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Fur technique book

Saga Furs has dedicated years of craftsmanship and fur know-how to inspire the world of fashion. A big part of this work has been developing new ways and techniques on using fur.

The Saga Furs' Fur Technique Book is a collection of some of the techniques and their manuals for your use. To see the videos of these manuals, please go to technique.sagafurs.com

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Fur technique book

Contents

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Airgallon

Airgallon technique extends the fur and adds a lot of air.
The technique makes the fur light and easy to work with
as if it was a piece of a fabric.

1

Start with a nailed skin with the Airgallon pattern transferred to the leather side. For info on how to transfer a pattern, watch Basic Fur Skill video "Transfer" on technique.sagafurs.com. You can find the pattern on the last page of this manual.

2

HORIZONTAL AIRGALLON
Leave the sides on the pelt, for easier nailing of the finished Airgallon. Cut off the top and bottom. Start cutting from the top of the pelt.

VERTICAL AIRGALLON
Leave the top and bottom on the pelt, for easier nailing of the finished Airgallon. Cut off the sides. Start cutting from the bottom of the pelt.

3

Cut the entire Airgallon pattern.

(4)
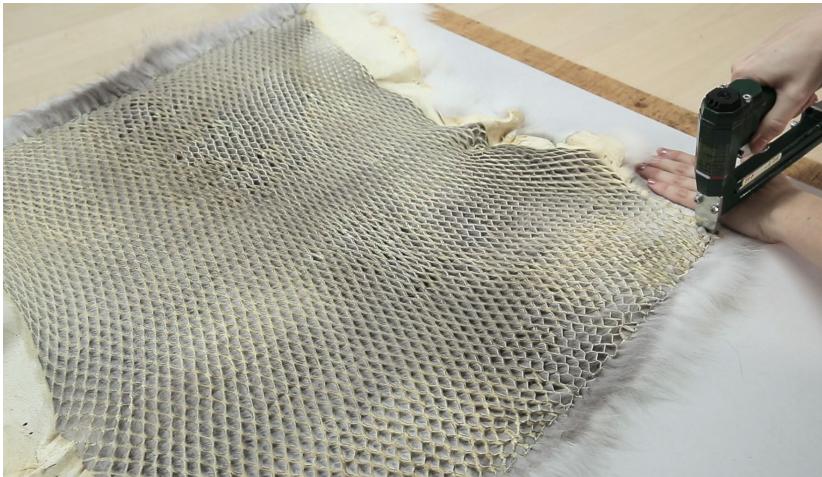
BONDING THE AIRGALLON
Wet the pelt, keeping the Airgallon tight. Spread the Airgallon to the wanted size (be careful not to overstretch) and nail the bottom of the pelt. Nail the top and sides, making sure that everything is straight. Leave to dry.

(5)

Bond the Airgallon with preferred bonding material (we use Article no: OTD PAP 001 from Lotti Mauro). The material we use needs 10 seconds/120°C in the heat press.
When the bonding material is cool, remove the paper and give it another press for 10 seconds/120°C. Brush the fur to remove loose hairs.

(6)

Before cutting the Airgallon, place tape next to the cutting line.

Cut next to the tape. The tape will secure the seams.

The Airgallon is now ready to use for garments, trims and more.

1,5 cm

AIRGALLON

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Fox on fabric
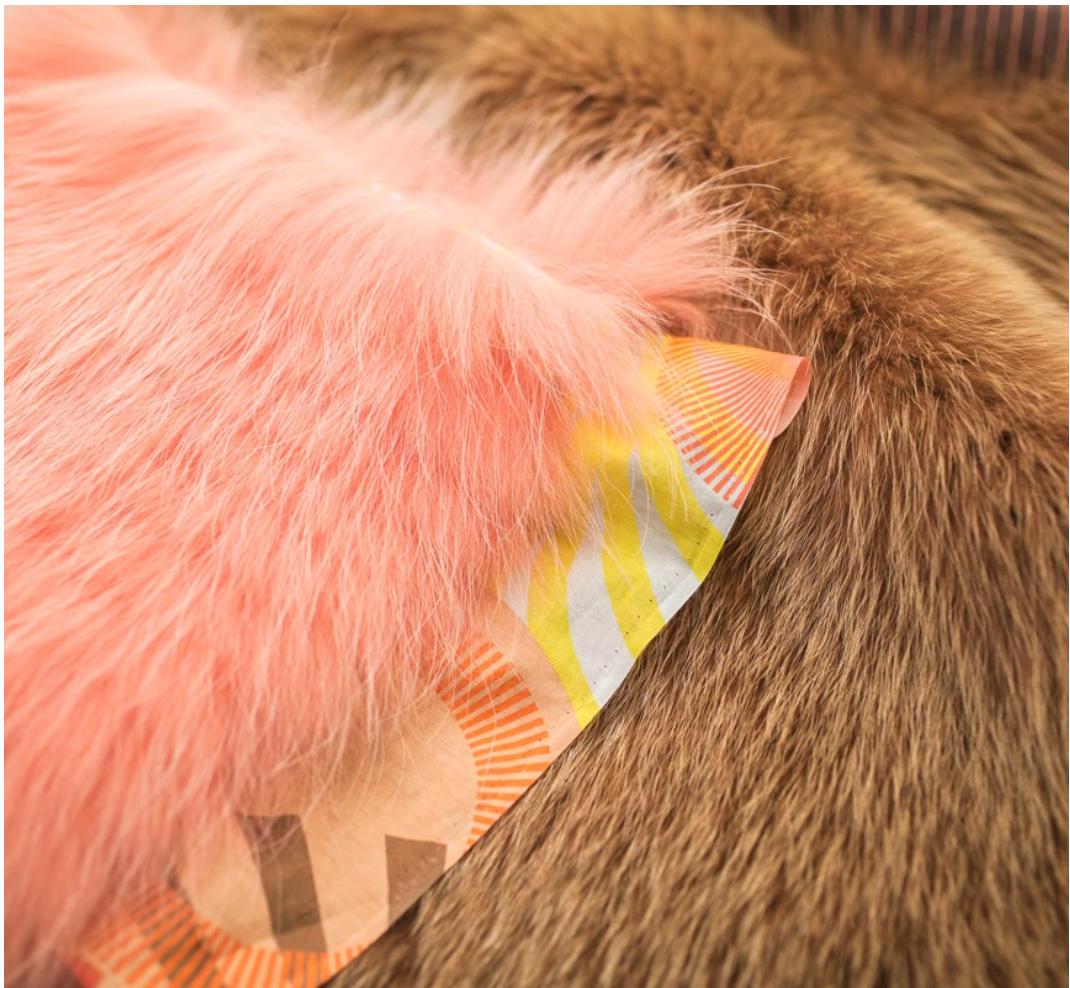
When using the technique fox on fabric, it makes working with fur so easy! Use your domestic sewing machine, fur and fabric, and create the lightest and airiest piece of fur. You also get a lot of material by extending the fur and get as light as a feather feeling.

1

HORIZONTAL FOX ON FABRIC
Use any type of fox and adjust spacing according to the hair length. Mark the lines on the fabric using a pen or narrow masking tape.

RECOMMENDED SPACING:
Short hair length (e.g. Blue Fox): 2 cm
Medium hair length (e.g. Arctic Marble Frost Fox): 2,5 cm
Long hair length (e.g. Silver Fox, Finnraccoon): 3–3,5 cm

2

Cut horizontal 4-mm wide strips and brush them. Keep the fur strips in the correct order on a board. Start with the bottom strip and place the bottom strip on the bottom of the fabric.

3

Stitch the fur strip on top of the fabric. Use zigzag or straight stitch.
For info on the different stitches, watch Basic Fur Skill video "sewing: household sewing machine" on technique.sagafurs.com

4

If using the zigzag stitch, left side of the stitch should be on the fur strip + fabric. Right side of the stitch should be on the fabric only.

5

Continue with the following fur strips, going from the bottom to the top.

6

VERTICAL FOX ON FABRIC
Use medium- to long-haired fox types.
Mark the lines on the fabric using a pen or narrow masking tape, or use a striped fabric.

RECOMMENDED SPACING:
All hair lengths: 1 cm

⑦

Cut vertical 4-mm wide strips and brush them. Keep the fur strips in the correct order on a board. Start with the right strip on the left side of the fabric

⑧

Stitch the fur strip on top of the fabric. Use zigzag or straight stitch.
For info on the different stitches, watch Basic Fur Skill video "sewing: household sewing machine" on technique.sagafurs.com

⑨
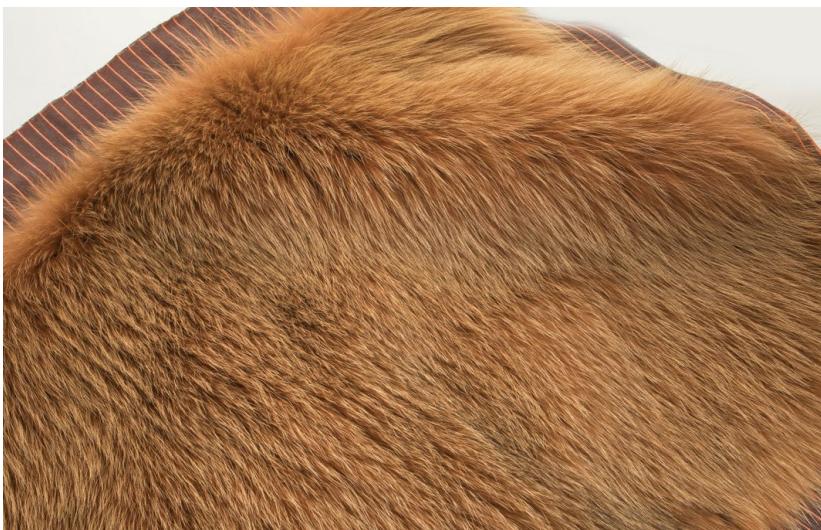
Continue with the following fur strips, going from left to right on the fabric.

