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VINTAGE INSPIRED PATTERNS

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ELISE BLOUSE: RAISING THE NECKLINE

Author: Rosie | Date: April 2018

WHY THIS TUTORIAL?

As you can see in the photo on the right, the Elise blouse has both a **deep** and **wide** neck shape.

We heard from some of you that the neckline on their Elise blouse turned out to be a little too revealing for them, asking how to raise the neckline and adjust the collar accordingly.

Good question and we figured this deserves a tutorial on it's own!



First we need to determine if the neckline is stretched or if the pattern is too low for your body posture.

• CHECKING FOR NECKLINE STRETCH:

The neckline of the Elise blouse is cut in a diagonal direction, making it on the bias. The main characteristic of fabric on the bias (compared to the straight and cross grain) is that it stretches. Fabric that stretches elongates as well. Since the neckline is finished with facing that is stabilized with interfacing, the neckline should keep its shape most of the time. However, there are woven fabrics out there that are very unstable on the bias and might distort the shape of the neckline as you are working on your blouse. Resulting in a stretched neckline shape.

If you have already sewn your Elise blouse and would like to check if this is the case, you can easily compare the length of the neckline in the pattern to the length of the neckline in your garment. (Make sure to first deduct the seam allowance before measuring the pattern, see illustration on page 2).

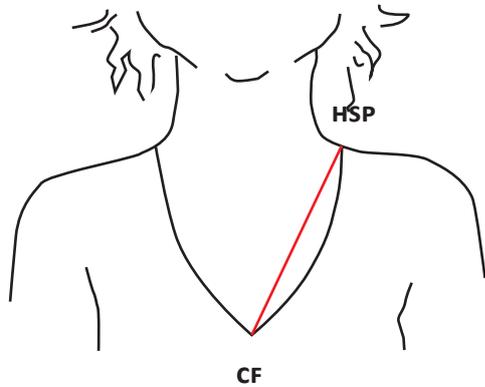
When you find that the neckline in the blouse turned out to be longer and you wish to remake the front panels of the blouse, you can fixate the neckline by using **fusable woven stay-tape** along the neckline edge.

If you haven't sewn your blouse yet and the fabric you wish to use is very unstable in the bias direction, we would recommend using the stay-tape to prevent it from stretching.

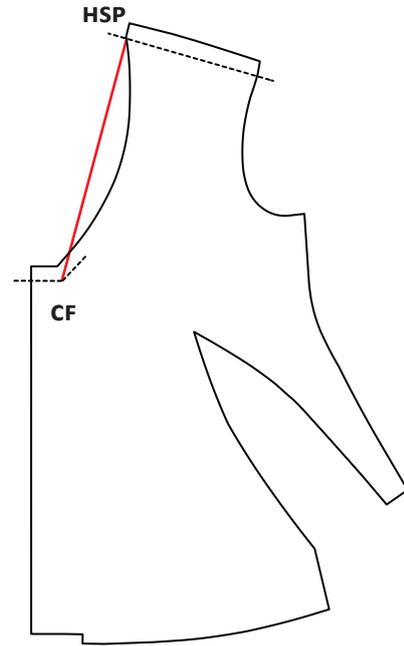
• CHECKING THE PATTERN:

The neckline can also be too low for you due to either personal taste, or your height is shorter than the drafted pattern is based on (which is 1,68 meter / 5,5 feet). This could result in the neckline being too low for your preference. How to measure and adjust this will be explained on the next two pages.

