

Skill Level: Intermediate

Approximate time: 3 hours

Supplies needed: 1 well-fitting tank top (to rub off), about 1 yard of jersey knit fabric, about 1/2 yard of contrasting jersey knit fabric, pattern tracing paper or kraft paper, jersey needle, Janome 4120

This tutorial will show you how to take an existing tank that you love to wear, rub off the pattern, and create a tie back tank that is perfect to beat the heat in this summer. These instructions were written for an adult, but the same method can be used to create a tank top for the little one in your life!

1. Using an existing tank that you love to wear, fold it in half, length wise and trace around the edges on to your pattern tracing paper or kraft paper. It does not have to be perfect. Leave about 3/8" all the way around for seam allowance. Copy this pattern piece. Label one the **front** and one the **back**.



2. Take the pattern piece you labeled **back** and measure from the bottom up the "fold" 8" and then to the right 4". From that point, draw a straight line up to the inner tank strap.
3. Cut this rectangle out of your pattern piece. Note: instead of a straight angle for the corner, I smoothed mine out and made it curved.

4. Now you have two pattern pieces. You'll then use these pieces to cut out your fabric. Cut one on the fold for each of these pieces. You will also need to cut approximately 2-3 yards of 2" strips (for binding) of the contrasting knit, along with 2 strips that measure 6" x 10".
5. Set your machine to sew a stretch stitch. I LOVE this stretch stitch on my Janome 4120



6. Place your top front and top back right sides together matching the shoulder seams and side seams. Sew along these edges using a 3/8" stretch stitch.



7.

- a. Turn your top right side out. Starting at one of the shoulder seams, pin your binding strip right side together. Pin all the way around. Begin sewing about 1.5" from the edge of your binding strip and sew the binding to the top at 3/8" seam allowance.
- b. Sew all the way around until you get approximately 1.5" from the shoulder seam where you started. Stop stitching and trim your binding to make it overlap the other end of the binding by 1/4".
- c. Sew these ends together.
- d. Finger press the seam out, pin to the top and sew the remainder of the binding down.



8.

- a. Next, You'll fold over the raw edge of the binding to meet the seam.

- b. Then, you'll fold over the folded edge of the binding to the wrong side of the top so that it comes OVER the seam you created. Pin this in place and stitch closely to the edge of the fold.
- c. Stitch all the way around your top.



9. Repeat steps 7 and 8 for the armholes
10. Next we will add the back tie. You'll take your two strips of 6"x10" fabric and fold them in half lengthwise. Cut a slant on one end of the folded strips (optional), and sew all the way around three sides, leaving the short straight end open.



11. Try on your top and see where your bra strap hits and mark with a pin. This is where you'll sew in the ties. Flip your top wrong side out and place the open end of the ties over the mark you made on your top. Sew in place along the same stitch line you sewed your binding on with.



12. Hem the top as you please (or don't! it's made of jersey!) and wear to the pool over your swimsuit or down the street to grab a snocone!