

COLLARS

Collars are an important part of a garment because they serve as the frame for your face. Since we tend to focus on the face, the styling and application of a collar is important to your looks and the look of your garment.

Let's begin by defining the parts of a collar. The **stand** is from the neckline seam to the roll line. The **fall** is from the roll line to the outer edge. The **roll** line is where the collar rolls over.



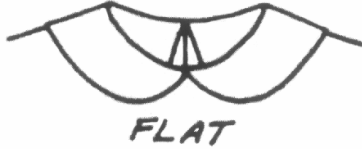
TERMS TO KNOW

- **Basting** – Temporarily holds fabric pieces together. Can be done by hand, machine, or pins.
- **Clip** – cut to, not through the stitching or seam line.
- **Fuse** – to join two layers of fabric using heat, moisture, and pressure with fusible web or to apply interfacing to fabric without stitching.
- **Grade** (layer) – cutting enclosed seam allowances in different widths to reduce bulk.
- **Interfacing** – fabric used for shaping, reinforcing, or giving body to fashion fabric.
- **Match** – putting two pieces of fabric together matching notches and dots OR lining up fabric designs on adjacent pattern piece.
- **Miter** – reducing bulk by folding out excess fullness diagonally to make a right angle corner.
- **Pivot** – turning a corner. Leave machine needle in the fabric, raise presser bar lifter, turn fabric, lower presser foot and stitch in a different direction.
- **Reinforce** – strengthening an area by using short stitches.
- **Right Side** – outside of the garment, the outside of the fabric, or the right half of the garment.
- **Staystitching** – regular machine stitching done with the grain inside the seamline to prevent stretching of the grainline.
- **Understitching** – stitching used to prevent a facing or under collar seam from rolling to the outside.
- **Wrong Side** – the inside of the fabric or garment.

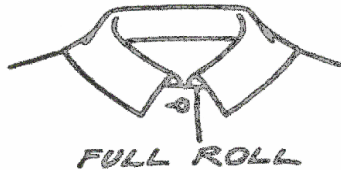
Types

There are several types of collars. The three basic types are flat, standing, and rolled.

- **Flat** – lies flat and next to the garment at the neckline. When the corners are rounded, they are called Peter Pan.



- **Full Roll** – the fall and stand are about the same height at center back.



- **Partial Roll** – has less stand and more fall.

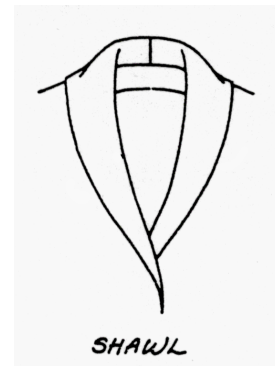


Other types are:

- **Convertible** – similar to a full roll, but hugs the neckline closer at the sides of the neck/shoulder.



- **Shawl** – recognized by its center back seam. The undercollar is cut as part of the bodice.



- **Mandarin** – a stand-up collar (all stand and no fall).

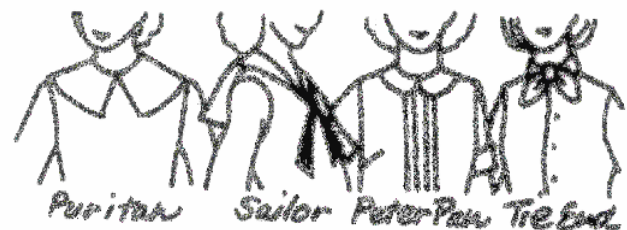


- **Shirt** – has a separate neckband that serves as the stand.



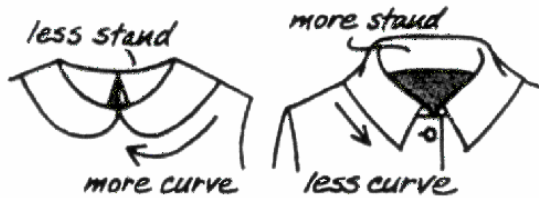
STYLES

There are many different collar styles such as sailor, bertha, chelsea, puritan, notch, stove-pipe, tie, Peter Pan.



DETERMINING COLLAR STAND

How much stand a collar has, is related to the shape of its neckline edge. The straighter the neck edge, the more stand. The more curved the neck edge, the less the stand.



