Fleece Facts

Cutting the Fleece

- Launder and choose the side of fleece you like best for the outside, unless it is a water resistant or wind proof fleece and then it should have a definite right and wrong side. Ask the retailer for information.
- Cut all pieces with nap running the same direction
- For positioning pattern pieces, use the view "with nap".
- Use long flower head pins that go through bulk and are visible for removing
- Pre-trim pattern pieces along cutting lines for more accurate cutting
- Avoid drooping shoulders by incorporating clear elastic into seamline.
- Cut down on bulk whenever possible by removing facings, trimming seam allowances to 1/4 inch, using Lycra or nylon taffeta for undercollars, cuff lining, etc.

Sewing Machine Helps for Fleece

- Always begin a project with a fresh, new needle
- Use size 90 Stretch, Universal or Ballpoint needle to prevent skipped stitches
- Stitch length 7-9 stitches per inch or set in 3mm to 4mm
- Stitch length that is too short tends to stretch fleece
- Loosen pressure foot setting to very low numbers or almost nothing
- Use high quality polyester thread rather than cotton for strength

Trouble Shooting

Skipped Stitches

- Change to fresh needle
- Change to larger size needle.
- If sewing on Lycra trim, change to a Stretch needle
- Be sure needle is inserted all the way up into the needle holder
- Change to high quality thread like Metrosene or Gutterman brands

Rippling Seams

- Adjust for a longer stitch length
- Adjust the presser foot for a lighter pressure
- Sew 5/8 inch seam allowance then trim to 1/4 inch. The wider seam allowance gives more contact between presser foot, fabric and feed dogs

Zipper Hints

- Work on a flat surface. Lay the fleece at a ratio of 1:1 onto the zipper tape. Do not stretch or force anything to fit
- Use ***Wonder Tape***, wash-away basting tape to "baste" zipper in place
- If Zipper foot is narrow ski style, try using a regular presser foot. Move the needle to the far right or far left to stitch the zipper.

Sources of Fleece Sewing Techniques

Adventures With Polarfleece A Sewing Expedition, by Nancy Cornwell, Krause Publications, 700 E State St. Iola, WI 54990-0001

No Hassle Fleeces, by Nancy Zieman, Sewing With Nancy, a 60 minute Video

Polar Magic, by Nancy Cornwell, Krause Publications, 700 E State St., Iola, WI 54990-0001

2003 Catalog The Rain Shed, Inc. Outdoor Fabrics and Supplies, 707 NW 11th, Corvallis, OR 97330 Phone: 541-753-8900

www.thegreenpepper.com Green Pepper Patterns, 1285 River Rd, Eugene, OR 97404 Phone: 541-689-3292

www.Nancysnotions.com Nancy's Notions, PO Box 683, Beaver Dam, WI 53916-0683

New products that help with fleece:
Dritz ***Stay -Tape*** sheer tape stabilizes without bulk, ½ inch wide and washable.

Wonder Tape completely disappears in first washing, can be stitched, no gum

Fray Block Prevents fraying on fabric & ribbon, dries clear, soft and flexible.

Clover Water Soluble Pencil marks on fleece but comes out with water.

Clover Mesh Canvas used with water soluble pencil to mark fleece. Place mesh on the design, Trace layout on the mesh. Trace the outline on the mesh again and the layout will appear in the form of dotted lines.

Knit mesh or webbing for making thin pockets, lining and under-collars in fleece.