

Markita's fit tips on the Tunic Bible pattern

I sewed up all sizes of the v-neck tunic in muslin, and all of the sizes in a shortened round scoop neckline in a 25 % two way stretch knit. I am also a recent convert to Joi Mahon's ["Create the perfect fit"](#) as well as her Threads article on converting woven patterns to knit.

These are the measurements I observed that needed fit changes in most of the women who tried on the samples. Middle of shoulder to bust apex. Unless you have very "perky" breasts, most (including me) found they needed extra length from shoulder to bust apex (generally the nipple point while wearing a bra). Joi's method is to make a split in the pattern half way between this length to add or subtract. This will be in the middle of the armhole (it is ok!) For example if you need to add ½", you would also raise the underarm curve the same ½" (the arm hole curve remains the same)

The front arm curve seems to have a bit of extra fabric on most. This is either due to the shoulder seam angle being too straight or maybe that the front area above the bust being a bit compressed due to forward sloping shoulders. Adjust by taking up the shoulder seam or putting in a small shoulder pad.

Joi recommends sewing a test garment with just the front and back and drawing the correct arm hole curve for the front and the back.

You may find if you needed to add length at the shoulder to apex (your bust has dropped a bit) that you also need to shorten from bust apex to waist. Again Joi's method is that you make the adjustment halfway between this area, not necessarily on the pattern's lengthen and shorten line.

I also found that many needed to shorten the back bra line to waist. Make your changes for your body. Consider the front and back separately. Then if you need to adjust the front or back length do that at the end.

If you have a lovely hourglass figure (regardless of how large you think your hips are) consider lengthening the side seam slit to allow you extra sit ease.

Other tips, if you like a fitted silhouette, add those darts even if it is in a knit version. You will need to add a zipper if you choose a woven fabric.

Speaking of knits. You need to make pattern size changes depending on the stretch of the knit. Here are Joi's general rules as listed in the Threads Feb/March 2018 article. For a knit with slight stretch reduce the total circumference of the garment ½"; for moderate stretch 1.5", for extreme stretch knit reduce 3 or more inches. I spent a whole day in a class with Joi on this subject, so I know that one paragraph will only give you a hint.

Another note is that if you make the rounded tunic bible neck front, I found it a bit wide at the shoulder seam, as well there is no matching marking for rounded back (so the shoulder seams won't match). I advise to keep the shoulder seam where it is and just use the curve to get the rounded neck.

Bottom line, it is work making a quick test garment without facings or fancy stuff, you may have to make more than one. But it will be worth it to have a great fitting top!

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