



Sew | Project 2:

Construction of the Fitted V-neck Dress Shirt, page 106

These directions are intended to supplement the construction steps described and shown in the book *Sewing Shirts with a Perfect Fit* for each of its four example project garments.

In the book chapters for these projects, the emphasis is on showing how I developed each project from a specific muslin draping exercise, and then how I was able to continue incorporating the draping process into the construction stage itself, to ensure that the draped fit of the preliminary muslins is accurately maintained or adapted successfully when using the specific fashion fabrics and additional details chosen for each garment.

My hope is that just reading through these projects will help anyone take their own next steps after developing one or more fully customized basic fitting shirt patterns as described in the first half of the book, combining these with details available either in my previous books, or from any other pattern sources, or of their own devising, to come up with their own designs for specific garment projects. And then, to feel comfortable turning these ideas into garments without benefit of specific step-by-step directions.

In that spirit, I've generally taken an improvisatory approach to each project, essentially making up techniques and solutions as I came to them while draping with the fashion fabric and the extra-wide seam allowances that make this feasible. This was a bit hair-raising at times, but fun, and it

worked out well in support of my intention to also include at least a few fresh ideas and techniques that I've either not seen or not written about before, which are covered both in the book and in more detail in these directions.

But please note that all completed and marked drapes are simply records of seam-line shapes proven to create a specific fit, so at any stage in which you've got the seam lines you need, whether you're working with muslin or fashion fabric, you could stop fiddling with the drape, move off the form, ignore my steps here, and start using any other existing directions for a shirt-based project to guide you in both adding any additional details and cutting the seam allowances needed to follow those directions. There's nothing about draping that dictates a particular construction, so long as you've got available fabric to create the needed allowances. See the "Converting Muslins..." download for more on using drapes with existing patterns.

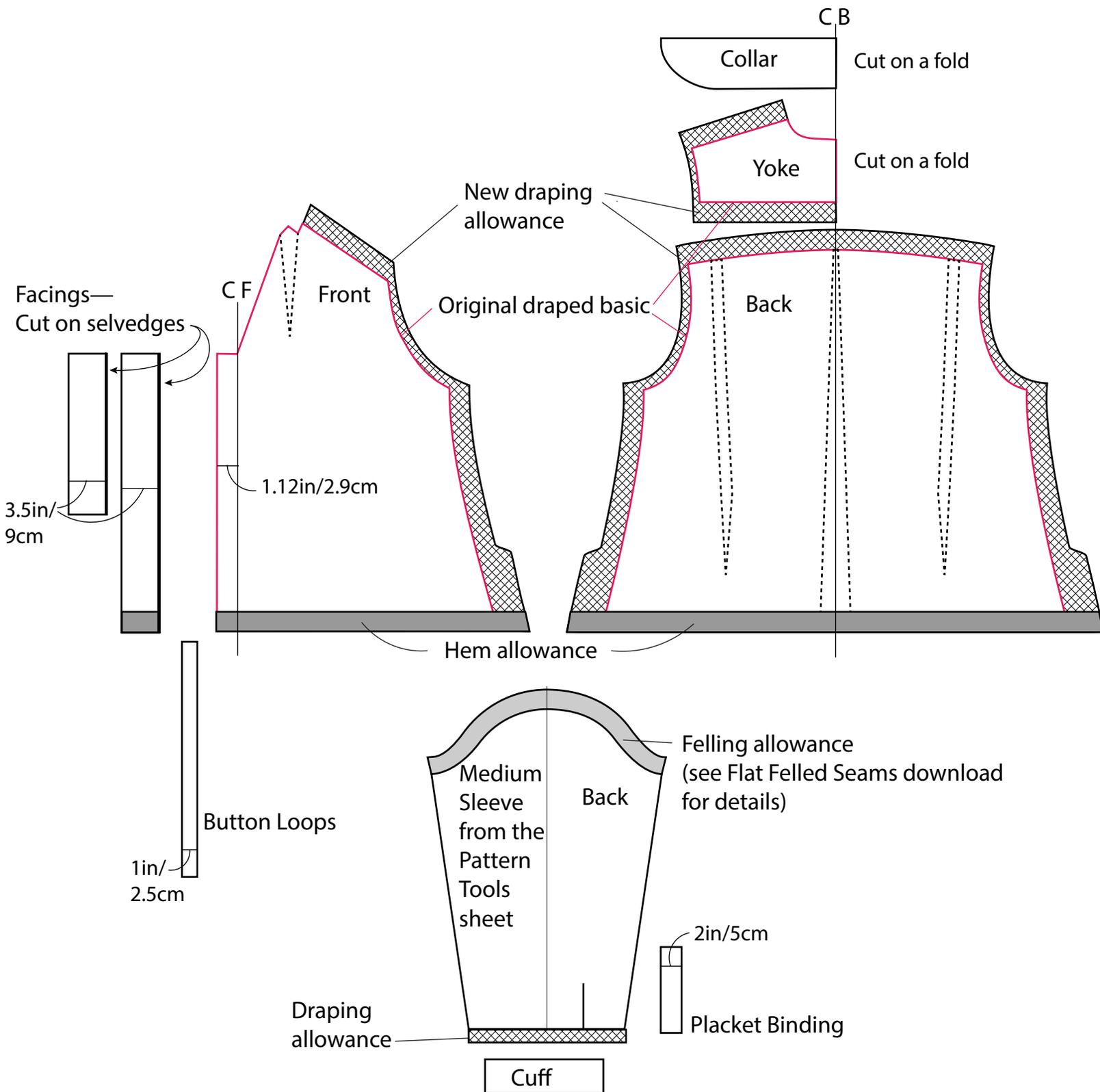
Complete patterns for these projects aren't available, but as each project is based on a draped shirt basic pattern and standard sleeve caps it's reasonable, I think, to propose that this book is itself the directions for making them, especially since most not-rectangular details from each project are included here as full-size patterns in the Detail Patterns pdf.

Questions welcome any time, here:

<http://www.shirtmakingwithdpc.com/makingshirts/>
...or on Facebook, etc. Enjoy!

Parts of the Fitted V-neck Dress Shirt, page 106

Add ½-in/13mm seam allowances unless otherwise specified.

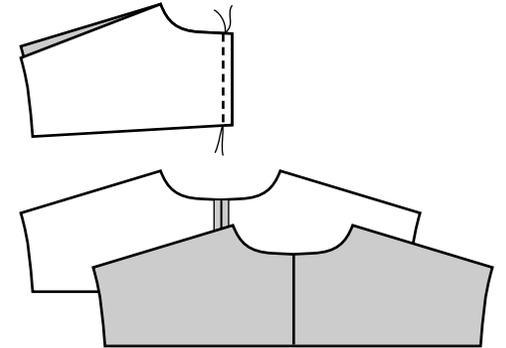


Pages 110-111 describe how I redraped the yokes, fronts and backs in fashion fabric to make certain of the seam lines I should use when joining these. I stitched the front neckline darts closed first to facilitate this final, double-check-everything draping.

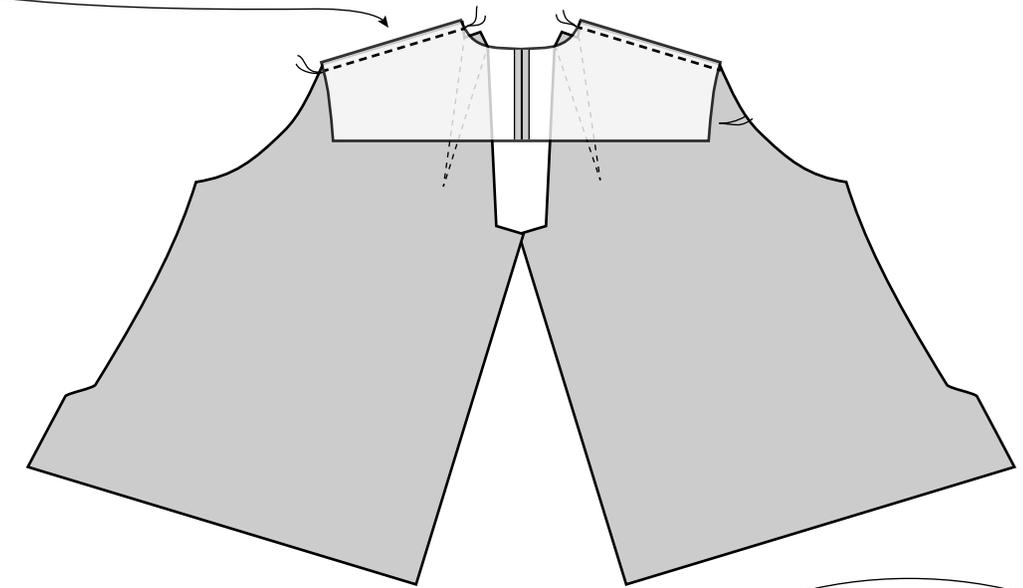
I also confirmed and lightly marked the redraped side seam lines at this stage.

If I'd not bothered with the re-draping step, I'd have stitched the darts as listed on page 106, right after joining the fronts to the outer yoke layer, though stitching them first would have made sense, too. You'll note a few other construction-order differences between these directions and the list, in which cases either order will work fine.

