

ENVELOPE for RAKUSU or OKESA

MATERIALS:

Outer fabric: 1/2 yard for rakusu envelope; (enough for 2) or 2/3 yard for okesa.

Lining fabric: Same as above.

A slick –and stiff—fabric is best, so that the robe will slip in easily.

Cotton thread to match envelope and lining fabrics.

Snap and button to cover it. (optional)

Mark fabric with chalk on wrong side, according to following dimensions and drawings.

Go over chalk lines with a hera, marking fabric on both sides. All seam allowances are 2 cm.

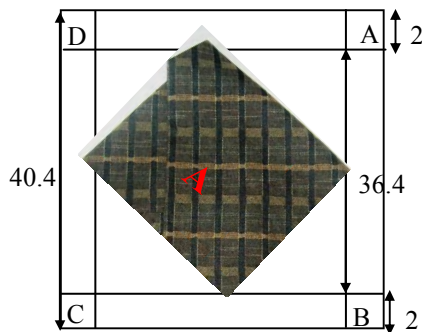
Cut lining fabric with pinking shears to prevent fraying.

If the fabric has a pattern or design you may want to take that into account when marking.

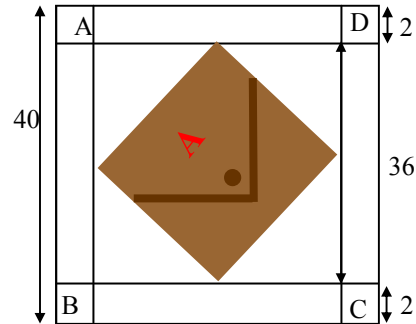
“A” will be the tip of the envelope flap. (Orientation of finished envelope is shown below).

FABRIC DIMENSIONS

	RAKUSU	OKESA
Outer fabric:	40.4 cm square	48.4 cm square
Lining fabric:	40.0 cm "	48.0 cm "



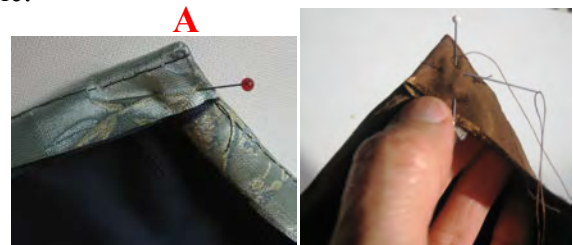
Outer Fabric
“wrong” side



Lining Fabric
“wrong” side

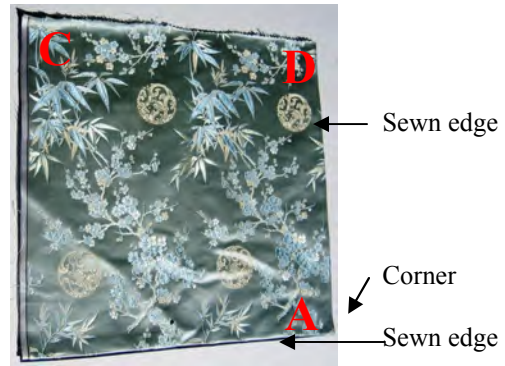
Place **envelope fabric** and **lining fabric** together, “right” sides facing. Pin line to line on lines A-B and A-D. Note that the “outer fabric” is slightly larger than the lining. Pin the corners first, then the center point, then half-way between center and corner, etc., easing the fabric as you pin. Place pins quite close together so fabric doesn’t slip. Using a back stitch, sew 1- 2 mm outside chalk lines (toward edge of fabric). Sew the entire line, from one edge of the fabric to the other. Use thread to match outer fabric.

At corner A, fold fabric along the two chalk lines, to make a square corner. Note that the lines of stitching are on the flap that folds in. Tack the corner, sewing through seam margins only.



Turn inside out and smooth the corner.
Iron so that the seams are visible only from lining side.

With lining facing up, arrange the fabric so that the new corner is at the lower right.



Fold over free upper left corner – **C** —
(Lining only) to match **D**, but go beyond the sewn edge toward the right, so that the chalk line (at **C**) matches the sewn edge at **D**.



Do the same with Outer fabric, but folding it underneath.

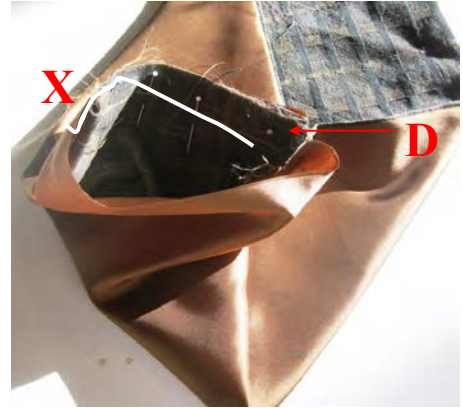
Pin all four layers together, line to line, across the top edge (between stars). Sew with back stitch, 1-2 mm outside chalk line. Sew from ★ to ★ (sewing through all 4 layers only; not into 2-layer seam allowance).



Turn inside out, so that Lining is outside.

Bring together unsewn edges, matching chalk line between corner with overlaps, **D**, and corner at end of unsewn side, **X**.

Pin from **D to X**, through both layers of Outer fabric, and far layer of Lining, matching chalk lines, and keeping near layer of lining free.
Sew 1-2 mm above the line, through these 3 layers of fabric.
Use back stitch.
Adjust to form envelope shape.



Tucking seam inside, turn down lining on chalk line.
Using thread to match lining; sew with invisible stitch, being careful not to go through outer fabric.
Turn right side out.
The flap will fold down almost to the bottom edge of the envelope.



Fasteners such as snaps, buttons, and ties are optional.

Measurements

If rakusu or okesa fabric is heavy, increase measurements by 1-2 cm.

For very sheer okesa fabric, a smaller envelope may be made: e.g.

Outer: 44 cm square (incl. 4 cm for seam allowances)

Lining: 43.6

Finished size: 28 x 23 cm

Note: photos of two different envelopes are shown above; one has a dark blue outer fabric with a light blue lining with a design; and the other has a patterned brown outer fabric and solid brown lining.