

## How to Make a GHILLIE SUIT VEST

According to Wikipedia, "Camouflage is a method of cryptic or concealing coloration that allows an otherwise visible organism or object to remain indiscernible from the surrounding environment through deception."

Next to an animal's nose, its sense of sight is key to helping it recognize predators and survive the perils of the wild. One way of fooling wary game is by using camouflage to help a hunter blend into the background. Ghillie suits take camouflage to the next level by not only blending in with the background, but also altering the very recognizable human shape into a blurry form that is hard to detect even with the best set of eyes.

On our Get in the Game television show on the Outdoor Channel, we adapted an old turkey vest and made it into the ultimate camouflage vest for hunting. Here's how to turn something old into something awesome!

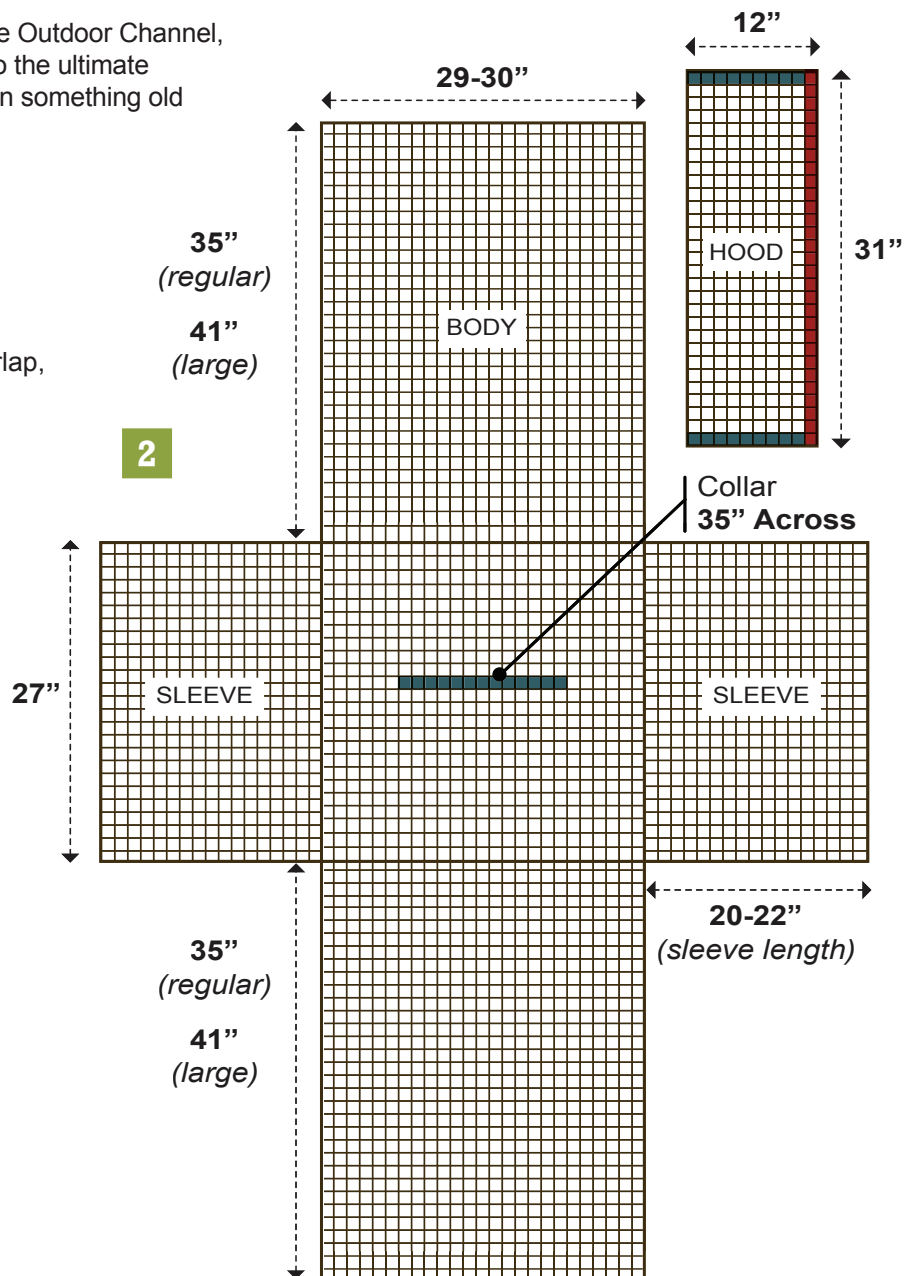
### MATERIALS:

