



WISE WOMAN

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Wise Woman, a reversible coat and a coordinating ear warmer, is designed and constructed to successfully utilize the color and pattern of a Native American Indian blanket, 64" by 80". Dominant colors of royal blue, rust red, and sand are highlighted with small amounts of olive green, white, and bright red. The blanket design radiates from a centrally placed medallion. Design repeats are on the horizontal and vertical axes.

The coat is roomy and cape-like with a front wrap closure secured with buttons. The roomy feature offers the wearer a wide variety of under garment choice and reflects the historical usage of decorative blankets in the Native American culture. Wise Woman provides a number of style variations: by reversing the side of the coat or changing the sleeve length, the collar shape, and the front closure. The pockets are reversible.

Basic patterns were developed from draping in order to visually harmonize the three coat pieces: body, collar, and sleeves. Unique construction techniques were developed for this project. The seams were built in response to structural demand. One coat piece was joined next to another with a manila thread cross stitch, then covered with stay tape machine stitched on either side of the tape. The majority of the seam lengths were further supported and shaped using stiff interfacing. It was cut either on the grain or bias depending on the need for support and/or flexibility of each seam. Finally, the seams were covered with machine-stitched Ultrasuede. Collar fullness and front dart amounts were steam eased into appropriate seams.