
Sew a One Hour Top with Fancy Tiger

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

- Hi, I'm Amber. ^- And I'm Jamie. And we're from Fancy Tiger Crafts, ^a craft supply shop in Denver, Colorado. - Today we're gonna teach you the one-hour top, it's a really fast sew. - The one hour top is made out of knit fabric, and I happen to be wearing one right now. - Jamie's gonna make one on a Serger, and I'm gonna make one on a sewing machine. - We're gonna show you tips and tricks along the way for working with knit fabric, including how to properly cut out your top. And how to use a twin needle to finish your edges in a professional manner. Take this class with us and you're gonna leave with a new wardrobe staple that you can make again and again. - And you'll have the skills you need to work with knits. (high-five) (laughter)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- To make your one-hour top, you're going to need one and three quarter yards of knit fabric. Amber and I are using two different ones today. I am going to be using the slightly rustic, hemp and cotton jersey and Amber is using a printed jersey. You're also going to need sewing pins. We prefer to cut knits out with a rotary blade and cutting mat, but if you don't want to use those, you're going to need a pair of fabric scissors and fabric marking tool. - You'll also need a jersey needle. This is a ballpoint needle for sewing with jersey. Instead of piercing the threads of your jersey, it'll go in between the knit stitches, which is nice. And you'll also need a double needle for finishing your hems, which is also nice to have in a ballpoint. You'll need an extra pin to hold an extra spool of thread. You will also need to check your machine to see if it has an extra spool pin. If you don't have an extra one on your machine, most machines come with an extra spool pin, which you will need when you are doing your double needle. You'll also need two spools of thread and if you don't have an extra spool of thread, you can always fill in extra bobbin. You'll also need a measuring tape to take your measurements. You're going to need a seam gauge to measure your hems. Some paper, scissors, and tape, which you'll use to put together your paper pattern that you've printed out. - If you're gonna be sewing your one-hour top on a Serger, you're going to need a Serger. - You'll also need a sewing machine and you can sew your entire one-hour top on the sewing machine, but even if you're using a Serger, which is nice and makes the sewing go a little bit quicker, you're going to use the sewing machine for finishing your hems. - And everybody is going to need an iron.

Chapter 3 - Make the Top

Selecting the size and cutting pattern pieces

- We're gonna start by taking measurements to figure out what size top we're gonna make. So, I'm going to take Jamie's measurements. (both laughing) - She's an extra small/small at the bust. Now we're going to measure her waist. And she's a medium/large at the waist. And now I'll measure her at the widest part of the hip. Here she falls right in between sizes. What we can do since she is measuring between sizes is go look at the finished measurements. On this shirt, we have a lot of positive ease and it's most fitted in the hip. So I think since she was measuring a 38 in the hips that actually the extra small/small size is gonna work nicely for her. - When choosing your size for the one hour top just remember that there's a lot of positive ease in the bust and the top is the most

fitted in the hip. So make sure to check the finished measurements guide. And just make sure that your hip is gonna fit and then go for it. Next you need to put together your pattern which you can print out from the pdf. You'll want to check the assembly guide. And it's important to measure this one inch square and make sure it actually is one inch before you start cutting and taping your pattern together. - So I'll show you what that will look like right now. It should match up exactly with one inch on your ruler. - Now we're ready to start cutting and taping this together. I'm just gonna cut the bottom and left side from each piece of paper. And then we can start taping them together lining up the arrows. Continue cutting the bottom and right sides off each sheet and taping them together lining up your arrows as you go. - Once you have your pattern all taped together, you're going to cut out your pattern pieces along the size you've chosen. Go ahead and cut the back piece out the same way I just showed you. Lay your fabric out folded in half. We're gonna cut both of our pieces on the fold. And you wanna make sure and spread any wrinkles out so that your two layers are perfectly flat before you start cutting. Then you're gonna go ahead and lay your pattern piece on the fold. And this shirt is gonna have vertical stripes on it. If you had horizontal stripes, you might wanna match your stripes. You can use the bottom of your pattern piece and the top of your pattern piece to line up horizontal stripes on the front and the back pattern pieces. And we're gonna use a rotary cutter to cut this out. So make sure that you're cutting mat is underneath your pattern piece. The rotary cutter is nice to use with jersey. The edges of jersey can roll, so it makes cutting out your pieces a lot easier than scissors. You're just gonna run the rotary cutter along the edge of the pattern piece to cut out your pattern. I'm coming near the end of the cutting mat here, so I'm gonna use my scissors so that I don't cut the table. If you have a bigger cutting mat, you might not need to do that. Now I have my front piece cut out, and I'm gonna do the same for the back piece.

