



Using Polyurethane Laminate (PUL) Fabric for Cosplay

By Cheryl Sleboda – Muppin.com

[PUL Fabric](#) from [Babyville Boutique](#) is a soft, breathable, waterproof fabric that typically used in baby clothing and accessories. It's great as shoe covers and other cosplay accessories where you want some body in the fabric. The laminate backing allows for the fabric to "stick" to the body, which can create less drooping and slouching.

You will want to make sure you test the fabric against your skin first, just in case you are allergic to the laminate.

Here's some tips for using PUL in your cosplay:

- Use a very low heat iron and spray bottle when ironing PUL to get wrinkles out. Do not use the iron on the laminate side, or your iron will stick to it. Do not use a high heat, or you will melt the laminate to your ironing surface.
- Use clips instead of pins, like you would when sewing with vinyl, so you do not put unnecessary holes in the fabric.
- If the laminate is sticking to the machine bed while sewing, use scraps of pattern paper underneath to help the laminate move under the feed dogs of the machine.



To make the spats seen on the show, I used the free Simplicity pattern, available here:

<http://www.simplicity.com/how-to-make-spats/SMPROJ-Sewing-Spats.html>

To make the arm bracers, you will need:

2 pieces of PUL fabric in Brown measuring 18" x 22"

8 sew on buckles (like Dritz Tab Closure with Buckle #458)

Brown matching thread

Sewing machine

Scissors

Clips

Small ruler (like an Omnigrid 12" square ruler)

Drawing paper and pencil



1. To start, you need to draft your own pattern from your own arm and wrist. Lay your arm down on the paper with your palm flat on the paper. Using your pencil, draw around your arm. Be sure not to angle your pencil in towards your skin, you want the pencil to be perpendicular and upright to get the true outline of your arm. Draw all the way up to your knuckles, and leave a space on the part where your thumb sticks out. Draw as far up on your arm as you want your bracer to go. In my example, I went just below my elbow.

2. Using your ruler, add one inch of space to all sides of your drawing. Then add an additional half inch to each long side, but not the top and bottom. Now you have your sewing pattern.
3. Lay your 2 pieces of PUL right sides together, and cut 2 of the pattern so you have two tops and two bottoms that are reversed.
4. Mark the thumb hole and fold in about a quarter of an inch on each piece, and extend the fold to about a half inch below and above your marks. Sew a seam using a scant $1/8^{\text{th}}$ inch seam to hem the thumb hole open.
5. Pin 1 bracer piece to it's reverse so the thumb holes align. You will sew a $1/4''$ seam along the non thumb hole seam. Be sure to reverse stitch at the beginnings and ends to secure your seam.
6. Now you will hem the tops and bottoms by folding in the PUL fabric about $1/4$ of an inch, and sewing a seam to hem it closed a scant $1/8^{\text{th}}$ of an inch from the top and bottom.
7. At this point, if you want to add your buckles, this is the point you should add them, along the long seam you created.
8. Lastly, with right sides together and the thumb holes aligned, sew a seam above and below the thumb hole marks, being sure to use a reverse stitch near the thumbholes to secure that point. Now you can turn your bracers right sides out and put them on!