

Umbrella Beach Cabana

By Alba Fekete

Any beach umbrella can be turned into a full privacy cabana or shade umbrella with removable side panels. The panels will attach with buttons and buttonholes. They also have a pocket hem to add sand to keep them from blowing in the breeze too much! Make one this weekend and use it for the rest of the summer!

Skill Level: Confident Beginner/Intermediate
Sewing Time: Weekend Project

Janome Supplies Required:

- Janome Sewing Machine with 1 Step Buttonhole feature
- Zigzag foot A
- Automatic buttonhole foot R
- Button sewing foot T
- Open toe satin stitch foot F2
- 1/4" O Foot
- All Purpose Sewing Thread to match Fabric

Optional

- Dual feed foot AD (twin)
- Serger

Supplies + Fabric Required:

- Measuring tape
- Buttons of choice (3-7 per section of the umbrella)
- 12 inch Ruler
- Fabric marking pen/pencil
- Pins
- Transparent Tape (the type for gift wrapping)
- Seam Ripper
- Beach Umbrella
- Beach Umbrella Stand
- Scrap fabric for testing stitches about 6x6
- 1" Grosgrain ribbon 2x the total width of the panel plus 12"
- Fabric – you will need water resistance fabric for sides and hems



Making The Umbrella Cabana

Calculating the amount of fabric needed.

Since Beach umbrellas will vary you will need to calculate the fabric needs. Open and set up the umbrella in your stand. On a piece of paper make a note of the following:

1. Number of ribs to the umbrella, this is the part that supports the umbrella sections.
2. The measurement between the ribs. This will be the widest part.
3. The height from the ends of the ribs to the floor.

To calculate the size of the fabric determine how much of the umbrella will have the side panel, for example my umbrella has 8 sections and I am covering 6 of the 8 leaving 2 sections open.

To find the total width of the panel multiply the number of ribs of the umbrella that will have a side panel by the distance between the panels,

Width Example:

$6 \times 29" = 174"$ you will need to add $\frac{1}{2}"$ per seam I will have 1 seam, plus 4 inches for hems for a total of $174 + 1/2 + 4 = 178.5"$

Hint for using a tablecloth or shower curtain as the panel fabric:

When I was looking for my fabric I did not find outdoor fabric that I liked. I looked at shower curtains and tablecloths as options. With using alternate fabric choices your hems may need to be a separate piece of fabric. I used two tablecloths for my cabana panel.



If you find that you need to add fabric for hems you will need the following:

Top Hem: 4.5" by the width of the panel adding $\frac{1}{2}"$ for every seam.

Bottom Hem: 16.6" by the width of the panel adding $\frac{1}{2}"$ for every seam.

Height Example

Once you have the measured height of your panel you will need to add 20" for hems.

Or the height plus the following:

Top Hem: 4.5" by the width of the panel adding $\frac{1}{2}"$ for every seam.

Bottom Hem: 16.6" by the width of the panel adding $\frac{1}{2}"$ for every seam.

Instructions:

Thread machine with all purpose sewing thread and a straight stitch.

Piece the panel leaving only the hems undone.

Side Hems

1. Fold and press an inch hem along both sides of the panel.
2. Double fold the side hems and pin place.
3. Place the Open Toe F Foot on the Machine.
4. Line up the hem with the inner right side of the foot moving the needle position to 1mm less than the maximum. This will be 8 mm, 6mm or 4mm depending on your machine. And topstitch your hem.
5. Move the left edge of the hem to the inside of the left side of the foot, moving the needle position to 1mm. This technique ensures even topstitching with ease.



Making The Umbrella Cabana

Top Hem Folded from the panel.

The top hem will be done in the same way as the side hem using the Open Toe F Foot.

1. Fold a 2 inch hem and press.
2. Double fold the top hem, pinning and pressing in place.
3. Line up the hem with the inner right side of the foot moving the needle position to 1mm less than the maximum. This will be 8 mm, 6mm or 4mm depending on your machine. Topstitch your hem.
4. Move the left edge of the hem to the inside of the left side of the foot, moving the needle position to 1mm. This technique ensures even topstitching.

Top Hem sewn in place

1. Fold the 4.5 inch strip of fabric in half and press.
Optional: Stay stitch or serge the edge of the hem to make it easier to sew.
2. Pin the folded hem to the front of the panel.
3. Attach the ¼” O Foot to the machine.
4. Sew the Hem to the panel with a ¼” seam.
5. Press and pin the hem toward the wrong side.
6. Attach the Open Toe F Foot.
7. Line up the hem with the inner right side of the foot moving the needle position to 1mm less than the maximum. This will be 8 mm, 6mm or 4mm depending on your machine. Topstitch your hem.
8. Move the left edge of the hem to the inside of the left side of the foot, moving the needle position to 1mm. This technique ensures even topstitching.

Bottom Pocket Hem instructions below are for both a folded and sewn in hem.

Optional: Stay stitch or serge the edge of the hem to make it easier to sew.

Bottom Hem Folded from the panel.

**Do not topstitch the top of the hem it will be left as multiple pockets.

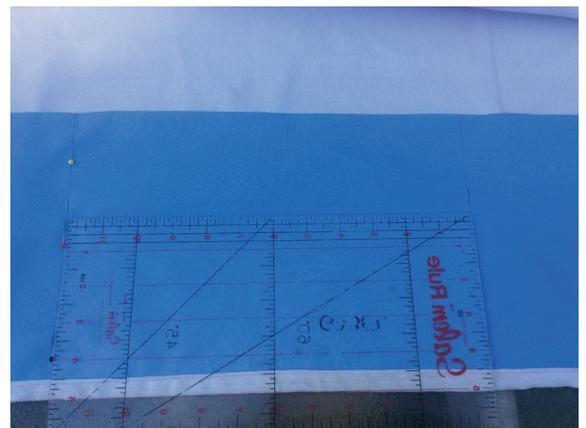
The top hem will be done in the same way as the side hem using the Open Toe F Foot.

