

# Creative CLOSETS

## Additional Information on the Slipcovered Closet

If you'd rather hide your belongings than display them for all to see, create a fabric cover for inexpensive shelving. We started with a four-tier chrome open-shelf unit, and made a slipcover to conceal storage boxes. For this 48- x 18- x 74-inch unit, we used approximately 7½ yards of decorator fabric and 7 yards of lining fabric. (**Note:** Yardage will vary based on the size of your storage unit. We recommend decorator or upholstery fabric, which will accommodate the width of the shelving unit. Apparel fabric generally does not come in a sufficient width. If you are matching a pattern repeat, be sure to purchase additional fabric to ensure the desired effect.) To add interest, we embellished the edges with brush-and-bead trim.

### Cutting the Pieces

As you cut, carefully consider the pattern repeat you may be trying to match. Our slipcover has 2-inch hems and ¾-inch seam allowances. Allow for these as you match patterns.

Measure the height (H), width (W), and depth (D) of the shelving unit. For the back piece, add 2¾ inches to H, then add 1½ inches to W. Cut one piece of decorator fabric and one piece of lining to these dimensions (You may choose to cut just one piece of lining fabric; see footnote in the Shopping List included here.) For the two pieces that wrap from the side to the front, add  $(D + \frac{1}{2}W + 1\frac{1}{2})$  for the total width of the piece. For the length of the piece, add 2¾ inches to H. Cut two pieces of decorator fabric and two pieces of lining fabric to these dimensions. For the top piece, add 1½ to W and 1½ to D, then cut one piece of decorator fabric and one piece of lining fabric to these dimensions.

### Joining the Pieces and Adding Trim

Using ¾-inch seam allowances, seam a side/front piece to both long sides of the back piece, with right sides facing. Hem the bottom edge 2 inches. Join the side/front and back lining sections in the same manner. Hem the bottom edge 2½ inches.

With raw edges aligned and right sides facing, baste the beaded trim to the two center-front edges of the decorator fabric piece, turning the edge under at the bottom. Repeat, placing the brush fringe on top of the beaded trim. With right sides together and top raw edges aligned, pin lining to fabric. Stitch along two center-front sides, leaving the top edges and hems loose. Turn, then topstitch if necessary. Baste the top raw edges together. With right sides facing and raw edges aligned, pin decorator top pieces to main piece, matching back/side seams to back corners and front to center of top front. Stitch using ¾-seam allowance and pivoting at corners. Place lining top piece on top, aligning raw edges and sandwiching the main piece between the two top pieces. Stitch, pivoting at all four corners, but leaving one side open for turning. Trim seams, then turn entire piece inside out. Slip stitch the opening.

### Creating Ties

Cut six strips of decorator fabric, each measuring 20 inches long and 2 inches wide. Fold each strip in half lengthwise with the right sides facing. With a ¼-inch seam allowance, stitch one short end and the long side. Turn right side out, and press. Handstitch the ties in pairs at equal intervals along the inside-center front edge of the slipcover. ■

### Lowe's Shopping List

- four-tier chrome shelf rack (48 x 18 x 74 inches, Shelving By Design, #65711)
  - 7½ yards of fabric (Seabrook Wallcoverings, Carey Lind Designs, Grand Isle, p. 62, special order)\*
  - 7 yards of lining (such as drapery lining)\*
  - matching thread
  - 5 yards of brush fringe
  - 5 yards of beaded fringe
- Skill level:** Beginner to intermediate  
**Rough cost estimate:** \$400  
Shelving \$100  
Fabric \$300 (excluding trim and lining)\*  
**Rough time estimate:** 1 weekend

*\*Fabrics are available in a range of prices, so you can choose one to fit your budget. You also can cut costs by using only lining for the back of the slipcover where it will face the wall; if you choose to do this you will need 5½ yards of decorator fabric and 9 yards of lining fabric.*

