



Sew | Project 3:

Construction of the Fitted Wrapped Shirtdress, page 118

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.

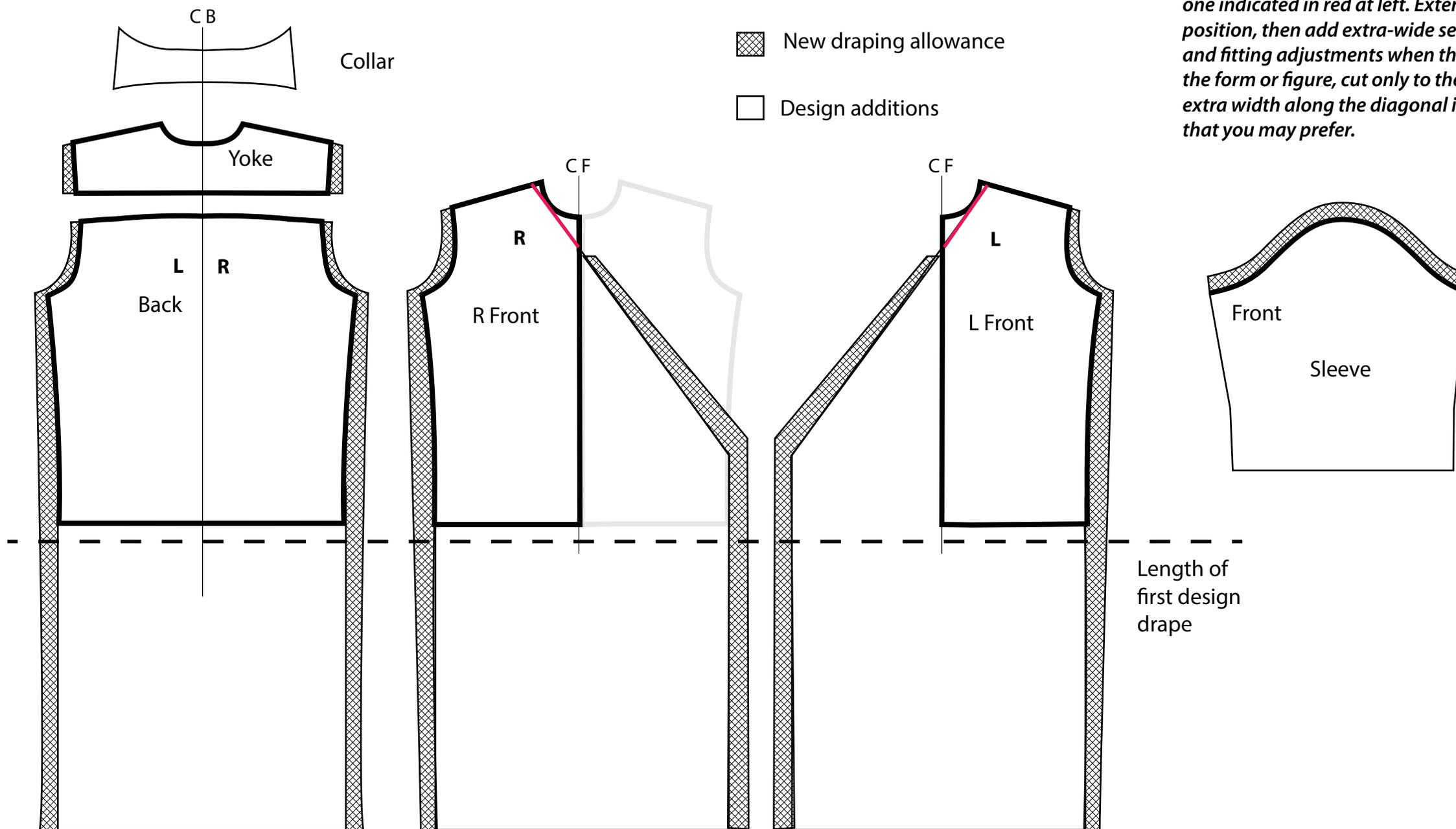
Questions welcome any time, here:
<http://www.shirtmakingwithdpc.com/makingshirts/>
...or on Facebook, etc. Enjoy!

Parts of the Fitted Wrapped Shirdress, page 118

Add ½-in/13mm seam allowances unless otherwise specified.
All patterns are labelled for cutting on the fabric right side.

