



Women's Trailblazer Vest

TWEEN, MISSES AND CURVY SIZES

Keep warm - wherever your adventures may take you

Twig + Tale





Twig + Tale



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Credits

View Illustrations: Jessica Van Slooten

Pattern Grading: Jacqui Peterson

Cover Image: Angela Schade

Other images throughout the tutorial are courtesy of the wonderful group of ladies who helped to test this pattern.

Lorna Parker, Rebekah Kingston, Kate Laycock, Diane Cullum, Rachel Osterday, Anne-Mari Orgla, Jennie Coffman Lindstrom, Jessica van Slooten, Jocelyn Buggie, Temeaka Tate, Angela Schade, Kristie Comarmond, Emily Malsam, Sarah Connell, Joanne Bonny, Liz Joffrion, Sonja Den Biggelaar, Sarah Morris, Gabrielle Mccarthy and Shelly Althage

Many thanks ladies!

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Before You Begin

Icons



Helpful tips.



Click on the **bold green** word to navigate directly to the page indicated.

Sewing Summary Print Sheet

Save a tree! This tutorial is designed to be viewed on an electronic reading device such as an iPad or phone while sewing. Although you can print the entire document, included at the end of this pattern is a handy “Cheat Sheet” with the basic instructions in an easy-print format. You may consider printing out this summary to store with your pattern pieces.

Print Only What You Need

Use the layers feature to select only the size you need, and print only the pages you require for your desired option. This is further explained in the Printing Instructions.

Seam Allowance

The seam allowance for this pattern is 3/8” (1cm) unless otherwise stated, and is already included.

Navigation Bar & Quick Links

The “Quick Link” section of the navigation bar at the bottom of each page helps you easily navigate to the most used sections of the tutorial. For example, if you wish to go to the contents page, simply hover over the word “CONTENTS” until you see the little hand appear - click on it, and there you are!

On the right-hand side you will see the Pattern Name. When you click on this, it will take you to the Twig + Tale blog, where you can view all blog posts written about this pattern.



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www.twigandtale.com
Trailblazer Vest

Where Imagination Runs Wild

After making the men's Trailblazer pattern for my honey, and then for the children, I decided that I'd quite like a vest with "in-seam pockets, and a zip that does up right to my chin" too!

It is so much fun to know I can make them for everyone, and now the whole family is wearing hand-made vests to explore and play in.

Do you think it is too much to make some for the children's grandparents too?!

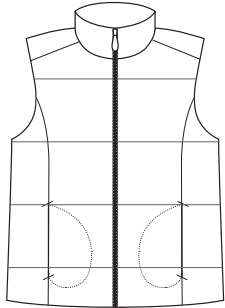
Lisa xox



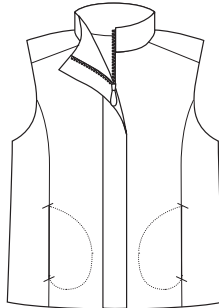
Image by Angela Schade

Views

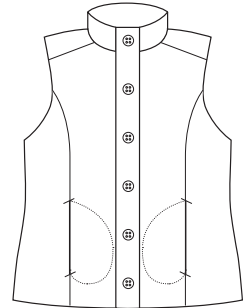
Front Options



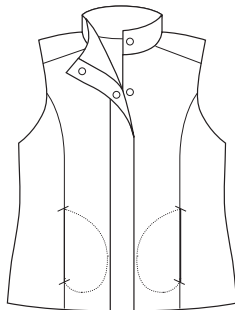
Zipper + Quilted
(puffer style)



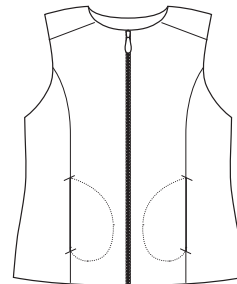
Zipper + Wind Flap



Button Closure
(No zipper)

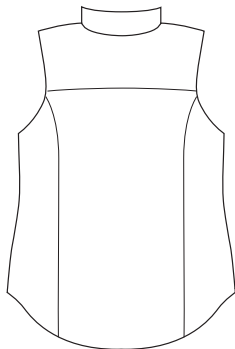


Snap Closure
(No zipper)

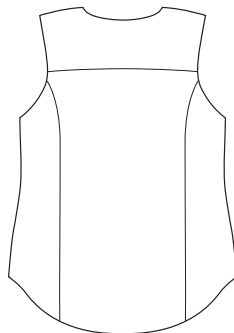


Collarless

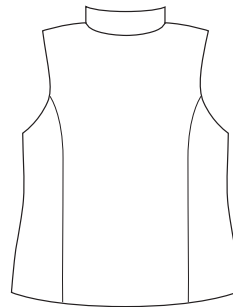
Back Options



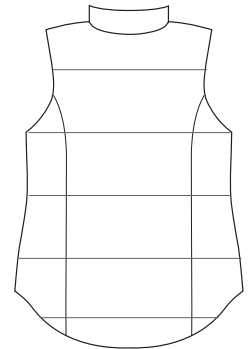
Yoke Back +
Curved dropped hem



Collarless



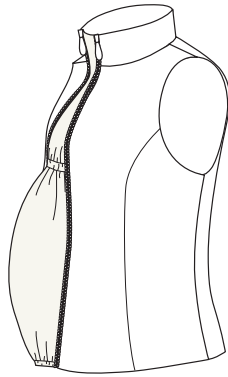
Straight hem



Quilted (puffer style) +
Curved dropped hem

Nestledown -Maternity + Baby Wearing Add-on

The **Nestledown Maternity + Baby Wearing Add-on Pack** is available for purchase at twigandtale.com
Nestledown is compatible with both the Men's and Women's Trailblazer Vests and includes the following options:

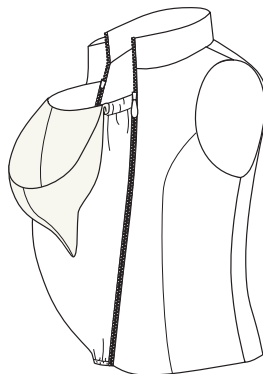
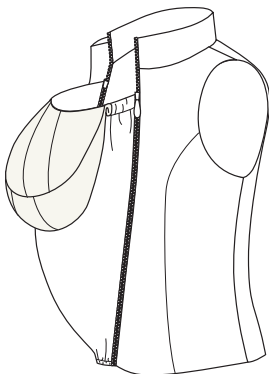
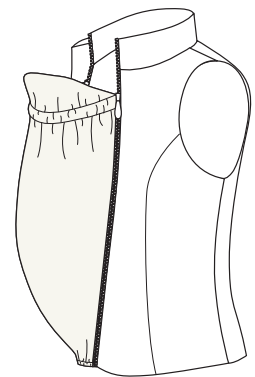
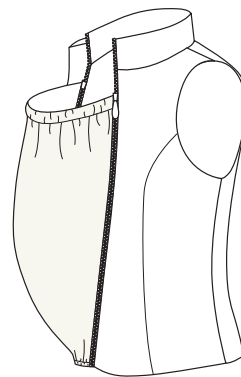


MATERNITY PANEL

A removable panel to allow room for a growing bump right through to birth. Gentle elastic above and below the bump creates a more stylish, fitted silhouette.