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Finish

Finish is everything. Here are two simple ways to finish when using airgallon or fox-on-fabric techniques.

①

AIRGALLON
The holes from the Airgallon are visible. We want to cover this to make a nice neckline finish.

②

Cut a 4 mm strip from the leftover neck and brush it.

③

Use the fur sewing machine to stitch the fur strip at the edge of the Airgallon.

(4)

In the same seam, stitch on a ribbon or piece of suede.
Attach the lining directly to the ribbon/suede.

1

FOX ON FABRIC
The Fox-On-Fabric technique is visible at the edge. We want to cover this to make a nice neckline finish. Cut a 4-mm strip from the leftover neck and brush it..

2

Stitch the fur strip on top of the Fox On Fabric edge with a straight stitch.

3

In the same seam, stitch on a ribbon or a piece of suede.

4

Fold the ribbon/suede around the edge and do a stitch in the ditch between the fur and the ribbon/suede.

5

Attach a lining to the ribbon/suede or leave it unlined.

6

The final look of the finished edge.

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Pompon

Here a short description of this technique

1

The pompon pattern is made for short-haired foxes: Blue Fox and Shadow Fox.
Start with a nailed skin. Use the pattern to draw the pompon pattern with the hair direction downwards.

2

8 cm

4 cm
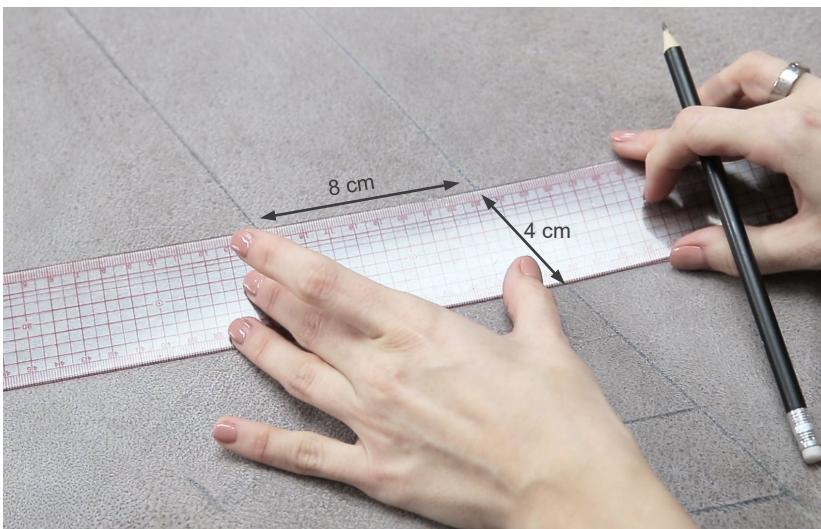
To draw the pompons faster, use a ruler. Measure 8 cm between the lines in the width and use the pompon pattern to get the right angle. Measure 4 cm height for the pompons. (The pattern is on the last page).

3

Cut out the pompon and cut the hole in the centre to attach the ribbon.

4
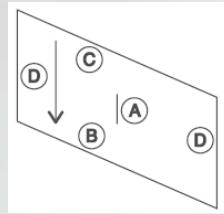
Pull the ribbon through the hole in the centre (A). Fold down the seam allowance and sew over the fur and ribbon 2–3 times.

5
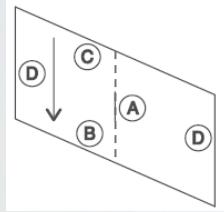
Fold side B in half and sew it from the edge.

6
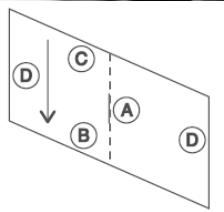

Fold side C in half and sew it from the edge.

⑦

Turn the pompon inside out. You may need to use some strength to do that.

⑧
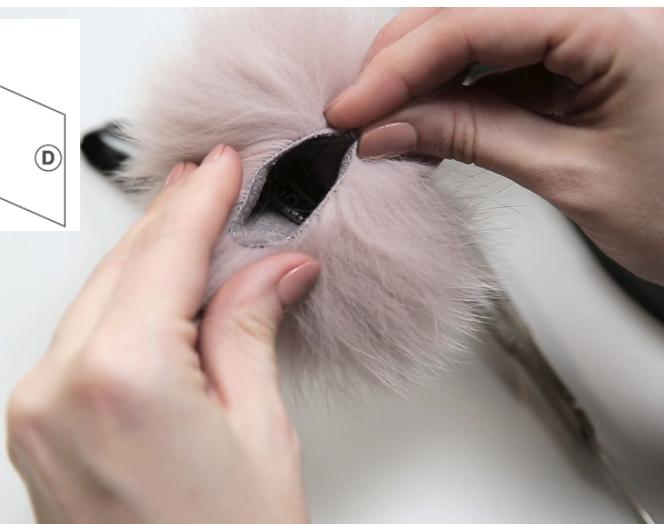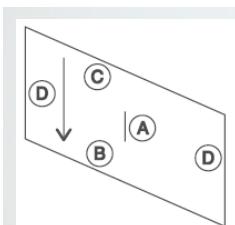
Fold sides D with one seam in each end and sew it from the outside. Flatten the seam.

8 cm

4 cm
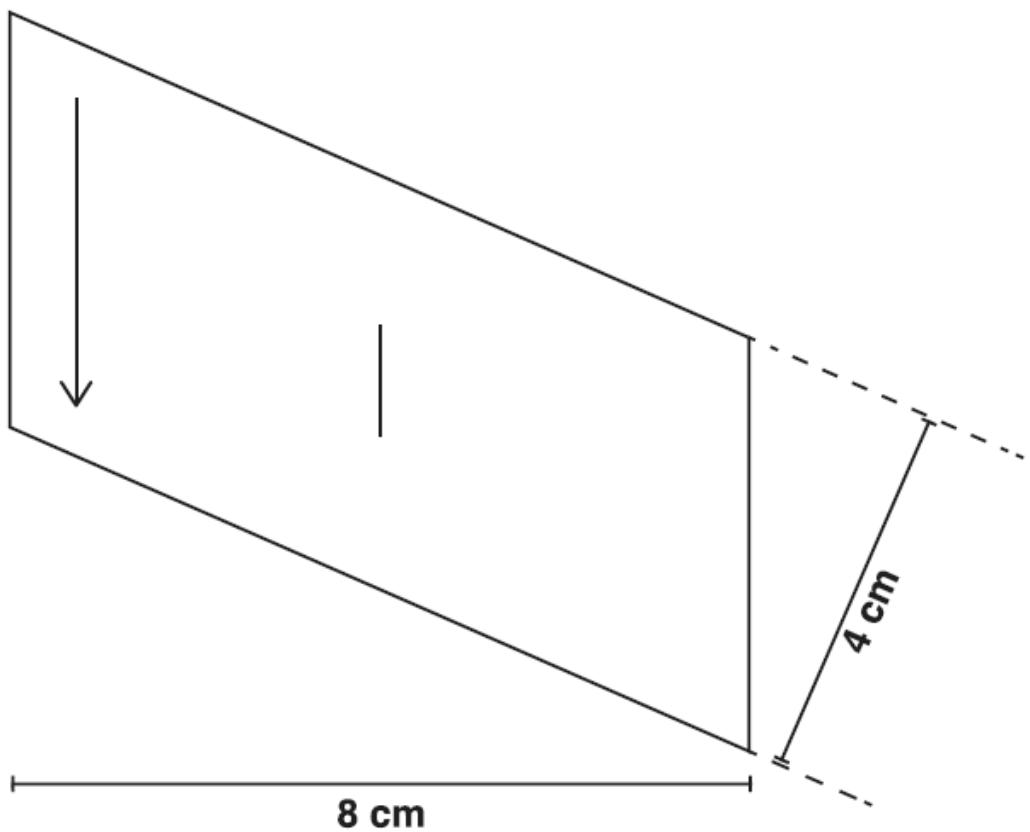
Saga Furs' pattern for pompon

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Tiles

Tiles open up the fur and add lightness in a delicate way. It also extends the yield of fur both in length and width.
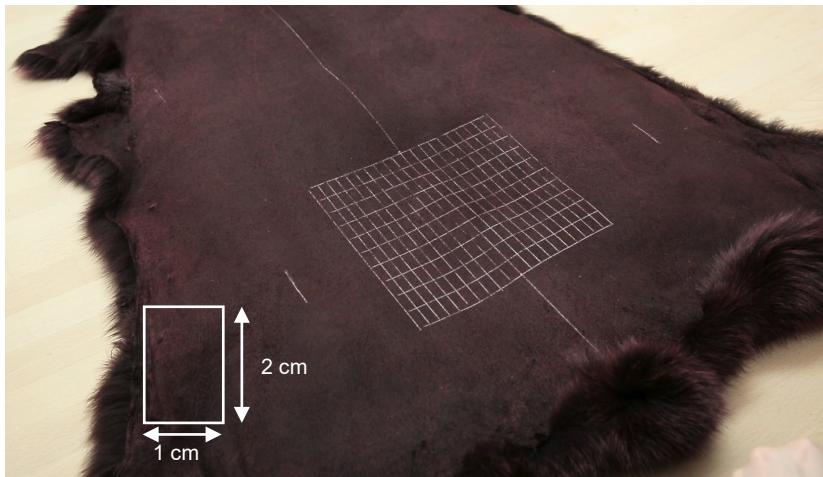
① Start with a nailed fox. Use any type of fox or mink and adjust pattern to the hair length. Draw the tiles 1x2 cm.

