

*Pattern Design Guides by Don McCunn***Knit Tops with Sleeves**

These instructions show how to create two variations of knit tops with sleeves from the basic fitted sloper.

The instructions have been prepared for Don McCunn's online class "How to Make a Sleeve Sloper."

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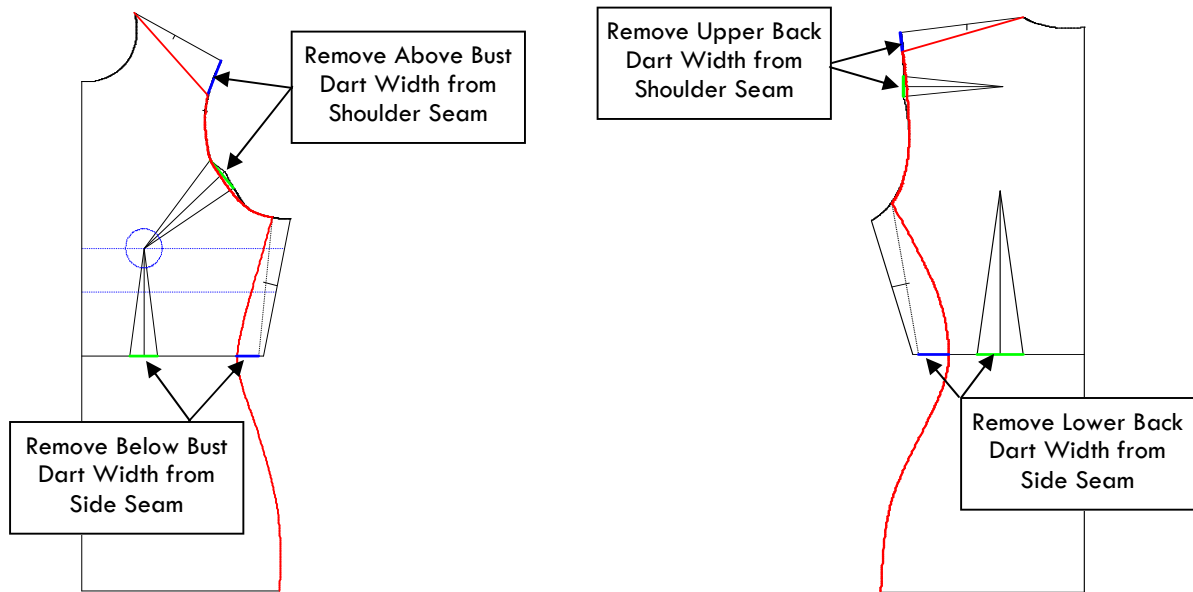
Knit Tops with Sleeves

by Don McCunn

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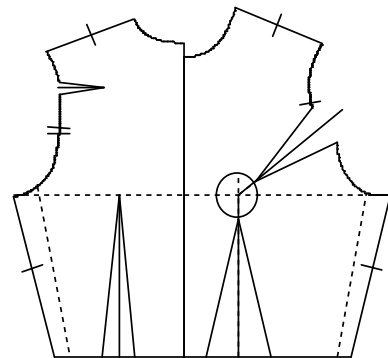
Creating Upper Torso Slopers for Knits



My initial research for converting Slopers for woven fabrics to knits indicates the following:

- Remove the shaping of darts for above the bust by increasing the angle of the shoulder seam.
- Remove the shaping for darts below the bust from the side seam.
- There should be no ease at the bust, waist, or hip level.

Use the chart below to determine where the body is located within the Sloper. In the illustrations above, the location of the body at the side seam is indicated by the dotted lines. When you measure the pattern at the waist, do not include the dart widths.