- Old turkey vest
- Synthetic Ghillie Poncho Kit ([www.ghilliesuitwarehouse.com](http://www.ghilliesuitwarehouse.com)) or poly-cord craft netting, camouflage burlap, jute twine and camouflage netting
- Heavy-duty sewing needle
- Braided or fused superline of at least 15 to 20 pound test
- Silk/synthetic leaves
- Zip ties, safety pins or rubber bands

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Log on to [www.ghilliesuitwarehouse.com](http://www.ghilliesuitwarehouse.com) and order the Synthetic Ghillie Poncho Kit or purchase supplies at your local craft and sporting goods store. You can also recycle old camouflage shirts, pants, jackets, burlap, camouflage netting, etc., but they will not be as lightweight as synthetic jute.

2. Create a poncho (Figure 1) that will fit over the vest you are camouflaging. Add sleeves if you want more coverage of your arms and a hood to cover your head.



3. Secure netting to your vest using fishing superlines (braided Kevlar, fused line or micro Dyneema) threaded through a heavy-duty needle and sewn on a regular pattern covering the vest.

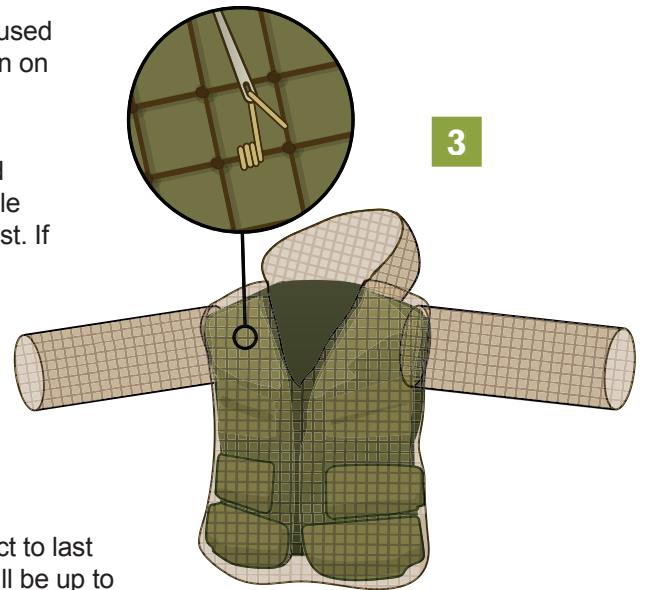
4. Choose strands of colored jute, strips of burlap or strips of netting to create a camouflage pattern that closely matches your hunting area and season. Use only 4 or 5 strands of jute at a time. If you are having trouble figuring out color, match the color pattern and color proportion on the vest. If the netting lies on a patch of green on the vest, knot a patch of green jute/fabric/burlap to match.



5. Don't tie knots on every strand of netting, leave gaps and don't get into a habit of tying a particular pattern of colors. Random colors will mask you best.

6. Take your time. Expect this project to last many hours, even days, as there will be up to 3,000 knots using jute.

7. When finished, put on vest and test your new camouflage against different trees and foliage to see how well it blends in to background. Adjust/customize your ghillie vest by adding materials from your hunting spot (see tips below)



### VEST CUSTOMIZING AND TIPS

Check out the clearance bins of your local craft store and buy synthetic/silk vines, leaves, and grass when they are inexpensive.

Use zip ties, safety pins or rubber bands to attach extra material to the netting and match your environment. For example, add fresh pine needle bunches and sweetgum leaves in the Southeast or add hay when hunting the alfalfa fields of the Midwest. One can also weave tree branches, plant stalks and leaves into the netting to simulate low-lying brush.

When setting up on game, try to sit in a shaded spot or have a dark-shaded background behind you. Shade adds depth to your camouflage and allows you to blend in better compared to full sun exposure.

If you have to move, make sure to slowly check all around you before standing up. Often, game will come in quiet and from a side you cannot see.

Treat your ghillie vest as you would any other type of camouflage. Store in scent-free bag off-season and use scent-free sprays or cover scents to mask your human scent.