2 cm

1 cm

② Use the pattern to draw lines on the fabric. Remember to match the number of lines to the number of tiles.

E   C   A
F   D   B

③ Cut off a strip of tiles and cut off the tiles one by one when sewing

(4)

| A | B | C | D | E | F |

E   C   A
F   D   B

Cut off tile A and sew onto line A.

(5)

Fold the fabric and place the tile directly on the line. Use the smallest stitch available.

(6)
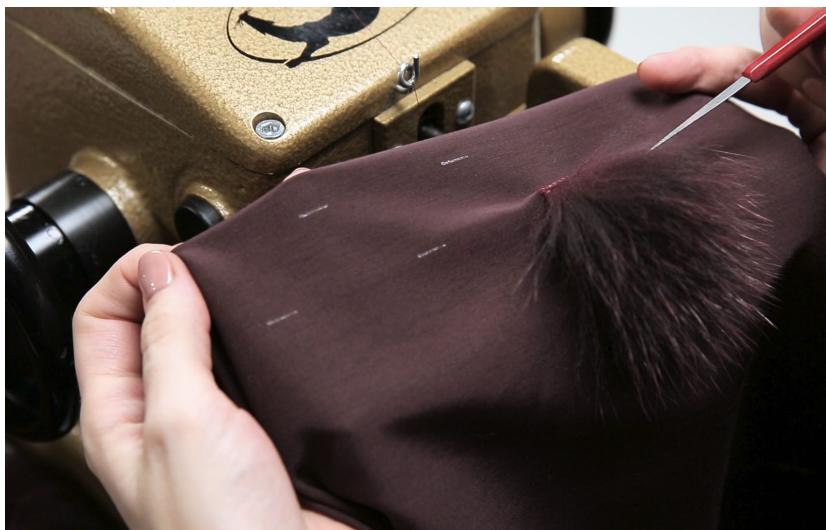
Continue going horizontally across the fabric.

MINK TILES

3,0 cm

2,0 cm

1,0 cm
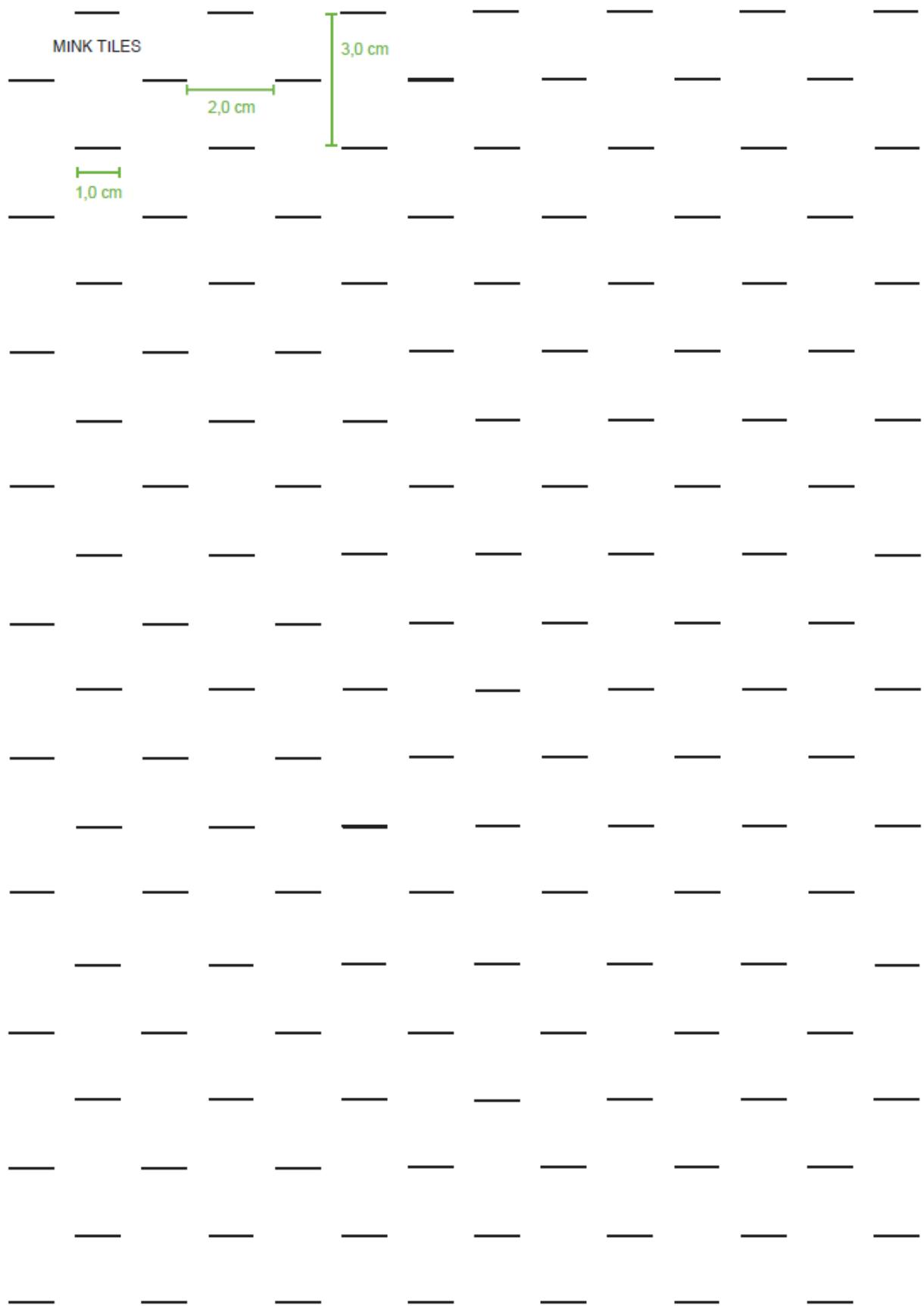
Saga Furs' technique for mink tiles

LONG HAIRED FOX TILES

1,0 cm

5,0 cm

2,5 cm
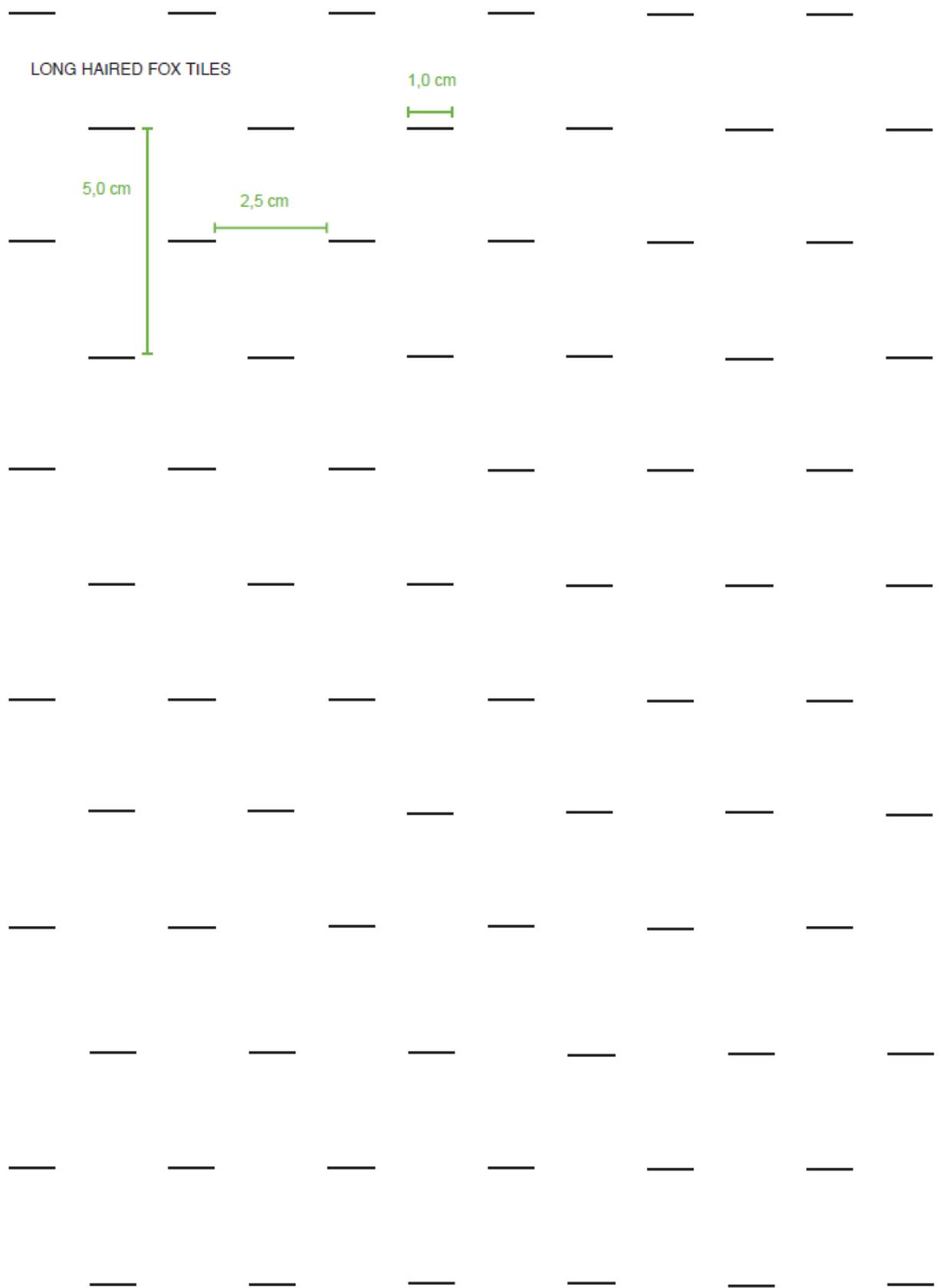
Saga Furs' technique for long-haired fox tiles

