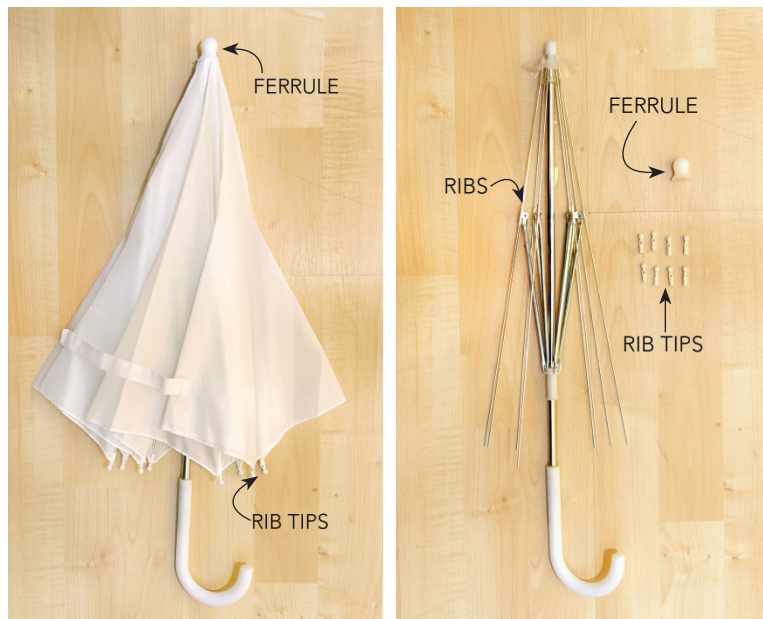


# umbrella redux

**NOTE:** For our sample project, we used a kid's size umbrella, 30.5" wide with removable plastic parts. Using Patty Young's *LUSH* Laminates, which are 54" wide, we only needed 1/2 yard total of fabric. If you are planning to make a larger umbrella or use 44"-wide fabrics, you may need to purchase more fabric for your project. You will also need a 3/4" long piece of velcro.

There are three parts to an umbrella that you should know before you get started, **fig. 1**. The **Ferrule** sits at the very tip of the umbrella. Make sure this piece can unscrew and be removed. The **Ribs** run from the Ferrule into eight **Rib Tips** and give the umbrella its shape when opened. Each Rib Tip is sewn to a point on the umbrella's fabric and can usually be removed.

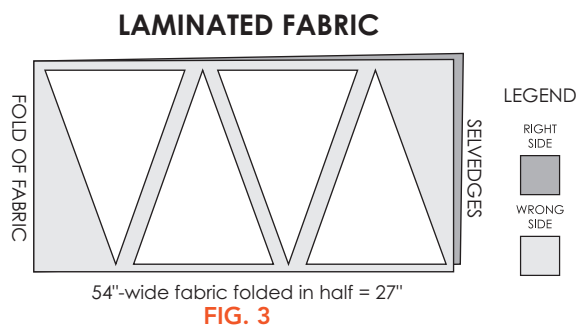
1. Start by unscrewing the Ferrule from the top of the umbrella and seam rip the threads attaching the fabric to the Rib Tips. If your umbrella's Rib Tips can be removed, keep them in a safe place for you will need them to complete your umbrella. Seam-rip the stitches where the fabric is also attached to the Ribs. You should now be able to completely remove the old fabric from your umbrella "skeleton", **fig. 2**.



**FIG. 1**

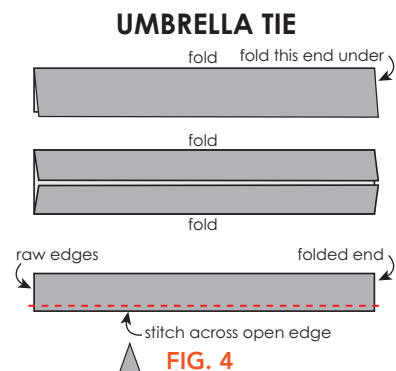
**FIG. 2**

2. Seam-rip one of the eight triangle panels to get your pattern piece and seam-rip the hem out. Make a note of the seam allowance used as well as the amount hemmed. Press this piece with a press cloth to flatten out the seams and hem. Fold your fabric right sides together, aligning the selvages. Trace this piece onto the wrong side of your fabric four times on the cross-grain, parallel to the selvage, **fig. 3**. Carefully cut each out so you end up with eight new triangle panels.