STANDARDS FOR COLLARS

A well-applied collar should:

- be smooth and free from wrinkles. The outer edge seam should not be visible from the right side.
- Have smooth curves or sharp points (the same shape and length) depending on the type and style of the collar.
- fit neckline area without unsightly gaps or wrinkles.
- be interfaced properly to maintain shape.
- be understitched along the outer seam edge to encourage the seam to roll to the under side.
- be well pressed.
- have enclosed seam graded to reduce bulk.



INTERFACING

Selection

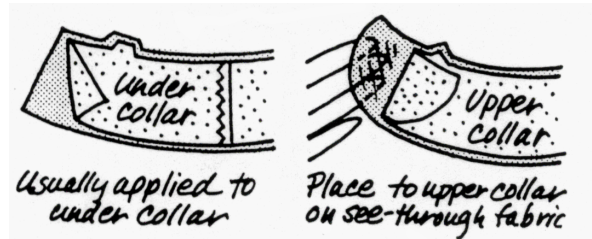
- Select an interfacing fabric that provides stability and shape to the collar.
- Select one that is the same or lighter in weight than the fashion fabric.
- When using knits or stretch fabrics, select an interfacing fabric that "gives" when the fabric is stretched.



For additional information on interfacing, obtain a copy of **CT-LMH-183 Interfacing**.

Application

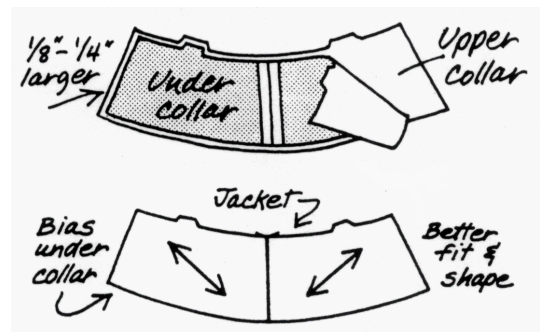
The fashion fabric will determine whether the interfacing is applied to the under or upper collar. Generally speaking, the interfacing is applied to the undercollar. However, when using fusible interfacing, attach it to the uppercollar on see-through fabrics, and heavy fabrics.



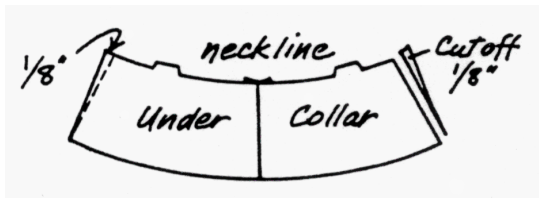
MAKING A COLLAR

These general rules apply to flat, full roll, partial roll, and convertible collar applications:

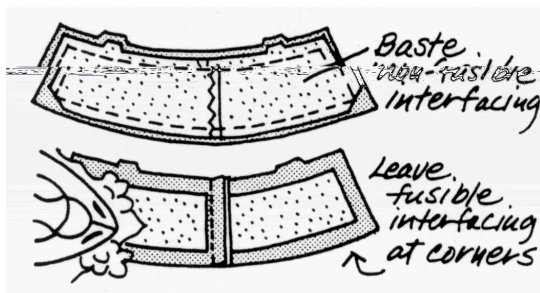
- when cutting, check to see if the uppercollar is larger than the undercollar. It should be 1/4-inch larger for bulky fabrics, and 1/8-inch larger for medium to lightweight fabrics. Having the uppercollar larger enables the outer seam edge of the collar to roll under. Also, on jackets, a bias undercollar will give you a better fit and will shape better to the neckline.



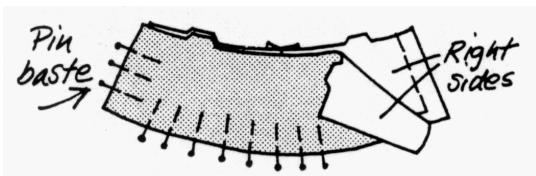
Hint: To make collar points lie flat, cut off about $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch at the neckline tapering to nothing at the point on the undercollar.



