A Kimono SLeeve with Underarm Gusset

Cooperative Extension, South Dakota State University

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HOW TO MAKE  

a kimono sleeve with underarm gusset

An underarm gusset is used to provide ease and prevent strain at the underarm seam in a kimono sleeve.

I. Method for a One-Piece Gusset (Figure 1)

1. Mark seam and cutting line on sleeve, and stitching line on gusset. Use small stitches, 15 per inch. (1-A.)

2. Pin a 2-inch square of fabric, right sides together, over the end of gusset mark as reinforcement. Match grains. (Fig. 1-B.)

3. Stitch along the seamlne through the patch. Blunt stitching at point of gusset. (One stitch across the point.) (Fig. 1-C.)

4. Slash on the cutting line between the stitching to within a thread of the point. (Fig. 1-D.)

5. Turn the facing inside and press with seam edge. Trim away the surplus material on the stay. (Fig. 1-E.)

6. Sew the underarm and side seam to the stitching line for the gusset.

7. Pin the gusset to the slashed edges just inside of the stayseam and stitching. Match markings. Do not round the corners. Baste and stitch. (Fig. 1-F.)

8. Press the seam away from the gusset. Stitch each side of gusset separately. Start at edge of gusset with bodice side up and stitch from one end of gusset to the other following seamlines marked on gusset and bodice. (Fig. 1-G.)

9. Restitch from outside if desired for extra strength. Overcast seam if a finish is necessary. (Fig. 1-H.)

II. Method for Two-Piece Gusset (Figure 2)

1. Mark stitching and slash lines on bodice, back and front. Mark stitching lines on gusset. (Fig. 2-A.)

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2. Reinforce slash by:
   A. Staystitching on stitching line. Instead of stitch-
       ing to a point, take one small stitch across the
       point; or—
   B. Stitch tape or piece of fabric on the stitching line
      (to the right side of the garment). Cut on the
      slashline to the point. Turn the tape or fabric to
      the inside and press. (Fig. 2-B-B1.)
3. With right sides together, match the stitching line
   of the gusset to the stitching line of the bodice front.
   Pin and baste. Stitch from edge to point; make
   stitches small. Back track at point for greater
   strength. Leave needle in garment and turn to
   stitch a second side of the gusset. (Fig. 2-C.)
4. Top-stitch if desired. (Fig. 2-D.)
5. Insert the gusset in the bodice back as in the bodice
   front.
6. Join the underarm seams, matching the notches
   and gusset edges.

II. Inserting a Gusset Without a Pattern (Figure 3)
   A gusset may be inserted at the underarm of a gar-
   ment although the pattern does not provide for it.
1. Mark the line of the gusset slash as follows: Fold
   the bodice front pattern from outside neck line to
   the underarm seam line at the highest point where
   sleeve area and the side area most nearly coincide,
   crease. (Fig. 3-A, B.)
   Open the pattern and draw a 3½-inch line on
   the crease. (Fig. 3-C.)
   Transfer marking to bodice fabric, front and
   back. (This is the slash line.) Staystitch each side
   of slash line, tapering from ½-inch at underarm
   edge to nothing at point.
2. Make gusset pattern:
   Two-piece gusset: Cut two gusset pieces for each
   sleeve (short sides on straight of grain and about
   4½ inches long.) (Fig. 3-D.) Insert as for two-piece
   gusset.
   One-piece gusset: Cut pieces of fabric on straight of
   grain and about 4½ inches square. (Fig. 3-E.) In-
   sert as for one-piece gusset.

IV. Gusset for Torn Underarm (Figure 4)
   A gusset may be inserted in a garment with an un-
   mounted sleeve, which has torn at the underarm.
   (Fig. 4-A.)
1. For a front tear no longer than 3½ inches, slash the
   back of the bodice an equal amount. For a front tear
   more than 3½ inches, slash the back of the bodice
   exactly 3½ inches.
2. To reinforce raw edges, machine-stitch around tear
   and slash, tapering from ½ inch at seam to noth-
   ing at point. Turn under the edges, so as to just con-
   ceal the stitching. Crease or baste. (Fig. 4-B.)
3. Cut a square of fabric (on straight of grain) one
   inch larger than the slash for the gusset.
   If the front and back slashes are not the same
   length, cut the gusset accordingly, one inch larger
   than slashes. The gusset will be diamond shape.
   Insert as for one-piece gusset.

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