

## Halter Top Supply List

If you have little experience in sewing knits, don't worry, this class is the perfect way to learn the tips and tricks of a fabric that is a little more challenging than wovens.

You will be drafting the pattern for a halter top which fits your body perfectly (or the body of the person you are sewing for). Don't worry, its not hard and once you learn the technique you can create a perfectly fitting halter top for anyone from a child to plus size adult!

You will be drafting this pattern by using a tank top that fits you well. You will not be damaging the tank top in any way, so grab your favorite one out of your closet. Try to pick one kind of similar in style to the photo below. If you don't have one you can easily find one that fits you in a thrift store or for a couple of dollars at an inexpensive store like Walmart or Target. (It sure beats spending \$20 for a pattern from the big pattern companies that may or may not fit you once you sew it!)



### **Fabric Choices:**

**Most knits come in 58-60" width** if you run into an oddball knit that is narrower, I'd skip it this time around. You would possibly need substantially more fabric. Make the first one out of the standard width and then you will know how to gauge fabric amounts.

58-60" wide fabric: You will be looking for a lightweight stretch knit. These knits are usually polyester or rayon (which can also be called modal) with small percentage of spandex or lycra thrown in. (If the label reads 100% or a majority of spandex or lycra, give it a pass for this project, that is usually swimwear or dance fabric and it has extreme stretch in both directions!) You may run across cotton knit, which is amazingly cool in summer, but it seems a rare find these days.

All knits stretch in at least one direction in the cross grain (perpendicular to the selvage) some knits are two way stretch. They will have the most stretch on the cross grain, but will also stretch along the selvage on the straight of grain. For this project either is fine. Just stay away from extremely stretchy stuff that feels more like a rubber band, again it is for specialized uses.



Width x 2 + 8 inches = Needs to be less than width of fabric

To determine the amount of fabric you will need to purchase, measure across the widest width of your tank top (it is usually the bust or hip area – whatever is widest. Then multiply it by 2 and add 8 inches. If that measurement is less than the width of your fabric you are good, so next determine the length.

Measure the length of your tank top from the top edge of the strap to the hem add 3” and this will be the amount you need to buy. If you want to have your halter top be a crop top, you can subtract a few inches to save on fabric waste.



Length + 3” = Amount of fabric to Buy\*

\*If the width you need (see above) does not fit the fabric you have chosen, you need to buy double this amount of fabric.

If your width measurement plus 8 inches is wider than the fabric you have chosen, you will need to determine the length and then double the amount of fabric purchased.

As an example: When making a halter top from a size Medium tank top. The width was 15” so  $2 \times 15 + 8 = 38$  so a 58” fabric has ample width. The Medium tank top measured 24” so  $24 + 3 = 27$ ” so I bought  $\frac{3}{4}$  yard of fabric.

If your width measurement plus 8 inches is wider than the fabric you have chosen, you will need to determine the length and then double the amount of fabric purchased so in the example above you would buy  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  yards of fabric not  $\frac{3}{4}$  yard.

**PLEASE PREWASH YOUR FABRIC PRIOR TO COMING TO CLASS!** Yes, knits will shrink sometimes very little, sometimes alot! It also removes any excess dies and sizing that the factories add to the fabric

## **NOTIONS:**

Lightweight or featherweight fusible interfacing - Approx. 3" x 60" (this does not need to be a continuous piece if you have 2 --3" x 30" pieces that is fine. I just would prefer you did not use anything shorter than 20".

Thread that matches your fabric. If you want a pop of color or would like to play with a decorative stitch bring a matching thread and then a coordinating thread (maybe it picks out a strong color in the fabric motif)

Optional - If you want a contrasting tie, buy 1/8 yard of a different, but coordinating color.

## **Tools:**

Sewing Machine. Basic knowledge of your machine is required. You will need to know how to use a straight stitch and a zigzag stitch. Optional: If your machine does decorative stitches you may choose to use them (or bring the manual if you can't remember how to set them up.)

Sewing Scissors

Measuring Tape

Seam Gauge

Seam Ripper

If you have please bring: (don't go out and buy, there will be plenty in class)

Tube Turner or Chopstick

Rotary Cutter

Quilters 24" Ruler and Cutting Mat