AUSSEW Along

Couture Cardigan Jacket - Part 7

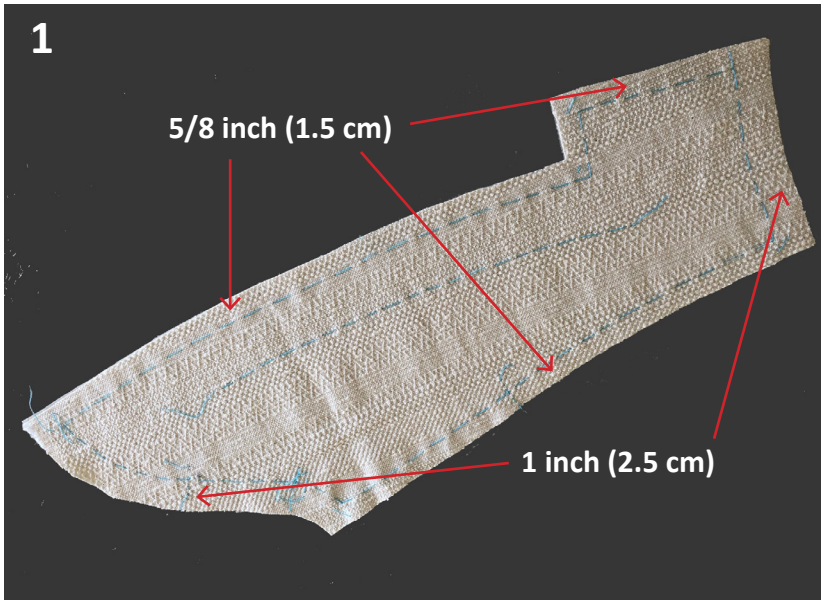
Assembling the sleeves

The method for construction the sleeves is a combination of the “home-sewing” method and the couture method. Read through all the instructions carefully before you start.

The sleeve for the recommended Vogue pattern is a 3-piece sleeve - front sleeve, back sleeve and underarm panel. All three pieces have been thread-traced onto your fashion fabric.

1. Cut out each piece with 5/8 inch (1.5 cm) seam allowances EXCEPT at the hem and sleeve cap, which have 1 inch (2.5 cm) allowances.

2. Join front and back sleeve to the underarm panel as illustrated below, carefully matching all notches and construction points



3. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 for the sleeve lining. Set the lining aside for later.

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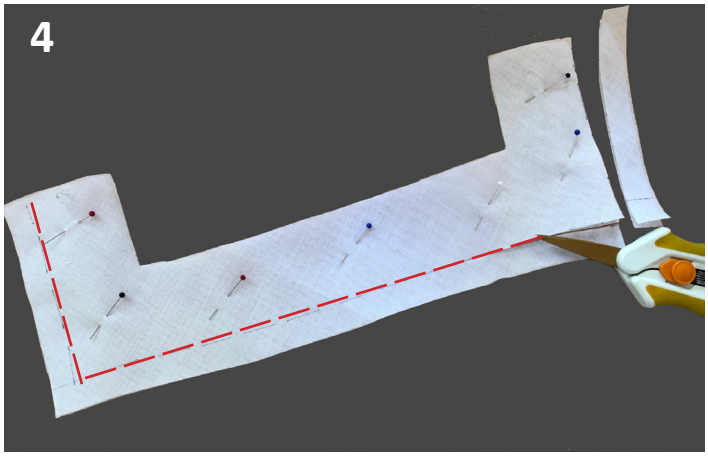
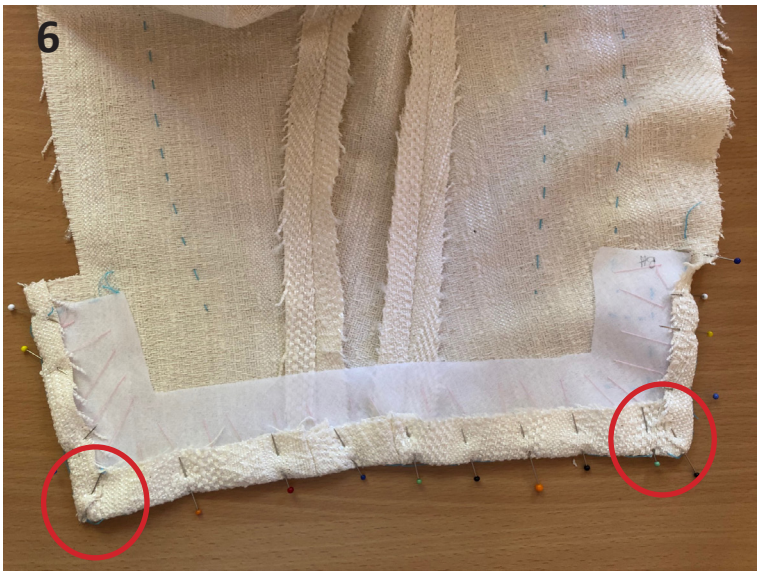
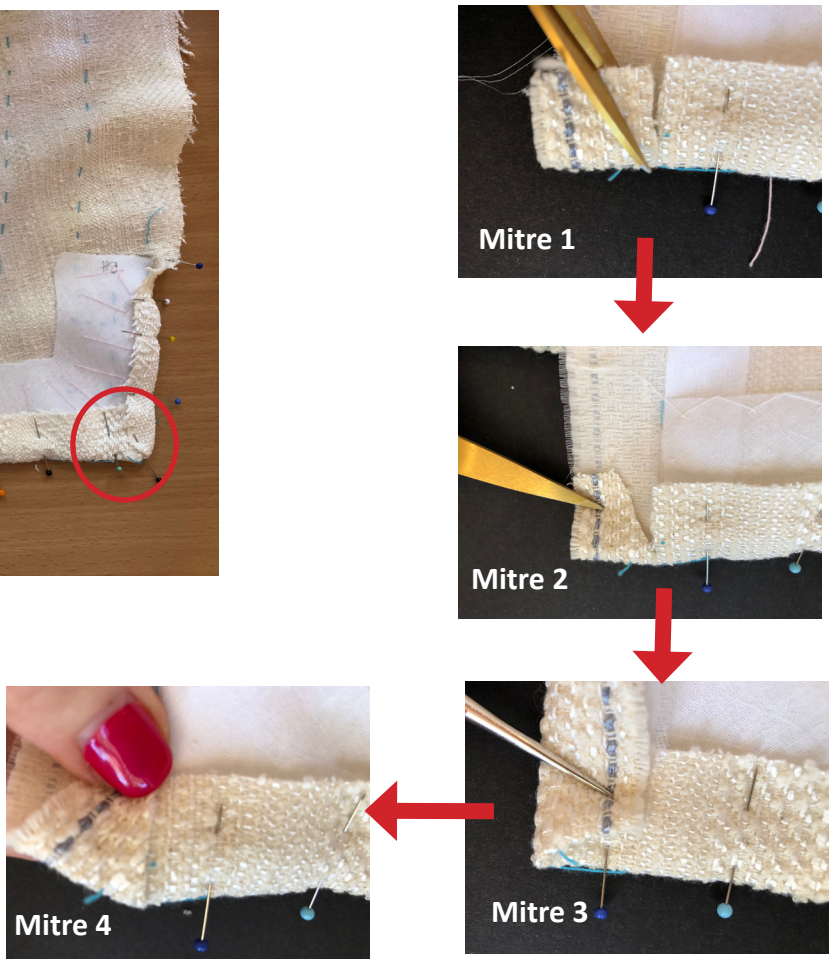
4. Trim the seam allowance off the bottom and side edges of the sleeve interfacing, as illustrated.



