

207-1

Angela Wolf shares her knowledge about the choices that need to be made when working with various fabrics.



Please continue to page 2 for project instructions.

Partners



<http://www.brothersews.com>



<http://www.voguefabricsstore.com>

Fabric Selection

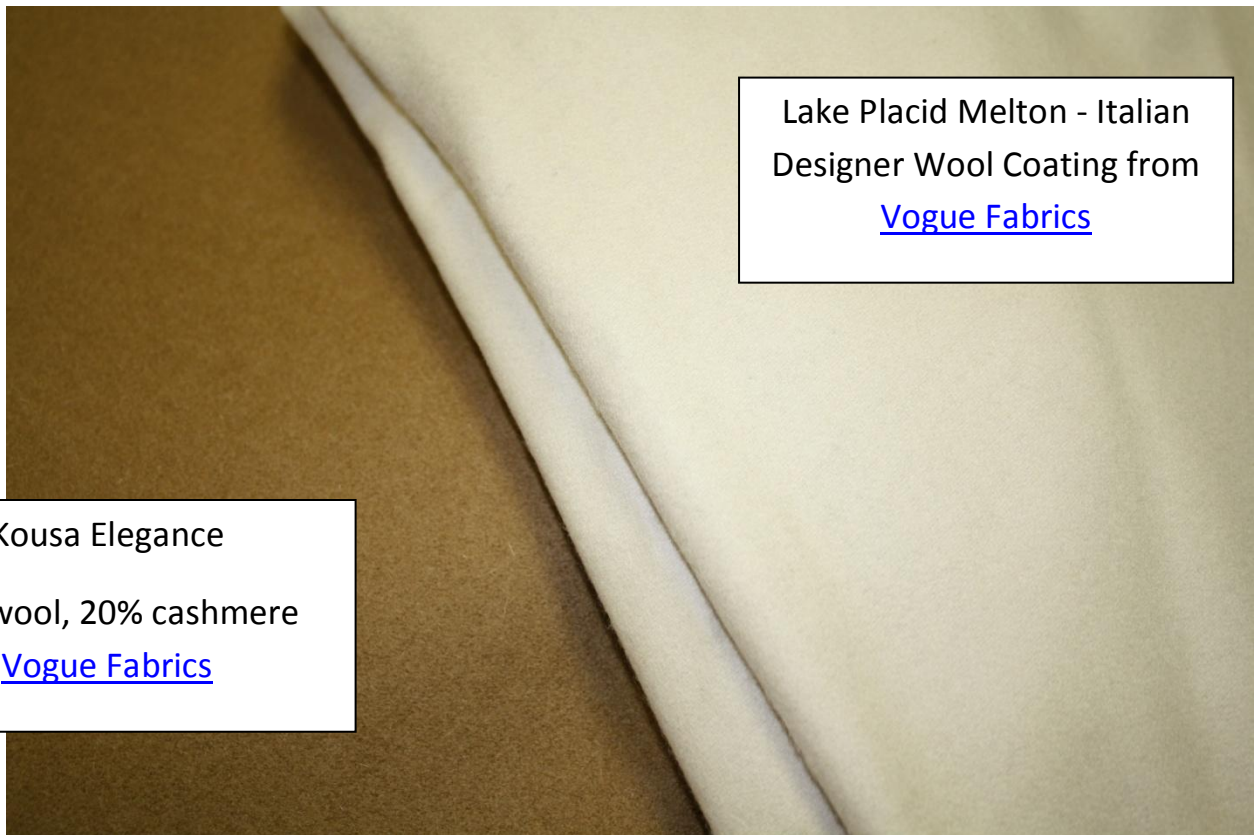
by Angela Wolf

www.AngelaWolf.com and www.AngelaWolfPatterns.com

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Fabric: All of the fabric used in this tutorial is from [Vogue Fabrics](#)

Fine Wools and Cashmere



Lake Placid Melton - Italian
Designer Wool Coating from
[Vogue Fabrics](#)

Kousa Elegance
80% wool, 20% cashmere
[Vogue Fabrics](#)

- **Fabric Nap**

- Most of the finer wools have a nap, which means you need to cut out your patterns all facing the same direction. If you slide your hand up and down the fabric you will feel the difference.
- Be sure to check the direction of the nap before cutting out your outfit.

- **Pre-Shrinking Fabric**

- Pre-shrinking wool fabric is very important. In order to do this, drop the fabric off at the dry cleaners and ask them to "steam press" the fabric.
- The steam pressing is what shrinks up the wool (along with other natural fiber fabrics) so hopefully when you have it dry cleaned later the fabric will not shrink any further.

- **Sewing machine stitch**

- Your sewing machine stitch width will depend on the thickness of the wool you are sewing with, but in general I use a 3.0 stitch for most cashmere's and medium weight wools.