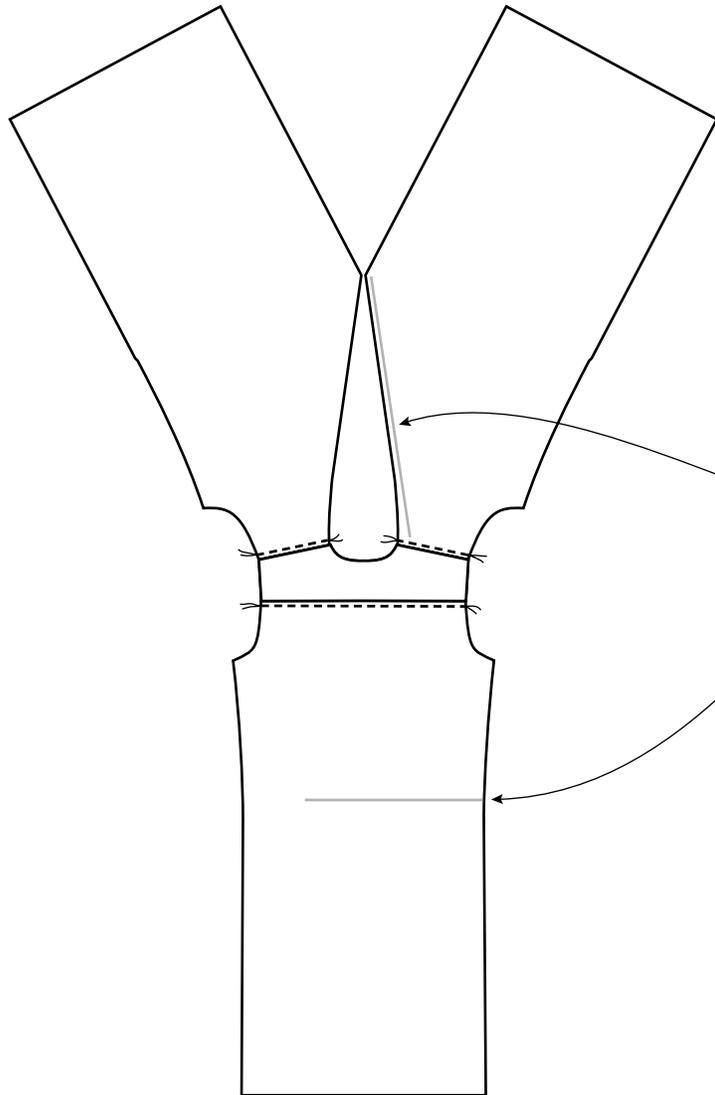
-  Original basic pattern
-  New draping allowance
-  Design additions

DESIGN OPTIONS: To add a front wrap like this, start with a v-neck collar line, like the one indicated in red at left. Extend this line straight out to hit the opposite side seam position, then add extra-wide seam allowances as shown to allow for both design and fitting adjustments when the muslin with the wrapped extension is first tested on the form or figure, cut only to the hip length, as indicated with the dashed line. The extra width along the diagonal is there to allow for angle changes beyond the collar that you may prefer.

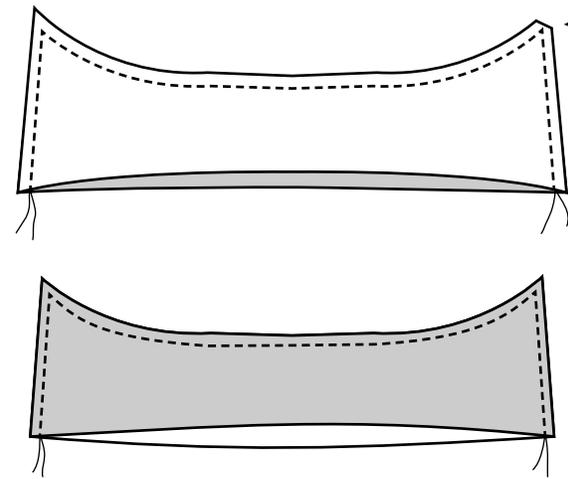


Plus various rectangles for details described in the directions

1. FRONTS AND BACK JOINED TO OUTER YOKE:
 With right sides together, join the Fronts and Back to the **outer** Yoke layer, pressing seam allowances towards the yoke.

