

# 1000 SWING DRESS

Sleeveless dress with scoop neck, flared seams, bust and waist darts, and side pockets. Center back invisible zipper. Designed for handwoven fabrics.



Size	Finished Bust Circumference	Finished Lower Edge	Finished Length/ Back neck sits 1 ¼"(3.1cm) below the C7 vertebra.
Brown	35 ½"(90.1cm)	60 ¼"(153cm)	38 ⅛"(96.8cm)
Green	38"(96.5cm)	62 ¾"(159.3cm)	38 ¼"(97.1cm)
Red	40 ½"(102.8cm)	65 ¼"(165.7cm)	38 ⅜"(97.4cm)
Blue	43"(109.2cm)	67 ¾"(172cm)	38 ½"(97.8cm)
Orange	45 ½"(115.5cm)	70 ¼"(178.4cm)	38 ⅝"(98.1cm)
Purple	48"(121.9cm)	72 ¾"(184.7cm)	38 ¾"(98.4cm)

## Yardage requirements:

Yardage requirements assume that you are using a one-way design, so that all the pattern pieces will be cut in the same direction. However, handwoven fabric can often be cut in both directions, so pattern pieces can nest close to each other, which requires less fabric. Matching weft patterning and hand-painted warps will require more fabric.

	19"(48.2cm)	20"(50.8cm)	21-30"(53.3-76.2cm)	45"-60"(115-150cm)
Brown	5 yds(4.5m)	5 yds(4.5m)	5 yds(4.5m)	2 ½ yds.
Green	5(4.5m)	5(4.5m)	5(4.5m)	2 ½(2.3cm)
Red	NA	5(4.5m)	5(4.5m)	2 ½(2.3cm)
Blue	NA	5(4.5m)	5(4.5m)	2 ½(2.3cm)
Orange	NA	NA	5(4.5m)	2 ½(2.3cm)
Purple	NA	NA	5(4.5m)	2 ½(2.3cm)

For side pockets: ¼ yard (23cm), any width lining fabric. Be sure to pre-shrink the lining fabric.

For bound neck and armholes variation: ¼ yard (23cm) of any width lining fabric, cut into three approximately 2 ¼" x 36" (5.7cm x 91.4cm) bias strips. Be sure to preshrink the lining fabric.

For neck/armhole facing variation:

- ½ yard (45.7cm) of 45" (115cm)-wide fabric, slightly lighter in weight than your handwoven fabric
- 1 yard (.91m) of 20" (50.8cm) -wide fusible knit interfacing (available black or white) <https://www.weaversew.com/shop/htcw-fusi-knit-interfacing.html>

Notions:

- 16"-22" (40.6cm-55.8cm) invisible zipper
- ¾ yard (68.5cm) of ¼"(6mm) -wide twill tape

## Recommendations For Handwoven Fabric

My recommendations are to sett your fabric much denser than you would think. Try 8/2 Tencel at 36epi, 10/2 perle cotton at 30, 5/2 at 20, etc. It will ultimately depend on the structure, and your beat and the loom. I have seen fabrics in just about every fiber and combination of fibers you can imagine. Note: The fabric cannot be too thick, because it gets tough fitting multiple layers through the sewing machine. Any fiber works, if you can weave it, but I find woven cloth for garments will have the best results if at least part of the fabric is a protein content, like wool, which can be fullled up to create a denser, more stable fabric.

Sampling can be advantageous here. I have had students produce wonderful fabrics with a cotton or Tencel warp and Jagerspun's Zephyr wool/silk weft, which can be fullled up well for a stable, dense but pliable fabric, great for a jacket or vest.

Start with commercial fabric if you are intimidated. Commercial fabric can give you an idea of what weights work for what silhouette. There is, of course, also the issue of climate. What people in Florida choose to weave is different from what people in northern Michigan choose. Here are some of my basic suggestions:

- Sett it denser than you think.
- Avoid long floats which make a fabric less stable.
- If you want a lighter fabric, choose a thinner yarn, not a looser sett.
- Avoid weft patterning, repeats and blocks. They are hard to match for side seams and such.
- **If you use a hand-painted warp, make sure there is a repeat!**
- Wash it well.

Finishing is important. **ALL FABRICS SHOULD BE WASHED PRIOR TO SEWING!**

The exception here would be fabrics that were processed, dyed, felted, steamed, etc. They would already be preshrunk. If using handwoven fabric, or something commercial that has not been in contact with moisture, steam, water, or whatever,

please machine wash your completed fabric **AT A MINIMUM** on **GENTLE CYCLE** for 3 minutes in **COLD OR WARM WATER** using a laundry detergent. This is even suitable for wool and mohair. Fabric may be hung to dry or machine dried if the fabric warrants this type of processing. Test, Test, Test! When fabric is completely dry, it should be steam pressed. You could even have the dry cleaner press it if your iron is inadequate.

## **NOTES FOR CUSTOMIZING THE PATTERN FOR YOUR BODY:**

- **Test the Pattern first.** If you need the darts or pockets raised or lowered, just cut them out and move them up or down.
- **There is a generous amount between my sizes, so consider cutting between two sizes for a more custom fit.**
- The neckline can easily be redrawn higher or lower. Make sure you also redraw the optional facings
- The shoulder slope can be re-angled to better suit your personal contours. Make sure to alter both front and back, as well as the optional facings.
- Though this pattern was intended as a jumper, for sleeveless versions, armholes can be raised by redrawing the armhole up the desired amount. Use other sizes as a guide. Make sure to alter both front and back, as well as the optional facings.
- The flare on this swing dress starts just under the bust. Front, back, and side seams all flare out to create the swing. To create more of an A-line, cut center front and or back seams straight, i.e. parallel to the grain line, with no flare.
- To get a closer body fit, consider combining sizes, for example – green for the upper body transitioning to the smaller brown size for the lower body.