- **Needle size:**

- I usually use a universal 70/10 or 80/12 with the medium weight wools shown above. If you are working with heavy wool coating, you might find a need for a size 90/14

- **Interfacing:**

- If using fusible interfacing make sure you test a strip to make sure you cannot see it from the right side of the fabric. I usually prefer sew-in interfacing or attaching fusible interfacing to an underlining when working with wool.

- **Marking:**

- When marking use a clay chalk or air erasable marking pen - test the fabric first.

- **Pressing:**

- Always use a press cloth for to prevent damaging the fashion fabric.
- Steam can do wonders on a wool when it comes to shrinking and shaping.



Knits

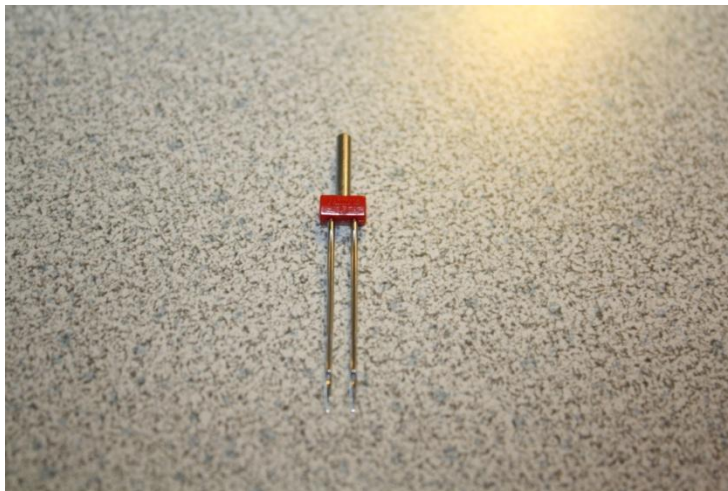


- **Fabric Nap**
 - Most knits do not have a nap, but they can have a certain sheen or pattern. I cut all of my pattern pieces going the same direction regardless if I notice the change in fabric, it's just a safe precaution.
- **Pre-Shrinking Fabric**
 - The fabric content will determine if your fabric will shrink.
 - Cotton and rayon blends can definitely shrink.
 - Polyester blends will not shrink, but the dyes can run. To be safe wash and dry all of your knits before cutting.
- **Sewing machine stitch**
 - Your sewing machine stitch will range from 2.5 to 3.0 with most knits.

- If your machine can automatically detect what fabric you are sewing, make sure you enable this feature.
- If you need to adjust the tension manually, lower the number of your presser foot tension to a 2 or a 4. This prevents the fabric from stretching while you are sewing.

- **Needle:**

- Use a 70/10 or 80/12 "Stretch Needle" for sewing the garment.
- If you have skipped stitched in your serger or coverstitch machine, use a "stretch needle" size 80/12



- Use a "twin stretch" needle for hemming knit on a regular sewing machine. Use a stitch length of 3.0 or 3.5.

- **Marking:**

- Use clay chalk or an air erasable pen for marking knits, but be sure to test first.

- **Pressing:**

- Be very caution when pressing a knit with any polyester, the fabric can become damaged very quickly.
- Use low heat and a press cloth.

Note: When you layout your fabric for cutting, if you notice the sides scrunching up along the selvages, trim the salvage edge off before cutting. This will help to keep the grainlines straight.



Fabric for this top: White Natalie Knit (90% cotton, 10% spandex) from Vogue Fabrics and has been hand-dyed in Angela Wolf's Studio.

T-Shirt Pattern #AW-2114 by Angela Wolf - [available online](#)

Silk Chiffon or Georgette



- **Fabric Nap**

- Regardless if you notice a nap or not, the shine and texture can differ on certain silks. Cut your pattern pieces the same direction in order to prevent any unforeseen mistakes.

- **Pre-Shrinking Fabric**

- Silk can shrink and dyes can bleed, so you will definitely want to pre-treat your fabric.
- If you plan on washing the fabric my machine, do so and dry accordingly.
- If you plan on dry-cleaning the fabric, have the fabric dry cleaned and "steam pressed" before you cut.

- **Sewing machine stitch**

- Usually a 2.5 stitch looks the nicest.

- **Sewing machine plate**

- Change the plate to the one with a narrow hole, this prevents fabric from being pushed into the plate.

- **Needle size:**

- A 60/8 or 70/10 universal needle will work, but you can also use a micro tech needle.

- **Marking:**

- Never use wax chalk when marking silk, this leaves a leftover residue.
- Use clay chalk, an air erasable pen, or hand basted stitches for marking.

- **Pressing:**

- When pressing silk I like to use lots of steam with a medium heat.
- Many times I find I do not need a press cloth silk sheers, just be sure to test the fabric first.



Photographer: Johnson-R auhoff

Model: Amy McWhirter

hand-dyed silk chiffon