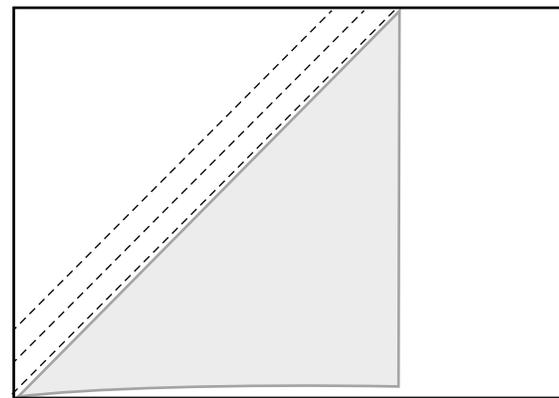


2. MAKE COLLAR:
 With right sides together, join the Collar layers, trim, turn, then press.



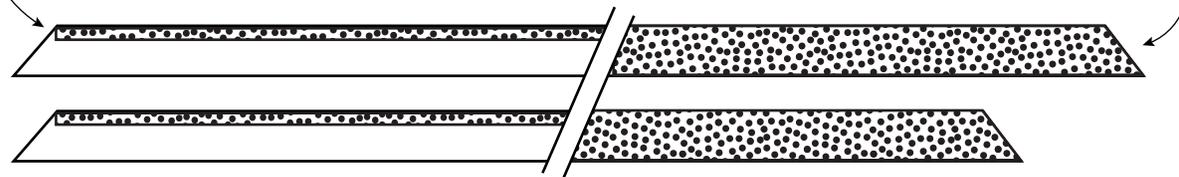
Top- or edge-stitch as desired.

3. PREPARE BIAS FACINGS:
 Measure the front neckline and wrap edge length, and about three-quarters of the back width.
 Add these to find the length of the longer bias strip you'll need, then cut it, along with one of a shorter length. Mine were about 2-in./5cm wide.



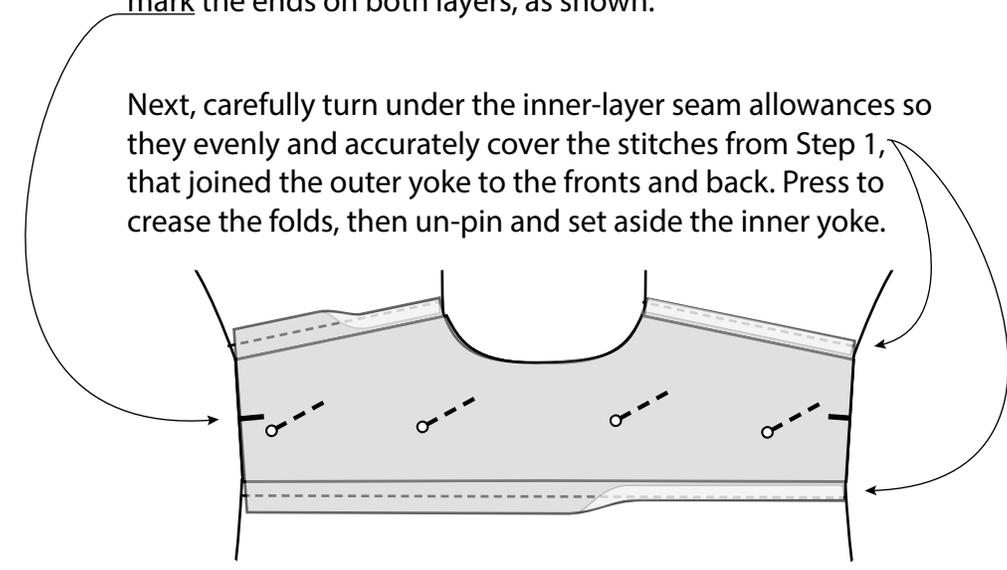
As described in the text, page 123, fuse narrow strips of on-grain, non-stretching interfacing along one wrong-side edge of each facing strip, covering the seam line, if your fabric won't ravel easily on the bias...

...or fuse bias-cut woven fusible interfacing over the entire wrong side of each strip if it will ravel.



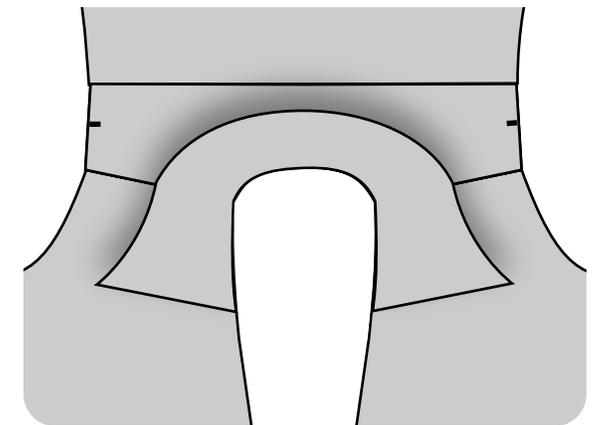
4. PREPARE INNER YOKE LAYER:
 With **WRONG** sides together, align the inner yoke layer with the outer layer at the ends and along the neckline. Pin and mark the ends on both layers, as shown.

Next, carefully turn under the inner-layer seam allowances so they evenly and accurately cover the stitches from Step 1, that joined the outer yoke to the fronts and back. Press to crease the folds, then un-pin and set aside the inner yoke.

