



## Simple, no sew DOG JACKET

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*This project is easy to adapt to fit your own dog. Plus, the great thing about converting a sweater into a dog jacket is the sewing is already done for you!*

**All you need is a pair of scissors, a polar fleece sweater, a pencil in a contrasting colour, a ruler, and half an hour.**

Carefully choose the sweater to convert into a dog jacket with the following points in mind. You want one made of a non-raveling material like polar fleece to avoid sewing hems. It's also an easy care fabric so you can toss it into the washing machine when it gets dirty. It should be roughly the same length as the dog you have in mind. The neck opening needs to be wide, preferably with a button or zipper in the front for easy adjustment, to allow it to both easily slip over your dog's head and to allow plenty of room for her collar. And fourth, the sleeves want to be nice and wide where they join the rest of the top to give your dog lots of freedom of movement.

Using the diagram below for reference, lay the shirt on your work surface with seams square. Using the ruler and pencil, lightly draw a line from one underarm to the other as a guide. Next, start at the bottom hem and draw a line from one inch in from the side seam up to the underarm line you just made, level with the front buttons or zipper. (*See diagram*). Repeat for opposite side.

Carefully draw a line on the sleeve, one inch from the sleeve seam, from the top to the bottom. (*See diagram*). At this point all measurements are approximate and it's time to customize them to suit your dog. Try the shirt on your dog for size before cutting. Mark any adjustments and draw new cutting lines as required. It's best to trim a little at a time until you like the results.



You also want the shirt to be long enough to cover his hindquarters, but not interfere with his tail. Trim it to fit. The side panels will hang to just below his belly to provide the best overall coverage and to keep the jacket in place. If you want a tighter-fitting jacket, you may choose to make the sides shorter and closer fitting while adding a belly strap underneath his rib cage.

When you are happy with the measurements, cut off and discard the sleeves, and cut out the belly section, leaving the sweater back untouched, as marked by the Xs in the diagram. Try the nearly finished jacket on your dog again and continue to trim the jacket until it fits well. Voila!