

Sewing Secrets

Vogue 8624



Why we like it: This jacket is easy to make, easy to wear, and looks good on most everyone. You can make it from any fabric that drapes well, including knits. You can dress it up in a burnt out velvet and still wear it with jeans. It gives you the look and feel of a jacket without any formality or tailoring.

What we don't like: It takes a bit more fabric than a standard jacket -- you will need as much fabric as is noted on the pattern.

Fabric Selections: Soft knits, angoras, wool challis, velvets, chiffons, just about anything but a diagonal stripe or a stiff fabric. Stripes will make up beautifully, with the straight grain going up and down in the front and the back. The sleeves will do a wonderful perpendicular trick at the seam.

Sizing: The sample in the shop is a size 8. This fits many people, with varying degrees of overlap in the front.

Cutting: If you are making this out of a very special (ie expensive) piece of fabric, or if you are feeling adventuresome, you can cut the sleeve facings and the front facing from a complimentary piece of fabric.

Marking: It is VERY important to mark the notches, dots and squares on all of the pieces. Make sure that you know which mark is a small dot, a big dot, or a square. This jacket goes together easily, once you get the hang of it, but you must match up the marks carefully.

Sewing: Do not neglect to reinforce the side front edge as described in step #3. This is the place where the front band connects (or doesn't connect, as the case may be) with the hem. A better way to do this would be to create a bias strip and attach it as a finish to the bottom edge, rather than the simple turned up hem. This would prevent the stress that otherwise ensues at this point.

On Step 9, you might want to consider understitching the front band, as far as you can easily sew.

On Steps 6 and 11, it really is easier if you only sew to the dots, rather than sewing all the way to the edge of the fabric. This makes putting the sleeve facings on much easier.

On Step 14, in some fabrics, you'll want to hand stitch the facings in place, rather than topstitching.

On Step 10, you might want to consider hand stitching the edge of the back facing down to the back of the jacket, if you can do that inconspicuously. It makes it easier to put the jacket on.