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VASE COVER WITH PLEATED TRIM

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This minimalist, elegant vase cover features trendy shades of grey and a pleated skirt.

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Vase cover with pleated trim

How to make it

1 Measure and cut out the pieces

Measure the circumference of the vase, as well as the desired height of the cover. Using these dimensions plus a 1.5 cm seam allowance on all edges, cut the cover out once from the outer fabric and once from the lining fabric.

2 Sew the cover

Place the long edges of the outer fabric and the lining fabric right sides together and pin them in place. Stitch the top and bottom edges, leaving a seam allowance. Iron the seams. Reach through the fabric sleeve with your hand from the open narrow side to the other narrow side and pull the fabric through until the edges of the outer fabric pieces are aligned, the lining edges are aligned, and the two seams lies exactly on top of each other. Tack the pieces together. Mark a turning slit approx. 10 cm long on the lining. Sew the side seams of the cover all the way round, from and to the slit mark. Turn the cover right side out through the opening, shaping the edges along the seams. Fold the open edges of the slit inwards and stitch them together with a narrow seam allowance, right sides together. Iron the top and bottom edges of the cover along the seam lines, as well as the vertical seams of the outer fabric and lining.

3 Calculate the dimensions for the pleated trim

Measure the circumference of the vase, e.g. 52 m = C. Divide the circumference C by pleat width a = 2 cm, which gives 26 pleats. For each pleat, you will also need twice the pleat depth d = 2 x a = 4 cm, so 26 x 4 cm = 104 cm.
The length required for cutting is therefore C + d = 52 cm + 104 cm = 156 cm.

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Materials from Gütermann
- Sew-all Thread in matching colours

Tools
- Scissors
- Fabric markers or tailor's chalk
- Tape measure
- Ruler
- Pins or fabric clips
- Iron
- Sewing machine

In addition
- Cylindrical glass vase of any size
- Light grey cotton fabric, 140 cm wide, fabric length to match the vase height + 10 cm
- Lining or thin cotton fabric, 140 cm wide, fabric length to match the height of the vase + 10 cm
- Dark grey cotton fabric, 140 cm wide, approx. 0.4 m long
- Thick grey cord, cut to the length of the vase circumference + 40 cm

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Calculate the dimensions for the pleated trim 3

If the calculation for the pleats doesn't result in a whole number, it's a good idea to add one more pleat plus the pleat depth to the calculation.

Choose how high you want the pleated strip to be. Cut the strip to double the height and the calculated length, plus 1 cm seam allowance on each side. If necessary, cut the strip into sections lengthways, placing the joining seam within a pleat so that it is concealed.

Sew the pleated trim 4

Place the long edges of the pleated strip right sides together and pin them in place. Stitch along the edges, leaving a seam allowance. Fold the top seam allowance onto the strip and iron it in place; then turn the strip over and fold the second seam allowance onto the strip as well, ironing it down. Turn the strip inside out and position the seam line in the centre of the reverse side of the strip. Iron down the longitudinal fold lines of the strip. Fold the seam allowances on one short side towards the inside and iron them flat.

Create the pleats 5

Using a set square or ruler and chalk, mark the pleat width (a) and the pleat depth (d) on the upper edge of the cut strip, starting from the ironed-in seam allowance. To do this, mark *2 cm = a, and 4 cm = d* alternately, starting from the narrow side, and repeat until the required number of pleats has been reached. From the markings, draw vertical lines at right angles to the opposite fold edge. Fold the pleats in a zigzag pattern along these markings, securing them with pins at the top and bottom edges and in the centre. Iron the pleated strip. Try wrapping around the vase with the cover.

