

Doctor Who #7's Jumper/Sweater

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I'm planning on being at DragonCon in Atlanta on Labor Day Weekend 2014. The last days of August. The first days of September.

THIS IS STILL SUMMER IN ATLANTA!!

As part of my Doctor Who #7 outfit I did break down and buy one of Lovarzi's Dr. Who #7 jumpers / sweater vests. But wearing a sweater in Atlanta in Summer? I can already imagine myself roasting in the hot, muggy, swampy, Southern air!

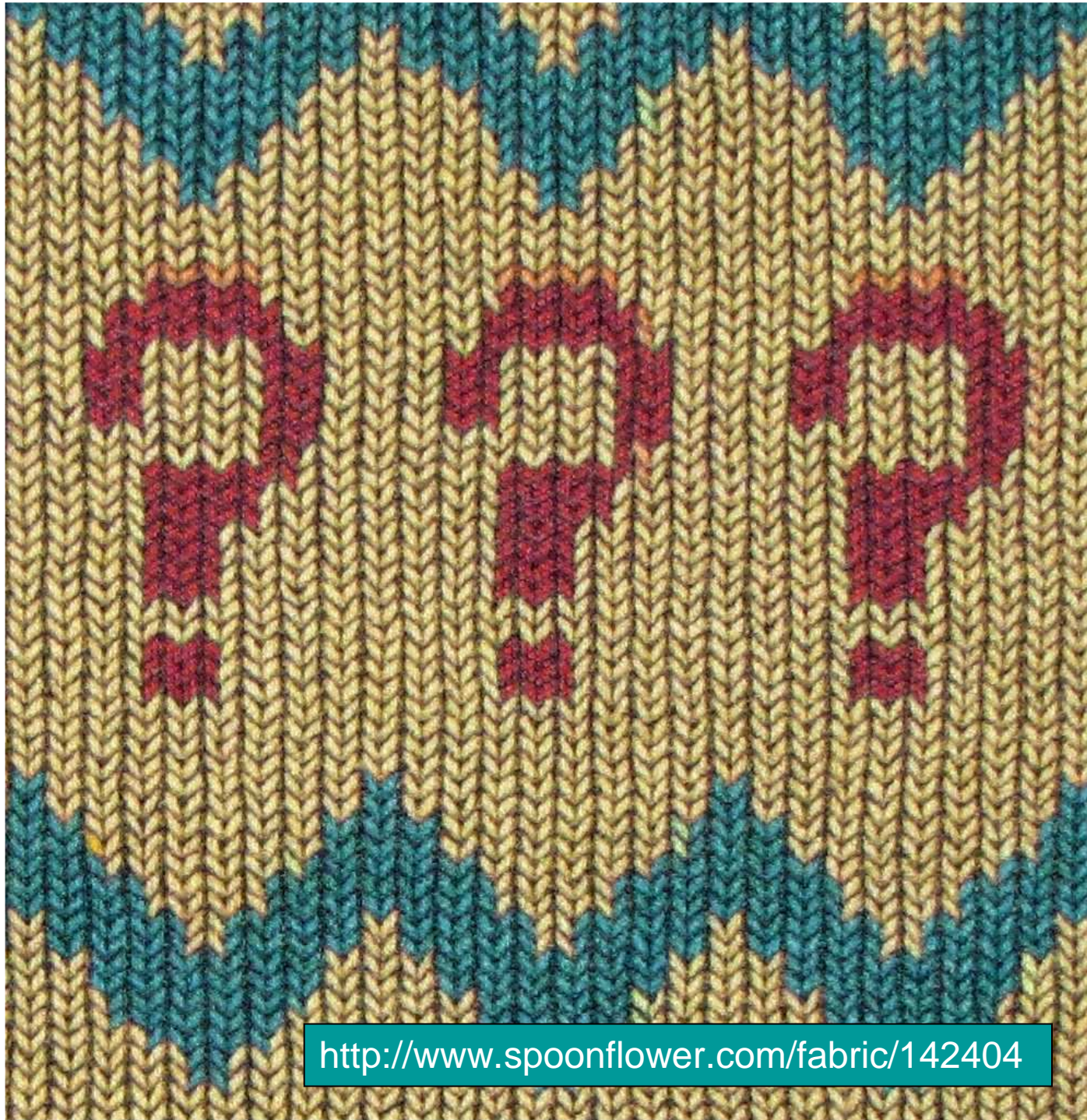
So, I thought, what about a sweater vest that's NOT intended to add warmth. Something like a T-shirt. I'll have a white T-shirt, white dress shirt, a T-shirt that looks like Dr. Who's sweater vest, and a semi-tropical jacket. I'll still roast.