BABY/TODDLER CARRY PANEL

A removable panel for the Men's + Women's Trailblazer Vest. Designed to be worn over a front-wearing carrier with baby facing towards you. Choose with or without a wind collar.



HOODS

Choose from two styles of optional detachable hood: the classic round vest hood and our famous pixie vest hood.

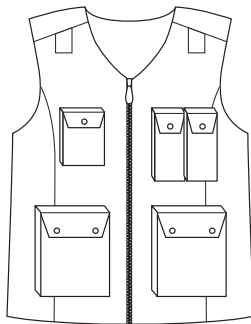
Fisherman's Add-on

The *Fisherman's add-on pack* is available for purchase at twigandtale.com

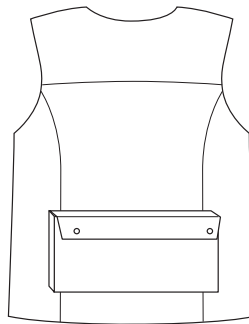


This add-on contains a V-neck front piece, loops for hanging vital fishing equipment, and 8 pockets of different sizes and shapes to mix and match, including classic box pockets and simple patch pockets.

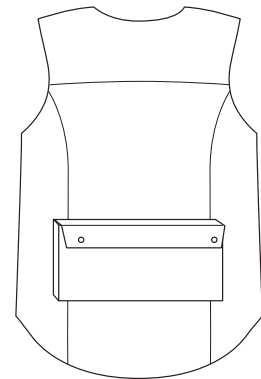
Options



Classic Fisherman

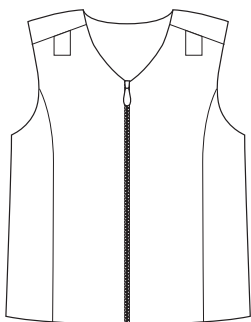
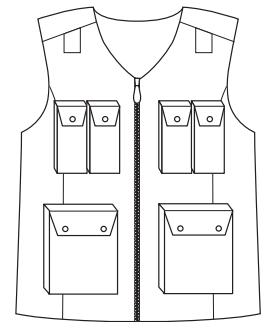
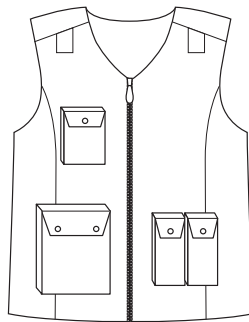
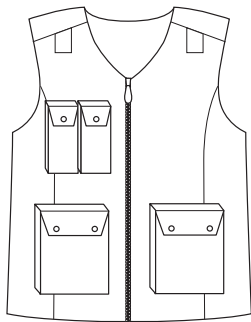


Straight Hem



Curved Dropped Hem

Alternative Ideas



Design Your Own!

Fun Little Pattern Hacks!

Now that you have made some awesome Trailblazers - it's time to spread your wings! These simple modifications to your Trailblazer can create all kinds of new looks...

Simply click on the symbol for **Trailblazer Vest** blog posts, on the **Twig + Tale Blog**



Image by Rachel Osterday

PUFFER INSPIRATION



Image by Lisa Spearman

ADD A DETACHABLE HOOD



Image by Lisa Spearman

ADD FISHERMAN'S PACK



Image by Angela Schade

ADD AN INTERNAL POCKET



Image by Angela Schade

ADD PIPING



Image by Sarah Morris

TRY PAINTING

Gather Supplies

Suggested Fabrics

Exterior: Wool, wool blends, corduroy, denim, pre-quilted cottons, canvas, cotton drill, suede and oilskin are all suitable fabrics. You could use quilting cottons for a spring weight vest or quilt an extra layer in between the exterior and lining fabric for extra warmth. If you wanted a puffer-style vest, then polyester or nylon with batting quilted onto it works well. **Please note:** It is NOT recommended to use thick fabrics for **both** lining and exterior, particularly if you are adding the wind flap as certain areas could become too thick to easily sew through. **You may need to size up if using batting, or using a thick fabric lining such as sherpa.

Lining: Traditionally you would use a slippery fabric for lining; however, cotton, linen, and flannel work well too. Sherpa is also a deliciously snuggly lining fabric. If using a lightweight exterior fabric, you could use pre-quilted polyester lining to provide extra warmth.

Other Supplies & Notions

- Spool of coordinating thread
- Buttons or snaps if you do not wish to close with a zipper or are adding the wind flap
- Separating zipper (opens completely at both ends)
Zipper lengths are on the Fabric Requirements Chart - page 11
- Batting if making a puffer-style vest
- Small strip of interfacing to stabilise the front (zipper) edge if using stretchy fabric



Image by Sarah Morris



Image by Jennie Coffman Lindstrom



Image by Jocelyn Buggie

Fabric Requirement Chart

You will need the following amounts for both the exterior and the lining fabrics. You may need more if matching plaids/checks or if you have a directional fabric. If adding batting for a puffer-style vest, then you will need the same amount of that too.

Fabric Width		a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n
110cm /43"	cm	115	135	145	145	150	160	160	160	160	165	170	180	190	190
	inches	46	53	58	58	60	63	63	63	63	65	67	71	75	75
130cm / 51"	cm	105	115	115	115	120	125	125	130	130	140	145	160	165	165
	inches	42	45.5	46	46	48	50	50	52	52	56	58	63	65	65
Zipper Lengh	cm	56	56	56	56	56	61	61	61	61	66	66	66	66	66
	inches	22	22	22	22	22	24	24	24	24	26	26	26	26	26
Zipper length for Collarless	cm	46	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	56	56	56	61	61
	inches	18	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	22	22	22	24	24



Image by Diane Cullum



Image by Kate Laycock



Image by Liz Joffrion



Measuring for a Good Fit

Upper Bust

Bring the tape measure under your arms at the armpit, ensuring the tape is horizontal across your back and not sagging. The front of the tape should sit above where your breasts start to fill out.

Full Bust

Have your helper stand behind you. Bring the tape measure over your bust at the fullest part (nipple area) and have your helper measure straight across your back.

Height

Stand against a wall with bare feet and heels flat. Mark the top of your head, and then measure from the mark to the floor.



Waist

Make a circle with the tape measure and slowly close the circle until it sits at the narrowest point of your waist. This is generally around the belly button, but everyone is different.

Hip

Measure around the fullest part. Make the tape measure into a circle around your hips and slide it down, easing it out slowly until the tape measure drops off. *Just* before it drops off is the fullest part. You may have to do it a few times to get an accurate measurement.