Making the top on a sewing machine

- To get your machine set up for sewing with jersey, you're going to need a couple of scraps of your jersey. And I'm going to show you how to do a seam that's going to be a little bit stretchy, which will be perfect for working with knits. Go ahead and put your ballpoint needle into your machine and thread your machine. Then you're going to switch your stitch settings to a zigzag. You want to make your stitch length a standard stitch length. I have mine at two and a half. And your width will just be a narrow zigzag. I'm going to put that at two. And then I'm going to use my test fabric to test out the settings and make sure it works with the jersey that I have. The zigzag stitch allows the seam to stretch a little bit, which if you just used a straight seam, it's not going to stretch with the jersey, so it's a much better match when you're working with knits. We're going to go ahead and pin the front and back together at the shoulder seam so we can sew those seams first. Take the front shirt piece and the back and place them right sides together at the shoulder seam. And we'll just place a few pins in there to keep it lined up while we're sewing that seam. The jersey's going to want to roll a little bit so just spread that flat as you're pinning. And you can also, as you're sewing the seam, make sure that those edges don't roll in. I'm going to back tack at the beginning and end of this seam and sew the seam allowance at half an inch. Go ahead and do the same thing on the other side for your shoulder seam. Now I'm going to go to the ironing board and press those seams. That's going to make the seams nice and crisp. Now we'll go back to the sewing machine and sew the underarm and the side seam, which is actually one long seam here. I'm going to put a few pins in this seam, and just like the shoulder seam, I'll back stitch at the beginning and end and sew it at a half inch. Now repeat that for your other side seam. Now you're going to press these seams that you

just finished and in a little bit I'm going to show you how to hem the edges.

Making the top on a serger

- I'm gonna show you how to sew your one-hour top on a serger. The first thing I'm gonna do is take a scrap cut of my fabric that I'm going to be using for the one-hour top and I'm gonna test it in the serger to make sure I get all my settings right. (serger) (snip) This is slightly wavy so I'm gonna change my differential feed to a higher number. (clicking) (serger) (snip) Now the fabric is puckering, so that was a little bit too much correction. I'm gonna turn it down just a bit, in-between those two. And try it again. (serger) (snip) That looks nice and straight. It's not ruffling or puckering, so I'm gonna start sewing my top. It's always a good idea to test your fabric on a serger before starting. Yours might be perfect on the first try, but you just want to double check. And if it's not perfect, play with your settings. Use your manual and troubleshoot until it looks right. The first step is going to be to sew the shoulder seams. So I'm gonna lay these right sides together. And with a knit like this there is a right and wrong side. The wrong side of the fabric has horizontal loops going across the fabric. While the right side is going to have little tiny V's. I'm gonna pin the shoulder seams and then serge them. The serger is going to sew, cut, and finish this seam as I serge. It's a half inch seam allowance which is gonna be this line right here. So I'm gonna line this up with the edge of my fabric as I serge. And as it's going through the machine the serger is going to cut the fabric right here. So it's gonna cut the seam allowance down to a quarter inch. It's important when you serge, not to go through your pins. So be sure to take them out as you go. If you serge over a pin, it's going to dull and mess up your blade. (serger) Go ahead and pin and serge the second shoulder seam just like you did the first one. Now that both shoulder seams are serged, I'm gonna press the seam allowance towards the back. The next step is going to be to pin and serge the side seams. Right sides together. Line up the raw edges and pin. Now I'm gonna serge this seam the same way I did with the shoulder seams, with the same half inch seam allowance. (serger) Typically when you serge, you're gonna use the same four colors of thread that would match your fabric. But the serge seam is just on the inside and I thought it would be fun for this muted shirt to have a little pop of neon that only I'm gonna see. Go ahead and pin and serge the second side seam just like you did the first. (serger) The one-hour top is really starting to look like a shirt. Your seams are all serged and now you're just gonna press those side seams like you did the shoulder seams. And then we're gonna finish the hems.