But maybe not as much as with the real sweater.

Lovarzi: <http://www.lovazzi.co.uk/Doctor-Who/b/3507141031>

Think Geek: <http://www.thinkgeek.com/product/182f/> (jumper)

<http://www.thinkgeek.com/product/182e/> (scarf)

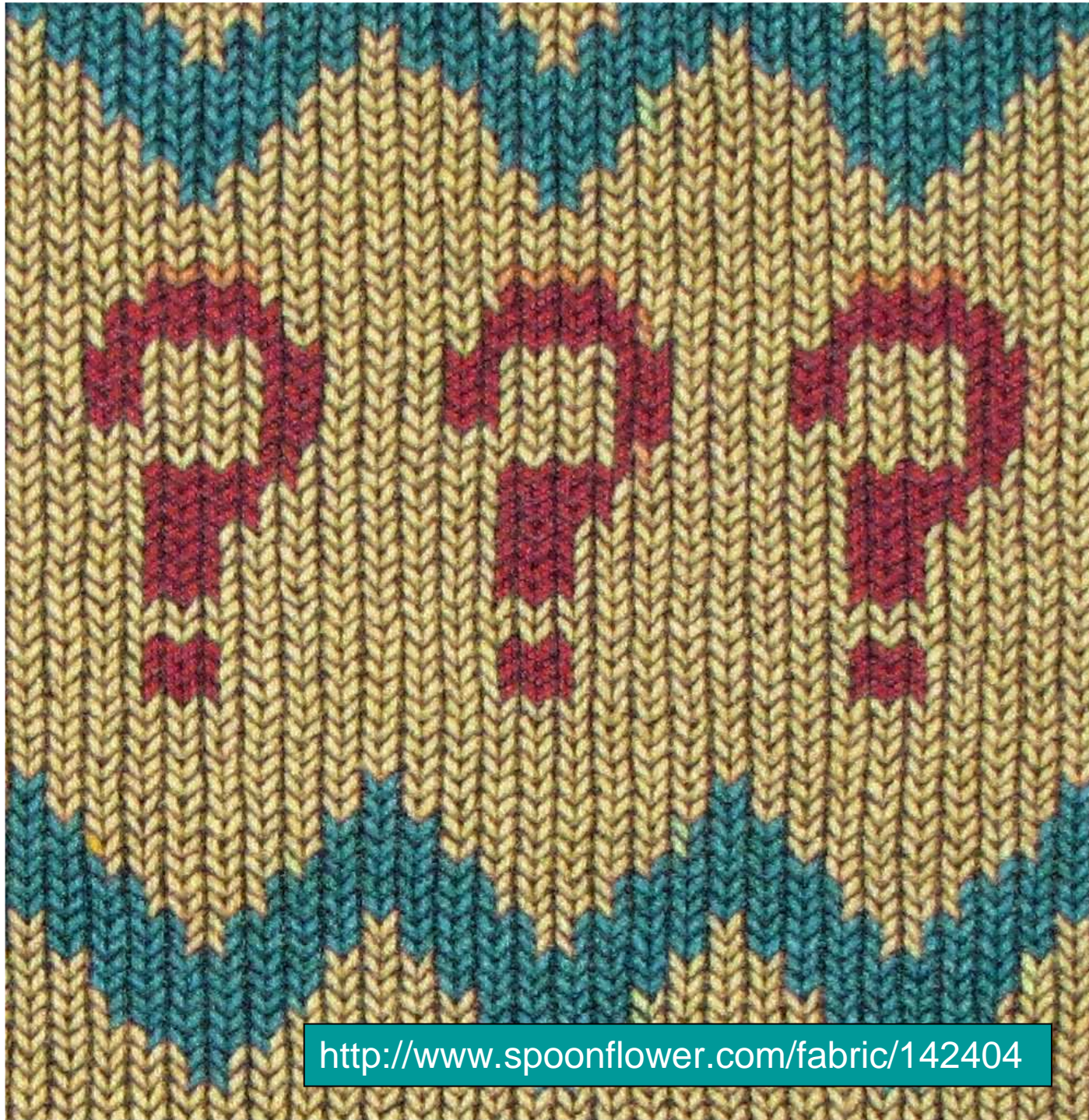


<http://www.spoonflower.com/fabric/142404>

Spoonflower custom fabrics just happens to have a Dr. Who #7 Sweater Vest fabric.

