

# Collared and Cuffed Shirt Sewing Tutorial

by Jhulian G.



1.  
 Prepare your panels as per the pattern (provided at the end of this tutorial).

*\*The pattern is made for LUTS DELF Type 4 boy body, but will fit most 60-65cm boys.*

For the back body and sleeves, just fold the fabric lengthwise and cut according to pattern.

For the front left and right pieces, fold the fabric lengthwise and place the body pattern 2.5cm or more away from the edge before cutting. Also, cut a deeper neckhole than the back.



*"Ignore the unnecessary slice on the top of the sleeve pattern. Accident. :P"*

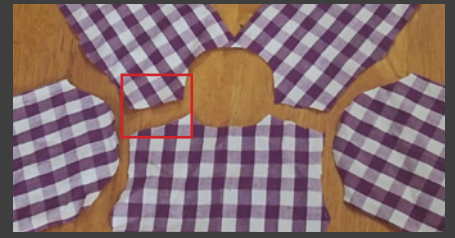
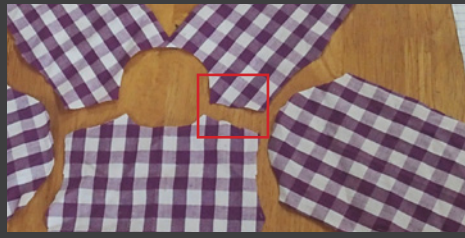
2.

Align the back panel and one of the front panels along the shoulder and sleevehole (it's easier to fix the neckhole if it doesn't align). Sew a straight stitch and backtrack with a zigzag stitch.

*NOTE: If you have a serger, you can replace all steps of zigzag stitch from here onwards with a serge stitch.*

*(But then again, if you have a serger, chances are, you're a better tailor than me and don't need this tutorial. :P)*

Turn the shirt right side up and sew the shoulders flat, with the seam allowance and the stitch both on the side of the back panel.



*"Guhhh, the neckhole doesn't align. That's gonna hurt me later..."*

3.

To sew the sleeves on, align the sleeve's middle to the stitch on the shoulder, then sew with a straight stitch & zigzag stitch.

*IMPORTANT! If your fabric has a right side and wrong side, always face the right sides together and sew on the wrong side!*

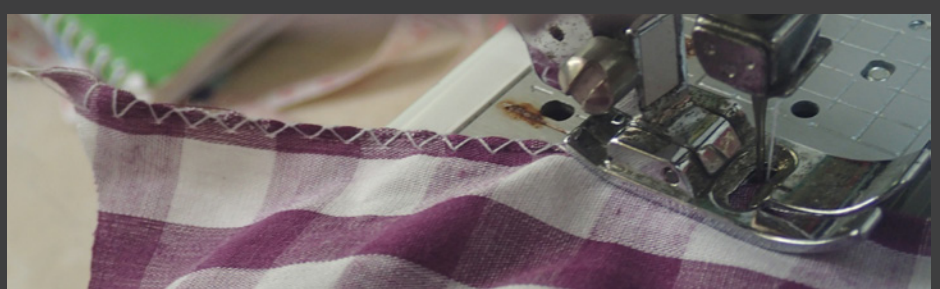
*(You can't imagine how many times I had to undo a stitch just because I forget to check. DX)*



*"I like to start the stitch of the sleeves in the middle, so I won't mess up. I do a straight stitch from the middle to the edge, then backtrack with a zigzag until I reach the middle, then switch again to straight stitch to finish off the other half."*

4.

Once you have successfully attached all 5 panels together, you can now sew a zigzag stitch (or a serge) through the edges of the entire piece.



*"I do this instead of full hemming to reduce the bulk of the clothing's stitches for better and more natural-looking drape."*

5.

For the cuffs, you have to first prepare the sleeves by folding in about 2.5-3cm of the sleeve's edge (both sides).



*Then, cut a rectangular strip of fabric about 5cm wide and just a bit longer than your prepped sleeve's width. Attach them with a straight stitch.*



*Once attached, fold the seam into the cuff, and then fold in the other edge as well.*



*Now, fold the cuff wrong side out (the seam folds facing you) and sew a straight stitch perpendicular to the cuff's edge. Do this for both sides. Cut off excess fabric (leaving a half centimeter seam allowance).*



5 (cont'd)

Now flip the cuff right side out and smooth out the edge seams with a pencil or a barbecue stick. The seam folds are now inside the cuff.