5. Use large diagonal basting stitches to attach the interfacing to the wrong side of the sleeve. The recently cut edges of the interfacing should match the thread tracing lines on the sleeve. The interfacing does NOT extend into the seam or hem allowances.

6. Fold the hem allowance over the interfacing. Pin and then baste 1/4 inch (6 mm) from the folded edge. At the corners, create a mitre to reduce the bulk.





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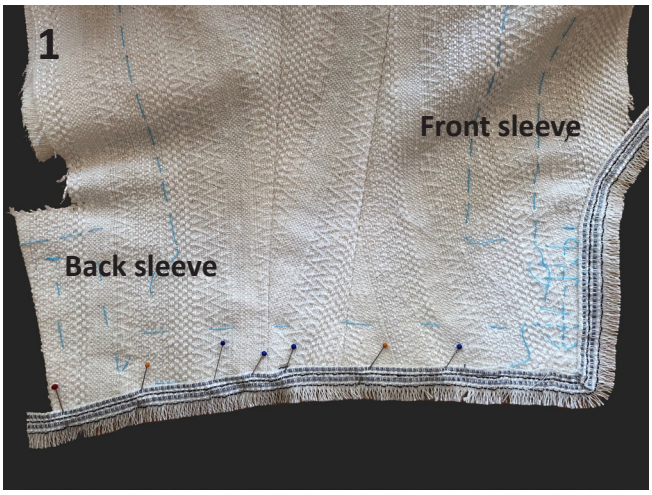
7. Catch-stitch the interfacing to the seams to hold in place. Permanently sew the hem allowance to the interfacing with catch stitches.

8. At the mitred corners, use tiny fell stitches to secure the mitre.

9. Remove the thread tracing and basting stitches at the hem only. Do not remove buttonhole thread markings at this stage.

Adding trim to the sleeves

A trademark of the couture cardigan jacket is the trim which is added to the front and neck edges, the sleeve hem and the sleeve vent. You can use a single trim or a combination of two or three trims. Obviously if you combine multiple trims there will be more hand-stitching!



In this example, I will use two trims - the first is a fringed piece of fabric and the second trim is a narrow grosgrain ribbon which will cover the raw edge of the fabric strip.

1. Pin the trim in place along the hem of the sleeve. On the front sleeve, the trim should extend past the top of the vent and curve into the seam allowance. On the back sleeve, the trim extends past the vent and will be wrapped around to the wrong side.

Some clipping at corners may be required to shape the trim. The trim in this example has been stitched in place with a small running stitch along the upper edge.

2. Here the second trim, a grosgrain ribbon, is added. It is stitched in place with tiny fell stitches on <u>both</u> edges of the ribbon.

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