

Jacket Making

PART 2

By Martyn Smith

Martyn's made hundreds of jackets over the years and still loves making them. This month Martyn continues making a jacket using Kwik•Sew 3485. Although the pattern has a great instruction sheet, that is easy to follow, he talks about the salient features of jacket construction, not a step-by-step process.

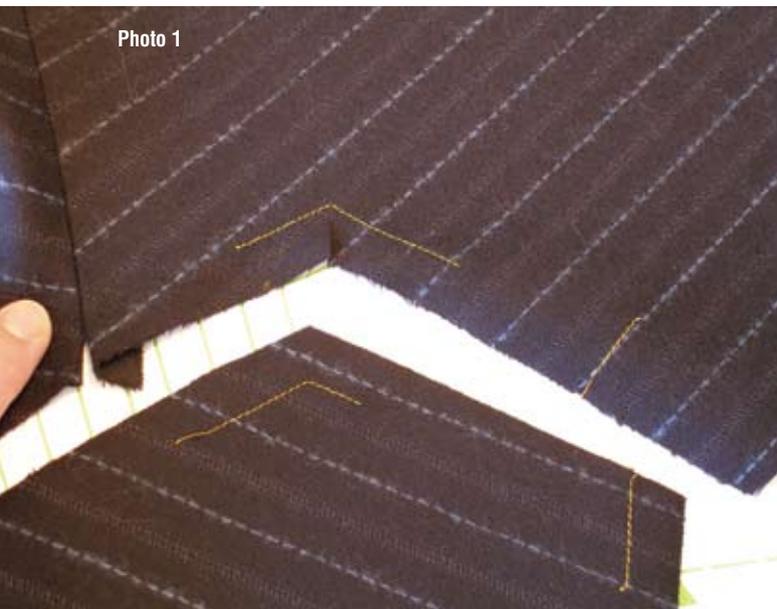


Photo 1

When setting a collar onto the jacket it's really important that all the pattern notches and guide dots are visible while sewing; staystitch or stay-tack these for visibility to ensure an evenly sitting collar. See photos 1 and 2. For any collar application and a more evenly sitting collar when pressed, start the stitching from the CB seam or notch.

To prevent the little pleat that usually appears on the shoulder seam when stitching a straight collar (not just jackets) to a curved neckline, don't sew the shoulder seam all the way to the end of the seam allowance. See photo 3.

Anchor-tacking the seam allowance inside a hem turn-up ensures that the hem will never drop or move. See photo 4. Press the hem into place and then secure one side of the seam allowance by machine. Blind hem (by machine) the inside the hem turn-up before attaching the lining even if the anchor

tacking has been done. See photo 5. Some people use hem-web or hem-tape for this but it often comes adrift during the dry cleaning process and can also give a visible hard line on the right side of the garment.

Sleeve heads are the most important area on a tailored garment and there are more ways of putting them in than days in the year. When using a domestic pattern ALWAYS reduce

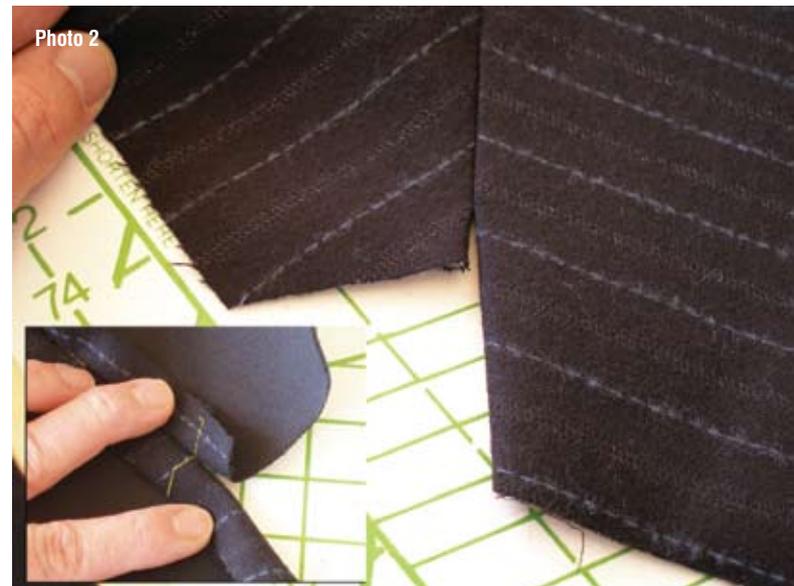


Photo 2

the seam allowances on both the armhole and the sleeve to 1cm (3/8in). See photo 6. This really helps when setting-in a sleeve and it seems to eliminate the need for pressing out the fullness during the construction process (which can be a high-risk activity in regards to pressing in pleats). When stitching a sleeve you are trying to make two different shaped curves stitch together so the more fabric in the seam allowance the more difficult it will be to control the ease. See photo 7.