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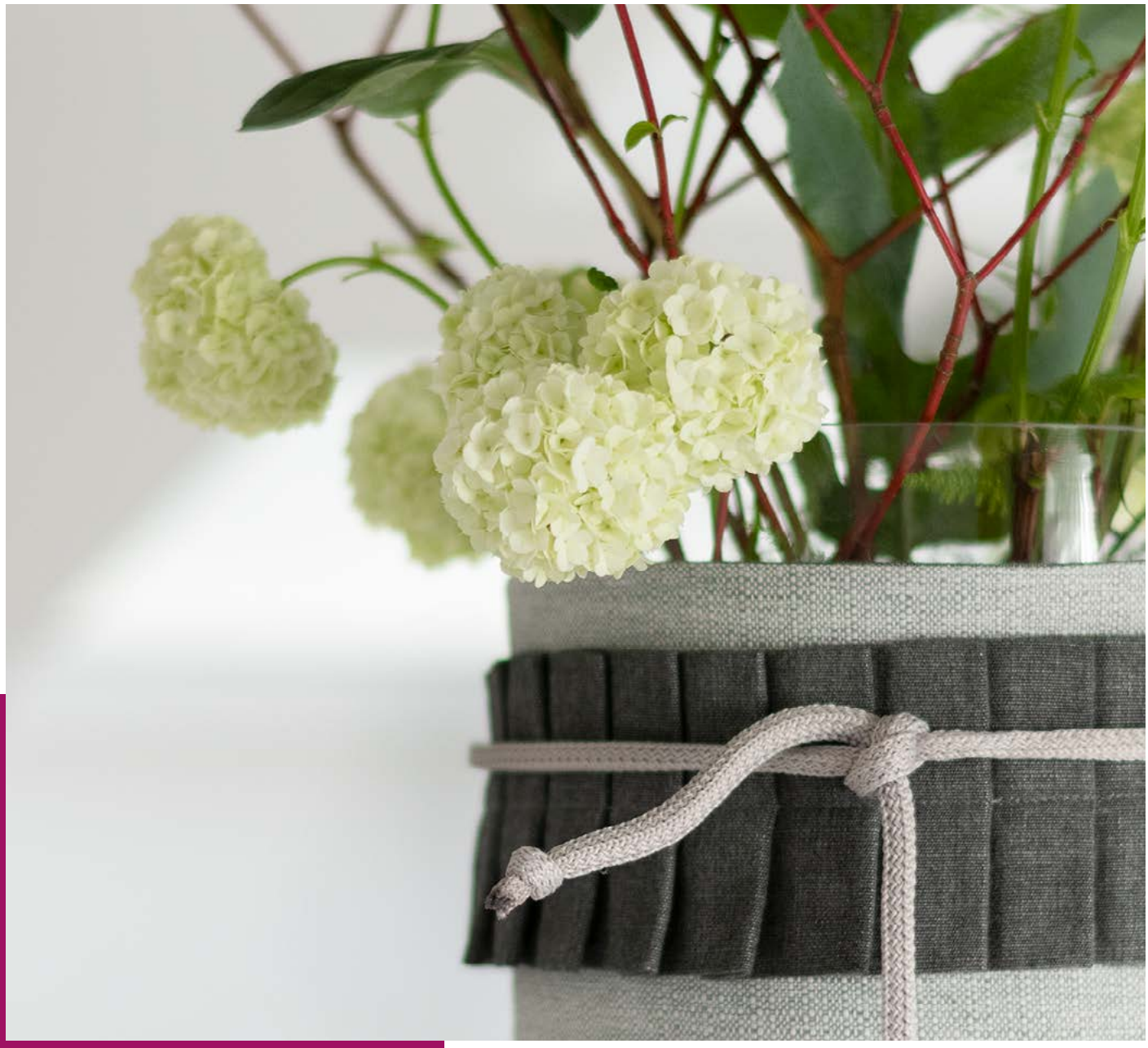
Create the pleats 5

If necessary, adjust the width of the last few pleats slightly so that the strip fits exactly. Slide the open end into the folded-in beginning of the trim and pin together. Mark the centre line on the pleated trim. Secure the pleats along the marking with a saddle stitch.

Decorate the cover 6

Slide the pleated trim over the cover. Pin it securely all the way round the cover, leaving a gap of approx. 2 cm or more at the top. Using a saddle stitch over the existing centre seam, sew the trim onto the cover. Slide the cover over the vase, wrap the cord over it and tie a knot.