

Karo Step Underquilt



This is the Karo-Step underquilt that I made up to keep me snug and warm in my hammock. These instructions will help you to create the exact one pictured. Feel free to alter the measurements in any way you feel will make a better underquilt for yourself.

Cheers, HitchHiking

Notes.

This underquilt has served me very well on a number of trips now. Everyone feels the cold differently so I'll leave temp ratings out of these directions. I assume that the

reader has some skills running a sewing machine and stitch length and techniques will not be discussed.

Material:

3 meters of fabric (30d downproof ripstop nylon)

1 meter of mosquito mesh(1.5meter wide or wider)

9oz of goosedown

4m shock cord

5m of GrosGrain Ribbon 25mm width

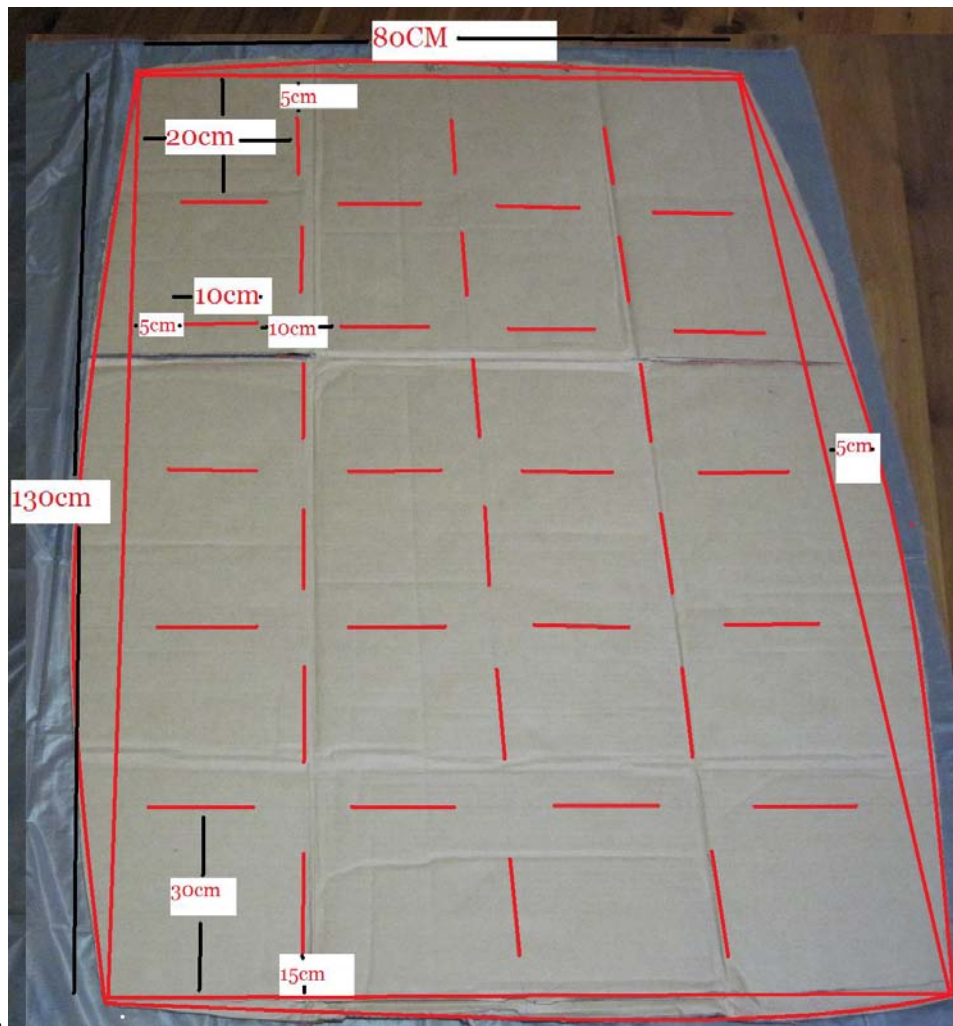
Measuring:

-For the pattern start with a rectangle that is 130cm by 80cm. This is a good size for a $\frac{3}{4}$ underquilt I have found. I then curved the sides out by 5 cm at the widest.

-To mark the location of the baffles is very easy. Think in terms of 20cm squares. Each baffle is 10cm in length which creates the pattern of 10cm space followed by 10 cm baffle followed by 10 cm space. The spaces are what allow the down to migrate through the quilt while the baffle holds it enough so it doesn't to it involuntarily.

-To start the marking of the baffles across the width start 5cm in from the edge. When ending also stay 5cm from the edge. The curved edge creates more space from the baffle(see picture)

-To start the marking of the baffles down the length of the quilt start 5 cm from the edge and end 15cm from the edge(see picture).The reason that I left this larger size at one end of the quilt was to help when stuffing the goose down in. It's terrible to try and stuff goose down into a space slightly too small.



Cutting:

A very easy step. Using some good shears cut out your two sides of the underquilt, cut your 38 squares which will be your baffles (10x10cm) and your 420cm long (10cm width to match the baffle) strip of material that will be used to box the sides.

Stitching:

Now some may think that this is the hardest part. It is actually very easy just a bit tedious and repetitive.

There is a trick to sewing the baffles to the second piece of material to create the shell.