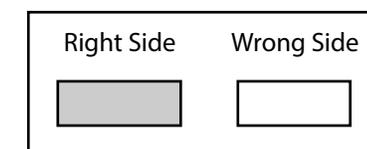
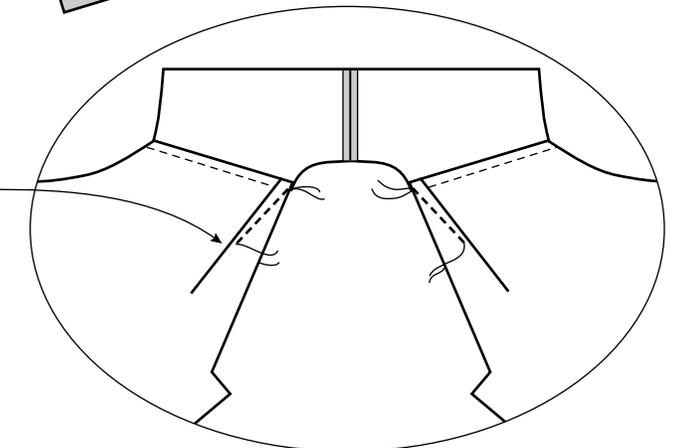
1. YOKE & DARTS: If you've cut the yoke layers on the bias as I did with this garment, join the yoke halves together first, with right sides together. Press the seams open.



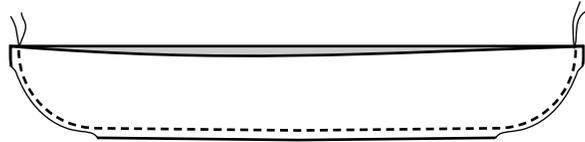
With right sides together and yoke-seam draping allowances trimmed away, join the Fronts to the outer Yoke layer. Press the seam allowances towards the yoke.



2. With right sides together, stitch the neckline darts partially closed as shown. Press the seams towards the armholes.

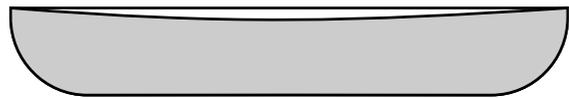


3. COLLAR & FACINGS: With the Collar pieces right sides together, stitch, trim...

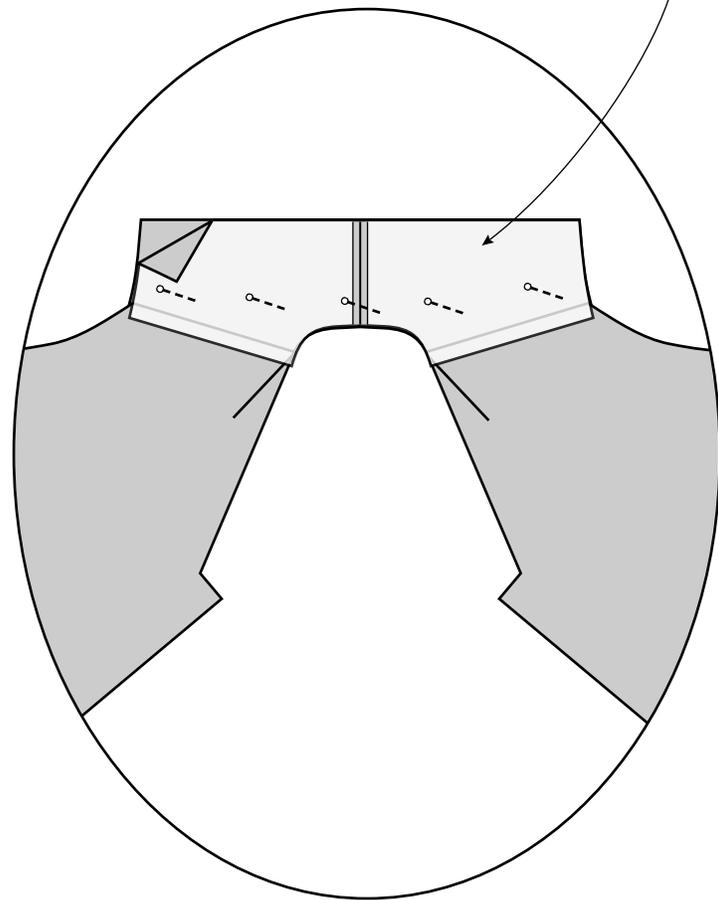


TIP: I always press to-be-turned seam allowances open, then trim curves as shown before turning.

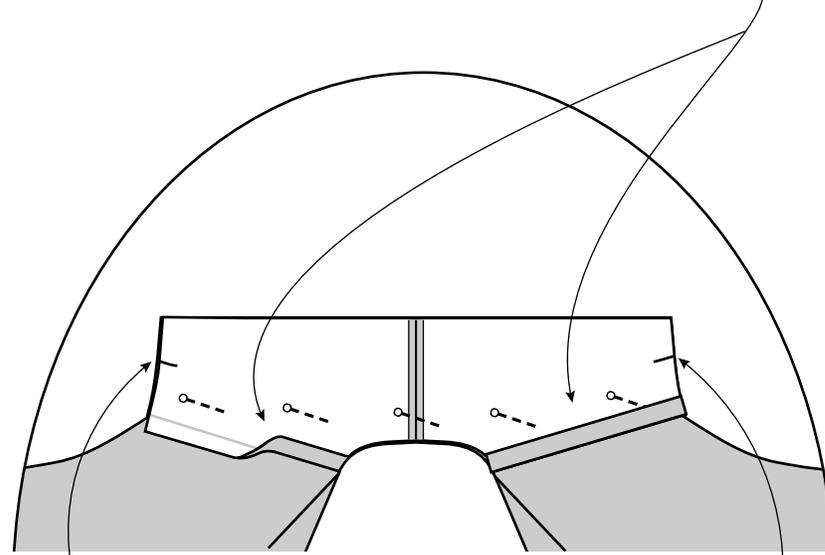
...then turn, and press the Collar.



4. Prepare the *inner* Yoke for joining along with the collar and facings by precisely aligning it right sides together over the *outer* yoke-plus-fronts structure and pinning or basting as shown.



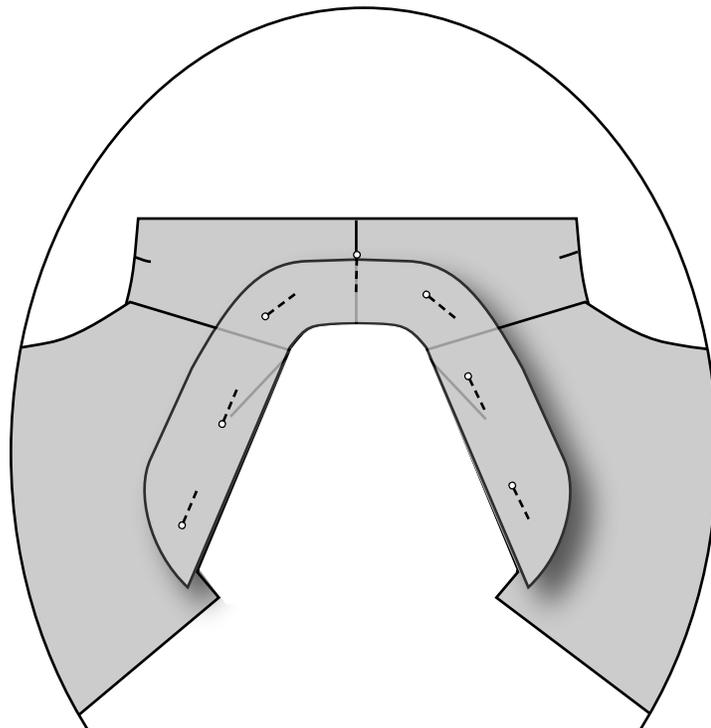
4, cont. Carefully press over the front-to-yoke seam allowances, exactly aligning and covering the outer yoke-to-front seam lines with the folds as shown.



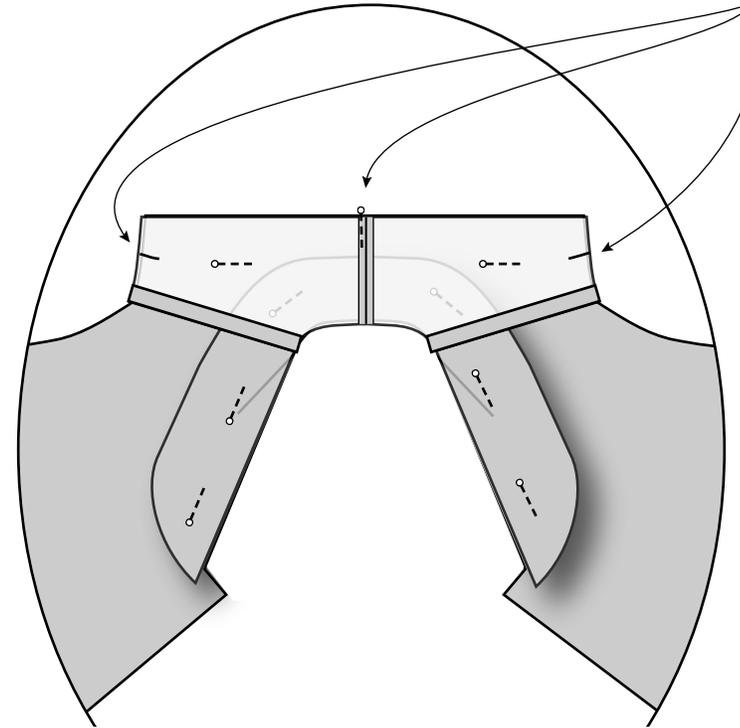
Mark each yoke end so you can accurately replace the inner yoke in this same position later, also aligning the CB seams.