Trailblazer Vest Size Chart

Size + Measurements Chart

- 1) **Measure** your upper bust, full bust, waist and hip.
- 2) **Choose** your size by your upper bust/full bust and then blend sizes to your waist/hip measurements if necessary.
- 3) **Adjust** the length ([page 16](#)) if necessary.

This pattern is designed to be as beginner-friendly as possible. You should be able to get a great fit without advanced tailoring skills.

- The split sizing accommodates as many body shapes as possible. **Our “Curvy Sizes” (j-n in the chart below) are drafted for a fuller bust.** It is easier to trim off excess fullness than to add it in, so the fit through the bust is generous.
- The Custom Fit Appendix at the end of the tutorial will help you to make adjustments to the fit during the sewing process, if necessary.

Twig + Tale Size	a (girls 12)	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n
Upper Bust	29” 73.5cm	30” 76.5cm	31” 79cm	32” 81.5cm	33” 84cm	34” 86.5cm	35.5” 90cm	37” 94cm	39.5” 100.5cm	40.5” 103cm	42.5” 107.5cm	44” 112cm	46” 116.5cm	48” 121cm
Full Bust	30” 76.2cm	32” 81.3cm	33” 83.8cm	34” 86.4cm	35” 89cm	36” 91.4cm	37.5” 95.2cm	39” 99.1cm	41.5” 105.4cm	43.5” 110.5cm	45.5” 115.6cm	47.5” 120.7cm	49.5” 125.7cm	51.5” 130.8cm
Hip	32” 81.3cm	34.5” 86.4cm	35.5” 90.2cm	36.5” 92.7cm	37.5” 95.2cm	38.5” 97.8cm	40” 101.6cm	41.5” 105.4cm	43.5” 110.5cm	45.5” 115.6cm	47.5” 120.7cm	49.5” 125.7cm	51.5” 130.8cm	53.5” 135.9cm
Waist	25” 63.5cm	24” 61cm	25” 63.5cm	26” 66cm	27” 68.5cm	28” 71.1cm	29.5” 74.9cm	31” 78.7cm	33.5” 85.1cm	35.5” 90.2cm	37.5” 95.3cm	39.5” 100.3cm	41.5” 105.4cm	43.5” 110.5cm
Height	4’ 9” 146cm	5’5” 165cm	5’5” 165cm	5’5” 165cm	5’5” 165cm	5’5” 165cm	5’5” 165cm	5’5” 165cm	5’5” 165cm	5’5” 165cm	5’5” 165cm	5’5” 165cm	5’5” 165cm	5’5” 165cm



Finished Garment Measurements

Sometimes it is handy to know how much “ease” there is in a pattern if trying to decide between sizes.

The following chart details the measurements of the finished garment, with the amount of ease listed in the right hand column.

Finished Garment Size		a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	EASE
Finished Chest (measured at full bust notch)	inches	34.1	36.5	37.5	38.5	39.5	40.4	41.9	43.4	45.4	48.0	50.0	52.0	54.1	56.1	4.5”
	cm	86.5	92.7	95.3	97.8	100.3	102.7	106.5	110.3	115.3	122	127.1	132.2	137.3	142.4	11.3cm
Finished Waist	inches	30.5	32.6	33.8	34.8	35.7	36.7	38.2	39.7	41.7	43.8	45.8	47.8	49.8	51.9	8.7”
	cm	77.5	82.9	85.9	88.3	90.8	93.3	97.1	100.9	105.8	111.2	116.3	121.4	126.5	131.7	22.2cm
Finished Hip	inches	36.6	38.8	40.3	41.3	42.2	43.2	44.7	46.2	48.1	50.2	52.2	54.3	56.3	58.4	4.7”
	cm	92.9	98.5	102.3	104.8	107.2	109.7	113.5	117.3	122.3	127.5	132.7	137.9	143.1	148.3	11.9cm
Centre Back Neck Seam to Hem (straight)	inches	21.7	23.1	23.3	23.4	23.6	23.7	23.9	24.1	24.4	25.0	25.4	25.8	26.2	26.6	
	cm	55.1	58.8	59.2	59.5	59.9	60.2	60.7	61.2	61.9	63.6	64.6	65.6	66.6	67.6	
Centre Back Neck Seam to hem (scooped)	inches	24.3	25.7	25.9	26.0	26.1	26.3	26.5	26.7	27.0	27.2	27.8	28.2	28.7	29.2	
	cm	61.7	65.4	65.7	66.1	66.4	66.8	67.3	67.8	68.5	69.2	70.5	71.7	73	74.2	



How to Blend Sizes for a Custom Fit

Women come in a wonderful variety of shapes and sizes. If your bust, hip or waist measurements fall in different sizes, you can blend between sizes for a custom fit. It is surprisingly easy to do and only takes a few minutes - well worth it to get a great fit!

When blending sizes, it is easiest to select and print **only** the sizes you wish to blend between. For example, if I have a **bust** measurement of an H and a **hip** measurement of a J, then I will select only those two sizes to print out using the nifty layers feature, which is explained on [page 19](#).

There are FIVE pattern pieces you will need to alter when blending sizes:

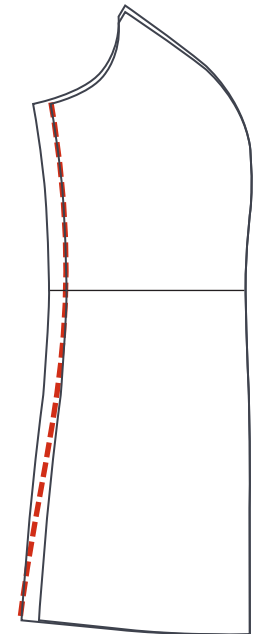
- Side Front + Side Back Panel
- Front
- Back + Back Lining

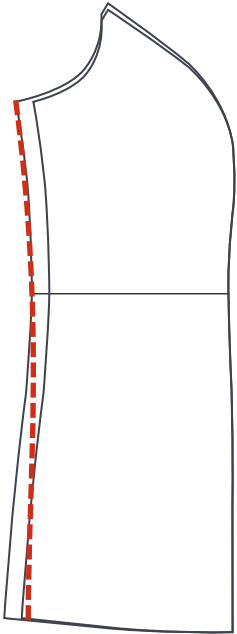
Blending sizes is surprisingly easy to do and only takes a few minutes.

Give it a go! It is well worth the extra time to get a great fit.

TO ADJUST FOR A LARGER HIP

1. Select and print the two sizes which best fit your bust and hip measurements.
2. Starting on the bust piece, draw a line down, following the curve (red dotted line in this diagram) until you reach the narrowest part of the waist.
3. From that point, gently curve the red dotted line out to the hip size you require.