SHORT HAIRED FOX TILES

4,0 cm

3,0 cm

1,0 cm
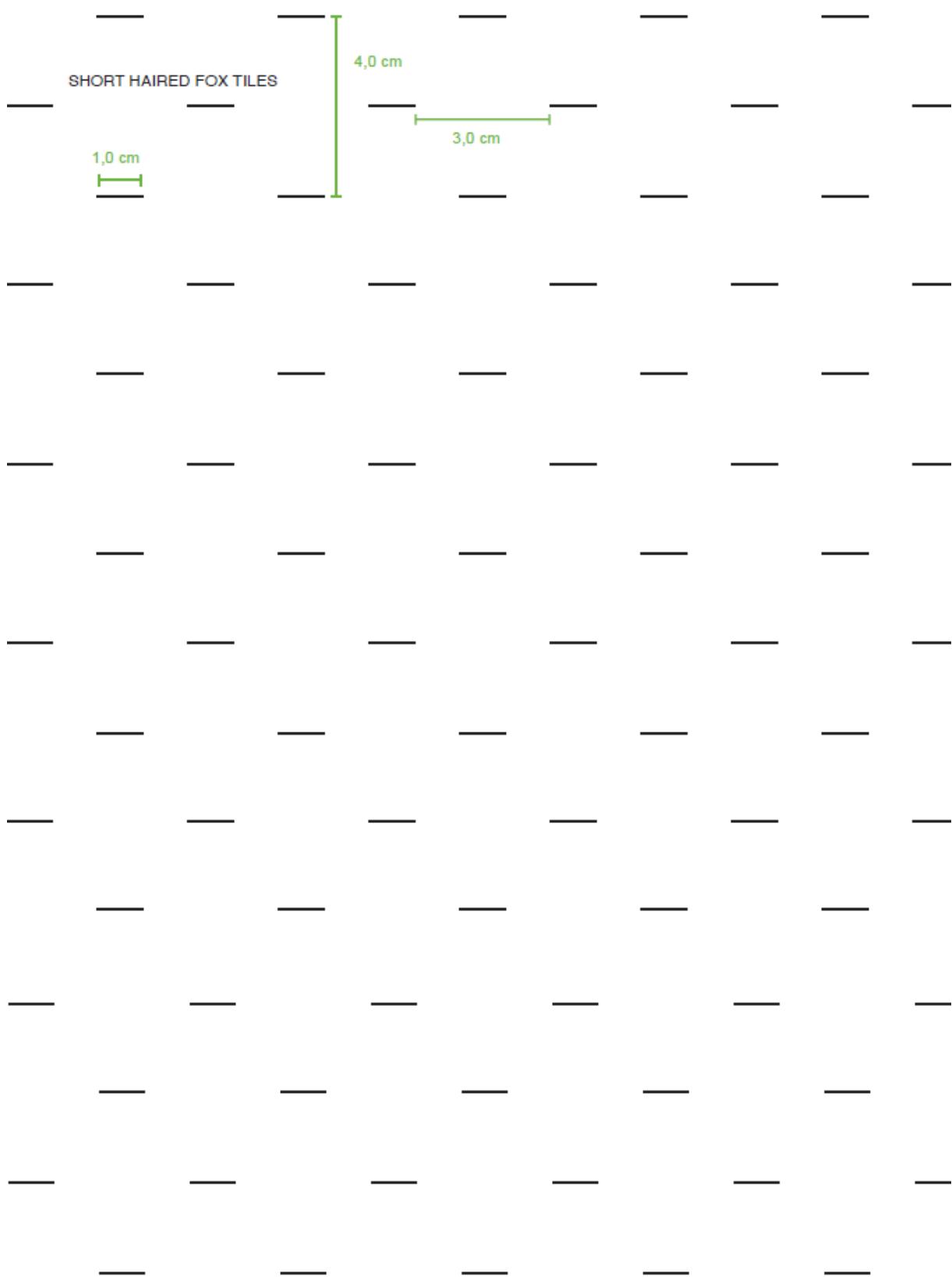
Saga Furs' technique for short-haired fox tiles

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Windows

The windows technique is a fabulous way to create a double-faced scarf or trim.
Simple, light, easy.

1

Start with a nailed fox with the Windows pattern transferred to the leather side (pattern on the last page).
To make a classic scarf, divide the skin in the centre and use the entire length of the skin.

2

Mark 1 cm all the way around to make nice-looking folded edges.

3
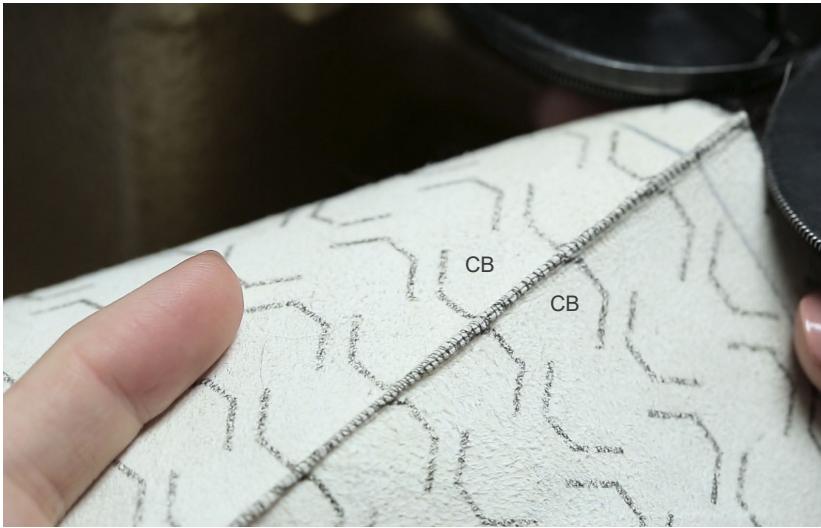
Sew the centre back seam of the scarf. Use a tight tension for this seam, to avoid the seam to be too flat and open.

4

Cut off a triangle to make mitered corners.

5

Fold in the edges and stitch them down. Use a looser tension for this, to get a nice flat seam.

6

Cut all the windows open.

(7)

Use an awl to gently pull the hairs through to the backside.
Brush the front- and backside to get rid of loose hairs.

