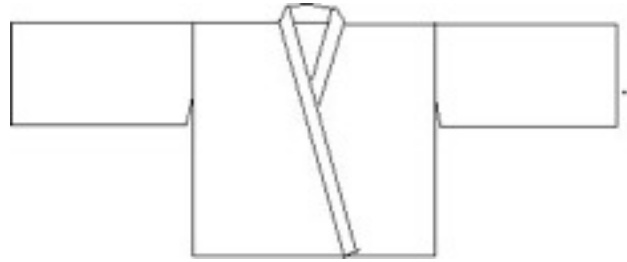


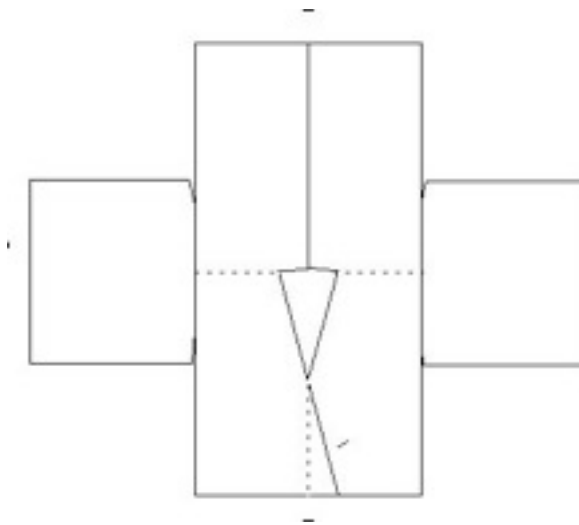
## The Japanese Hippari: Design & Construction

The *Hippari* (1), shown right, is a garment of everyday wear, typically made of handwoven cotton fabric on a narrow (18" or less) loom. It is constructed of two long rectangles for the body, 2 squarish rectangles for the sleeves, and two long, narrow rectangles for the front band.



Shaping on the front is accomplished by cutting away a triangle and then repositioning it to create an overlap of the right and left fronts. No fabric is wasted with this design.

This diagram below shows the arrangement of the body and sleeve pieces, before adding the band and sewing the underarm/sideseams. Note the underarm and side seams are not closed in the area of the underarm, to provide ventilation and ease in movement.



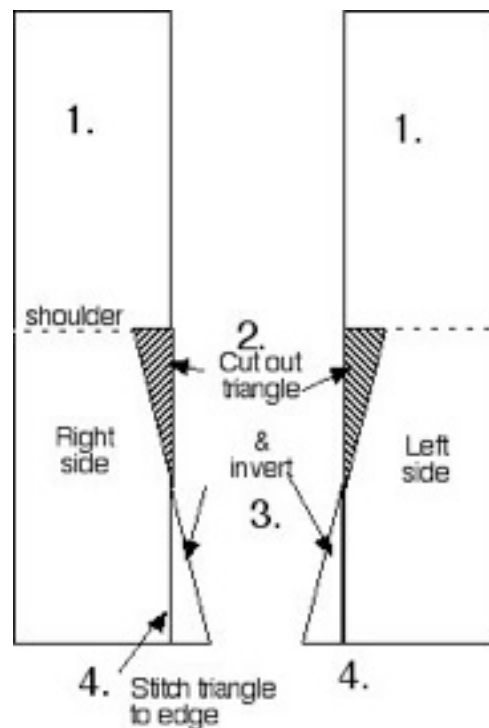
Notes about the construction diagrams that follow:

Note that pieces shaded with dots indicate the wrong side of the fabric; those shaded with diagonal stripes are cut away (but reused). All seams are  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch and are sewn with the fabrics positioned right-sides together.

To avoid confusion, 'right side' (vs wrong side) refers to the face of the fabric that is visible when the garment is worn; R-side refers to the right (vs left) side of the garment, and L-side refers to the left side of the garment.

## Body of jacket

First, assemble the body as shown in the following sketch and steps below.