- Apply interfacing. If using a non-fusible, baste (machine, hand, pin) in position. If using a fusible, follow the directions on the packaging and fuse in place. When you leave fusible interfacing at the corners (test on a scrap first) it can provide a sharp point and help stabilize the collar. Your collar will not be bulky IF the correct interfacing has been selected. Trim interfacing diagonally at corners to reduce bulk.



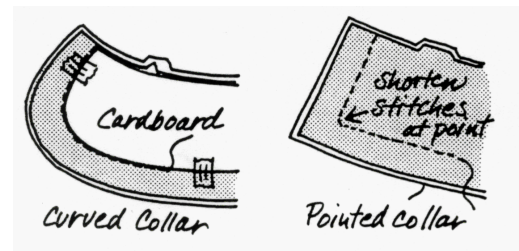
- Carefully pin baste outer edges of upper and undercollar with right sides together. The uppercollar should ripple slightly since it has been cut slightly larger.



- Stitch, securing threads at each end.

Hint: For identical curves on the left and right side, cut a cardboard pattern minus the seam allowance. Tape in place. Place the presser foot on the cardboard with the needle at the edge. Stitch. Remove the cardboard.

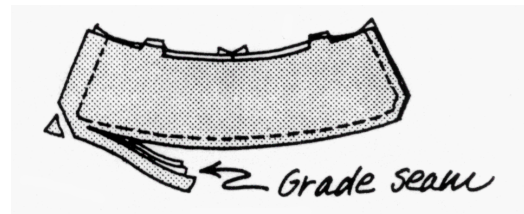
Hint: On corners of a pointed collar, shorten the machine stitch length and take 2-3 stitches diagonally across the point.



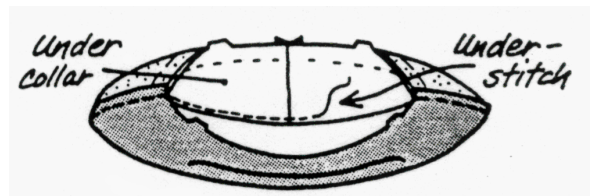
- Check the stitching to see if the points, curves, or corners are identical.



- Grade the enclose seams to reduce bulk. The seam that will be next to the uppercollar when turned right side out, should be left the widest in order to cushion the shorter seam allowances ones underneath.



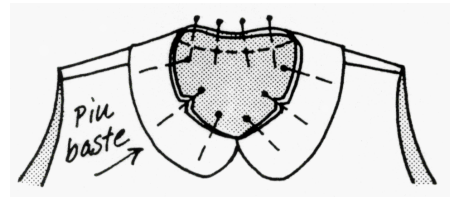
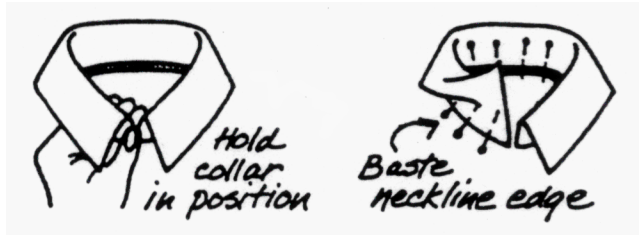
- Turn the collar to the right side.
- Understitch on the undercollar side, stitching through the collar and seam allowance. Stitch as close as possible to the collar seam ($\frac{1}{8}$ -inch). **Purpose:** To roll the outer seam edge under so that it will not show. Stitch completely around the curve (if possible) and as close to the points as possible.



Hint:

- Press.
- Hold collar in the position it will be on you. Pin to curve on a tailor's ham. Mold and preshape collar.

- Baste (pin, machine, or hand) neckline edge of collars together.

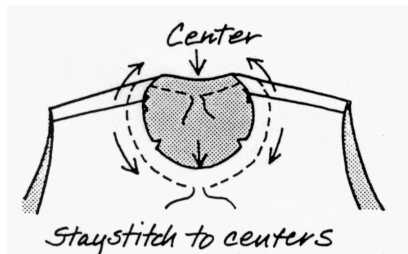


- If the edges of the collar are to meet in the center front or center back, hand baste edges down together $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch.