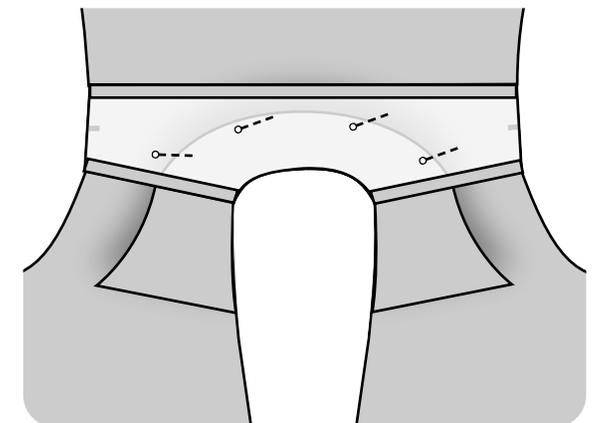


Right Side	Wrong Side	Interfacing

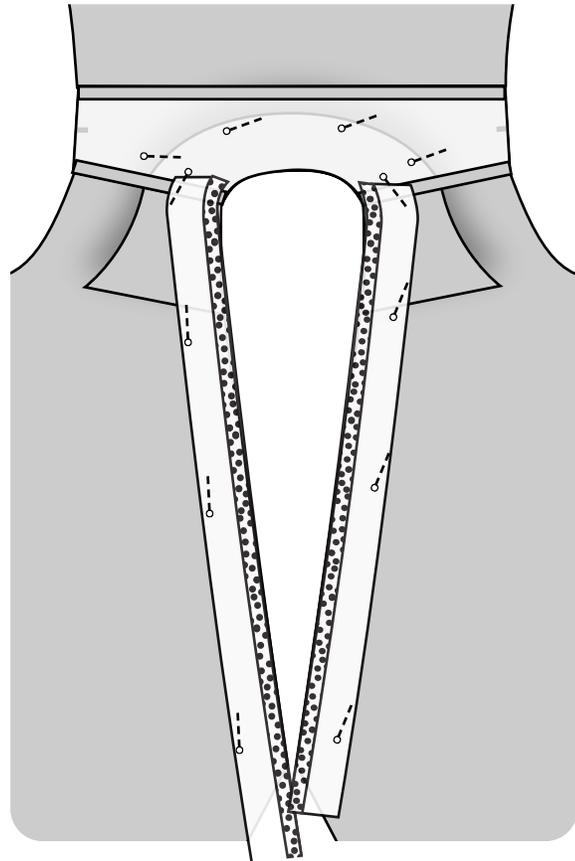
5. ADD COLLAR AND FACINGS:
 With the fronts and outer yoke right sides up, pin or baste the collar, also right side up, so its neck-line seam line matches the garment's neck-line seam line, and it's centered between the collar-end marks on the fronts (established during the collar draping, page 122). (Feel free to straighten the neck edges for this and following steps, of course!)



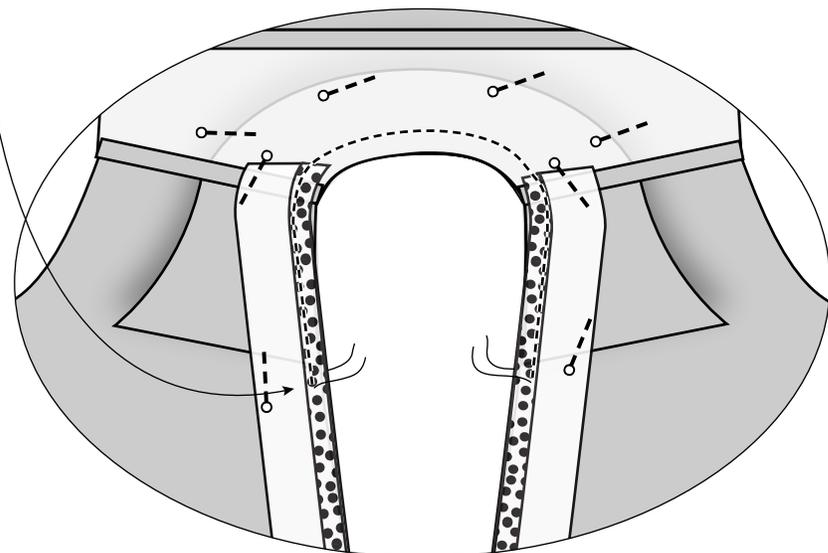
Bring back the set-aside yoke and align it with the neck edge and end marks from Step 4 above, face down over the collar as shown. Pin or baste away from the seam line to hold all layers secure for stitching.



