

## Seattle T-Shirt

Created By: Rachel Barnes, Janome Maker



Sewing a handmade t-shirt can be a versatile project. You can dress up the t-shirt with a fancier knit or go for a more casual look by adjusting the size. Utilizing a serger for most of the sewing makes this a very speedy project! The pattern sample is the [Seattle Shirt](#) by So Sew English. Supplementary notes and tips are included.

**Skill Level:** Beginner

**Janome Supplies Required:**

- Air Thread 2000D
- Skyline S7 and AcuFeed Flex foot AD
- Sewing machine needles (matching selected fabric)

**Fabric and Notions Required:**

- [Seattle Shirt Pattern](#) by So Sew English
- 1  $\frac{3}{8}$  yards, 58" wide knit fabric with 25% stretch (depending on size)
- Matching thread
- Iron/Marking pen/chalk/French curve ruler
- Rotary cutter/ruler/mat/flexible tape measure
- Pattern Transfer paper (tracing paper, medical supply paper or newspaper)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ " clear elastic
- Tape/scissors

### Sample Notes:

- Sample Fabric: Leaf print Bamboo knit, [similar to this one](#) or [Mustard Joy of Dressing Print](#) Bamboo knit



- Percentage of Stretch: A 25%, Two Way Stretch knit fabric is recommended for the pattern. If you're not familiar with calculating a percentage of stretch in knit fabrics, [the following tutorial](#) is a handy reference.
- Sample Version: Scoop neck, short sleeves, self-drafted neckband, 4" shortened length

### Machine Notes:

- Test scraps of fabric with the Air Thread 2000D to adjust thread tension.
- The Air Thread2000D has 8 feed dogs built-in to the machine, making it very easy to sew lightweight knit fabrics.

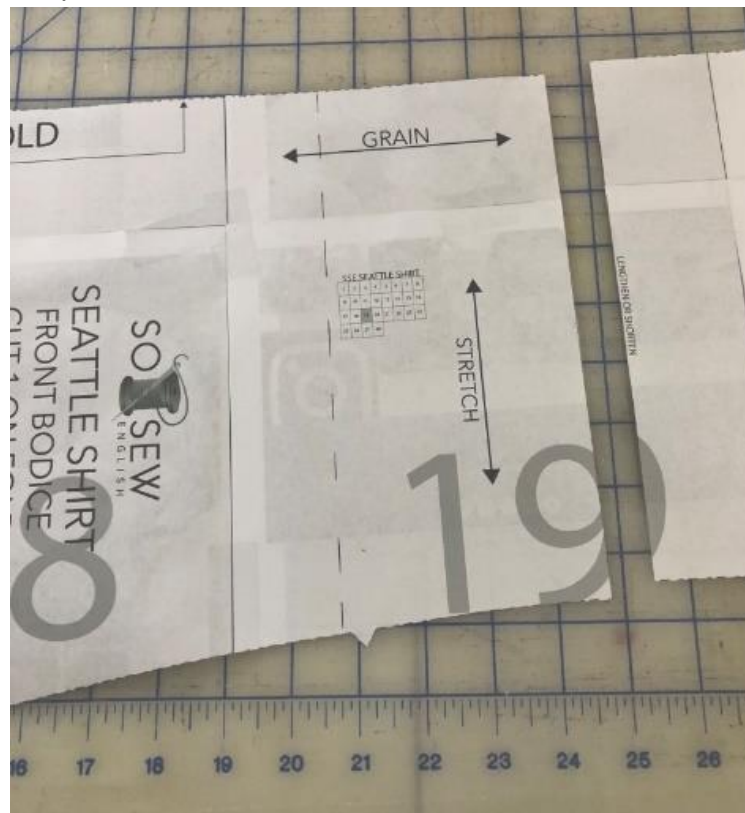
### Pattern Mods:

The Seattle Shirt, as designed, is a tunic length. I am pear shaped so I wanted to offer a fun modification with this project to shorten the length (I took out 4" of length). This mod changes the project from a tunic to a more traditional t-shirt length. Test this length mod on a practice muslin first (to see if you need to shorten the length more or less than 4").