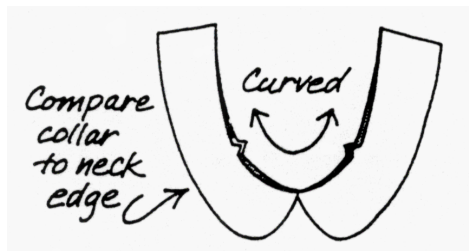
APPLICATION

Fitted Facing To Neckline Without An Opening

- Staystitch neckline along or just inside seam allowance.

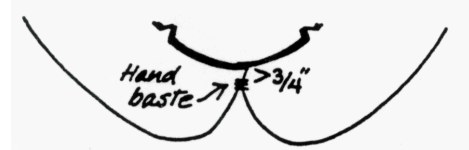


- Take a look at the neck edge of the collar and neckline. If it is a straight collar and curved neckline, clip neckline to the staystitching a few times until you can easily pull it into a straight line. You may prefer to clip the collar a few times to the staystitching or basting until you can easily pull it into a curve.

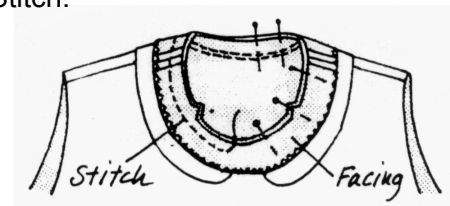


Note: Clip only to staystitching. Do not clip in more than $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch into seam allowance.

- Pin collar to neckline matching notches and dots. Then, complete pin basting entire collar in place.



- Machine baste $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch from edge.
- Add facing, pinning in position.
- Stitch.



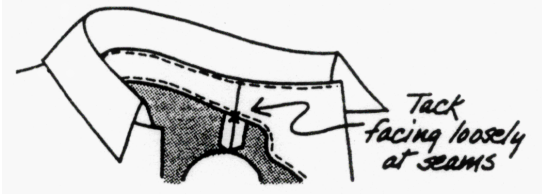
- Check to see if collar points or curves are the same length. Make corrections, if needed.



- Grade neckline seam. Clip seam two or three times, if needed (especially at shoulder seam area).
- Understitch.



- Press.
- Tack facing loosely at seams.

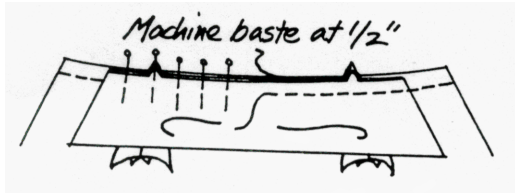


Note: For sheer collars eliminate the seam in the outer edges of straight collars by placing stitching line on a fold. For other styles, stitch a narrow zigzag seam and trim to the stitching.

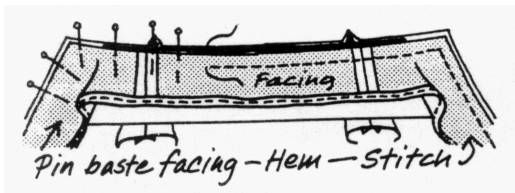
Fitted Facing With Neckline Opening

Application Differences

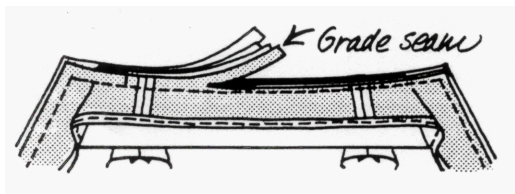
- After the collar is made and the neckline edge basted together; position it on the garment matching notches, dots, and shoulder seams.



- Baste to neck edge.
- Stitch the back facing to the front facing at the shoulder seams. Trim seams to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. Press seams open.
- Position the right side of the facing to the collar, matching notches, dots, centers, and shoulder seam.
- Stitch.



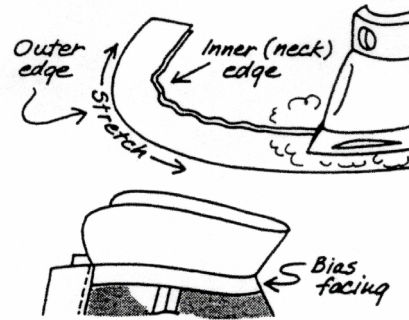
- Check to see that the collar is the same length from the opening. If the collar is part of a notched lapel, check to see that the length of the notch is the same.
- Grade neckline seam and understitch from shoulder seam to shoulder seam.



