

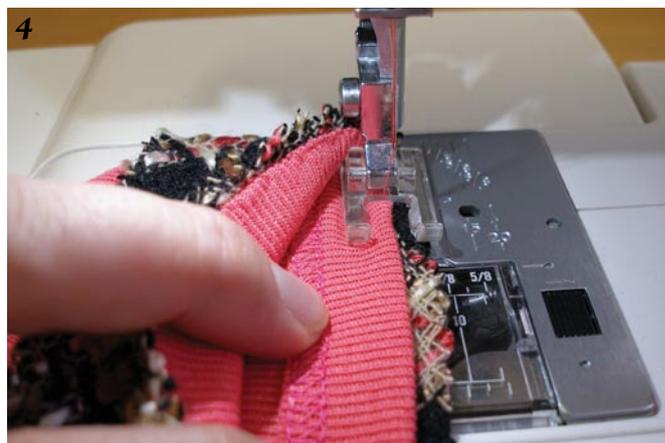
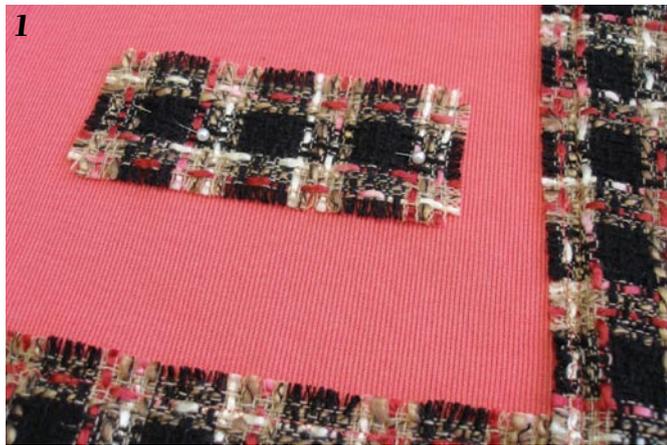
# Kwik Chic

By Martyn Smith

Tatting up a simple cardigan and sleeveless top can turn this timeless combination into something else with no real effort. Getting the perfect match of fabrics is probably the hardest thing about doing this simple project.



Kwik•Sew  
2948



A simple rib knit, with 35% stretch across the grain, was used and trimmed with a polyester/viscose (with other fibres) washable plaid fabric more suited to a jacket, which gives this faux 'Chanel' look. Quite honestly, the buttons were the most expensive part of the whole look.

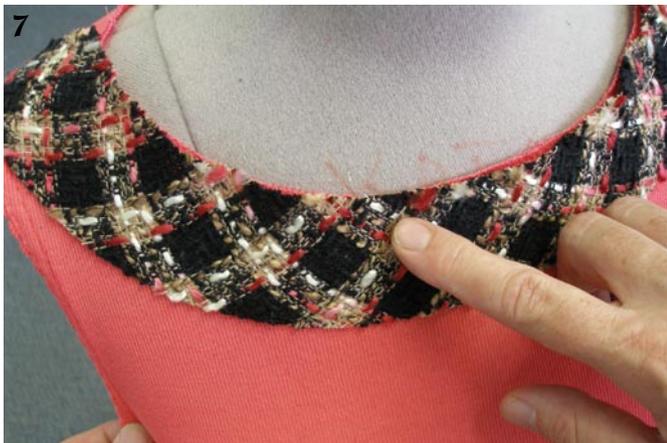
Retro chic is very fashionable at the moment and doesn't have to cost the earth. This ensemble can be worn with trousers or skirts but jeans give the best deconstructed look.

Cut 5cm (2in) strips from the plaid suiting fabric, remembering it's important to be consistent with the pattern you are cutting ... there is nothing wrong with using all bias

or a mixture of bias-cut and straight edge as long as they tone. The pocket strips were cut 5cm (2 in) x 11cm (4½in) for the lower pockets and 5cm (2in) x 9cm (3¾in) for the upper pockets (this is definitely NOT set in stone so work with the size of the plaid to make them look right). See photo 1.

The pockets have been sewn on with the stretch blind-hem stitch set quite wide and this can also hold the fray edge. See photo 2. The underside is just an indent from the stitch and is relatively invisible providing the thread match is good. See photo 3.

Use the stretch blind-hem stitch to secure the edge of the



contrast to the edge of the knit. It only has to have a few stitches to hold it in place as deconstruction is not about perfection, it's about finished effect. See photo 4.

To create the fitting of a curved contrast around the neck, first establish a lower length by draping the contrast on the neck edge. Then shape the cut edge off the pattern with some steam from the iron ... be careful not to melt the fabric like I did on my first go! Once you're happy with the shape, sew into place like a reverse facing (facing sitting on the outside of the garment). See photos 5, 6 and 7.

The front and lower bands of the cardigan were applied as the pattern suggested but I added approximately 10 percent extra length to the woven fabric when applying it to the knit, just to ensure it wasn't tight around the hip.

Pebble-piping (past article in Vol 15 No 12) is a sure-fire way of finishing the armholes of a singlet top, creating this self-fabric piping to give the edge a feminine finish. See photo 8.

A quick 'hair cut' after its first wash might be necessary, but on the whole it's a bit of fun and the longevity of the garment will be dictated by the choice of contrast fabric used (treat it as wearable art if you like). Have some stitching fun and send us a photo for our forum pages on [www.kwiksew.com](http://www.kwiksew.com) We love to see what you have been doing with our patterns.