Un-pin, remove and set aside the folded and marked inner yoke.

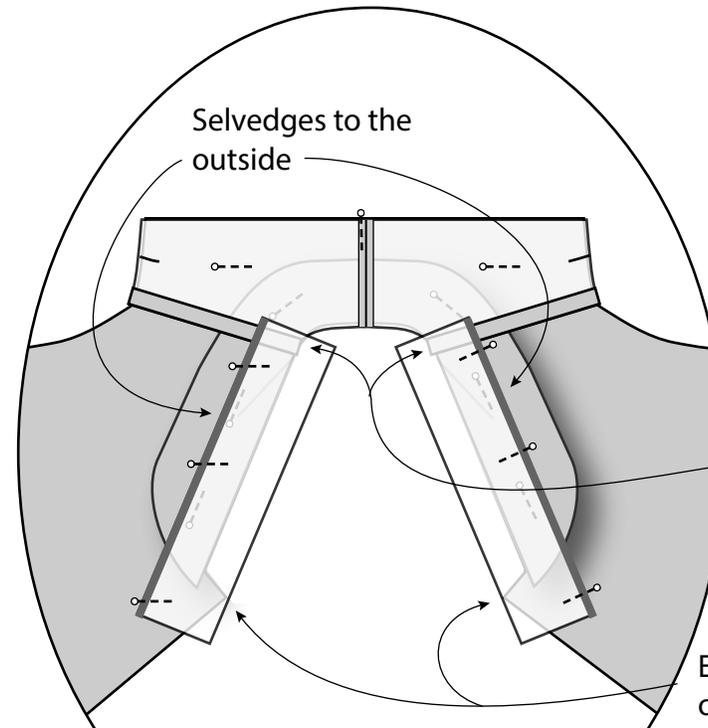
5. With right side facing up, align, then pin or baste the collar to the neck seam line as shown.



5, cont. With right sides together, replace, re-align, then pin or baste the set-aside inner yoke as shown.



5, cont. With right sides face down, align, then pin or baste the two shorter Facing rectangles as shown.



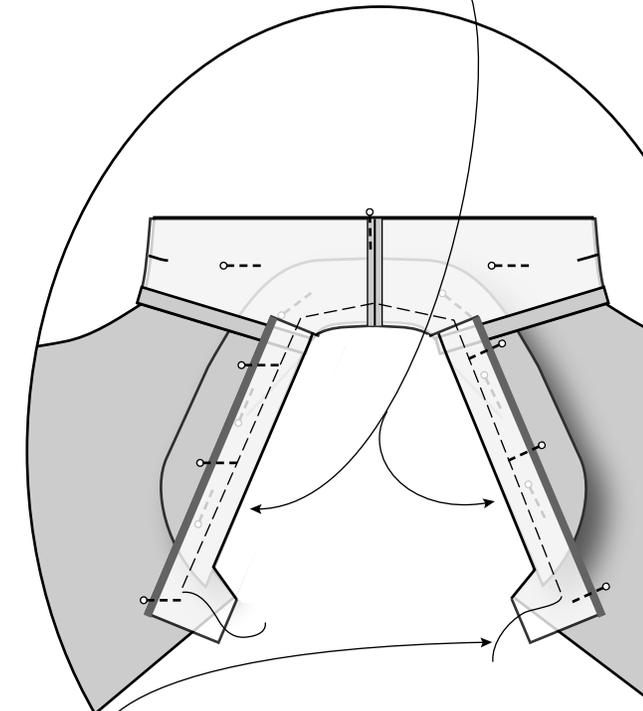
Selvages to the outside

Overlap the inner yoke seam allowances

Extend beyond the CF overlaps

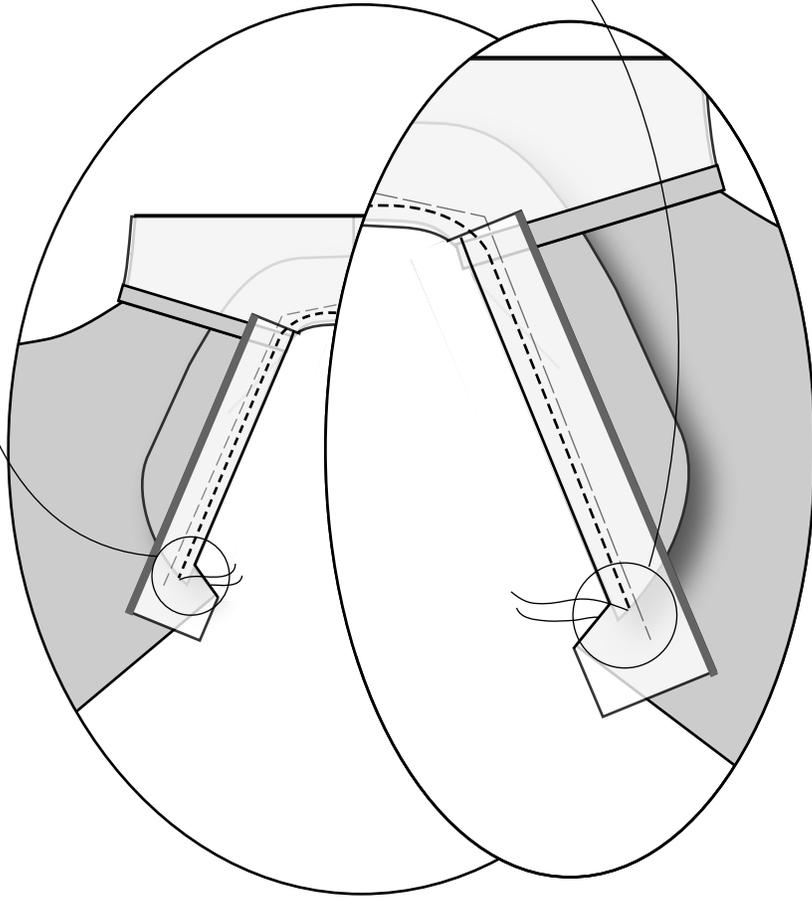
Right Side	Wrong Side

5, cont. Trim inner edges of facings to match fronts, as shown.



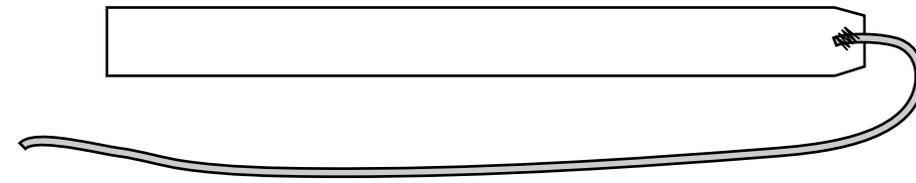
TIP: With any but the lightest-weight fabrics, hand-basting through all layers just outside the neck seam line and then pulling all those pins at this point is definitely worth it.

5, cont. Starting and ending at the collar edges, stitch all layers along the neck-line seam.



6. **BUTTON LOOPS:** To make button loops, cut an on-grain rectangle twice the final width you want plus two 1/4-in./6mm seam allowances, and allowing twice the final loop length plus about 1 in./25cm allowance for each loop, plus an extra inch or so for turning. In this case, I cut a strip a bit longer than 20 in./54cm long and 1-in./2.5cm wide to make 5 loops (including 2 for the cuffs).

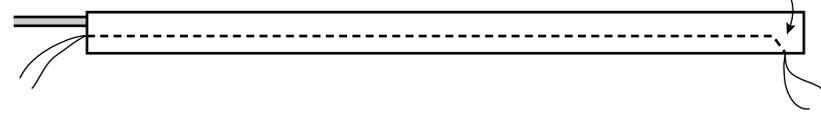
A. Prepare the strip for turning by bar-tacking a heavy string to the wrong side of one trimmed end.



B. Fold the stringed end to the right side and center the string over the strip.



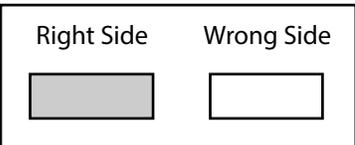
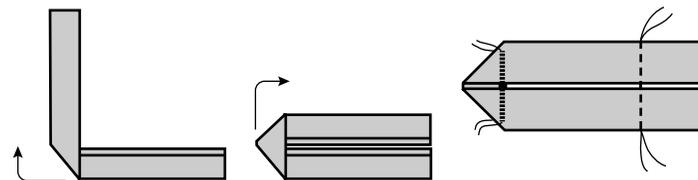
C. Fold the strip over the string, and stitch the length, using a zipper foot if needed (in this case, for sure), making the tube a bit wider than the allowances and tapering it off the edge at the string end as shown.



D. Press the allowances open if the strip is even a little wider than this one (which I didn't press), then pull the string through to turn it. Cut off the string end and press the turned strip so the seam is either right on the edge or favored to the wrong side.