Collar With A Bias Facing

After the collar is made and basted to the neckline edge, you are ready to apply the bias facing. To be successful you must pre-shape the bias facing BEFORE basting it to the neck edge.

As you press with an iron, stretch outer edge of the bias facing and shrink inner (neck) edge. The bias facing should be identical to the shape of the neckline before attaching it to the garment.

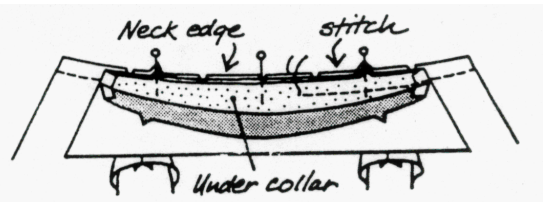


Collar Without A Facing

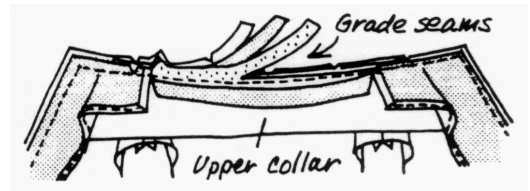
If your collar has a stand, then you can eliminate the neck facing (back OR front and back, depending on collar and/or lapel design).

To apply the collar in this method DO NOT baste the neck edge of the collar together.

- Match notches and dots of the under collar to the neck edge.



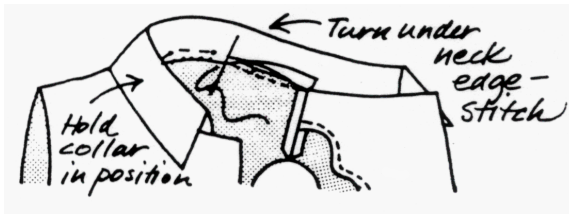
- Stitch.
- Grade seam.



- Position the collar in position as it will be on you.
- Turn raw edge under matching folded

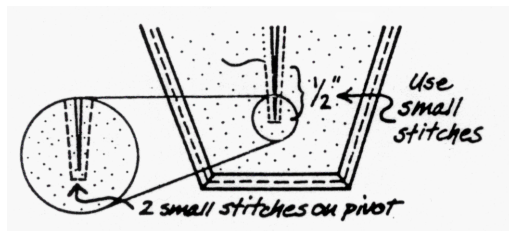
edge to seam of collar.

- Hand or machine stitch in place at neck edge.



Collar With A Slash Opening

The collar application and facing steps are the same as a collar with a fitted facing. If possible, mark the slash opening on the interfacing. Stitch using small stitches on the last 1/2-inch on either side of the opening. At the lower point of the opening, pivot taking 2 very short stitches across, then continue stitching up the other side of the opening.

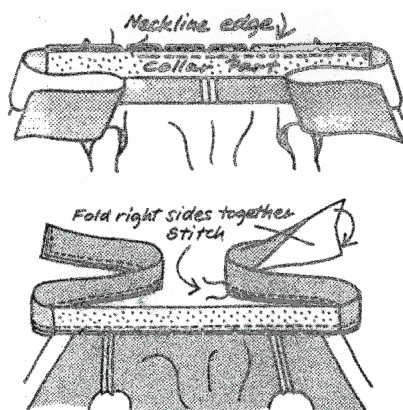


Be sure the opening is the same length on either side. The collar edges should be the same length and distance away from the corner at neckline.

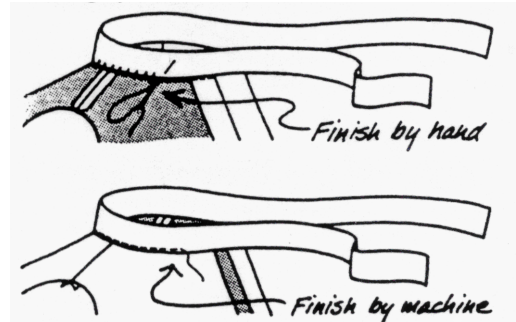
Neckline With A Tie End

Tie end collars may be cut on the bias or straight of grain (if a soft fabric). The neckline seam is usually in the stand (no facing).

