



Precious Metals Collage Jacket

Shades of silver, gold and bronze dance across black silk suiting to create this elegant jacket. A swirl of machine-embroidered vines ties the elements together in this fabric-collage jacket. **By Jennifer Gigas for Bernina of America**



To combine color and texture for an exquisite symphony of style in your collage jacket, first select a jacket pattern with clean lines and few seam lines. Avoid excessive details that will compete with the design work as well as fluid, loosely fitted designs for this project. In addition to jackets similar to the one shown, cardigan styles without collars are also appropriate.

Indulge yourself in rich fabrics and threads to create a truly unique jacket. You will need approximately one yard or less of each of four coordinating fabrics to create a jacket similar to the one shown. If you choose sheers like three of those used in the jacket shown, they will be placed on top of a layer of the basic fabric, which will show through in the finished composition. Of course, you are free to do your own adaptation, placing fabrics as desired in sections that you determine when planning your jacket and choosing fabrics other than sheers if you prefer. Use the directions that follow as guidelines for creating your own wearable work of art.

Choose fabric patterns and textures that relate to and coordinate with each other. Choose your pattern and make the adjustments indicated below to create pattern pieces for each section. Take the pattern pieces with you to the fabric store to determine the exact yardage required for each section.

You will need a base fabric for the jacket. You will cut the jacket from this fabric and add the other pieces to the jacket pieces. You will use bias strips cut from one of the fabrics to cover the raw edges. Substitute trim or ribbon for this purpose if you wish.

PATTERN PREPARATION

1. Test-fit the pattern before you begin and make all required fitting adjustments.
2. Trace the jacket back and sleeve pattern pieces onto pattern tracing paper or cloth and cut out. Arrange the new pattern pieces on a large flat surface and draw the lines shown to divide the pieces into sections (Figure 1). If your pattern already has a back yoke, then you will need to create the section for the lower pointed yoke only.

Of course, you are free to create your own design sections appropriate for the pattern you have chosen (Figure 1).

3. Trace the new back and sleeve pattern sections onto pattern tracing paper. Add seam allowances to the cut edges as shown in Figures 2 and 3 and cut out. Take the new pattern pieces with you when shopping to determine the required yardage of each fabric for the sections.

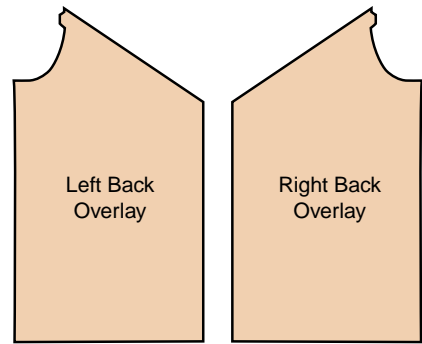


Figure 3

Do not add seam allowances to overlays.

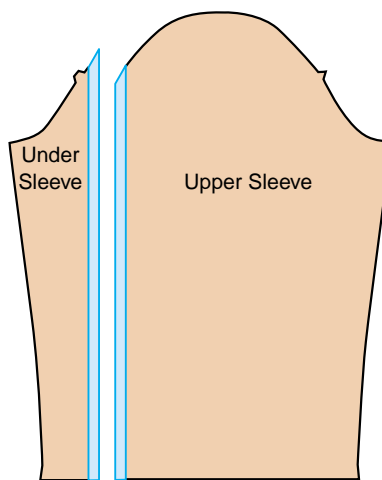
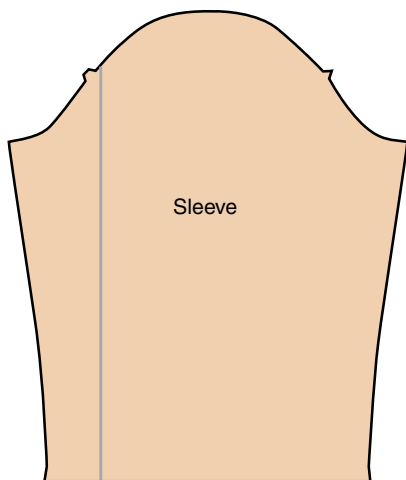
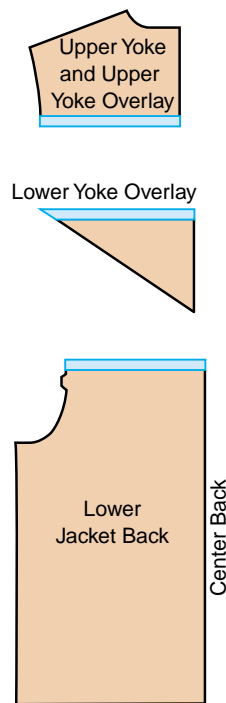
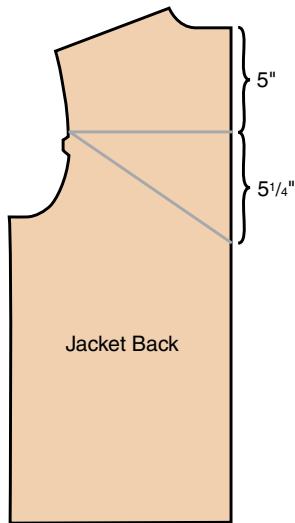


Figure 1

Draw dividing lines for design sections on pattern pieces.