WINDOWS

0,7 cm

1,6 cm
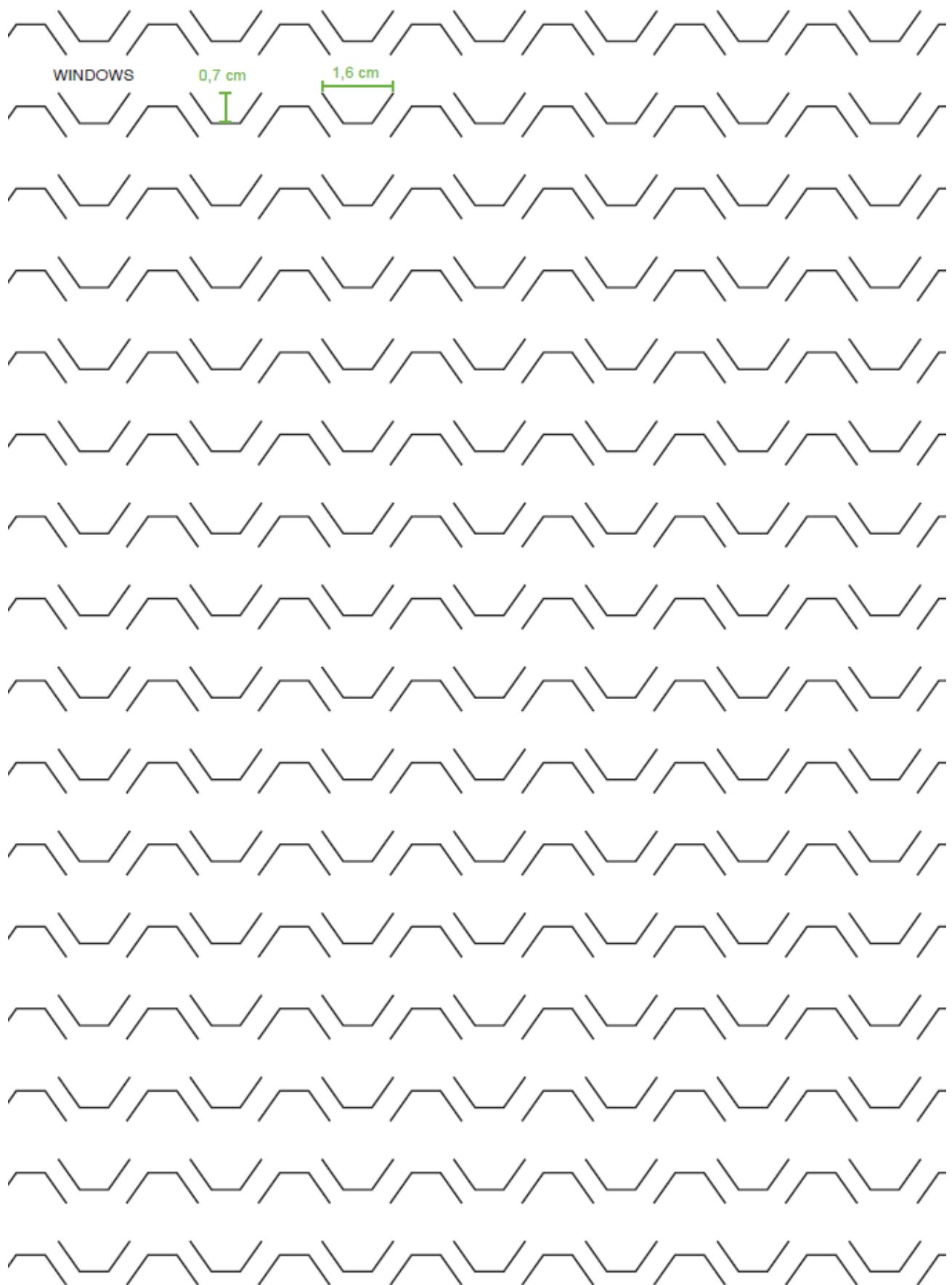
Saga Furs' technique for windows

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Twist

This is an easy way to make a light double-sided scarf.
You don't need a lot of fur to make one.

Start with a nailed piece of fox. Decide the width of the twist and draw lines on the skin.
For the infinity scarf, make the stripes 2 cm wide. (Find pattern on the last page).

Gather the sides and close the piece into a tube, with both ends free. Sew from both ends to
avoid the seam from unraveling when twisting.

Cut along the lines until the desired length and brush the strip. For the infinity scarf make it
120 cm long.

Nail the twist strip at the end.
Wet the twist strip with water.

Attach a drill with a clip to the other end of the twist strip.

Start twisting, making sure the leather is folding up on the inside.

Nail the end of the twist and leave it to dry overnight.

To make an infinity scarf, stitch the two ends of the twist on the fur sewing machine. Wet the closure with water and twist it by hand to make an invisible finish.

120 cm x 2 cm

2 cm

8 cm

30 cm
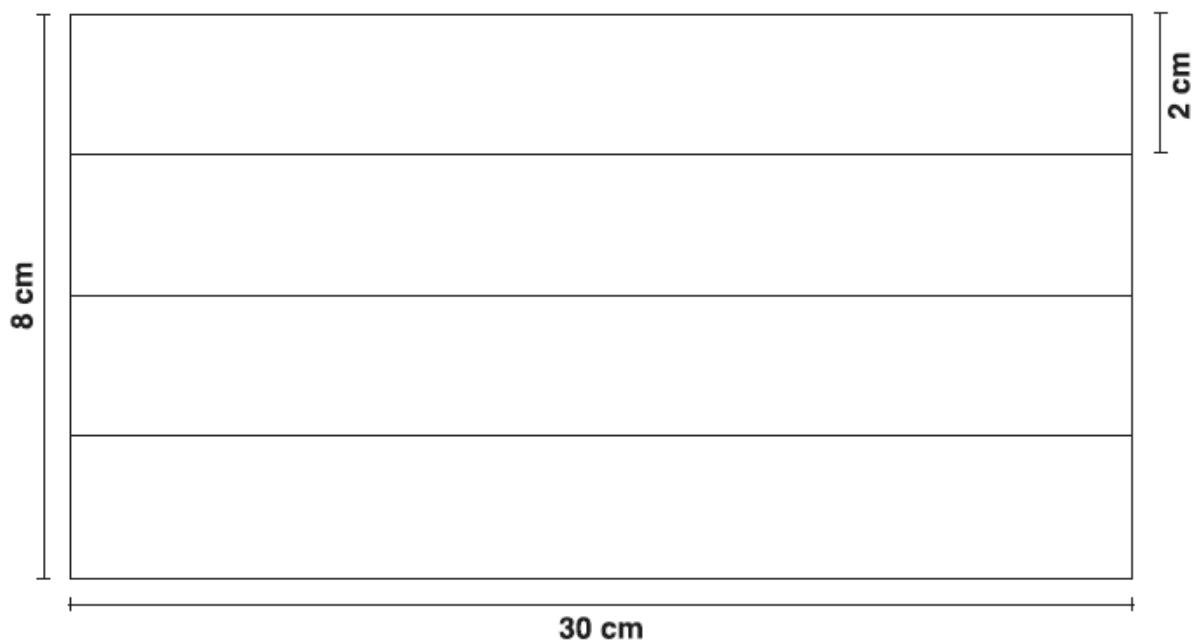
Saga Furs' technique for twisted infinity scarf

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Up/down

Up/down is a brilliant and easy way to create a woven impression. It looks complicated but is easy!

1

Start with two nailed mink pelts – one sheared and one regular hair lengths. You can also use two different colours.

2
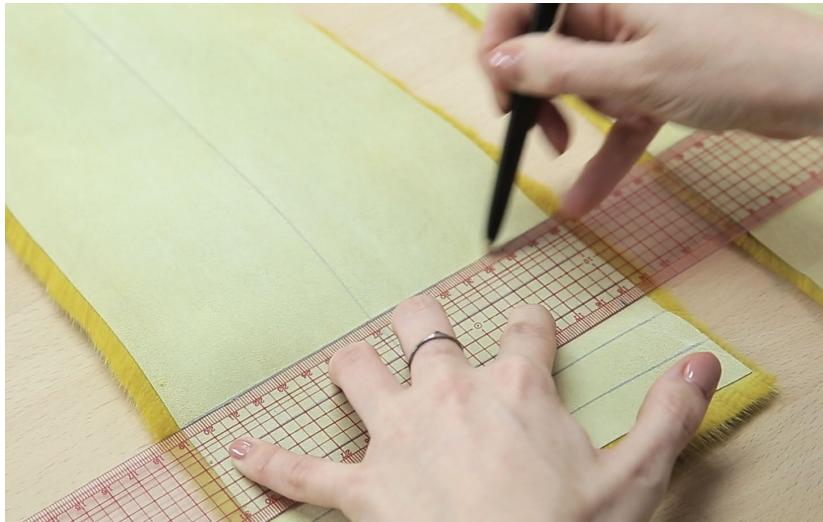
Mark the horizontal lines making the stripes 2 cm wide.

3

 Cut out all the stripes and place them on a board, alternating between the two different pelts.

Sew all the horizontal stripes.

1 cm

Mark the vertical lines making the stripes 1 cm wide.

Cut the first stripe and move it 1 cm up before sewing it.

7

Continue this pattern, moving 3 stripes up and 3 stripes down.

8

Stretch and nail the sample for a perfect finish.

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Checkerboard 2.0

Fox as a light woven piece of fabric. High impact, easy to make.

1

Start with four different colours of fox. Use any type of fox, mink or Finnraccoon, as long as the different colours match in hair length.
Mark the horizontal lines making the stripes 1 cm wide.

2

Cut out the stripes and place them in order on a board after brushing.

3

Sew the stripes, thinning out the volume with 1-cm wide leather stripes between each fox stripe.

④ Mark the vertical lines making the stripes 1 cm wide.
Cut the first stripe.

⑤ Move the first stripe 2 cm up, placing it beside the next colour fur square. Thin out the volume with 1 cm wide leather stripes between each fox stripe.

⑥ Move the next stripe 2 cm down, going up and down for each stripe.
Stretch and nail the sample for a perfect finish.

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Degradé

Degradé is an easy way to ma a two-coloured piece of fur. The colours simply blend into each other.

1

Start with two nailed skins, using the bottom half of each skin. Check that the hair lengths match. Here we used Finnraccoon skins.

2
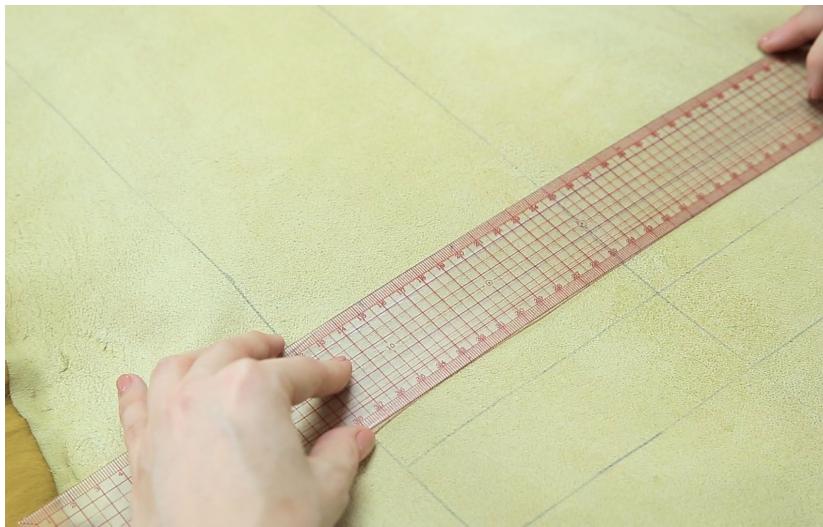
Mark the horizontal lines on the bottom colour, starting with the wide stripe on the bottom of the skin. Mark the horizontal lines on the top colour, starting with the wide stripe on the top of the skin. (Please, find the patterns on the last page).

3

Cut out all the stripes.

Brush the stripes and place them in order on a board.

