

How to draft and construct a Sailor Collar - "Fiskars Unzipped"

By: farahajh

<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/how-to-draft-and-construct->



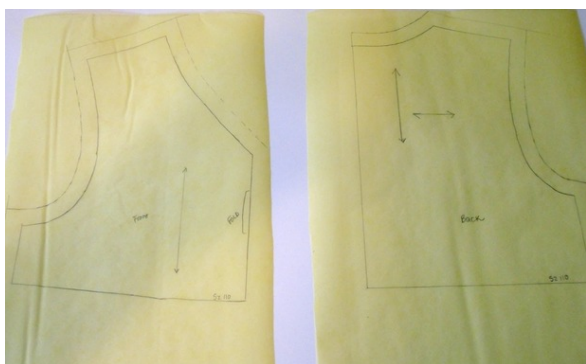
Learning to draft collars is one of the best and most useful sewing techniques I have acquired. Here I am going to show how to make a sailor collar for a child's dress, but this can be done on any garment. If you don't want a sailor's collar, draw whatever shape you would like!

Step 1 — Gather your supplies



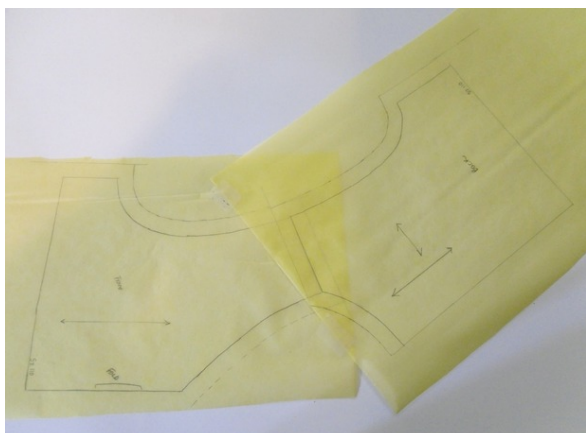
To start, you will need tracing paper, tape, a pencil, eraser, gridded ruler, and a French curve.

Step 2 — Your Bodice Pattern



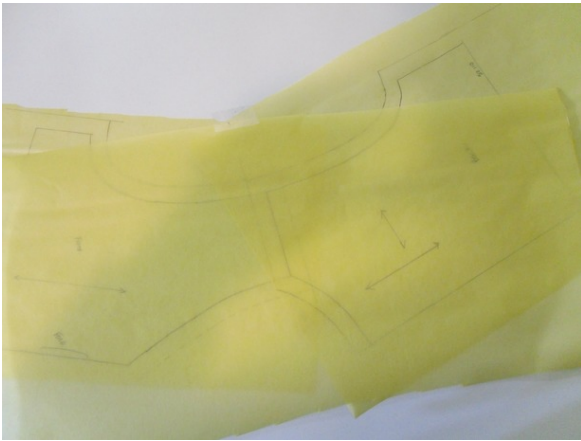
The bodice pattern I am using for this dress is a basic, straight top, with a v-neck. I didn't want a very low neck, so it's lower than most sailor necklines, and it is a v-neck with a slight curve on the sides, instead of straight lines. If you wanted a more traditional sailor look, make a deeper v-neck. Another common look is a deep V-neck, with a straight insert added behind the collar. We need the front and back bodice piece right now. I have drawn the seam-lines on for ease of drafting.

Step 3 — Tape the front and back bodice pieces together



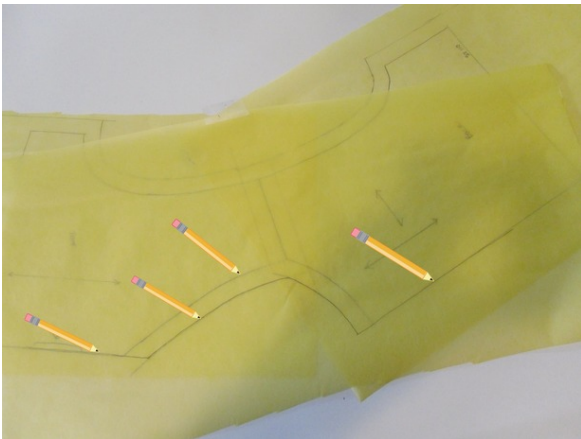
Line up the seam-lines at the shoulders, and tape them together.

Step 4 — Place a sheet of Tracing Paper over the neckline area.



