

## Free Pattern January 2008

### Dust Ruffle

1. There are a few easy formulas to calculate the quantity of fabric you'll need.
  - First start by measuring both sides of the box spring's length and width.
  - Take the two side length measurements + the foot of the bed measurement x 2 or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  = length of ruffle. (Note: commercially made dust ruffles are usually  $1\frac{1}{2}$  fullness. 2 -  $2\frac{1}{2}$  fullness is custom made and what you want.)
  - Measure from the top of box spring to the floor to decide on how long the ruffle should be. This can vary from 10"-25"
  - Take this measurement + 3 = depth of ruffle
  - Length of ruffle + width of fabric (42" to be safe) = number of widths of fabric needed
  - Number of widths x width of ruffle = amount of fabric
  - Amount of fabric divided by 36 to convert to how many yards of fabric you'll need
2. Now that you know how much fabric you need, cut the fabric in strips according to how long you want the ruffle to be from the box spring to the floor. Allow  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " for the hem – 2" hem with  $\frac{1}{4}$ " turn-under.
3. Seam the pieces together in one long strip and hem the bottom side.
4. Place a heavy-duty piece of string on the side without the hem and sew a zigzag stitch over the string. Pull the string, and a gather forms.
5. Next, divide the ruffle in thirds by marking it with chalk or tape. This will ensure you get the right amount of fullness throughout the ruffle.
6. The ruffle is now attached to a header – a 6" strip of fabric, fused with interfacing to strengthen and folded in half.
7. Once the header is sewn to the ruffled dust ruffle, it will slip between the mattress and box springs and may be held in place with spiral upholstery pins. If you have a mattress made of memory foam, its weight will be sufficient to hold the header in place.

### IMPORTANT

- If you have a fabric that is printed vertically, be sure to sew all strips in the same direction. If necessary, allow extra fabric for matching – however, the gathers may be so full that this will not matter.
- If you have a four poster bed, this same technique may be used by sewing three separate sections of dust ruffle.