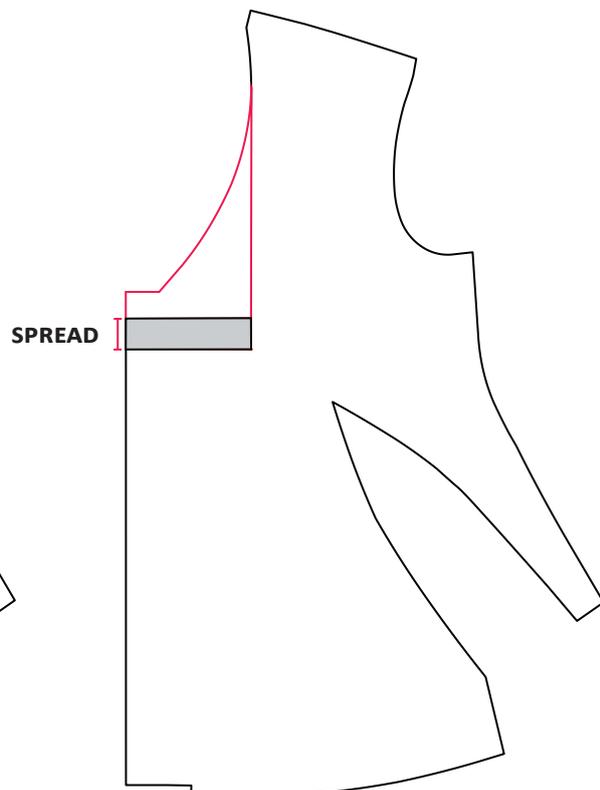
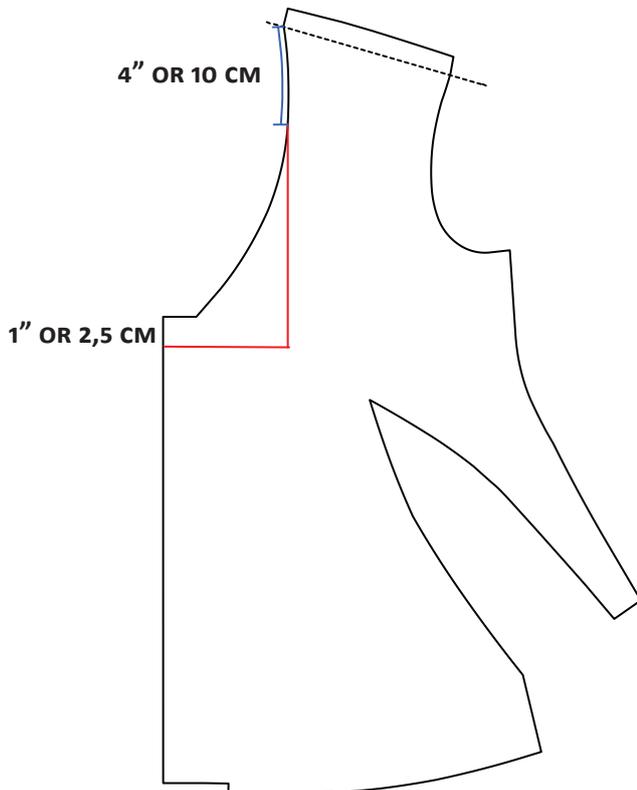
1 Measure on your body from your High Shoulder Point (HSP) to how deep you wish the neckline to be at CF. See red line in illustration below.



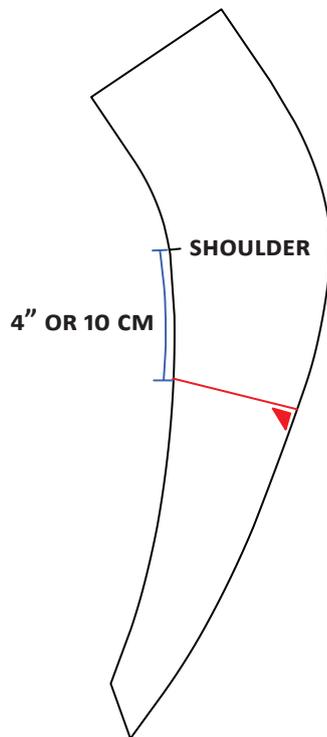
2 To measure the same distance on your pattern you first need to deduct the seam allowance ($\frac{5}{8}$ " or 1,5 cm). See dotted lines in illustration below.



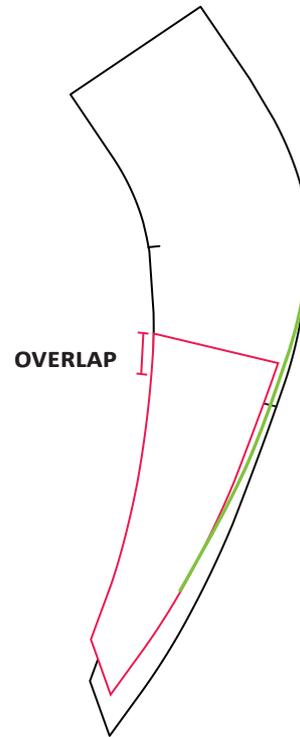
3 Deduct your body measurement from the pattern measurement. That's how much you wish to raise the pattern. Mark at CF 1" or 2,5 cm down and draw a horizontal line. Then mark 4" or 10 cm down from the shoulderseam and draw a vertical line downwards. See red lines below. Cut this triangular shape out from your front panel. Spread the pattern at CF as much as you wish to raise the front neckline (spread area marked as grey box below). Tape the pattern pieces back together. Reshape the neckline if necessary, to keep a smooth line. Adjust the CF facing and interfacing the same way.



④ Measure on the upper collar 4" or 10 cm down from the shoulder notch. Draw a line from this point 90 degrees perpendicular to the collar edge. See red line in illustration below. Cut the collar along this line in two pieces.



⑤ Overlap the collar by the same amount as you have raised the CF neckline and tape back together. Make sure to keep the shape of the inner collar aligned. See overlapped collar piece in red below. Reshape the collar curve edge in a smooth line. See green line in illustration below.



⑥ Adjust both the Under Collar and the Collar Facing accordingly. Determine if you wish to add a button, now that the CF of your blouse has become longer and don't forget to redivide the button distance.

THERE YOU GO!
YOU JUST RAISED THE NECKLINE OF YOUR BLOUSE!