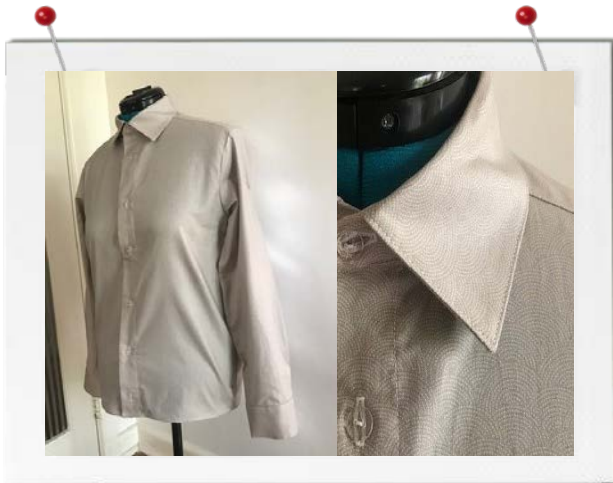


Fact Sheet: Shirt Making for Beginners



The last steps to constructing our shirt is attaching the collar and cuffs, inserting the sleeves and sewing the buttons and buttonholes.

Centre front

Using the marked lines on the front pattern pieces, fold, press and sew as per the instructions. Most instructions will ask you to stitch out the button holes at this point, I prefer to stitch them out right at the end.



Attaching the collar

Find the centre of both the stand and the neck. With the none stabilized piece of the stand and the outside back of the yoke, face them right sides together and pin, keeping the centre markings together. Stitch from the centre out to each end of the stand.



Press or pin the seam allowance of the stand as pictured.



Using presser foot #10 (edge stitch foot) and the standard needle plate, move the needle position 3-4 times to the right. Edge stitch around the stand starting in the middle of the stand opening.

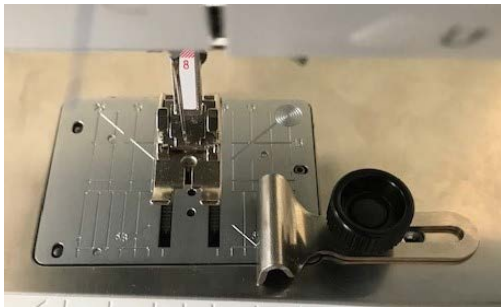


Sleeves

When cutting out your pattern pieces earlier, you would have marked little notches on the yoke, front panels and sleeve. These notches make it easier to fit the sleeve. Match up the notches and pin your sleeve in place.

Sew around armholes.

Note: If you struggle with keeping an even seam around curves or even straight seams why not give the Patchwork seam guide a go.



Neaten the raw edges of the sleeve seams using an overlocker. If you don't have an overlock, you can use presser foot #2 (overlocker foot) and an overcasting stitch, however I do recommend an overlocker as the finish is far superior. This is due to there being 3 to 4 threads instead two.

Stitch the side and sleeve seams together as per instructions and overlock the seams. To make hemming the shirt easier I like to overlock the edge, this gives me roughly a 6mm guide I can fold over and edgestitch.



Cuffs

Press both cuffs in half with wrong sides together. On one long end of the cuff, press seam allowance onto the wrong side of the fabric.

Pin the cuff to the sleeve with right sides together and stitch along the seam. If your pattern has pleats in the sleeve pin them in place using the markings on the pattern piece.



Fold the cuff right sides together and pin the side seams. Stitch down the sides of the cuff making sure to stitch as close to the edge of the sleeve binding and placket piece without catching them.



Trim back the seam allowance to 5mm and snip the corners.



Button holes

Turn the cuff right side out. Fold the seam under and press flat. Make sure the stitching on the sleeve end is covered by the edge of the cuff.



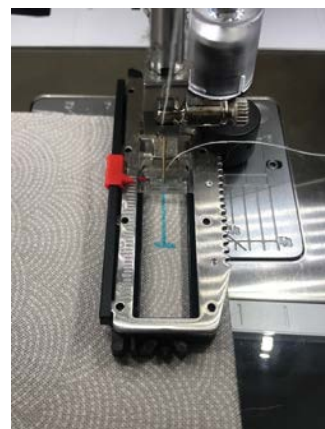
Using presser foot #10 (Edge stitch) and the 5.5mm stitch plate, move the needle position 3-4 times to the right. Using the guide on the foot, stitch the cuff opening closed making sure the stitching under the cuff is covered by the cuff.



Before sewing your button holes onto the shirt, its important to test the size on a piece of left over fabric prepared the same way as your fabric, just in case you need to make any adjustments. For the majority of button holes I will use Presser foot #3A (automatic buttonhole foot) so the machine can do all the work for me. However, some places can be a bit tricky, for example the button hole in the stand. In this case I will use Presser foot #3 (button hole foot). This is a smaller foot with better visibility and also easier to sew over the small area at the front of the stand.

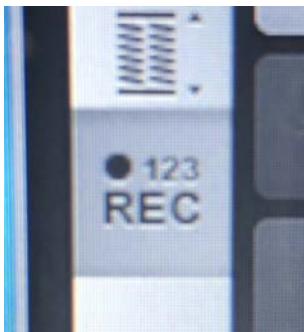


Set your button hole size using the yellow circle on the screen. Place the foot over the button hole marking with the top mark under the needle area and stitch out the buttonhole.



Continue this process for all buttonholes down the centre front, cuffs and placket pieces.

On a test piece of fabric, mark out the buttonhole size for the stand. Using Presser foot #3 (Button hole foot) and the stitch counter function, start stitching from the top of the buttonhole marking. When you reach the bottom marking, press the reverse button. The machine will then work its way back up the other side of the buttonhole. When you reach the top of the buttonhole, tap the reverse button again and the machine will finish the buttonhole and remember the size. Sew buttonhole onto stand.



When you have sewn all of the button holes its time to cut them. The easiest way to do this is with a buttonhole cutter and block.

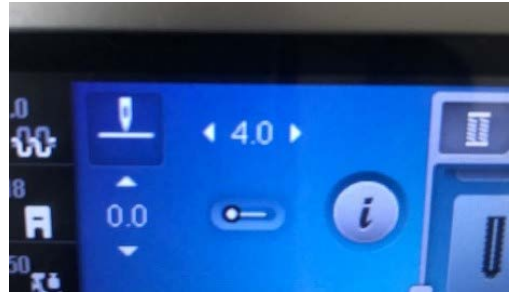


Place the buttonhole over the wooden block, take the blade and carefully press into the buttonhole split.



Attaching Buttons

Now you have sewn and cut all the buttonholes, its time to sew on the buttons. Attach Presser foot # 18 (Button sew on foot) and select the button sew on stitch. Measure the distance between the holes on the button and set this on the machine.



Place button into position place and centre the button gap between the finger on the foot. If you are unsure, rotate the hand wheel a few times to test the width between the holes before sewing.



Attach the remaining buttons, and give the whole shirt a good press. Congratulations and thank you for following us on this 4 week journey. We hope you have learnt some new techniques on how to construct a shirt.