I used a lightweight knit for the sample. For a drapey and loose fit, I went up a size (from what I would normally sew) in the bust.

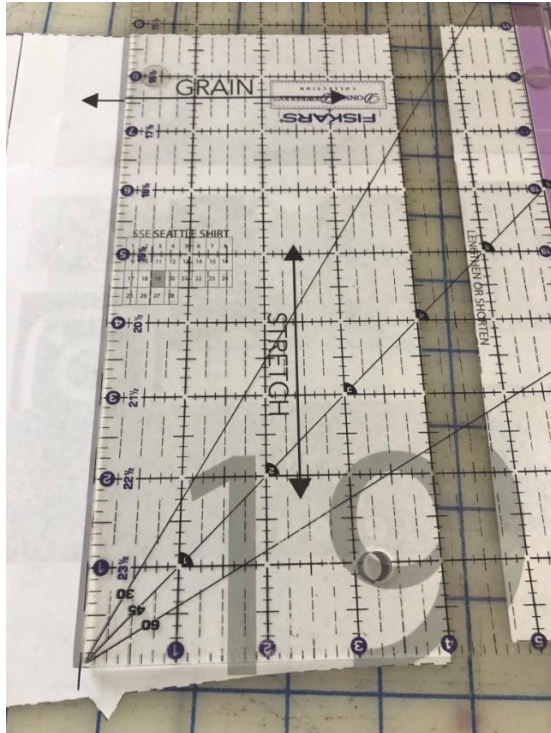
### To shorten shirt length

1. Cut out and tape the FRONT and BACK pattern pieces together. We will modify the pattern FRONT first.
2. At the Lengthen or Shorten Line, cut straight across this horizontal line (cutting the pattern in half).