Sew the stripes using normal stitch length and normal tension.

Stretch and nail the sample for a perfect finish.

Left column (top to bottom):

7 cm	1
5 cm	2
4 cm	3
3 cm	
2,5 cm	
2,5 cm	
2 cm	
2 cm	
1,5 cm	
1,5 cm	
1 cm	
1 cm	
1 cm	
1 cm	
1 cm	
0,5 cm	
0,5 cm	
0,5 cm	
0,5 cm	
0,5 cm	

Right column (top to bottom):

0,5 cm	A
0,5 cm	B
0,5 cm	C
0,5 cm	
0,5 cm	
1 cm	
1 cm	
1 cm	
1 cm	
1 cm	
1,5 cm	
1,5 cm	
2 cm	
2 cm	
2,5 cm	
2,5 cm	
3 cm	
4 cm	
5 cm	
7 cm	

Bottom box:

	1
	A
	2
	B
	3
	C
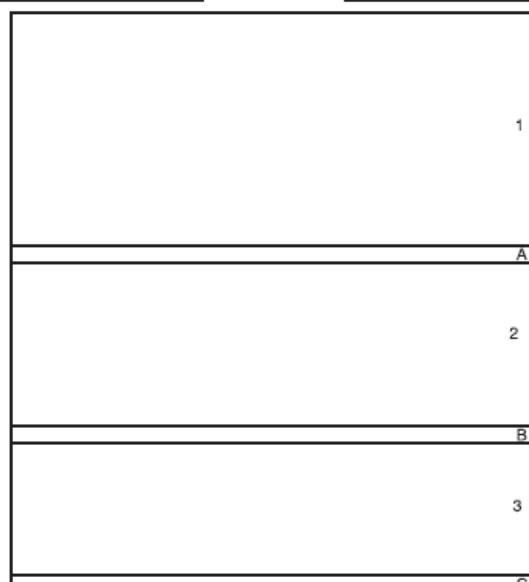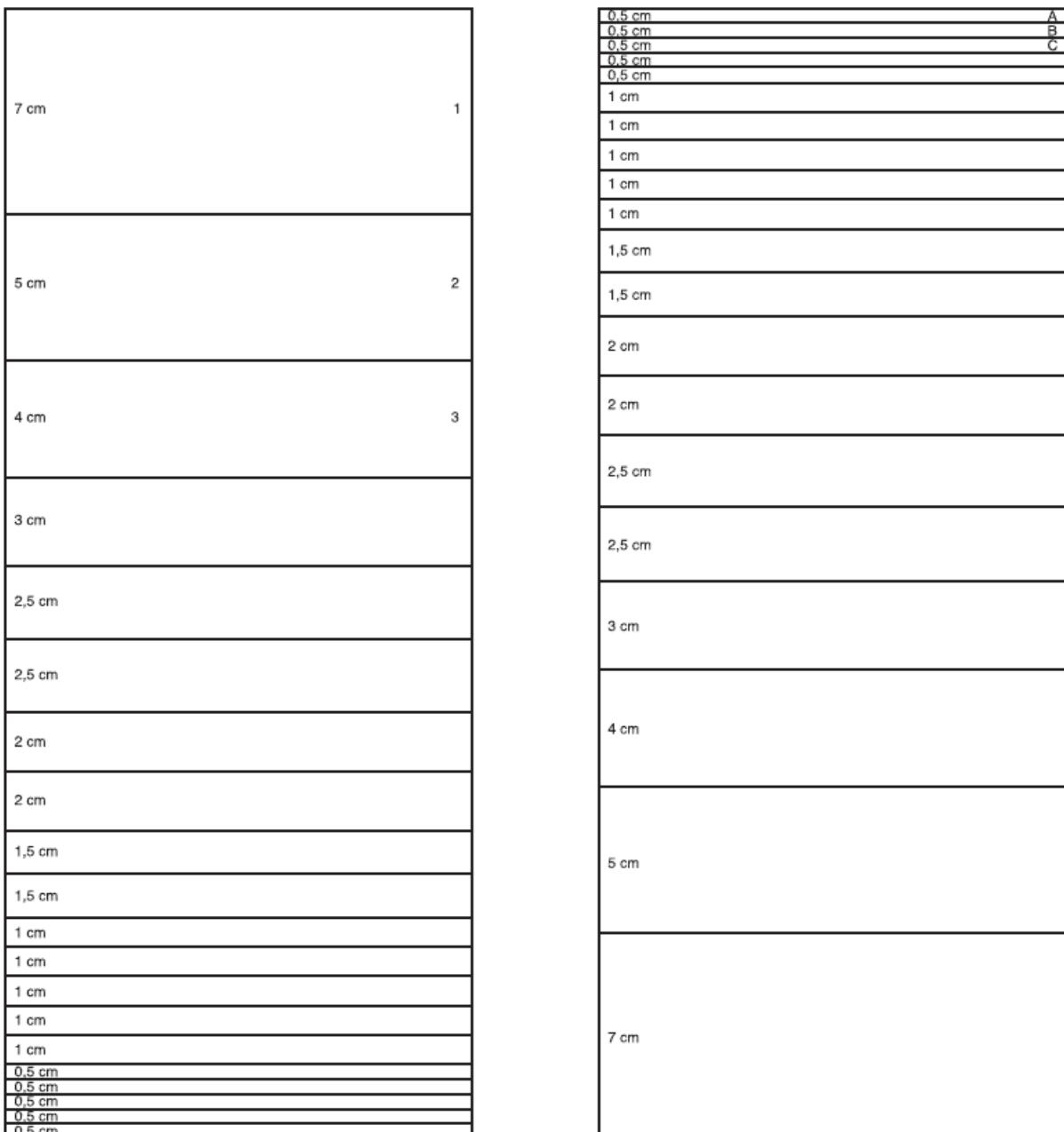
Saga Furs' technique for Degradé

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Pinstripe

Pinstripe is a simple way to add a contrasting stripe that makes you think of a piece of fabric. Thin, elegant and simple.

1

Start with two nailed mink skins in different colours, matching in hair length.
Divide the base colour skin in two, cutting along the centre line.

2

Divide the pinstripe colour skin in two, cutting 1 mm to the left of the
centre line.

3

Sew the left half of the base colour skin to the right side of the pinstripe colour skin.
Flatten the seam.

④ Cut the pinstripe colour skin, 2 mm from the fur seam.

⑤ Sew the right side of the base colour skin to the pinstripe.
Flatten the seam.

⑥ Continue the pinstripes with the preferred distance. Check the hair length before doing a pinstripe.

(7)

Stretch and nail the skin for a perfect finish.

Crossmink

A simple way to add a contrast stripe. Thin and sharp.

1 Start with a nailed Cross mink skin and a nailed contrast colour mink skin. Check that the hair lengths match. Mark the centre line on both skins and mark start/stop points for the contrast stripe on the Cross mink.

2 Cut the line for the contrast stripe.

3 Divide the contrast colour skin in two, cutting 1 mm to the left of the center line.

4

Sew the left side of the Cross skin together with the right side of the contrast colour skin.

5

Cut the contrast colour skin making the contrast stripe 2 mm from the seam, fading out to nothing at the top and bottom.

6

Close the seams on the Cross skin, sewing the contrast stripe to the right side of the Cross skin. Stretch and nail the skin for a perfect finish.

Intarsia

The old-school handcraft technique. Choose any layout style and get a whole new look for your piece of fur.

Start with two different, nailed skins. Use any type of fox, mink or Finnraccoon, as long as both skins match in hair length. Transfer the intarsia pattern or use a stencil to draw the pattern.

Cut the layout pattern. If the pattern has very small pieces, cut a few at a time before sewing.

Arrange the pieces on two boards, making a positive and a negative.

Sew the pieces by using normal stitch length (depending on the size of your pattern pieces) and normal tension.

Flatten the seams.
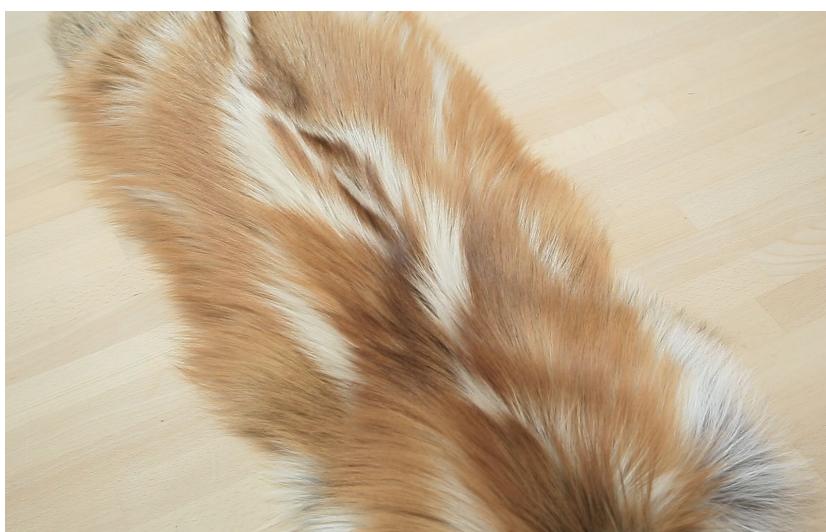
Stretch and nail the sample to get a perfect finish.

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Handknit

Knit a scarf or a sweater, just do as you would normally knit. Handknitted fur makes it light, reversible, flexible – and you get a lot of fur-yarn with only a little piece of fur.

