



glitzy poet beret

How Difficult?

Intermediate. Some sewing experience is necessary to align the ribbons straight and sew the crown together. Allow 2 to 3 hours to complete this challenge.

What Denim Do I Need?

A piece of washed and worn denim large enough to cut a 16" (40.5cm) diameter circle for the cap and a 1½" x 30" (3.8cm x 76cm) strip for the hatband.

What Other Materials Will I Need?

Your "Sewing Basket" (page 11)

19" (48.5cm) of ⅛" (3mm) wide gold silk cord

2 yards (2m) piece of ½" (13mm) wide olive cotton ribbon

19" (48.5cm) of ⅝" (15mm) wide ivy silk velvet ribbon

1 yard (1m) of ¼" (6mm) wide ruffled metallic braid

1 yard (1m) of 1" (2.5cm) wide metallic ribbon

Sewing machine

Gold silk thread

Pale lime embroidery floss

½ yard (.5m) denim blue lining fabric

1 yard (1m) of 1" (2.5cm) wide lime cotton grosgrain ribbon for the facing

8 gold buttons, ¼" (2cm) diameter

7 gold buttons, ⅝" (15mm) diameter

You need an assortment of at least 5 different ribbons to make it lush. I focused on golds and greens to create this group of ribbons. Some of mine are vintage and some are new. Use my assortment as a guide and do it your way, in your favorite color, with what you have or find!

HOW TO DO IT STEP BY STEP

1. Mark the Cap: Mark the center of your circle with tailor's chalk. Mark 16 evenly spaced points around the circumference.

2. Play with the Ribbons: Lay the ribbons and braids (not including the grosgrain ribbon for the facing) across the circle, from point to opposite point around the circumference. Stand back and look at your layout. Do you like it? If not, play with the placement until you are happy with the look.

3. Attach the Ribbons: Trim the ribbons and braids even with the edge of the circle's diameter. Set them to the side carefully so you know which goes where. Pull the bottom ribbon from the pile and lay it in position on the denim, pin, baste, remove the pins, and sew to the cap. Repeat for the other ribbons and braids, overlapping them at the center point.

I machine-sewed the ⅛" (3mm) wide gold braid and the ¼" (6mm) wide metallic ruffled ribbon to the denim with gold silk thread and a zigzag stitch. I hand-sewed the 1" (2.5cm) wide metallic braid along the edges. The other ribbons were hand-sewn with lime embroidery floss and a running stitch, down the center.

4. Sew the Lining: Cut out a 16" (40.5cm) diameter circle from the lining material. With wrong sides together, lay the lining on the cap and pin together around the edge. Baste and remove the pins. With the silk thread, machine-sew the 2 layers together, ⅜" (1cm) from the edge. Remove the basting.

5. Add Tucks around the Crown: Pin $\frac{1}{2}$ " (13mm) deep tucks around the edge of the circle, spacing one tuck at the edge of each ribbon.

Try on the hat to check the fit. If you want it snugger, increase the depth of the tucks. If you want it looser, reduce the depth of the tucks.

When your hat fits the way you like it, baste the tucks in place and remove the pins.

6. Assemble the Hatband: Pin the grosgrain ribbon to the inside of the cap, aligned with the outer edge. Baste and remove the pins. Cover the cap edge with the denim strip, folding it with $\frac{1}{2}$ " (13mm) in front and the rest in the back. Cut any excess denim length, making a neat join with a 1" (2.5cm) overlap. Baste and remove the pins. Hand-sew with embroidery floss and running stitch, $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) from the front denim edge, all around the denim band, stitching through all the layers.

7. Decorate with the Buttons: Sew a large button at the top center of the cap. Sew the remaining buttons around the cap band, evenly spaced and alternating the sizes.

I love to create textures, so I layered the metallic braid over the olive cotton ribbon and gave the olive cotton ribbon $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) tucks about $\frac{1}{2}$ " (13mm) apart. I also adore the ruffled metallic braid and the metallic braid overlaid on the olive cotton ribbon so much that I used each of these versions twice in the cap. Experiment and express yourself!



Your ribbons should be sewn straight and the overlapped center point should be neat and perfect. It's helpful to sew each ribbon from the center point to the outer edge.