For more information on basic pattern alterations, please download the free PDF tutorial from my website

<https://www.darylancaster.com/Webfiles/BasicPatternAlterations.pdf>

**Digital monographs for sewing handwovens, seam finishes, edge finishes and closures are available for purchase from my website.**

<https://www.weaversew.com/shop/digital-monographs.html>

# Swing Dress Directions

## CUTTING DIRECTIONS

- Roll out needle-ready fabric, right side up
- Cut singly
- Check grainlines
- **Don't forget to flip pattern pieces**

### **FROM HANDWOVEN FABRIC**, cut singly:

- 2 BACKS: Cut one BACK, then flip pattern piece and cut second BACK. (**Butt selvages and hand stitch together if additional width is needed.**)
- 2 FRONTS: Cut one FRONT, then flip pattern piece and cut second FRONT. (**Butt selvages and hand stitch together if additional width is needed.**)
- 4 POCKETS: Cut two, then flip pattern piece and cut third and fourth POCKET. (**These may be cut from lining to reduce bulk.**)



USE TAILOR'S TACKS TO TRANSFER ALL DOTS AND MARKINGS



### **FOR BOUND NECK AND ARMHOLES VARIATION**

- **FROM LINING OR COORDINATING FABRIC**, cut:  
3 BIAS STRIPS, each 2"-2 1/4"(5cm-5.7cm) wide by approximately 36"(91.4cm) long

### **FOR NECKLINE/ARMHOLE FACING VARIATION**

- **FROM LINING OR COORDINATING FABRIC**, fold fabric lengthwise in half with selvages matching and cut:  
2 BACK FACINGS  
1 FRONT FACING, placing center front on fold.

USE PENCIL, DRESSMAKER'S CARBON, CHALK OR DISAPPEARING MARKER TO TRANSFER ALL MARKINGS TO FACINGS.

- **FROM FUSIBLE TRICOT INTERFACING**, fold interfacing lengthwise in half with selvages matching and cut:  
2 BACK FACINGS  
1 FRONT FACING, placing center front on fold.

**5/8" (1.5cm) Seam allowance included.**  
**2" (5.1cm) Hem allowance included.**

# ASSEMBLING THE DRESS

## BACK:

- Recommended machine stitch length for handwovens is 10 stitches per inch.
- Staystitch back neck and shoulder seamlines: [ $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.2cm) from cut edge, regular stitches, **follow arrows.**]

**NOTE: Directional stitching means to stitch in the direction of the fabric grain. Doing this helps keep the fabric from stretching and minimizes any distortion. The arrows on the illustrations indicate the direction to stitch for both staystitching and seam construction.**

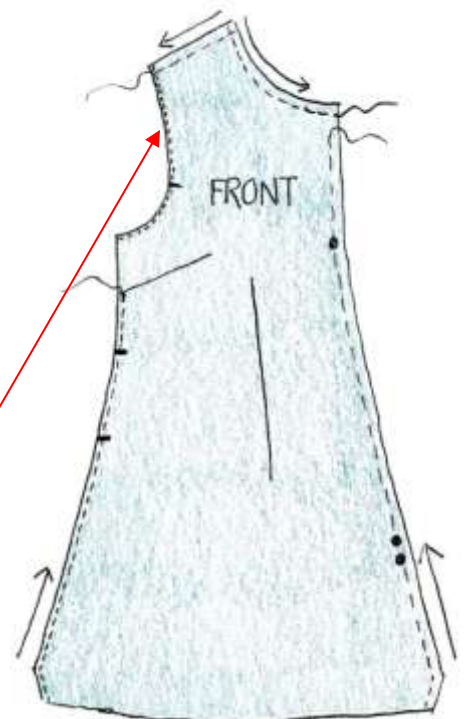
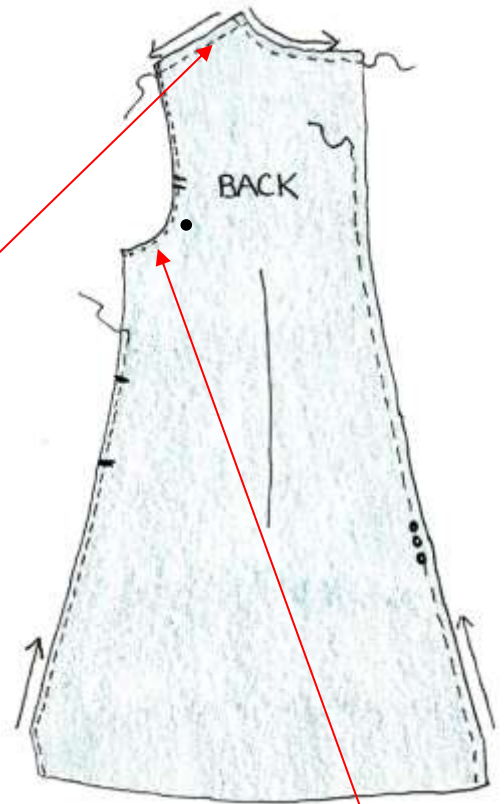
For a more in-depth discussion of **Stay Stitching** and **Directional Stitching**, please watch my video at

<https://www.threadsmagazine.com/2019/08/23/staystitching-basics-video>

- If desired, stitch very close to **edge** of armhole to reduce fraying. Stitch from shoulder to underarm.
- Staystitch center back seam allowances, stitching from hem to neck,  $\frac{1}{2}$ "(1.2cm) from the cut edge.
- Staystitch side seam allowances, stitching from hem to underarm,  $\frac{1}{4}$ "(6mm) from the cut edge.
- Sew waist darts, matching dots. Press flat and then towards center.

## FRONTS:

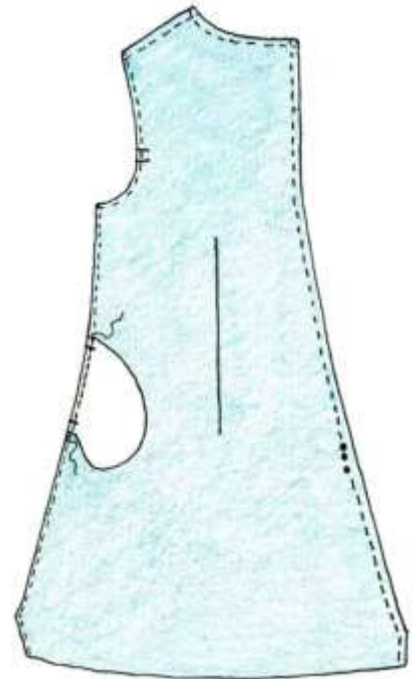
- Staystitch front neck and shoulder seamlines. [ $\frac{1}{2}$ "(1.2cm) from cut edge, regular stitches, **follow arrows.**]
- If desired, stitch very close to **edge** of armhole to reduce fraying, stitching from shoulder to underarm.
- Sew bust darts, matching dots. Press flat and then down.