Finishing the collar, cuffs, and hem

- Now whether you've used a serger or a sewing machine to seam together your top, you're going to use your double needle now to finish the hems on the sleeve, the bottom, and the neckline of your shirt. I've gone ahead and installed the double needle, and I've also gone ahead and put in my second spool pin. So I have my two spools of thread in the top of the machine. I'm gonna thread them one at a time and pull each thread through the same thread guides and then separately thread each of the needles. And now my second thread goes the same way through the machine, and we'll go through the second needle. It's really important here that you have your machine set on a straight stitch. Don't leave it on zig-zag or the zig-zag stitch will break your double needle. I'm gonna go ahead and test my double-needle stitch on a scrap of fabric, and to mimic the hem, I'm going to fold it over and stitch through both layers. (sewing machine) That looks pretty good. If your double needle seems to be too tight, you can loosen the tension on your top threads, and that will make your double-needle stitch a little bit looser and more stretchy. I think mine looks good,

though, so we're going to go ahead and press under our hems. I'm going to start with my sleeve hem. I'm using a sleeve board here, which makes it easier to press the hem under, but you can also just lay it flat on your ironing board. I'm going to press it under a 1/2 inch, so I can use my seam gauge to do that. Just measure out a 1/2 inch and press your sleeve under all the way around. (iron steam) Now, I'll turn that sleeve right side out so we can stitch from the top side. Then we'll use the double needle to finish that hem. I've removed the bottom of the machine, and I'm just using the arm so that I can fit my sleeve over it. The double-needle stitch is two lines of stitching on the top, so you want to make sure your right side is facing. I'm sewing this at 3/8 inch, and that will catch my 1/2 inch hem that I've pressed under. I'm also starting at the underarm side of the sleeve so that where my double needle meets again, it's going to be hidden on the bottom of the sleeve. (sewing machine) There's no need for backstitching when you use this double needle. You're going to just overlap the beginning and the end of your seam. So now, we're going to do the other sleeve the same exact way. (sewing machine) The inside of your sleeve is nicely finished with the double needle. The bobbin thread creates a little zig-zag that makes it stretch, so it's a really nice finish, and it should have caught the inside of your hem. Hemming the collar takes a little more finagling, but it's not going to be a problem. The jersey is really stretchy. You're just going to have to press it at a 1/2 inch just like you did the sleeves. We're going to turn it inside out to do that. Just like the sleeve, you're going to press this under at a 1/2 inch all the way around. You'll be going around the curve of the collar. So, it'll take a little bit more steam and a little bit more finagling to make it straight. You can use your seam gauge again, but I'm just eye-balling it here. Make sure you've turned your shirt right side out again, and from the right side, we'll go ahead and stitch that hem down. We're doing a 3/8 inch seam allowance. (sewing machine) You can use pins here if you need to. I'm just kind of adjusting the 1/2 inch hem as I go, where I can feel that the pressing happened along that edge. (sewing machine) And again, just overlap the beginning and the end of your seam. (sewing machine) Now your collar is done. You're going to do the bottom hem just the same way, and then you can give all of those hems a little bit of a press to make them look really neat. (sewing machine) (iron steam) So now we've finished our one-hour top. - Oh, that's so cute. Check out mine. I did mine with a contrast neon thread, which I think looks really good against this pale gray top. While it's super fun to work with a high-contrast thread, I wouldn't try it for your first time. You wanna make sure that you're confident that your stitches are going to be straight before you do a contrast thread. Because the one-hour top is so fast, we've made a few one-hour tops. This cute striped one, is a little bit shorter, so we just shortened it a little bit, which is cute, and there's also this one which is lengthened, so it's more of a tunic top in teal. To lengthen or shorten, we just added or took away length from the pattern piece at the bottom. - It's a really easy shirt to make, and it's also easy to wear. - If you're anything like us, you'll probably end up with at least 10 of these shirts.