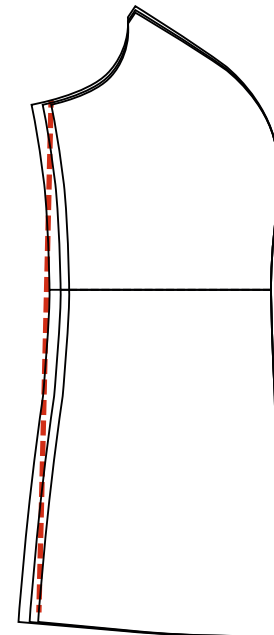


TO ADJUST FOR A SMALLER HIP

1. Select and print the two sizes which best fit your bust and hip measurements.
2. Starting on the bust piece, draw a line down following the curve (red dotted line in this diagram) until you reach the narrowest part of the waist.
3. From that point, gently curve the red dotted line in to the hip size you require.

TO ADJUST FOR A LARGER WAIST

1. Select and print the two sizes which best fit your bust and waist measurements (or three sizes if the hip is different).
2. Starting on the bust size piece, draw a line down (red dotted line in this diagram) gently curving out to the waist size piece at the narrowest part of the waist.
3. From that point, gently curve the red dotted line to the hip size you require. (This could be larger or smaller.)



How to Adjust the Length

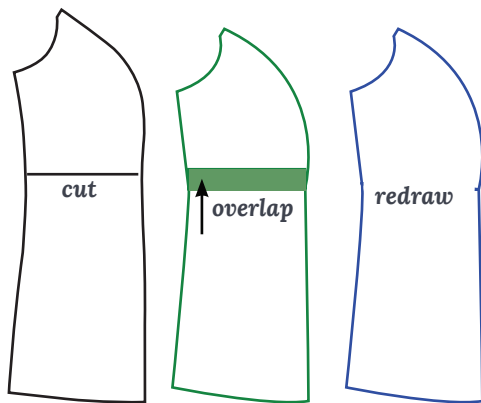
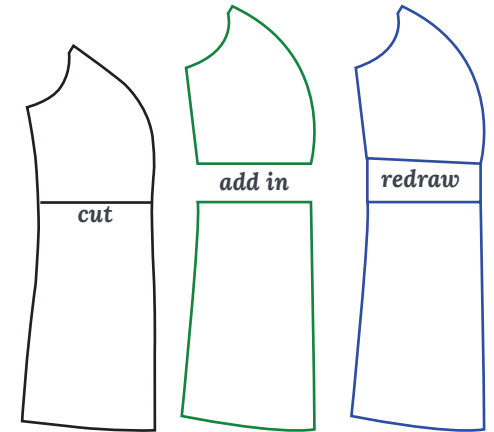
The Women's Pathfinder is drafted for an average height of 5'5" (165cm). If you are taller or shorter than this, you may wish to adjust the length to suit.

This is a simple alteration, which is best done after completing any size blending you wish to do.

A good rule of thumb is to add about a 1/2" of extra length for every inch of extra height.

TO LENGTHEN

1. Cut across the "lengthen/shorten" lines on each of the following paper pattern pieces: Front, Side Front, Side Back, Back, Back Lining, Wind Flap. Lay the cut pattern pieces onto a piece of paper.
2. Slide the pieces apart until they form a gap equal to the amount you wish to add to the length of the vest (green drawing). Tape the pattern pieces onto the paper to secure.
3. Smooth out the curve on either side of the pattern piece if required to create the new pattern piece (blue drawing).



TO SHORTEN

1. Cut across the "lengthen/shorten" lines on each of the following paper pattern pieces: Front, Side Front, Side Back, Back, Wind Flap
2. Overlap the top piece over the bottom piece by the amount you wish to remove from the length of the vest (green drawing). Tape the pieces together.
3. Smooth out the curve on either side of the pattern piece if required to create the new pattern piece (blue drawing).



Upcycle Inspiration

Making a Garment from Recycled Materials

Did you know? All Twig + Tale patterns are designed to be made from upcycled materials!

Here at Twig + Tale HQ, we are proudly passionate about recycling, starting as a small boutique making one-of-a-kind garments from upcycled materials under the name of Big Little.

We hope to encourage and inspire you to enjoy that same satisfaction of making something truly exquisite from discarded textiles. Here are some ideas on how to make your garment from upcycled materials - saving the planet and your pocket.



Woolen pants are ideal for cutting up into Trailblazer Vests. They are warm and yet still relatively lightweight. All these pairs were bought inexpensively from the charity shop.

Look for sizes XL and larger for greater fabric yields. Depending on the size, you may need to use a different fabric for the side panels.

A contrasting fabric can also be used for the shoulder details and the yoke.



Sleeping bags make incredible Trailblazer Vests.

Many sleeping bags are already pre-quilted, so it is simply a matter of careful placement of your pattern pieces. Some sleeping bags may require further quilting lines to be added.

If making a puffer-style vest, you may wish to check out this inspiration post: <https://www.twigandtale.com/blogs/twig-and-tale-blog/inspiration-puffer-style-trailblazer-vest>



Various cotton and linen garments could be used for lining a Trailblazer. These would be suitable if you are using a thicker outer and are wanting a thinner lining, or if you are simply making a lightweight vest.

Top left is a men's business shirt. Top right is a linen dress (found for only \$2), which would yield enough fabric for at least one vest. Bottom right is a pair of wide leg linen pants.

Print + Assemble Pattern

Paper Sizes

You can print out the pattern pieces on your home printer using either US Letter paper (8 ½ x 11”) or A4 paper.

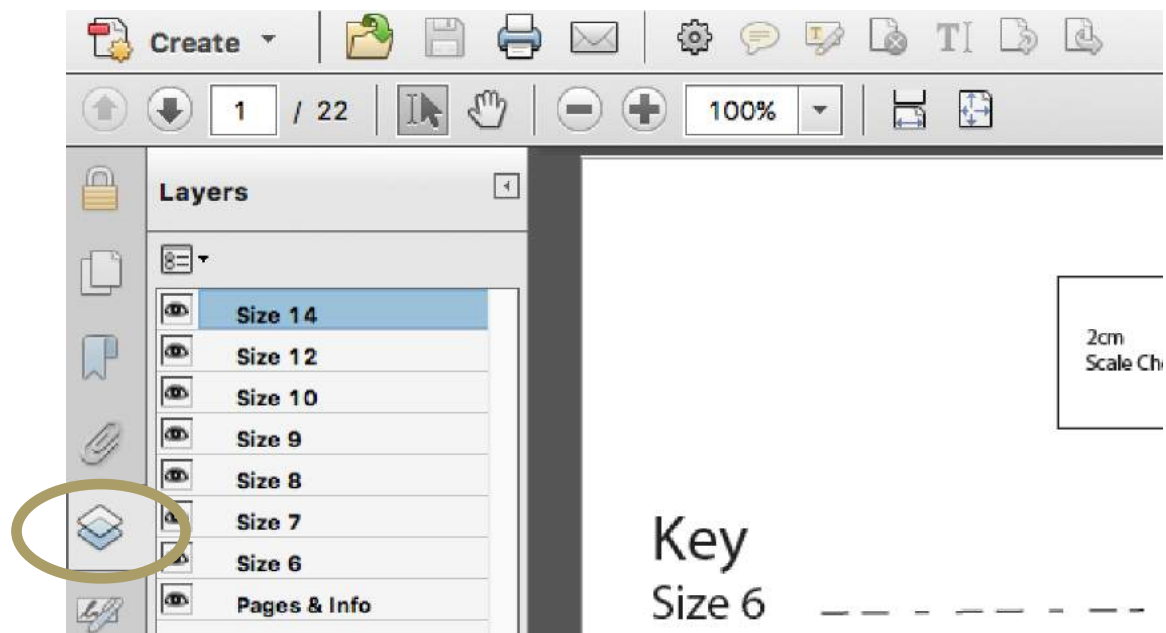
You will need the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you do not have it, you can download it free here:

<https://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>

Using Layers

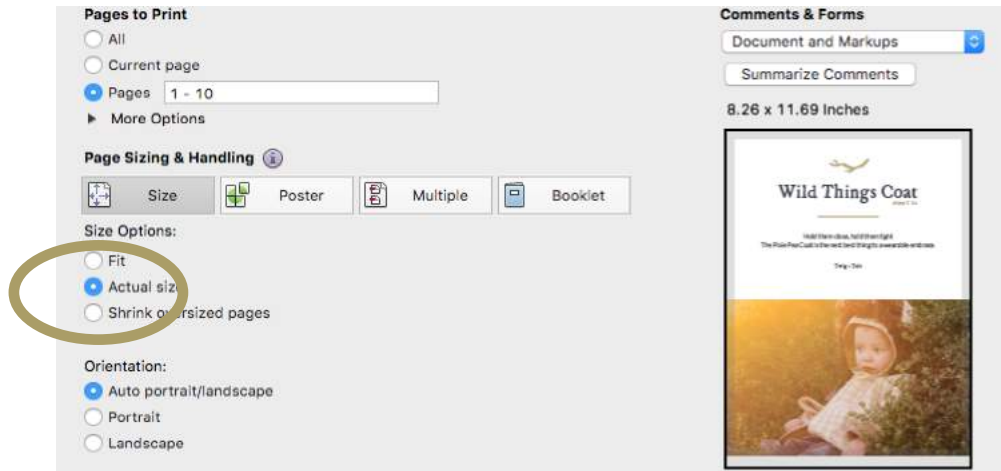
This pattern includes LAYERED pattern pieces, which allows you to choose only the sizes you wish to print. In ACROBAT READER, click on the layers icon (highlighted with a circle in the image below) while the file is open. Click on the eyeballs to turn size layers on or off. Be sure to leave the bottom layer “Pages & Info” turned on.

Print the first page of the PATTERN PIECES and ensure the 1” or 2cm square scale check boxes are correct before printing the remainder of the pattern pages.



Printer Settings

Your printer needs to be set on “Actual Size” to prevent it from scaling the pages incorrectly. You do not need to print the entire document - select only the pages you require from the chart below.



Troubleshooting

Most issues resolve themselves by printing from a desktop or laptop. Printing from an iPad or mobile device can produce irregular results.

Layers not showing up?

1. Ensure that you are looking at the ACRBAT print menu, not the default print menu that pops up on your computer.
2. On a Mac, sometimes the file can get “flattened” when you save it to your desktop. Simply go to your downloads folder and open it from there.

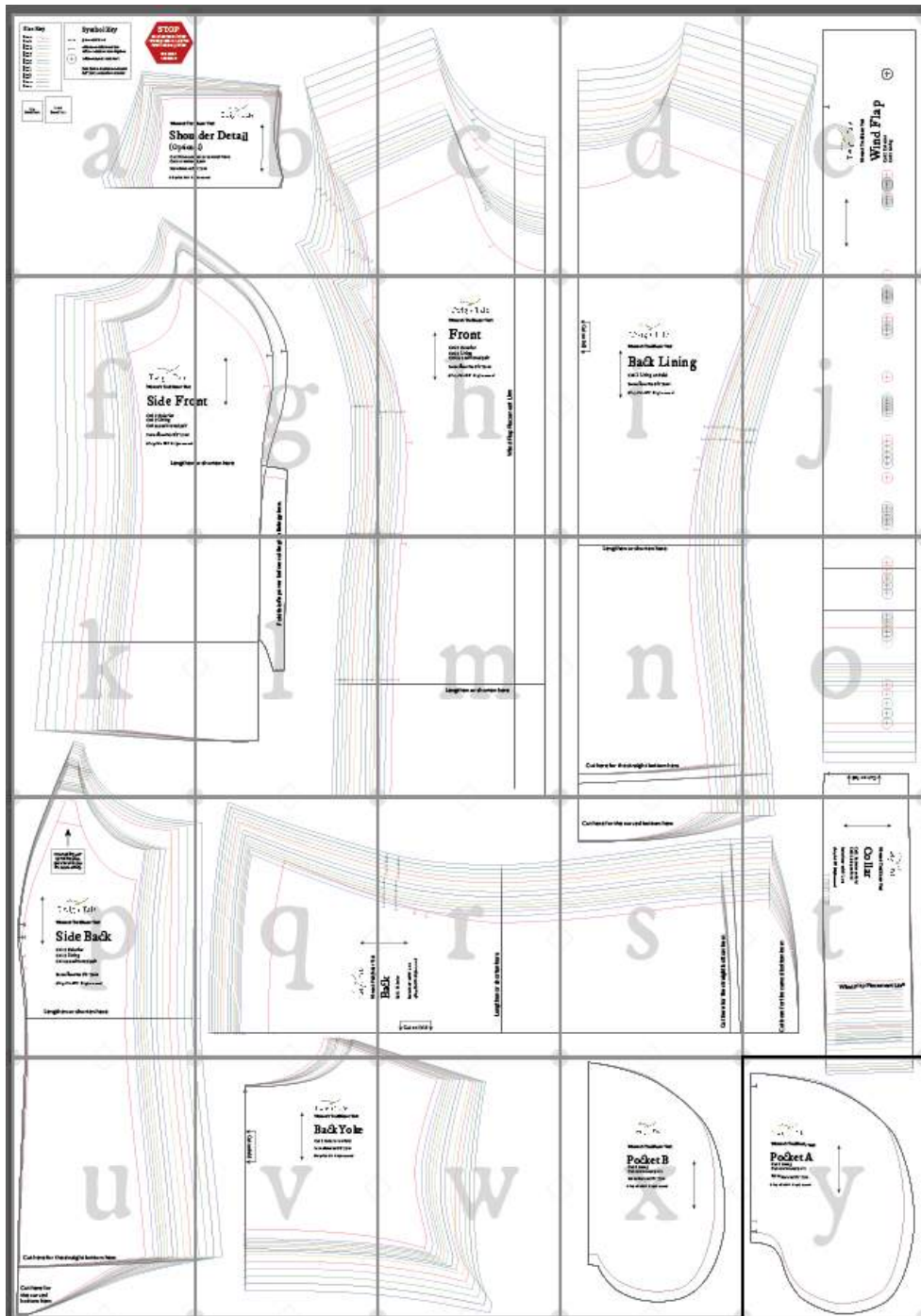
Which Pages to Print

	Pages	Instructions
Tutorial	1-59	Save a tree! Read on your phone/tablet/laptop while sewing rather than print!
Pattern Pieces	60-84	Print page 60 first and double check the scale box is correct. Then go ahead and print the remainder of the pages.

