

# Beribboned Army Jacket

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/beribboned-army-jacket>

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I love a good Boy Meets Girl look. For this project, I reworked an old 1940s Eisenhower jacket Size 40 chest into a Size 4 cropped jacket. You can see more photos at [www.reluxia.com](http://www.reluxia.com) I love cutting into old vintage clothes and admiring all the hand stitching and layers of facings. Wool is also one of my fav fabrics to work with as it's so malleable. It's sculptural when combined with a good steam iron. For the best trim selection in my area, I ferreted through Britex fabrics until I found the right combo of trims: velvet, grosgrain, and just a little shine.

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## Step 1 — Pin the bottom hem



First, of all things, figure out the bodice length and shape you want by pinning. I decided to remove the bottom band and shorten the bodice by 4" in the front and 4 1/2" in the back. It'll be different for everyone depending on the original size you start with. If necessary, narrow the shoulders by measuring first, allowing for seam allowance. Cut off the sleeves, pin and mark the desired shoulder and chest with at sides. I also cut off the front pockets and flaps as they were too big. Plus I cut off the epaulettes and saved them for later.

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## **Step 2 — Reattach Sleeves**



Once you've sewn your side seams back to fit you, turn the jacket inside out and reattach your sleeves by pinning. Carefully try this on to see if it's going to be long enough. Make sure to estimate on the long side. You don't want to go through all this work and end up with sleeves too short! Sew on the sleeves, press and trim the now too big lining. Press lining around armhole. Attach lining by hand stitch. I had to do major sleeve surgery with 2 darts on the front of the sleeve. See <http://reluxia.com/2010/11/relux001-making-sleeve-surgery/> for full instructions. Hopefully you won't have to do this!

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### **Step 3 — Epaulette Details**



Press the lining around the base of the jacket with 1/2" seam allowance. Close lining by hand stitching. Now the fun part! Take the Epaulettes you removed in the first step. Position buttons and ribbons on them as you like. Take a photo once you get the positioning you like. Hand sew as many buttons and ribbons as you like to the epaulette. Hand stitch the epaulettes to the neckline under the collar and at shoulder seam. Add extra ribbon at bottom hem and cuff if you want. Have fun!

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## **Step 4 — The Original Jacket Size 40**





You can see why I cut everything off!

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## Step 5 — Finished!



Step 4 — The Original Jacket Size 40

I found some pleated ribbon and put it on the bottom hem. I could see wearing this jacket with a flowy tunic, leggings and boots too. Thanks for reading about my project. If you're interested in other projects I'm doing, please stop by [www.reluxia.com](http://www.reluxia.com). Cheers, Jenny

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## BurdaStyle

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