Place a 3 – 4cm (11/8 – 15/8in) strip of bias-cut horsehair

Photo 3

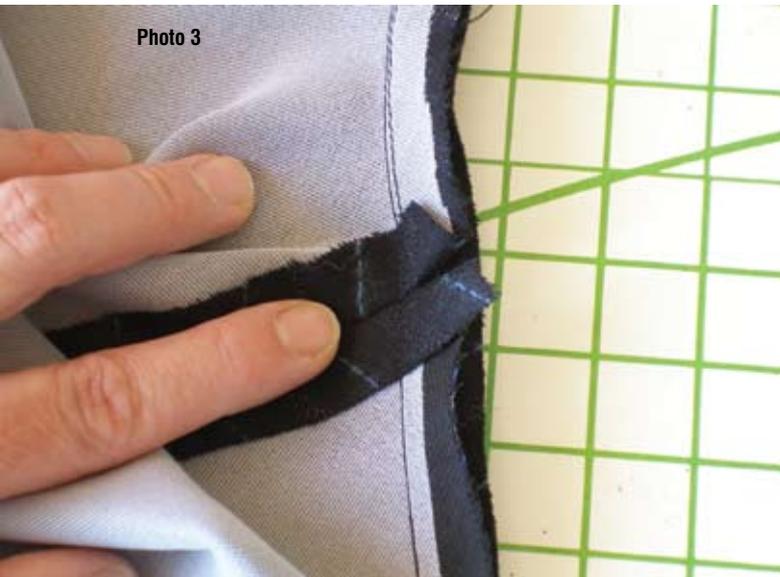


Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



canvas or linen duck 2cm (3/4in) back from the shoulder seam, down to the front pitch notch (lowest front notch). Stitch this in place on top of the original sleeve stitching line with a long stitch; this stops any denting that may occur in the front sleevehead or front armhole area. While doing this sandwich a little piece of tape or lining (1.5cm x 5cm or 5/8in x 2in) directly on the shoulder seam/sleeve centre notch as this will be attached to the corresponding area on the lining before the jacket is turned through (it saves tacking by hand). See photo 8.

The sleeve wadding is placed 5cm (2in) below the back armhole notch through to the front armhole notch (where the canvas finishes). This is stitched on top of the original stitching line and machined with a long stitch length. See photo 9. The shoulder pad can be either machine-stitched or hand-stitched into position, making sure all the stitches are on the original sleeve stitching line. If machine-stitching the shoulder pad in, make sure the longest stitch is used, the needle thread tension is reduced to the lowest setting to ensure the shoulder pad is

not too compressed with the machine stitches. Some machines just HATE doing this and a 'walking foot' can help.

When making any sort of lined garment (this one being a semi-lined) look at the process in the same way. Make an 'inner shell' and an 'outer shell' and marry the two together as the final process. Complete the outer shell: all seams, pockets, design details, collar and any hemming and then complete the inner shell (facings included). Remember, this is the last time you can easily press both shells. Then it's time for putting the right sides together and sewing around the outer edges (a lined garment is generally pulled through a gap left in the hem or a sleeve lining seam).

TRICKY TIP

Sometimes we are required to stitch to a point at an intersection (as in the notch of a lapel or sometimes a facing on a split) and this can cause a pucker! By temporarily knotting the last stitches on both facing and garment, this area will not slip when being stitched ... much better than a pin! See photo 10.



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10

To get a really crisp turn-out on a collar notch, complete the front seams and back collar seam but don't turn the corner into the notch area. [See photo 11](#). Then treat the collar notch as a separate seam after trimming back the seams to half their value. Layering seams is more appropriate when using sew-in interfacings to reduce bulk, but if the fabric is extra thick it is not necessary. The notch seam of the collar is then turned towards the under-collar so when it's turned out the corner will be sharp. This is referred to as an 'envelope corner', as that's what it looks like from the right side of the work. [See photo 12](#). Try and do this for any corner as long as it's not too sharp.

When the stitching and trimming has been completed, turn the garment through and baste around the edges before lightly pressing. If the front edges of a jacket are not basted before hitting the iron, it's highly likely they will stretch slightly and not sit completely flat when on the body (especially if there is any elastane in the fabric).

For a collar to sit well on any lined garment, the neck seams

on both the inner and outer shells need to be tacked together. Do this by hand with a needle and thread, attaching the seams that will be sitting down into the main body of the garment together (as close as possible to the original stitching). Start and finish the front and the clipped corner in the neck area. [See photo 13](#).

The little lining tab is now holding the lining shoulder seam to the matching area of the garment shoulder area. [See photo 14](#). This prevents the lining from dropping down into the garment when putting your arm through the armhole. The underarm seams of both the jacket and the lining need to be attached firmly by machine on the seam allowances, making sure the seams are sitting up into the armhole and not folding on themselves. Machine blind-hem the jacket hem on the very edge. [See photo 15](#). Attach the front facing to the pocket bags (stitch on the edge of the binding), making sure everything is sitting completely flat before doing this as it will prevent the garment from catching on things during it's life. [See photo 16](#).

Just remember, every jacket is different and the style detail will definitely dictate how a garment is finished, but there is always a consistent methodology that is used time and time again and the more you sew the less you look at the pattern instruction sheet during the process.

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Photo 12



Photo 11



Photo 13

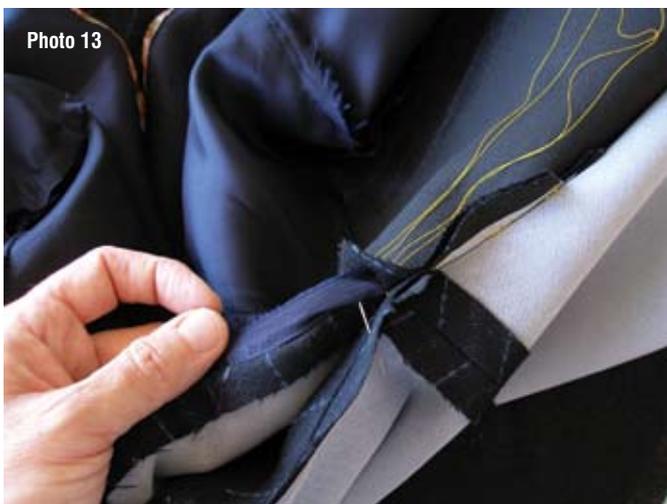


Photo 14



Photo 15



Photo 16