- Sew waist darts, matching dots. Press flat and then towards center.
- Staystitch center front seam allowances, stitching from hem to neck,  $\frac{1}{2}$ "(1.2cm) from the cut edge. Staystitch side seam allowances, stitching from hem to underarm  $\frac{1}{4}$ "(6mm) from the cut edge.
- Do not stitch the center front seam of the dress at this time.

## **SIDE POCKET:**

- With right sides together, pin one pocket section to the side of each garment back section, matching dots. Stitch, using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ "(6mm) seam allowance.
- Press pocket sections away from garment.
- Repeat, attaching pockets to front sections.
- Clean-finish shoulder, side seam (encasing pocket edge), center back, and front seam allowances on garment front and back sections. **Note: If optional armhole/neck facing will be used, there is no need to finish the shoulder seam allowance.**

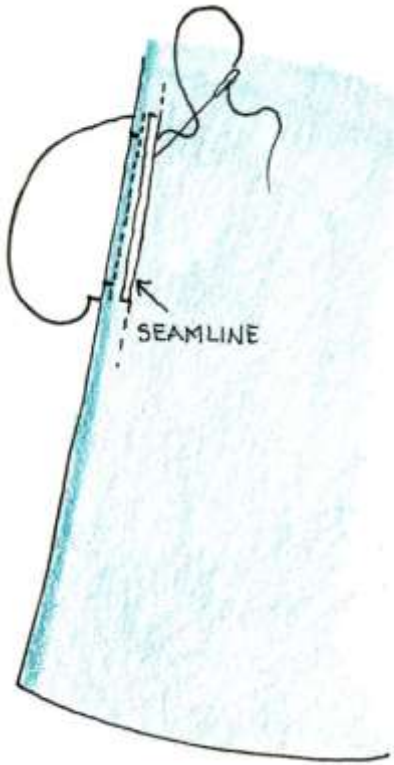


### Options to clean-finish an edge:

1. Hong Kong Seam Finish. Perfect for an unlined jacket. Probably overkill for a dress.
2. Using  $1\frac{1}{4}$ "(3.1cm) bias-cut, 15 Denier nylon tricot, fold it over the seam allowance and stitch. Be careful with the iron, as nylon can melt.
3. Stitch along the very edge of the fabric, with the direction of the grain, to prevent raveling.
4. Use a serger, if available. Do not trim the seam allowance with the knives and take care to serge in the direction of the grain even if it means serging upside down. This can be done in combination with option 3 to keep the serging right side up.
5. Use a decorative machine edgestitch on the very edge of the fabric. Using an edgestitching foot, stitch with the direction of the grain and make sure the seam allowance does not compress widthwise. This step can be improved by first fusing  $\frac{3}{8}$ "(1cm) crosswise cut Fusi Knit tricot to the edges on the wrong side of the garment sections. This will stabilize the edges for decorative stitching.

The above options are illustrated step by step in a PDF available here.

<https://www.daryllancaster.com/Webfiles/OptionsToCleanFinishAnEdge.pdf>



- On the **wrong** side of one front section, pin one long edge of narrow twill tape along the garment seamline, the length of the pocket. Twill tape should lay on the seam allowance, with one long edge right along the seamline. Handstitch both long edges of twill tape in place invisibly, or stitch through center by machine (which will show on the outside). Repeat for the other front and both back sections.

### **BACK ZIPPER:**

- Unzip the coils of an invisible zipper, and roll them out, pressing firmly with a warm iron to expose the tiny ditch alongside each of the coils. The nylon used in an invisible zipper

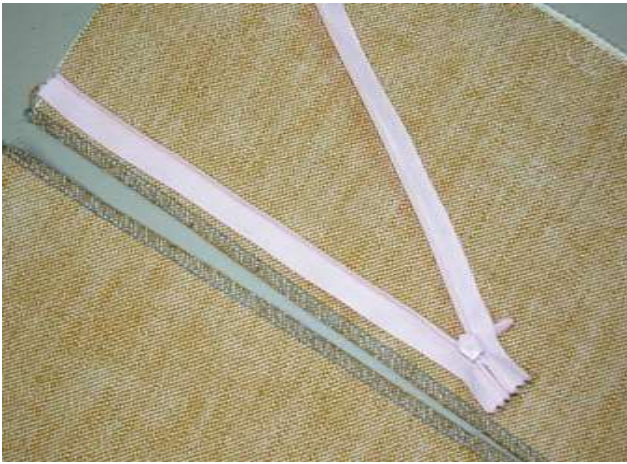
is designed to withstand moderate heat of an iron. This step makes all the difference for a smooth, easy installation.



- Use an invisible zipper foot to install the zipper. An invisible zipper foot has small tunnels to uncurl the coil of teeth so the needle can get into the groove behind the coil.

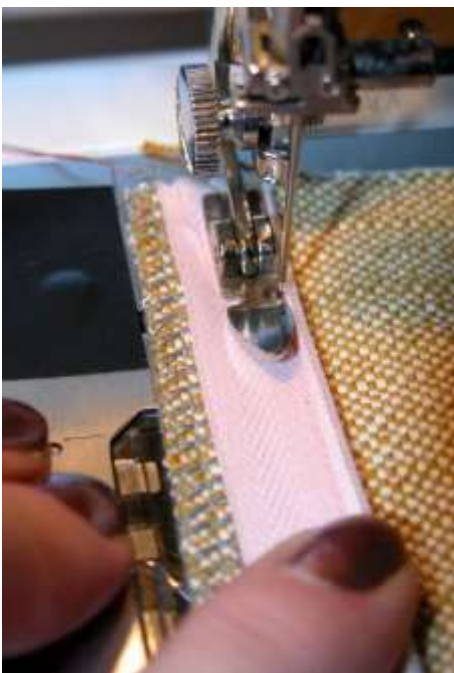
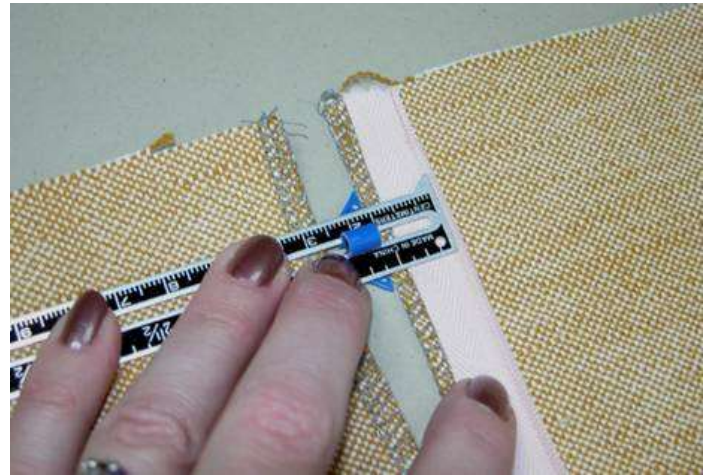
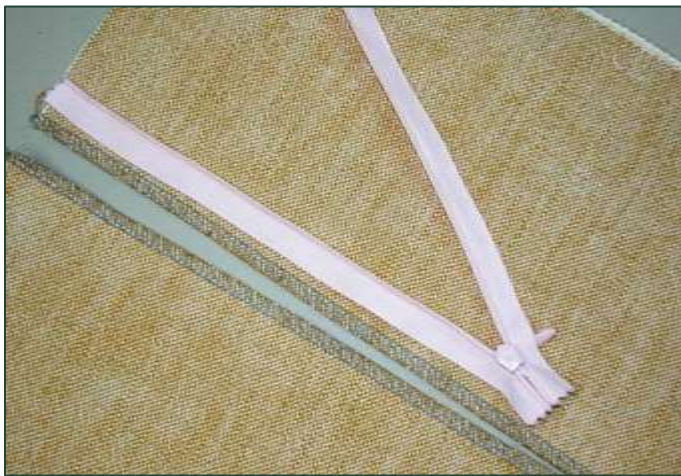
Below are examples of an invisible zipper foot, from Janome on the left and Bernina center. A standard ski-type zipper foot may be used if the needle can be positioned to be flush with the edge of the foot.



