

## *February's Hack- Bow Tie Tee*

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This month we're drafting a tee with a bow-tie shaped inset inspired by a dress from the 1950's. This is intended for medium weight jerseys, but feel free to experiment.

If you have not already, please download a **Blank Canvas Tee** to test for sizing. (<http://3hourspast.com/blank-canvas-tee>) Adjust the pattern as desired for length and ease preferences, then mark your master pattern. From there on, you have a great t-shirt base to use when you sharpen your drafting skills with a Hack. I hope that by following along, you get inspired to make your own design.

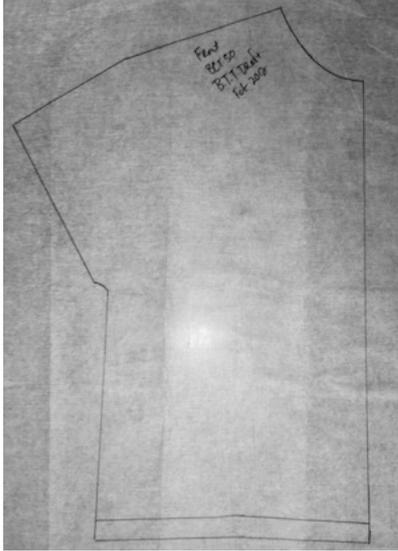
Think of drafting as playing with shapes. The hack will give you the guidance you need, and if your shapes look more or less like mine, you'll be fine. Try it!

You'll need:

- Drafting medium: tracing paper, polytrance, Swedish tracing paper, newsprint, brown paper, etc.
- A large ruler. I use a standard 24" quilter's rule and it works well for me.
- A pen- if you use ink (I prefer to), you will have to cross out any mistakes.
- Or a pencil- because you can erase it.

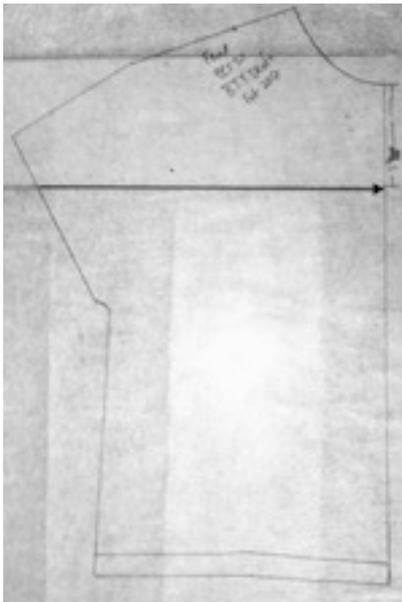
Be sure to make use of the empty space to make notes to self. It's so helpful!

These instructions are intended for those who are very comfortable sewing, have sewn with knits before, and who would like to learn to draft a little. A solid grounding in sewing is recommended.



Step 1- Trace off a fresh version of your altered Blank Canvas Tee, both front and back. Don't trace off the sleeve hem piece- simply draw a line along the hem fold line. Set the back piece aside for now.

Don't trim out the neck shape of the front piece yet. Hold the front piece up to your body. Align the CF and the shoulder seam with your shoulder. Mark on the tracing paper the place where the shirt should hit your neck for a crewneck tee. This is right where your neck joins the torso. Take it off. Draw a curved line to connect the two. A drafter's template is helpful but not compulsory- you've seen a neckline before, and we'll be messing with this one later anyway. Just draw a curve to connect the two points.



Step 2- Mark a point 4.5"-6.5" below the front neckline. This is the yoke piece. If you're unsure how wide to make the yoke, measure from the top of your center front neckline area (the space between your clavicles) to the "point of

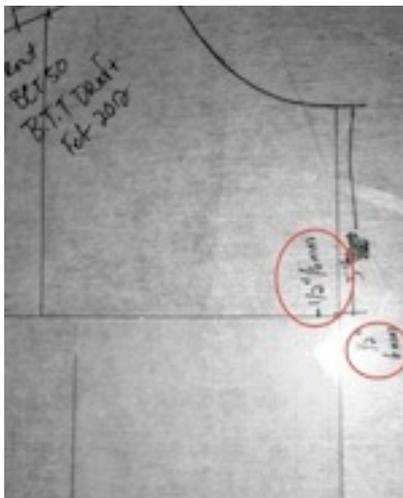
no return.” The “point of no return” is the top of your cleavage, or higher. Take off  $\frac{1}{2}$ ” (13mm). That number is the desired width of your yoke piece.