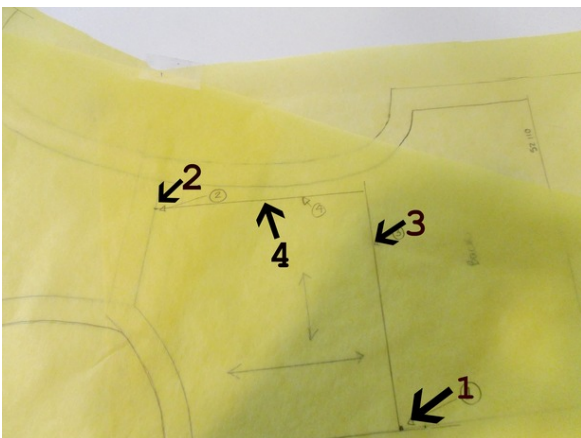
Tape a piece of tracing paper on top. Make sure the paper is big enough to cover the front and back neck and shoulders.

Step 5 — Start Drafting!



Trace the center front, neckline front, neckline back and the center back onto your tracing paper. Trace the seam allowances of the necklines as well. I have placed little pencils on the lines that should be traced.

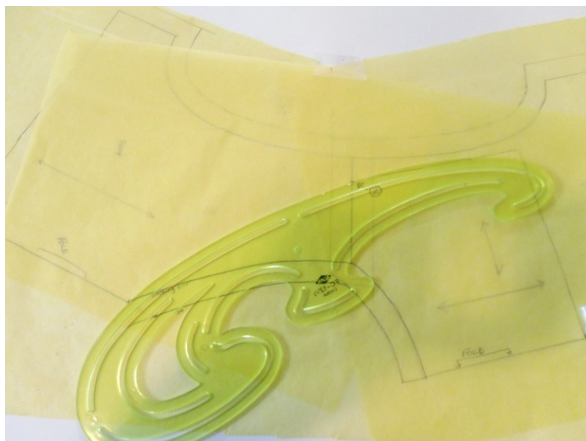
Step 6 — Draft the back collar



Step 4 — Place a sheet of Tracing Paper over the neckline area.

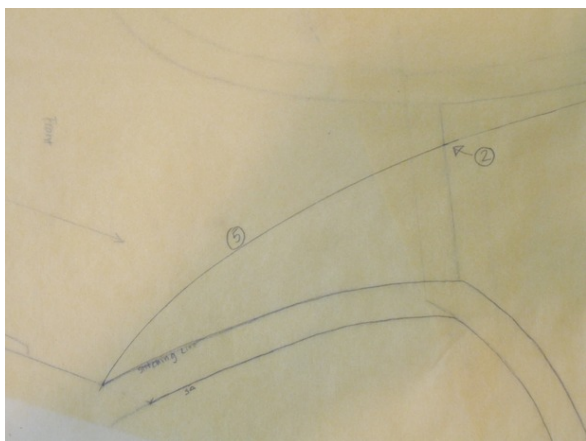
Make a mark on the center back line, marking the length of your back collar. For my child size, the mark was 4.5" down from the top of the back neck. This is Point 1 on the picture. Make a mark on the shoulder, marking the width of the collar at the shoulder. Mine was 2.5" from the neck edge at the shoulder. This is Point 2 on the picture. Draw a straight line, perpendicular to the center back, extending from point 1. This is line 3 on the picture. Draw a straight line, perpendicular to line 3, extending from line 3 to point 2. This is line 4 in the picture. You still with me?

Step 7 — Draft the front collar



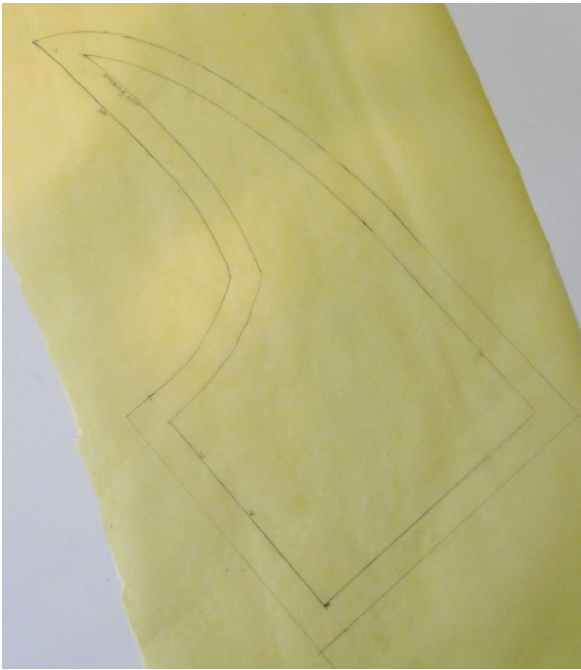
Using the French curve, draw a curved line from point 2 on the shoulder to the tip of the V on the front neckline. (Make sure you draw to the tip of the SEAM line, not the seam allowance). The curve should go straight along line 4 a bit before curving into the tip of the V. This is line 5.

