

Sewing Braided Loops on a Coat



1. Measure the raw unfinished edge of the coat, from the top neckline to the waist. Leave a $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch from the top neckline to start your loops from – $\frac{1}{2}$ for seam allowance, and an extra $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (or so) room for the first button. You can have as many buttons as you want, as long as they fit in this measurement. Persian garments had many, many buttons. The amount of buttons you use, the size of the button, and the measurement you just took will determine the spacing of the loops.



2. Take a piece of masking tape and lay it sticky side up on a table. Tape the ends of it to the table to keep it from moving around. Mark the measurement you took on the coat, and then mark the spacing for each loop. For this example, we are using $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. There will be 19 buttons along a 22 inch length.



3. We will be using fingerloop braiding for the button loops. Extant Persian garments have been found with plied loops, braided loops, fabric loops, and loops resembling kumihimo braiding. Silk thread is the best choice, but cotton can also be used. This braiding was made of cotton crochet yarn by the author.



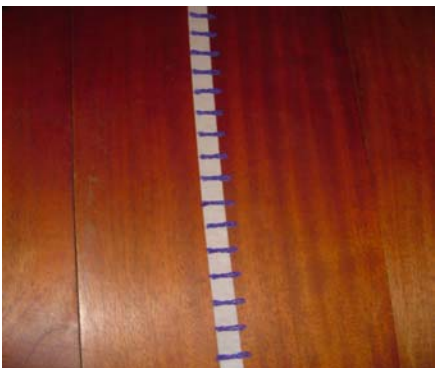
3. Wrap a bit of the braiding around the button that will be used to determine how long each of the loops needs to be cut.



4. Once all of the loops are cut, fold them in half, into a u-shape to begin placing them along the marked tape.



5. Press each of the loops onto the tape (which should be sticky side up) on each of the places you have marked.



6. Soon you will have an entire line of tape filled with loops perfectly spaced!



7. Place the tape sticky side down right at the edge of the coat opening, with the loops facing inward.



8. Make sure the tape is secured to the fabric all the way, smoothing it all out.



9. You should be able to pick the garment up easily without the loops or tape moving.



10. Sew through the fabric, loops, AND the tape. Go over the loops, forward and reversing, about 4-6 times for each loops to make sure they are secure.



11. Check to make sure all the loops have been seen through tightly.



12. Rip the tape off of the fabric and loops, being careful not to pull the stitching.



13. Pin the lining and the shell, right sides together, and pinning the loops into place along the way so they do not shift as you sew. Sew the shell and lining together, an 1/8 of an inch from the first stitching, reversing over the loops once or twice just as a safety measure.



14. Check the loops, press, and you're done!
Hooray!!