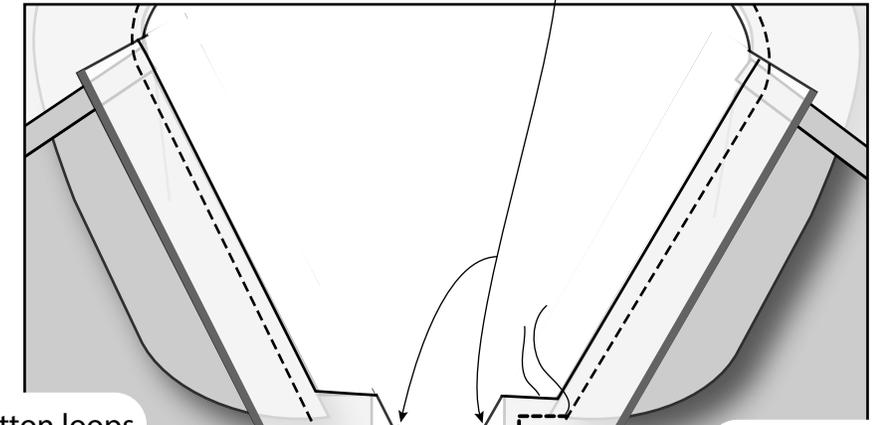


E. Fold the strip into a loop in two steps, first over, then under, from the wrong side, carefully molding the two folds into a symmetrical point. Secure the folds with a bartack and baste the ends for easy handling.

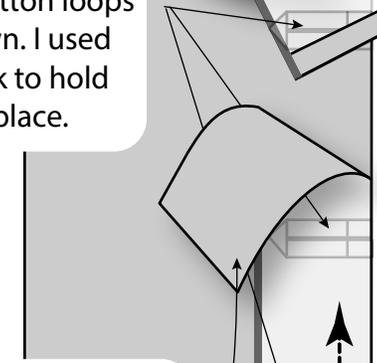


7. To complete facings and add button loops:

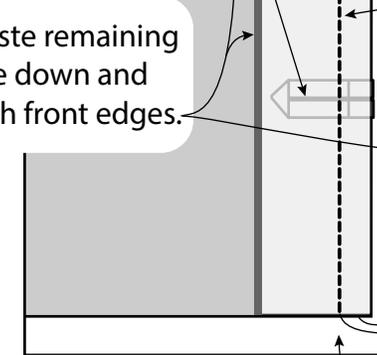
A. Fold up and press a narrow edge at the free ends of the neck facings.



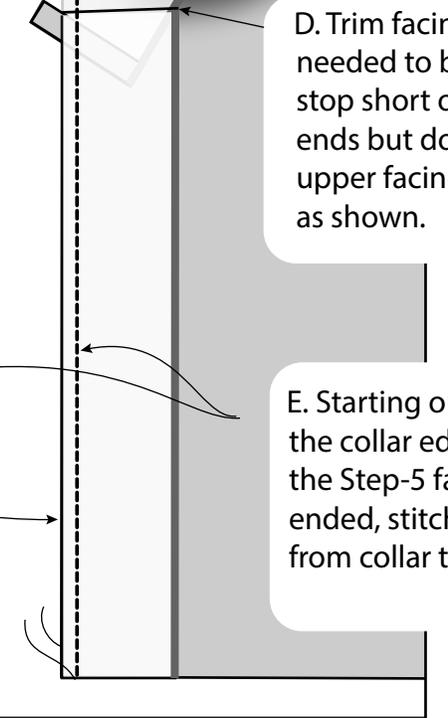
B. Insert button loops face down. I used glue stick to hold them in place.



C. Pin or baste remaining facings face down and aligned with front edges.



D. Trim facing top ends if needed to be sure they stop short of the collar ends but do cover the upper facing selvages as shown.

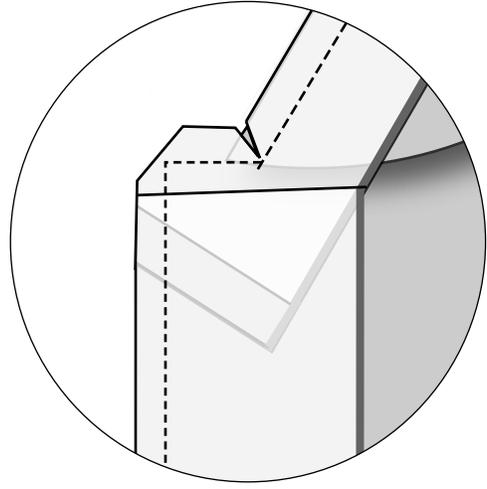


E. Starting or ending at the collar edges where the Step-5 facing stitches ended, stitch all layers from collar to hems.

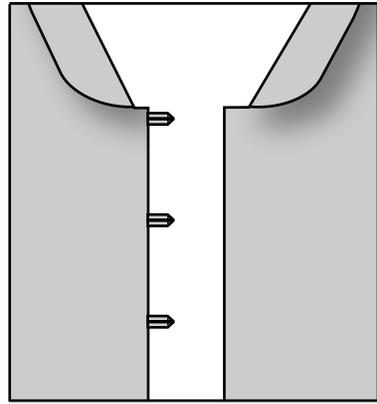


DESIGN OPTION: With all else being left exactly the same, I chose to stitch the button-loop front with a wider seam allowance compared to the opposite side, so the overlap extension at CF would be less wide than the underlap, but the facings would remain symmetrical at the inner edges.

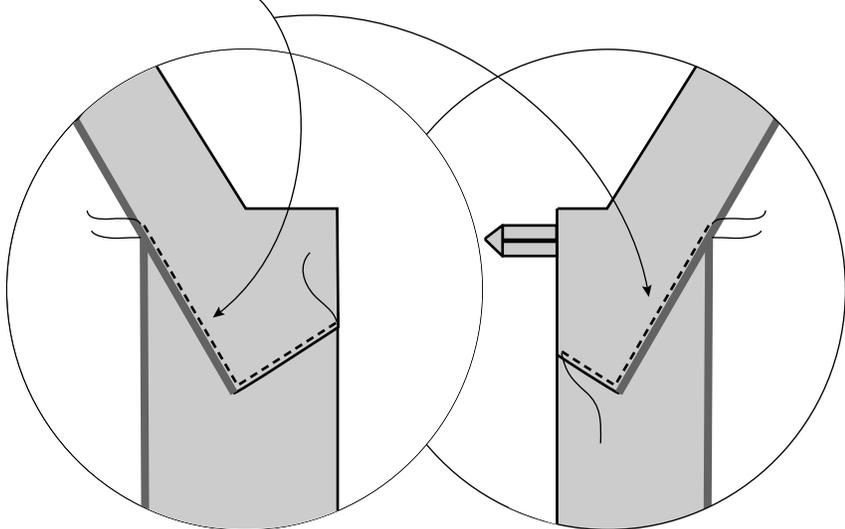
7, cont. Clip the seam allowances at the collar front edges without clipping the collar itself, and trim the allowances at the edges of the over- and underlapping extensions.



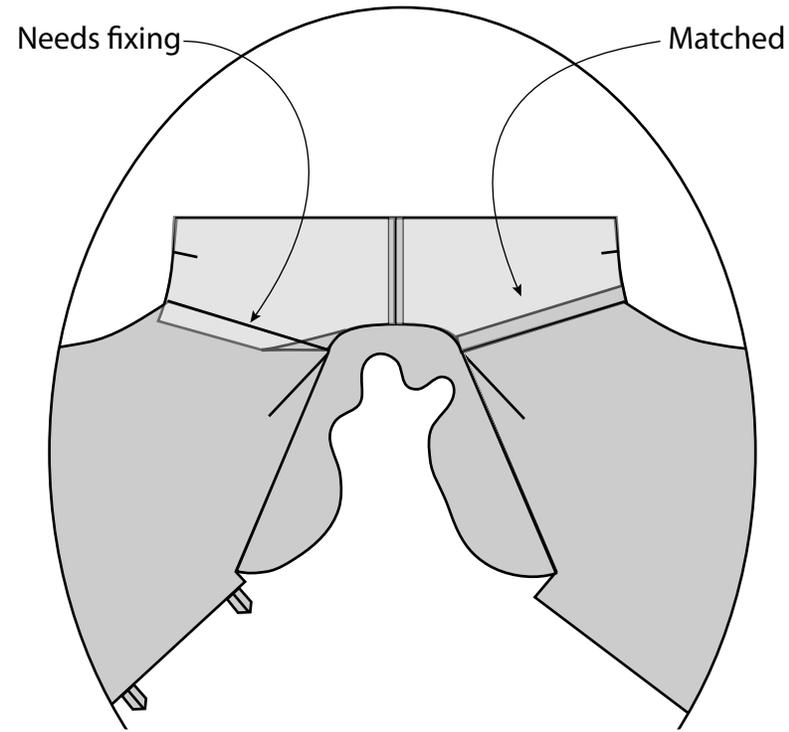
Turn the collar, inner yoke, and facings right side out and press.