An easy application is to apply the collar part to the neckline edge. **THEN** fold right sides together and stitch the tie ends. Remember that two very short stitches diagonally help you to have sharper points when turned.

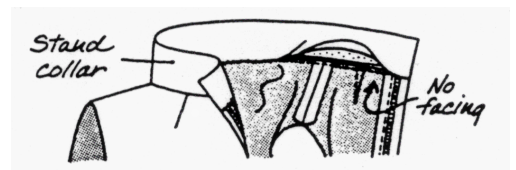


You have a choice of placing the right side of the undercollar to the right side of the garment and finishing by hand, OR placing the right side of the uppercollar to the wrong side of the garment and finishing by machine.



Making A Standup Collar

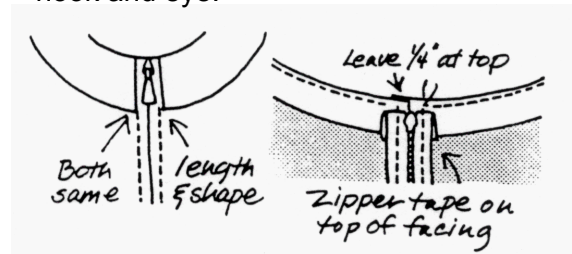
Follow the same steps in making the collar. Since the collar has only a stand, it frequently does not have a facing. Refer to the steps for a collar without a facing.



Top Of Zipper

The application of the collar is the same. For directions on how to handle the facing refer to publication, **CT-LMH.184 Facings**. The main consideration is to check carefully that the collar:

- meets perfectly at the opening.
- is the same length and shape on both sides.
- has 1/4-inch space for a hanging snap or hook and eye.

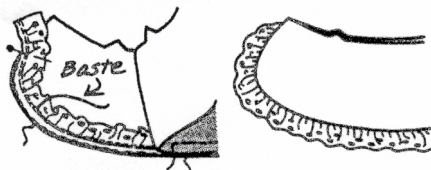


Inserting Trim In Seam

The secret to inserting trim (such as lace, piping, cording) is to first machine baste the trim on the right side of the undercollar. Be accurate in placement and baste just to the

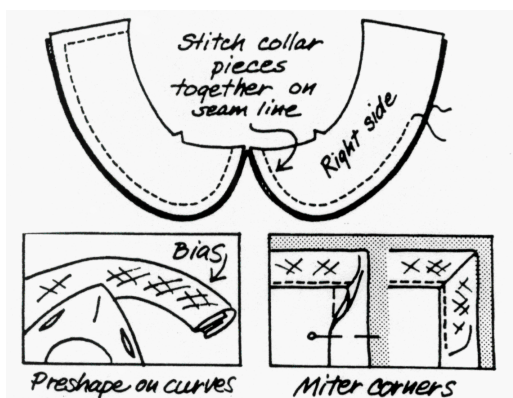
right of the seamline.

Add the uppercollar with right sides together. Pin. Stitch slightly inside the first line of stitching.



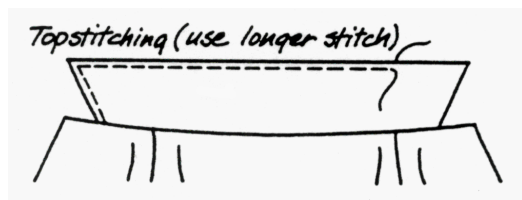
Binding A Collar Edge

Do not stitch the outer edge collar seam. Instead, stitch the two collar pieces together (wrong sides together) inside the seamline. Trim on the seamline. Remember to pre-shape bias by pressing and shaping, and to miter corners of points.



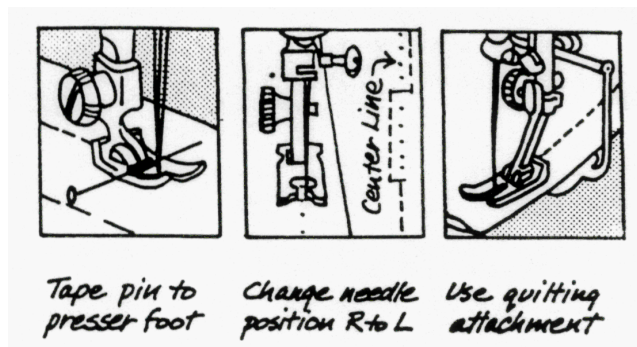
Topstitching

For topstitching use buttonhole thread or all purpose thread. Change to a topstitching needle or a larger needle size. Use a slightly longer stitch for a more professional look. Two threads of all purpose thread through your needle is also an alternative.



