

104-3

Stephanie Kimura uses the kimono shape as the basis for unique fashions.



Kimono Collage ~ by Stephanie Kimura

Stephanie Kimura, Wearable Artist, Author, and Educator.

This project, Kimono Collage, is based on a Haori which is a Kimono Jacket worn over the traditional long Kimono dress. I've given it a contemporary shape and added surface design to make it a work of art...wearable art.

During the planning stage...I collect images, colors, techniques, products, and anything that inspires me in my journal. Next, I create "small works" using the products and techniques; colors and composition; and save them in a fiber journal for reference.

Sometimes, if I don't have everything I need, I might make a scarf first. You have to get accustomed to the color palette and textures. It's a way of keeping everything together while evolving. Meanwhile, wear the scarf.

Create this easy-to-make, elegant jacket with strips and rectangles. The construction is perfect for every skill

level from the novice to the seasoned sewer. Keep it simple or embellish to create award winning wearable art. Construct this jacket completely on the serger or use in tandem with the sewing machine. You'll find yourself making many of these garments while making each one unique.

The Kimono shown on segment 104:

Blues: This Kimono was made with the basic pattern. I pieced strips together and they added up to the measurements of the basic pattern. I used rayon batik, chiffon, crepe de chine, silk charmeuse, vintage Kimono fabric, and a hand dyed satin/chiffon for the scarf collar on the front.

On the back: I included an image that was edited in Photoshop and used paper backed silk for inkjet printers; a square of vintage Kimono fabric was fused with a tricot interfacing; and hand dyed silk was silk screened with a crane image and embellished with rayon decorative threads.

Black/Bronze: This Kimono is made up of large pieces of silk with different textures. There are bronze dragonflies stenciled on the black georgette fabric. The sleeves have been given a tapered shape and the cuffs have a bold angular shape. Notice extra strips were added to the sides to give fullness to the width.

Gold/Black: This Kimono fits closer to the body. All the fabrics used here were very special...devore velvet, a sheer weave with metallic threads, and embroidered georgette silk. The strips are pieced horizontally and then strips are added to the sides. The size of the rectangle used for the sleeve creates the look of a "set in" sleeve. A square was used to create a dramatic sleeve flounce.

Where to start?

Size: When considering the width, measure the largest part of the body (usually the hip or bust) and add a couple of inches for "ease". Use half of that measurement for the width of the back and front.

Length: Measure from the side of your neck (at the shoulder seam) down the front to the desired length. *TIP: Add a few inches which can be trimmed away later.* Use that measurement for the front and back.

Sleeve: The sleeve length is given as 22" in the illustration but please alter (longer or shorter) to fit. The width is given as 11" in the illustration but please alter to fit. The sleeve has a fold that matches where the fabric is on a fold at the shoulder (see illustration).

Back neck: Measure 1/2" down from the center back and create a curve at the back neckline. The back neck width is given as 5" in the illustration. Please alter (wider or narrower to fit).

Scarf Collar: This is just a long, wide strip of fabric. Measure the length of the front opening including the measurement around the back neck. (Add a few inches...just in case..you can trim it away). The width of the collar is up to you.

Fabrics: Fabrics that drape can include: polyester and blends, silk, chiffon, silk/rayon velvet, satin, Devore velvet and silk organza. Mix up the textures and fabric weights. Use what's in your stash, recycle by cutting up clothes you love but no longer fit, and it's always fun to shop for new textiles. Please check www.VogueFabricsStore.com for your fabrics and surface design products. Please check my website for details and fabric placement suggestions.

Method of construction: Serging with the rolled hem is a quick and easy way to assemble and finish the seams at the same time. Another method would be to sew the pieces together with a straight stitch on the sewing machine, then serge the edges for a clean finish.

Design and composition: Line up fabrics next to each other. Audition them by changing their placement and you will be surprised at the difference it makes. Use your digital camera to record the placements that suit you.

Use this chart to record your information:

Items	Measurements and notes
Body measurements:	
Bust	
Hips	
Front length	
Back length	
Fabric selections:	
1. scarf collar	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Threads	
Notes	

Basic supplies:

- _ Brother serger 5234PRW and/or Brother sewing machine Innovis NX-2000
- _ Scissors, rotary cutter, mat, and ruler, tape measure
- _ Fabrics of your choice (if made of one fabric: 4 yards, 45" width, more or less depending on size)
- _ Thread to assemble & decorative thread to embellish
- _ Typical sewing notions

Sheer fusible tricot interfacing: 100% polyester, 20" wide, and machine washable.

<http://www.voguefabricsstore.com/Bosal-332-Sheer-Fusible-Tricot-Interfacing-White.html>

Photo Fabric (Silk Habetai) Image Transfer: Paper-backed fabric for use with inkjet printers. Print your digital and scanned images. One packet includes 6 sheets of 8.5" x 11". <http://www.voguefabricsstore.com/Crafter-s-ImagesPhotoFabric-Silk-Habetai.html>

Basic Kimono Instructions:

1. Take your measurements, create a pattern, and make a prototype to check the fit.
2. Draw a diagram if you will be piecing fabrics and don't forget to add seam allowances.
3. Fold the "body" of the Kimono at the shoulder. Cut away approximately 5" from the center as shown on the illustration.
4. Sew the sleeve to the body.
5. Sew from the sleeve edge to the body and down the side...on both sides.
6. Match the center of the collar to the center back. Sew the collar to the center front and back of the body.
7. Finish the edges of the sleeve and hem.

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Partners



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