

Jennifer Neckline

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/jennifer-neckline--2>



I was confused by some the Jennifer neckline instructions, so while I was figuring it out I thought I'd take lots of pictures to show how I did it. I did deviate in a few places, but it worked for me so I'm happy. At this stage of construction, you should have the back yoke pieces assembled to the lower back, and the shoulder seams of the front and back sewn together.

Step 1 — Edge neckline - Pin Bias Strip



The instructions for the edging the neckline begin by telling you to trim the allowance, but aren't specific about how much. I figured it probably meant about half the width of the seam allowance (5/8") but I decided not to trim it until later. Instead, I began by pinned the bias strip to the neckline edge in from the neckline seam allowance at about half the amount of the neckline seam allowance. **In this picture I have the end of the bias strip folded in, but I actually folded the end around the other side of the back placket to sew. You will see this in later pictures.

Step 2 — Edge Neckline - Sew Bias Strip



Stitch the bias strip to the neckline edge 1/3" from the edge of the bias strip and 5/8" from the neckline edge.

Step 3 — Edge Neckline - Trim Seam Allowance



Trim down the seam allowances of both the neckline and the bias strip to 1/4".

Step 4 — Edge Neckline - Trimmed Allowances



My trimmed allowances at the back placket with the edges folded around to the inside.

Step 5 — Edge Neckline - Fold and press bias strip



Press the bias strip up and fold the end of the bias strip at a diagonal.

Step 6 — Edge Neckline - Fold and pin



Turn the bias strip over the edge to the inside and pin.

Step 7 — Edge Neckline - Recheck Pins



I'm a bit obsessive.... So I checked and adjusted pins until I was reasonably sure that my bias binding width was even all around.

Step 8 — Insert - Stitch the pleats insert



No real how-to here, but I did make tiny snips with my scissors on the sides where each fold goes. You can kinda see them in this picture. It made pressing those pin tucks easy and I didn't have to mark up my fabric with tailors chalk. Hint: press those pin-tucks well! the wrong side should look flat.

Step 9 — Insert - Fold, Pin, Cut



Fold the insert in half at the front center. (I did this with the right side in, but the instructions say to do it wrong side in - oh well - no big deal) Pin the edges together. Pin the pattern piece along center fold and cut out.

Step 10 — Insert - Placket



Fold the edges of the placket piece inside and press. Pin the placket vertically to the center of the pin tucked insert. **I deviated from the instructions here: The instructions have you edge stitch the placket to the insert and then stitch the insert to the facing at the top edge. I sandwiched the placket in between the insert and the facing and stitched all three at the top edge, and then I top/edge stitched the placket through all layers. Your choice.

Step 11 — Insert - Trim, Clip, Press



Make sure to trim the seam allowance at the top edge and clip the curves at the top edge of the neckline insert. Turn right sides out and press neckline edge. I finished the bottom curved seam allowances with a 3 step zig zag to keep everything tidy.

Step 12 — Insert - Pin to neckline



Pin the insert inside the neckline. I find it helps to pin obsessively and check your work from the inside to make sure everything is lying flat and evenly. The seam allowances of the bias strip should pretty much match up with the seam allowances of the insert. Check that the front placket piece is vertical and centered. Check that the points at the side shoulders are ending at the same place on both sides.

Step 13 — Insert - Stitch in the Ditch



From the right side, sew the insert and neckline edge together by stitching in the ditch. The instructions say to trim the allowances and "neaten altogether". If I had a serger I would have serged the seam allowances all together, but the bias strip shouldn't ravel much and I already zig zagged the insert edges, so I skipped that part.

Step 14 — Finished!



Once the neckline is done, the rest of the Jennifer short comes together very quickly. Enjoy!

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