

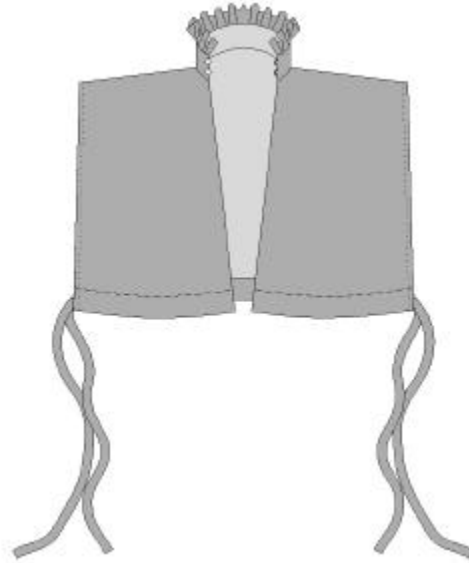
The Partlet

History

The partlet was a rectangular piece of cloth, with a standing collar, open in the front. The lower class partlet would have been made of linen, of the same weight, or a bit lighter than, the smock.

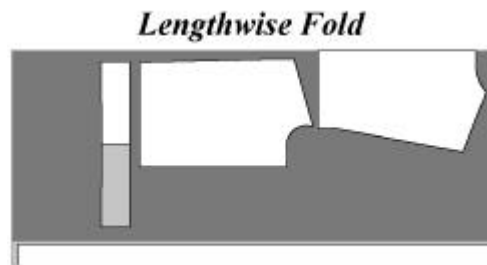
The partlet was worn over the smock, and tucked into the bodice, or tied or pinned on the outside of the bodice. It served to fill in the area of the chest and neck revealed by the low necked bodice, providing protection from the sun or from cold.

There is little truth to the story that an open partlet signified an unmarried woman. Although maidens were more likely to show their bosoms, it was by no means a hard fast rule.



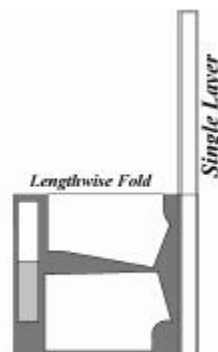
Cutting Layouts

45" fabric
all sizes



Single Layer

54-60" fabric, all sizes



Constructing the Partlet

Narrow hem front openings by hand or machine.

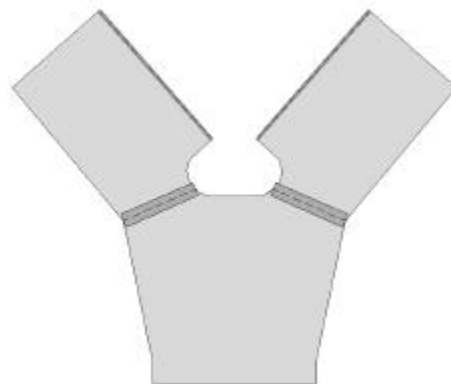


Stitch Fronts to back at shoulder seams.



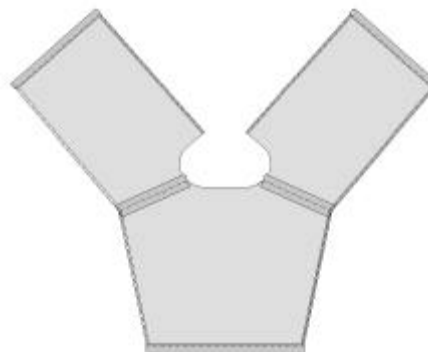
Clean finish seam allowances and press open.

Note: If you are using a sheer fabric, you may wish to sew the shoulder seams with a narrow French seam.



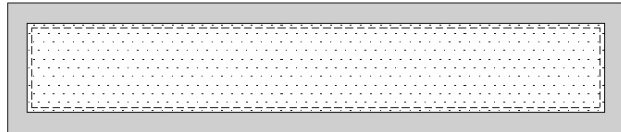
Lower Edges

Press lower edges of Fronts and Back under $5/8$ ".
Fold $1\ 1/2$ " from edge. Stitch, leaving ends open to form casings.

