides facing, on top and pin. You will now sew the sides, leaving a small opening for turning, with a 3/8" seam allowance. (Iâ— m using a great taffeta fabric that is reddish on one side and black on the other.)

Step 11 — The Belt



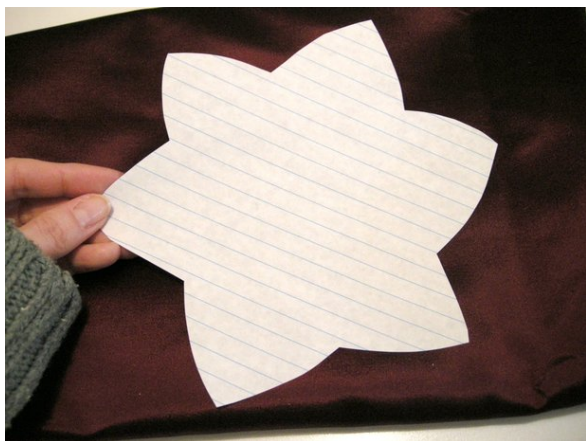
For added flexibility Iâ— m making one side of my belt red and the other black to make it reversible. If youâ— re new to sewing, just keep things simple and put right sides together.)

Step 12 — The Belt



Turn it right side out, press, and hand stitch the opening closed.

Step 13 — That extra special touch



To take your belt up a notch weâ— re going to add some pretty flower embellishments that you can remove if you want. Draw a flower template on a piece of paper.

Step 14 — Embellishments



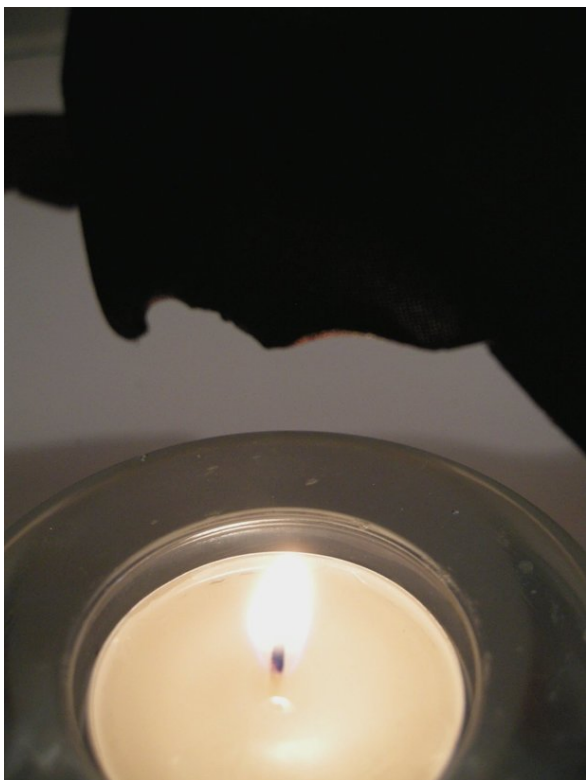
Place on fabric, pin, and cut. Donâ— t worry about being perfect here. In fact the messier the better. Cut out 3-4 pieces for each flower you plan to create.

Step 15 — Embellishments



I was going to stitch around each flower and then pull threads so that they were frayed at the edges, but I didnâ— t care for the look.

Step 16 — Embellishments



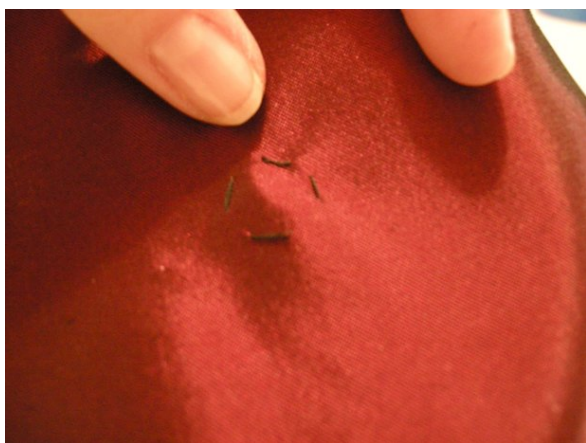
So, instead I singed all of the edges with a candle flame. This works best with man-made fibres. You donâ— t even have to touch the flame, just get close enough so that the fabric starts to melt and curl a bit.

Step 17 — Embellishments



Of course, my fabric did actually catch fire more than a couple of times. Just keep a close eye on it as you're going, and blow it out quickly. Be careful. The edges will be hot for about a minute or so.

Step 18 — Embellishments



Hand stitch long gathering stitches in a circle in the centre of one of your flowers. Gather, secure, and repeat the process with another flower on top without cutting your thread. Do this with 3-4 flowers pieces. This won't be visible so, again, don't worry too much about it being pretty. Gather some more from the back if you want a fuller flower and secure with hand stitching.

Step 19 — Embellishments



Hand stitch a stick pin closure onto the back of your flowers if you want the option of removing them from your belt. If this isn't a concern you can just hand stitch your flowers right onto your obi belt. And now you're finally done!

Step 20 — All done!



Totally Blah~

Step 21 — All done



Sophisticated and elegant~

Step 22 — TAH DAH!



Totally Wow! And when I flip it to the black side I have even more options! I can take off some flowers or add more on. You could make them in contrasting or matching fabrics. Really, the possibilities are endless.

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