This is a nicely designed imitation of a knit sweater. The fabric has a large section of ??? and VVV, plus stripes of green suitable for neck, arm, and waist openings.

It doesn't exactly match the Lovarzi 'original,' but it's close enough.



And the interesting part? It's *not woven*— it's printed!

This is a printed design on T-shirt-weight cotton-knit fabric!

<http://www.spoonflower.com/fabric/142404>

The design is meant for use on a 42" wide fabric. I ordered 6 yards printed on Organic Cotton Knit fabric. This is a nominal 56" wide fabric, so the design repeats. The repeat is continuous; there is no glitch!

But it does mean that the fabric is made up of 3" of green, 35" of ???VVV, almost 6" of green, and 10-1/2" of ???VVV. For making clothing, you have 35" of usable fabric, with another strip of 10-1/2" that would have to be pieced together for anything wider.



This was enough fabric for 3 jumpers (chest 45, waist 43). Unfortunately, I had to use the 'green' from all 6 yards. This still left 54" of ???VVV fabric (just enough for another shirt), but with no green for trim. Selected notions from Fabrics R Us might be passable.

Even though the fabric isn't laid out the best, I think it's the best fabric available. Looking at the picture of the fabric, it's hard to tell that it isn't actually knit, but printed!

To the sewing room!

Well, actually, it's the living room...

Note: NEVER let anyone tell you that using a sewing machine isn't manly-- as any boy of 10 can tell you, if it has a motor, and moving parts, and the chance to shish-ka-bob a finger with a fast-moving pointy piece of steel, it's manly!



I set up a work table next to the sewing machine. I topped the table with 1/2" of builder's insulating foam (it was by the Pink Panther, even though the color was lavender and not pink).

This foam layer had 3 uses:

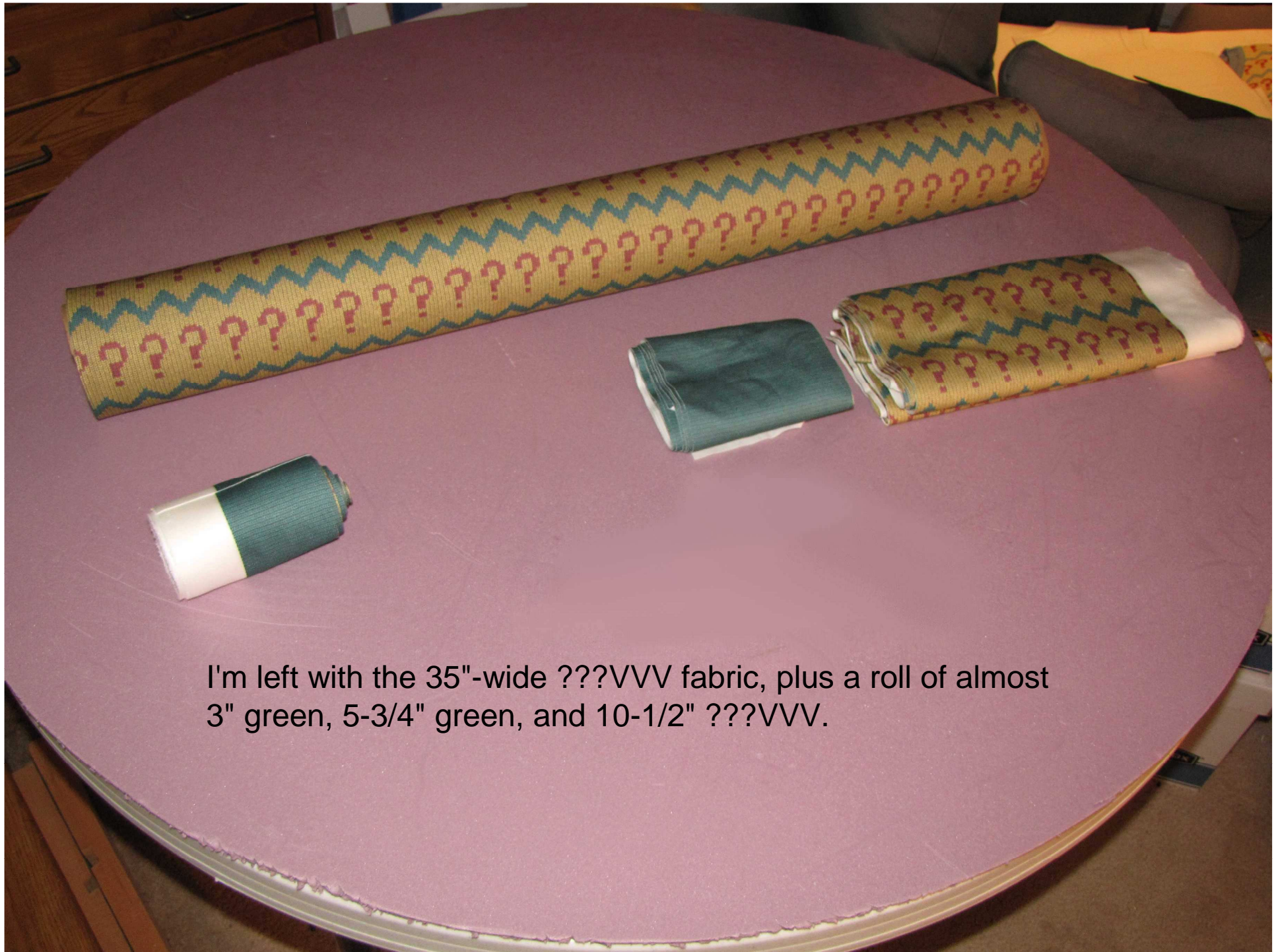
- 1) it worked as a lazy susan so I could pivot the pattern-to-be as I worked on it.
- 2) making the pattern involves poking holes in paper. Poking through paper into the foam was a lot easier than the hard surface of the table.
- 3) while sewing, the entire table-top became a pincushion!