Step 8 — Front collar



Here is what the front collar should look like.

Step 9 — Add seam allowances



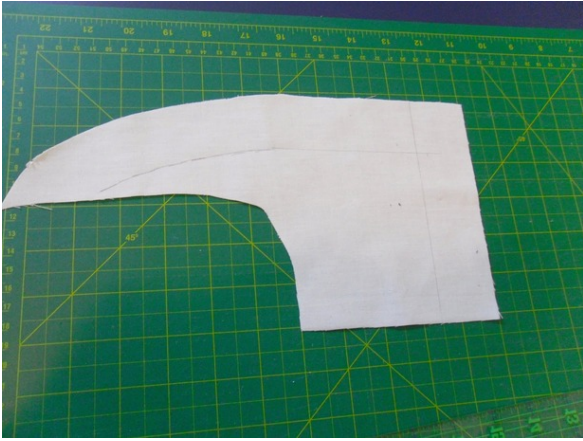
Draw on the seam allowances around your collar piece. The neckline seam allowance is conveniently already been drawn on! I used a 1/2 inch seam allowance.

Step 10 — Cut out your pattern pieces, and draft facings.



Shown here are the pattern pieces I used to make the dress, as well as the collar piece. There is no picture, but you will also need to draft facings for the front and back neck openings.

Step 11 — Cut out and prepare your collar.



Out of your collar fabric, cut out 4 collar pieces. With a pencil, or fabric marker, draw 2 lines around the outside edge on 2 of the collar pieces, 1.5" from the edge, as shown. (It's a little faint, but you can see the pencil marks)

Step 12 — Pin ribbon to the collar



Pin the grosgrain ribbon along your pencil marks as shown, easing the ribbon along the curved area.

Step 13 — Sew on the ribbon



Step 11 — Cut out and prepare your collar.

Sew along both edges of each piece of ribbon. Tip: for the longer curved ribbon pieces, sew the outside of the ribbon first, (the edge of the ribbon closest to the edge of the collar), then steam press the ribbon down to allow it to curve into shape on the collar, then sew down the inner edge of the ribbon.

Step 14 — Sew the collar pieces together.



Place 2 collar pieces, one with ribbon and one without, right sides together, with ribbon sandwiched inside, and sew along all sides except neckline. Clip corners and curves. trim seam allowances.

Step 16 — Pin collar to neckline of bodice.



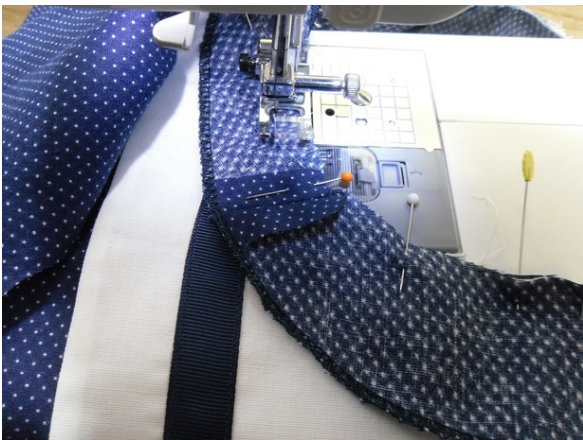
Sew shoulder seams of bodice. Pin the collar pieces to the outside (right side) neck edge.

Step 17 — Pin facing to the neckline.



Pin the facing on top of the collar, right sides together.

Step 18 — Sew on the collar and facings.



Using 1/2" seam allowance, sew on the collar and facings by sewing around neckline. trim and grade the seam allowances, clip seam allowances on curves and middle of the v. Under stitch seam allowance to the facings. Press facings inside and collar down on outside.

Step 19 — Add bow, and you're done!



Step 17 — Pin facing to the neckline.

Using a 17" piece of ribbon, tie a bow and sew it at the bottom of the v-neck. The bow serves 3 purposes, first, securing the front facing from flipping out, second, hiding a less than perfect v-neck and tips of the collar, and third, looking adorable! enjoy your sailor collar!

Step 15 — Turn collar and press.



Turn collar pieces right side out. use a point turner or a knitting needle to push out the corners. Press collar pieces.

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Step 19 — Add bow, and you're done!