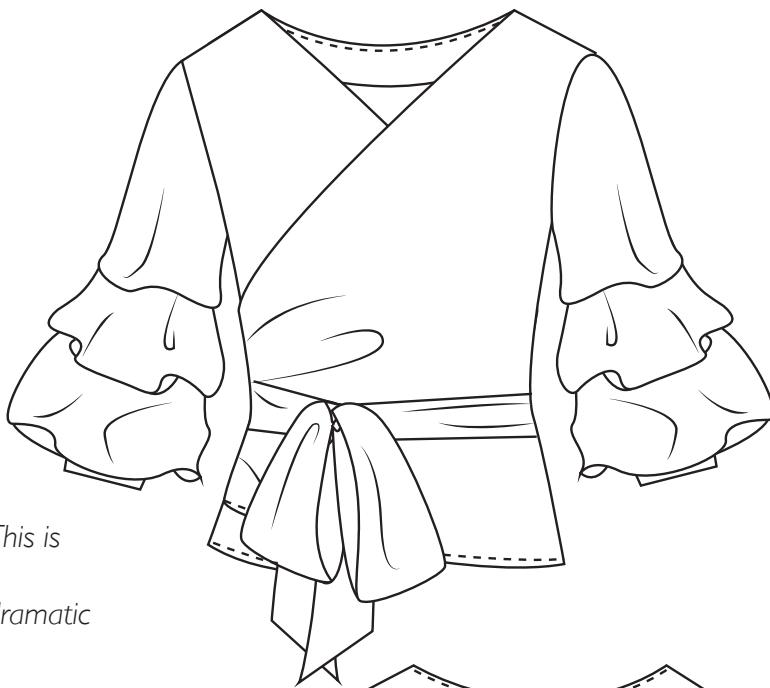




Our Lady of Leisure

DIVINE SEWING PATTERNS

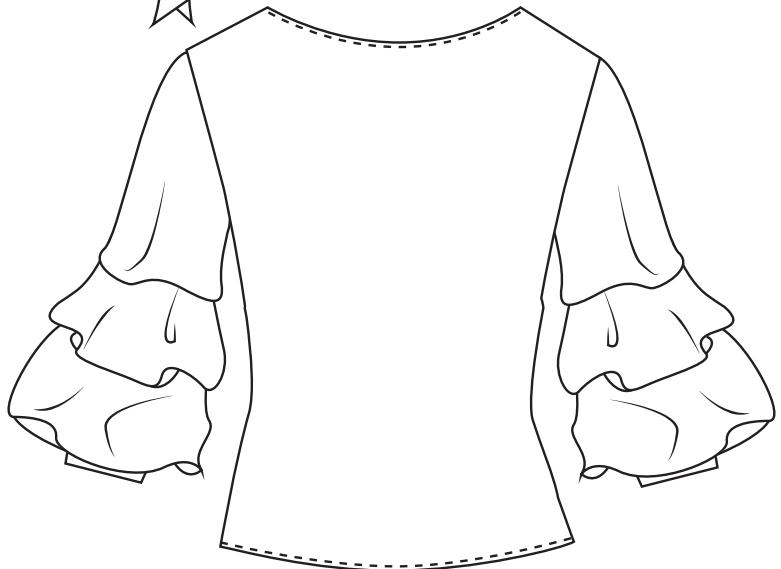
The Screwdriver Top Instructions



The Screwdriver Top is such an eyecatcher! This is a flattering woven wrap top with dramatic, ruffled sleeves, which ties at the hip with a dramatic bow.

Skill Level

These instructions are aimed at intermediate sewers. The shirt is not difficult, but may be a little time consuming compared to a simple blouse. Techniques used include gathering, inserting elastic and a bit of origami-style folding.



Material Requirements

This pattern is designed for crisp woven fabrics. Shirting is perfect, and lawn, poplin, broadcloth, and quilter's cotton are all suitable too. Avoid anything silky or too synthetic as it will make the sleeves too floppy.

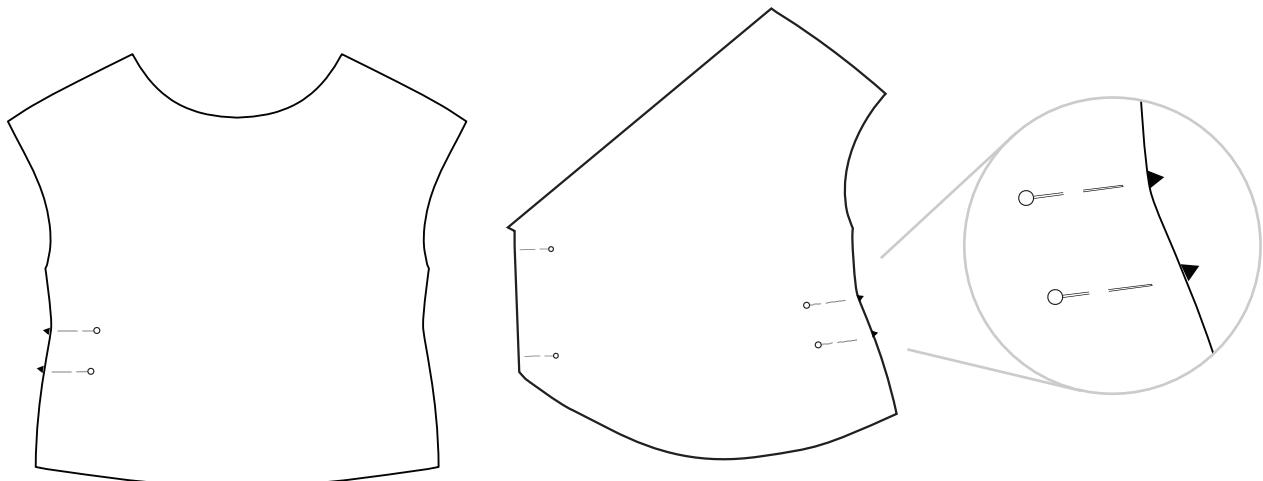
You'll Need...