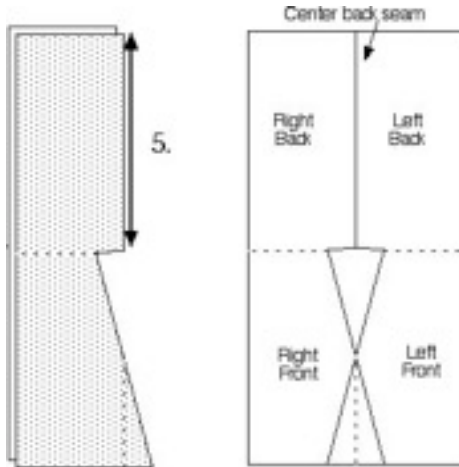


**Step 1:** Cut two rectangles, each twice the desired length of jacket (shoulder to hem) plus 1 1/2 inches (for hems), and half the desired width plus 1 inch (for seam allowances).

**Step 2:** On R-side rectangle, cut out small, upside-down right-triangle, positioned along the shoulder line, with the bottom point halfway down the front. The width of the triangle at the shoulder is equal to half the neck width less 1/2 inch. Repeat on L-side rectangle.

**Step 3:** Invert triangle and align with bottom of vertical edge as shown, for both right and left sides.

**Step 4:** Right-sides together, sew the long vertical edge of the triangles to the rectangles, as positioned in step 3.



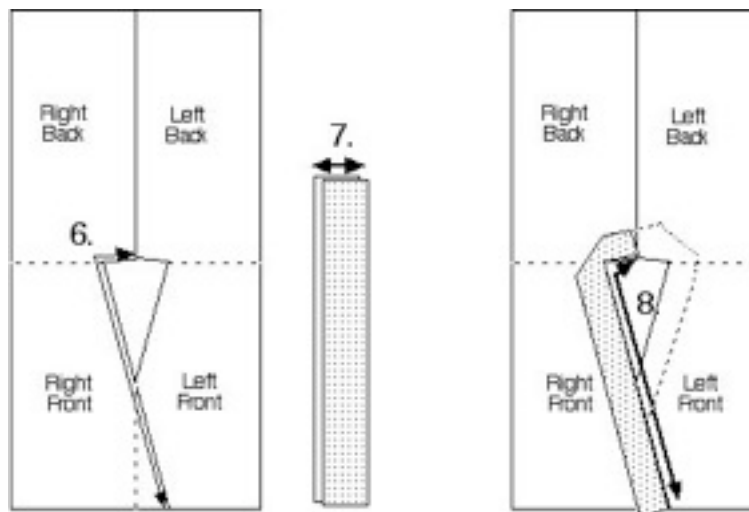
The sketch, left, illustrates the following:

**Step 5:** Place L-side over R-side, right sides together, and stitch together along length of center back.

Then open out as shown; note that the fronts will overlap because of the added width from the attached triangles.

### Front and neck band

Now, measure for the front & neck band, then attach to the body of the jacket as shown in the following sketches and steps below.



**Step 6:** measure from bottom edge up toward shoulder along the slope, then along the back neck to the center back.

**Step 7:** Cut 2 rectangles, each the length you just measured plus 1" for seam allowances; the width of these rectangles is twice the desired width of the finished band, plus 1" for seam allowances.

Stitch together, right sides facing at one long end - this seam will match the center back seam of the body, when sewn along the neckline.

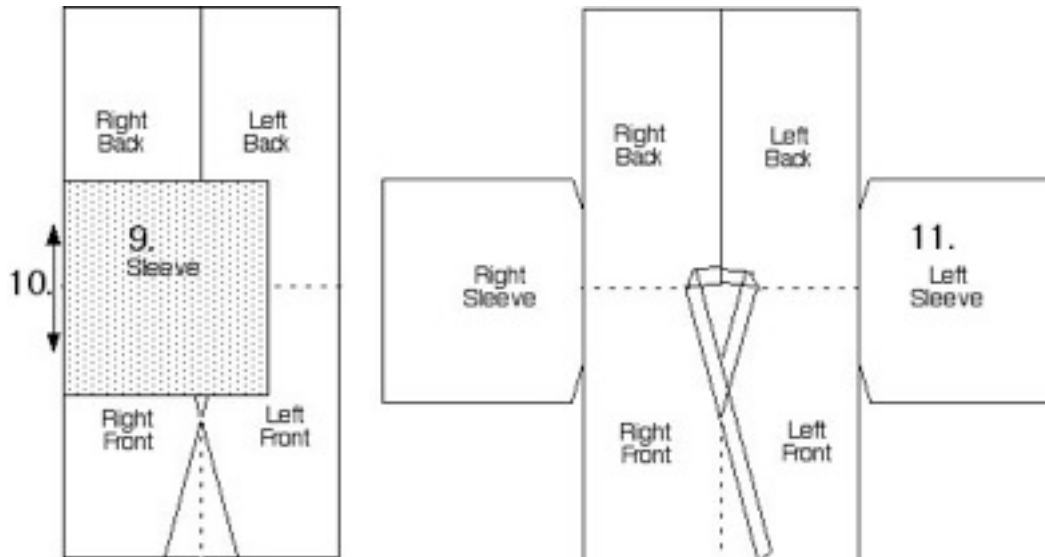
**Step 8:** Stitch length of band to the sloping right front from hem to shoulder, then from shoulder across the back neck, so that the center back seam on the band matches that of the body. Then continue down the sloping left front from shoulder to hem.

