

Piping On Knits

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/piping-on-knits--3>



This is a method I made up for piping on knits. My base fabric is a very light knit(the kind from your nightmares) and I did the piping with knit ribbing. The ribbing is heavier than my base knit and I got beautiful results so I think this would work even better on a medium or heavy weight knit. When I decided on this detail the first thing I did was try the traditional piping technique (a tube with stuff in it) the results was a very weighted down seam and the slightest inconsistency in my seam allowance showed. So I searched the net for tips but when I found none I decided to write one from my experience, this is my first time writing a how to. The piping is actually not a tube but a strip that takes advantage of ribbing's tendency to curl when stretched on the cross grain.

Step 1 — Cut Your Strips



For piping that is 1/2" wide cut strips 1 1/8" wide (1/2" seam allowance is included), by 2' shorter than the desired length on the cross grain of your knit ribbing. So for my shirt I needed 11" strips of piping so I cut strips 1 1/8" x 8".

Step 2 — Stretch The Strips



While holding each short end stretch the strips so that they curl and grow in length.

Step 3 — Baste Strips



Lay the strip down next to the desired seam, carefully unroll one end and hand baste it to the seam edge.

Step 4 — Baste Seam



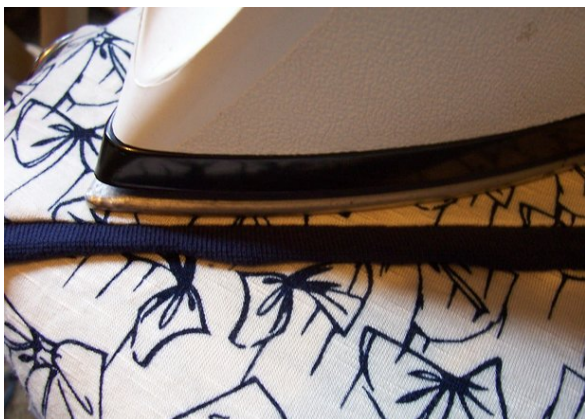
Hand baste the corresponding pattern piece on top of the ribbing. Make sure that the curl is out side the seam allowance.

Step 5 — Sew The Seam



Sew the seam (with 1/2" seam allowance for the given widths), I put a lace tape in my seams to stabilize and prevent over stretching because the ribbing is heavier than my base knit. Do not stretch while sewing!

Step 6 — Press



I did all my pressing from the front. I pressed the seam allowance above my piping, the piping hangs down and the seam allowance is above it.

Step 7 — More Pressing



Next I pressed under the piping being careful not to press the actual piping because you dont want to flatten it.

Step 8 — Recurl



Very lightly with your pointer finger and thumb push any of the showing raw edge under, reforming any part of the curl that got flattened.

Step 9 — Pine The Ends



Lastly I pinned the curl down at the ends so that it would not flatten at any seams it's ends go into.

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