

1. Put your teeshirt on and mark where your underbust is with a safety pin or chalk. Ours was 3 1/2" down the side-seam below the underarm. Add 3/8" seam allowance. Draw a line across the underbust + allowance

2. We wanted a 1" band across the bottom of our choli. Add your seam allowance to this band width and then double that (so we ended up with a measurement of 2 3/4") Mark two lines 2 3/4" below the line above it.

2. Turn the shirt over. Mark your underbust line on the back, too. Now you'll mark where you will cut the back open. We measured 3" in from the side-seams to the top shoulder seams by the neck band and added seam allowance.

4. Flip your shirt back over. Now you can cut! Cut the 3 horizontal lines through both layers of fabric, then flip the shirt to the back and cut it open along those vertical lines but be sure NOT to cut through the front on those!

5. Fold the seam allowances in down both open sides on the back of the choli. Now is also a good time to cut a V-neck into the front if you want one. Try it on, find the bottom most point of the V, cut it open, fold it under, and sew. Remember to add your seam allowance.

6. We'll call those two 2 3/4" tubes of fabric #1 & #2. a) Cut through #1 at only ONE side seam so you have a long piece. Cut through #2 at BOTH seams. b) Pin them together and sew #2 to #1 at the seam. c) Now pin this long piece to your choli, matching up the side seams if possible.

7. a) Sew the band to the choli using your 3/8" allowance. b) Fold band down and press seam allowance under. c) Fold other side of allowance under & press. d) Fold the whole band in half & press again. Topstitch together onto choli.

8. Now take your leftover fabric from either the remainder of tube #2 or the rest of the shirt you cut off or maybe even just use a pretty ribbon you like and make it into two thin strips. You will sew these to the top as ties. Voila! Frankenholi! AND you saved an old teeshirt. You rag!

Some notes:

If your fabric is very loose and stretchy, you may find you need some extra [ahem] support. You can sew a piece of no-roll elastic into the underbust tie at the front between the side seams. Try 3/4" wide elastic for a 1" finished-width strap, etc. Your piece of elastic should be 1" or more SHORTER than the width between the side seams so it pulls the seams together for snugness.

9. You might also consider sewing an old bra into the choli before you finish all the seams. Pin the underbust of the bra to the underbust of the choli and the straps to the shoulder seams. Try it on to check the fit. If all is well, sew the bra into the choli snugly and discard the back of the underbust strap and shoulder straps. Support [or push-up padding] is now yours!