

March's Hack: FlutterBy Tee



March's Hack is inspired by lace, and butterflies and all things springy! V. 1 has long-ish, full flutter sleeves with a deep V-neck. The process is the same for shorter sleeves- you can draft them shorter or just chop the sleeves to desired length once you make the tee.



Step 1- Trace off a fresh copy of both the front and the back pieces of your Blank Canvas Tee (or other TNT pattern- this draft is intended for cut-on sleeves)



Step 2- Measure from the spot at the base of your neck to your “point of no return”- that is, the lowest point you’re comfortable wearing your neckline. Make note of that measurement.



Step 3- Measure down from the CF neckline on the pattern by the same amount. Mark that point with a dot.

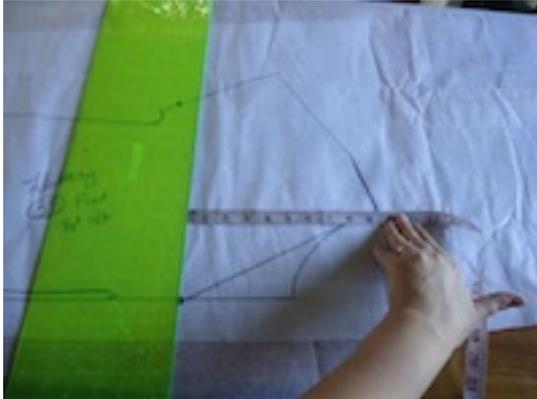


Step 4- Using a ruler, draw a straight line from the shoulder to the point you marked. This is your new neckline.



Step 5- Switch focus to the lower edge of your sleeve. Mark a point 1” up from the bottom of the sleeve. The sleeve above this point will be

“fluttered,” but we’ll leave the original armpit intact to reduce bulk in that area.



Step 6- Lay your ruler at a right angle to your CF neckline. Measure straight down from the shoulder to the ruler. Make note of that measurement. We’re going to use it to play with proportions- every size and neckline depth preference will be different. The idea is that the sleeve length is in proportion to the neckline depth.



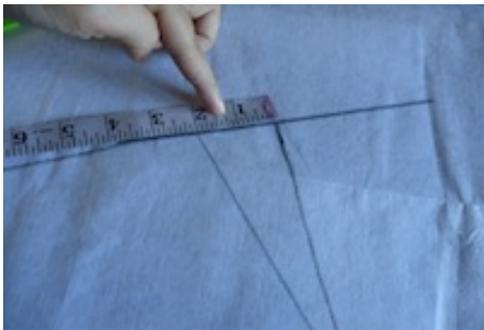
Step 7- Square off the shoulder seam line from the neckline. Make this line as long as the measurement you took in step 6.



Step 8- Draw another line perpendicular to the line you drew in Step 7.



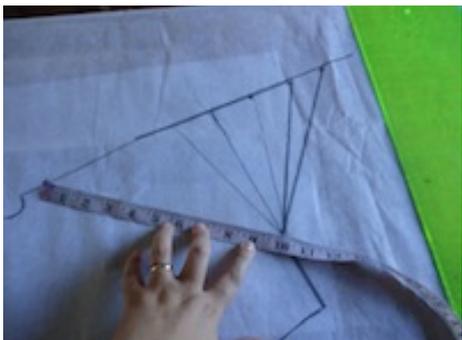
It will look something like this.



Step 9- Measure the space between these two lines and make note. Every size draft will be slightly different, mine was 2”.