	Pattern Width	Body	Difference	Divide by	Width to Subtract
Bust		Bust/2: _____		2	#1: _____
Waist		Waist/2: _____		2	#2: _____

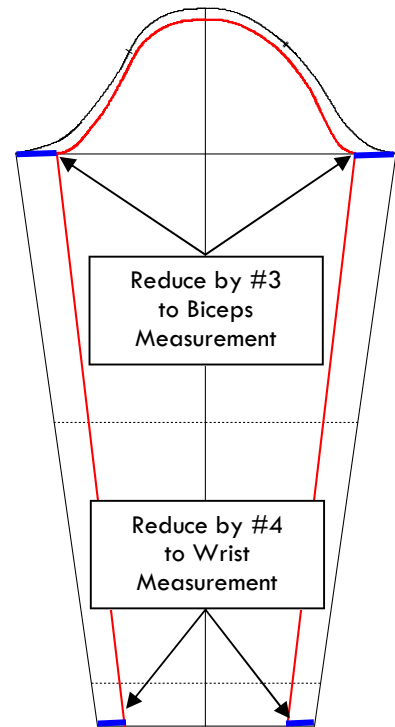
Knit Tops with Sleeves, cont'd

Creating a Sleeve Sloper for Knits

To change the Sleeve Sloper for knits, remove the ease from the Biceps line and reduce the cuff to the Wrist measurement. The Sleeve cap will need to be redrawn to the new width of the Biceps line.

To verify that a given knit has enough stretch, hold it to the width of the adjusted pattern then see if you can stretch it to the size of the pattern for woven fabric.

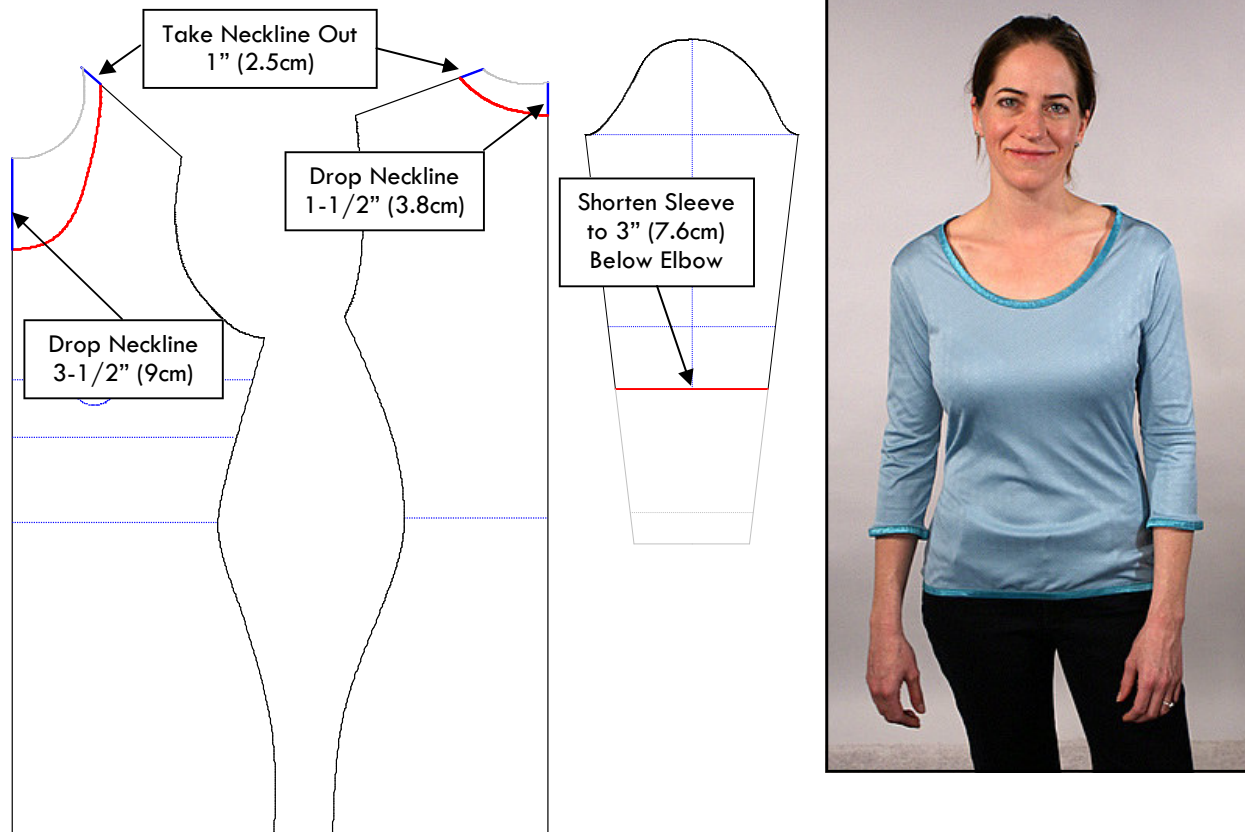
Normally the amount of ease in relationship to the body measurement is so slight there should be more than enough stretch in the knit. But you do need to be careful that you are cutting the fabric so that the direction of most stretch goes around the body. Some knits have the greatest stretch lengthwise and some width wise.



