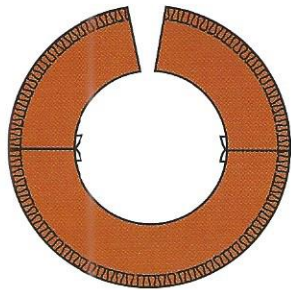
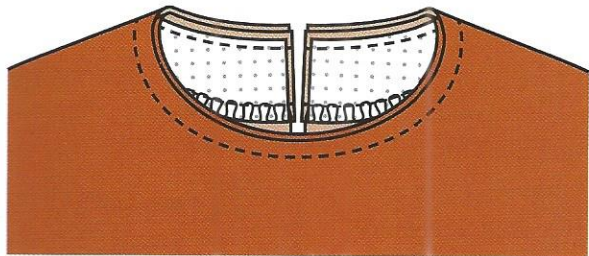


- Using texturized nylon in the upper looper and a balanced 3-thread stitch (length 3mm; width 5mm), serge edge of facing, trimming 1/8".

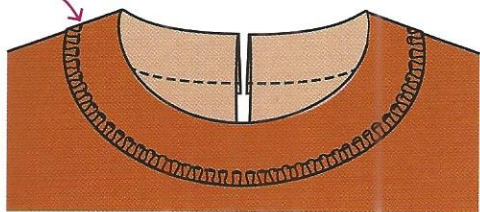


- Stitch RIGHT side of facing to WRONG side of neckline. Trim, grade, clip, and turn facing to outside. Press.



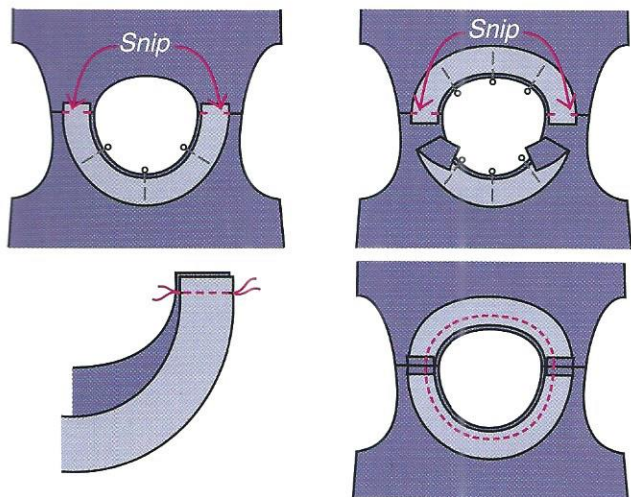
- Anchor outer edge of facing by topstitching on the needle line of the serged stitch.

Topstitch



PRO Tip

A tip for matching shoulder seams. Place facing on front. Snip shoulder seams. Place facing on back and snip. Sew from snip to snip. Match snips and seam. Now the seams will match the garment seams.

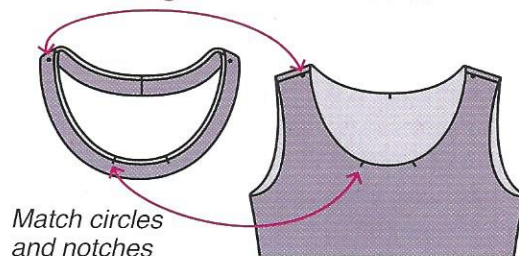


BANDS

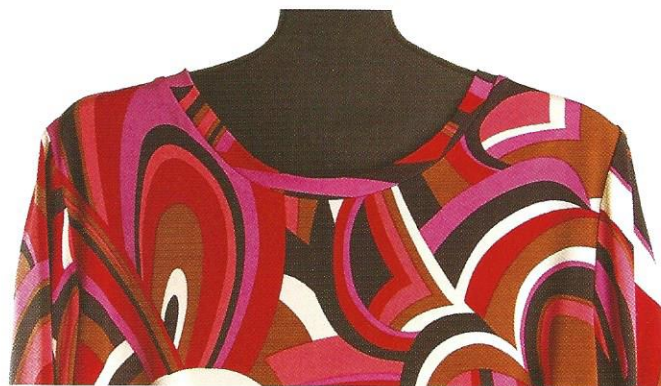
Make a separate band and sew it to the edge. We will show neckbands since they involve a little more technique than a straight edge, but all of these techniques can be used on a straight edge.

