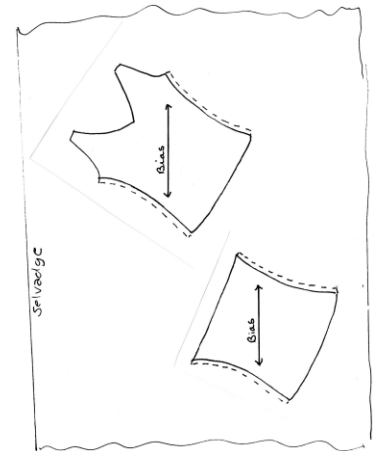




Bias Cut Tank Top ~ #105 The Perfect Tank Top

- Trace a full Front and Back pattern piece on paper. Add ½" to each side seam. Draw 45 degree bias lines on the Front and Back pattern pieces. The facing pieces are eliminated.
- Using a single layer layout, cut one Front and one Back from both a fashion fabric and lining on the bias. Lining fabric could be cotton batiste (easiest!), china silk or rayon bemburg.



- Cut straps on the bias, 2 ½" X 30" or so. This will make two straps.

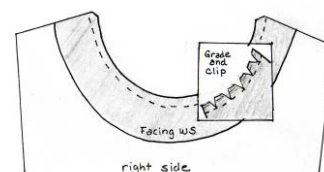
Use a straight stitch on the sewing machine for the construction.

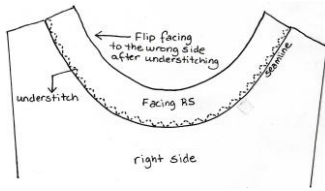
- Stitch the fashion fabric, Front and Back, RST at the side seams. Stitch the straps RST, turn and press.
- Sew the straps to the front and back, RST per pattern instructions. Try on and make any fit adjustments.
- Stitch the lining, Front and Back, RST at the side seams. Pin lining RST to the top edge of the tank, stitch around the entire top edge.
- Clip curved seams and the center front "v". Understitch the seam allowance to the lining (Pamela's favorite understitch is a multiple zig zag stitch, width – 4.0, length 2.5). You will start and stop the understitching at the front straps.
- Press the top edge and topstitch if desired.
- Narrow hem both layers, with the lining 1" shorter than the tank.

Understitched Neckline Facing

Makes turning the neckline facing a breeze - this technique works great for slash pockets in skirts and slacks, too.

1. Interface the facing piece. Stitch facing to garment, RST.
2. Grade seam allowance and clip seam.





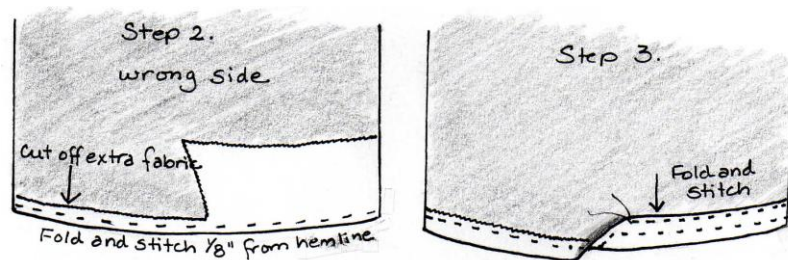
3. Finger press seam allowance towards the facing. On the right side of the garment, understitch the seam allowance to the fabric using a multiple zig zag stitch, width of 3.0-4.0, length of 2.0-2.5. The understitching should be as close as possible to the seam. This understitching will keep the seam in position, give a crisp edge and prevent the underside from "rolling" to the right side.

4. Lay the garment on the ironing board with the wrong side facing up, and flip the facing down. The seam magically turns to the wrong side! Steam and lightly press in place. Turn the garment over to the right side and steam generously. Use the flat bottom of the Point Presser/Clapper tool to "pound" the piece, then press down with the tool and hold it there for a few seconds. This will "break" the fiber in the crease, allowing the seam to be flat and smooth.

Narrow Hem on the Machine

This hemming technique will give you a beautiful smooth hem on bias or curved hemlines.

1. Mark, but don't cut, on the skirt where you would like the finished hem.
2. At the ironing board, fold up the hem to the wrong side along the marked line, and press just along the folded edge (don't cut off any extra hem). Stitch 1/8" away from the pressed edge, then trim the hem allowance close to the stitching.
3. Folding a little at a time as you sew (you don't need to pin or press), fold up the hem again, making it a scant 1/4" deep, and stitch along the top edge of the hem. The closer you sew to the top edge, the less the hem will curl.
4. The sewn hem will look wavy at this point, but don't worry. Lay the garment on your ironing board and arrange the waves of the hem evenly (don't smooth them out). Steam the hem with the iron, and while the fabric is hot and moist, flatten the edge with your hands. Let the hem cool and dry completely. Repeat if necessary.



An easy hemming technique that creates a flat, noncurling hem. Simply fold and stitch, trim, then fold and stitch again!