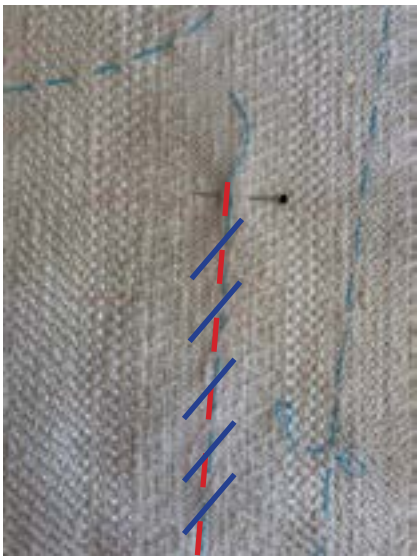
AUSSEW Along

Couture Cardigan Jacket - Part 3

Quilting Front and Back

1. Begin by quilting the two front pieces - one quilting line on each piece. Start by pinning a rectangle of organza to the back of each front piece.

2. On the right side, measure about 2" (5 cm) down from the neckline and place a pin on the quilting line. Do the same at the hem. These pins mark the start and end point for quilting. Keeping the quilting away from seam lines gives you room to manoeuvre when constructing the jacket.



3. Baste across the marked quilting line with diagonal stitches. This keep the layers of fabric and organza from shifting while you sew.

4. Set your machine for a stitch length of 4 mm, or 6 stitches per inch. With the right side up, stitch just next to the thread-traced quilting line, starting and stopping at the pins you placed in Step 2. Do not back-stitch at beginning or end. Leave long thread tails for both upper and bobbin threads at each end. Secure the quilting stitches by pulling the top thread to the wrong side and tying in a knot.

TIP The illustration on the left shows a normal presser foot. If you own a walking foot, I highly recommend using it to do your quilting.

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3. Before you proceed, lay the original front pattern piece on the fabric to see if the quilting has caused it to shrink. It it has, thread-trace new seamlines. **Do this after each piece is quilted**.

4. Remove the diagonal basting thread and the thread-traced quilting line. DO NOT remove any other thread tracing.

5. Now take the corresponding rectangles of lining for the two back pieces and pin them to the wrong side of the fabric. Baste diagonally across all four quilting lines on each back piece, then stitch with the machine. Remember to start and stop 2" (5 cm) away from armscye, neck edge and hem.

Set aside the back pieces for now.

Stay the Front Edge

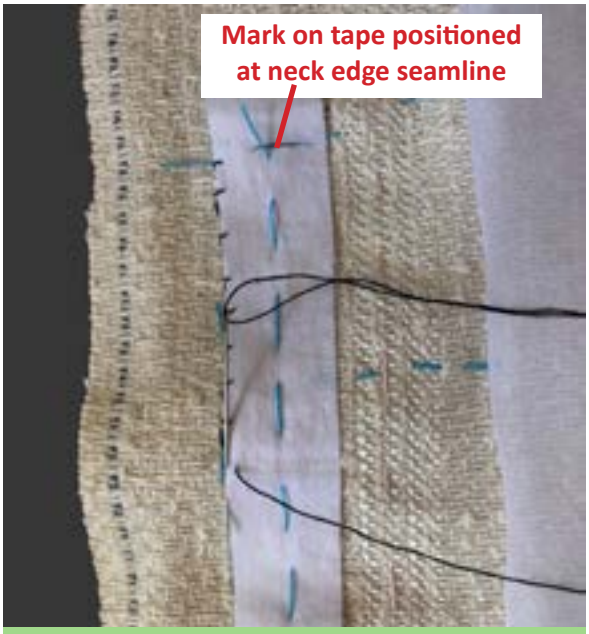
A strip of stay tape down the front edges of the jacket will ensure they hang straight when the garment is worn. Use a 3/4" (2 cm) wide piece of selvage from the silk organza (or another lightweight silk).

1. Measure the tape against the pattern piece, from the seamline at the neck edge to the hemline. Mark the top and bottom with a pencil.

2. Pin the organza interfacing out of the way along the front edge. Position the tape on the wrong side of the jacket front, aligning the edge of the tape with the thread-traced front edge. Pin one of the marked points on the tape to the seamline at the neck. Pin the remaining mark on the tape to the hemline.

If necessary, ease the front edge of the jacket to fit the stay tape and pin in place.

3. Baste the stay tape to the jacket through the centre of the tape.



NOTE Black thread for the fell stitches is shown in the illustration so you can see it clearly. When sewing the garment, use matching thread.
Cotton voile has been used for the tape so it can be seen clearly in the illustration.

4. Use fell stitches to sew the tape to the jacket permanently along the thread-traced front edge. Stitch carefully so the stitches don't show on the right side. Remove the basting from the centre of the stay tape.

Fell Stitch - Video

Stabilise the Buttonhole

On the wrong side of the RIGHT front piece, fuse narrow strips of interfacing at the location of each buttonhole. This will stabilise the fabric when the buttonholes are made later.

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