Quick Tip

Use a commercial pattern that has a band or a bound neckline and simply match the circles and notches when sewing for a perfect fit. Baste first in case your fabric is stretchier than the fabric they used. Then shortening the band will be easier!



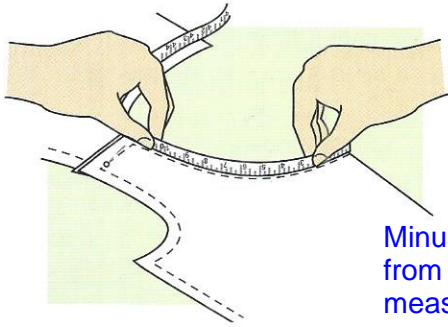
Round Neckline and Armhole Bands



Round and scooped necklines are popular in today's fashion knit garments. They are the easiest neckline finishes because we can give you base calculations to start from for determining the length and width of the band.

Joining a band to a round neckline (or armhole) requires the band to stretch to fit the circumference of the garment edge while the folded outer edge still hugs the neckline (or armhole) when finished. The goal is to have a smooth band that neither flutes because it is too loose, nor gathers the garment neck edge because it is too tight. With coordinating ribbing harder to find, self-fabric bands are the most common.

Measure the circumference of the neck edge, around the seamline on the pattern tissue. Double the number for a full neckline.



Minus 10 to 20 % from full neck measurements

Cut a self-fabric band (light to mid-weight fabrics) twice the desired finished width plus two seam allowances. For band length, cut it 3/4 of the neck circumference at the seamline plus two seam allowances. Cut the neckband on the stretchiest direction of the fabric, usually crosswise.

The correct length of the band depends on the fabric. A round neck band is quartered as is the neckline. If you machine baste the band on first, you can see how it lies. If it is too big, you can take it off and shorten it. With practice, you will come to “feel” the fabric between your fingers and know how much stretch is required for the band to join the neck.

PRO Tip

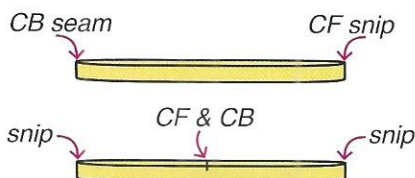
Seam allowances: You can use 1/4”, 3/8”, or 5/8” seam allowances on neckline and band, whichever gives you the best control. Check your pattern to see what seam allowances it gives you when a band is included.

Also, some people like to staystitch the neckline for more control. You can zigzag raw edges of band for control and still be able to stretch the band to the neckline.

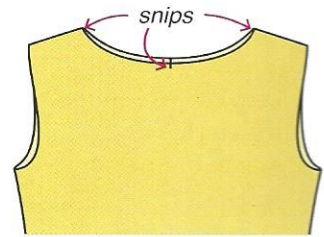
1. Sew the two short ends, right sides together, forming a circle. Press seam open. Press band in half, wrong sides together.



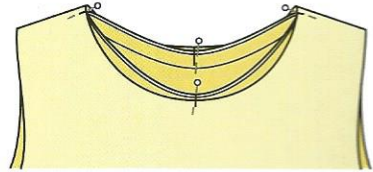
2. With the seam as center back, divide the band into quarters and pin or snip-mark.



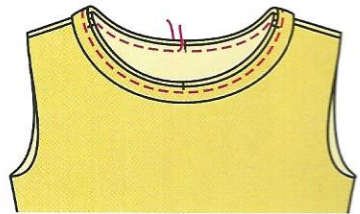
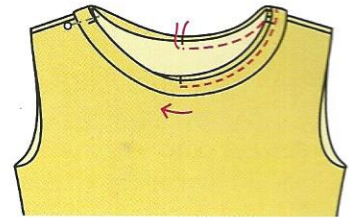
3. Using the center front and center back as the first two match points, divide the neck into quarters and mark each quarter with a small snip into the seam allowance.