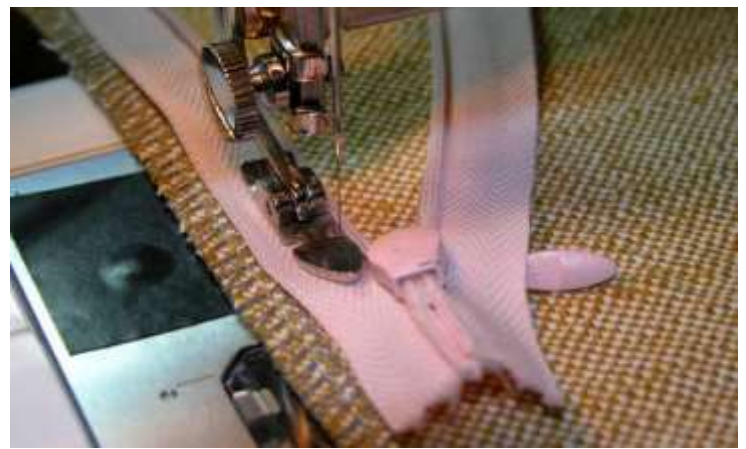


- The invisible zipper is easiest to apply before the center back seam is sewn.
- Both the left and right half of the zipper will be stitched from the top of the zipper to the stop at the bottom.
- Start by laying the open zipper face down on the right side of the right half of the garment back, with the exposed ditch alongside the coil sitting on the seamline.

- The top of the zipper tape should sit  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1cm) down from the cutting line at the back neck. Photograph shows it flush.



- With the zipper foot positioned so the needle sits just to the left of the coil, start at the top of the zipper and, using normal length stitches, stitch down the ditch alongside the coil. Stop when the foot reaches the zipper stop at the bottom of the tape. Backstitch securely. Note: No need to baste or pin zipper in position. Instead use a small piece of black electrical tape to guide the fabric along the cutting line, or use a magnetic seam guide.

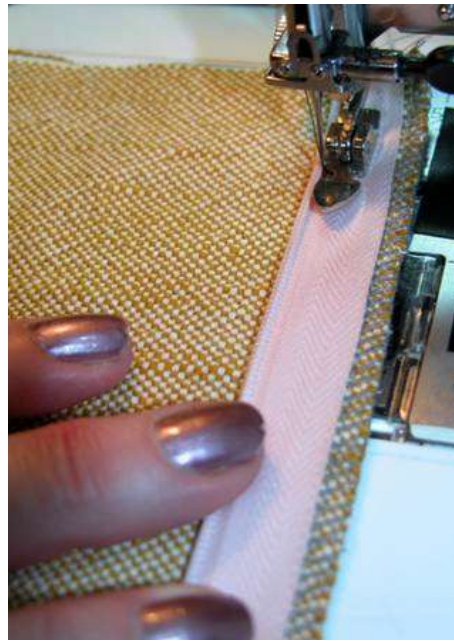




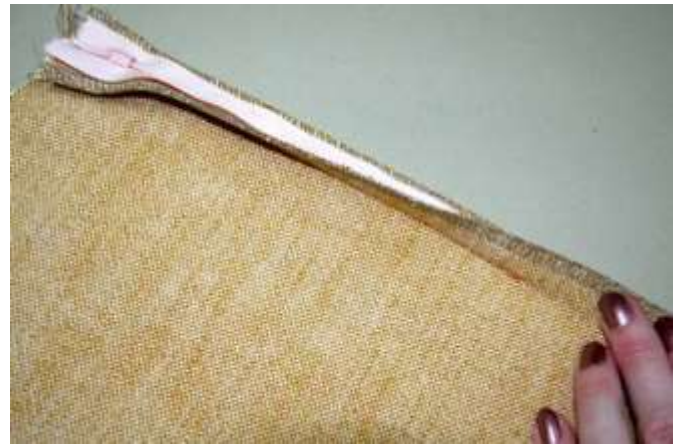


- With right sides together, pin-baste the center back seam together below the zipper. Fold back the section with the attached zipper and place the loose half of the zipper face down on the opposite section, right sides together, so that the ditch alongside the coil sits right on the seamline and the top of the zipper tape is  $\frac{3}{8}$ " down from the top of the garment.

- Reposition the zipper foot so the needle will sit just to the right of the coil and, starting at the top of the zipper, stitch down the ditch alongside the coil for a few inches. Stop stitching. Keeping the needle inserted in the fabric, remove the pin basting and continue stitching until the zipper foot reaches the zipper stop. Backstitch securely.



- The zipper is now installed, and the remainder of the seam can now be sewn. Close the zipper and press.



- With rights sides together, expose the lower seam allowances.



- Using a regular zipper foot or the ski foot, reposition it so the needle is to the right of the foot. Crowd the needle as close as possible to the end of the previous stitching. It will not be possible to "pick up exactly where you left off," but the beginning of the new stitching should be parallel to the stitching from the zipper installation. Finish stitching the center back seam.