The first step should have been breaking down the fabric into its component strips. I did this after I cut out the first shirt.

Here I'm using a rolling blade on a damage-pruf (R) cutting mat to split off the narrow and wide green strips from the fabric.





I'm left with the 35"-wide ???VVV fabric, plus a roll of almost 3" green, 5-3/4" green, and 10-1/2" ???VVV.

I'm indebted to Melly Sews for instructions on how to make a pattern and sew and trim a T-shirt:

<http://mellysews.com/2011/07/tutorial-making-your-own-patterns-boys.html>

<http://mellysews.com/2013/02/how-to-sew-a-t-shirt.html> (review this tutorial to see how easy a T-shirt is to make; the Dr. Who shirt is a lot simpler-- no sleeves! But the collar is v-shaped, so the "Baby V-Neck" is a better example for our purposes)

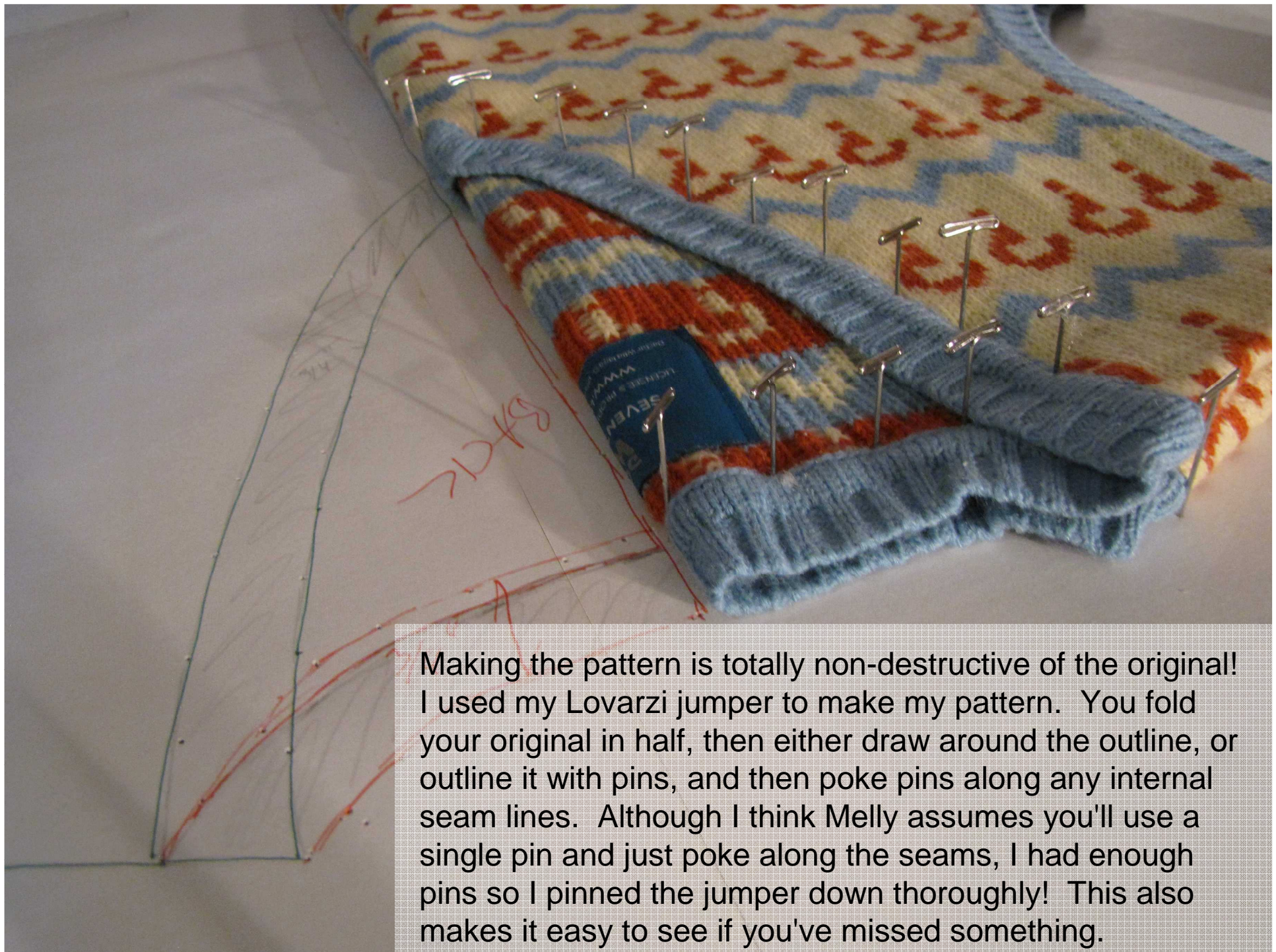
<http://mellysews.com/2011/08/baby-v-neck-tutorial-sewing-with-knits.html>

<http://mellysews.com/2014/05/sew-v-neck-t-shirt.html> (with a video)

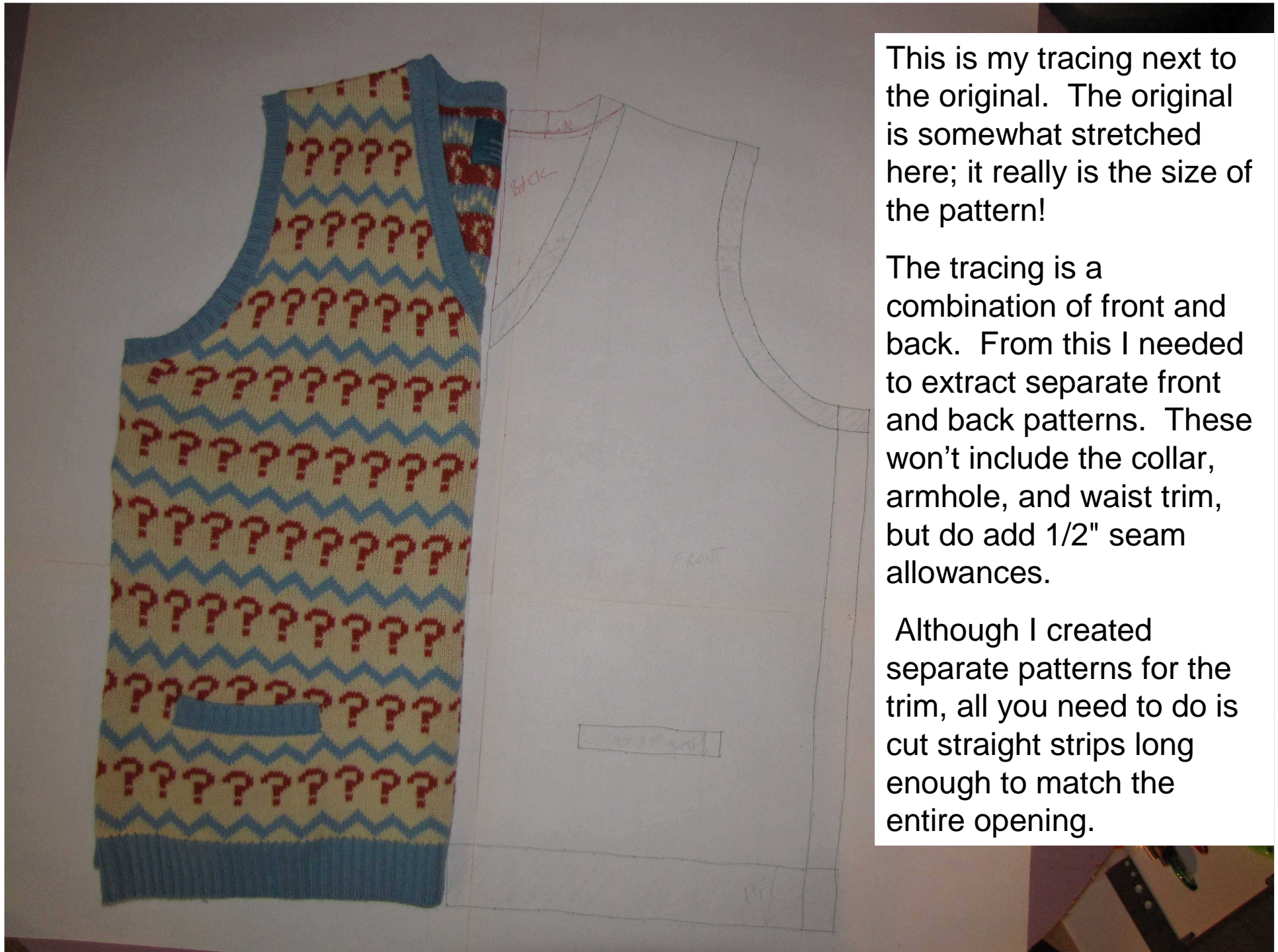
The following is an alternate technique for attaching the trim around the neck opening:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20040104023343/http://sewing.about.com/library/sewnews/qa/aaqa0203a.htm>

