

FABRIC *Mixer*:
COPPER
TOPPED

BY AMANDA CARESTIO



THE BACKGROUND

Full disclosure: I'm not really the blazer type, whatever that is. I tend to think of blazers as too structured and formal for my daily life. A stretch knit blazer is an entirely different thing, however. Ponte is one of my favorite fabrics — it's super stable and easy to sew — but I wanted to dress it up a little with some high-end texture and metallic tones. This copper vegan leather was the perfect match.

Skill Level: Intermediate

SUPPLIES

- Blazer pattern suitable for ponte or stable knit (such as Grainline Studio's Morris Blazer)
- Ponte fabric (amount according to pattern envelope)
- ½ yard of metallic vegan leather
- Coordinating all-purpose thread
- Leather sewing machine needle
- Removable fabric marker
- Fabric clips
- Temporary basting spray

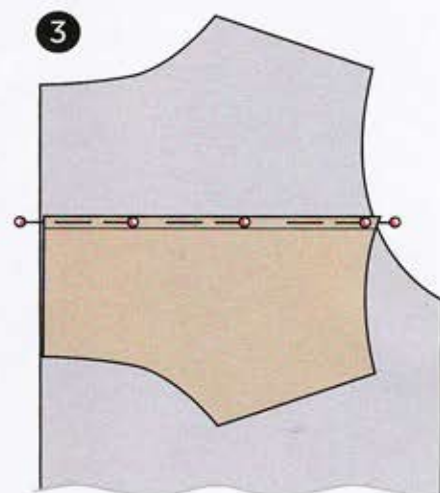
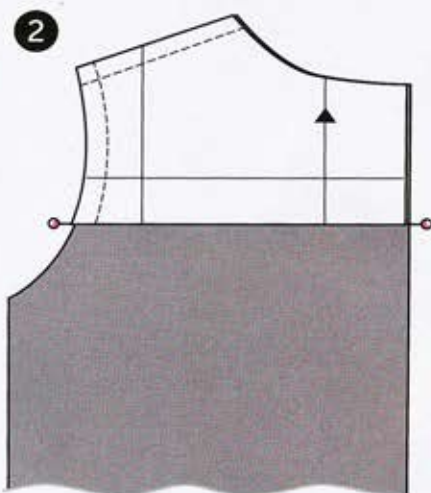
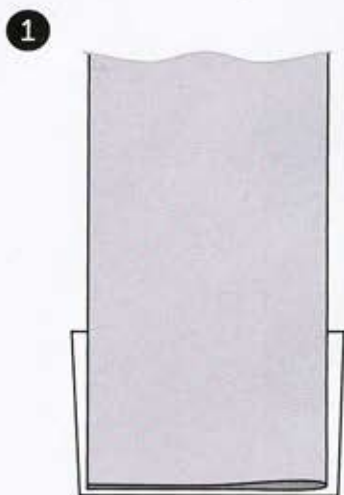
KNIT KNOW-HOW

Many of the extra steps for this project resulted from mixing a knit and a woven fabric, with very different amounts of stretch and weights. Because the vegan leather was so much thinner than the main ponte fabric, the vegan leather was applied over the ponte to retain the bulk and strength of the individual pattern pieces. Adjust your steps to suit the fabrics you're working with.

PREPARE

From the ponte, cut all the pattern pieces according to the pattern guidesheet, setting aside the sleeve facing.

If the pattern doesn't include a back yoke, create one using the pattern pieces. After cutting the main back pattern piece from ponte, draw a horizontal line across the back pattern piece where the yoke should end; cut along the line. Use the yoke pattern piece to cut two yoke pieces from the vegan leather, adding a seam allowance along the cut edge.



Trace the original sleeve facing pattern piece onto new paper. Extend the original pattern piece along one long edge, making it 2" wide, and extend both side edges, using the slanted angle of the facing as a guide. Fold the cut sleeve piece in half and check it against the new pattern piece, adding to the side edges if needed (1). In this case, it's best if the sleeve facing is a bit bigger around than the lower sleeve opening, as the sleeve opening is knit, and might stretch, and the facing in non-knit.

Cut two sleeve facings from the vegan leather.

CONSTRUCT

Lay the new yoke paper pattern piece onto the back ponte piece and pin-mark the lower edge (2).

Trace the seam allowance on the vegan-leather yoke wrong side; align the traced line with the pins at either side of the back piece with right sides together (3). Pin within the seam allowance and stitch along the traced line.

Fold the vegan-leather yoke up over the top of the ponte back. Press in place if the fabric allows. Spray the

ponte with temporary adhesive and smooth the leather into place.

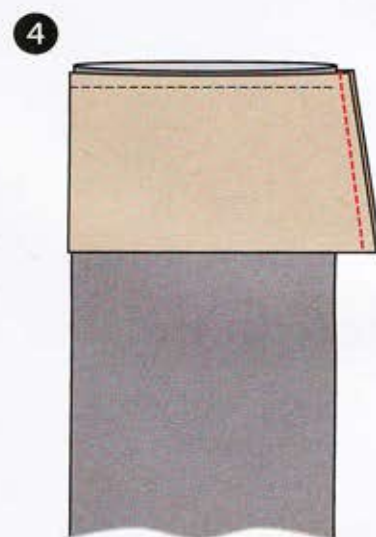
Topstitch the vegan leather in place along the yoke seamline. Staystitch along the edges to ensure the vegan leather stays in place.

Repeat to stitch the remaining back piece. Stitch the back pieces together along the center seam.

Assemble the blazer according to the pattern guidesheet, pinning only in the vegan-leather seam allowances.

Pin one vegan-leather sleeve facing to the edge of the lower sleeve opening with right sides together and matching the side seams. Stitch the facing to the sleeve edge, beginning and ending 1/2" from the facing short edges. Move the sleeve out of the way where the facing short edges overlap, and then stitch them together (4). Stitch the free portion of the sleeve and facing.

Turn the facing to the wrong side; hand tack in place. Repeat to stitch the remaining sleeve. **S**



SOURCES

Girl Charlee provided the vegan leather: girllcharlee.com.

Grainline Studio provided the Morris Blazer Pattern: grainlinestudio.com.