- Press seam open.



- There is one remaining step, and it is an important one. The bottom of the zipper tape is not secure and can easily create a hole in the front of the garment if left unattached. The bottom of the tape must be attached to each of the seam allowances for stability.



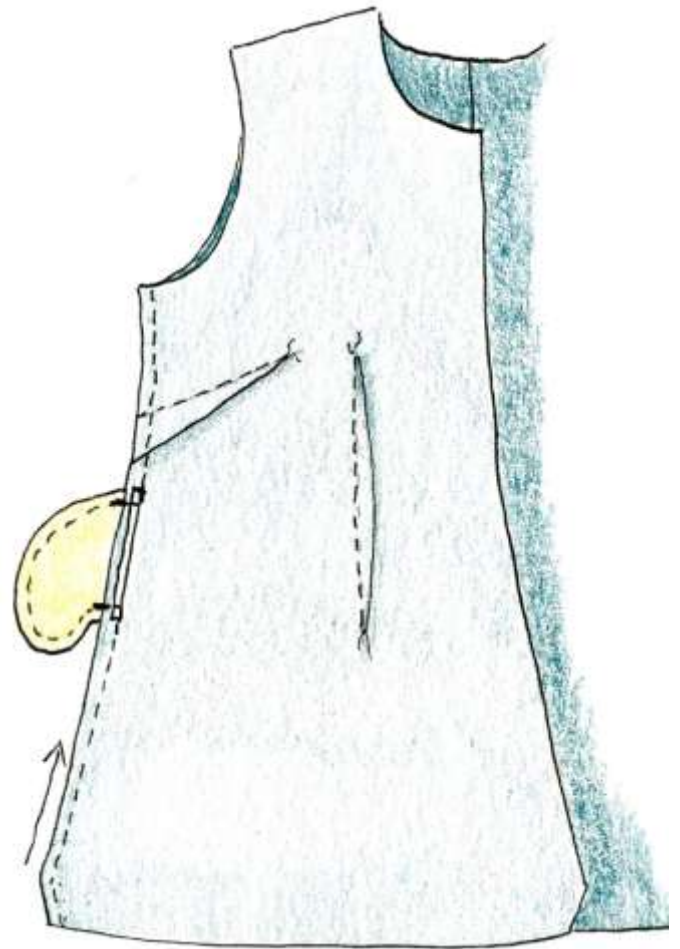
- Open out each seam allowance and stitch the lower part of the zipper tape to each corresponding side.

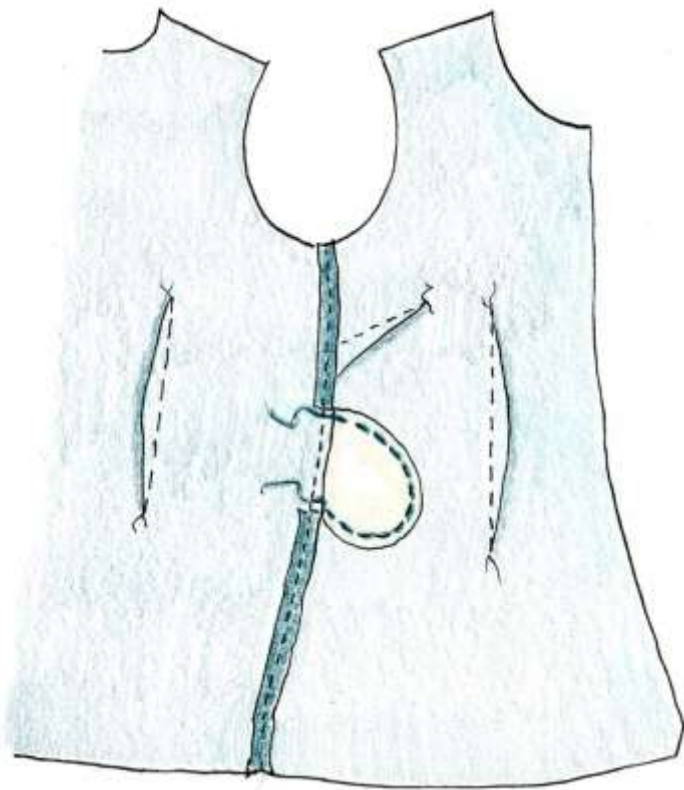
## **SIDE SEAMS:**

- With right sides together, pin side seams, matching pocket pieces.

**Note: Start pinning what you know is correct: match the two layers at the bottom edge, pocket marks, and armhole edge, and ease everything in between to fit.**

- From the bottom of the garment  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.5cm) seam allowance, stitch up towards the first pocket mark, stitch around the pocket to the second mark, and continue up the side to the armhole, finishing the side seam.
- Clip back seam allowance above and below the pocket to allow the pocket to fall towards the front.
- Clean-finish pocket edges, reinforcing clipped area. See page VI for clean-finishing options.
- Press remainder of side seam allowances open.





- If desired, pocket may be topstitched through the garment front to anchor in place. This adds a design element to the front and keeps the pocket from bunching up at the hip area.
- Stitch center front seam, stitching from hem to neckline. Press seam open.
- If using the 'Binding the Neckline and Armholes' variation below, stitch shoulder seams, from the neckline to the armhole.

**DO NOT SEW SHOULDER SEAMS AT THIS TIME IF USING FACING VARIATION. SKIP TO PAGE XVI.**

## **BINDING THE NECKLINE AND ARMHOLES:**

NOTE: Neckline and armholes can be finished in many ways. Options include serging, nylon tricot binding or a crocheted edge finish.



## **BINDING THE ARMHOLES AND NECKLINE WITH A BIAS FACING:**

- You will need enough bias strips of whatever fabric you think will work to encase the perimeter of armholes and neck edge. Don't forget to preshrink the fabric you choose. To do this, soak it in hot water for 20 minutes, then hang to dry, making sure the fabric is needle-ready.
- I prefer 2"-2 ¼"(5cm-5.7cm) bias strips, but wider or narrower may work better for your application. Depending on the size of the garment, you will need three approximately 36"(91.4cm) lengths, one for the neck and two for the armholes. It is a great idea to **sample the technique first to know what width is best for your garment.**



- Make sure the neck edge is stable by staystitching close to the seamline, stitching in the direction of the grain. This should have been done in the first step.