- 3m (3.3 yards) of fabric with a 144cm (55") width
OR 3.75m (4.1 yards) of fabric with a 112cm (44") width.
- 1m (3') narrow elastic (5mm wide).
- Tailors chalk for marking guides on the fabric.

Before you begin...

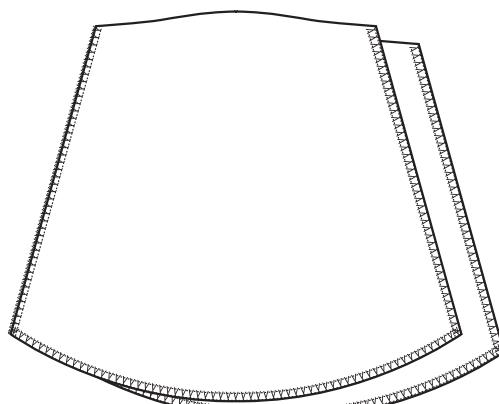
- **The Screwdriver pattern pieces all include 1cm (3/8") seam allowances. If you wish to make modifications to the pattern, trim these off first.**
- **Optional overlocking/serging instructions are included. If you don't have access to an overlocker you can use zig-zag stitch or trim your seams with pinking shears.**

Step 1. Cut the pattern pieces from your chosen fabric taking care to keep the pattern's grainline parallel to the fabric's selvage. As you cut, you will notice 6 notches marked on the pattern pieces. You'll need these for later, so mark them on your fabric pieces with pins as shown below.

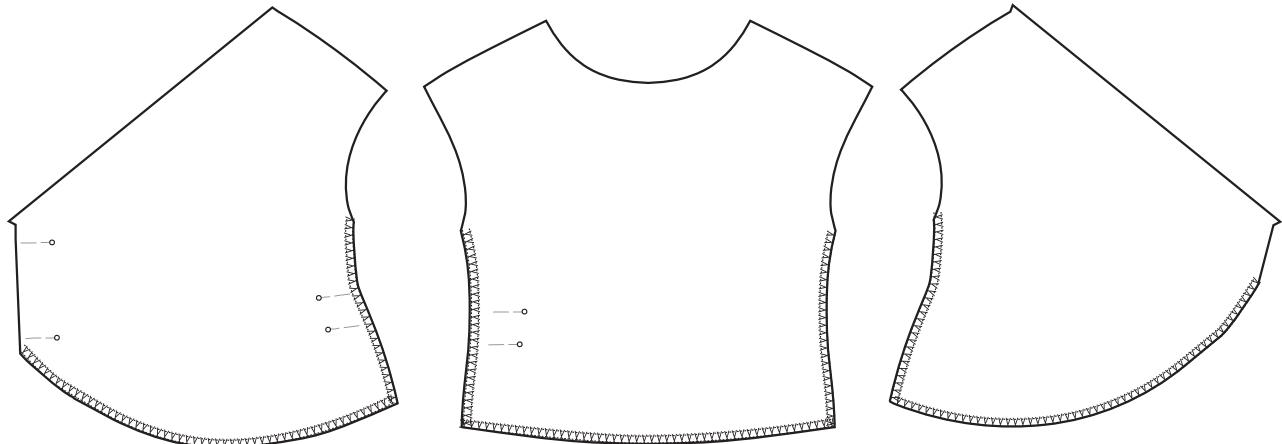
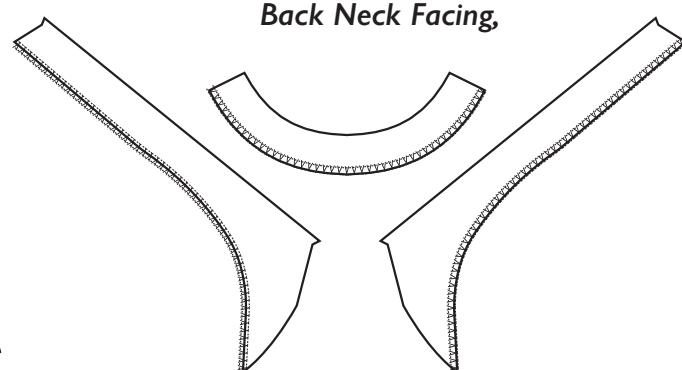


Step 2. Before we start assembling the Screwdriver top, we're going to save ourselves a headache by doing most of the overlocking up front. This is much easier than trying to fight against gathers and folds later. Overlock (or 'Serge' if you're in North America) the following edges:

Side seams and Hem of **Sleeves**,



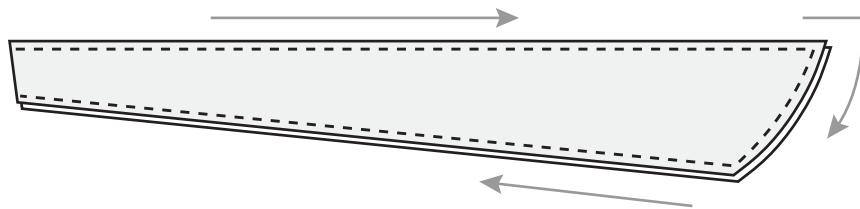
Outer edges of **Front Facings** and **Back Neck Facing**,



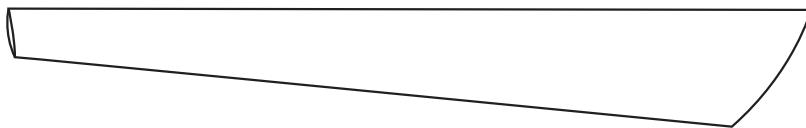
Side seams and hems of **Front** and **Back Shirt** pieces

If you're not overlocking, you can use zig zag stitch or pinking shears as your seam-finish instead.

