

PAGE 6-7 : COWL NECKLINE

Now let's talk about the cowl neck line

The cowl neck has one distinctive feature and that's the use of excess fabric used to form the neck line. the excess fabric typically sags down to form this neck line. this neck line can go with any type of sleeve, sleeveless short sleeve, quarter sleeve or long sleeve. depending on you, you can make the front and back of the sag as cowl neck or you make only the front sag. but while measuring the fabric for the neck line, be careful not to make it too wide as this would make it loose shape and may fall off the neck if it's too big

So when making a cowl neck just like other neck lines and tops we go back to the basic principles of bodice. (Front and back bodice of a garment) in order to get this we need our measurements

So I will work with one of my students' measurement, Ngozi she's a perfect small size girl

Shoulder-12

Neck width- 6

Neck depth 7

Bust. 26

Waist. 22

Hip. 26

Length. 25

So in all her measurements the bust and hip are the same and are the biggest so we use that to place our fabric on fold, fabric for the front part on fold as well as fabric for the back side on fold.

Eg that $26 \div 4 = 6.5$

Out of these we need just 2 for the front

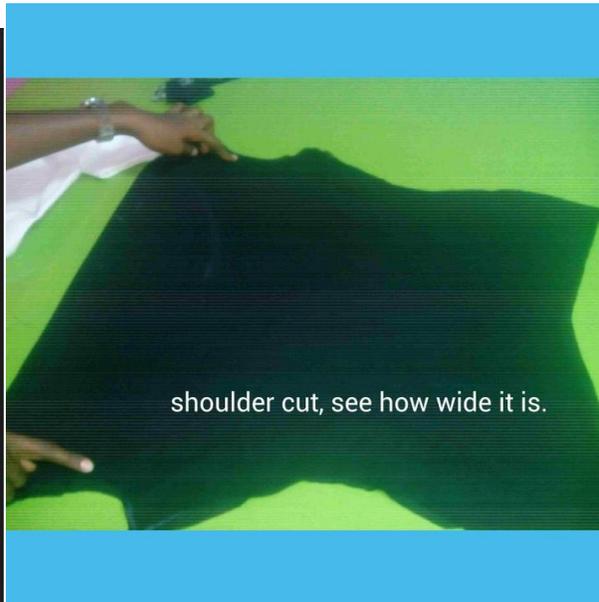
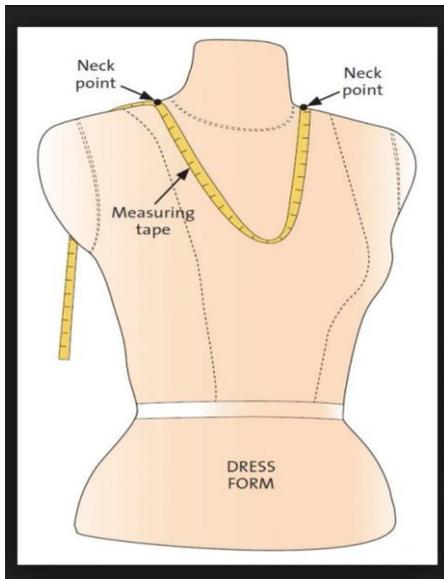
$6.5 \times 2 = 13$

On this 13 for the body area of the front I will add seam allowance which is 1.5 on both sides making 3. in total I will have $13 + 3 = 16$

Now the Neck part, because of the way the neck is we must factor in facing on the same fabric. I call it self-facing

Generally you have to determine how deep you want the neck to be and this would determine how wide we need to make the shoulder cut

See the following images for more clarification.



Now still on the neck part

See how wide the shoulder area is in the picture above. let me explain using the first diagram.

The diagram shows the neck and shoulder area, it also shows how you determine the length of the neck down from the shoulder.

Going back to Ngozi's measurement for the neck 6 inch across the shoulder, 7 inch deep. while her shoulder is 12 inch

Now because the neck has to sag and we are not cutting any part out like other regular neck lines we are going to measure it in a special way

I want to sag a bit so I will use the length of the neck depth by 2

7 is the length for her neck remember, now we would make this $7 \times 2 = 14$

12 inch is what I measured her shoulder, so I will add that 14 I got from the neck to the shoulder which is. $12 + 14 = 26$

The body part is needed now, remember we got 16 so we would use the 16 and 26 as our fabric placed on fold.

Now both is for the front bodices alone but up and down. the up part is the neck side and that's the one measuring 26 for it to sag the 16 is for the down part of the blouse



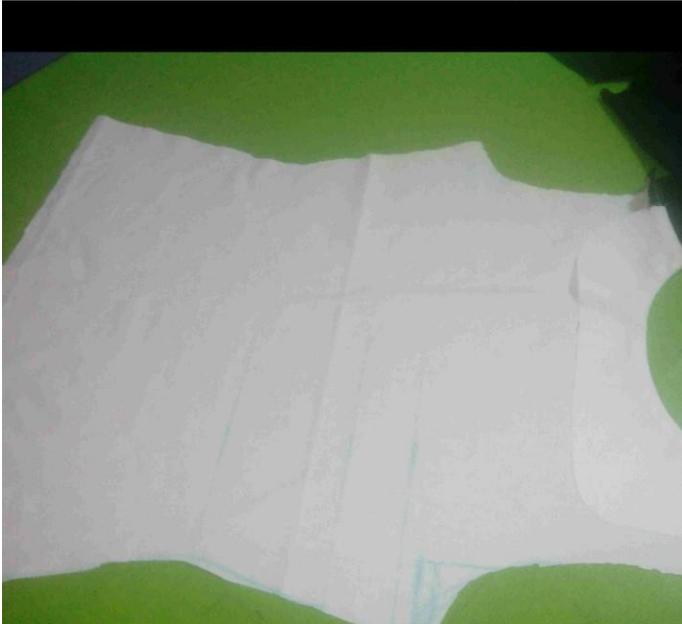
front cowl neck line showing the sag

Because I don't want the back to sag I will cut it normally and add facing.

Shoulder 12

Body remember we got 16

When placed on fold it will look this when spread open it will be like the second pic



back block spread open with facing

We done with the cutting its time to move to the sewing

We join the shoulder together first.



No it folds down to the chest area.



First it depend on how full u want that gathering to be.and yes there are different ways of explaining this process but at the end fundamental principles must be followed.

The principle of this neck line is that it must sag at all times but you the designer will determine the fullness u want.