The first side feel free to sew them in any order

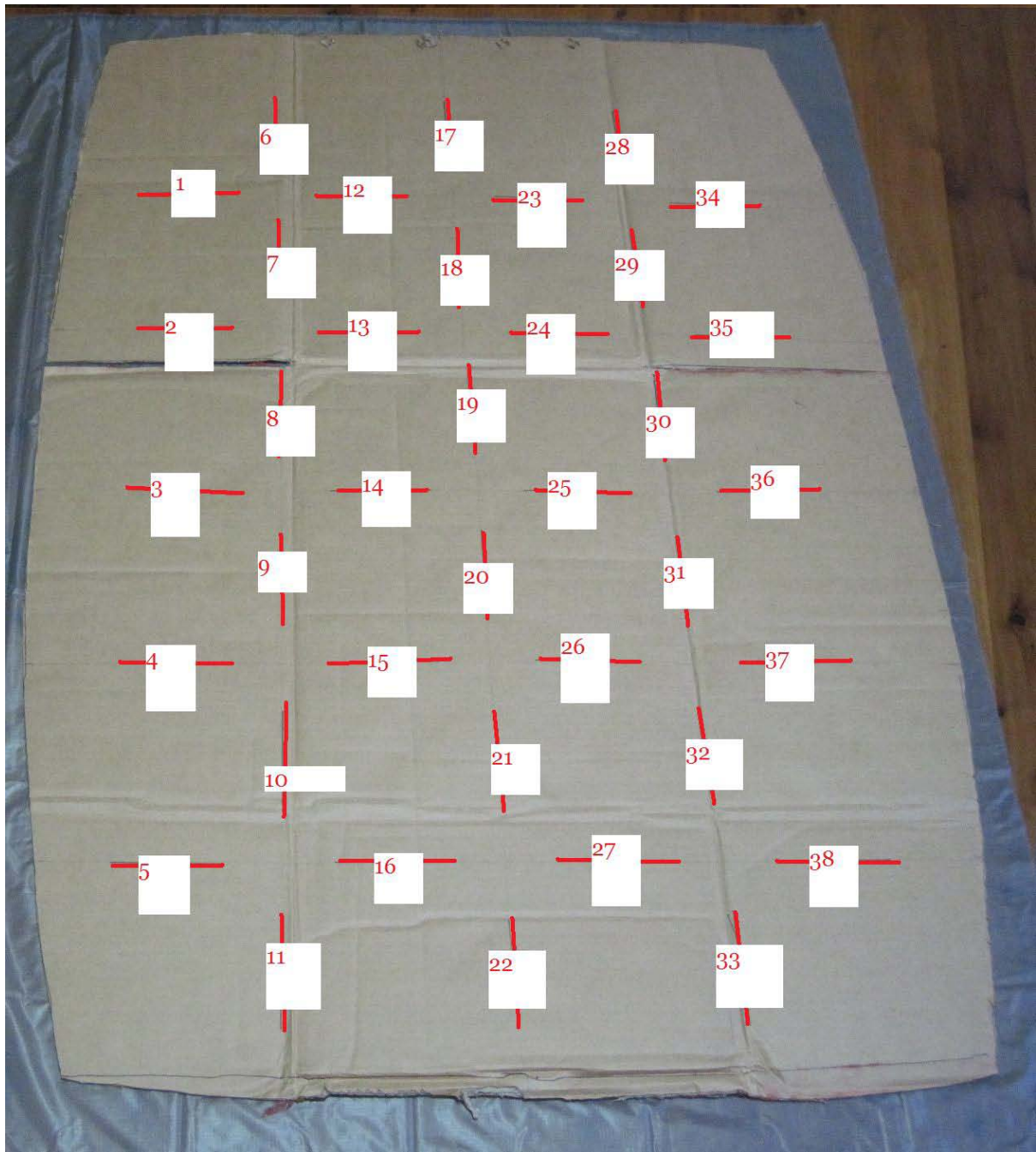


Always fold your baffle material over to give it more purchase when stitched. (Pictured)



When connecting the baffles to the second piece of material use the follow the numbers on the picture to stitch them in the correct order so as not to isolate one

making it impossible to stitch.



Now with the outsides of the material together stitch on the ribbon of fabric that will add vertical sides to the underquilt and create the boxed effect. When you have

gone all the way around the quilt then stitch the ends of the boxing material and turn it right side out. This creates an internal seam and gives a good finished look to the quilt.

Then sew an external seam around the quilt leaving a gap of about 20cm at the end of the quilt where there is the larger gap from the side to the baffle. This is where you will stuff the goose down in.

Now it's time to stuff the goose down in. Everyone has a different way. I don't have any fancy equipment so I just set up my tent and did it by hand. I recommend wearing a breathing mask as the down is not great down the throat.

Once the goose down is in the stitch up the remaining 20cm gap. The quilt will now be looking very swish and it's almost done.

To finish the quilt stitch in a binding style 4 pieces of GrosGrain ribbon over the external seam.(Pictured) The first two pieces are for the ends. The side go on last and overlap the ends just slightly (2cm). These will also be

the channel that the shock cord suspension will travel through.



By folding the end of the ribbon in on itself when you stitch it will hold and give it a finished look and keep it from fraying.

Now thread the shock cord in.



CONGRATULATIONS IT'S DONE.