Step 2. We're going to start with something easy to get warmed up. Separate the **Wraps** into their pairs and, with right sides together, stitch around the wrap with a 1cm (3/8") seam allowance. Leave the short end open.

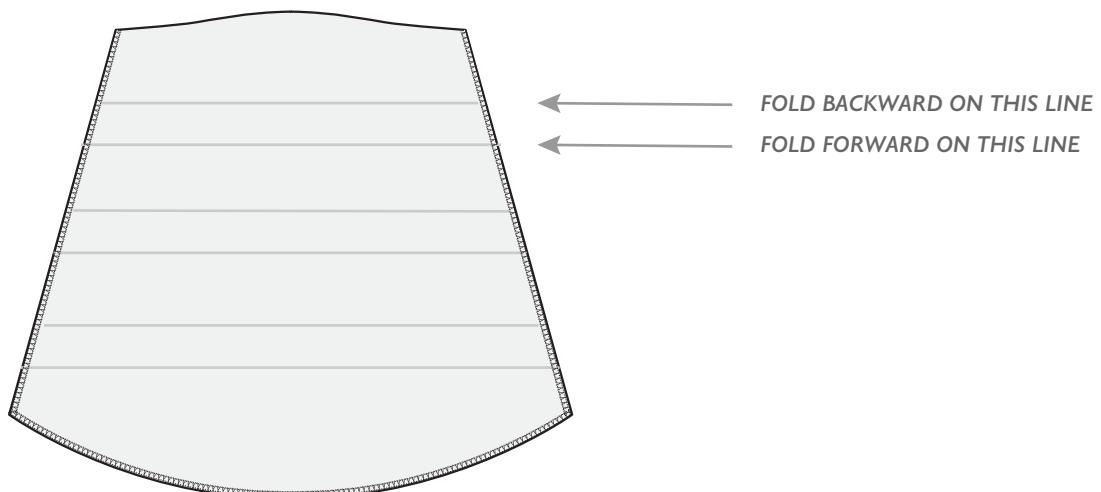


Step 3. Turn the Wraps right side out. Iron them so they're flat and crisp, then set them aside for later.

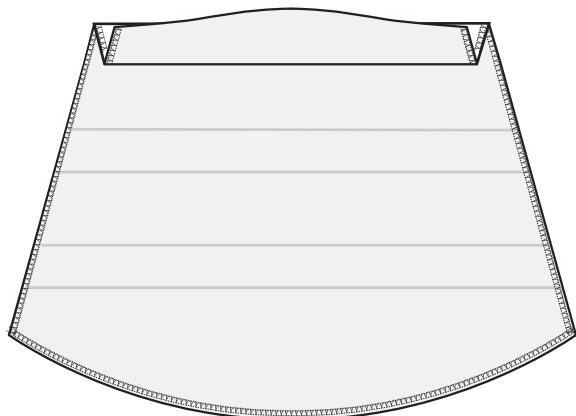


Step 4. Ok, now it's time to create the puffy effect that gives the sleeves so much drama. To begin, make sure you've copied the fold lines from the pattern onto the reverse side of the sleeves, using tailors chalk.

Start with the reverse side of the fabric facing up. At the first line, fold the fabric backwards (away from you). Then at the second line, fold the fabric forward (toward you).



If you've folded it correctly, it should look like this diagram on the left.



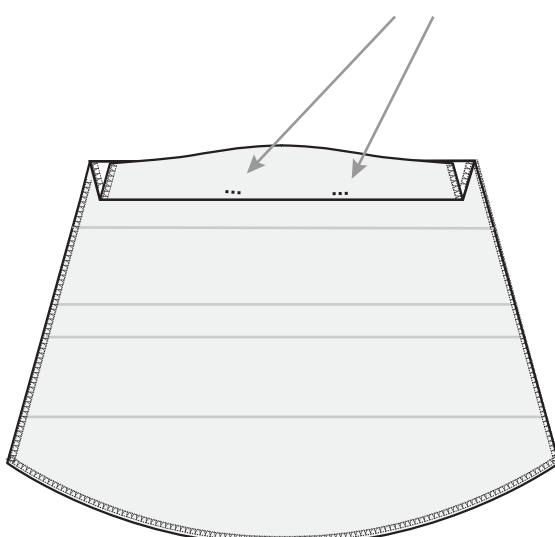
Remember that this is the **reverse side** of the sleeve piece.

Step 4 (continued).

Choose 2 spots on the folded section, and 'tack' the fold in place. To do this, just sew a couple of stitches back and forth in one spot.

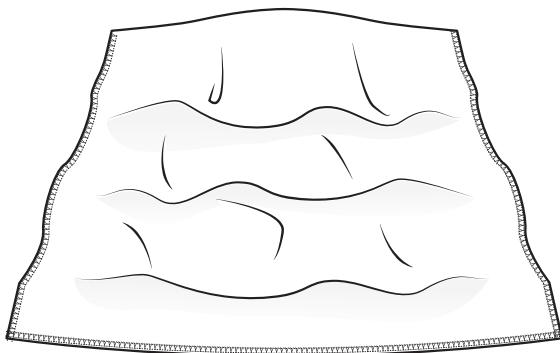
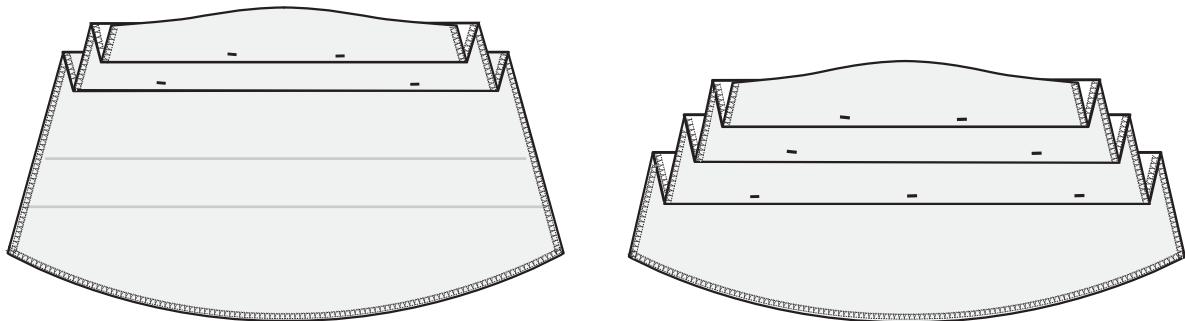
The tacking stitches can go anywhere you like along the fold, there's no need to be too precise.