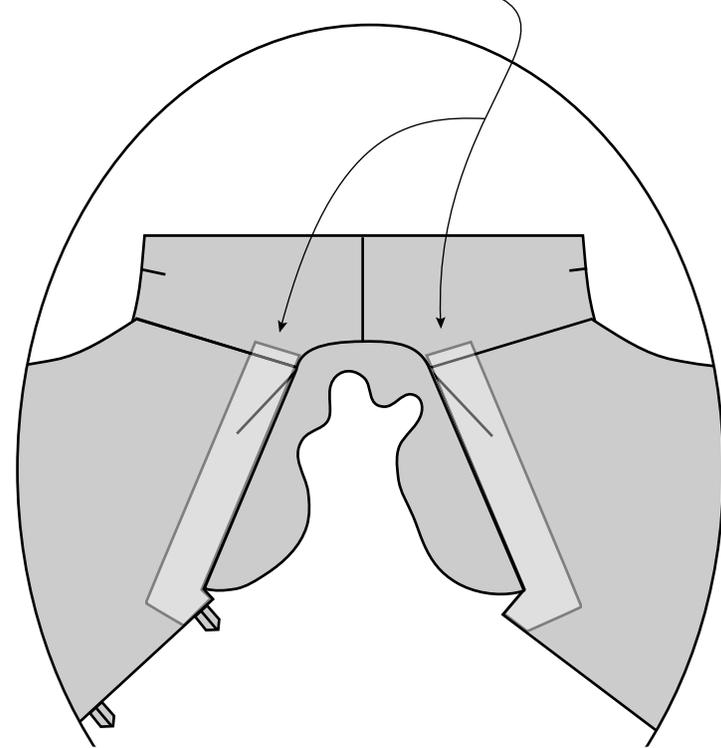
Inside the fronts, tack the upper facing edges to the lower facings only.



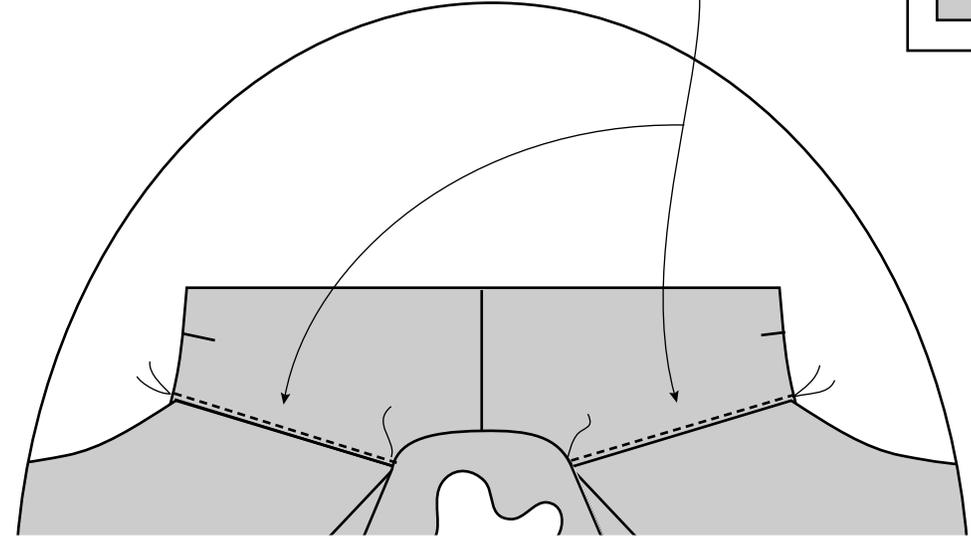
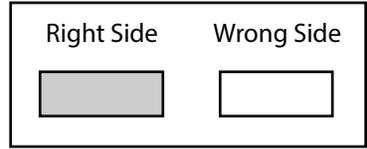
8. With the yoke layers now at last wrong sides together but still only attached at the neck line, confirm—and realign if needed—that the inner yoke's front-edge folds match the outer yoke's...



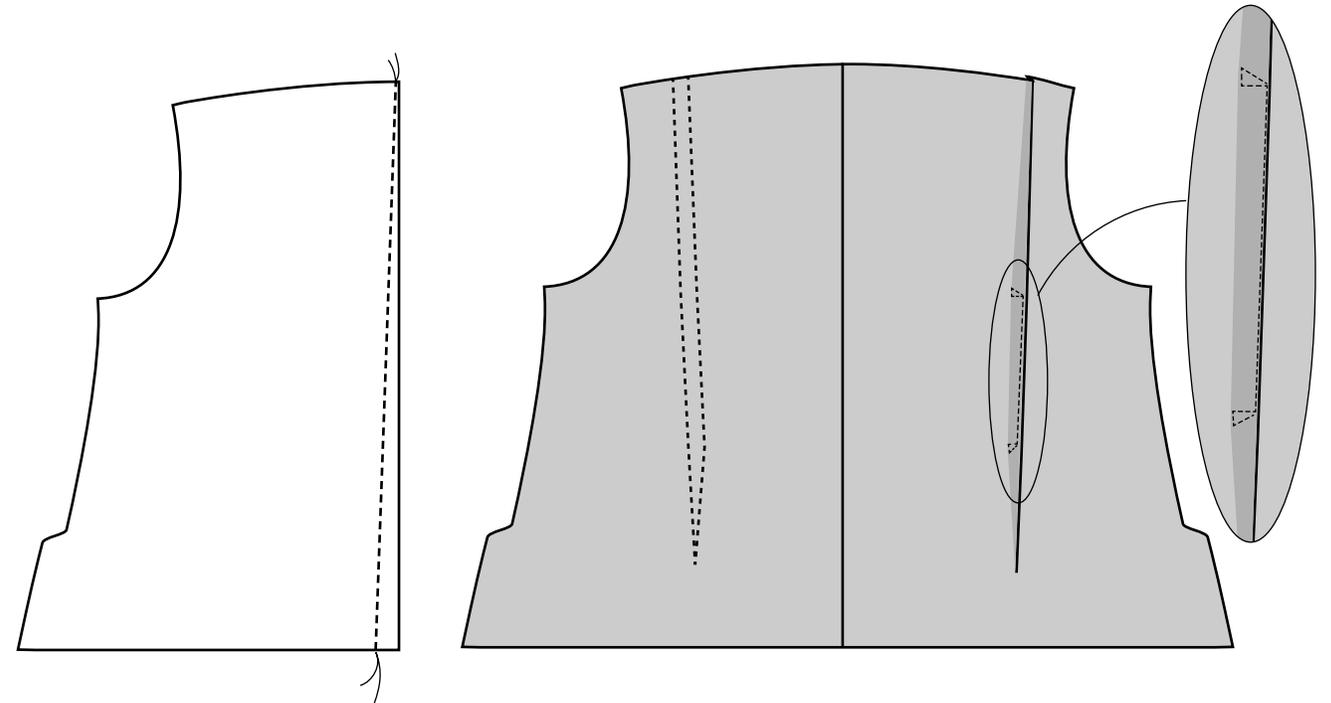
...AND that the upper facing ends are tucked smoothly inside the yoke front edges.



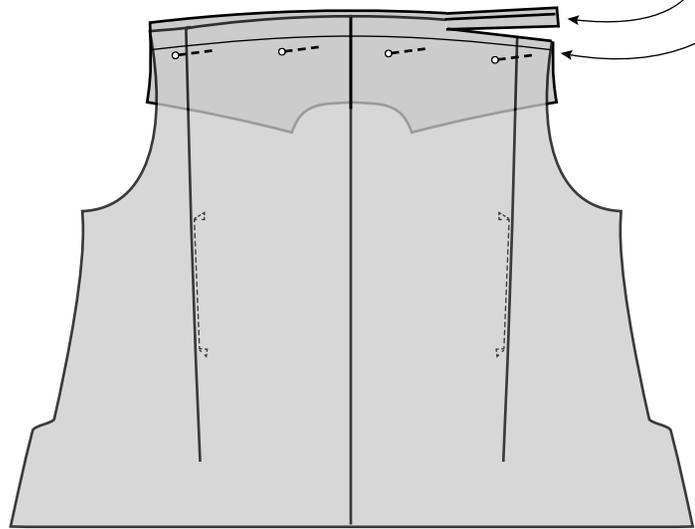
When all's looking good, edge-stitch as shown to secure both yoke layers and the upper facings.



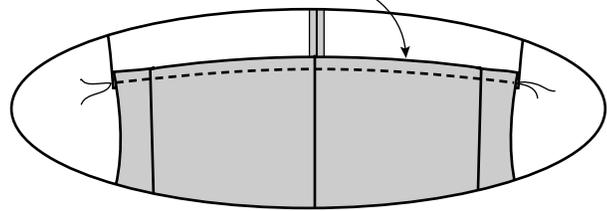
9. BACK: With right sides together, close and press to one side the tuck at CB. From the right side, form and pin the Back's side darts, then stitch partially as shown.



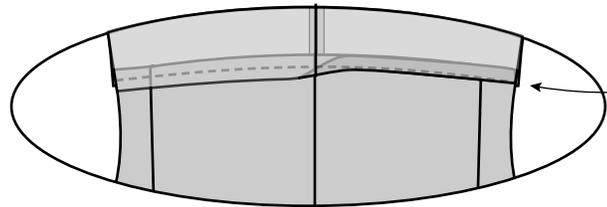
10. With the Back and the inner yoke both right side up (fronts and outer yoke *not* shown here), align its back-to-yoke seam line with the yoke's yoke-to-back seam line (both crease-marked as shown on page 113) and pin, then trim the seam allowances to match.



