

How to Make a Woman's Cross Front Sleeveless Summer Top

By Stacy at thelandofka.com

Description:

This tutorial is for making a cross front top.



What you need:

1 ¼ yard lycra knit fabric, you can decide if you want all one color or combined.

Thread

Clear elastic (if you are using a knit without lycra)

Making the pattern:

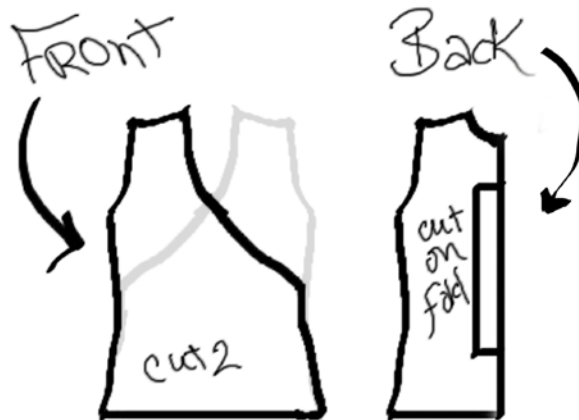
Start out by finding a well fitting knit shirt. It should not be loose across the chest, and should fit fairly close.

Lay it out, folded in half on a piece of paper large enough to hold it (a large children's art tablet is usually a good size for me). Now, trace the outline of the shirt, adding in a ½" seam around it. If you are using a t-shirt, just use the stitching at the armholes for the guide. Trace the neckline using the back of the shirt.

Now, cut that first one out of the paper.

Get another piece of paper that is wide enough to handle that pattern doubled across it. Put the first cut piece on it and draw the outside edge up to the neckline and across the bottom. Flip it over and meet up the middle and draw the bottom across and up to where the side would be if it ended just under the bust. Put the pattern up to your body to figure out where that would land. Now put the pattern piece up to your body and figure out where you want it to cross on your chest. Mark that and draw a curve from the neckline down to where it would hit under the bust.

This is what your pattern pieces will look like, and you cut 1 of the back on the fold and 2 of the front:



I don't draw a pattern piece for the binding, but it is 3" wide, by about the width of the fabric. Once you have your body pieces cut out, measure the neckline and make it a bit smaller than that. If you have to join pieces to make the whole width, just make sure that the seam is either in the middle of the neck or hidden in the front body piece underneath.

If you choose to do a ruffle, there are a few different ways. For a longer ruffle, I used 2X the width of the fabric at about 8" wide. For the smaller ruffle, I just used 1X the width of the fabric.



How to Make:

1. Sew the seams at the shoulder
2. Fold the banding in half and pin to the neckline. Make the banding just a little smaller than the neckline on the shirt.

If including the ruffle:

- Attach the ruffle pieces together if using 2X the width.



- Find the center of the fabric, and gradually cut it down, so at the end it is a peak.





- If you have a serger, you can ruffle with a serger by putting the needle tension at 8-9 and the stitch length at 5. Make sure you have a long trailing thread so you can adjust as needed. Otherwise if you have a sewing machine, use the longest straight stitch you have and go along the top. Then you pull one of the thread and evenly disperse the ruffle along the length you need.

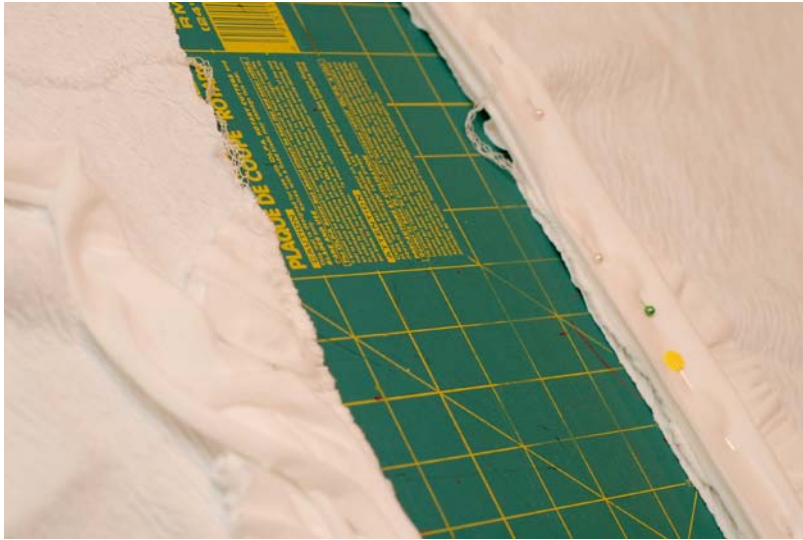




If you don't have a serger, just do a long stitch on your sewing machine and gather it up to the length you want.

- Pin the ruffle between the shirt neckline and the banding.
 - Note: I wouldn't make the ruffle go down any further than to where the two front pieces overlap. If it goes into the overlapping area, it will just add bulk on the underside and not look smooth.





3. Sew or serge the neckline. Top stitch with a zigzag, double needle or coverstitcher if you want it to look more finished.



4. Finish the armholes. I usually serge the edge of the armholes, turn under once and topstitch on the sewing machine. I use a straight stitch, and when I am done, I make sure that the stitching has some give in it by pulling the armholes a bit and allowing the extra thread to distribute a bit more in the hem. Not so much that it is bulky, but enough so it has some give. You could also finish with a double needle or a coverstitcher.

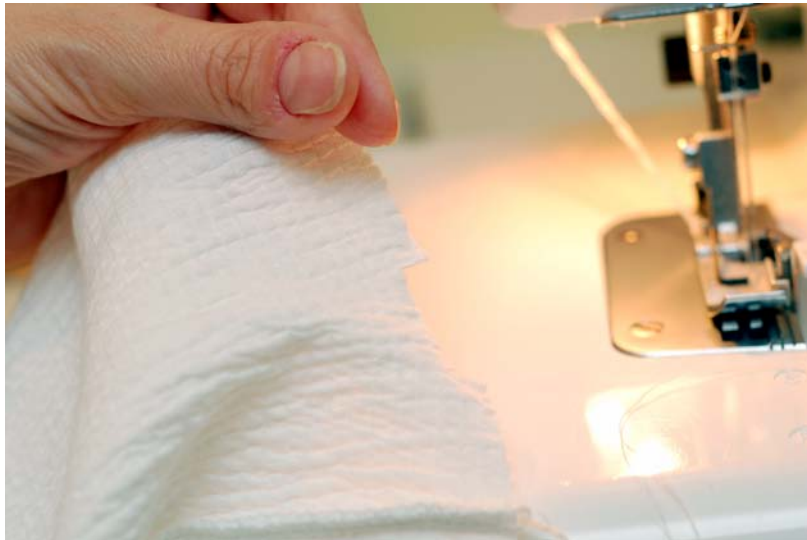




5. Sew up or serge the side seams.



6. Finish the Hem. I usually serge the edge and then do a zig zag stitch here, but you could also finish with a double needle or a coverstitcher. This hem is really going to need to stretch as you pull it over your head. Make sure that the two front panels are laying flat and even when you hem or else there may be some gaping on the fabric.



ALL DONE!