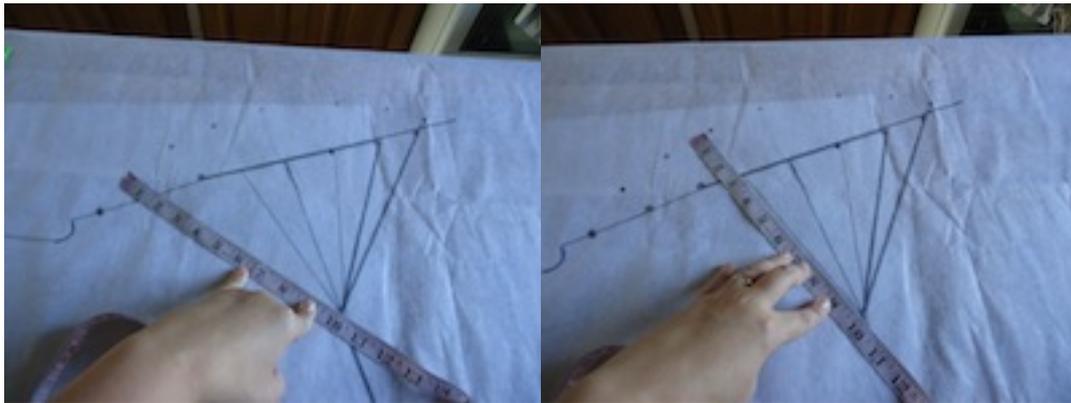


Step 10- Mark another dot along the line you drew in Step 8, the same distance you found in step 9. This is one “section.” Mark 3-4 sections above the shoulder line, and mark the “sections” below the shoulder line until you reach the mark at the lower part of the sleeve. If it is not a full section, don’t worry about it- it’s just a guide.

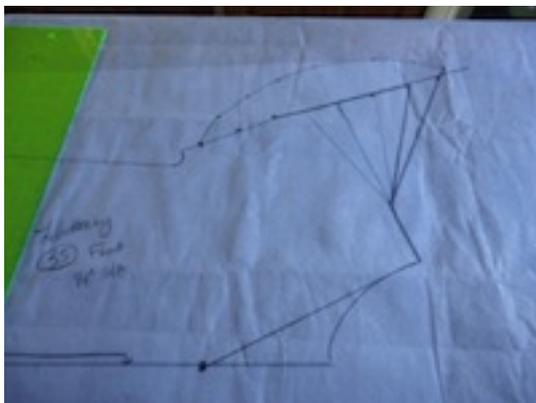


Step 11- Decide the desired fullness of the sleeve, remembering that you can always take fullness out, but it's difficult to add it into your sleeve. My lacewing tee is 4 "sections" wide- that is; it's 4 sections wider than the original sleeve. I find this is as full as the sleeve will go before it starts looking weird. You may choose to use one or two sections.

Measure from the shoulder point to the point you marked on the lower portion of the sleeve in Step 5. Make note of this number.



Step 12- Measure from your shoulder point, through each section point marked in Step 10. You should end up with an arc of dots.



Step 13- Connect the dots. I did not bother adding a seam allowance because the original tee pattern already had a seam allowance. If desired, add a hem allowance.

Repeat Steps 5 and 7-13 to make the back piece. The only difference is you will not alter the neckline. Use the same measurement on the back for Step 7 that you found for Step 6 on the front. Write it down, it's clearer that way.

Measure the neckline on the pattern, front and back and cut a 1 ½” strip that is that length + 1.2”. That will be your neckband piece.

Sewing Notes:

1. Don't stabilize the shoulder seams.
2. Stay-stitch front neckline “V.”
3. Stitch shoulders together. Both shoulders.
4. Fold the neckband in half lengthwise, right side facing out. Without twisting the neckband, overlap the two ends to mimic a V-shape. Baste together. Right sides and raw edges together, pin the neckband in place at the CF V. Match up the raw edges all the way around, pinning carefully and easing the neckline into the neckband gradually. When you round back to the CF V, you will have a little pucker. Watch that pucker. It should definitely be there, but you don't want to sew over it.
5. Stitch a ¼” seam allowance, beginning at the CF V and working your way around the neckline. When you return to the CF, gently move the little pucker out of the way so you can stitch the neckband. Backstitch. If you catch the pucker, it's simple enough to release a stitch or two to remove the pucker.
6. Press seam away from neckband.
7. If desired, hem raw edges of sleeves. Many kinds of lace and jersey don't require hemming, and in fact many RTW tops don't hem edges on sleeves like this. Or bind the edges using your favorite technique. Bound edges and hemmed edges will have more body than a raw edge. Let your fabric talk to you.
8. Stitch side seams. Finish. Press.
9. Hem the bottom using your favorite method.

Enjoy!