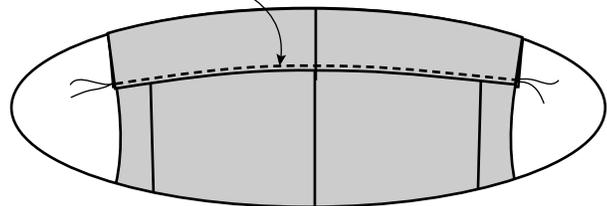
Stitch on the creased line, then press the seam allowances towards the yoke.



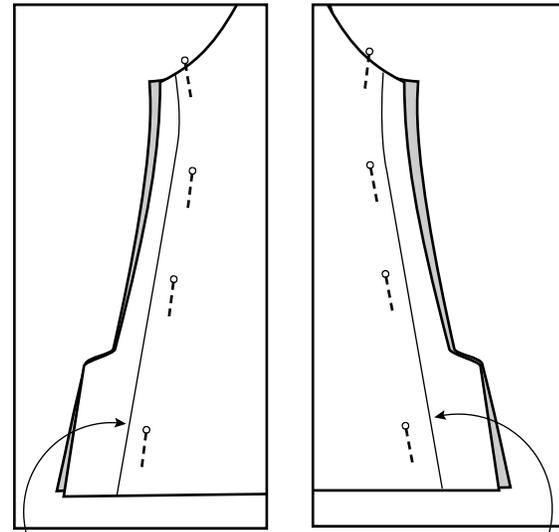
Fold the outer yoke over the trimmed seam and fold its seam allowance inside so the fold just covers the stitching.



Edge-stitch the fold to secure the outer yoke to the back and inner yoke.

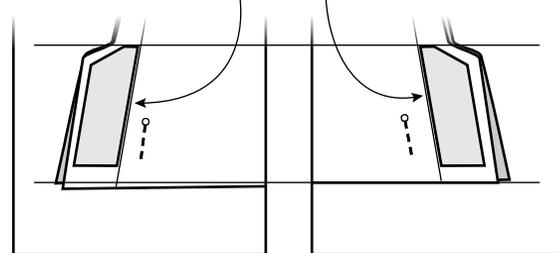


11. SIDES & VENTS: With right sides together, align and pin or baste the side seam lines as marked when redraped (page 110).

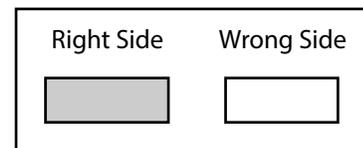
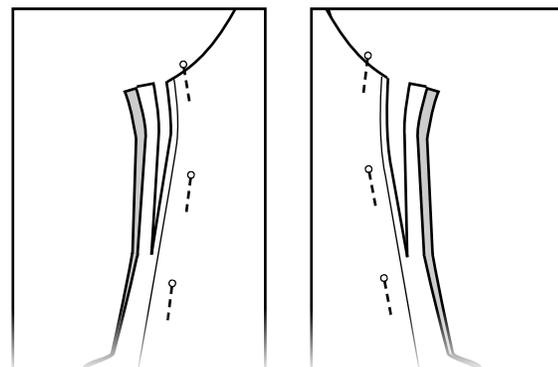


Draped and marked side-seam lines

Confirm, and correct if needed, that the vent allowances are the same length on each side and that each is wide enough for the folding template that will shape them.

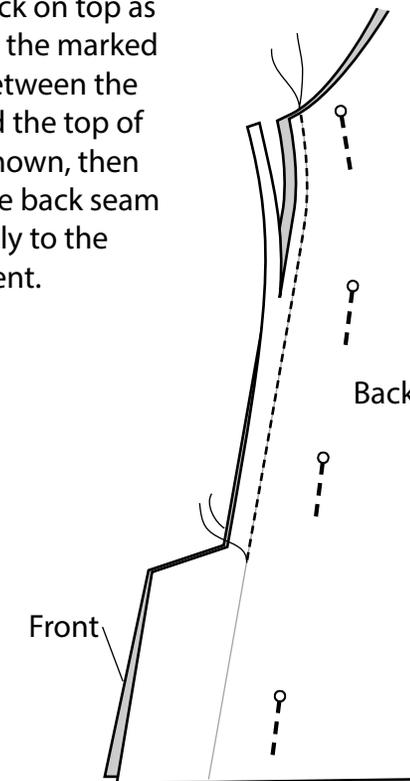


For hand-turned flat felled seams (see the Flat Felled Seams pdf) above the side vents, trim the side seam allowances above the vent allowances to 1/2 inch or 1.3 cm.

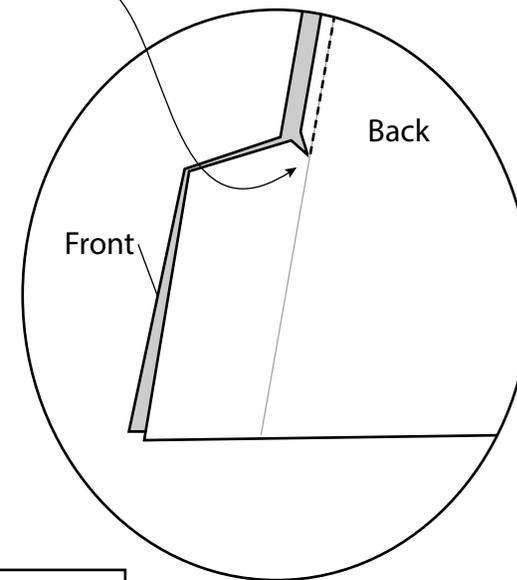


DESIGN OPTION: If you'd prefer the vents to open towards the back instead of towards the front as these do, just start here with the *fronts* on top and trim their allowances. All else is the same, just swap the Back and Front labels in every diagram.

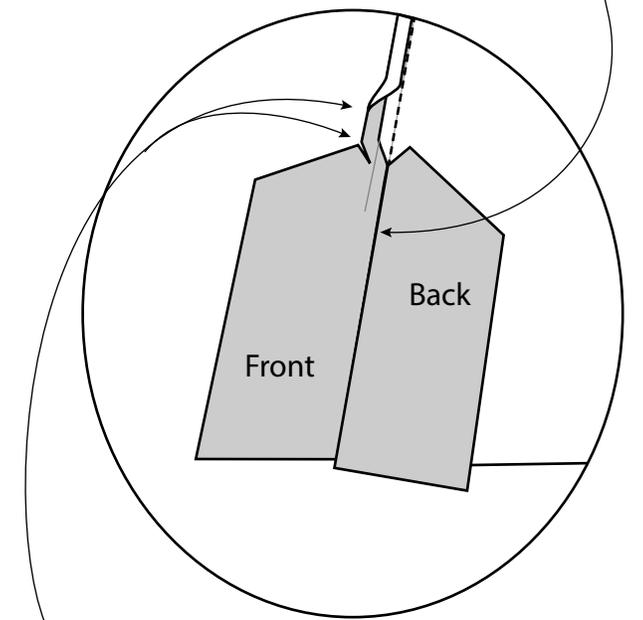
12. With the back on top as shown, stitch the marked seam lines between the armholes and the top of the vent as shown, then trim down the back seam allowance only to the start of the vent.



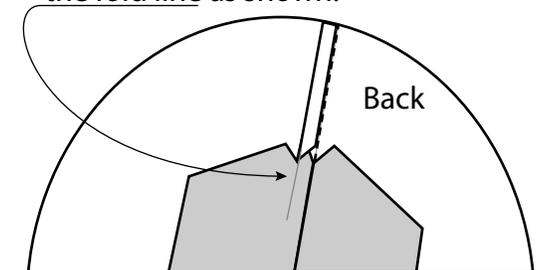
A. Clip the back only to the end of the stitching as shown.



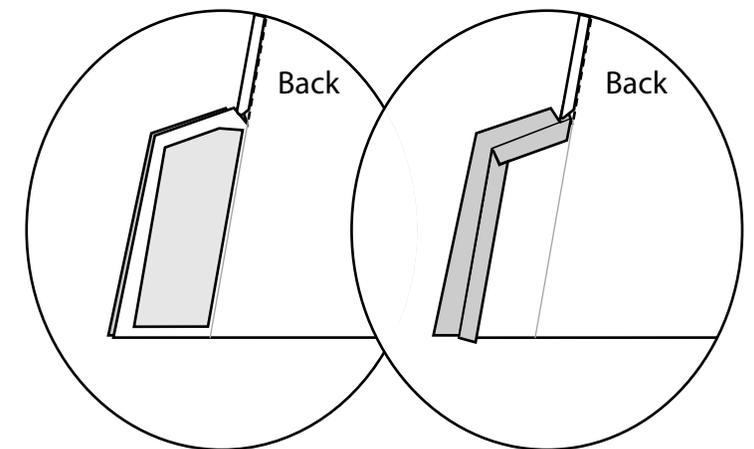
B. Fold and press the Back vent allowance on the seam line from the clip to the hem.



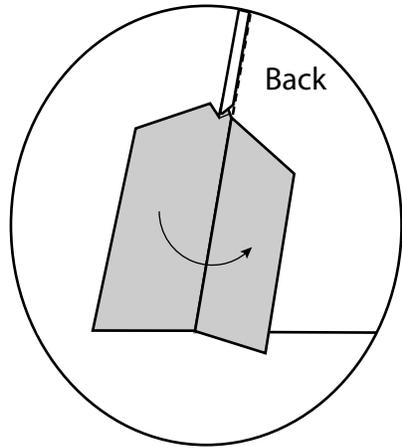
C. Fold the untrimmed Front felled-seam allowance over the trimmed Back one, clipping only to the fold line as shown.