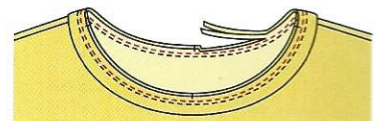
4. Right sides together, pin the center backs of band and neck, matching snips. Then pin together only at the other quarter points. The band will be smaller than the neck. You may want pins at midpoints with slippery fabrics.



5. With the band on top, start at center back and machine baste the band and neck together. Sew one quarter at a time, stretching the band to fit the neck edge, without stretching the neck at all.



6. Try on to check the fit, then sew, sew again 1/4” away, and trim to stitching or serge band to neck.



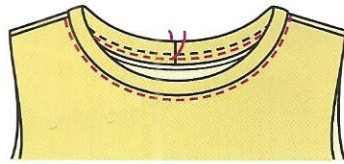
PRO Tip

If you serge to finish, start at shoulder instead of center back. It will look neater when on a hanger! (That is the teacher in us!)

After serging, press on top of the serged seam allowance to flatten the layers.



7. Press the seam down toward the garment. Some fabrics will stay down and others may spring up toward the band. Either to keep the seam allowance down or for decorative effect, sew around the neck edge and through the band seam allowance, with either a straight stitch, coverstitch, or 2:2 zigzag stitch.



PRO Tip

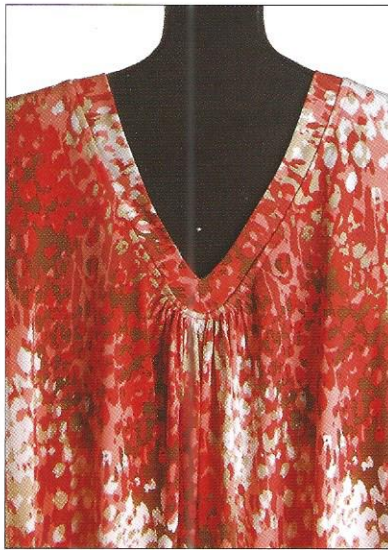
Press neck band seam allowances to inside over a

pressing ham. It will be much easier to handle. Always let fabric cool after pressing before moving.



V and U Neckline Bands

V- and U-shaped neckline finishing varies from that of circular because both have straight or slightly curved sides on the front neckline. The back neck remains the same and therefore requires stretch. But the front neckline needs little to no stretching. Practice makes perfect!



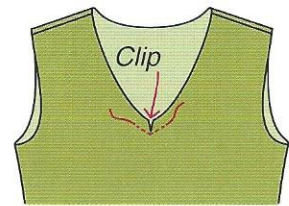
PRO Tip

The way the V is finished on the inside is usually with the band lapped or mitered leaving raw edges.

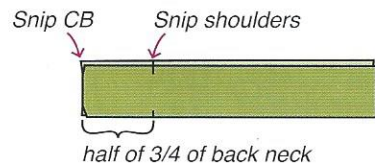
If you use a pattern, the V will be totally finished on the inside because there are pre-mitered pattern pieces used to cut and sew the band. There are also matching points, putting stretch in the appropriate places.



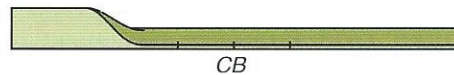
1. Staystitch for 1/2" around the point of the V and clip seam allowance to the point. This allows the V to spread open to form a straight edge for sewing.



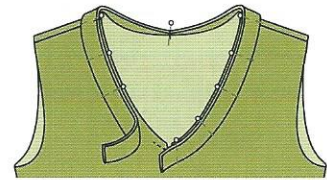
2. Cut the neck band with the greatest stretch running the length. The width should be twice the desired width plus two seam allowances. Make it the length of the front neck edge at the seamline plus three-fourths the length of the back neck edge at the seamline plus two seam allowances. Fold in half and snip center back. If the back neck is 4", then the band back neck is 3". Mark 1 1/2" on each side of center back to mark shoulders.