	Pattern Width	Body	Difference	Divide by	Width to Subtract
Biceps		Biceps: _____		2	#3: _____
Wrist		Wrist: _____		2	#4: _____

Knit Tops with Sleeves, cont'd

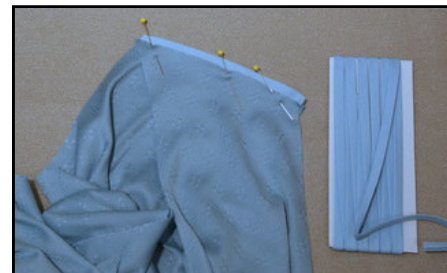
Close Fitting Knit Top with Sleeve



I've indicated the simple changes I made to the Knit Sloper above for this garment. When you create a knit pattern, it obviously depends on the stretch of the fabric you are using. So you should always do a trial baste before you do the final sewing. I used 1" (2.5cm) seam allowances for the side seam. Center Front and Center Back are cut on the fold. I used fold over elastic to finish the edges and bias tape to reinforce the shoulder seam to prevent it from stretching and throwing off the fit.

Sewing the Close Fit Knit Top

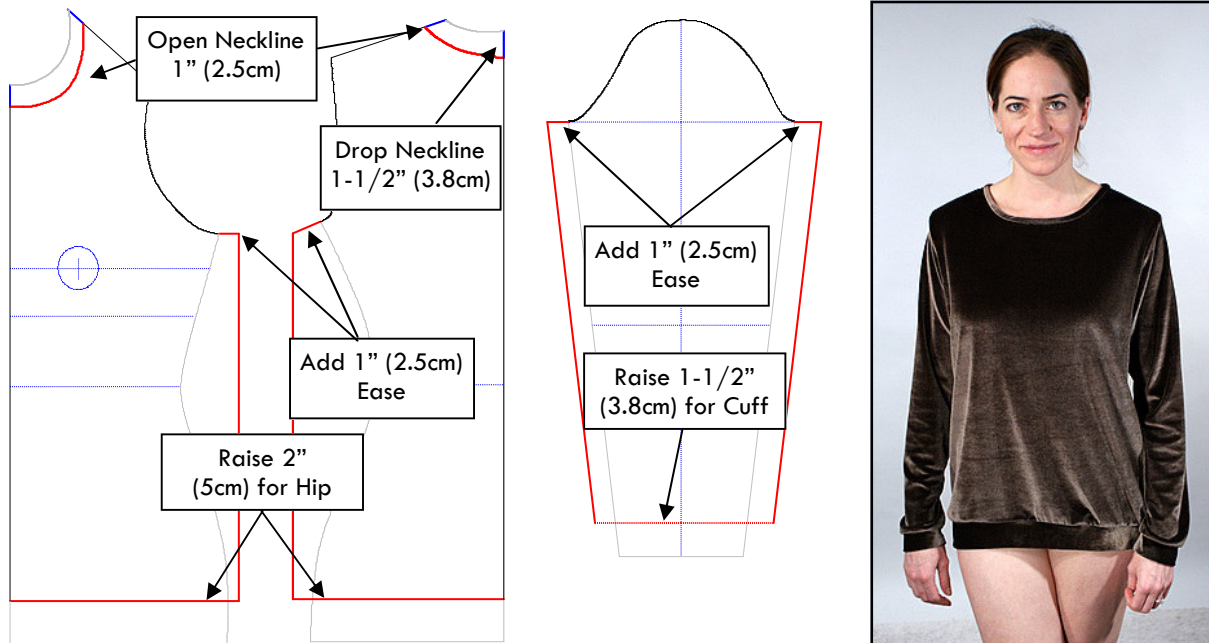
1. Add 1/4" (6mm) seam allowances to the shoulder seam and 1" (2.5cm) seam allowances to the side seams. All edges are cut to the design lines.
2. Cut the fabric using the patterns.
3. Pin the front to the back, right sides together.
4. Sew the side seams and shoulder seams using a 1mm zigzag 3mm length.
5. Press open double fold bias tape, then pin it to the shoulder seam matching the center of the bias tape to the edge of the seam allowance.
6. Sew the bias tape with a straight stitch, then press closed.
7. Sew the bias tape closed.
8. Repeat steps 5 through 7 to apply the fold over elastic to the neckline, cuffs, and hem of the garment.



