

## Basic T-Tunic Construction for Beginners

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For Stierbach A&S Class, 5/23/24 (7-9pm)

This class is meant for those new to the SCA and/or those with very limited sewing experience. The goal is to complete a tunic within the two-hour time frame of this class. Given the time constraints, this will not be a truly period construction technique, but will give you a basic tunic to wear very quickly.

I'd be happy to help you with something more specific for your persona, just reach out to me!



I call this the “Grinch method” because it reminds me of the scene where the Grinch is cutting out the material for his Santa outfit using an old curtain. It basically gives you the shape of a tunic as one giant piece, with only the sides to sew up. Image source: [www.chuckjonescatalog.com](http://www.chuckjonescatalog.com)



We will start by taking some measurements as follows:

- Overall length (Back of neck to desired length, plus at least 2 inches for a hem). Note that belting will cause the length to be taken up, so feel free to add extra length. You can always hem it shorter later.)
- Length from back of neck to waist
- Neck to chest (2" - 3" below center of armpit where chest is fullest)
- Waist plus ~3" for ease
- Chest (with lungs filled) plus ~3" for ease
- Sleeve length (with arm bent @ 90 degrees, measure from top of shoulder to wrist)
- Head
- Wrist (measure around hand at largest point to allow for you to get your hand through the opening plus ~1" for ease)

Next, fold your fabric in half width-wise and again length-wise (makes 4 layers).

Find the length from the neck to the crown of the chest and mark on the fabric all the way across. (use tailor's chalk)

Divide your chest measurement by 4. Mark this point on the line you have just drawn with the chalk.

Mark the length from the neck to the waist and draw a line across the fabric. Connect the line from the chest to the waist as shown in the diagram.

Find the point from the neck to the overall desired length and mark at the folded side (your tunic center).

From the waistline, draw a diagonal line, according to your own desired fullness.

Note the measurement from the waistline to the bottom of the hem at the front of the tunic, and mark the same length on the side of the tunic on your diagonal line. Connect the front and side markings with a rounded line.

Decide how long you want your sleeves to be. Assuming long sleeves, mark the arm length across the top and the wrist width down from the end of the sleeve (measurement divided by 2). Draw a diagonal line back to the chest line.

From the lines you have just drawn (which are your seam lines) draw another line 1/2" out for the seam allowance. These will be your cutting lines.

Next it is time to cut the neck hole. Mark a quarter circle about 3" away from the point at the corner of the fabric (cut on this line only through the top layer – this is the front of your tunic) • Mark & cut a much shallower curve at the back neck edge. This measurement should be slightly larger than your head so you can get the tunic on over your head. Be on the side of cutting it too small as you can always enlarge it if needed. Try it on and adjust size as needed.

Cut out the pattern. You should have one big piece of fabric. Sew along the side seams.

Finish the neck with bias tape. You can finish the sleeves with bias tape as well, or simply fold under and hem.

Image Source: <http://www.wastekeep.org/office/chatelaine/tunic.htm>

