

# Fast fur jacket

Start with a top pattern to sew a chic chill chaser

Recently, I examined a cute fake fur jacket from a well-known designer. It was startlingly simple, as designer garments sometimes are: an unlined, waist-length jacket with an asymmetrical front opening that closed with snaps. The front opening overlap had a bound edge and was faced with felt to support the snaps' ball portion. The underlap was two layers of felt, forming an extension for the snap sockets. The interior seam allowances were neatly bound, and the cuffs and waistband were knit ribbing.

I had the sewer's light bulb moment: I could make a version for much less than the nearly

four-figure price tag. A funnel-neck top pattern could be the basis, with a pattern adjustment to design the front opening plus a facing and placket for it. These pieces can be from nonraveling felt, so they can be sewn without seam allowances or difficult seaming.

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*Sarah McFarland is Threads' editorial director.*

*Add a faux fur jacket with an asymmetrical front to your cold-weather wardrobe.*

*Pattern: Simplicity 8529, by Sew House Seven, modified. Fabric: polyester faux fur and poly/cotton blend knit ribbing, Joann stores.*

# Pick a pattern and fabric

This project calls for a pattern with plenty of ease. A few additional notions make the construction simple and clean.

## GARMENT DESIGN

Look for a design for a drop-shouldered, oversized top. If the ease is greater than 4 inches at the bust, and the pattern calls for heavy fabrics such as fleece, it is suitable. For the look shown and for the patternwork, I used Simplicity 8529, view B, a pattern with a cut-on funnel neck for a cozy look without unnecessary seams at the neckline.

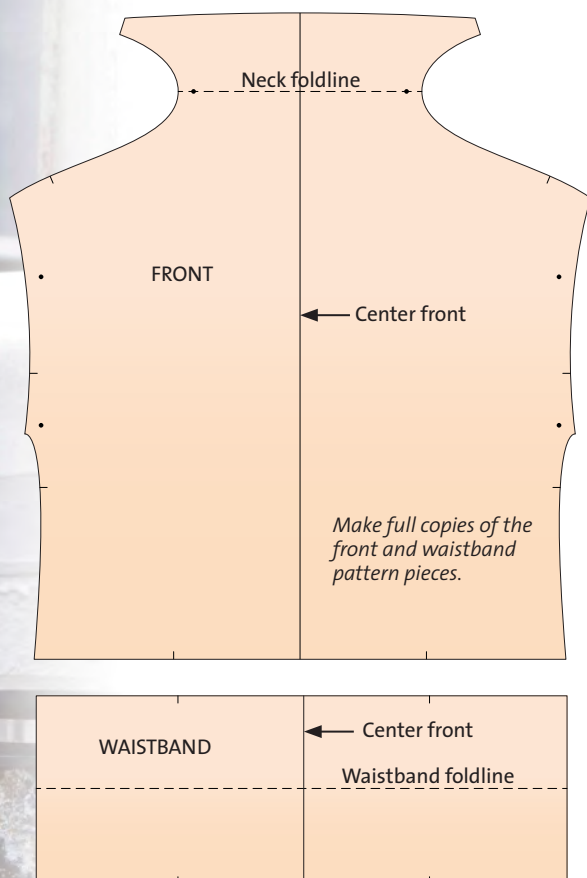
## SUPPLIES

- Faux fur equivalent to the pattern yardage requirement.
- Ribbed knit sufficient for cuffs and waistband; plan for bands 5 inches wide, including seam allowances.
- 1/4 yard felt for the facing and underlap extension.
- 7 heavy-duty snaps and snap-setting tool.
- Package of 1/2-inch-wide double-fold fleece binding.