Assembling Pattern Pieces

Cut around the outer page rectangles (some people prefer to simply cut off the bottom edge and right-hand edge of the rectangles in order to overlap the pages), and then using the Page Assembly Diagram on the following page as a guide, arrange your pages, aligning the diamonds and corner circles. Tape the pages together, and then cut out your pattern pieces.

Page Assembly Diagram



Sewing Instructions

Welcome!

Before we start - did you know there is a [Twig + Tale Chat Group](#) on Facebook? It is a great place to ask questions if you need help along the way, and of course show off pics of your finished items. We look forward to seeing you there! Link above not working? Copy and paste this instead:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/522332691240127/>

Cutting Out a Puffer-Style Vest

Cutting out a puffer-style vest is different to cutting the classic vest.

Please see the info on Page 23 BEFORE cutting out your pattern pieces if adding batting to make a puffer-style vest.



Image by Joanne Bonny

Cutting Out

Back Lining	Cut 1 lining on the fold
Back	Cut 1 exterior on the fold
Back Yoke	Cut 1 exterior on the fold
Side back	Cut 2 exterior and 2 lining as mirrored pairs
Side front	Cut 2 exterior and 2 lining as mirrored pairs
Front	Cut 2 exterior and 2 lining as mirrored pairs
Collar	Cut 1 exterior and 1 lining on the fold. Omit for collarless version
Pockets A+ B	For each pocket, cut 2 from lining as a mirrored pair. You should have 4 pocket pieces in total.
Wind Flap	Cut 1 exterior and 1 lining. See notes on the following page to determine if you need to cut this piece.
Shoulder Detail	Cut 2 exterior or contrast fabric (optional)



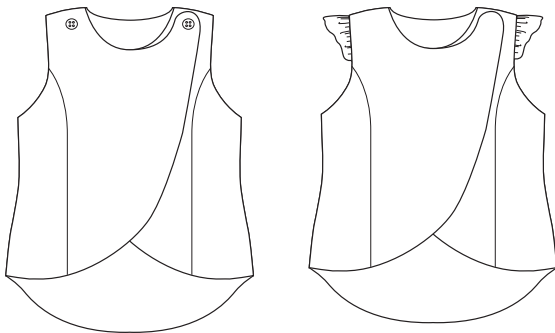
Image by Jocelyn Buggie



Image by Gabrielle McCarthy



Image by Shelly Althage



If making a version with Zip:

You have the option to have a regular exposed zip - you do not need to cut a wind flap for this version.

OR

You have the option of attaching a wind flap **over** the zip as shown in the image on the left. This creates a warmer vest and gives it a slightly different look.

If making a version without a Zip:

The wind flap will become your button/snap panel. Snaps are hidden (as in the photo on the left), however if closing with buttons, they will show on the outside of the wind flap.

Mark the position for the **snaps** onto the right side of the **lining** wind flap, using the paper pattern piece as a guide.

Mark the position for the **buttonholes** onto the right side of the exterior wind flap, using the paper pattern piece as a guide.

Curved Dropped Back

This feature is part of the pattern. If you would prefer a back with a straight hemline, you can trim off the curve using the trim line on the pattern piece.

The following options from the Pathfinder Vest can be added to the Trailblazer Vest

- Pixie Hood (as a detachable version)
- Classic Round Hood (as a detachable version)
- Flutter Sleeve
- Crossroads Add-on (great for maternity!)

<https://www.twigandtale.com/products/crossroads-vest-womens>



a



Optional Shoulder Detailing



Video Tutorials Page

<https://www.twigandtale.com/pages/video-tutorials-trailblazer-vest>

b



Press the 3/8" (1cm) seam allowance along the bottom edge towards the wrong side.

c



Trim off the bits hanging from the sides.

d



Pin the shoulder panel piece on top of the right side of the front. Top-stitch the panel piece on as shown by the dotted line in the photo.

If using a thicker fabric, you may wish to trim off the underneath fabric near the seamline to reduce the bulk when stitching around the arms later. If it is a lightweight fabric that moves around, then baste the two layers together around the other three edges.

Repeat for the other side.

The remainder of the tutorial will not show the shoulder detail.

1



Sewing the Front + Pockets



Video Tutorials Page

<https://www.twigandtale.com/pages/video-tutorials-trailblazer-vest>

Check out the video guide for a more interactive look. You will need an internet connection.

2

If you are making a version **without** in-seam pockets, ensure you have trimmed off the “pocket extension” from your side front panels (if you didn’t do so while cutting out), and then **skip to step 23**.

3



Pin a front piece and a pocket A piece right sides together, aligning the two lower notches.

Pin at the notches.

Sew the pocket on with a 3/8” (1cm) seam allowance as shown by the dotted line on the photo.

4



Press the pocket away from the front piece.

Repeat for the other side.

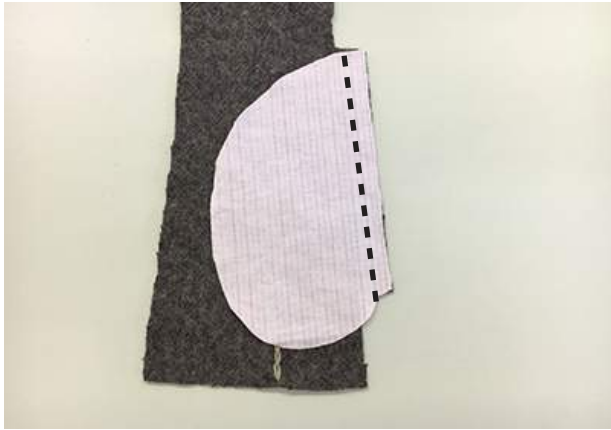
5



Pin a side front piece and a pocket B piece right sides together, aligning the extension.

See the following photo.

6



Stitch with a 3/8" (1cm) seam allowance.

Press the pocket away from the side piece (see the following photo).

Repeat for the other side.

See step 10 for a photo of how this looks on the other side once sewn.