Tack the fold in place



Step 5. Repeat the folding and tacking steps two more times, using the remaining lines as a guide. Place your tacking stitches randomly to get a natural look on the finished sleeve.

For extra volume, you can also slightly misalign the folds (scooch them left or right, up or down) in between stitching each tack. This will make the finished sleeve bigger and more dramatic.



After you've tacked the folds, turn the sleeve over and give it a little shake to puff it up.

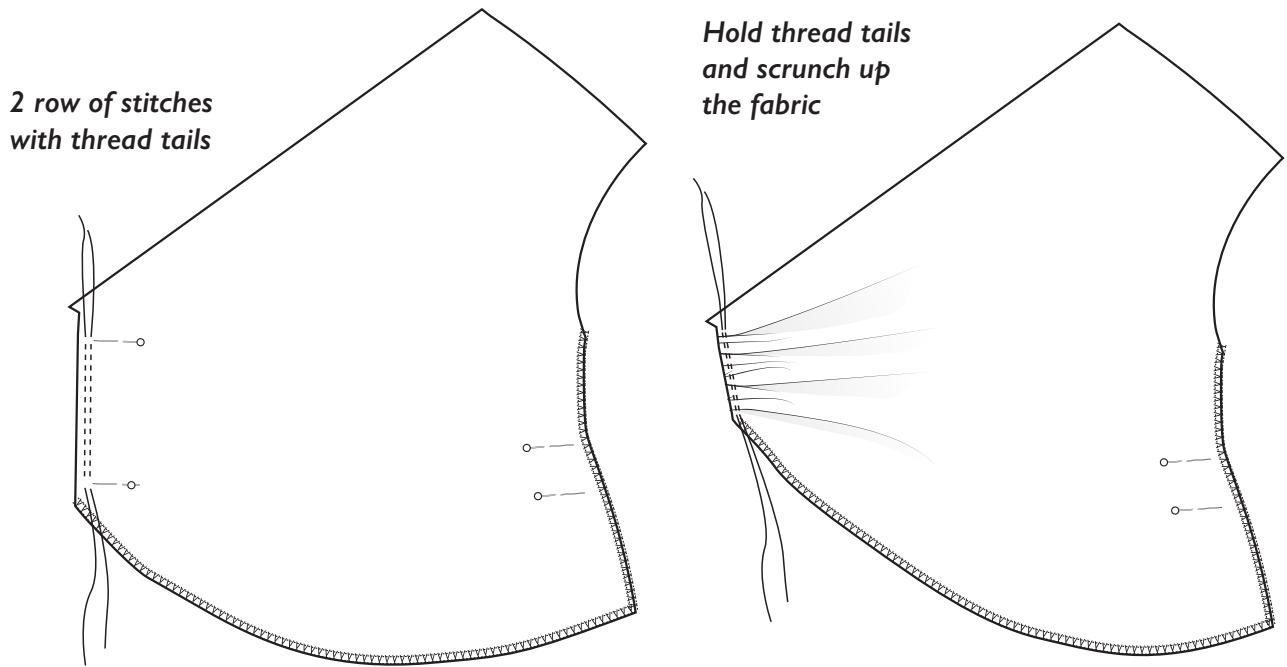
It should look sort of like the drawing to the left (...if you use your imagination).

Now set the sleeves aside and have a cheeky glass of bubbles, because you've earned it.

Step 6. Next we're going to add the gathers to the **Left Shirt Front** panel.

We'll be gathering the section between the pins we put in the wrap-side of the panel earlier.

Set your stitch length to it's widest setting, and sew two lines between the pins, leaving long tails of thread at each end. To gather the fabric, hold one end of the threads firmly, and pull the fabric together so it scrunches up.

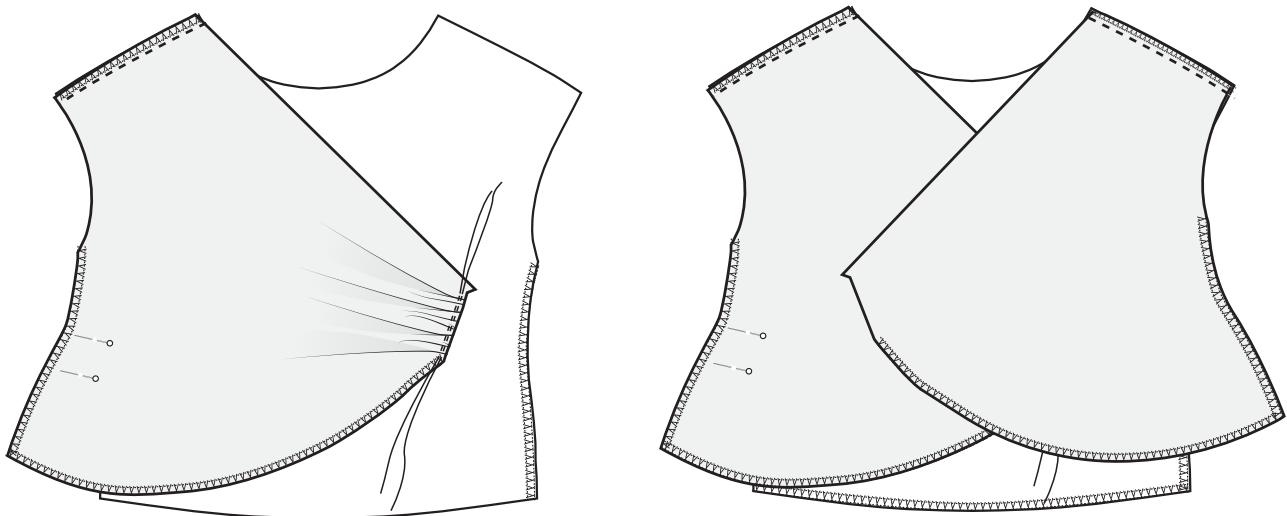


Step 7. Attach the **Left Shirt Front** panel to the **Shirt Back** panel at the shoulder seam with a 1cm (3/8")

seam allowance. Repeat with the **Right Shirt Front** panel on the opposite shoulder.