1

Make your yarn like this: Start with a nailed skin. Use any type of mink, fox or Finnraccoon, adjusting the knitting needle size to the volume.
Cut off all the sides, making the skin slightly round.

2

Start cutting a 4 mm wide strip and continue cutting around the skin.
Stop a few times to brush the fur yarn and start rolling it into a yarn ball.

3

Find a matching knitting yarn. The knitting yarn keeps the fur yarn from moving, resulting in a stable knitting project.

④

Cast on the stitches.

Recommended knitting needle sizes:
Mink: 5–10
Short-haired fox: 12–15
Long-haired fox + Finnraccoon: 15–20

⑤

Take the end of the knitting yarn + fur yarn and stitch it down inside the scarf by hand or fur sewing machine. Do plain knit stitches until the desired size is reached.
Cast off the knit.

⑥

Take the end of the knitting yarn + fur yarn and sew it inside the scarf by hand or with a fur sewing machine.

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Shearing & cutting by hand

An easy way to apply graphic designs on fur. It's up to you to make it organic or avantgarde!

1

Start with a nailed mink skin.
Set the hair trimmer to the shortest setting and slowly shave the mink one row at a time. If this
is done too fast, it might create stripes in the mink suede.

2

Create a pattern by placing the hair trimmer directly into the fur. Use a ruler for straight lines.

3

To create a V-pattern, make opposite stripes in the same angle.

Use hair trimming scissors for corrections.

Create a pattern in fox by placing the hair trimmer directly into the fur. Be careful not to go too deep.
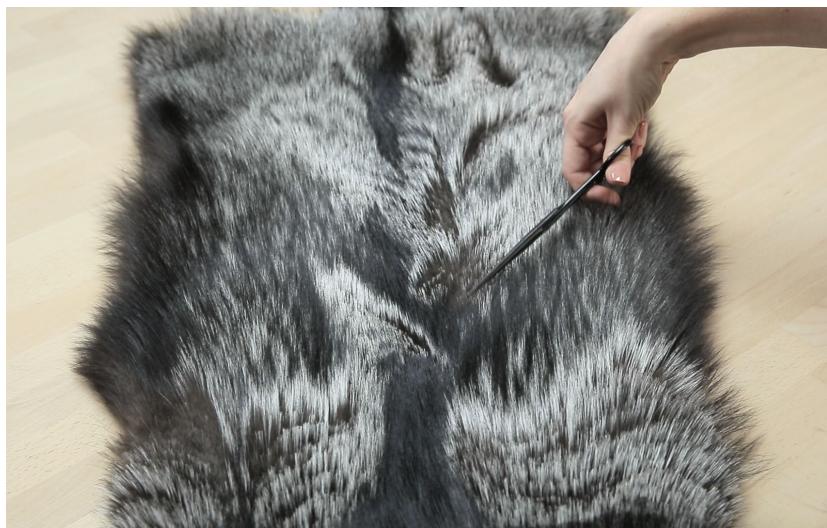
Use hair trimming scissors for details and corrections.

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Felting
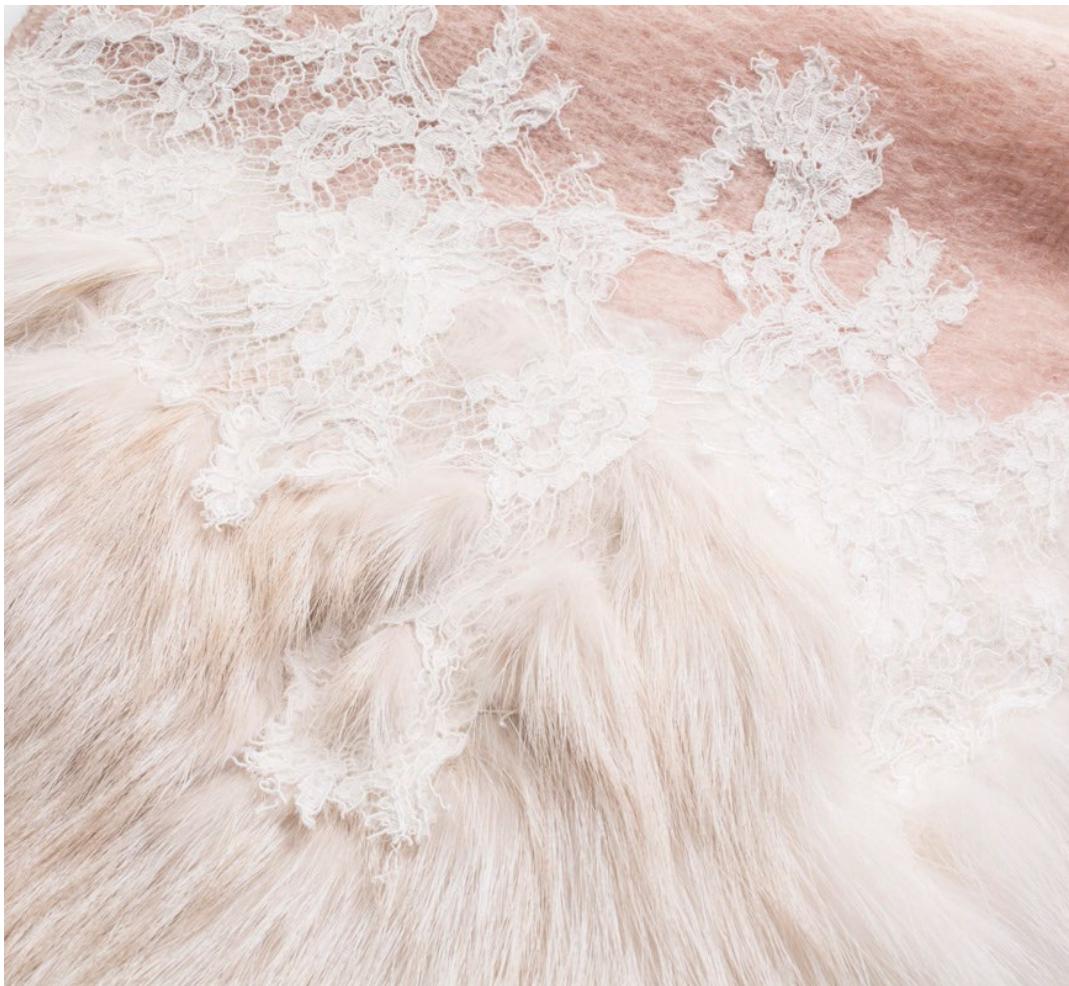
No thread or normal sewing. By using a felting machine, it is easy to melt fur into a woolen fabric. The result: easy to make, light and a whole new way of working with fur.

1

Start with a piece of wool fabric and a piece of fur. Use any type of mink, fox or Finnraccoon. Use the Airgallon technique on the fur for a lighter sample.

2

Place the fur on top of the fabric and secure it with pins.

3

Use a felting machine. It does not use any thread but has 6 sharp needles that felt long fibres together.
Felt on top of the fur, secure the edges to make sure it stays in place. Remove the pins.

4

Place the lace on top of the fur and secure it with pins.

5
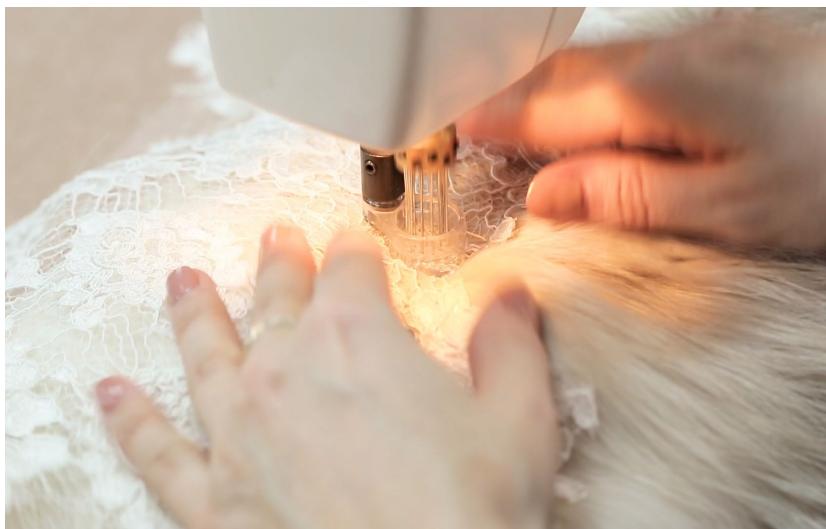
Felt on top of the lace, going round the edges to make sure it stays in place.
Remove the pins and felt the entire sample until the materials are completely bonded
together.

6

Use an awl to gently pull out some hairs through the lace.

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RYA

Fur inspired by the 70s technique Rye. Use your left-overs of fur and ribbon to create your own design easily. This technique gives you a light, yet voluminous result.

1

Stretch a net fabric over a frame.
Cut the fur into 5-mm wide strips with the hairs going in each direction from the centre.

2

Do a Turkish Knot using a knotting tool or a pair of tweezers.
Fold the fur strip in half.

