**Knit Neck and Armhole Edges**

Necklines and armholes on a knit garment are usually finished in one of the following ways. These samples will allow you some choice of how you will want to finish your neck and or armhole edges.

**Types of Finishes**

**Hemmed Edge** – works with the stretch of a knit but not a weave because both the neck and armhole have curves. If the pattern suggests rolling the edge twice, consider folding it over only once for ease of sewing. Secure the inner edge of the hem, using a twin needle or the Cover Pro machine.

**Faced Edge** – this works best if you have a complex shape to stabilize, like a sweetheart sharp or V neck. Support the facing with a knit or other light interfacing

**Facing thin Edge** – this finished off the edge of the neck or armhole without adding any extra material or having it be bulky

**Band or Ribbed Edge** – This work well if you want the band to show as a visible extension of the garment edge, like the ribbing of a sweatshirt but much narrower. The band is cut shorter than the open to allow the garment to hug the body.

**Bound Edge** – This works well if you want an edge to show but NOT extend out past the seam edge. The band is cut shorter than the open to allow the garment to hug the body.

**For the Samples**

* For each sample use the pattern pieces provided and cut the neck or armhole shape in the knit fabric provided.
* Sew using the instructions and when finished self-evaluate your progress using the criteria under the sample information.
* I will look at it with you for your final evaluation and feedback.
* **When starting to sew your knit fabric, start a little in from the edge and hold both threads to ensure that your machine does NOT EAT your material!!!! Start by stitching backwards towards the beginning then go forwards**
* If your machine skips stitches you will need a different needle for knit material.

****

1. **Hemmed Edge –** Used the curved front neck piece and cut one
   1. **Press** the neck curve 1.5cm toward the WRONG side and pin in place. (Make sure your pins are perpendicular to the edge.
   2. Topstitch with a very narrow zigzag (0.5/C/2.5) from the **RIGHT side** 1 cm from the folded edge (you may need to pull a little on your material in order for it to fit.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Skill** | Yes – you got it | Partially – small mistake | Not quite – may need to redo |
| Pressed even & correct amount |  |  |  |
| Sewn straight, end to end |  |  |  |
| Backstitched at beginning and end and 1 cm from the folded edge |  |  |  |
| Threads are trimmed close – looks professional |  |  |  |

1. **Thin Facing Neck Edge** (Stitch a band and turn to wrong side) – Use the curved neckline front from your knit fabric.
   1. Measure the seam line; the curve of the neck from end to end ( \_\_\_\_\_\_\_) take 10% of the number & subtract from neck line.
      1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (neck edge at 1.5 cm seam allowance) Take 10% of your neck edge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Neck edge – 10% = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ length to cut your facing**

* 1. Cut your binding the length you calculated X 2” wide
  2. Pin the binding to the neckline, RIGHT SIDES together, matching ends and center
  3. Sew in a narrow zigzag (.5) ,stitch length 2.5 at a 1.5cm seam allowance
  4. Keep the edges even and STRETCH the band to fit. If your fabric edges curls - add more pins
  5. Turn the neck band away from garment, press so seam is crisp, Trim seam allowance to ¼” of seam
  6. Pin band to the wrong side of the material.
  7. Topstitch approximately .6 cm or very close to the edge of the neck, use the edge of the pressure foot as a guide.
  8. Trim the binding as close to the topstitching with the DUCK BILLED scissors

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Skill** | Yes – you got it | Partially – small mistake | Not quite – may need to redo |
| Seam sewn using 0.5 zigzag |  |  |  |
| Band stretched evenly |  |  |  |
| Ends even and center lines up with center of shirt |  |  |  |
| Seam crisp and topstitch is even and straight |  |  |  |
| Extra seam allowance trimmed close to the stitching |  |  |  |
| Threads are trimmed close – looks professional |  |  |  |

1. **Facing Edge with Shape** – Use the square neck piece and cut one on FOLD. Mark the dots. Cut the facing piece from the same fabric and a matching piece of interfacing with the **STABLE grain** going sideways/across the grain to keep the knit from stretching out.
   1. Press the interfacing to the wrong side of the facing and mark the dots (use a press cloth)
   2. Pin the facing to the RIGHT side of the neckline and sew with a straight stitch around the neck, pivoting at the 2 corners. (use a **regular straight** stitch as it will not be stretched)
   3. Clip both layers diagonally towards the corners.
   4. Press the facing and seam allowance AWAY from the garment
   5. UNDERSTITCH approx. 1/8” (3-4 **mm**) away from the seam through the facing and seam allowance – (0/A/2.5) **use the center of your presser foot as a guide, turn your Stitch width to 1 or 0.**
   6. Now press the facing in toward the inside of the neck

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Skill** | Yes – you got it | Partially – small mistake | Not quite – may need to redo |
| Interfacing applied securely and on the *correct grain* |  |  |  |
| Facing sewn right sides together  Seam 1.5cm, straight stitch |  |  |  |
| Pivoted on the dots |  |  |  |
| Clips cut far enough but not through the seam |  |  |  |
| Under stitched facing layers close, seam crisp |  |  |  |
| Facing press to the inside and lays flat |  |  |  |
| Threads are trimmed close – looks professional |  |  |  |

1. **Band Edging** – Use the curved neckline front from your knit fabric.
   1. Measure the seam line; the curve of the neck from end to end ( \_\_\_\_\_\_\_) take 10% of the number & subtract from neck line. **(Same as Sample 2)**
   2. Cut your band the length you calculated X 2” wide
   3. Fold the 2” strip WRONG sides together lengthwise and press lightly.
   4. Mark the center of the neckline
   5. Pin the neckband to the neckline, RIGHT SIDES together, matching ends and center
   6. Sew in a narrow zigzag (.5) ,stitch length on 2.5 at a 1.5cm seam allowance
   7. Keep the edges even and STRETCH the band to fit. If your fabric edges curls - add more pins
   8. Press the seam allowance towards the garment but the neck band away front the garment.

Make sure the seam is crisp

* 1. Topstitch in place .6 cm or less from the seam on the right side to hold the seam down.
  2. Trim the extra seam allowance (on the Wrong Side) as close to your topstitch

**Use the special DUCK BILLED scissors**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Skill** | Yes – you got it | Partially – small mistake | Not quite – may need to redo |
| Seam 1.5cm, straight using 0.5 zigzag |  |  |  |
| Band stretched evenly |  |  |  |
| Ends even and center of band in the center |  |  |  |
| Seam crisp and topstitch is even and straight |  |  |  |
| Extra seam allowance trimmed close to stitching |  |  |  |
| Threads are trimmed close – looks professional |  |  |  |