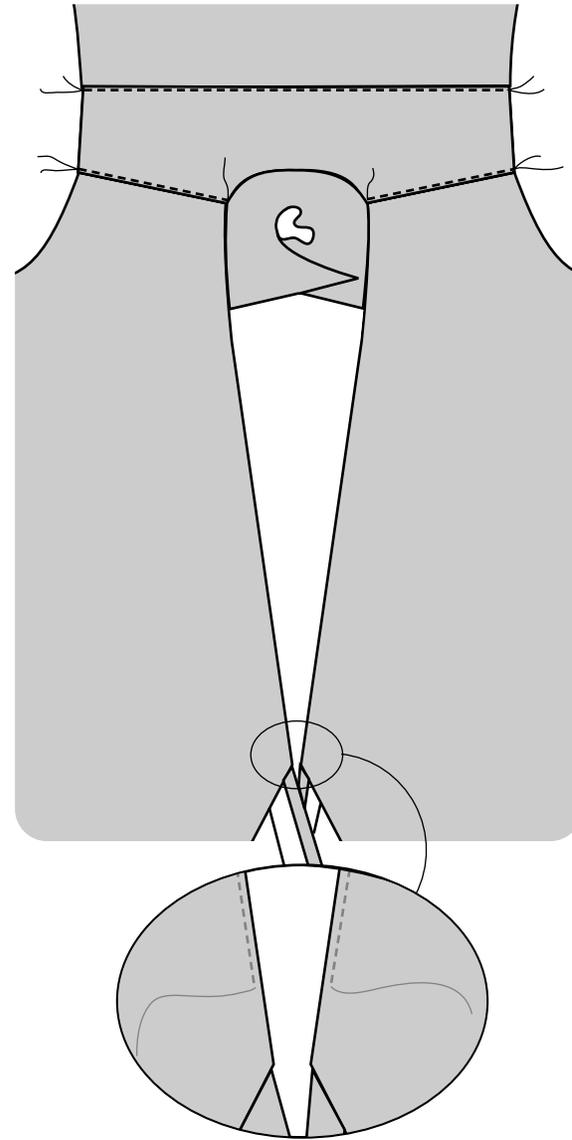
Align the facings, face down, along the edges, with the reinforced edges over the seam lines, and with the longer one on the side you want to overlap the other. *I made my sample with left over right, but am showing right over left in the diagram below, assuming this will be the more likely preference (frankly, I forgot to even consider this on my sample!).*



Stitch all layers. Note here how I only stitched from collar end to end at first, just so I could confirm that the collar was working well with the inner layers turned, before going back in to secure the facings all along the wrapping edges—a step I left until after I'd finished the yoke layers.



Take a look at Step 8 on page 5 of Project 2's directions to see more detail on how to ensure that once turned, the inner yoke layer is aligned well enough with the outer layer so you can proceed to secure it, both front and back, with edge stitches from the right side, as shown.

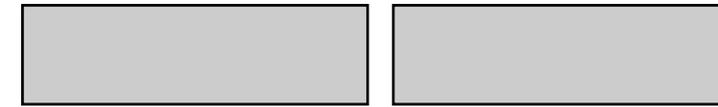


When I did eventually finish joining the facings to the wrap edges, note that I stopped a good inch (few centimeters) away from where the diagonal wrap edge ended and the vertical edge began, so I'd have plenty of room to manage adding the wrap ties, which I hadn't at this point exactly figured out. Leaving the facings loose for a bit there meant I'd have plenty of options.

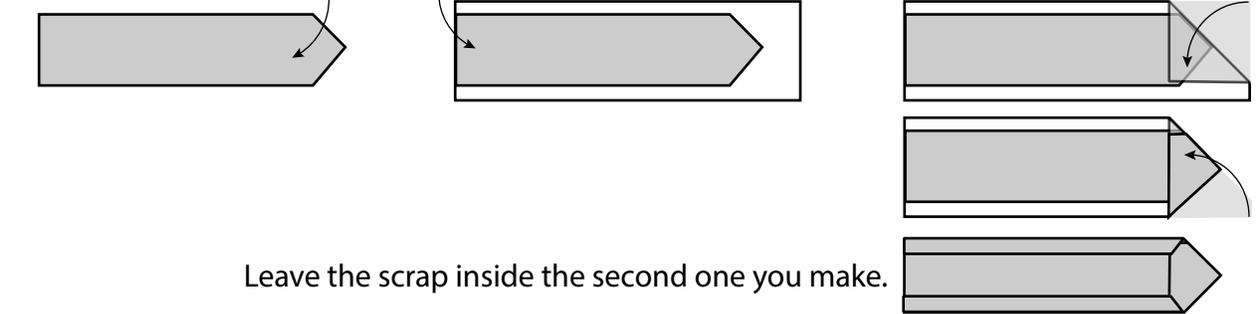
I needed next to complete the inner tie in order to know how long to make the outer tie end and where the slit opening at the side would need to be so the inner tie could emerge neatly.

6. FINISH THE INNER WRAP TIE:

With the garment back on the form, determine about how long a tie added to the underlap layer's vertical edge will need to be to extend a couple of inches/centimeters beyond the side seam, where a slit for it will be made. Cut two 2-in./5cm on grain rectangles each a little more than that length.