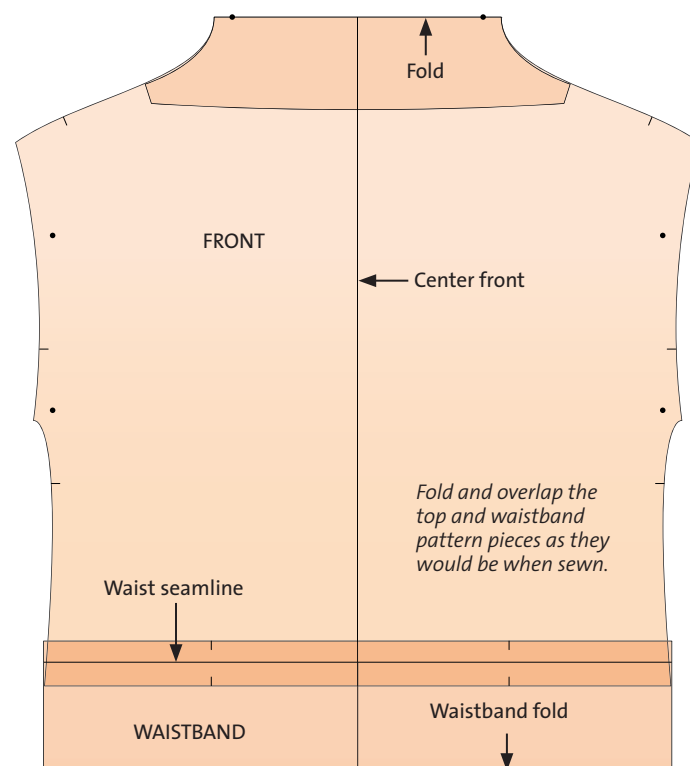
## Draft a front opening

An asymmetrical opening turns the top into a jacket. The angle, which continues through the waistband, adds a moto vibe. Once you plan the opening, you'll use it as the basis for a facing and placket pattern as well.

**1** Make complete copies of the front and waistband patterns. Transfer all markings.



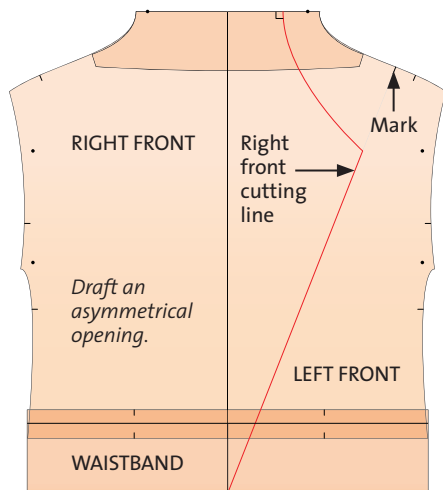
**2** Arrange the pattern pieces as they would be sewn. In this case, the funnel neck is cut-on, so the front pattern piece is folded under at the neckline foldline. Fold the waistband piece lengthwise and overlap the front pattern piece, aligning the seamlines.



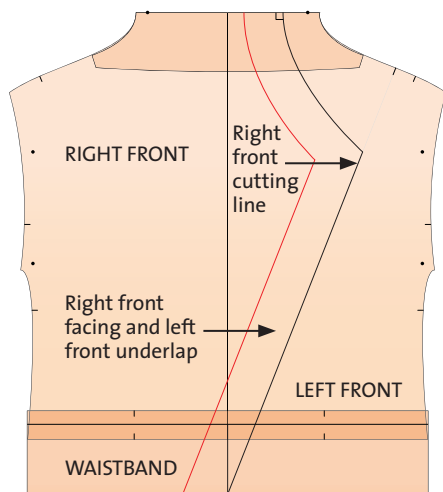
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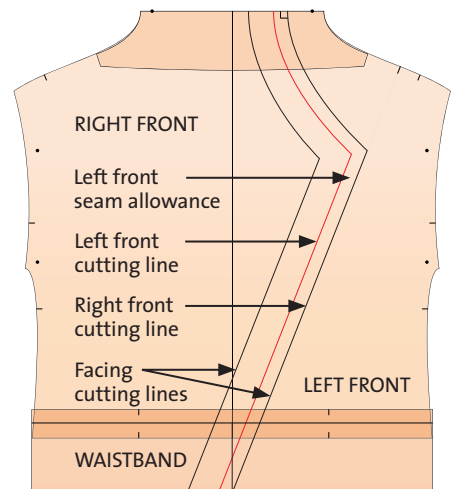
**3 Draw a front opening.** Plan this line as you wish, but for a result similar to the sample jacket, try this method. Mark the center of the left shoulder seam. Draw a straight line from center front at the waistband hemline toward the shoulder seam mark. Then use a fashion ruler as a guide to create the curve toward the neckline foldline. Make the line meet the foldline at a right angle, and label it “right front cutting line.”



