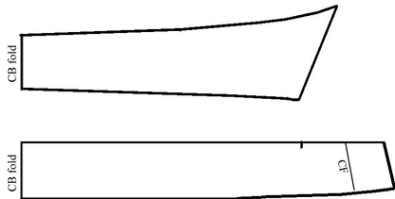


Drafting the Men's Shirt Collar

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/drafting-the-men-s-shirt-collar>



These instructions aim to help you understand how changes to the design of the collar affect the shape of the collar that you make as a result, and hence to guide you in making such changes. Although the shirt collar shown here is a standup collar for a man's shirt, similar considerations will also apply to collars on women's shirts or other types of collars, albeit under a wider range of variation. The principles remain common to all collars. Furthermore, these instructions complement those provided on drafting the men's shirt block. Note that I was inspired by two books in preparing this tutorial : Winifred Aldrich's book called "Metric Pattern Cutting for Menswear" and also the invaluable "Shirtmaking" by David Page Coffin. The latter is a mine of information about making shirts, with a special focus on men's shirts.

Step 1 — Laying out the lengthwise measurement for the collar stand



The collar block is made from Center Front (CF) to Center Back (CB), hence across half the length of the collar - it is made symmetrically for the other half, with a fold at CB. The length of the collar from CB to CF should ideally be obtained by measuring the neck size from the shirt block along the curve of the neck segments (i.e. the neck at the back and the neck from the front), using a flexible

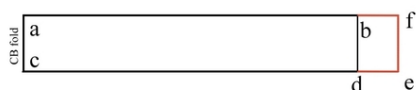
tape measure or a length of string. If the tape measure is used, make sure the same edge of the tape measure is flush against the paper for the whole length of the neckline. If your block includes a seam allowance, you may need to remove this from the measurement to ensure you get the right length. If you make a mistake, you can lengthen or shorten the collar by adding or subtracting fabric from the CB fold end of the collar block, as the shape is rectangular at this location. Then draw a horizontal line from point "a" to point "b", a distance of half the neck size measurement.

Step 2 — Drawing in the height of the collar stand



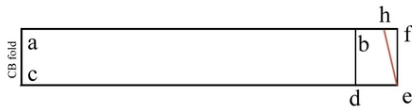
The height of the collar stand, like many aspects of the collar, is a choice of the individual designer. For a standard American men's shirt collar, a height of 3,5 cm (1 & 3/8 in.) may be used, but you are welcome to vary this. As a general rule, the higher you make the stand (especially at the front), the more the collar points will come together at the front of the shirt. Using whatever height you choose, draw from point "a" downwards this distance to point "c", across from point "c" to point "d" the collar stand length as before, and then connect points "b" and "d" with another straight line.

Step 3 — Extending the collar stand for the button stand



Depending on how you choose to modify the basic shirt block to include a button stand, you will need to extend the collar stand the same distance. Hence when you have determined this distance, extend the line from point "c" to point "d" to point "e" that distance, then draw up to point "f" and back horizontally to point "b".

Step 4 — Shaping the collar stand edge



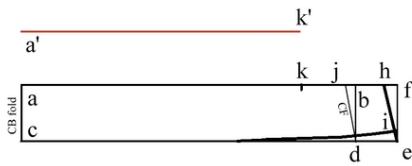
The bottom edge of the collar stand will be made to curve upwards (see instruction below). The edge of the collar must be orthogonal (at right angles) to the base of the shirt stand to look right - therefore we slant the edge inwards by roughly 0,75 cm (1/4 in.) along the top edge of the collar. If you were to steepen the curve along the bottom, you would need to slant the edge more heavily.

Step 5 — Shaping the collar stand bottom edge



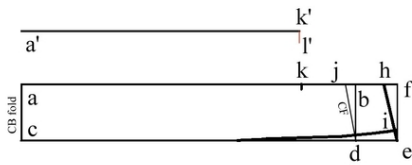
Now we curve the bottom edge of the collar stand upwards, by 0,5 cm (3/16 in.) at the neck edge. Note that the reason we showed this in this order was to keep the diagram simple - we are really only interested in the point where the curved edge meets line bd, not where it meets line de - doing the steps in this order means we can focus on the intersection with the correct edge.