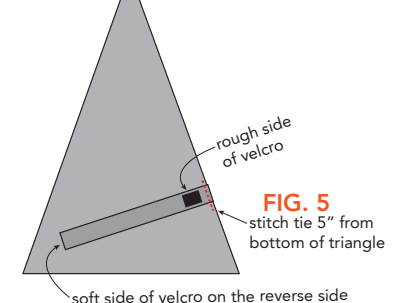
3. Hem the bottom straight edge of each panel using the same amount noted on the old umbrella piece. A 1/4" rolled or narrow hem is commonly used.

4. Make an umbrella tie: Cut a strip 2.5" W x 8" L. Fold a short edge in towards the wrong side 1/4". Then proceed to fold this piece in the same way you would bias tape. To do this, fold the tie in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. Open back up and press each raw edge in towards the center using the first fold as a guide. Fold entire tie in half encasing the raw edges. Stitch as close to the long edge as possible, **fig. 4**.



Add a small piece of *Velcro* (cut to about 1/2" wide x 3/4" long) to the tie so you can close the umbrella. Stitch the soft side of the velcro to the finished end of the tie, as close as possible to the edge. Stitch the rough side of the velcro to the raw end of the tie, but on the reverse side, about 1/2" in from the edge. This is the side that gets sewn into the seam of the umbrella pieces.

Baste the finished tie to the right side of a triangle piece, 1/4" from the edge, aligning raw edges about 5" up from the hemmed edge, **fig. 5**.



5. Pin two triangle pieces right sides together along the long sides, sandwiching tie in between. It helps to pin at the bottom hem and the point first, then pin several times in between, **fig. 6**. Sew from the bottom hem to the point with the same seam allowance that was used in the old umbrella fabric. A 1/4" seam allowance is commonly used. Stop sewing when you are 1/4" from the point. I found it easier to sew all pieces in sets of two then into sets of four. To finish, sew each set of four right sides together, stopping each time 1/4" from the center point, **fig. 7**. Topstitch 1/8" from each seam on the right side of the umbrella fabric.

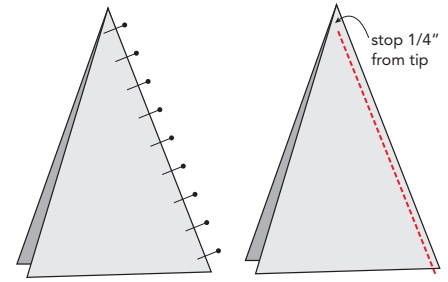


FIG. 6

FIG. 7

6. If your umbrella's *Rib Tips* were removable, it is time to sew those onto the umbrella fabric. Using a thicker spun thread, sew each Rib Tip to the right side of the umbrella fabric at each vertical seam, with the hole in the Rib Tip facing down.
7. With the right side of the new umbrella fabric facing up, drape it over the umbrella "skeleton". Place the opening at the center of the umbrella fabric over the Ferrule keeping the seam allowance tucked under and the seams aligned with the Ribs. Screw the Ferrule piece back on to cover any gaps in the hole. Turn the Rib Tips to the wrong side and onto the ends of each Rib, **fig. 8**. If your umbrella's Rib Tips could not be removed, fold each point 1/4" towards the wrong side and sew the umbrella fabric to the Rib Tips this way.



FIG. 8

8. Once all Rib Tips are in place, hand tack the umbrella fabric to each Rib within the seam allowance to help secure the umbrella fabric to the "skeleton", **fig. 9**.



FIG. 9

