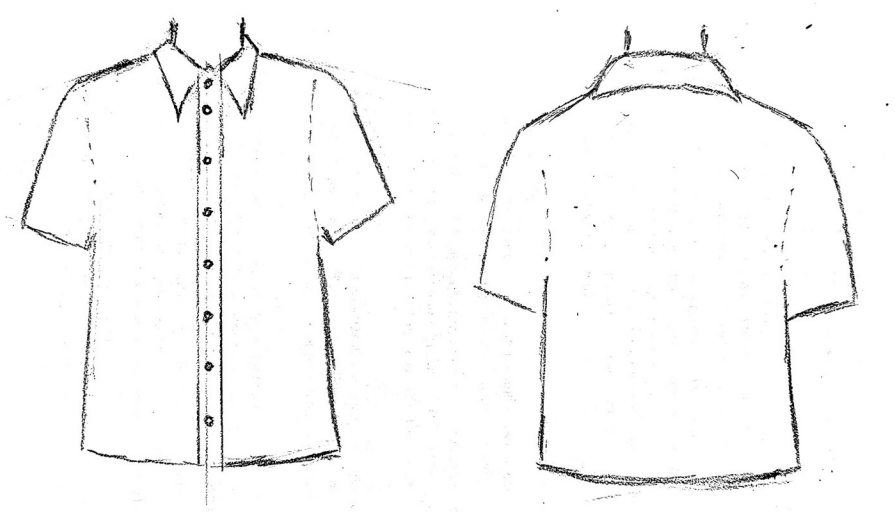
Men's Vacation Shirt — Syllabus

8 sessions, Fridays 10:30–11:30 · Always In Stitches · Seline Bolton

Camp collar, front button placket, no yoke, no back box pleat, no cuff plackets. Buttonholes made without a buttonhole foot.

What we are making



Schedule

1/8 Measurements and the specification sheet

- Go through the garment specification sheet
- Learn and practise taking the measurements

No drafting and no sewing. Bring a tape measure and a pen only.

Homework: take the measurements at home. Most of us are making the shirt for someone else.

1/15 *No class*

1/22 Top line, B/W/H, shoulder slope

- Fold the paper, top line square to the fold
- B, W and H lines
- Shoulder slope

Drafting starts today. Bring pattern paper, rulers and drafting tools.

1/29 Front neckline, shoulder width, front armhole

- Neck width and neck depth, the helper box and the curve
- Shoulder width line
- Chest width column and the front armhole

The front is not cut on the fold. The two front pieces are different — we draw the placket next week.

2/5 Back piece, back armhole, camp collar, front placket

- Trace the back from the front; back neckline; back width; back armhole
- Draw the camp collar
- The front placket: cut out the left front, lay it on new paper, trace it, then extend 7 cm

The collar can be traced on the fold, but the measurements must be checked again afterwards — tracing shifts the lines more than people expect.

Homework: trace the whole front, the whole back and the collar onto clean paper. Slow, steady work — better done unhurried at home.

2/12 *Break — homework: cut the muslin, sew the shoulder seams and hem the bottom*

Leave the side seams open. Next class we set the sleeve with the piece flat, which is much easier to do and much easier to watch.

The hem has to be finished before the placket can run over it.

2/19 *No class*

2/26 Sleeve drafting; collar sample

- Draft the sleeve, keeping the cap low
- Bring your traced pieces — I check the collar measurements

  A mistake in the right front does not show up until you sew, so this check matters.
- A finished collar to look at, and how it is sewn — no machines today

  A low cap has little ease and is much easier to set. I check every cap curve before you leave — a cap drawn too steep cannot be set into the armhole, and by then the muslin is already cut.

  Homework: cut and sew the sleeve muslin.

3/5 Setting the sleeve

- Setting a sleeve into the armhole
- Practise on your muslin — you are welcome to film the demonstration

  Bring your sewing machine. Unfinished work goes home.

3/12 *Break — homework: set both sleeves, check the fit, bring feedback*

3/19 *No class*

3/26 Sleeve fitting Q&A; placket, buttonholes and collar

- Questions from the sleeve fitting; pattern adjustments where needed
- Sew the front placket: fold 4 cm, stitch at 1 cm, fold 3 cm, stitch at 0.1 cm

  I demonstrate the folding with the classroom iron, unplugged, and bring a finished placket to look at. Please do not bring an iron — your own pressing happens at home.
- Buttonholes made without a buttonhole foot — practise one or two in class
- Set the collar

  Mark a centre point every 6 cm down the placket, then 0.5 cm either side of each one. That 1 cm opening fits the button.

  Placket and buttonholes first, collar after — if the placket is still open, the collar cannot be stitched down firmly.

  Bring your sewing machine and fabric scissors. Filming is welcome.

  Homework over the break: cut your fashion fabric and sew the shirt, buttons not yet attached.

4/2 *Break — spring break. Homework: sew the shirt, then mark your button positions*

8 to 10 buttons, about 6 cm apart, adjusted to suit the shirt. Mark them on a dress form or on the person who will wear it. Come with the marks already made — 4/9 is for sewing them on, not for working out where they go.

4/9 Buttons, show and tell

- Hand-sew the buttons
- Show your shirt: who it is for, why you chose that fabric, what you would change
- Photographs of the finished shirts on the dress form

  A relaxed hour. Hand-sewing the buttons takes longer than people expect.

Where the breaks fall, and why

Each break comes straight after a step you need time to work on at home. 2/12 follows the drafting, 3/12 follows the sleeve, 4/2 follows the placket and collar. Nothing is cut in fashion fabric until the pattern has been checked.