

# Cuffs

*This technique is described and well illustrated in Kathleen Fansanella's blog (search for "Fansanella" and "cuff construction"). I have added an easy way to start the cuff attachment to the sleeve, and how to form the sleeve pleats without measuring or marking.*

## Notes

- > Cuffs with square corners demand perfection. RTW often uses rounded and angled cuff corners since any slight bobbles in construction are less obvious.
- > These instructions are based on a self-drafted cuff. The cuff length and width depends on the wearer's measurements and preferences. The SAs are noted below.

## Instructions

- 1 Cut 4 cuffs and interface as desired. Cuffs have 5/8 SA along straight edge and scant 1/4 SA on other three edges.
- 2 On straight edge of outer cuff, fold 5/8 SA to WS and press.
- 3 RS together, place outer cuff on top of inner cuff, matching curved edges. The inner cuff will extend up past the folded-down outer cuff. Fold the inner cuff extension down, over the outer cuff SA. DO NOT PRESS.
- 4 With outer cuff upward and holding the inner cuff folded over, start stitching along the short side. Continue around the cuff, shortening stitch length for control around the curves.
- 5 Press SA open using tailoring board. Turn and press\*, tucking inner cuff SA to WS (it should stick up slightly above folded edge of outer cuff).

\*When pressing the cuff, take into account the wearer. If the cuff will be worn down and buttoned, press to favor the outer layer and hide the seam. If the cuff will be worn unbuttoned and turned up, press so neither layer is favored and the seam is right on the edge.

*NOTION TIP: A tailoring board, or at the very least a point press, will help make your shirt sewing easier, faster, and more professional looking. They used to be very expensive and hard to find, but they are now generally available and somewhat cheaper. I do not recommend the cloth pads, and if you forego those the cost is lower.*

## Attaching cuff to sleeve

- 6 Finish sleeve plackets and sew the sleeve seam.
- 7 Turn sleeve inside out. Insert sleeve into the cuff "envelope" starting at the under-placket side. Make sure outer cuff and RS of sleeve are upwards, i.e., you are stitching in the inside of the sleeve/cuff "cylinder".
- 8 As you stitch, make sure raw edge of the sleeve has been slipped into the cuff "envelope" far enough to match the cuff's SA.

9 About two to three inches before reaching the upper-placket, form 1-3 pleats in the sleeve (opening toward placket), so sleeve tucks exactly into end of cuff “envelope”. Hold the pleat(s) in place with pins, then stitch to the placket edge.

*Tip: Form the pleat closest to the placket first, then form the other pleat(s) to more or less match. They will look fine even if slightly uneven. Don't worry about the pleats in the two sleeves exactly matching - they will never be right next to each other!*

10 At the placket edge, sink the needle, turn the corner and continue around the cuff, top/edgestitching.