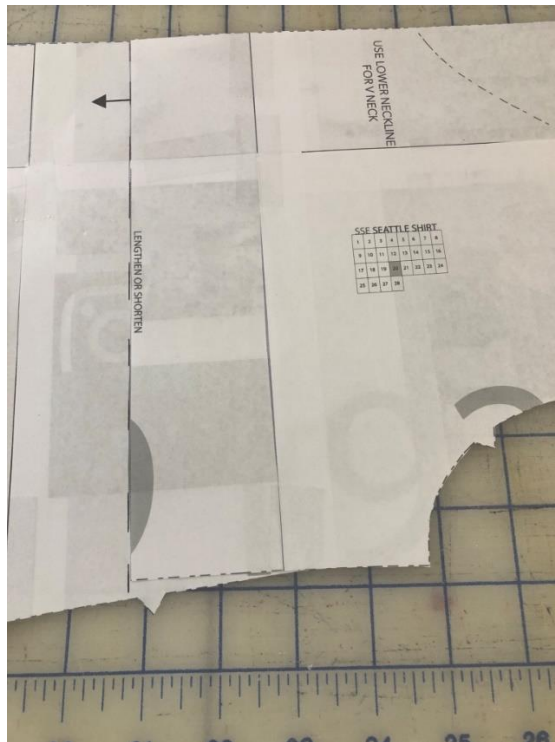


3. Using a ruler, mark a dashed line 4" below the lengthen/shorten line.



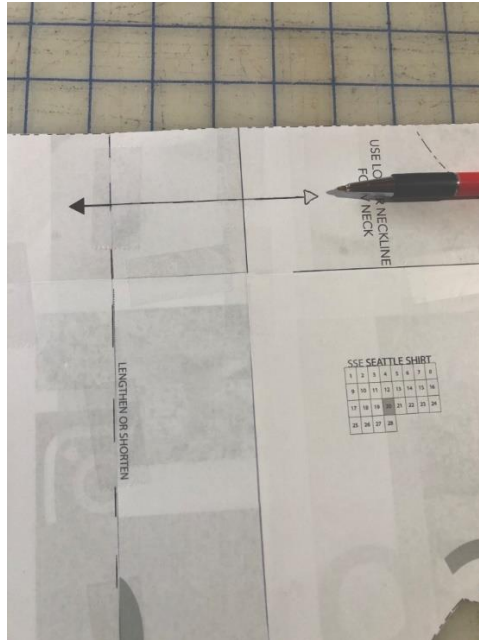


4. Lay the top pattern FRONT piece along this new dashed line.



5. Tape in place along the dashed line.

6. Lengthen the Grainline arrow onto the Top pattern FRONT piece (as shown).



7. Repeat Steps 1 - 6 for the BACK pattern piece.
8. Use the new pattern pieces to cut out the fabric.

### **Sewing Instruction Notes:**

Step 1. Add  $\frac{1}{4}$ " of clear elastic along the shoulders and serge in place at this step. Clear elastic helps reinforce the shoulders to prevent the seams from stretching out, over time.



Do NOT iron over the clear elastic in the shoulder seams as it will melt.

Steps 2 - 4: We are going to self-draft the neckband instead of using the included scoop neck, neckband pattern. Self-drafting the neckband allows for a customized detail that can help accommodate a variety of knit fabrics.

- With the Front and Back pieces that you just serged (and a flexible tape measure), start at one shoulder seam.



- Carefully walk the tape measure around the fabric in the neckline with your fingers, measuring the length of the neckline. Do not stretch the fabric as you move the tape measure around the fabric. As you work your way back around to the starting shoulder seam, write down the final measurement. I prefer to go through this process of measuring the neckline 3 times (writing down the measurement that I get, three times). I then average out my measurement errors.

- For the example shown in the photo, I measured  $27 \frac{5}{8}$ " for the neckline (in the size that I selected).  $\frac{5}{8}$ " converted to a decimal is 0.625". Replace the  $27 \frac{5}{8}$ " measurement with your measurement to construct a neckband that matches your project.



- We're going to construct a neckband that is 20% smaller than the

neckline. For this example, I multiplied 27.625 by 0.8 which equals 22.1".  $\frac{1}{8}$ " converted to a decimal is 0.125". The new length of the neckband will be  $22 \frac{1}{8}$ ".

Project Example:

$$\begin{array}{r} 27.625 \text{ **My Neckline Length**} \\ \times \quad 0.8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

22.1 ~  $22 \frac{1}{8}$ " **New neckband length**

Insert your measurements:

$$\begin{array}{r} ( \quad ) \text{ **Your Neckline Length**} \\ \times \quad 0.8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

**New neckband length**

- The Seattle Shirt's neckband pattern width is 0.5". With drafting paper, I drew a new neckband rectangle that is  $22 \frac{1}{8}$ " long by 0.5" wide. Use the measurement of your new neckband length with a width of 0.5" to construct a new neckband rectangle on drafting paper.
- Lay the new neckband pattern piece on your fabric (following the Grain and Stretch arrows as depicted on the neckband pattern piece). The greatest amount of stretch should run along the length of the new neckband. The grain should run perpendicular to the greatest amount of stretch. Cut out a neckband with your self-drafted pattern.
- Before adding the new neckband to the shirt, serge the edges of the neckband together (but keep the neckband inside the blade so that you are not cutting the fabric).
- This step helps make applying





the neckband much easier. If you selected a printed fabric for this project, using the wrong side of the fabric for the neckband gives a nice contrasting detail.



Follow Steps 2-4 in the pattern to attach the neckband to the t-shirt. Fold both of the shoulder seams toward the back of the shirt (for a comfortable finish).

Steps 18-19: Keep the shoulder seams folded toward the back of the shirt (when applying the sleeves) to ensure the seams are sewn flat.

Janome AcuFeed is handy to use when sewing with knits on the Skyline S7. This foot helps balance sewing with knit fabrics so that the seams are flat and not stretched, after sewing.





Steps 21 - 22: Using the Skyline S7 and AcuFeed foot AD, use the lightning bolt stitch to sew the sleeve and bottom hems.



The lightning bolt stitch is a handy stretch stitch to use when sewing knit hems. When the seam is opened the stitch lays as flat as a straight stitch but has built-in stretch needed for knits.