Flatten the cuff and sew over the open side with a straight stitch.

Congratulations! You have just made a cuff!

*"I, on the other hand, make terribly aligned stitches. Look at the peeping understitch on the left... orz"*



6.

For closing the sleeves, start a straight stitch from where the sleeve fold ins end.



Finish the stitch at the joining of the sleeves and body, under the armpit.

*"Usually, people stitch the sleeves and the side of the body in one go. But this produces problems like ugly bunched fabric under the armpit area. Mother taught me a better trick and I'll tell it next page. ^\_^"*



## 6 (cont'd)

Before sewing close the body's side seam, turn the sleeves right side out, then flatten the sleevehole seam neatly, like so.

*"This is the trick, and this ensures that after closing the side, the sleeves won't bunch up in the armpit area. ^\_^"*



## 7.

Now run a straight stitch along the body's side, starting from the armpit down to the shirttail.

**OPTION:** Here, you can either fully close the side, or you can give it that slitted look.

For the slitted side, stop the straight stitch about 4cm from the bottom, then flatten the seams apart, to make the slit visible. Run a straight stitch through both folded seams.



(Intermission).

Now's a good time to try it on and see what parts went wrong.

*"The shoulders lie a bit too low and the neckhole's too big... T\_T"*



8.

To fix a too big neckhole, just fold the back panel in half (wrong side out) and make a small straight stitch perpendicular to the neckhole, its distance from the edge the length which you want to take out.



Then, flatten the loop of fabric equally to both sides of the seam, so that you will end up with a pleat-looking fold from the right side.



*"This fix can only do so much as the body's width allows. If it's still too wide, you're better off fixing it in your next project. (a.k.a. Note to Self)"*

9.

Closing the button-side edges are a matter of simple hemming, only done on the right side.



10.

Closing the shirt-tails is also only a matter of folding the edges in and running a straight stitch over.

(They're zigzagged/serged already, so we don't need to fold them in twice.)



*"We're almost done! ^\_^"*



## 11.

Attaching a collar is pretty much the same as attaching cuffs. Prepare a rectangular piece of cloth roughly 10cm in width and much longer than your neckhole's circumference.

Here, we add something called a fabric padding. It's something of a cross between a paper and a fabric, and we'll use it to stiffen the collar.

*(If your fabric is stiff enough to stand on its own, you can skip the padding.)*

Also, those shiny specks you see in the padding? Adhesive. They make the padding stick onto the fabric when ironed.

Sew the padded side of the collar onto the **WRONG** side of the neckhole. Make sure that you have ample allowances on both sides.

**CHECK:** The seam allowance must end up on the right side. Don't worry, this will be hidden in the end.

Fold the collar's edges as you did the cuffs previously. right up to the stitching part. With the collar, we run the stitching at an angle instead of perpendicular to the edge. Trim off excess fabric, and also the sharp tip of the allowance.



## 11 (cont'd)

After stitching both sides, turn the collar right side up. Once again, the seam folds will end up on the inside. Use a pencil or stick to poke the collar into full shape.



Run a straight stitch on the open side of the collar, all the way around the collar's edge.



When ironing out the collar, do a curved fold instead of a flat fold. This ensures that the collar's corner aligns with the shirt front, and makes a clean cone when fully closed.



*"Now, finish off the shirt with a fastener of your choice (mine's good ol' cheating pins!) and you're all set to try out your newest creation!"*

## Congratulations!

You have just finished a  
collared and cuffed shirt!

*FINAL NOTE: You can add details  
such as a shirt pocket or other  
decor just after Step 2 (attaching  
front and back panels) and before  
Step 3 (attaching sleeves).*



*"Ugh, I still ended up with a too  
wide neckhole. Oh well. Better  
luck next time!"*

Pattern

Made from LUTS DELF Type 4  
boy body measurements.



DELF type 4  
boy  
sleeves  
by Jhulian G.



DELF type 4  
boy  
body  
by Jhulian G.