



# Covering a Lampshade with Fabric

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Why live with a ho-hum store-bought lampshade when you can personalize your lamps to match your décor? It's a simple process and there's no sewing needed.

## Getting Started

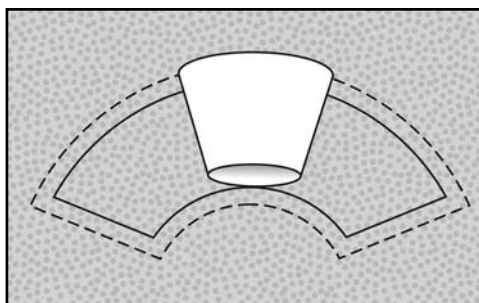
Look for a simply shaped shade to use as a base—a flat surface works best, so avoid pleats, tucks or other textured surfaces. White or off-white is the best color choice to avoid color show-through when the light is on, unless you're working with a dark fabric. Lampshades are available almost anywhere that sells lamps, and also at craft, hobby and fabric stores.

In addition to the lampshade, you'll need some large paper to make a pattern (newspaper works fine), craft/fabric glue or spray adhesive, scissors and a marking pen or pencil. Small clamps or clothespins are helpful to hold the fabric or trim in place while glue dries. After the patternmaking, you'll be able to determine the amount of fabric needed.

## Making the Pattern

Lay the paper on a flat solid surface like the floor or a cutting table.

Beginning at the lampshade seam, roll the shade along the paper, marking the upper and lower edges. Make one complete rotation back to the seam.



Set the shade aside, smooth the lines you drew, connect the end lines and add 1" to all the drawn lines for hems and overlap.



*Photo courtesy of  
MoreSplashThanCash.com*

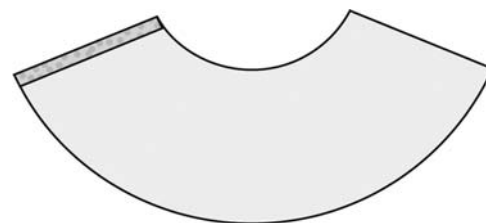
Cut the pattern from the paper and test-fit it to the lampshade. Alter as needed.

Measure the pattern to determine the amount of fabric needed.

## Covering the Shade

Pin the pattern to the fabric and be sure to note any patterning that will affect the look of the finished shade. For example, a one-way design, motif that needs center-front prominence, etc. Cut the shade shape following the pattern.

Press under 1/2" at one end of the shade fabric—this will be the finished (visible) edge of the fabric overlap.



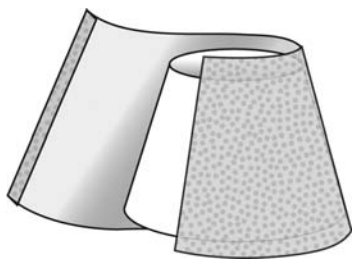
Coat the shade with spray adhesive or glue, being careful to keep the adhesive only on the outer portion of the shade.

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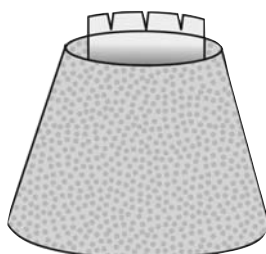
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Beginning at the shade seam and with the unpressed fabric end, roll the shade onto the fabric, smoothing it in place as you go. It's important that there are no creases or air bubbles. Trim any excess fabric length to allow for the 1/2" overlap. Lap the turned-under edge and glue the joint in place.



To finish the shade, clip the upper edge fabric extension every 1/2". Apply glue to the inside upper edge of the shade and press the clipped fabric edges into position. If necessary, hold the edges in place with clips until the glue dries.



Repeat the same process, clipping if needed, depending on the shade shape, to finish the lower edge.

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### Sticking Points

*Self-adhesive lampshades are available at fabric and craft stores. If you use one of these, no glue is needed, except at the fabric overlap and to attach trims.*

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### Trim Tactics

To add interest to the shade, glue trim at the upper and/or lower edges. Fringe, beads, ribbons, rickrack and other trims are all options, depending on the décor. Apply glue to the shade edge(s), smooth the trim in place and overlap the ends at the lampshade seam. While the glue dries, hold the trim in place with clothespins, paper clips or pins.

Other trim ideas include hot-fix embellishments such as crystals or studs, appliqués, applied monograms, or inkjet fabric printed motifs. 🖨️