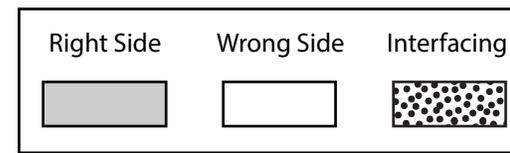
Cut a folding-guide and reinforcing-layer from medium-weight scrap fabric (I used muslin), in the exact finished shape of the tie end. Mine was 1.5in./3.8cm wide. Use it to form the tie layers as shown:



Leave the scrap inside the second one you make.

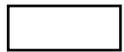
Arrange the tie layers together as shown here and on page 125, tweaking to be sure one side's pointed end is very slightly inside the other's but with edges parallel.

Edge-stitch to join the layers from the larger side.



Google "bias strips cutting sewing" for all you'll ever need to know about making and using them.



Right Side	Wrong Side
	

7. CLOSE SIDES AND MAKE SLIT:

Pin-mark the edges where the inner tie naturally meets the side seam lines on the overlap side when the garment is on the form.

With right sides together, stitch the side seams from armholes to hem, switching to your longest stitch length to just baste for a few inches/centimeters on each side of the pin marks on the overlap side, so you can easily unstitch here when forming the slit.

Trim and press the allowances for wide hand-turned felled seams (see the Flat Felled Seams pdf) with the wider allowance on the back edges so the layered allowances will both be folded towards the front, but leaving them untrimmed in the slit area.

Stitch the second pass, securing the folded allowance edges, again skipping the slit edges.

Clip the basted threads near the middle of the slit, leaving them long enough to tie off.

Roll under the remaining raw edges and edge-stitch each one, catching no other layers, to finish the slit edges.

8. FINISH THE OUTER WRAP TIE:

With the garment back on the form, check the length of the overlap facing that extends beyond it. It should be long enough to reach the inner tie as it comes naturally from out the overlap side slit, without straining. The facing just needs to barely meet the tip of the inner tie, as it will have a button loop to make up the final length and catch a button on the inner tie. Trim as needed.

To finish the tie, cut a 2.5-in./6.4cm-wide rectangle, on grain, about 1 in./2.5cm longer than the trimmed facing, and press it in half right sides out.

Press the facing's remaining seam allowance as shown to create a clean edge for the top of the tie.

With the pressed rectangle's raw edges down, align these with the bias facing's seam allowance and pin.

Stitch parallel to the folded facing and half the allowance width away, from end to end...

...revealing a narrow glimpse of the bias edge when the on-grain rectangle is pressed over those stitches.

