

# How to Sew Scallop Tucks

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/how-to-sew-scallop-tucks>

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Tucks like this have been very popular with sewists almost since sewing began. Even with hand stitching, this is a relatively easy way to add interest and texture to a garment. Although the idea has been around for a long time, I am seeing it pop up again in RTW (ready-to-wear) in a myriad of ways, many of which have inspired me like never before. But first, let's get to how this is done. (Lesson developed by Heather Claus.)

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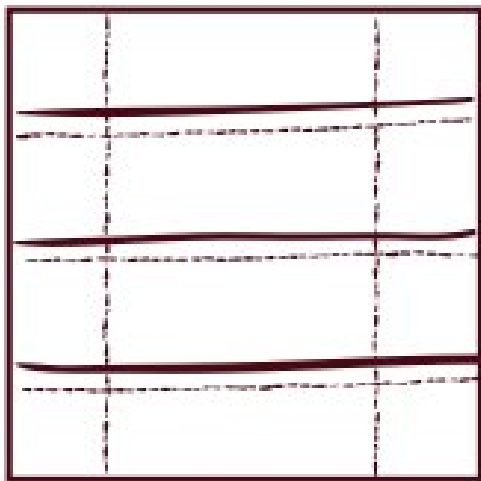
## Step 1 — Measure and Mark Tucks



Begin with a piece of fabric, and choose whether you will be matching the thread or using a contrasting color for interest. Mark out the tuck spacing that you prefer. I have found that 1-2 inches between horizontal lines is good. If your tucks are 1/\* inch, double this and add it to your measurement, for 1 1/4 - 2 1/4â— If you prefer wider tucks, say 1/4â— do the same, for a result of 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 inches. I have found it easiest to press my tuck edges well before I sew them. Sew in your tucks, and press towards the top of the fabric, all in one direction. Mark in your vertical stitching lines about 2-4 inches apart.

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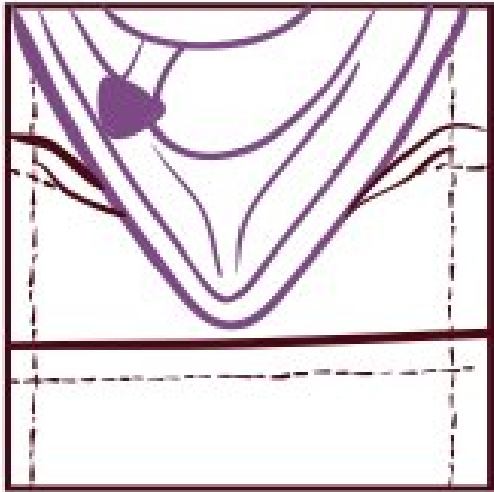
## Step 2 — Sew Vertical Guides



Sew on your vertical guides from the bottom up, keeping your tucks pressed towards the top of the fabric.

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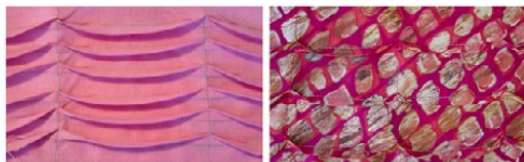
## Step 3 — Press Tucks



Using an your fingers, a knitting needle or an awl and working with your iron, begin pressing the tucks between the verticals down towards the bottom of the fabric, creating a scalloped effect, as shown.

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## Step 4 — Considerations



This technique will stiffen a fabric somewhat. The closer together you place the tucks, the stiffer the fabric will become. Tucks in stiffer fabrics should be wider and the verticals spaced further apart, to allow the scallops to lie flat. Drapier fabrics may have smaller tucks and shorter space between the vertical stitching. The base fabric for this technique should be slightly drapier than the pattern calls for in most cases. Natural fibers and other fabrics that press well will allow the scallops to lie flatter. This technique is best created on yardage or out-lined yardage, as the size of the fabric will change drastically. Use solids or subtle patterns, as the scallops will get lost in an overly patterned fabric (see examples in photo).

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