Once you mark that point, draw a line perpendicular to the CF. This will be part of a seamline later. Label it “Line A.”

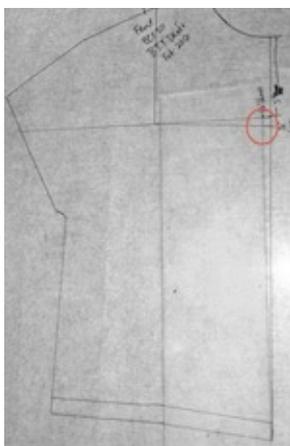


Step 3- Measure out from your CF to your bra strap.

Take  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” (19mm) off this measurement. Your measurement: \_\_\_\_\_ Measure that amount out from the CF along Line A and make a mark. Turn the ruler and draw a line perpendicular to the first line. See the diagram.



Step 4- Look at the CF where the yoke joins the lower front piece. We need to refine this area so the lower CF doesn't gap in the most vulgar way possible. It's simple. Make a mark  $\frac{1}{2}$ ” (13mm) below the yoke line on the CF. (Label: Mark 1) Make another mark  $\frac{1}{2}$ ” (13mm) along Line A. (Label: Mark 2)



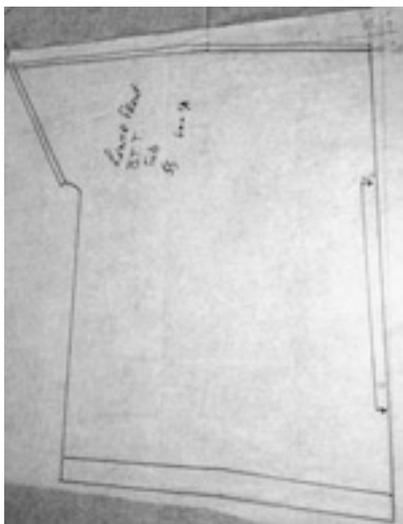
Step 5- Mark a dot at the intersection of Lines A and B. Draw a straight line from that dot to Mark 1 on the CF. Then draw a straight line from Mark 2 to the very bottom of the CF line. This is your new CF line and new seamline.



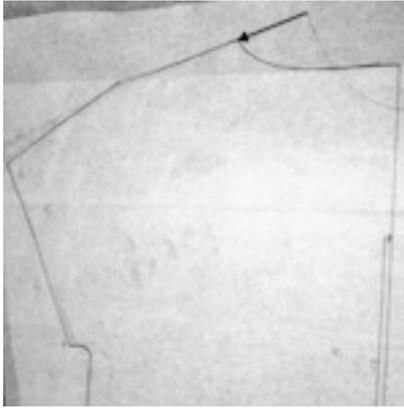
Step 6- At the CF neckline, cut off the “corner,” making a very gentle V shape. This helps the bow sit nicely once you sew it together. The outline of your front draft is complete!



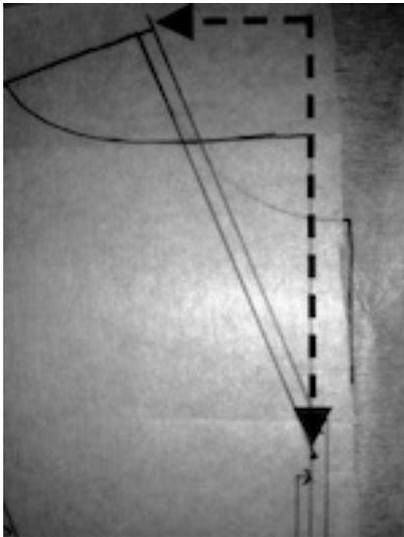
Step 7- Lay a fresh piece of tracing paper on top of your front draft and trace all seamlines. Along the sleeve edge and the bottom yoke edge, add  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) seam allowances. Be sure to label the piece and the pattern as well as the date and seam allowances. The “stripes for view A” line should be perpendicular to the CF, and the CF should be marked for “place on fold.”



