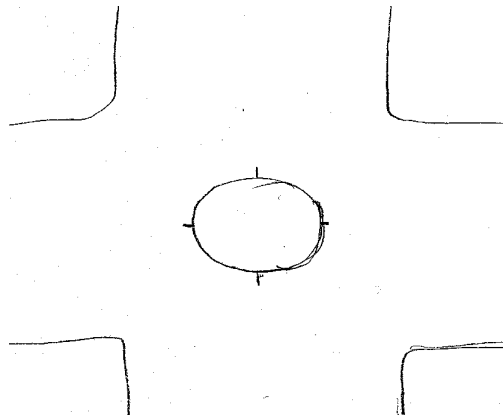


Sewing a simple neckline facing - round neckline, square neckline, or simple V neckline on a T-tunic or tunic with straight (unsloped) shoulder seams.

You'll need paper for tracing a pattern onto, a pencil, and your usual sewing gear. The facing will be put on AFTER cutting the neckhole (T-tunic) or sewing the shoulder seams (shaped tunics), but BEFORE doing any of the other sewing.

Making the pattern:

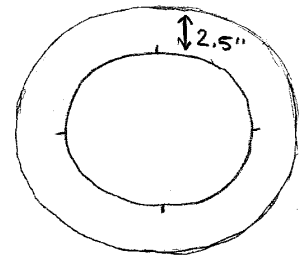
Cut the tunic out, including the neckhole. Sew shoulder seams, if there are any.



Lay the cut fabric over your paper, so that the neckhole is centered on the paper. Trace the outline of the neckhole on the paper. Mark where the shoulder seams lie, too (or the folds where the shoulder-seams would be) for reference points. Heck, mark the center front and back, too, while you're at it. (You can mark these points on the tunic by making a small scissors-snip in the edge of the fabric)

Take the paper with the neckline drawn on it, and draw another line about 2.5" outside of the first one, all the way around.

This is your facing pattern. Cut it out.

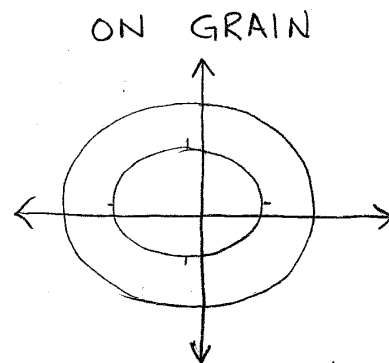


Making the facing:

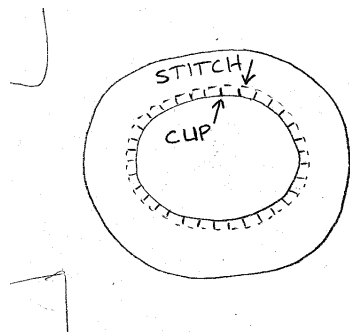
Pin the pattern to some fabric (ON GRAIN - see the diagram. This is important!), and cut the fabric to shape. Make little snips to mark the shoulder seams and center front/back. This is your facing.

Now you will pin the facing to the neckhole of the tunic, RIGHT SIDES TOGETHER, matching up the neckhole edges nicely, and matching up the shoulder marks and center front/back marks.

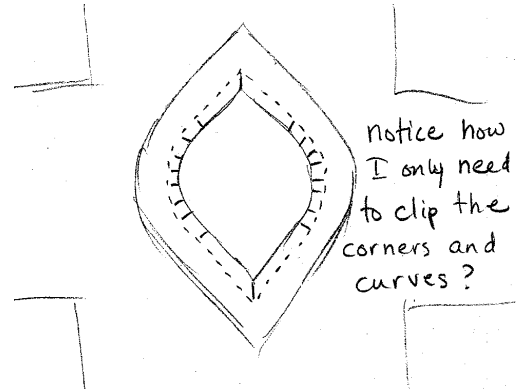
Sew the facing to the neckline.



The threads of the fabric should run in the direction of the arrows, with the marks lining up parallel to them.



The facing will be turned to the inside, but first you have to make clips in the seam allowance so that the fabric can spread out and leave your neckline lying nice and flat. Just make clips into the seam allowance, as far in as you can go without actually cutting into the stitches, about 1" apart around the neckline.

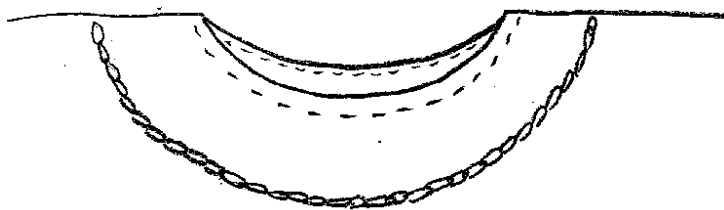


Now take that facing, and fold it to the inside of the tunic. Smooth it out, straighten out the seamline (so that the stitching is lying right on the edge), make sure everything is lying flat, and press. (Yes, I really do mean that you have to get out an iron, fill it with water, and STEAM PRESS this thing. Just do it - it makes a difference.)

OK, for finishing, you've got a lot of options. Basically, you need some stitching to keep the neck edge in place, and some more stitching to keep the free edge of the facing in place.

For the neck edge, you can just machine-stitch around, close to the edge, or you can hand-sew a line of stitching around the edge. Or you can get fancy and apply a narrow trim to the neck edge, or embroider something small like a chain-stitch or blanketstitch.

For the facing edge, get a little fancier.....but first, baste the facing flat to the tunic with a line of large-ish hand-stitches around the facing edge. Now you have a line to follow on the right side of the tunic, so you'll be sure that the stitches catch the facing.



Now you can either try out some of the decorative sewing machine stitches you never had an excuse to use, or you can add another line of trim, or you can do another line of embroidery - perhaps a bigger stitch like featherstitch or herringbone.

Now your neckline is properly faced and finished, and you can finish sewing the tunic with the most dreaded part - the neckline - already out of the way.