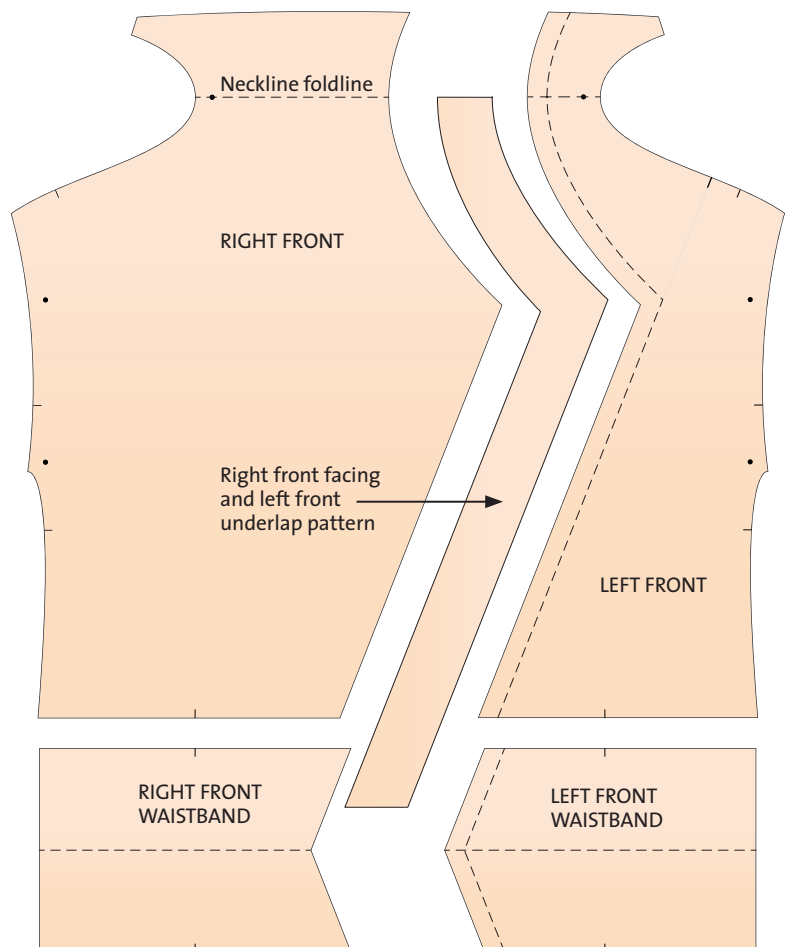
**4 Make a facing and corresponding underlap pattern.** Draw a line  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches from and parallel to the opening line on the jacket's right side. Make sure to draw the line through the folded waistband pattern piece. Label this piece “right front facing and left front underlap.”



**5 Add a seam allowance to the left front.** The right front has a bound edge, and requires no seam allowance. The left front, however, needs a seam allowance to sew the underlap to. Draw a line on the right front,  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch from and parallel to the cutting line. This is within the facing pattern you just drew. Make sure to extend the seam allowance through the folded waistband pattern piece. Label this line “left front cutting line.”



**6 Copy and separate the pattern pieces.** Trace the facing and underlap pattern piece from the neckline fold to the hemline. Trace the left front pattern piece and the left front waistband piece, including the added seam allowance. Cut the right front pattern piece from your first pattern copy along the right front cutting line. Unfold the pattern pieces at the neck, and separate and unfold the waistband pattern pieces.



Photos: (p. 14; p. 17, right; p. 18, right) Jack Deutsch; all others, Mike Yamin. Illustrations: Steven Fleck. Stylist: Natasha Senko. Hair and makeup: Agata Helena.com. Styling credits: earrings—Halogen (NordstromRack.com), bodysuit—Elodie (Macys.com), pants—Calvin Klein (Macys.com), bots—Splendid (NordstromRack.com).