3
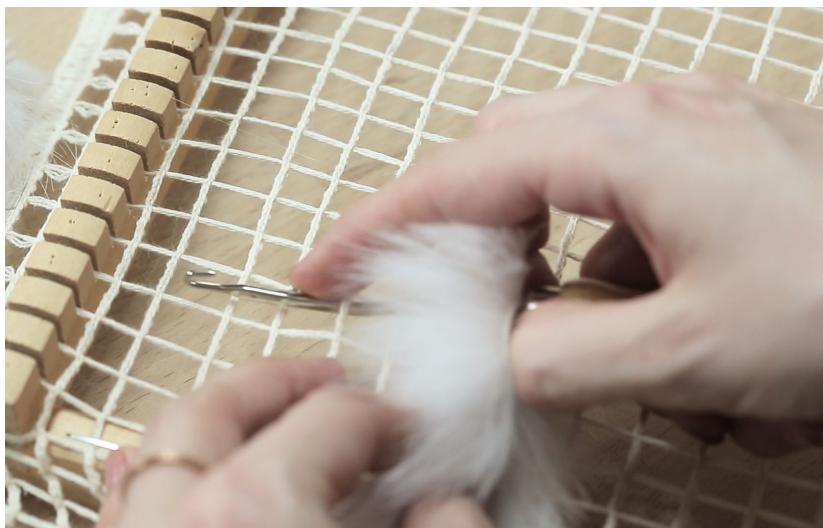
Go under the net fabric.

4

Pull the ends through the strip loop.
Place the knots approximately 2 cm apart for a full fur look.

5

Do a mixed rya with fur, yarns and ribbons all cut to the same length.

6

Start by placing the fur knots.

7
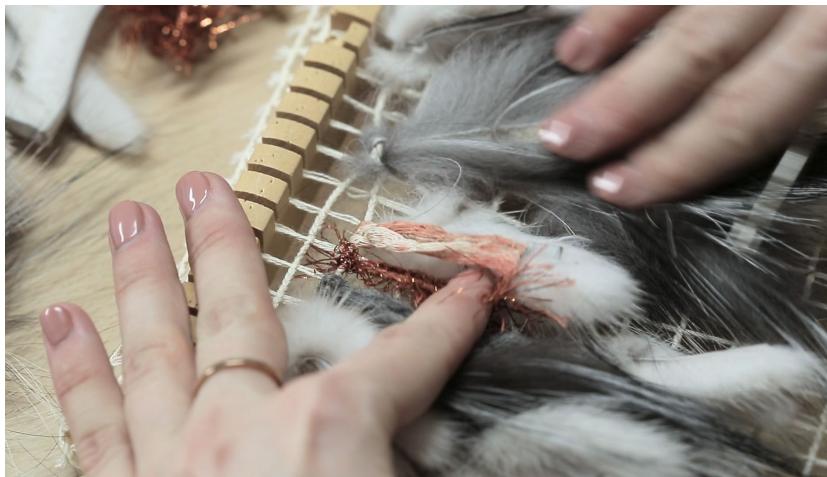
Fill out the spaces between the fur knots with different ribbons and yarns.

5 cm

0,5 cm
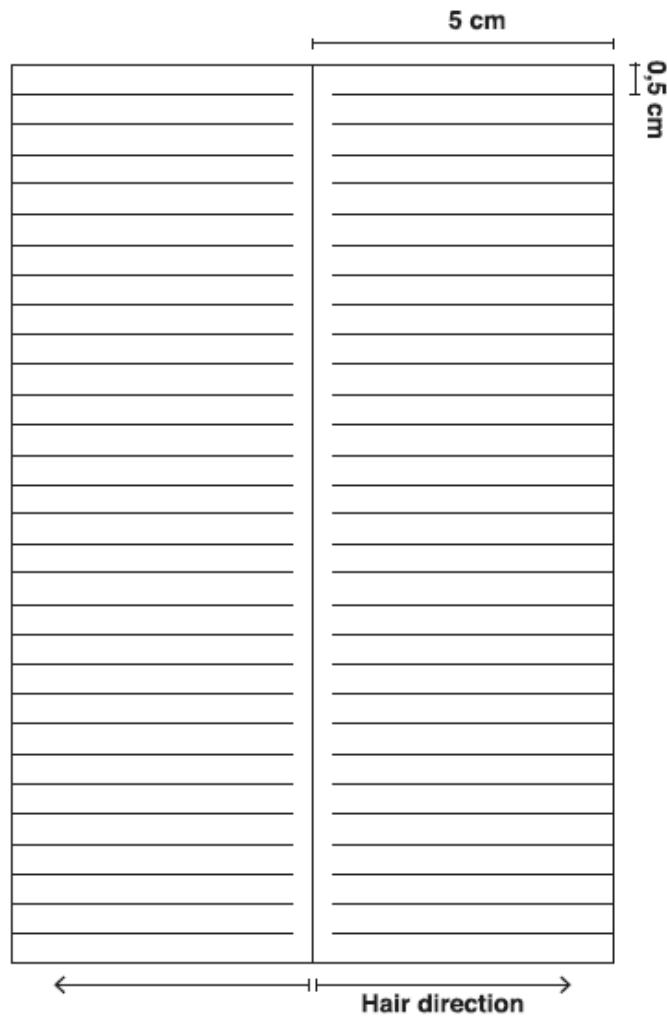
Hair direction

Saga Furs technique on RYA / Turkish knots

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Weaving

For weaving in Turkish knots, cut the fur into 5-millimetre wide strips with the hairs going in each direction from the middle and out.

Wrap the fur strip around two warp threads.

Pull the ends up between the two warp threads to make a Turkish knot.

(4)

Place the knots with two warp threads in between each knot for a light, fully covered look.
Tighten the knots and weave rows of plain yarn to keep the knots in place.

(5)

For flat fur weaving, cut a 1 cm wide strip in mink, fox or Finnraccoon.
Weave in the strip of fur and weave rows of plain yarn to keep it in place.

(6)

Use an awl to pull out the hairs.
Place the fur strips with the preferred distance.

7
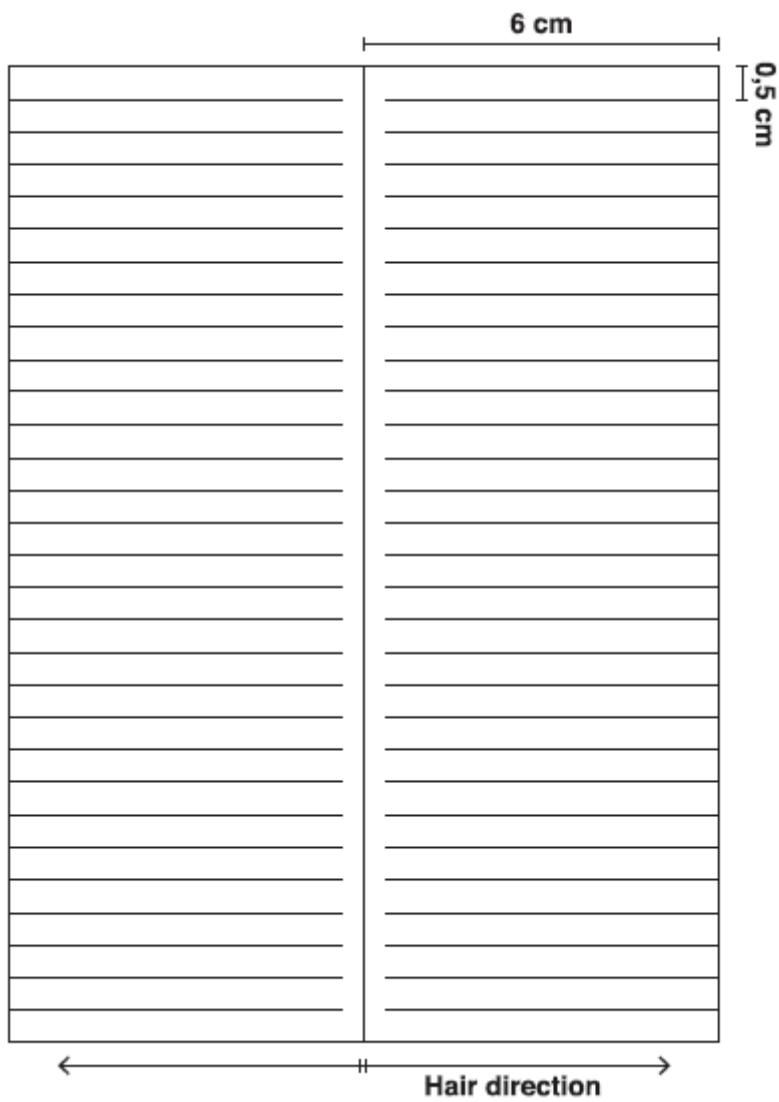
Saga Furs' technique for Turkish nots

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Foil & bonding

Make your fur electric or double facing. Foil and bonding does the trick.

(1)

FOIL
Prepare some fur pieces for foil application. Use any type of mink, fox or Finnraccoon.
Brush the fur pieces/strips properly to get rid of loose hairs.

(2)

Apply a small amount of foil glue to the fur.

(3)

120°C
10 sec

Add on a piece of foil with the colour side facing up.
Use a heat press and give the foiled fur 10 seconds in 120°c.

(4) Remove the foil gently.

(5)

120° C
10 sec

After removing the foil, use the heat press to give the foiled fur 10 seconds/120°c.

(6) The final look is electrifying.

(7)

Cut next to the tape. The tape will secure the seams.

(8)

The Airgallon is now ready to use for garments, trims and more.

①

120° C
10 sec

FABRIC BONDING
Start with a nailed mink skin. Cut a piece of bonding paper to match the size of the skin. Use a heat press to give the skin 10 seconds/120°c.

②

When the skin is cooled down, pull off the paper gently.

③

120° C
10 sec

Place the chosen fabric on top of the skin with the bonding glue.
Use a heat press to give the skin + fabric 10 seconds/120°c.

(4)

Cut off the edges of the skin and fabric and sew a fur seam to secure the fabric around the edges.