Note that it is a bit of a tricky turn at the shoulder line on both sides. After stitching, make a tiny clip into the seam allowance of the body at the shoulder - be sure not to clip through your stitching.

You are not done with the band yet, but first the sleeves must be attached and the side seams must be sewn.

## Sleeves

Attaching the sleeve is shown in the following diagrams and steps detailed below.



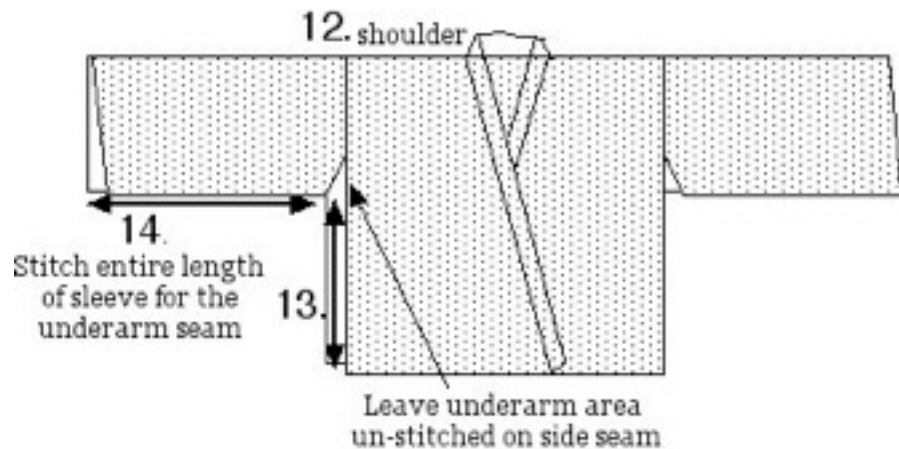
**Step 9:** Cut two rectangles for the sleeves, each the desired sleeve length plus 1" for hem and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch for seam allowance; and each the desired width of the sleeve (18 inches or so). Note: sleeve length is measured from the body to the hem; sleeve width should be at least 2 inches wider than the distance around your biceps.

**Step 10:** Position right sleeve against the jacket, right sides together, centering it over the shoulder line, and aligning it with the side of the right front. Then stitch it to the jacket along the sleeve width, excepting leave 3 inches at each end of the sleeve width unattached. (This unattached length provides for ease of movement, and for underarm ventilation when the jacket is worn).

**Step 11:** Repeat for left sleeve.

## Underarm and side seams

Now it's time to sew the underarm seam of the sleeve and the side seam of the body, as shown in the diagram below and the steps that follow.



**Step 12:** Fold jacket in half along the shoulder line, right sides together.

**Step 13:** Align the front and back side seams on the R-side; stitch from hem to within 3 inches of where the sleeve is attached.

**Step 14:** Align the edges of the underarm seam (length of sleeve) on the R-side; stitch the entire length of this seam.

Repeat steps 13 & 14 for the left side and left sleeve.

**You're almost done!**

**Not shown:**

**Step 15:** Fold up 1/2" at bottom of band at both ends. Turn up 1" hem along bottom of jacket; this fold line should match the fold line at bottom of bands. If not, adjust band so that they match. Stitch hem of garment in place (but not the fold at bottom of band).

**Step 16:** Fold up 1/2" along entire length of band, then fold band in half so that the folded edge meets the band seam line. Slip stitch folded edge in place at bottom edges of right band, then continue along entire length of band and finish with bottom edge of left band. Be sure that the center-back seams match on the band.

**Step 17:** Turn up 1" hem at bottom of each sleeve and stitch in place.

Wear your hippari with pride!

## References

1. Folkwear Pattern #112: [Japanese Field Clothing](#)