# Make the jacket

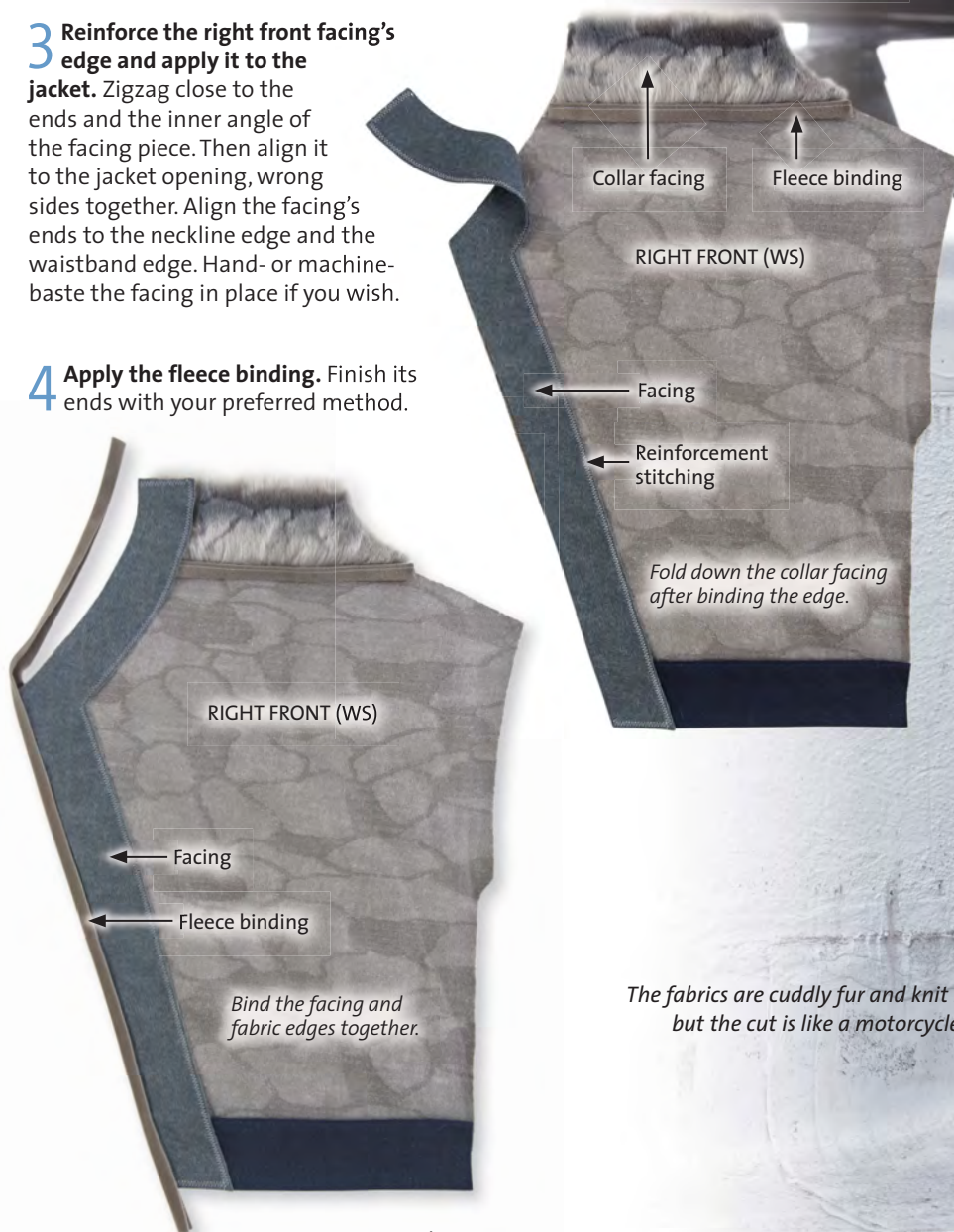
Cut the faux fur and knit ribbing pieces, and do most of the construction according to the pattern directions. Then apply the asymmetrical felt facing and underlap to the jacket fronts. It is easy, as all the pieces are the same shape and you do not need to sew any opposing curves or angles.

**1 Construct the jacket except for the front opening.** The samples shown are just the front, but you would sew the shoulder and side seams and install the sleeves and waistband. Bind the collar facing's edge, and fold it down into position.

**2 Cut and prepare the felt facing and underlap pieces.** Cut three pieces based on the pattern piece you designed. If your felt has a discernible right side, cut one piece right side up and note it as the outer underlap. Cut the other two pieces right side down, and note them as the facing, and the inner underlap.

**3 Reinforce the right front facing's edge and apply it to the jacket.** Zigzag close to the ends and the inner angle of the facing piece. Then align it to the jacket opening, wrong sides together. Align the facing's ends to the neckline edge and the waistband edge. Hand- or machine-baste the facing in place if you wish.

**4 Apply the fleece binding.** Finish its ends with your preferred method.



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*The fabrics are cuddly fur and knit ribbing, but the cut is like a motorcycle jacket.*



**5 Add the left front underlap.** Sandwich the jacket's left front seam allowance between the underlap layers, wrong sides together, and with the underlap edge aligned to the left front opening seamline,  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch from the cut edge.



**6 Pin or baste the underlap layers in place.** Align the ends with the collar edge and the waistband hemline. Sew the underlap pieces together and to the left front, stitching  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the felt's edges through all layers.

**7 Install the snaps.** Place the ball portion of the snaps through the fur and facing. Add the snap sockets through the felt underlap extension.



*Install heavy-duty snaps through the faux fur and felt facing.*

*Notions: Coats and Clark extrawide double-fold fleece binding and Dritz heavy-duty  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch snaps, Joann stores.*

## tip

**Give the fur a trim before you sew.** Use electric clippers or small scissors to cut fur from the seam allowances to reduce bulk.

## SNAPPY TIPS

The heavy-duty snaps come with instructions, but here are some tips for installing the closures through dense fur and felt.

- Use a sharp awl to make holes through the fur and felt.
- Place the outer snaps first. Put the first one within the angle in the jacket-front opening. Place the second and third at the top and bottom of the jacket, then space the rest as evenly as possible.