

# Sew 'n' Sew

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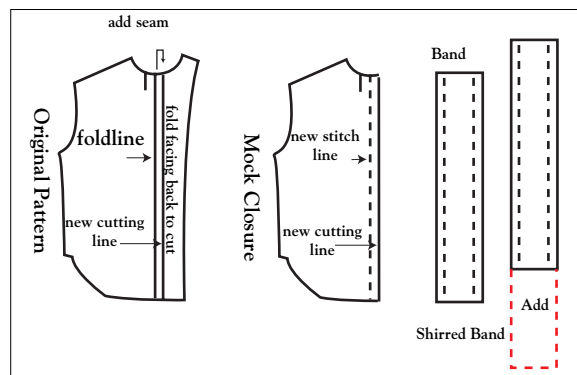
## Fall Fashions -- Copying Ready-To-Wear Details



If your blouse pattern is one with a cut-on facing, it will easily modify to a mock band. Measure for measure, this pattern style proves to be the most versatile to convert to other front openings because all the line options for other closures can be established on one flat pattern.

**Mock Band:** This quick, industrial type blouse placket is perfect for a Shirred placket. Why? The single layered band attaches to the front edge of a garment, eliminating two layers of shirring to reduce bulk down the front of the shirt. However, there is an exception to this type front band. If the shirt is to be worn opened at the neckline, the wrong side of the shirt's fabric will show. For instance, a black shirt with a white mock front band applied to its outer edge would show the wrong side of the shirt at the opened neckline. But, if the fabric is almost the same on both pieces and does not show a definite wrong side, this is a must-have, "speed-to-sewing" pattern option and is perfect for our Shirred front placket detail. Here's how to make simple pattern changes:

1. On the front shirt pattern, locate center front and the first foldline to center front's right. Measure, then mark, a new seam allowance to the right of the first foldline from the neck edge to the hem of the pattern.



2. Determine the width of the band - even if the pattern does not call for one: Measure from center front to the first foldline found at center front's right. Double that measurement. Fold the pattern on the new seam marking. This is the cutting line and the foldline is now the stitching line to attach a separate Mock Band.

3. Make a band pattern. Determine its width (Step 2) and add two seam allowances. For example, a  $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wide finished band, measure and mark on tissue paper, a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wide line the length of the shirt front, plus 1 inch. To make a mock band pattern for shirring, add length of the placket pattern. When

adding length to the pattern, keep in mind the weight of the fashion fabric to be Shirred. If the fabric is lightweight, add more length; if the fabric is heavy, add less length.

To Shirr the mock band, machine baste 3-rows of gathering stitches on both seam allowances. Pull gathering stitches to shape the band to fit the front edge of the blouse. With right side of placket to wrong side of front blouse edge, sew placket to front edge. Turn placket to right side of blouse and stitch to front. *Note:* Pin the band to the front edge, matching the hem of the garment to one end of the band. Let the band's 1 inch excess extend above the neckline of the garment. When the band is topstitched, cut-off this excess, using the neckline of the garment as a cutting guide.

To learn more about other front openings and how to modify your pattern, see [How To Change Front Openings: 4001](http://www.lubbockmetro.com/sewnsew/cyber/index.html).  
<http://www.lubbockmetro.com/sewnsew/cyber/index.html>.

To learn more about Shirring & Ruching, order our comprehensive 8-page Fashion Update today, see [1150 Gathering, Shirring, Ruching](#).