I borrowed some diagrams from the Sewing.About.com example for some of the following slides.



Making the pattern is totally non-destructive of the original! I used my Lovarzi jumper to make my pattern. You fold your original in half, then either draw around the outline, or outline it with pins, and then poke pins along any internal seam lines. Although I think Melly assumes you'll use a single pin and just poke along the seams, I had enough pins so I pinned the jumper down thoroughly! This also makes it easy to see if you've missed something.

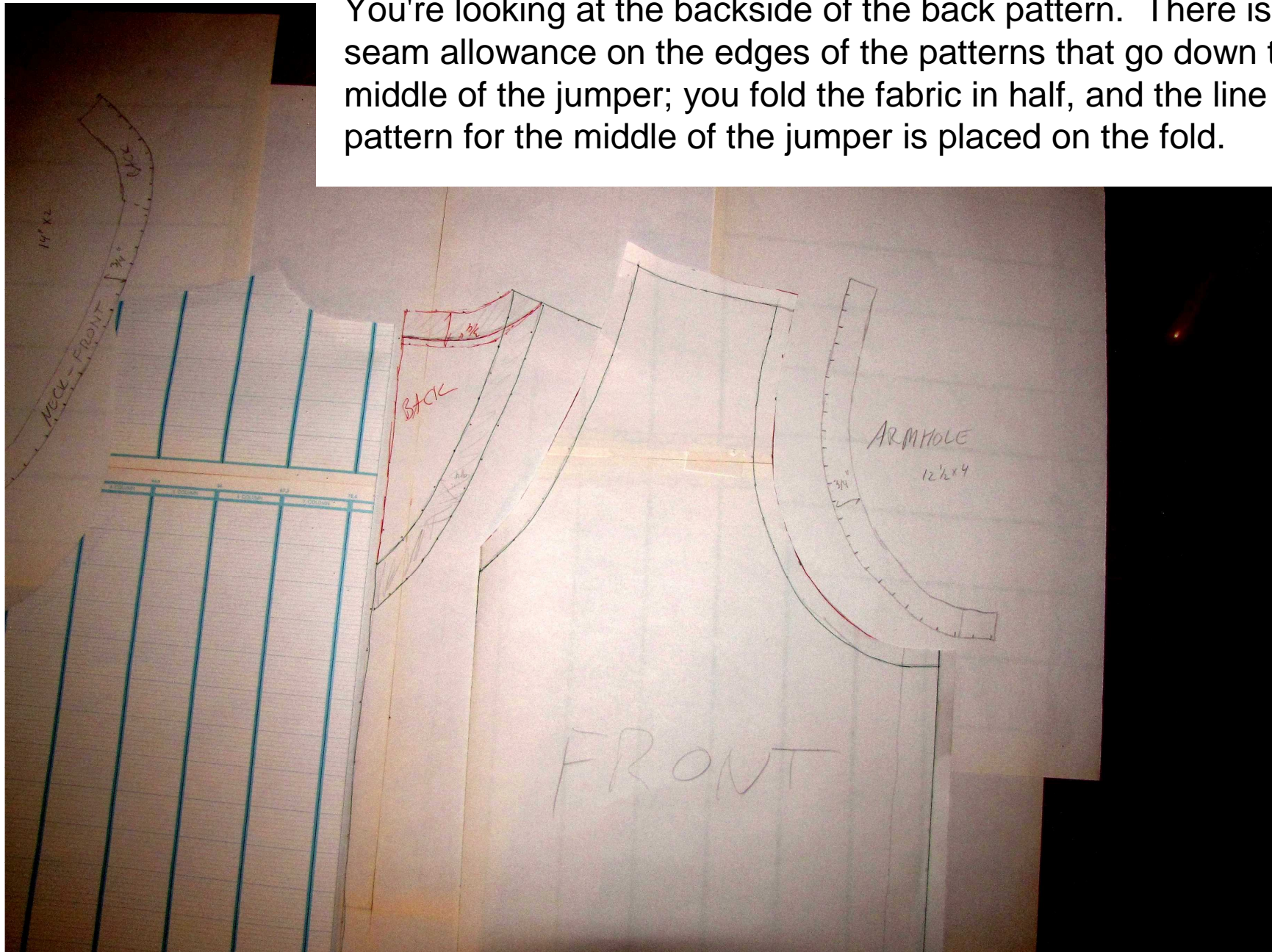


This is my tracing next to the original. The original is somewhat stretched here; it really is the size of the pattern!

The tracing is a combination of front and back. From this I needed to extract separate front and back patterns. These won't include the collar, armhole, and waist trim, but do add 1/2" seam allowances.

Although I created separate patterns for the trim, all you need to do is cut straight strips long enough to match the entire opening.

Here are the front and back patterns on top of the original tracing. You're looking at the backside of the back pattern. There is no seam allowance on the edges of the patterns that go down the middle of the jumper; you fold the fabric in half, and the line of the pattern for the middle of the jumper is placed on the fold.



You make a fold in the fabric, allowing enough room on either side of the fold for the pattern to fit comfortably. Fold carefully, and line up the front and the back of the fold so the pattern matches 100%.

Choose a line on the fabric that will align with the bottom of the pattern. The fold of the fabric will align with the center line of the pattern. You'll want to choose the same line on the fabric when you cut the fabric for the other side of the jumper (ie front and back).