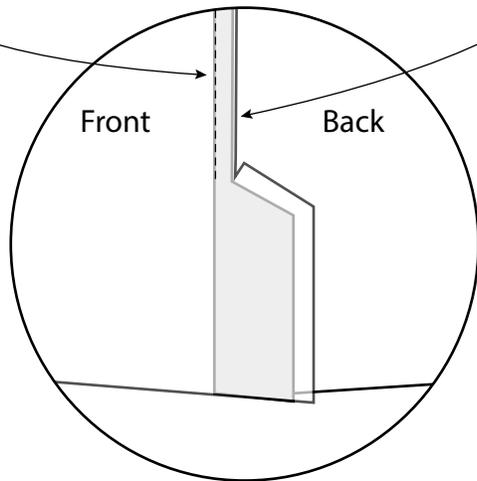
D. Unfold the Back vent, insert the folding template and fold the vent edges over it. Press and secure the folds with a few dabs of glue stick.



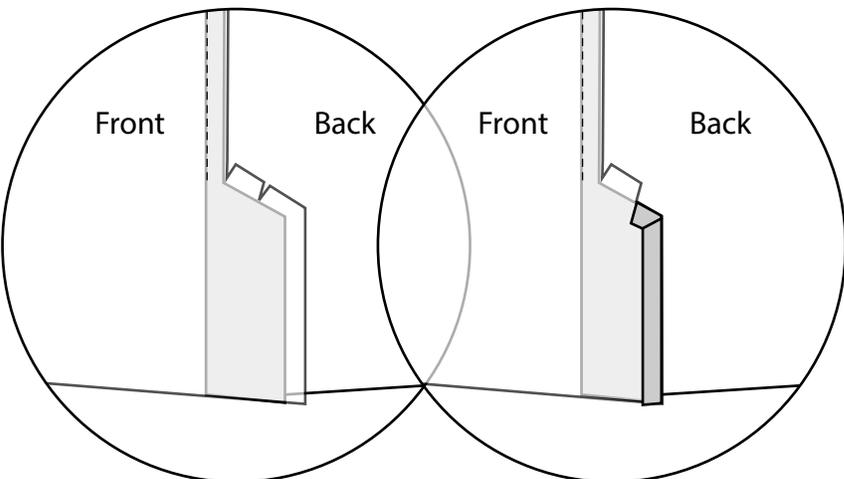
12 cont.
E. Re-fold the Back vent...



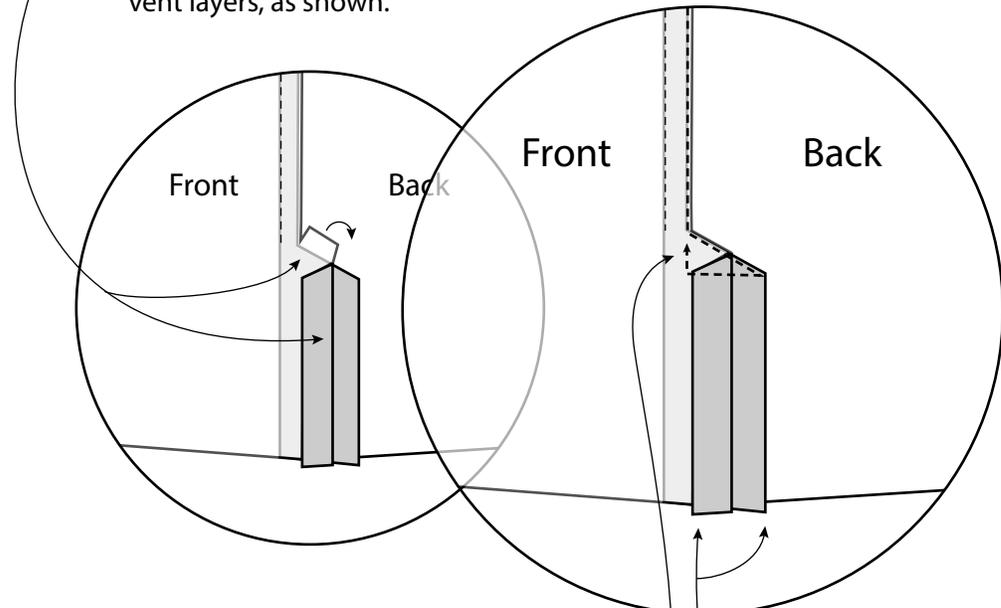
F. ... then separate the Front and Back layers on the original seam line, laying the not-yet-felled seam allowances flat and ready to be stitched in the second felling pass, but not quite yet.



G. Clip midway into the top edge of the Front vent, then fold and press the outer edges to match the edges and angles of the Back vent, as shown.



H. Fold and press back the front vent at the clip, then tuck to hide the remaining edge in between the two vent layers, as shown.



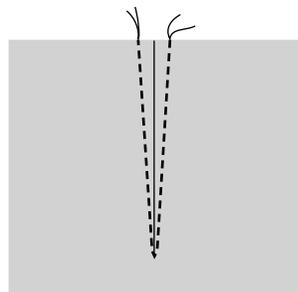
I. Complete the second-pass felling stitches along the folded edge parallel to the original, first-pass seam, then follow the vent top edges, turning back across them and up to meet the end of the felling seam, as shown.

Leave the final vent edges open until the hemming stage so the hems can be folded inside them.

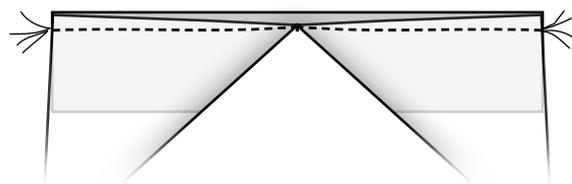
13. SLEEVES: On page 114, I said, "...sew the sleeves into closed tubes, and then sew a continuous placket in each sleeve." This makes sense if you're going to re-check the sleeve drape before settling on the final cap seam lines, which if different each side, might change the final sleeve lengths you want. If not re-draping the sleeves, make the plackets first. Flat is easier.

Placket slashes generally go in the middle of the back half of the cuff seam. This one did, and is 3.5 in./8.9cm long, Double that, add seam allowances, and that's your placket binding length.

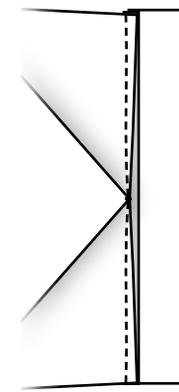
A. Mark slash, then stitch around it starting with a 1/4-in./6mm allowance tapering to a pivot at the tip.



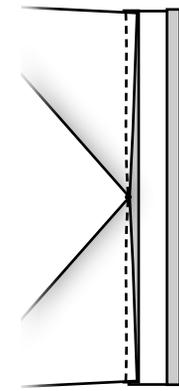
B. Cut slash without cutting the threads. Spread the slash open and arrange binding right sides together as shown. Stitch right on top of the previous stitches.



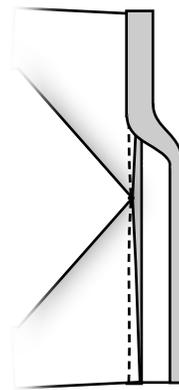
C. Press the binding over the joining seam.



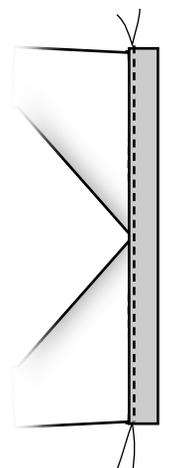
D. Press under the seam allowance on the free edge.



E. Fold the binding in half just barely covering the existing seam. Glue stick is helpful here.

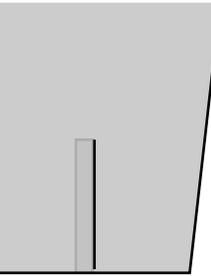


F. Edge-stitch to close the binding.

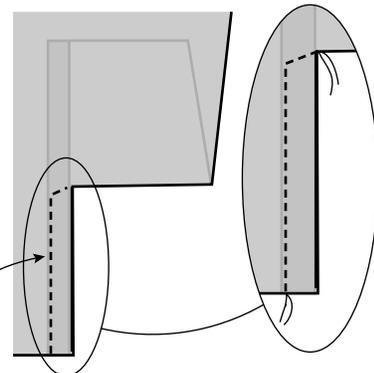


Right Side	Wrong Side

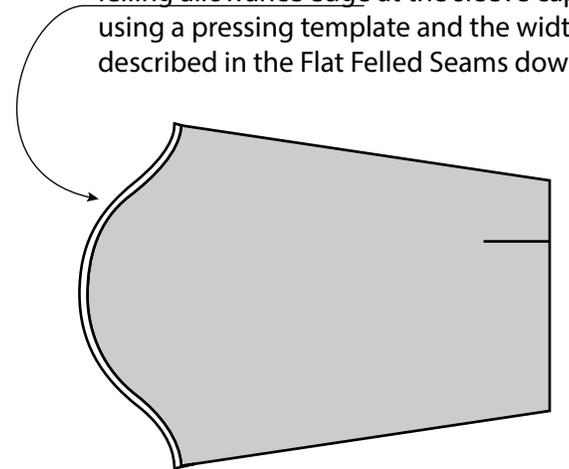
G. Fold the binding in half with it arranged on the wrong side of the garment and with the folded edge pointing to the front, to create the right overlap direction.