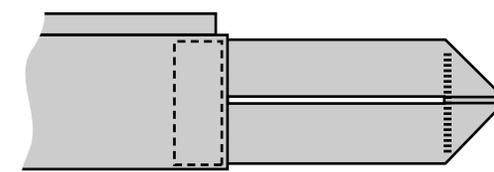
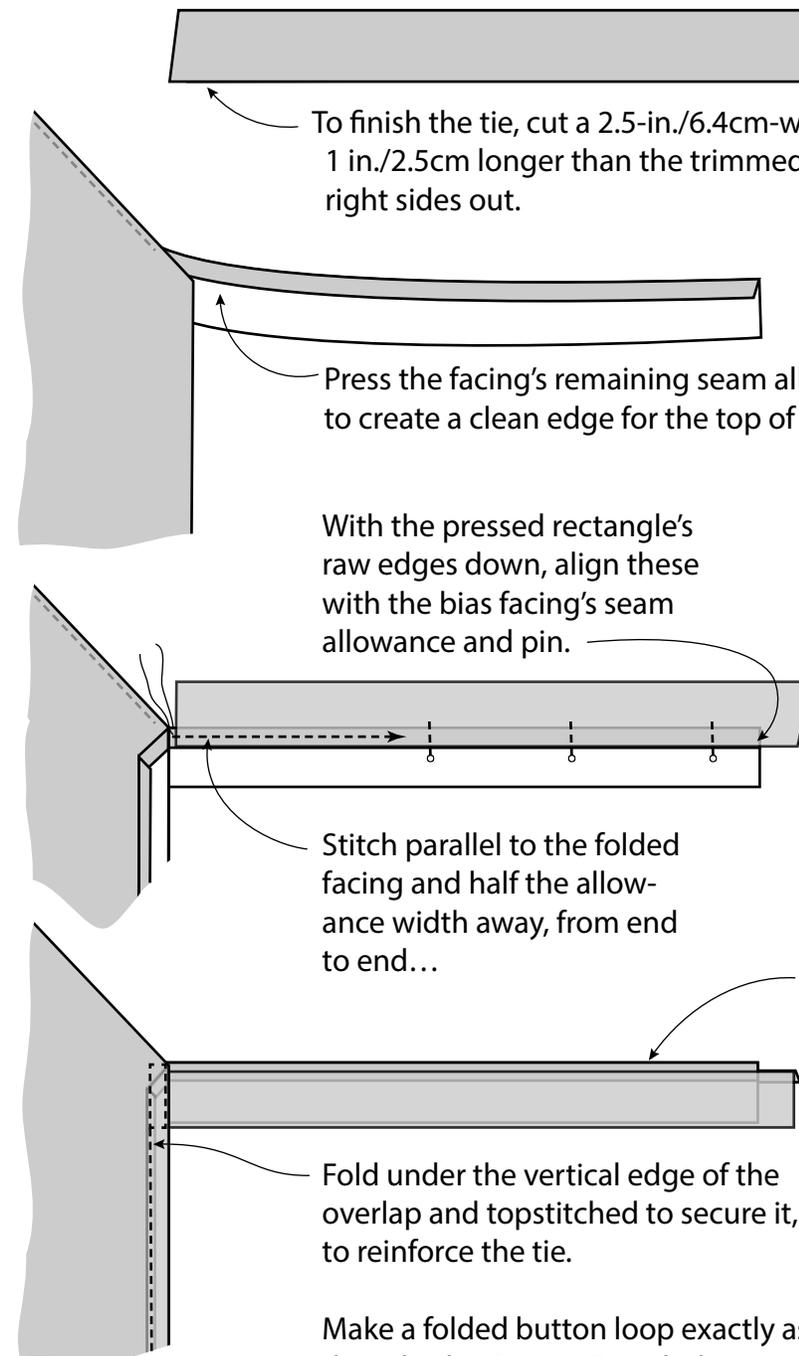
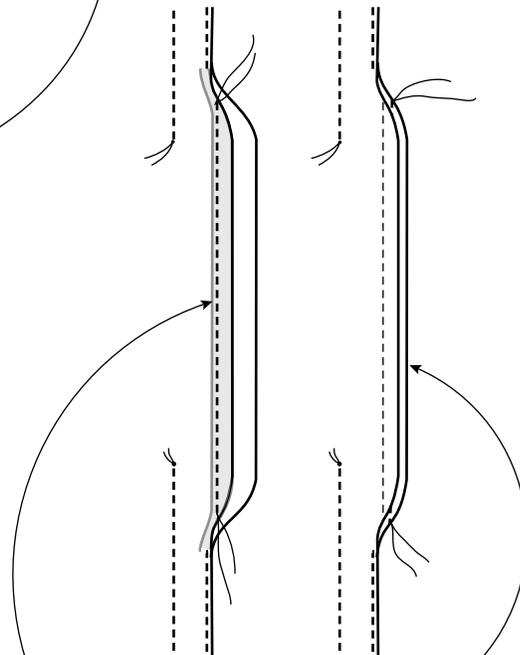
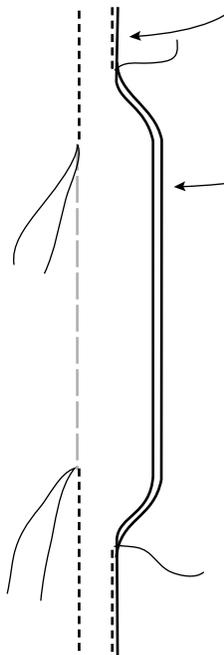
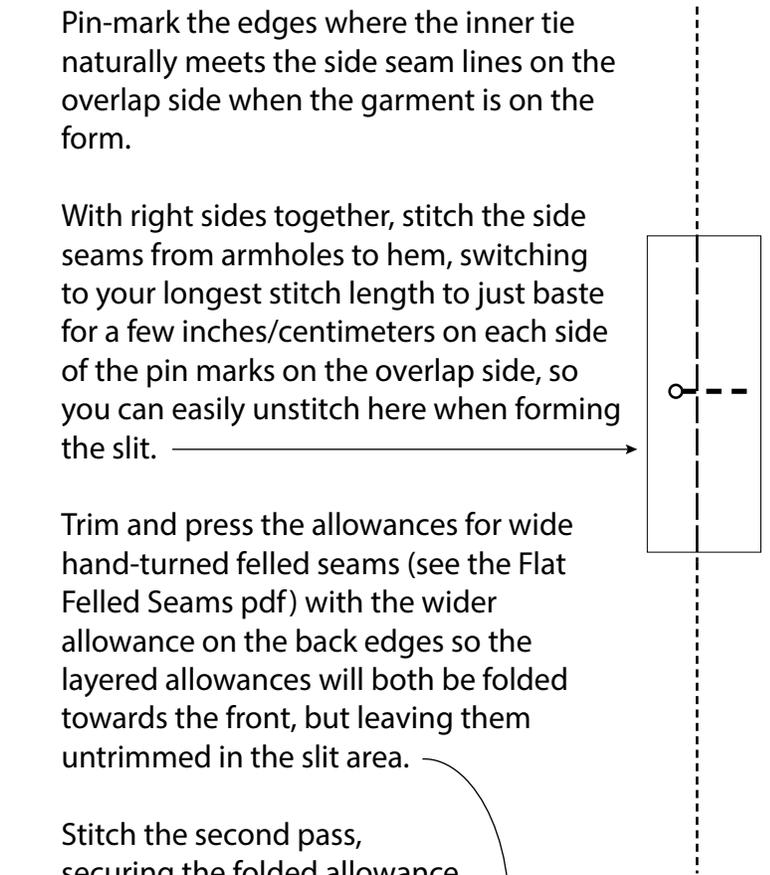
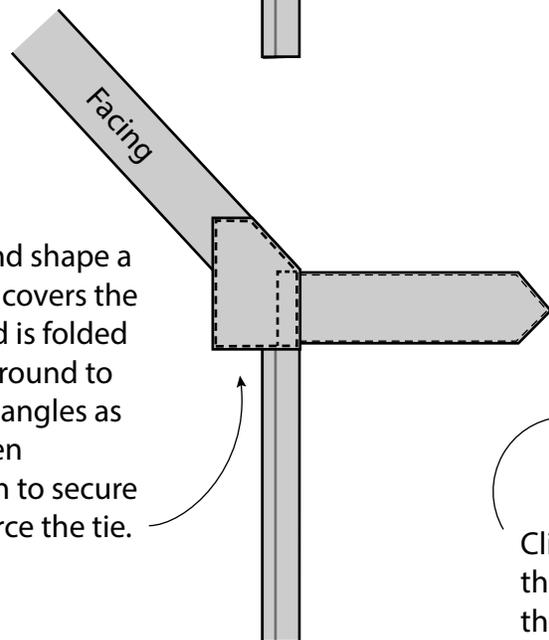
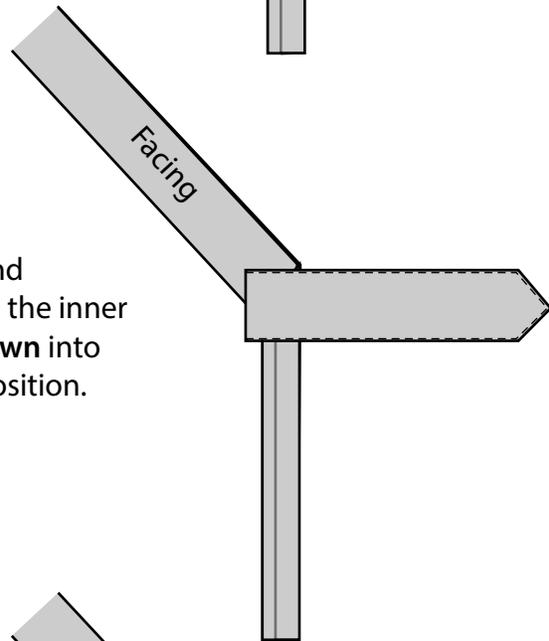
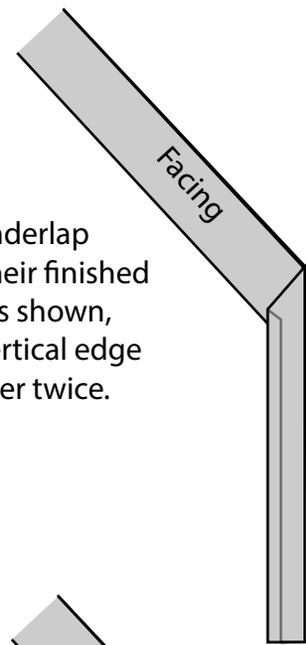
Fold under the vertical edge of the overlap and topstitched to secure it, and to reinforce the tie.

Make a folded button loop exactly as described in Project 2, with the turned tube 0.5in./13cm wide, and insert it between the folded-under layers at the other tie end, securing all with more topstitching.

Fold the underlap edges to their finished positions as shown, with the vertical edge folded under twice.

Arrange and glue-baste the inner tie face down into finished position.

Arrange and shape a patch that covers the tie end and is folded under all around to match the angles as shown, then edge-stitch to secure and reinforce the tie.



9. SLEEVES:

Prepare and insert the sleeves exactly as described in Project 2's directions, pages 7 and 8, except I used self-bound seams (see last page of the Flat Felled Seams pdf) for both underarm and armhole seams.

10. FINISHING:

Here's the detail shots for this project from the book pages, enlarged and zoomable, to show how I topstitched the wrap diagonal edges and hemmed with a simple turn-up. Note in F how I reduced the slit length to match the final tie positions with two short lines of stitching—simple, like the entire garment.

