

TOPIC: Shaped Facings for Necklines and Armhole

FORM: 5

TERM: 2

Duration: 3hr

WEEK: 2

DATE: 12th January 2026

SUBJECT: Clothing and Textiles

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- **Define** "facing" and identify the three main types.
- **Draft and cut** shaped facings for round, square, V-necklines and All-in-one.
- **Apply** shaped facings to necklines and armholes using correct sewing techniques (stay-stitching, clipping, grading, and under-stitching).

Key Definitions & Concepts

What is a Facing?

A facing is a separate piece of fabric applied to the raw edge of a garment (such as a neckline or armhole) to finish it. It is turned to the inside of the garment so that it is invisible from the outside, providing a clean, professional edge.

Common Types of Facing:

1. **Shaped Facing:** Cut in the exact same shape and grain as the garment edge it is finishing. It is the most common way to finish curved or angular necklines.
2. **Extended (Grown-on) Facing:** An extension of the garment piece itself, folded back to the inside. Usually used for straight edges like button plackets.
3. **Bias Facing:** A narrow strip of fabric cut on the bias (45-degree angle) that is shaped to the curve as it is sewn. Great for lightweight fabrics.
4. **All-in-One Facing:** A single facing piece that finishes both the neckline and the armholes at the same time.

Construction Techniques

A. Preparation (All Shapes)

1. **Stay-stitching:** Sew a row of plain stitching just inside the seam line on the garment and facing. This prevents the curves from stretching during handling.
2. **Interfacing:** Apply fusible interfacing to the **wrong side** of the facing pieces to give the neckline structure and prevent "gapping."

B. Neckline Specifics

Each shape requires a different "treatment" at the seam allowance to lie flat:

Neckline Shape	Critical Technique	Why?
Round	Clipping	Snip small slits into the curved seam allowance so it can expand when turned inside.
Square	Snipping Corners	Clip exactly into the corner (without cutting the thread) to allow the corner to turn 90°.
V-Neck	Notching & Clipping	Clip the "V" point deeply. Use small "V" shaped notches on the outer curves if necessary.

C. The "All-Important" Under-stitching

Once the facing is sewn to the garment:

1. Press the seam allowance **toward the facing**.
2. Stitch on the facing, roughly 2mm-3mm from the seam line, catching the seam allowances underneath.
3. **Result:** This pulls the seam slightly to the inside, ensuring the facing never "peeks" out from the front.

Practical Application: The Armhole

Applying a shaped facing to an armhole follows the same logic as a round neckline, but with one difference:

- The facing is often sewn in a circle after the shoulder and side seams are closed.
- **Pro Tip:** If you are sewing a sleeveless top, you must match the shoulder seams of the facing perfectly to the shoulder seams of the garment.

Lesson Activity & Assessment

Activity: Students will create "Mini-Samplers."

- **1:** Round Neckline with facing
- **2:** Square Neckline with facing
- **3:** V-Neckline with facing
- **4:** Neckline and armhole All-in-one
- **Task:** Sew the facing to a sample bodice, perform the correct clipping/notching for that shape, and finish with under-stitching.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Is the facing invisible from the right side?
- Are the corners (Square/V) sharp and crisp?
- Does the curve (Round) lie flat without puckering?
- Is the under-stitching consistent and close to the seam?