Step 8- Using a fresh piece of tracing paper on top of your front draft outline, trace the seamlines of the lower front piece. Add a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) seam allowance to the top edge and the sleeve edge. Make sure to label the piece and mark the CF foldline. For a striped version, the stripes may run parallel to the CF for design interest. Otherwise, the direction of stretch should be marked as perpendicular to the CF line.



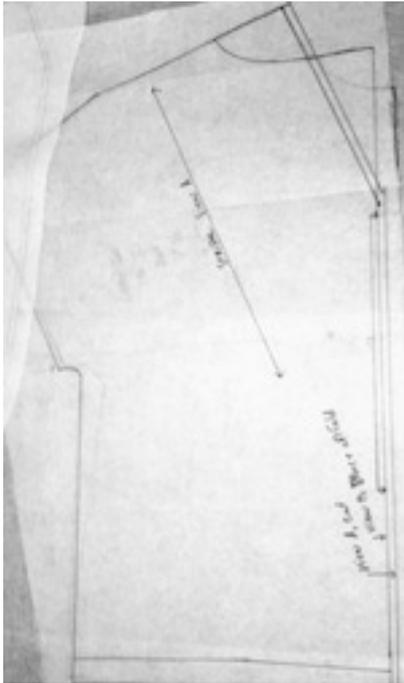
Step 9- Lay your back piece on top of the front piece and make sure the shoulders are the same length. They probably won't be, so line up the rest of the sleeve and then draw a line that corresponds to the front shoulder line. Don't worry about the bottom. See diagram.



Step 9- Draw a light guideline where I have drawn a bold dotted line. You're basically squaring off the piece. Once you do that, measure 8" down from the top right corner of the guideline. Make a mark. Draw a connecting line from the mark to the top of your shoulder piece. That is the back neck edge for v-back. Add a seam allowance to the neck edge and the CB seamline.



Step 10- For striped version with chevron effect, use your ruler to draw a line through the body of the back piece parallel to the back neckline V that you just drew. Otherwise, the stretch of the body should be marked perpendicular to the CB.



Finished back piece. Be sure to label the pattern piece. And date it. I'm not kidding, it's so handy.

For upper neck, lower neck and back neck binding: Cut a strip across the stretch of the fabric. It should measure 1.5" (3.75) wide and 32" (80cm) long, though smaller sizes will have a little extra leftover.

Binding for a stripes version: cut the binding pieces across the stripe rather than the stretch. Cut an additional strip 1.5" (3.75cm) wide and 14" (35cm) long for the lower front binding along the stripe. Cool effect.

Sleeve binding: cut two strips 2.5" (6.5cm) wide and 19" (47.5cm) long. Smaller sizes will have excess binding leftover.

Bow detail piece: cut a piece 3" (7.5cm) square.

### *Sewing Notes:*

Stabilize back shoulders.

Sew shoulder seams, finish, press to back, topstitch (recommended) set aside.

Press all binding pieces in half lengthwise, right sides out.

Apply narrower binding to back neckline all the way around the front to the other side of the back neckline. It will look a little weird at the CF, don't let it trouble you because it is part of the bow. Trim and reserve excess binding. Finish and press to body. Topstitch back neckline binding, front neckline will take care of itself. Or topstitch it too if you want. Set aside.

Lower front piece: Apply binding to curved front opening area. Don't stretch the binding much. Just a tad. Finish, Press to body, top-stitch in place.

Stitch lower part of front to upper part of front. Lay pieces right sides together and raw edges matching. Begin pinning from the sleeve edge to the center. Repeat for other side. Sew. Finish, running the serging or zig-zagging over the raw edge of the upper front even where the lower front is not connected. It sounds crazy but its simple.

Press seam toward yoke section. Top stitch in place, securing the folded under edge of the yoke piece in the process.

Run two lines of basting down the CF of the yoke section, pull them as tight as they'll go, wrap the threads around the gathered section and knot it a couple of times. Then take the bow piece you cut, fold it right sides together, stitch the long edge and one short end and turn it rightside out. Wrap it around the gathers, trim off any excess length and slip stitch it together.

Apply sleeve binding to sleeve edges. Finish, press to body, topstitch as desired.

Sew side seams, adjusting for width as necessary...