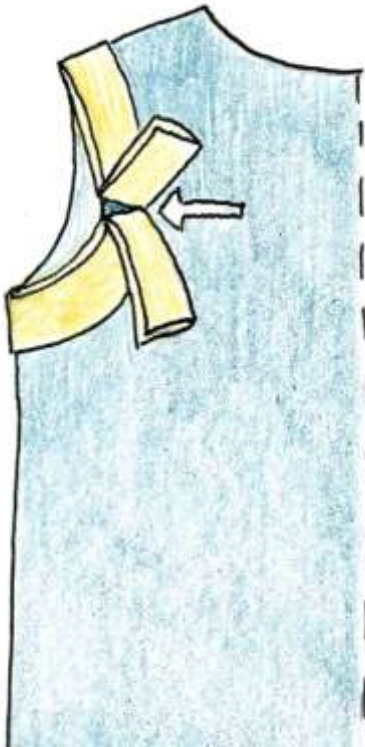
- Fold the bias strip in half lengthwise and steam press a tight curve into the folded edge.



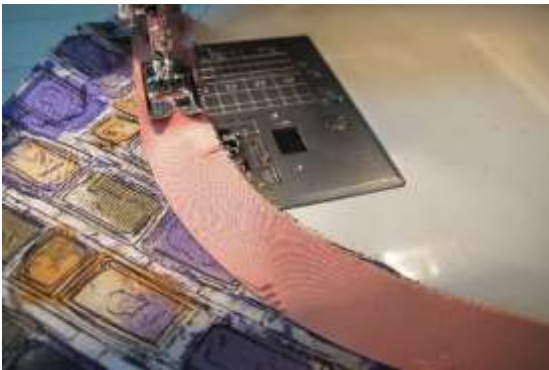
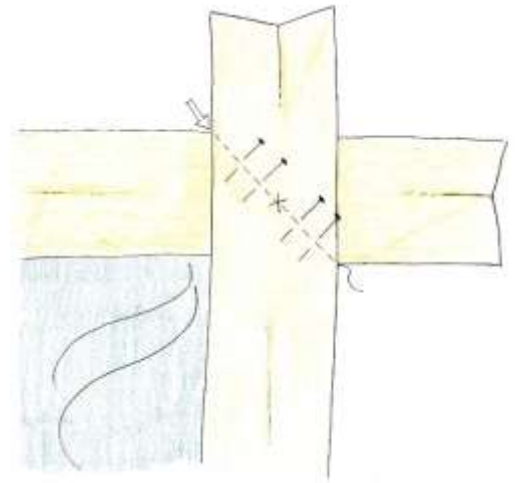
- The curve should roughly match the shape of the garment section that will be faced.

Note: the following sequence of photos is for clarity; they show the technique, not the full installation of bias on a neckline or armhole.

- Pin the folded bias strips to the neck edge or armhole edges, starting at the center back neck, or back of the armhole, leaving a 3"-4"(7.6cm-10cm) tail on either side of the join. You may need a wider bias strip if you apply it to a full ⅝"(1/5cm) seam allowance. You'll want approximately ½"(1.2cm) bias available between the stitching line and folded edge of the bias strip. Continue pinning until reaching the starting point.



- Establish where the bias folded edges will meet, placing a **small mark** on each half.
- Remove pins 3"-4" (7.6cm-10cm) on either side of the center back, where the join will take place to make joining the strips easier.
- Open out the bias and place the bias ends right sides together at right angles. Make sure the marks at the folds intersect. Stitch diagonally to join the bias ends. Trim seam allowance. Refold and press, and then finish pinning onto the neck or armhole seamlines.



- Stitch bias strip to neck edge or armhole edges along the seamlines.

- Trim seam allowances to reduce bulk by grading.



- Clip inside curves. For sheer binding, stagger the clips on the seam allowance layers.



- Press bias away from neck edge, using the tip of the iron to avoid flattening the bias curve.

- Understitch the edges, stitching through the bias strip and the seam allowances,  $\frac{1}{8}$ "(3mm) away from the neck seamline.



- Carefully press bias to the wrong side.



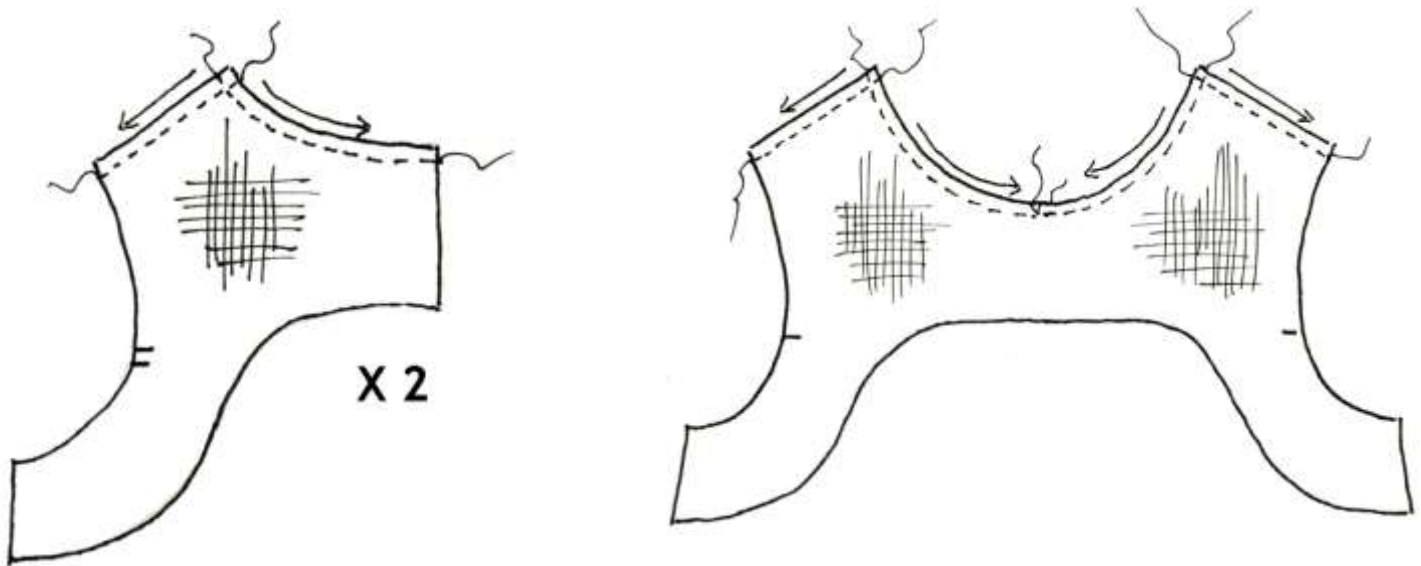
- To secure the bias binding, there are three options:

1. Best choice: catch-stitch behind the bias. (Photograph right)
2. Topstitch.
3. Handstitch the edge of the bias (which might create a ridge on the right side of the garment).