1. Fold an 8 inch hem and press.
2. Double fold the top hem, pinning and pressing in place.
3. Attach the Open Toe F Foot.

4. Line up the hem with the inner right side of the foot moving the needle position to 1mm less than the maximum. This will be 8 mm, 6mm or 4mm depending on your machine. Stitch only the bottom portion of the hem.
5. On the wrong side of the hem every 10-12 inches mark a line from the bottom of the hem to the top. This will be the stitching line. Do this along the full width of the panel.

Top Hem sewn in place

1. Fold the 16.5 inch strip of fabric in half and press.
2. Pin the folded hem to the front of the panel.
3. Attach the ¼” O Foot to the machine.
4. Sew the Hem to the panel from with a ¼” seam.
5. Press and pin the hem toward the wrong side.
6. Attach the Open Toe F Foot.
7. Line up the hem with the inner right side of the foot moving the needle position to 1mm less than the maximum. This will be 8 mm, 6mm or 4mm depending on your machine. Stitch only the bottom portion of the hem.
8. On the wrong side of the hem every 10-12 inches mark a line from the bottom of the hem to the top. This will be the stitching line. Do this along the full width of the panel.
9. On the wrong side of the hem every 10-12 inches mark a line from the bottom of the hem to the top. This will be the stitching line. Do this along the full width of the panel.



10. Stitch along the drawn lines using a locking stitch at the top and bottom of the hem to secure the stitching.

Making The Umbrella Cabana

Preparing the beach umbrella with ribbon to add support for the buttonholes.

Set up and open the umbrella in the stand.

Pin Grosgrain ribbon on both the inside and outside of the umbrella just above the connecting points of the ribs. Leave a one inch loop at the first and last rib section that will have the panel attachment.



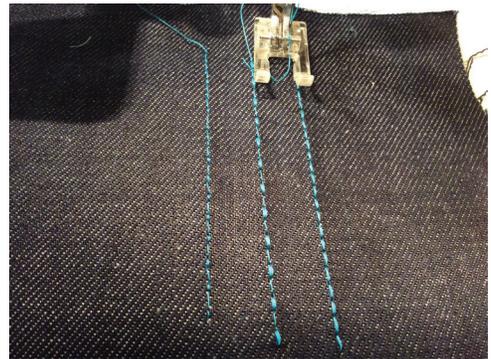
As you get to the ribs of the umbrella a two inch area will not be sewn to allow for the ribs of the umbrella to be inserted. This will give extra support to the umbrella ribs.



Remove the ribs from the umbrella and remove the umbrella fabric if possible.



On a scrap piece of fabric test and decide on the stitch to sew down the ribbon. This can be a very decorative element. I have chosen a triple stitch to give a bold stitch option any decorative stitch can be used.



1. Attach the Open Toe F Foot
2. Line up the ribbon with the inner right side of the foot moving the needle position to 1mm less than the maximum. This will be 8 mm, 6mm or 4mm depending on your machine. Stitch your ribbon in place.

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3. Move the left edge of the ribbon to the inside of the left side of the foot, moving the needle position to 1mm.



Determine the buttonhole position on the ribbon sewn in place. You will need one button within one inch of the ribs and 3 to 5 buttons in-between the ribs depending on the space between the ribs. Any of the squared 1-step buttonholes will work for your cabana. You will need to use the same thread in the bobbin and needle. I have chosen to match the thread with the ribbon so that the buttonholes are not noticeable. A contrasting thread will make them a decorative element.

Buttonholes:

1. Place your button firmly in your buttonhole foot and lower the sensor lever.
2. Sew a test buttonhole on your scrap fabric to test the opening and desired look.



3. Mark the button hole spacing on the top of the ribbon sewn on the umbrella, making sure to have a buttonhole one inch to the right and left of each rib that will have a panel attached. This can be done with pins or a marking pencil.



Tip:

It is helpful to make note of the direction and starting point of your buttonhole. The one that I chose starts at the lower end of the buttonhole and stitches away from me. It is important to clearly mark the starting point. In the picture above the pin will be moved to the Red marks on the foot, the ribbon will be centered under the foot, and the pin removed and the button hole will be stitched.

4. Stitch all Button holes on the top side of the umbrella centered in the ribbon.



5. Cut open the buttonholes with you seam ripper.

Making The Umbrella Cabana

Sewing on buttons to the Cabana Panel:

Tip:

To make it easier to lower the T Button Sewing Foot onto the button, tape the button in place. Stitch the button, then remove the tape.



1. Thread the machine and bobbin with matching thread.
2. Attach the Button Sewing Foot onto the machine. Clip in place with the back bar first, then snap the front bar onto the foot.
3. Lower the Feed Dogs.
4. Select a Zig Zag Stitch.
5. Set the stitch width to 3.5mm

Notes:

Most buttons will have 3.5mm between the holes, always test your button by turning the handwheel slowly. If the needle is not lowering into the holes adjust the stitch width until you have the correct needle swing for your button.

6. On scrap fabric test the stitch width setting for your button and adjust accordingly.



7. Measure from the center of the first button hole to the next, marking the location of the buttons onto the right side of the top of the cabana panel.
8. Tape the buttons in place centering them on the right side of the top hem.
9. Lower the foot onto the button.
10. Turn the hand wheel to ensure the needle swing is correct and adjust the button as needed.
11. Repeat for all buttons on the panel.
12. Once the panel is complete button the panel to the umbrella and enjoy!