

Proofed Pattern Piece Technique (how to make reversible clothes)

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/proofed-pattern-piece-technique-how-to-make-reversible-clothes>



This technique is inspired by Alabama Chanin. I used it to make a reversible outfit called Water and Jam. The technique takes each piece of a pattern and completes it first, before assembling them altogether. In this example, two different coloured fabrics are used. The technique would also be suited for 'patching' a whole lot of different fabrics together. Use it on your own patterns or with patterns you've bought. Would best suit patterns with distinct panels such as princess seams and simple lined garments – if you're unsure it would work with your pattern or fabric just ask! Follow the steps to see how I made both a pink and a blue top.. at once! If you like this technique show your appreciation and vote for where it all began with Water and Jam

Step 1 — Cutting the pattern pieces



Cut each piece of the pattern you are making from two different fabrics. You will have twice the pattern pieces. Here, I have cut one each from pink and blue.

Step 2 — Pinning the pieces



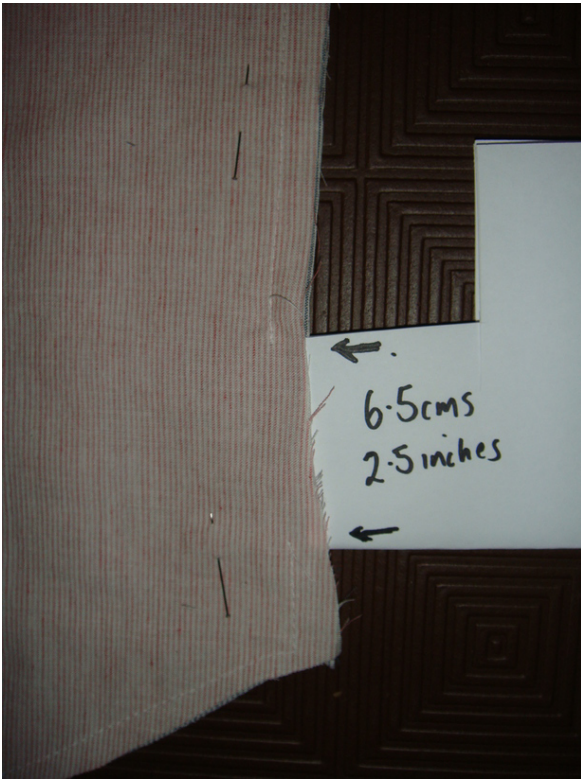
Pin your co-ordinating pieces together. For example, I cut one blue and one pink of each pattern piece, I am now pinning those pieces to each other. If your fabric has a right side, pin right sides together.

Step 3 — Choose your seams types and calculate seam allowances



Before you sew the co-ordinating pieces together you need to ensure you are leaving enough seam allowances for when the garment is finally constructed. In this technique, you are making up to two seams per seam allowance provided in your pattern. The first seam is where you sew the co-ordinating pieces together (in this example, the pink to the blue). The second seam is where you sew the garment's pieces together, as per the pattern instructions (e.g. a side seam). This means you will need to divide the seam allowances for sides of the pattern pieces that join other pieces. Taking 1.5cm (5/8 inch) as the standard seam allowance. Here is how I break it down: i) Seams that do *not* join other pieces - neckline, arm hole, bottom hem. You are only sewing one seam: Sew co-ordinates seam (pink to blue) with 1.5cm allowance ii) Seams that do join other pieces - shoulders; side seams; waist Depending on the type of seam you choose to join the garment pieces together you may or may not need to divide the seam allowance. The picture shows three types of seams: 1) Abutted seam - the fabric pieces do not overlap 2) Flat seam - the fabrics overlap by 0.5cm (2/8 inch) 3) Fleshed seam - the fabrics are pinched together by 0.5cm (2/8 inch) For seam 1) Sew co-ordinates seam with 1.5cm (5/8 inch) seam allowance For seams 2) and 3) Sew co-ordinates seam with 1cm (3/8 inch) seam allowance Leave 0.5cm (2/8 inch) for joining seam This is the trickiest step, so, if you make past here... you're home and hosed!

Step 4 — Sew co-ordinates (pink and blues) together



Sew together the pieces you pinned in step 2. Observe the seam allowances calculated in the last step, as you go. Leave a small opening on the side of each piece towards the bottom (or wherever you think is inconspicuous, but it must be on a side that joins another piece in final garment construction). I find 6-7cms (2.5 inches) is a good size. You will use this opening to turn the pattern pieces right-way-out in the next step.

Step 5 — Trim, press and turn



Trim corners and curves, where applicable. Iron open seams and turn right-side out. Also iron back seam allowance over the small opening, as if it were a seam.

Step 6 — Proofed piece complete!



Congratulations, this is your proofed pattern piece! Press flat and prepare for constructing it together with the other proofed pattern pieces to make your reversible outfit! Hand-stitching the final pieces together is consistent with the Alabama Chanin style. (In the next 3 steps I show stitch styles defined in step 3 - these are for reference. you don't need to follow them)

Step 7 — Reference 1) Abutted seams



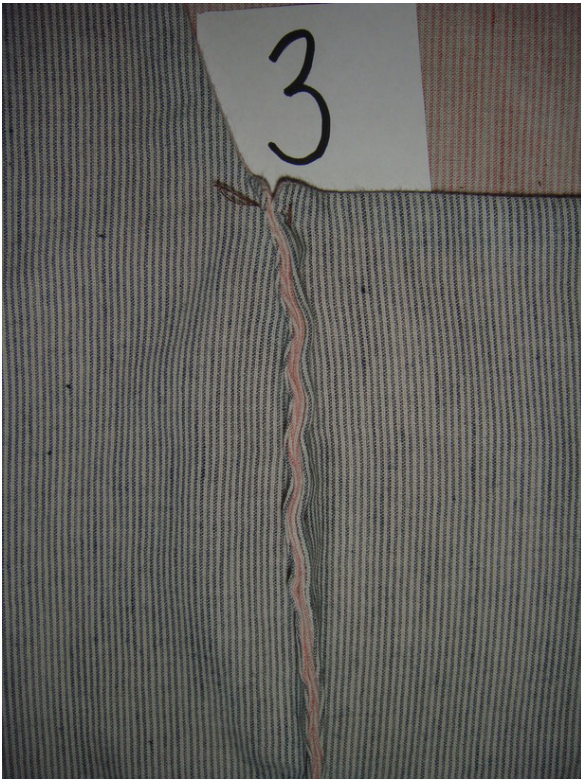
In this seam, the pattern pieces do not overlap. Position fabric pieces in line with each other and stitch. A whip stitch (from Alabam Studio Style) is shown in the picture. Another stitch you might want to try is a row of 'X's along the abutted pieces.

Step 8 — Reference 2) Flat seams



In this seam, the patterns pieces overlap. Pin pieces with overlap of 0.5cm (2/8 inch). A simple straight stitch (running stitch joins them together).

Step 9 — Reference 3) Fleshed seams



These look similar to the Alabama studio 'open felled seams on the right side' and have no raw edges instead you see the finished seam of the inside piece (the 'flesh'). You will only see the "flesh" on one side: when you turn the garment to wear it the other side out, the seam will appear as a clean join with no stitching visible. Have a look at the pink top and skirt in "Water and Jam":<http://www.burdastyle.com/projects/water-and-jam-proofed-pattern-piece-technique-and-fleshed-seams?i> Pin pieces exactly on top of each other with edges aligned. Pinch the fabric together and weave a straight stitch down the length of the edges, 0.5cm (2/8 inch) in from the aligned edges. (If this isn't clear, let me know and I'll get a better pic!)

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