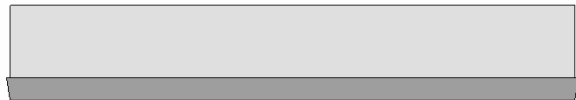


Collar

Stitch Interfacing to one Collar piece, 1/8" to outside of seam line. Trim interfacing seam allowance close to stitching. Or, apply fusible interfacing according to manufacturer's instructions.

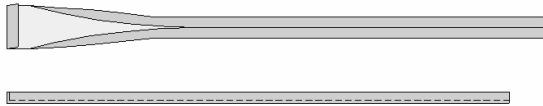


On remaining collar, press seam allowance to inside on one long edge. This piece will now be called the Collar Facing.



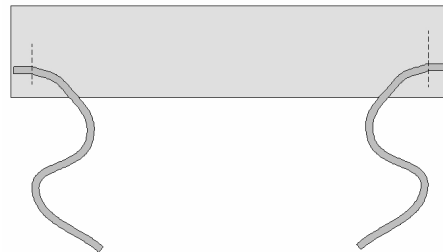
Ties (optional)

For self fabric ties, cut two lengthwise pieces 1" x 12" .Press edges under 1/4" .Fold in half lengthwise with raw edges to center. Stitch close to edge.



Or use 1/4" ribbon or twill tape.

Lay one tie at each end of collar, just above seam line as shown. Stitch in place just outside seam line, stitching several times for strength.



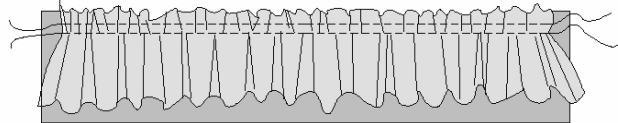
Ruffle (optional)

Press under 1/4" on ends and one long edge of Ruffle. Narrow hem, stitching by machine or hand, OR use a serger to make a narrow rolled edge.



Gather ruffle: Stitch along lower seam line, using a long straight stitch. Stitch again 1/4" toward edge. (*Tip: Use nylon monofilament thread in the bobbin of your machine for gathering, to allow the gathers to slip easily along the thread.*)

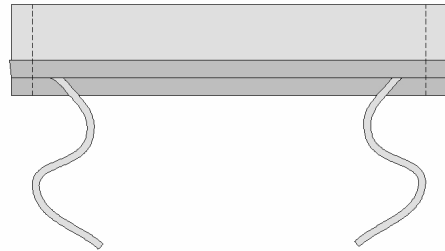
Pull gathers to fit collar. Pin ruffle to upper edge of collar, matching ends to collar seam lines and matching center backs. Stitch.



Fold corners of ruffle toward center and pin to avoid catching in seams.

Pin Collar Facing to Collar.

Stitch sides and upper edge, being careful not to catch in ruffle or ties.



Note: For the sake of clearer illustration, the following steps are shown without the ruffle.

Pull neck gathers up to fit collar. Pin, matching center backs and front seams, having shoulder seams placed evenly between center back and fronts of collar. Stitch.



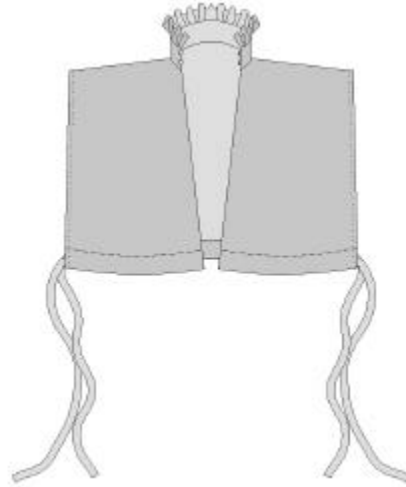
Stitch facing to seam line, enclosing raw edges.



Lower Ties

Cut two lengths of 1/2" twill tape or ribbon, the length of your waist measurement plus 18".

Using a bodkin or safety pin, thread one tie through the fronts and one through the back.



Fasten the neckline with ties, as described above, or with buttons or hooks and eyes.

To wear the partlet, bring the front ties around body to back and tie. Bring back ties to front and tie.

The collar may be worn open or closed as you prefer .