7



Top-stitch all pockets 1/8" (3mm) from the seam.

8



Lay a side front onto its corresponding front with right sides together, aligning pocket pieces A and B along the curved edges.

See the following photo.

9



The grey extension on the side front will extend over.

10



Mark the pocket notches with pins.

(This also shows what the back of step 6 looks like)

11



Pin the front to the front side panel, aligning the bust notches first. Once they are pinned, then go ahead and evenly pin the remainder of the curve.

Stitch with a 3/8" (1cm) seam allowance, attaching the pocket as you go, pivoting at the corners.

The following series of photos shows a close up view of attaching the pockets.



It is easier to sew with the side front underneath, so pin accordingly.

12



These images show me stitching from the bottom of the vest up to the top. The reason for this is because I sewed one side from top to bottom when filming the video, and then photographed these while sewing the other side (bottom to top).

Stitch up from the bottom to the first notch (marked by the pin).

13



Pivot at the notch, and start sewing towards the pocket bag.

14



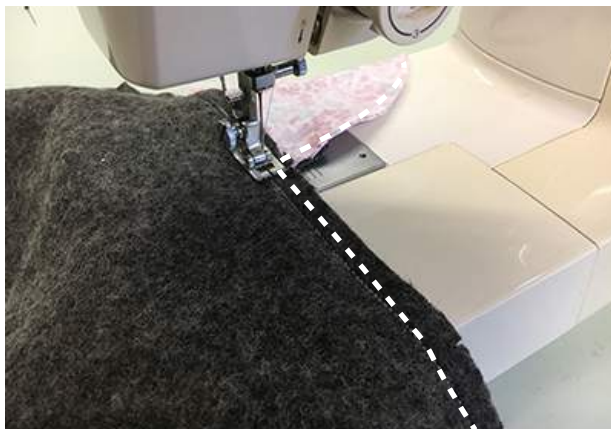
Sew around the pocket bag.

15



Once the pocket bag has been sewn, stitch just past the original rows of stitching, pivot and begin sewing towards the top of the vest.

16



Sew to the top of the vest.

Share Your Trailblazer With Us

Now you have an awesome Trailblazer- it is time to show it off!

#trailblazervest #twigandtale



Facebook Group

Join our group and share your Trailblazer photos.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/522332691240127/>



Instagram

Tag us in your photos - we love to see your creations!



Pinterest

We also love finding images of your Trailblazers on Pinterest.



Pattern Modifications + Inspiration

Check out all the pattern hacks on the **T+T Blog** for ways to customise your next Trailblazer.

Have you gotten creative and done something a little different with your Trailblazer? Share it with us! Drop us an email at hello@twigandtale.com and we could feature it on the T+T blog.



Image by Rachel Osterday

Inspiration - Women

Images from the Testing Team

#trailblazervest

#twigandtale



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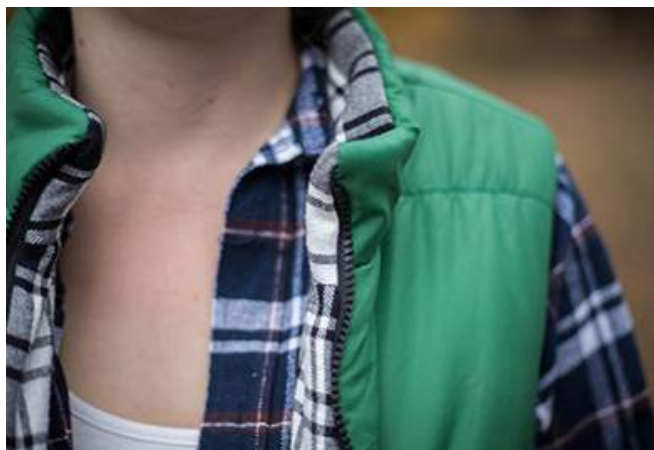
Trailblazer Vest

Inspiration - Women

Images from the Testing Team

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Inspiration - Nestledown Add-on

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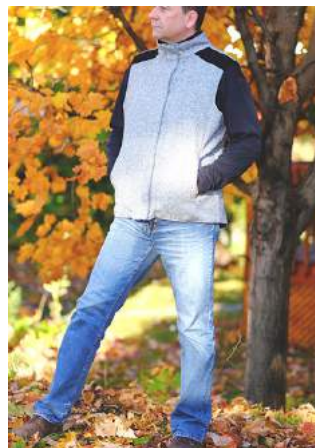
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Inspiration - Men

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Inspiration - Children

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Sewing Summary

Women's Trailblazer Vest

SEAM ALLOWANCE is 3/8" unless specified otherwise.

PREPARE FABRIC PIECES

- Puffer style preparation:
 - Quilt rectangles of main fabric and batting as desired.
 - Cut pieces from quilted fabric, carefully aligning quilting lines.
- Cut out pattern pieces and transfer notches and markings to fabric.
- ***Embellish pieces with embroidery or applique if desired.***
- Optional shoulder detail:
 - Press bottom edge of shoulder panel 3/8" (1cm) to wrong side.
 - Trim off overhanging bits along side.
 - Pin panels to right side of fronts.
 - Topstitch down along fold.
 - Trim thick underneath fabric OR baste around remaining edges of panel to secure it to lighter main fabric.

SEW FRONT + POCKETS

- Pin exterior Front pieces to corresponding Pocket A pieces RST, aligning lower notches.
 - Sew along straight edges, 3/8" (1cm) SA.
 - Press pockets away from front pieces.
- Pin exterior Side Front pieces to corresponding Pocket B pieces RST, aligning extension.

- Sew along straight edges, 3/8" (1cm) SA.
- Press pockets away from side front pieces.
- Top-stitch all pockets 1/8" (3mm) from seam, catching main fabric in stitching.
- Pin (from Front) Fronts to corresponding Side Fronts RST (start with chest notches), aligning pocket pieces A+B along curved edges.
- Mark notches with pins.
- Stitch down to first pin, pivot, sew around pocket bag to second pin, pivot, and sew to other end.
- Make one snip in seam allowance on each side of pocket, clip curves.
- Press seams open above and below pockets, press pockets toward fronts.
- Assemble front lining:
 - Pin Fronts to corresponding Side Fronts, starting at chest notch.
 - Sew along curve (Front piece on top)
 - Clip seam allowance along curves.

SEW BACK

- Pin (align notches) and sew exterior Side Back panels to each side of Back piece RST.
- Clip curves and press seams open.
- Pin and sew Back Yoke to top of assembled exterior Back RST, 3/8" (1cm) SA.
- Press seam open.
- Repeat for lining (except no Yoke).

