

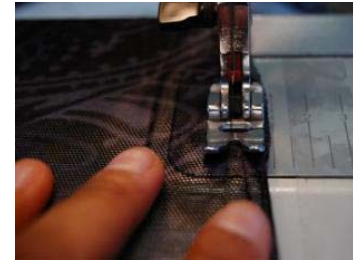


Travel Trio Three - #226 Shirred Turtleneck

To make this top, stretch netting in a matching print was used for the turtleneck and shirred upper front. Light and airy, this netting definitely helps make this piece a wonderful addition to your spring/summer wardrobe.

Don't forget to mark your center points, notches, and dots. I like taking a small clip into the fabric where these occur. These are especially important when lining up a gathered edge to a straight edge.

When sewing the gathering stitches, consult machine manual to change foot pressure settings because you do not want the machine pulling this lightweight fabric with the same intensity as it would a heavyweight fabric. The wrong settings will stretch and pull the netting and most likely lead to a frustrating experience. Test it out. Once you have done that, it should gently feed the fabric through and make it easier to control. The three rows of basting stitches really help you to achieve an evenly gathered edge; so don't eliminate any of them.



In step 2, after making sure the upper and lower front are lined up correctly by matching dots and notches, and after evenly distributing gathers, I basted the two layers by hand. I think this guarantees you will be happy with this seam after the first try. Yes, it's an extra step but overall I feel it saves you the time of doing it over.

Following steps 3-6 were pretty straightforward so, onto step 7. In this step we are doing our three rows of gathering stitches on the top edge of the upper front after we have attached the sleeve fronts. Make sure to continue the gathering stitches ½ inch past the end of the seam and into the sleeve. Gathering looses its steam towards the end of gathering stitches and you don't want that to happen in this crucial area of the upper top. When the garment is complete, these essential gathers close to the seam will ensure that this fullness is controlled, causing the upper piece to lie like this / \ and not pull outwards like this \ /.



In step 8, the pattern piece marked template 5 is used as a guideline to shape the top edge of the upper front. Gather this edge so that the upper front will mirror the contour of the template underneath. Lock in this edge with a single needle stitch and continue on your merry way, its all smooth sailing from here.

Steps 9-11 are a breeze.

Step 12 attaches the serged turtleneck edge to the neck hole of the shirt with the gathered side facing up. Make sure that the gathers are not tucking and the turtleneck is stretched slightly to fit the neckline while sewing.

Now, all you have left is underarm seams, side seams and hemming in steps 13-15.

Step 16: work it!

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Fabrics from the 2010 Spring/Summer Collection: MP714 Paisley in Blues & Gray Mesh and PRT712 Paisley in Blues & Gray (Poly/LYCRA Knit).