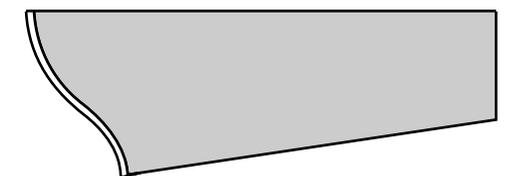
Fold the underlap up and secure the front half of the binding to the sleeve by stitching as shown.



14. From the right side, fold over and press the felling allowance edge at the sleeve cap, using a pressing template and the width described in the Flat Felled Seams download.



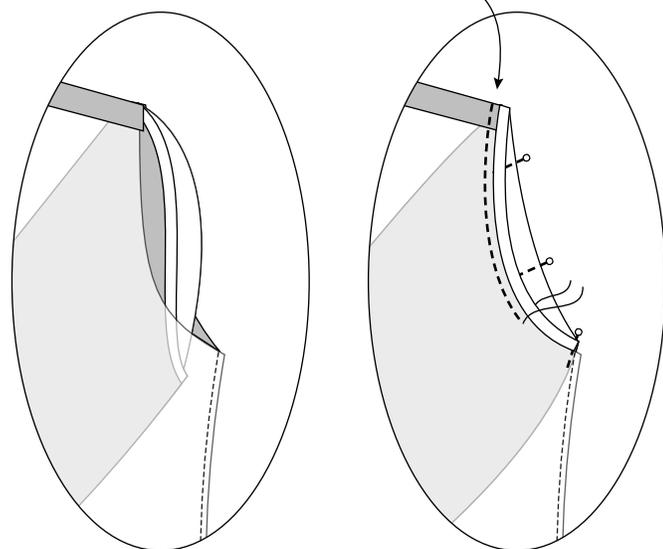
15. Choose a seam type for closing the sleeves into tubes from the Flat Felled Seams download and do that now.



TIP: If not re-draping the sleeves or trying them on before cutting the cuffs or final sleeve lengths, it'll be easier to add the cuffs before inserting the sleeves.

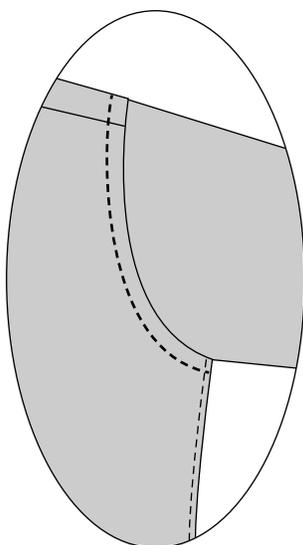
16. Turn the garment inside out and insert the right-side-out sleeve tube inside it so the garment and sleeve are right sides together, with the side and underarm seams aligned (unless draped otherwise!) and the folded cap edge aligned evenly with the armhole raw edges as described in the Flat Felled Seams download.

Stitch the first-pass seam.

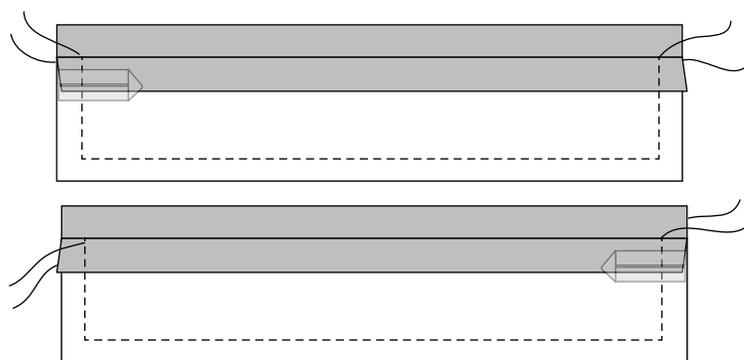


TIP: Be careful to match the right sleeve with the right armhole! Check that the plackets are towards the back when each sleeve is pinned in place to be sure.

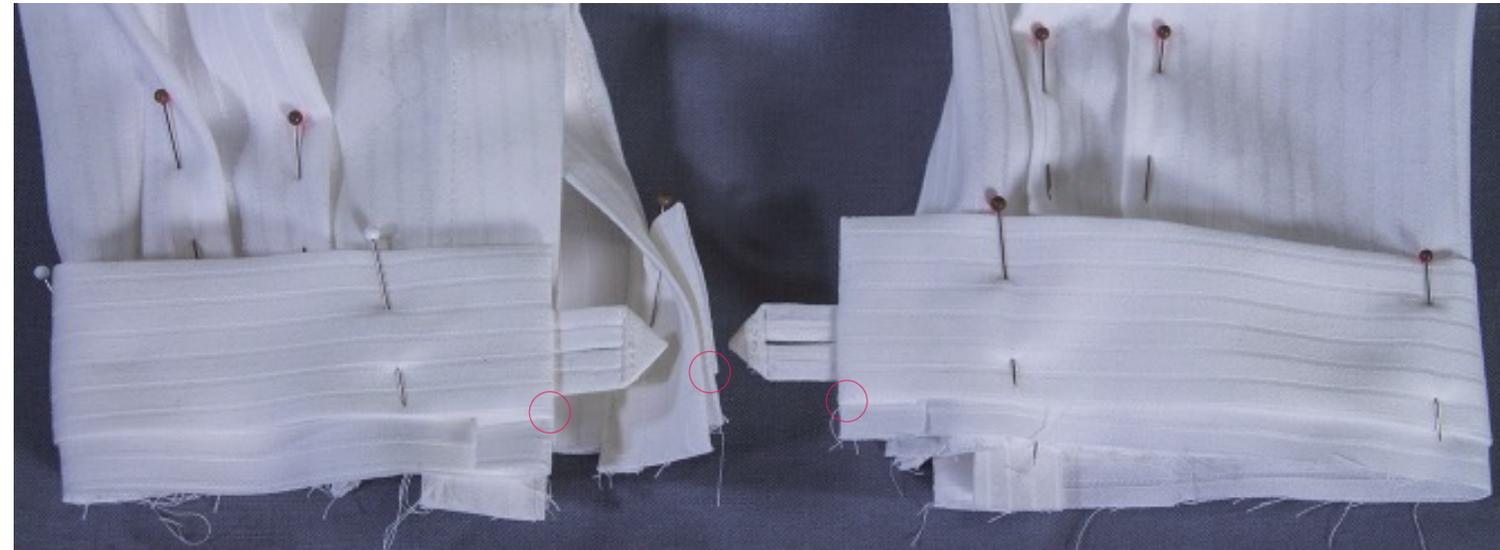
Turn the garment right side out and press the seam allowances towards the garment, pinning or basting in preparation for the second-pass stitching, either by hand or by machine, then stitch as planned. I usually do either from the right side; it looks better, so long as you catch the edge inside.



17. CUFFS & HEMS: Fold to the WS one long edge of two cuff rectangles on the seam line. These will be the inner cuff layers. Arrange them right sides together over the remaining rectangles, with a button loop in between, face down as shown, and stitch.



Turn and press.



18. Pleat or gather the sleeve-to-cuff seams to match the cuff lengths; I used pleats as you can see.

Pin the cuffs in place, starting and ending exactly at the placket edges, with the button loops at the overlap edges. Take care that the inner-cuff-fold ends (circled above) align when you bring them together with the placket in finished position before you begin stitching from edge to edge along that fold. Also shift the fold a tiny bit towards the sleeve before stitching so when it's turned it'll easily cover the stitching.

Stitch just the outer cuff to the sleeves, then tuck and smooth the raw edges of the sleeves, bindings, and cuffs inside and under the pre-folded edge when turning the cuffs over the seam. Press, then from the right side, stitch in the "ditch" of the cuff/sleeve seam you just made, spreading sideways a little as you stitch, while being sure the inner cuff edge will be caught. I usually baste this edge in place over the previous line of stitches with a little glue stick.



TURNING TRICKS



My secret weapon for turning sharp, straight corners and points that are right-angled or bigger is a short (around 5 in/13 cm long) fine-tipped and curved hemostat like the one at left (sometimes also called **forceps**, but that's a broader term that won't search as usefully, I've found). I've tried many sizes and shapes for this purpose and these definitely work best.

To turn a right-angled corner on a fold, like on the cuffs here, I stitch right off the fold, then without any pressing or clipping of seams, grip the seam allowance at an angle just a little bit away from the stitching and the fold, as shown below, clamping the tool so I can let go of it as needed. Then I simply turn the fabric over the tips, pushing a finger against the seam and tool from inside the unturned layers, then pulling the turned layers tight against the tips before releasing the clamp. Best results ever; more details on turning all sorts of points and corners at link below.

<https://www.seamwork.com/issues/2016/06/how-to-make-a-perfect-point>



19. Final hem shaping is best done by marking the garment on the form or figure. Once you've got a line you like, use the folding-template method pictured on page 115 and shown earlier here for the vent shaping.

Topstitch around the pressed hem and edge-stitch the vertical edges of the 4 vent facings after folding these over the hems.



20. Add buttons and enjoy!