SEW SHOULDERS + OPTIONAL COLLAR

- Sew exterior fronts to back RST at shoulder seams, 3/8" (1cm) SA.
- Press seams open.
- Stay-stitch around neck and armholes if fabric might stretch out.
- Pin centre of exterior collar to centre back of neckline RST, continue pinning along neckline to edges, aligning notches with shoulder seams.
- Sew along neckline with collar underneath.
- Clip seam allowance and press seam toward collar.
- Repeat for lining.

INSTALL ZIPPER (OPTIONAL)

- If fabric might stretch, iron a strip of stabilizer to wrong side of front edges of lining and/or exterior fabric.
- Separate zipper. The side with the pull goes on left side of garment as it is worn.
- Place zipper face down, aligning edges of zipper tape RST with raw edges of vest front. Top of zipper teeth should be 5/8" (1.5 cm) from top of collar (or top of vest for collarless version).
- Using zipper foot, baste zipper at collar seam, 3/8" (1cm) from edge. Fasten zipper and check for perfect alignment (otherwise, unpick and baste again!).
- Pin rest of zipper along front edges, ensuring that zipper bottoms are equidistant from bottom edges, at least 5/8" (1.5 cm).
- Stitch zipper 3/8" (1cm) from edges of front.
- Fold tops of zipper tape toward wrong side of zipper and baste across.

ADD LINING

- Pin exterior and lining RST.

- Sew around front edges, neckline, and arm openings, 3/8" (1cm) SA.
- Clip corners and curves, press all seams open.
- Turn vest right side out by pulling front panels through shoulders.
- At each side seam, separate exterior and lining – then pin lining to lining and exterior to exterior.
- Baste across seam where lining meets exterior.
- Sew each side seam, press seams open.
- Turn vest wrong side out and pin bottom hems of exterior and lining RST, stuffing the rest of the vest into the bundle as you go.
- Stitch along bottom hem, 3/8" (1cm) SA, leaving a 4" (10cm) gap along a straight area.
- Turn vest right side out, poke out corners, press.
- Hand-stitch turning gap closed or top-stitch all around edges (including armholes if desired).

ADD WIND FLAP (OPTIONAL)

- If not using zipper or Velcro or install one side of snaps to lining flap.
- Sew lining and exterior flap pieces RST, starting with short ends. Fold seam allowances over to one side and then sew along one long side (closest to snaps/buttonholes).
- Clip off corners, turn right side out, press.
- Topstitch 1/8" (3mm) from sewn edges and sew buttonholes if using.
- Pin raw edge of wind flap to **right** front edge of vest along placement line, RST.
- Sew with 3/8" (1cm) SA, then trim off half of SA from wind flap.
- Fold flap over and stitch it down just beyond trimmed seam allowance.
- Sew buttons or other side of Velcro or apply snaps to other side of vest.

Glossary of Sewing Terms

Backstitch/Back tack

Used at the beginning and end of a machine-sewn seam to anchor the seam in place; it involves a couple of extra stitches back and forth.

Bar tack

A group of closely sewn stitches (back and forth from side to side a la zig zag) that is used to tack a belt loop or similar item in place. Sometimes used in the point of a V to reinforce.

Baste/basting

Temporary stitching used to hold a sewing project in place that is removed when the permanent sewing is done. Basting can be done by hand or by machine using a long stitch length without backstitching.

Blind hem stitch

Sewing stitch that is not meant to be seen on the right side of the fabric, usually accomplished by picking up one thread of the fabric at a time rather than going through the full fabric to make a stitch. The best finish is done by hand, but many sewing machines come with a blind hem attachment, and the manual is the best guide for how to use it to produce virtually invisible hems.

Casing

Fabric envelope of sorts for encasing elastic, a drawstring, or similar material, usually along a waistline, cuff or hem.

Clip (curve)

An outside curve needs to be clipped to within a breath of the seam line. For an inside curve, you can either clip or cut very small notches (V shape) out of the curve itself in order to have it lay flat and not

make bunches when the project or garment is done.

Dart

A V shaped, tapered adjustment (usually a fold on the inside of the piece) to a pattern to allow for more fullness in the bust area or less fullness in other areas (waist).

Ease

A way of sewing a length of fabric into a bit of a smaller space without resulting in gathers or puckers.

Edgestitch

A stitch done a scant 1/8" from the folded or seamed edge.

Facing

Fabric sewn on the raw edge of a garment piece that is turned under and serves as a finish for the edge as well.

Finish (an edge)

Turn under 1/4" and stitch, serge/overlock the edge, or other method of finishing the edge so it doesn't unravel or cause a bulk problem.

Fold line

Many pattern pieces are placed on the fold of a piece of fabric. This is the actual fold of the fabric off the bolt or a fold of your own creation; the goal is to have a pattern piece that is cut out without a centre seam.

Gather

Gathering allows for making a long piece of fabric to fit with a shorter piece of fabric and also is a method of easing a seam to allow insertion of sleeves and other rounded pattern pieces.

Continues on next page...



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To gather a seam, two parallel lines are sewn on the right side of the fabric, a scant 1/4" apart. Long tails of thread are left for gathering. The bobbin threads (on the wrong side of the fabric) are held on either end of the seam and gently tugged, gathering the fabric evenly on the threads.

Grain

Direction of the fabric that runs parallel to the selvage. Patterns have an arrow on them <-----> indicating direction of the grain to assist in laying out the pattern pieces correctly.

Hem

Fabric that is turned up on the lower edge of a garment or sleeve to provide a finished edge. Often extra fabric is left in the hem with children's clothing to allow for growth (especially skirts and trousers).

Inseam

Seam inside the leg of pants that runs from the crotch to the hem.

Interfacing

Fabric used between layers of fabric to provide stabilization and form. Usually used in collars, cuffs, plackets, some waistbands and pockets, and facings.

Notch

Usually, the notch is shown on Twig + Tale patterns with a T shape and should be matched on seams when joining for sewing.

Pivot

To leave the needle in fabric, raise the presserfoot and turn the fabric at an angle. Then lower the presserfoot and start sewing.

Placket

A V-shaped opening that is finished with a bias strip.

Pleat

A fold in fabric that is either inverted or folded outward, is not sewn except on the top edge (as in a skirt or slacks waistband), and provides decorative or functional fullness.

Stay stitch

A line of stitching just inside the intended permanent stitching line (seam line) on curved edges that stabilizes and keeps the curve from distorting.

Stitch in the ditch

Stitching in the ditch is sometimes used as a method of understitching by stitching in the seam itself (the ditch) in order to hold it down.

Tack

A temporary stitch to hold pieces together, usually removed after final stitching.

Top-stitch

A sometimes decorative, sometimes functional stitch that is usually 1/4" from the edge of a seam. It is visible because it is done on the top of the item.

Understitch

Keeps a facing or lining from rolling onto the right side of a garment. After pressing the seam allowance and facing away from the garment, stitch through both a scant 1/8" from the seam. Some people grade the seam allowance and facing/lining prior to stitching to eliminate bulk.

Glossary adapted from thesewingdictionary.com