Figure 2

Add seam allowances to cut edges.

4. Choose a solid color for the main fabric as a backdrop for the complementary fabrics and the embroidery. Arrange a number of fabrics together on the cutting table—more than you will actually need. Squint at the selection and remove anything that jumps out at you. It will do the same thing in your jacket—unless you use it in only small amounts for trim.
5. Finalize your fabric selections and pin a swatch of the chosen fabric to each pattern section as a cutting reminder. You're ready to cut and sew!

Snip-It Copy It
 If you have easy access to a copier, make an enlarged copy of the jacket pattern pieces. Lay a piece of tracing paper over them and play with design line placements for the different fabric sections to come up with your own fabric placement for your collage. Avoid placing section lines near fitting details such as darts.

MATERIALS

- Pattern of your choice (see above) for lined jacket with no center back seam and a one-piece sleeve; may have a back yoke
- Black silk suiting for the main fabric in the yardage given on the pattern envelope, plus ¼ yard for embroidery hooping allowance and testing
- Lining in yardage indicated on pattern envelope
- 3 coordinating fabrics with sheer backgrounds for “collage sections” (see the photo close-ups of fabrics selected for the garment shown); lace or embroidered net is an appropriate choice
- 1 coordinating fabric (not a sheer) for the sleeve accent pieces and the collar
- Notions indicated on the pattern envelope
- Lightweight fusible interfacing in yardage indicated on pattern
- Embroidery designs for embellishment
- Tear-away or cutaway embroidery stabilizer appropriate for your fabric
- Temporary spray adhesive
- Embroidery thread in desired colors
- Silk thread
- Optional: Large button and tassel for back yoke or other embellishments that coordinate with your fabric choices
- All-purpose thread to match fabrics
- Bias-tape maker (available from www.clotilde.com)
- Rotary cutter, acrylic ruler and mat
- Presser feet: Edgestitching and clear embroidery
- Bernina Artista 200E sewing machine with embroidery unit
- Basic sewing tools and equipment



Assembly

1. Cut out each jacket piece except the under sleeve from the main fabric.

Note: When cutting the right jacket front and the upper sleeve panels from the main fabric, cut oversized rectangles to allow room for hooping for embroidery. You will cut the sections from the embroidered panels later.

2. Embroider the right front panel and both sleeves with the desired embroideries. Cut out the sleeves and right front, positioning the embroidery as desired. If you don't have an embroidery machine, consider purchasing ready-made appliqués as a substitute.



3. Cut and apply fusible interfacing to the jacket front facings and collar pieces. Set aside.

4. For the jacket back, cut the upper yoke and lower yoke overlays from the desired fabrics.

5. Cut a sheer overlay for the left jacket front and both lower back panels from the desired fabrics. Place the left front overlay on the left front and baste in place $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the raw edges.

6. Position the lower yoke and both lower back overlays on the base fabric pieces with raw edges meeting at the yoke lower edge and at center back. Pin in place or use a very light coat of temporary spray adhesive to hold them in place. Machine-baste $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the cut edges to secure.

7. Attach a clear embroidery foot to the machine and select a zigzag stitch (L2.5, W3.0). Zigzag over the adjoining edges of the sheer overlays on the jacket back (Figure 4).



Figure 4
Zigzag over raw edges of overlay.

8. Sew the lower back to lower edge of the upper yoke. Trim the yoke seam allowance only to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch and press the seam toward the yoke.

Topstitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the seam line through all layers.

9. Make bias trim as directed in the sidebar. You will need enough to cover the lower edge of the lower back yoke and the edge where the back overlays meet at center back.

10. Position bias trim over the raw edges of the overlays at the jacket center back and pin in place. Stitch along both edges of the trim using an edgestitching presser foot.

11. Add bias trim over the lower edge of the lower yoke overlay in the same manner.

12. Sew the contrast panel to each sleeve panel. Trim the main-fabric seam allowance to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Press the seam toward the main fabric and topstitch through all layers.

13. Complete the garment following the pattern directions and embellish with buttons, tassels or other trims as desired. Before stitching embellishments permanently, pin them in place and try the jacket on to check placement and appearance. Adjust as needed and sew in place. ●



Making the Bias Trim

1. Using rotary-cutting equipment, cut 1-inch-wide bias strips from the remaining sleeve/collar fabric.

2. Make bias trim by turning under the raw edges to meet in the center or make it easier by pulling the bias through a bias-tape maker and pressing as you go.



Make It Disappear

Use silk thread in the needle in a color to match the bias. The soft silk will sink into most fabrics for an almost invisible line of stitching.