Don't stitch the side seams just yet, shoulders only.

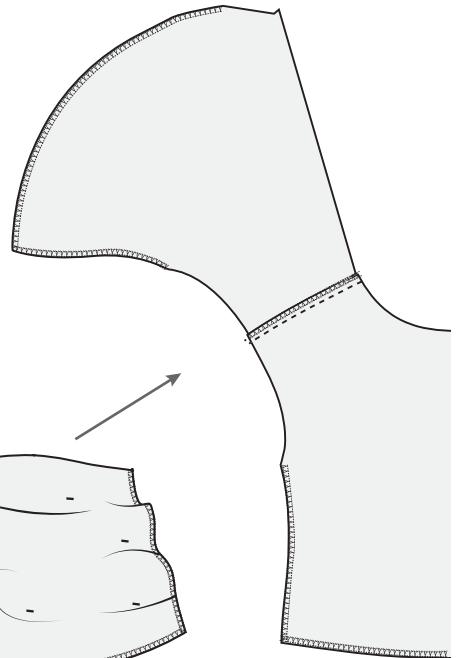
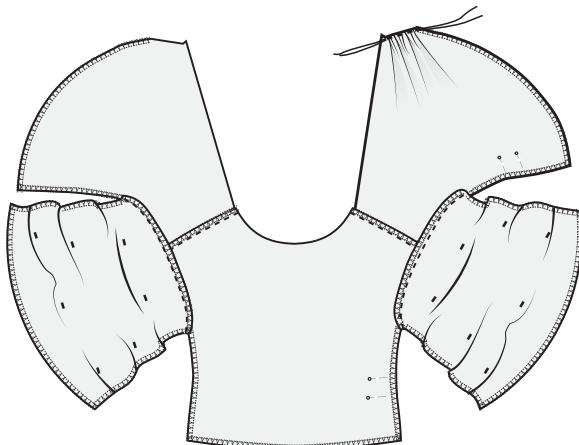
Finish the shoulder seams with your chosen seam finish.



Step 8. Next we're going to attach the sleeve. We're using the 'flat' method of sleeve insertion because it's so much easier.

With right sides together, stitch the sleeve head into the open arm hole with a 1cm seam allowance.

The sleeve piece is symmetrical, so there's no back or front. Each sleeve works on either side.



When the sleeves are attached, your shirt should look like the diagram to the left.

Next, finish your armhole seams with your chosen seam finish.

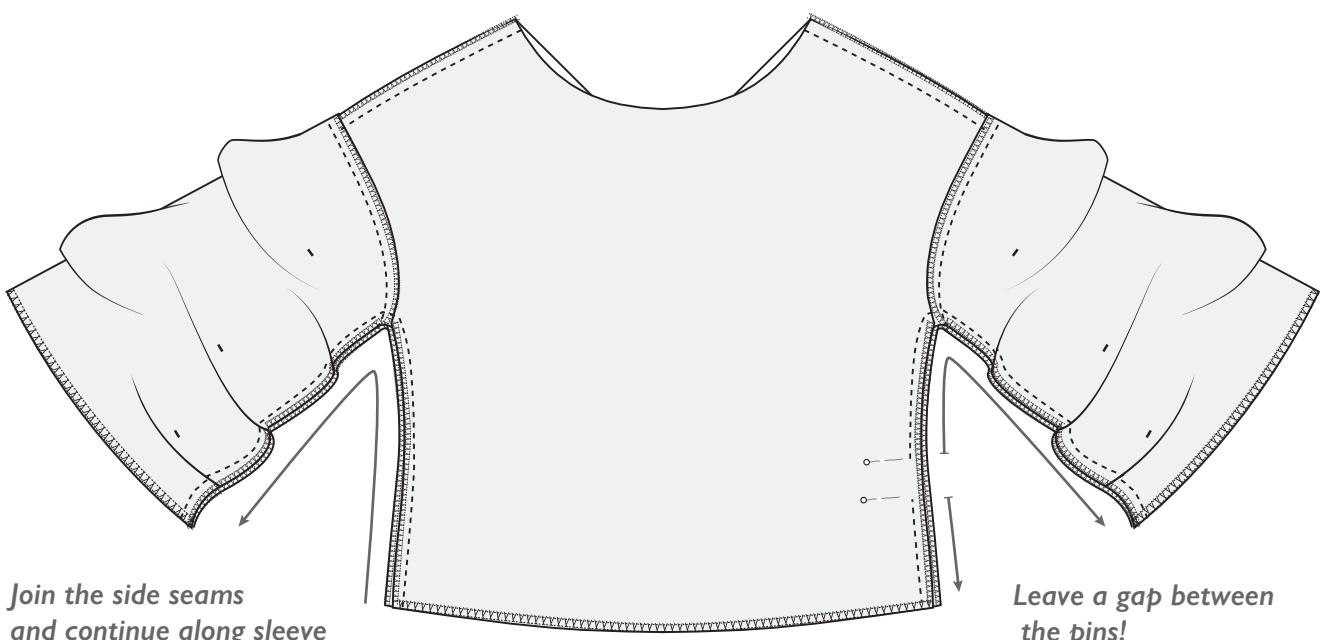
Step 9. Next, following the diagram below, we're going to form the flat pieces into the final shirt shape.