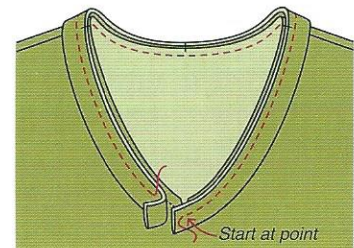
3. Fold band in half wrong sides together.



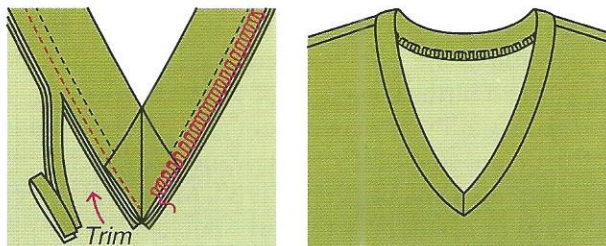
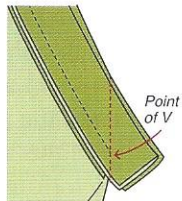
4. Pin the band at the center back right sides together. Match shoulders to shoulder marks on band. Pin the band to the front neckline. If the front V is straight, you don't need to stretch the band. If it is curved, stretch ever so slightly.



5. With the band on top, and beginning at the center back, machine baste the band to neck. Stretch across inside curve of back neck and continue to sew the front neck. Start and stop exactly at point of V. Start again at the center back and sew the other side. If the band looks good, finish. If it needs to be made smaller, remove basting and shorten the band. When it looks good, permanently sew.



- Miter center front of the band by stitching through band in line with the center front of the garment.
- Press open. Then sew another row of stitching 1/4" away and trim to stitching or serge seam allowances to 1/4".



U-shaped necks need the band to be stretched slightly on the straight and stretched more on inside curves.

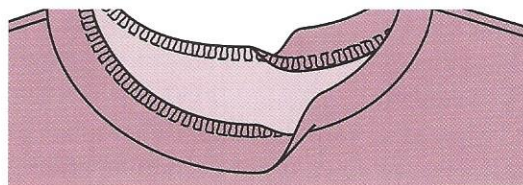
Creative Bands for Round Necklines

Double Band Using Self-Fabric

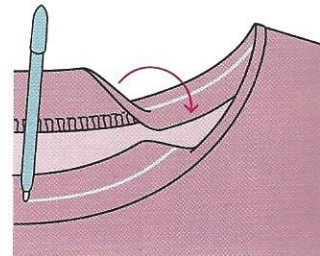


Cut self-fabric band (light to mid-weight fabrics):
 Width – Four times desired finished width plus seam allowances
 Length – 3/4 of the neck circumference plus seam allowances.

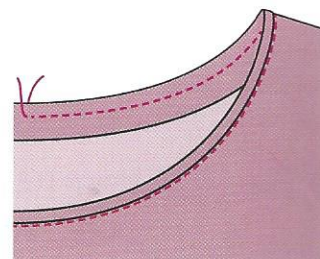
- Apply neck band, as in round or V neckbands.



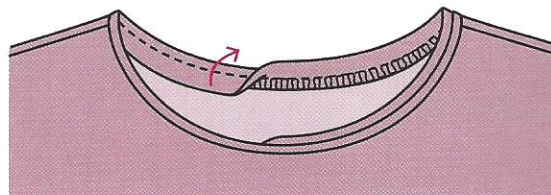
- From the right side, mark the middle of the exposed band. Fold the band down to the inside until that line is at neck seam-line. Pin.



- From the right side, stitch in the well of the seam with a straight stitch, catching the band.



- Let go of the band and the folded edge will automatically bounce up toward the band and create a double banded effect.



Double Band Using Two Fabrics



Double banding, using two fabrics or colors, adds an accent and can tie prints and solids together as in this top. Cut two different self-fabric bands, each a