**TO FINISH GARMENT, SEE PAGE XIX**

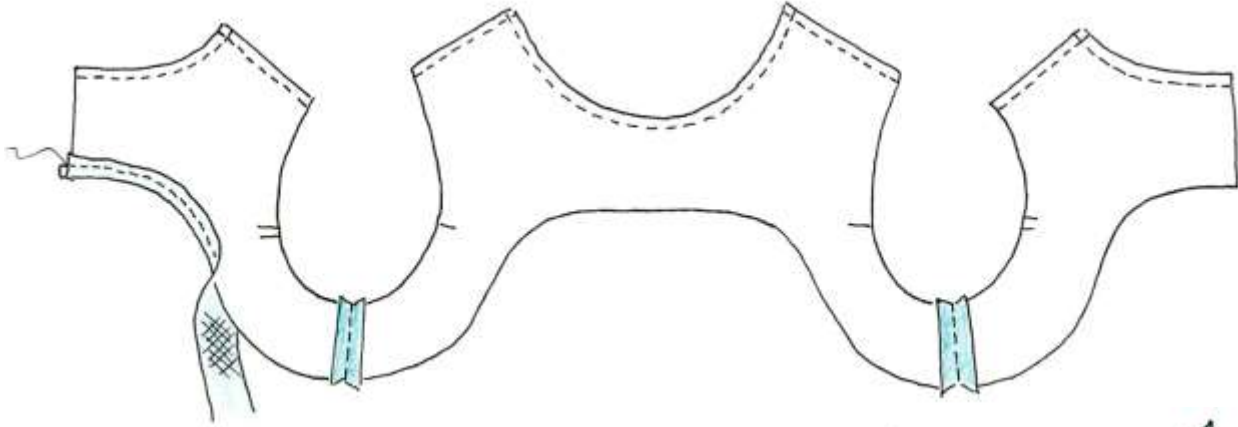
**OPTIONAL NECK/ARMHOLE FACINGS:**



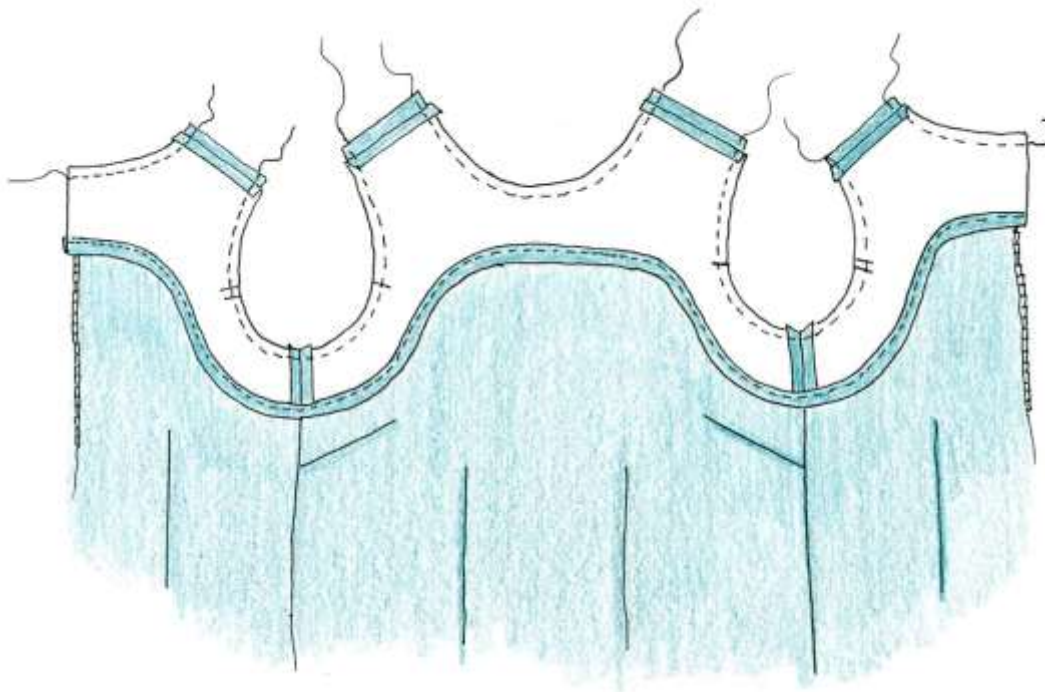
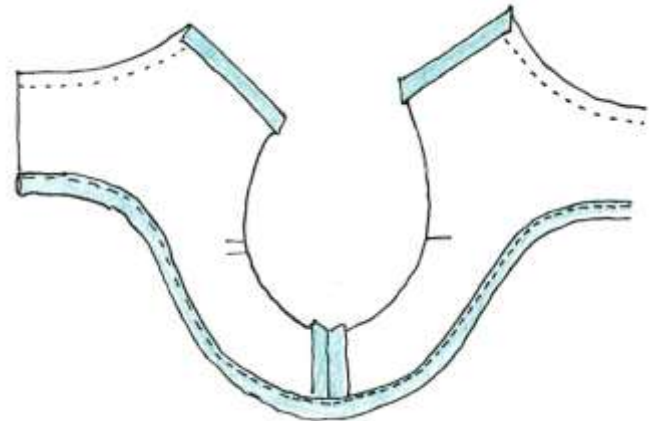
- Place interfacing on the wrong side of each facing piece. **Steam shrink** interfacing by hovering over the surface with a steam iron, then fuse it to wrong side of each facing using a press cloth. I recommend silk organza as a press cloth.
- Staystitch neck and shoulder seamlines ½”(1.2cm) from the cut edge. Follow the directions of the arrows.
- Stitch front facing to back facings at the **side seams**, and press open.



- From the right side, apply a clean finish to the lower edge of the facing. To apply a clean finish, see page VI.