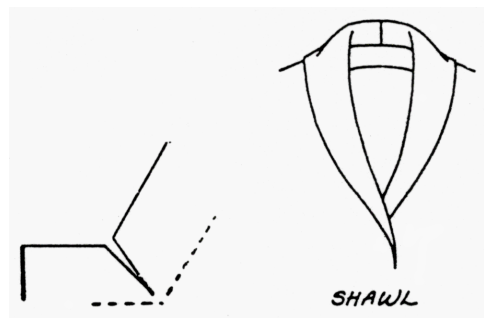
To help you top-stitch evenly try one of these:

- Tape a pin to the presser foot.
- Change the needle position from right to left.
- Use a quilting attachment.



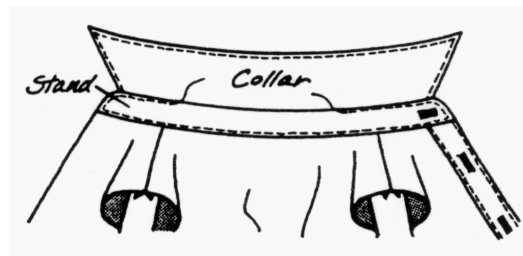
Making A Shawl Collar

A shawl collar does not have a separate collar pattern piece. It is an extension of the front bodice. The uppercollar is part of the front facing with a center back seam. Reinforcement is important on both the front bodice and the facing at the shoulder. Clip just to the short reinforcement stitches.



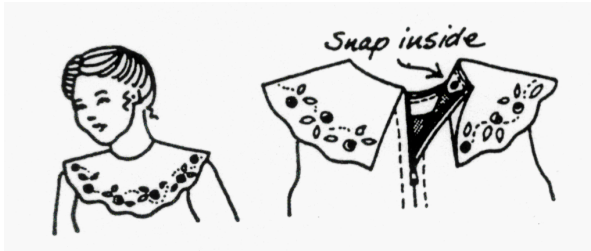
Making A Shirt Collar

This technique is similar to a combination of the standing collar and the convertible collar. The collar is made in two pieces. You attach the collar to the stand, then the stand to the neckline.



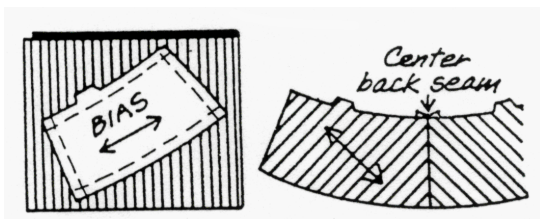
Detachable Collar

The secret to making a detachable collar is to make a neckline facing to fit inside the neckline. Make the collar, apply to the neck edge of the facing, then use a snap or hook and eye closing.



Hints For A Professional Look

- For sharp corners, make two short diagonal stitches across points.
- Pin a small tuck in the uppercollar – so the collar point seam will roll to the inside.
- For a better collar roll on jackets, cut the undercollar on the bias with a center back seam.



- So the undercollar will not show – cut it slightly smaller than the uppercollar.
- To make the collar points lie down, cut off 1/8-inch at the neckline on the undercollar.
- When making a turtleneck collar, finish the ends, halve the collar lengthwise, baste to the neck edge. Stitch.
- To make a smooth curve use a cardboard pattern. Tape in place.
- When you are attaching a straight collar to a curved neckline – staystitch curve – clip (as few times as possible) until it will pull into a straight line, then attach the collar to the neckline.

SUMMARY

Since we tend to look at one's face, a pleasing well-made collar shaped to one's neckline is important.

Prepared by Nadine Hackler, Associate Professor Extension Clothing Specialist. First Published 1985 Revised December 1997. Permission to use granted by Nadine Hackler, Emeritus Extension Clothing Specialist, Institute of Food & Agriculture Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

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