

Creativity with Sweaters and How to Set in a Sleeve with NO Ease-Stitching and Only Six Pins with Londa Rohlfing

EPISODE DESCRIPTION

Londa Rohlfing inspires you to utilize sweaters (and especially the ribbing) in creative up-cycle sewing, AND shows you her 'factory technique' for smoothly setting in sleeves using ONLY 6 pins and NO ease-stitching.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

1. **CREATIVE VALUE** of sweaters and especially the ribbings. Inspire/teach by 'TOURING' the following garments pointing out features as shown:



- 'Wrong side' of sweater used as 'right side' of this jacket.
- Lower ribbing of main sweater left in place, but purposely steamed and stretched.
- V-neck ribbing used for lower front edge finish
- Use of lower ribbing of brown sweater as the collar.
- Neckline ribbing of brown sweater used as back collar.
- Back yoke is the vertical cable front of the brown sweater.
- Accent color using wool 'felted' rust colored sweater. Show fish-scale enlarged view of wool fibers.
- Side godets of the rust felted sweater to add more swing, width to hemline.
- 'Connecting factor' of couched yarn on top of strips of felted sweater supplying design 'rhythm'.
- Collect a STASH! Show button options, including WRONG side of buttons.....

Share that this is a '**Memento**' Jacket - since the main sweater belonged to my late brother....



- Another Memento Jacket - using a chenille horizontally striped sweater that belonged to my father. Front and Backs (with lower black ribbing) become the Fronts on this jacket.
- Maroon chenille back and 'fake' front and cuffs are from a turtleneck sweater of mine that I never wore because it was too 'hot'. Show how the front is sewn in at the side seams.
- Another black chenille sweater provides the back collar and back yoke.



- Combination of 2 sweaters and a sweatshirt.
- Sweatshirt at the top and sleeves.
- Heavy raglan sleeved sweater for lower half. 1 raglan sleeve split to create the angled front pieces.
- Once again, I utilized the 'wrong' side of sweater used as the 'right' side.
- Lower ribbing of a very lightweight mauve sweater used for the collar plus the original neckline ribbing used for the back neckline 'collar'.
- Original sleeve ribbings used for finish at sleeves.
- STAY edges that might stretch - show stay on inside of the 'waist' of this jacket
- Notice the twisted olive and mauve yarns couched to 'connect' the portions and the colors
- Importance of the large Button used to provide a great Focal Point.

2. CONSTRUCTION TIPS

- **CUT SWEATERS APART** keeping the following in mind:

1. Cut ribbings off WITH extra for a seam allowance remaining - demonstrate this.
2. At Pressing Surface, show STEAMED and PINNED blocking to 'grow' ribbings when desired. (This is done ahead of time)
3. Cut pieces apart between the seams - demonstrate on red sweater, showing both 'knitted' and 'serged' seams.
 - Use a 90 Stretch needle for all machine stitching.
 - A Walking Foot may prove very helpful to counteract natural 'growing' of seams.
 - A large Darning Needle works great for weaving served tails and couched yarns back into seams for secure 'ends'.

- **STAY EDGES THAT MIGHT STRETCH** - as shown on the sweatshirt jacket, and sample
- **Think outside the box** - play with scraps. NEW IDEA I want to play with....

Consider seams on the OUTSIDE, but purposely 'roughed up' with a stiff brush to create a textural seam

- **KEEP ALL scraps** while you are creating!!!!
- **COUCH YARNS TO CONNECT the sections** of your garment. Use monofilament thread in the needle set to a zz stitch with length of 3 and however wide needed to secure the yarn.

Section B: Sleeve Setting

LONDA'S SLEEVE SETTING METHOD

1. Mark not only the notches, but the DOTS on both the Sleeve and the garment Front and Back.
2. Mark the STITCHING line on the wrong side of the Sleeve as a guide.
3. Set **6 pins ONLY** joining sleeve right side to garment right side as follows:

* bottom seam	* upper point of Sleeve to shoulder seam
* back notch	(or as designated on pattern)
* dots at back above notches	* dots at front above notches
	* front notch
4. With Sleeve UP at machine, needle down feature engaged, and a 'pointer' tool in hand.... start stitching at back notch, stitch around bottom of sleeve and up to dot at front - there should really be NO ease of Sleeve to armhole for this entire distance.....
5. THEN, with EACH AND EVERY STITCH, coax the excess Sleeve fullness in towards the needle with the pointer tool. Visually divide fullness that needs to fit in and plant your 'Tall Man Finger to hold in place. Do NOT let the Sleeve fullness get pushed towards you. Be sure to keep the raw edges matching as you work.

Engaging a top feeding mechanism if available on your machine, or a walking foot might prove helpful. BREATHE and work HARD at easing in that fullness. BOSS the fabric!!!!

6. Stitch slightly inside original seam from back notch around to front notch to reinforce the under part of the sleeve seam. Trim out excess seam allowance between notches.
7. Examine your work from the garment side of the stitching. 'Re-stitch to 'even' out any wobbles.