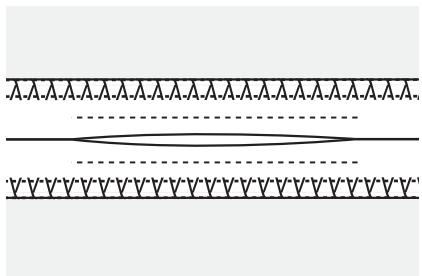
Fold along the shoulder line so you have, essentially, an inside-out shirt.

At the side seam, stitch from the hem upwards, sewing the **Shirt Front** to the **Shirt Back**.

When you reach the armhole area, continue stitching to close the **Sleeve** side seams as well.

Important! Remember where we marked the wrap-opening with pins earlier? Leave a gap in your stitching between these pins.

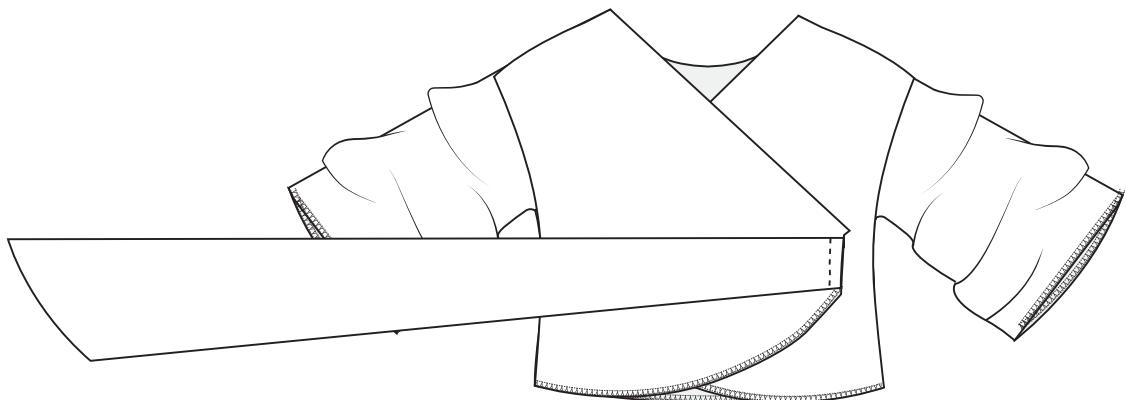




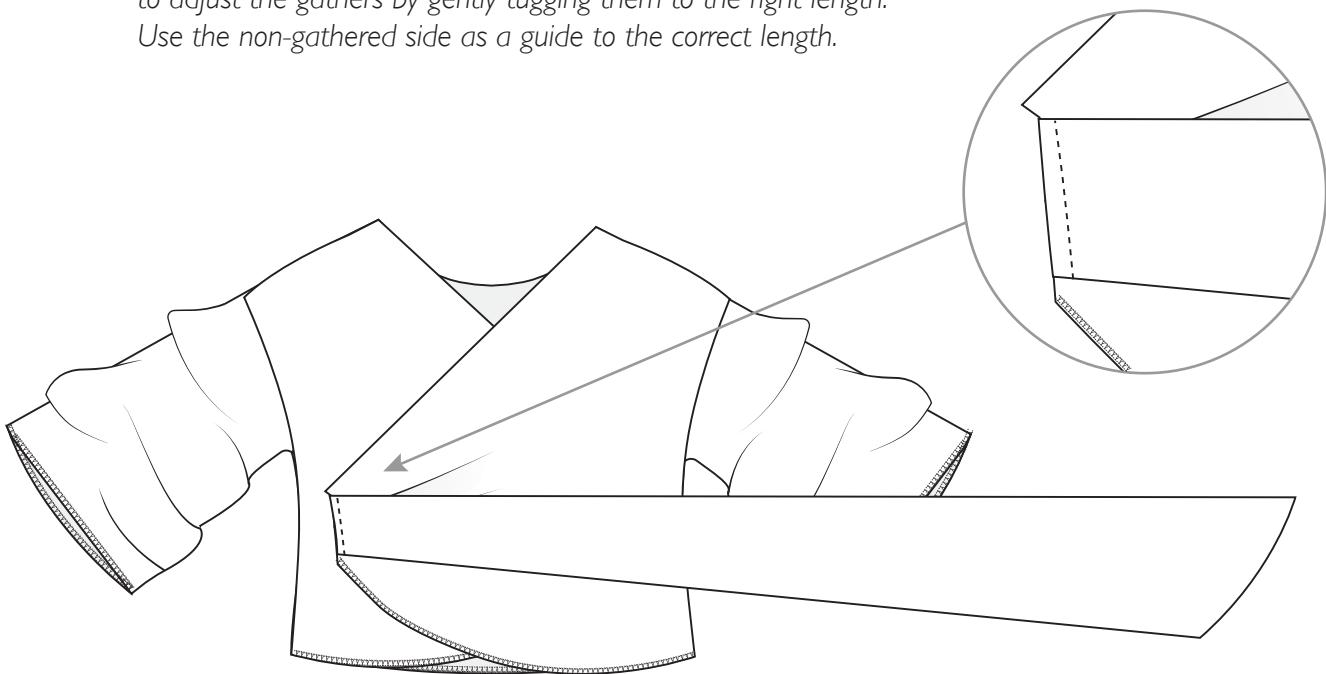
Optional...

This isn't strictly necessary, but if you'd like to tidy up the wrap-opening, a few stitches on each side of the gap will hold the seam allowance flat while you wear the shirt.

Step 10. We're in the final stretch now! Next, attach the **Wraps** to the **Shirt Fronts** as in the pictures below. Use a long stitch length here (a 'basting stitch') as we're just holding the wrap in place before the facing goes on.

