

## The Orange Top

Friday, 04 June 2010 14:47

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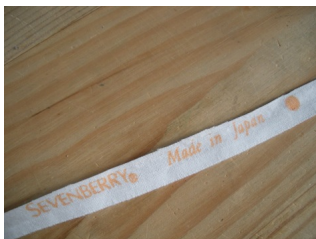


We're having some hot weather here - hot for us anyway - and I finally got around to making up a top that's been in the back of my head for most of two years. I was inspired by a [top](#) I saw in an online catalogue. I loved the lace down the front and the oversize ribbon ties. It took me a while (and several iterations) to find everything I needed to make my top but I love the way it turned out.

The pattern is [Simplicity 3835](#) (again). This is officially the fifth time I've made up a version of this pattern and I don't think I'll be stopping here. It's just such a versatile design and so easy to tweak and customize.



My fabric is the cutest thing possible - polka-dots and eyelets - and came from [Goodness](#) in Japan last April. It's always so hard to cut into special fabrics. I knew last year that this fabric would be perfect for this top but I just couldn't bring myself to take my scissors to it.



The lace is just plain cotton lace from Wal-mart (sadly the only place to get non-quilting fabric and notions here). The ribbon came with the Crafty-Slacker-Giveaway last year - it was just holding everything together but is probably one of my favourite items from the parcel.



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After so long in my head this top came together very quickly. I only had one moment of panic - just after cutting out the front piece. I slid my fabric along my table in preparation for cutting the back (the extra had been hanging down over the edge) and saw this:



Not enough to also cut the back on the fold!

I kind of stared at my table for a bit and then started thinking again. I was fortunate and was able to fit the back pattern piece between the cut I'd already made and the selvedge\* - Yay!



I'm always planning to make my tops from this pattern without the back seam but it always ends up being there anyway.

I don't know why I had such a clear idea in my head that the fabric lining the lace was supposed to have a raw edge. I was surprised when I looked up the picture just now and sew pleats instead. Maybe I actually thought of that myself. I like it anyway and that's probably more important. It would have been nice to cut it on the bias but I didn't want to end up with those weird triangles that are so difficult to use up so I cut it straight and spent a little while carefully pulling out threads. I think it will look even better once I've worn and washed my top a few times.



I used French seams throughout (as usual). They make my clothes feel sturdy and tidy and give a bit of extra structure to simple shapes. I was thinking of using some bias tape to trim the underarms but decided it would feel too bulky and did a narrow hem instead. I added an extra quarter inch to the necklines when I was cutting out the pieces in order to form a casing wide enough for my ribbon; it finished up at about half an inch wide.

There is a button hole under the bow. Again I was surprised when I looked up the picture and saw the bow on the shoulder. I've a feeling it would slide around and bug me so perhaps that is why I thought I had to go the button hole route. My button hole came out perfectly on the first try which I thought was pretty awesome.



I used my bodkin to thread the ribbon through the casings. I never use my bodkin. I don't know why. It made the whole process really easy and I must have bought it just for doing this sort of thing but I've never used it before. I'll have to use it more in future. It's way better than a safety pin.

I've got running around to do this afternoon (I have the day off work) and I can't wait to wear my new top. I'll try to get some pictures of it on me (maybe I can draft Rob to be photographer while he's home for lunch). I know things can look so different on a hanger than they do on a person. Now it's time for a quick shower and then making up the grocery list.

*\*I love the word selvedge. It's kind of fun to say. I wonder what the &quot;selv&quot; part means?*