

MAKING A BOY'S DRESS SHIRT

Cut out more than 1 shirt at a time by either layering your fabric (no more than 2 pieces unless you are real good!) or use more than 1 pattern. On the front facing, add about 1-2 in to the top piece, this will make the collar easier. Make sure you cut around the notches on the collar, neck line and arm hole. The rest of the notches are your choice.

Use just one size per pattern, even better copy your pattern onto pattern paper (looks like interfacing and you can buy it at JoAnn's). It will take a bit of time but save you lots of time going forward.

After cutting out your shirt make a size tag (either paper or piece of interfacing -1x2 inches) and place fabric and tag in a zip lock bag. You can also use blue painters tape with size written on it DO NOT USE MASKING TAPE OR ANY OTHER KIND OF STICKY TAPE.

Iron, Iron, Iron often! This will make everything so much easier and crisper. If you have any Best Press (35th Ave Sew and Vac and cut in half with water) your finished shirt will look great!

You can either sew one shirt at a time or I usually make in them in groups. If you decide to do a group, do each step on each shirt before going on to the next step.

If you are doing multiple shirts at a time, this is the first phrase

1. Finish the edges (serge or zigzag) the hem part of the sleeve, top of pocket and large curve line on the front facing.
2. Fold and iron a 1 inch hem on the sleeves (wrong side together) and top pocket (right sides together). Make sure the seam on the under arm are the same so the hems will be even
3. Iron the interfacing to the wrong side of one piece of the collar
4. Fold the 1x2 in piece of interfacing sticky side together and iron, write the size with a small sharpie.
5. Sew the hem on the sleeves using a longer than normal stitch length -3-.

6. Sew down the sides of the folded over top edge of the pockets using regular stitch length 2.5, using a regular $\frac{5}{8}$ seam allowance.
7. Trim the side seam to a point at the top and turn. Using a 'purple thang' create a sharp point in the corner. Using this point as a rule, iron a seam to the wrong side down the side of the pocket, recreate on the other side. Fold up the bottom the same distance and give all the edges a crisp seam. I do not baste the edges. I feel the ironing will allow the pocket to hold its shape.
8. With right sides together sew the collar from up from bottom of one side, using the needle as a pivot point, across the long edge, using the needle as a pivot point and down the last short side. Invert collar to right side out and using a turner or purple thang, make the points sharp. Press the collar making sure the seam is not rolled to one side

Second phrase

9. All pockets are placed on the left side (as the boy will wear), this is also the same side where the buttonholes will be made on
10. Using the left front pattern piece as a guide, mark the position of the pocket on the shirt, secure the pocket with a few pins and sew on starting with an upside down triangle in the top corners. This will add strength to the pocket and help to prevent the pocket from being ripped. Sew around the pocket using $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam allowance.
11. Sew the front to the back at the shoulder seam. Iron this seam open
12. Pin the interfacing side of the collar to the shirt matching the arrows on the collar to the neckline. Continue to pin until you reach the front on each side of the shirt. Measure the front where the collar IS NOT, to make sure both sides are the same measurement. Adjust as needed to make them the same. On the collar that does not have the interfacing; cut a small slit (just under $\frac{5}{8}$ inch) right above the shoulder seam. At the shoulder seam, remove your pins and finger

fold the fabric without interfacing away from the area in between the notches. Re-pin just interfaced collar to the shirt. **You will not sew the non-interfaced fabric on until step 16.** You will start sewing at the front of the collar (3 layers) and continue to the shoulder seam where you will be sewing on just 2 layers and continue on the other shoulder seam and finish on 3 layers. Make sure you do not catch the non-interfaced part.

13. Make sure you have right sides together, pin shirt facing to front of shirt. Looking on the part along the neck, finger fold to the shoulder seam and fold back the fabric at the shoulder seam. Keep this fold to about ½ in, trim any excess making sure you DO NOT cut the shirt. Unpin and sew just the fold part using a stitch to finish the edges (zigzag). Re-pin and sew from the front of the shirt to the seam making sure not to catch the non-interfaced fabric (bolded above)
14. Turn the front facing and use a turner or purple thang to achieve a sharp point. Double check that the top of the shirt are even. If it even, un-turn and place small nips in the seam line all the way around the shirt making sure you do NOT cut the seam
15. Re do your sharp point and smooth the seam until you get to the non-interfaced fabric. Tuck this part under and continue to pin to the other should seam. If you want you can place an interfacing size tag under the non-interfaced fabric in the center of the back. Finish smoothing the seam until you reach the other front. Check again to make sure your front pieces are the same.

16. ¼ in top stitch the neckline starting at the inside of the front, sewing on the shirt not the collar. When you reach the shoulder seam, sew down the front side of the seam line to the arm hole. Starting on the other end of the shoulder seam, sew onto the collar and continue around the front side of the shoulder seam pivoting and continuing to the armhole. Return to the top shoulder seam and sewing on the shirt, sew to the front.

17. You know have a finished collar! Go take a break!

Almost final phrase!

18. **Sleeves**—fold the sleeve in half and make crease or small, small slit at this fold. Baste between the notches on the arm hole. Match the crease or slit to the shoulder seam and on each side, very slightly gather the sleeve to match down to the notch. Do not skimp on the pinning! Sew the sleeve into the arm hole and check the right side to make sure you do not have any puffiness or tucks. Per my sons when they were younger, boys do not do puffy! Correct any issues and remove basting. Make some small slits in the armhole seam line making sure not to cut the sewing line.

19. Starting at the sleeve hem, pin the side seam thru the underarm 4 point seam. Try very hard to keep the 4 points and hems even.

20. **Ironing time!** Iron the entire sure taking extra care to iron open the side seams, sleeves and the seam at the front facing.

21. **Buttonholes**--Using a guide mark the buttonholes. I make my buttonholes across. Making them down is confusing for me!

22. Always test your button hole on a piece of scrap fabric and make sure your buttons go thru just right. If anything happens, TEST AGAIN!

23. My buttonhole sews backwards. I make a small black mark on my buttonhole maker so I always start in the same place.

24. Carefully cut open the hole and retest the buttons.

25. Use the buttonhole side to mark the side for the buttons

26. **Buttons!** I was told by my sons that boys don't do colored buttons regardless of how cute they are! So I use mainly ½ in (size 20L) white and gray. Off white works well on some shirts also. Size 4 and 6 use 4 buttons and 5 buttons for sizes 7-12 and 6 for larger.

27. Sewing the buttons on with your sewing machine is better than hand sewing. Have a tail to begin with and a tail to end and then tie these together to secure the button

28. **Hemming**-button the shirt and trim any larger differences at the bottom of the front. Serge or finish the bottom edge. Fold, iron and pin the hem 1 inch. This is a great time to do a blind stitch hem. You simply fold the hem back to you will be sewing on the very small folded edge and the stitch will 'zag' to the shirt. All you will see is a very short vertical stitch on the front side, and a nice finished hem. Iron the hem and you are done!