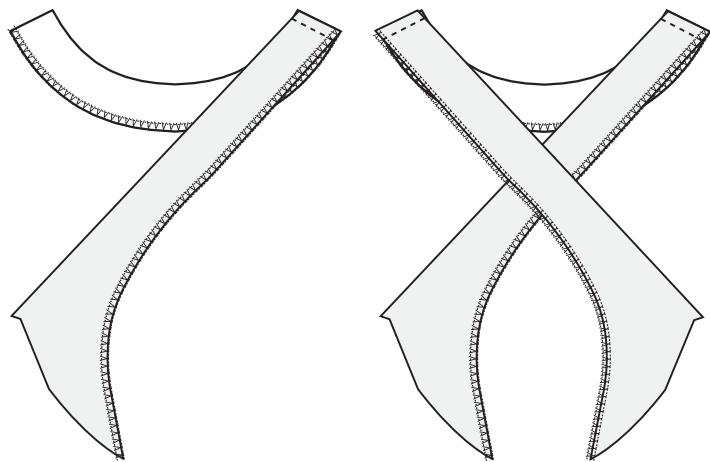


When you attach the wrap to the gathered side, you might find you need to adjust the gathers by gently tugging them to the right length. Use the non-gathered side as a guide to the correct length.

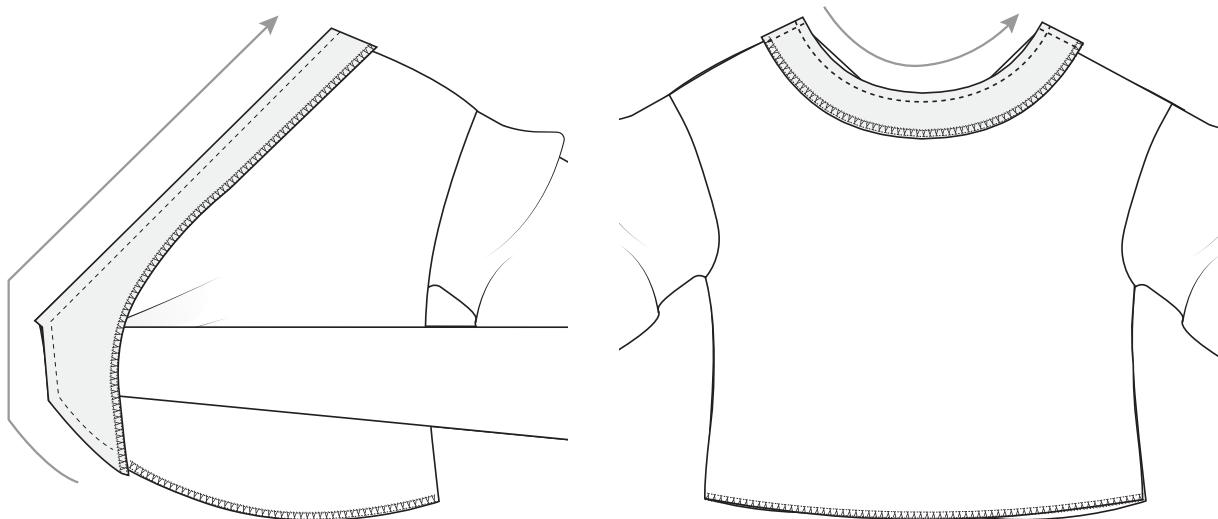


Step 11. Now take your remaining three pieces, the **Back Neck Facing** and **Front Facings**.

Stitch the shoulder seams of the **Front Facings** to the ends of the **Back Neck Facing** using a 1cm seam allowance, as always.

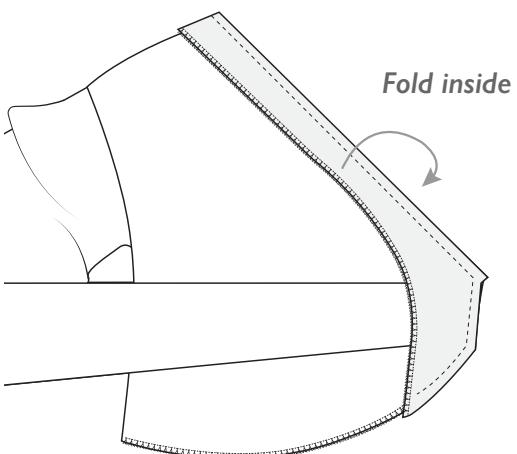


Step 12. Pin the facings in place on the shirt with right sides together. Stitch around the raw edge with a 1cm seam allowance.



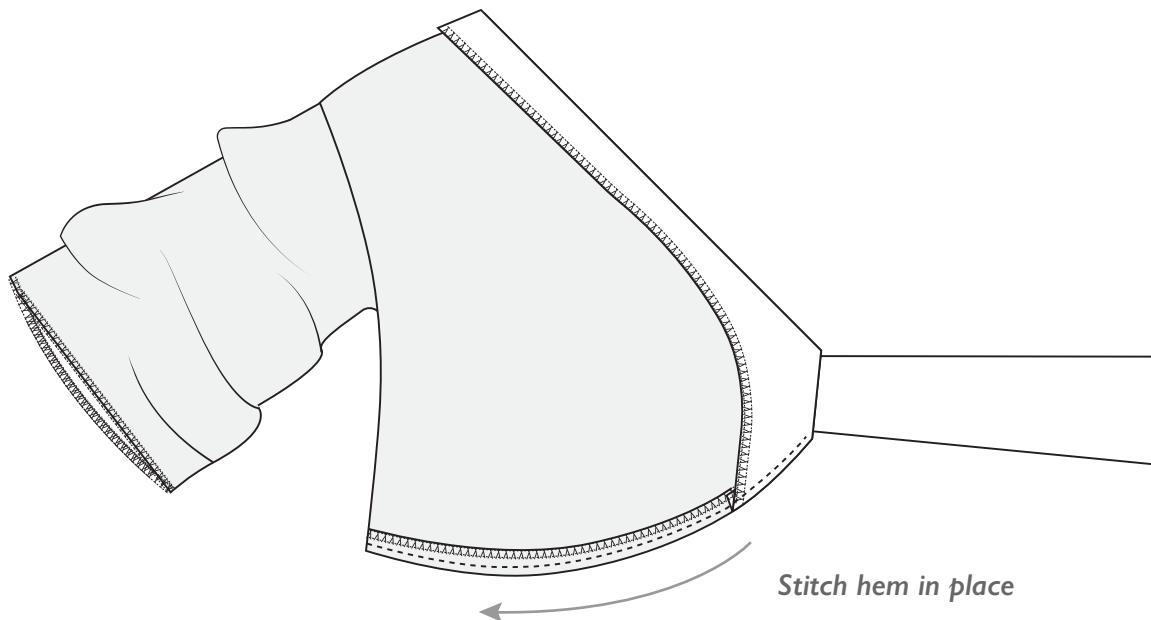
*Attach facing to shirt fronts
and back neck*