Step 6 — Update the CF line



You should draw in the baseline of the collar (i.e. its lower edge) sufficiently far above the collar stand so as to leave room to draw in seam allowances and so forth.

Step 9 — Shaping the collar bottom edge - 1



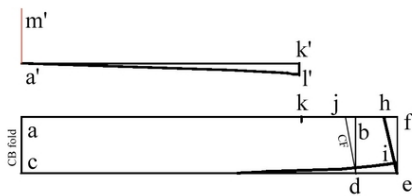
Now we begin shaping the curve along the collar's bottom edge. Measure 1 cm (3/8 in.) downward from point "k" and mark this location (point "l").

Step 10 — Shaping the collar bottom edge - 2



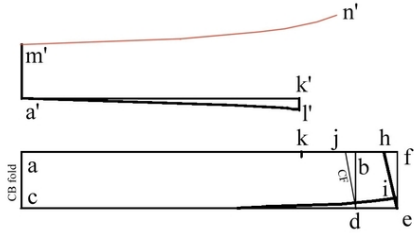
Draw in the curve from point " a' " to point " l' ", hence curving slightly downwards.

Step 11 — Laying out the height of the collar



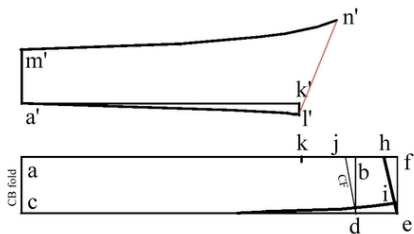
Now go back to point " a' " and draw vertically upwards to point " m' " the height of the collar. As for the collar stand, this distance is a choice of the designer. For a standard height, use 4,5 cm (1 & 7/8 in.), but even for classic men's shirt collars this can be as low as 4 cm (1 & 1/2 in.).

Step 12 — Drawing in the collar top curve



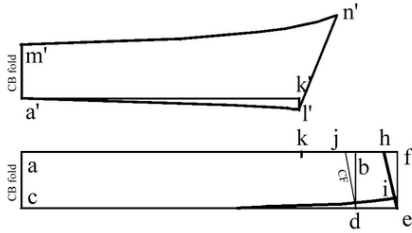
There are two design issues here : (1) How far do you locate the point to the right of where the edge meets the stand - this question also concerns the separation between the two collar points when fastened at the front ; and (2) How convex to you make the curve ? That is, do you curve it up only slightly and more or less evenly along its length, or do you pinch it up steeply near the collar point? Both designs are acceptable, the choice really depends on you as a designer.

Step 13 — Finishing the collar edge



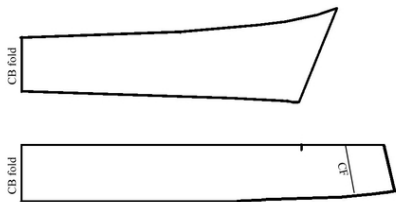
As for the top edge, you may choose to close off the neck edge of the collar point with a straight line, with a slightly concave edge (bulging outwards from the point) or with a convex edge (pinching inwards in a curve towards point " l' ").

Step 14 — Eliminating the construction lines



The two pieces are now complete, so retrace the collar and stand outlines in bold or copy them to another sheet of paper. A general note regarding collar shapes - changing a collar's shape has no effect on the overall fit, it is simply an issue of styling. Therefore feel free to change the collar shape and experiment.

Step 15 — Finishing the collar and collar stand



You will need to add in a seam allowance to both the collar and the collar stand. Note that, normally, these pieces are cut twice - most of the time, we use the same fabric for both sides of the collar and collar stand. Most books recommend a seam allowance of 0,5 cm (1/4 in.), but I find I prefer to use the standard seam allowance of 1,5 cm (5/8 in.), even though I have to trim the seams more heavily after sewing. Do what works for you. Note that you do not add a seam allowance to the left edge (the CB fold), as this will sit on the fold line of the fabric. You may also decide to add a button and button hole on respective sides, on the button stand section of the collar stand at a minimum, and perhaps also near the point of the collar if you're planning to button down the collar.