



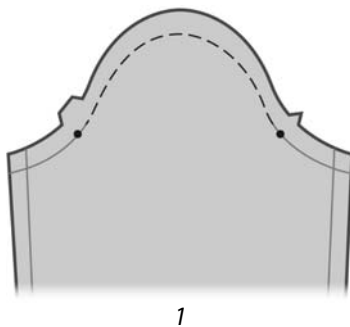
Set-In Sleeves

A set-in sleeve is found in many types of garments, from tailored jackets to sportswear and a nicely rounded sleeve cap gives a professional look most any garment.

A set-in sleeve has a rounded cap (the curved portion at the shoulder) that is slightly larger than the armhole it fits into. The additional ease allows the sleeve to fit smoothly over the shoulder and upper arm area.

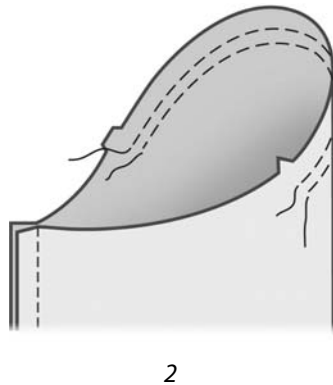
On Your Mark

When cutting out the sleeve, it's important to mark the shoulder placement and notches that align with the corresponding marks on the garment front and back pieces. Sleeves usually have two notches along the back, a single notch in the front and a dot at the shoulder location (1). In addition, some sleeves offer smaller dots along the seamline for further matching. All dots and/or notches can be easily marked with short clips into the sleeve seam allowance, with chalk or other marking tools.



Ease, Please

Because the sleeve cap curve is longer than the armhole curve it fits into, it's necessary to control the ease to prevent puckers. The easiest method is to use two lines of basting over the cap between the notches—one along the seamline, and the second 1/8" inside the seamline (2). When stitching, leave the thread tails long enough to pull.

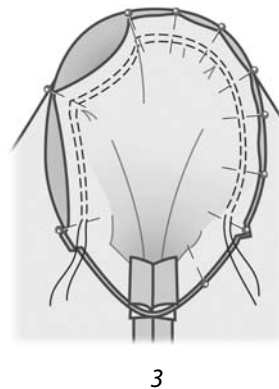


Construct the garment following the pattern guidesheet, stitching the side and shoulder seam, creating an armhole opening for the sleeve. Sew the sleeve underarm seam. Press all seams open unless directed otherwise for design detailing.

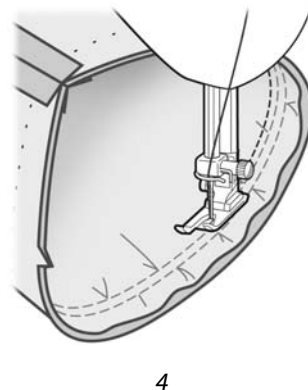
Sleeves, Please

Right sides together, match the sleeve to the appropriate armhole, noting that there is a specific left and right sleeve. Pin the notches, dots, shoulder markings and underarm seams together.

Gently pull on the sleeve ease line bobbin thread to draw up the excess fullness to fit the armhole. All the ease should remain in the cap area above the notches; pin several places (3). Hand-baste the sleeve in place, if desired.

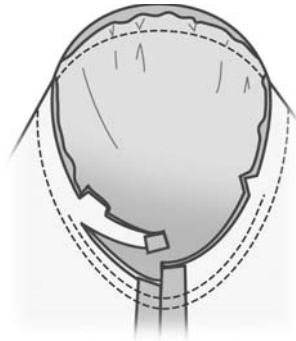


With the sleeve side up, stitch along the seamline removing the pins as you get to them. Use your fingers to control the ease and to avoid any tucks or pleats (4).



Add another row of stitching 1/4" inside the first line in the underarm area between the notches; trim the excess seam allowances only in this area to reduce bulk (5).

Turn the upper sleeve seam allowances toward the sleeve, but do not press them flat, as they help to add soft shaping to the sleeve cap. 🍷



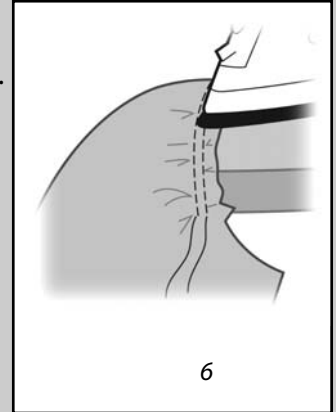
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Extra Ease

If you're working on sleeve with lots of ease and having difficulty setting the sleeve without puckers, try steam-pressing the cap area over a pressing ham to help ease in the fullness.

This technique works well with natural fiber fabrics, particularly wool, but will not work with synthetics.

To retain the soft sleeve shaping, press only with the tip of the iron and do not flatten the area (6).



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