Step 13. Fold the facing inside the shirt and iron it so it's nice and crisp. Unpick any basting stitches that are still visible.



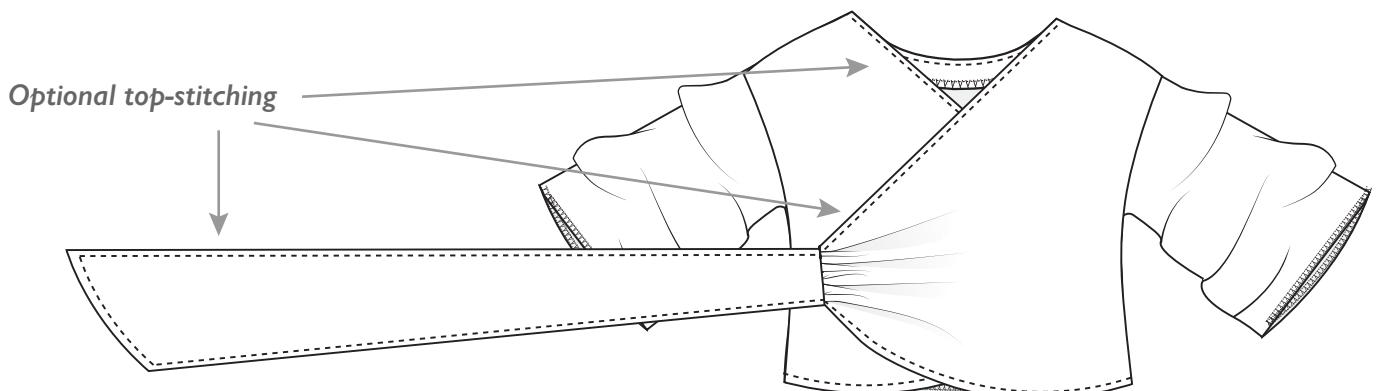
Step 14. When you turn the facing in, the hem of the shirt should naturally turn up with it!

How handy is that? Make the most of it by stitching the hem in place now. The pattern allows for a 1.5cm single fold hem.



Optional. If you like, you can now top-stitch around the **Wraps** and **Neckline**.

This is up to your personal preference and how it looks with your chosen fabric.

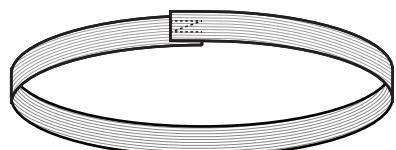


Step 15. Now we put the elastic in the sleeve hem, and we're finished.

Start by cutting a length of elastic about 30cm (12") long and testing how it feels

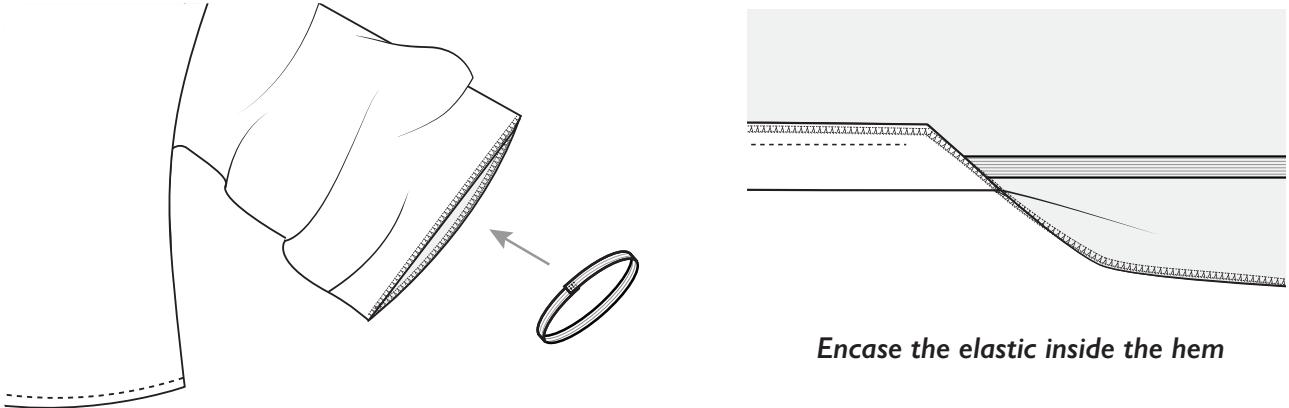
when wrapped around your elbow. It should fit loosely. Adjust as needed.

When you have a length you like, stitch the ends together forming a circle.



Place the elastic loop inside the sleeve, and turn the hem over it.

Stitch it in place with a 3-4cm (1" - 1.5") hem allowance. Be careful not to catch the elastic in your stitching. It should move freely, with the hem creating a tube around it.



Encase the elastic inside the hem

That is it, my friend, you are done! Now is the time to try your lovely wrap shirt on!

**Slip the right wrap through the seam opening and tie the wraps in a bow,
either behind your back or on your hip.**