Cutting out the fabric with the rolling blade is a lot easier than using scissors! I remember my Mom wrestling with tissue-paper patterns, pinning them to the fabric then cutting them out with her special sewing scissors (which we were forbidden to touch on pain of death). My patterns are on paper the weight of heavy copier paper. I just placed them on the folded fabric (no pins!), then ran the blade around the edges. No muss, no fuss, and no errors because you picked up the fabric and it drooped while cutting!



Here are a set of front and back panels. These are folded in half along the centerline of the jumper.

The patterns do line up nicely, but that's because I looked carefully at where the seam allowance landed on the fabric, and made sure it was in the same relative position for both the front and the back.

AND I made sure that when I folded the fabric, the pattern matched on both sides of the fold!

RULE #1 - ALL sewing is with zig-zag stitch or double-needle.
I was working with a knit fabric, and ZZ or DN are necessary to
allow the fabric to stretch as you move.

PREPARING THE TRIM

All of the trim for this jumper uses the big blocks of green. Because they go sideways up the fabric, they stretch in the 'wrong' direction. They should stretch around the opening, but in that direction the fabric is reasonably stretch-free. All this means is that the trim needs to be cut to accurately fit the distance around the openings-- you can't stretch the trim to fit!

The neck and armhole trim strips are 2-1/2" wide. Cut this from the narrow green strip. This will trim off about 1/2" of green. This strip is folded in half (good side out) and pressed flat. This makes trim about 3/4" wide, with a 1/2" seam allowance.

