

Sleeve Alterations- Rushed top sleeves

By: Sewing And Style

<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/sleeve-alterations-rushed-top-sleeves>



A very easy tutorial on re-fashioning a boring jersey top by adding fun rushed the sleeves!

Step 1 — Old Sleeves Off



using small scissors or a seam ripper, carefully break the armhole seam threads and remove the old sleeve

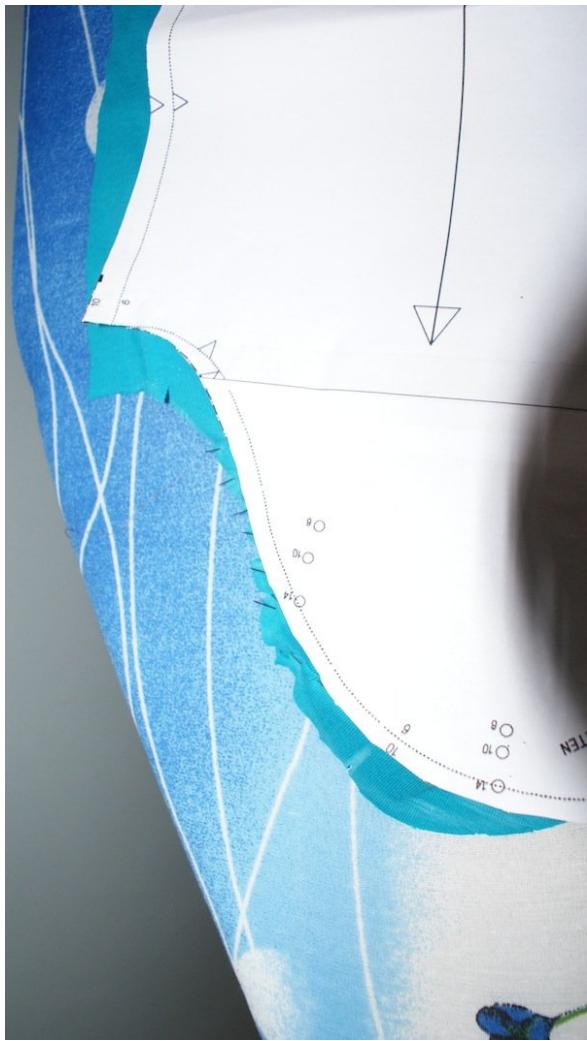
Step 2 — Design New Sleeves



Now we will design a new sleeve. I used a sleeve pattern from my last project, but really any pattern of a basic simple one-piece sleeve will do. (Mine has the allowances already added, check with the pattern company if you need to add allowance to it yourself.) Take the second top you got and place the sleeve

pattern on it, so that the bottom finished hem of the top becomes the hem of your sleeves (you can cut your top along side seams and trace each sleeve individually, but I just aligned the bottom hem of my top and traced on a double fabric, so both of my sleeves are identical when cut. Now we need to add the height to the sleeve cap in order to use that excess fabric to form ruffles later. I added 15cm, but it is entirely up to you. Trace the sleeve along the pattern on the side seams and on the start of the sleeve caps up about 2-3 inches , then draw a new cap as high as you wish- the higher the cap- the more frequent or deeper folds can be formed later on. Mark the very centre top of the sleeve and mark the point where your drawing leaves the pattern line.

Step 3 — Fold away



This is a step where you can go wild if you wish, you can do whatever you want here. The basic version: on the cap sleeve form equal size folds symmetrically starting from the top mark to the point where you started drawing the extended cap. Make sure the cap matches the pattern piece -it should fit into the armhole at the end.

Step 4 — Secure The Folds



Using the longest straight stitch on your sewing machine staystitch the folds, stitching slowly over the pins. The pins much be placed strictly across your stitch line so they do not break the machine needle

Step 5 — Attach the Sleeve to the Armhole



Sew the side seam of the sleeve. (If you are not comfortable sewing the sleeve into a hole, you can undo your top's side seams a little and sew in your sleeve flat. Later you can fold the sleeve right side in and sew the sleeve's and top's side seam at the same time.) Pin the sleeve to the armhole aligning the top centre mark to the top's shoulder seam, make sure the sleeve cap fits easily into the armhole and there is no excess fabric that will get caught up and pluck in your armhole seam. Pin frequently and check that everything fits together before stitching. Beware: Basting is very important in these last two steps, always baste everything first before stitching- it can save you hours of painful seam ripping! When working with jersey on your sewing machine you should use a narrow zigzag seam. Look for a kind of crooked zig-zag seam if you have one on your machine- it works better than a normal zigzag and very flexible to work with knits. Always experiment on some fabric scraps with a new stitch to get the best width/length that will work best on that fabric.

Step 6 — Finishing Touches



Check the right side of the top- you should have an evenly ruffled sleeve and no plucking on either side of the armhole seam. Cut your seam allowance to 1cm. Using your overlock or a zig-zag stitch on the sewing machine finish the raw edges on the armhole and sleeve side seam.

Step 7 — You are Done



Now try it on- you have yourself a pretty jazzed up brand new ruffled sleeve top

BurdaStyle

Sleeve Alterations- Rushed top sleeves