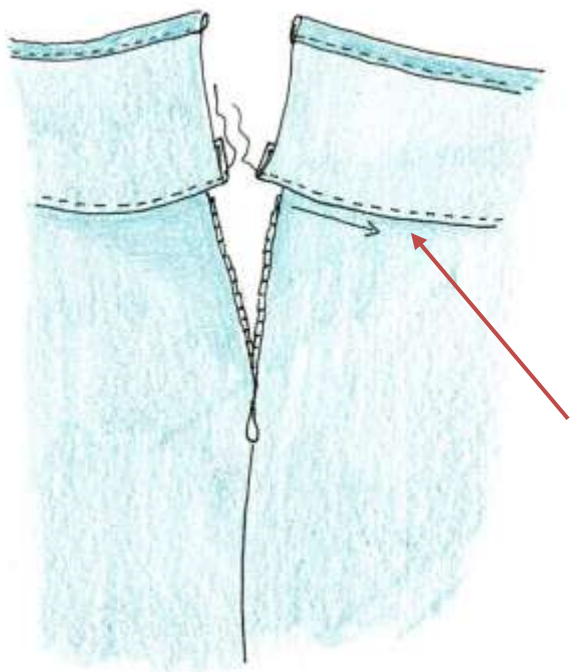
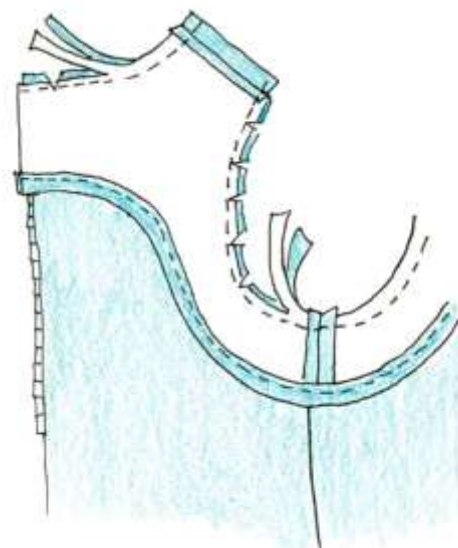
- Fold shoulder seam allowances under  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.5cm) towards the wrong side of facing and press.



- With right sides together, pin facing to neckline and armholes of dress, matching armhole notches and side seams. Facing should extend  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.5cm) beyond back zipper.

- Stitch facing to garment at armholes and front and back necklines, using a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.5cm) seam allowance.

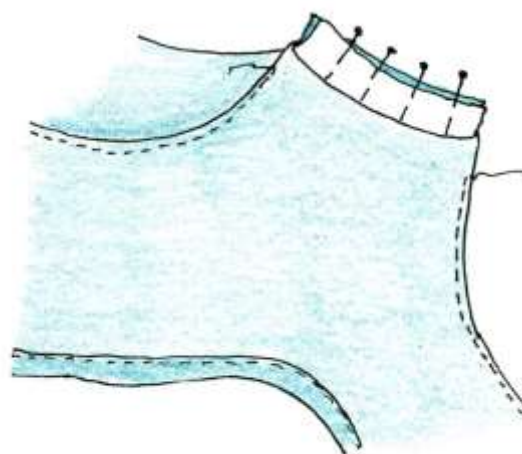
- Grade back, front, and armhole seam allowances, by trimming the facing seam allowance to  $\frac{1}{4}$ "(6mm) and the dress seam allowance to  $\frac{3}{8}$ "(1cm).
- Clip curves.

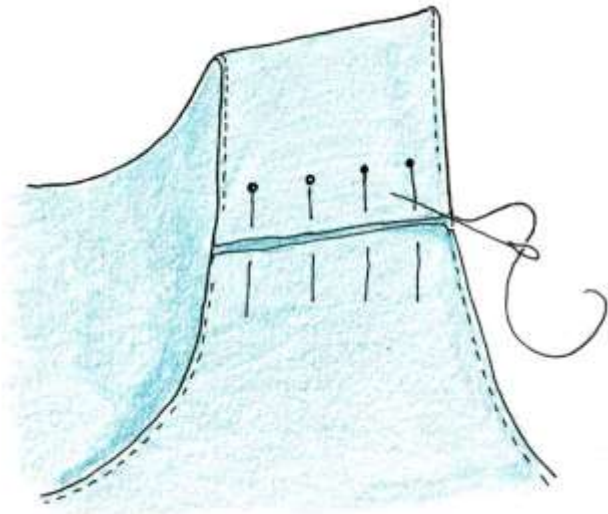


- Check to make sure the back neck facings align at the back neck. If not, adjust stitching.
- To understitch, open out facing and seam allowances away from the garment; then stitch close to the edge of the facing where it meets the neck and armholes, through all layers. Stop understitching  $\frac{5}{8}$ "(1.5cm) from shoulder seamlines.

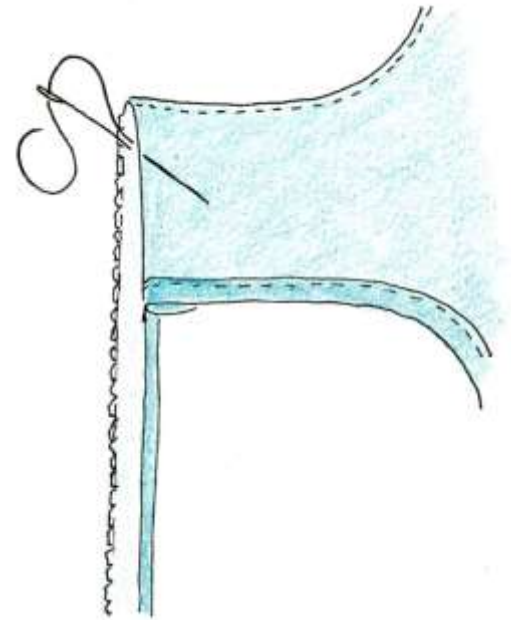
## **SHOULDER SEAMS:**

- With right sides together, pin garment shoulder seams together, keeping facing free. Stitch across shoulder seams  $\frac{5}{8}$ "(1.5cm) from cut edge.
- Press shoulder seams open, tucking seam allowances inside the facing.





•Handstitch facing edges together across the shoulders.



•Fold under facing center back

seam allowance, and handstitch along zipper tape.

- Tack lower edge of facing to garment's side seam allowances.

## **TO FINISH:**

### **HEM:**

- Clean finish lower edge. See page VI for options.
- Turn up hem 2"(5.1cm). Press.
- Hand-baste or pin hem in place.
- Hand sewing is done with a catch stitch, connecting the stitching line behind the hem binding to the garment.