Shoulder Seam reinforced with Bias Tape

Knit Tops with Sleeves, cont'd

Sweat Shirt

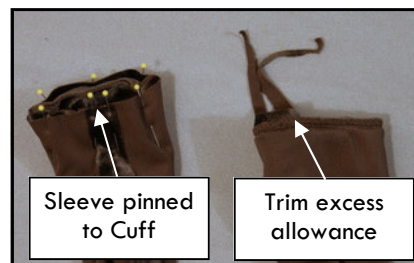


I've indicated the simple changes I made to the Knit Sloper above for this garment. The neckline is opened so the garment can be pulled over the head. The side seams are expanded for additional ease and taken straight down to the hips. The length of the Knit Sloper is lengthened from the waist by the Crotch Depth measurement (#39). The hem and cuff are shortened for the bands that finish the edges.

The cuff band finishes 1-1/2" (3.8cm) wide and uses the Palm measurement (#14). The band at the hip finishes 2" (5cm wide) and uses the Hip measurement (#15). Center Front and Center Back are cut on the fold. I used bias tape to reinforce the shoulder seam to prevent it from stretching and throwing off the fit.

Sewing the Sweat Shirt

1. Add 1/4" (6mm) seam allowances to the shoulder seam and 1" (2.5cm) seam allowances to the side seams. All edges are cut to the design lines.
2. Cut the fabric using the patterns.
3. Pin the front to the back, right sides together.
4. Sew the side seams and shoulder seams using a 1mm zigzag 3mm length.
5. Press open double fold bias tape, then pin it to the shoulder seam matching the center of the bias tape to the edge of the seam allowance.
6. Sew the bias tape with a straight stitch, then press closed.
7. Sew the bias tape closed.
8. Measure around the neckline of the pattern, double the length and add 1" (2.5cm) for seam allowance, then cut a length of fashion fabric this length that is 1-1/2" wide (3.8cm).
9. Pin the ends of the neck band, good sides together, to form a loop then sew.
10. Pin the neckband to the neckline, good sides together, then sew using a 1mm zigzag 3mm length.
11. Turn the neckband to the inside to create a 1/2" finished band, then stitch-in-the-ditch from the front.
12. Cut the band for the hips using the measurements described above.
13. Pin the ends of the neck band, good sides together, to form a loop then sew.
14. Fold the hip band in half, wrong sides together, then pin to the good side of the body of the garment and sew.
15. Repeat steps 12 through 14 for the cuffs.



Sewing the Cuff to the Sleeve