



# The School of Making



DIY CAR COAT INSTRUCTIONS  
with cropped jacket, jacket, and coat lengths

For use with a DIY Car Coat/Jacket Kit from The School of Making

## ALABAMA

CHANIN

[www.alabamachanin.com/the-school-of-making](http://www.alabamachanin.com/the-school-of-making)

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## 1. Baste Neckline and Armholes

To ensure the neckline and armholes do not stretch while you are constructing, use a single strand of all-purpose thread to baste the neckline and armhole edges of each cut piece.

## 2. Prepare for Construction

After completing embellishment, choose Inside or Outside Floating or Felled Seams (see our Alabama Studio Book Series). You will pin with fabric's wrong sides together for seams visible on the outside of the garment or with fabric's right sides together for seams that are finished on the garment's inside.

When pinning knit seams for construction, it is important to follow a method we call "pinning the middle". Start by pinning the beginning of your seam, and follow by pinning the end of your seam. Then place one pin in the middle, between the two initial pins. Continue by pinning in the middle of each set of pins, until your seam is securely pinned and ready to sew. Repeat the process for the dress's two back panels, pinning them together at center back (right sides together for seams inside the garment, wrong sides together for seams that are on the outside of the garment).

## 3. Sew Back Panel

Using the instructions for pinning the middle above, pin the two pieces of the back panel of the coat together. Thread your needle, love your thread, and knot off. Using a straight stitch, sew the pinned pieces together, starting at the top edge of the seam and stitching 1/4" (6mm) from the fabric's cut edges down to the bottom edge. Be sure to begin and end your seam by wrap-stitching (see page 10 of this document) its edges to secure them. Fell the seam (if desired) towards one side of your garment by folding over the seam allowances to one side and topstitching them 1/8" (3mm) from the cut edges, down the center of the seam allowances, using a straight stitch and wrap-stitching the seam.

## 4. Sew Shoulder Seams

Pin the shoulder seams with the raw edges aligned and sew the seams, starting at the top edge of the Car Coat's armhole and stitching 1/4" from the fabric's cut edges across to the neckline. Begin and end each seam by wrap-stitching its edges to secure them. Fell your seams, if desired, towards the back of your garment down the middle of your seam allowance.

## 5. Add Sleeves

Add sleeves by pinning your cut sleeves to the Car Coat armholes with the right sides together for inside seams (or wrong sides together for outside seams) and matching the sleeve's edges with the edges of the front and back of the coat. Pin pieces together securely, working in excess fabric with pins. Use a straight stitch to attach sleeves and then fell the seams toward the sleeves, if desired.

## 6. Sew Car Coat Body at Side Seams

Turn your coat wrong side out for inside seams or right side out for outside seams. Pin together front, back, and sleeves (if added) at the side seams. Wrap-stitch your seams. Start stitching at the bottom edge of the coat's hem and sew side and sleeve seams in one continuous pass. After stitching side/sleeve seam, fold seam allowances toward the back, and fell the seam, if desired.



## 7. Construct Collar

Fold collar in half with right sides together, and pin together the short edges. Using a straight stitch, stitch the short ends of the collar beginning and ending each seam by wrap-stitching its edges to secure them. Leave inner edge of collar raw to allow for turning. Turn the collar right side out and press.

## 8. Pin Collar in Place

Pin collar to neckline between the notches on each shoulder with right sides together. You will not attach the collar until the facings have been attached to the front panels of your coat.

## 9. Add Facing to Front Panels

Pin your cut facing piece to the Car Coat front panel, with right sides together and the edges aligned. Thread your needle, love your thread, and knot off. Using a straight stitch, sew the pinned pieces together, starting at the bottom edge of the center front and stitching 1/4" from the fabric's cut edges up to the top edge. Be sure to begin and end the seam by wrap-stitching its edges to secure them.

Repeat this process for the second facing.

## 10. Attach Collar

Stitch the under layer of your collar to the back neck of the coat between the shoulder seams. Clip your seams at the shoulder seam, making sure not to cut through your stitches.

Turn the upper layer of your collar under 1/4" and top stitch down using a straight stitch, approximately 1/8" away from the folded edge. Next, top stitch through all layers of your collar.

## 11. Finish Facing and Collar

Turn your facing towards the inside of the coat. Top stitch your facing starting 1/4" from the shoulder seam and down the center front edge using a straight stitch. Be sure to wrap stitch the beginning and end of your seam. Next, top stitch the inside edge of your facing 1/8" from the raw edge.

Repeat this process with the second facing.

## 12. Attach Snaps

If you are making the Car Coat, you will need 8-#7 snaps. The Car Jacket requires 7 snaps, and the Cropped Car Jacket requires 6 snaps.

With the coat laid in front of you, place the male half of the first snap on the right side of the outer layer of the cape, positioning it in the center of your topstitched placket and approximately 1" beneath the collar. Attach the snap using a doubled strand of Button Craft thread. Space the rest of your snaps 3.5" apart.

Place the female half of the snap on the bottom layer of the left side of the coat, positioning it in the center of your topstitched facing and approximately 1" beneath the collar. Attach the snap using a doubled strand of Button Craft thread. Space the rest of your snaps 3.5" apart.



### **13. Clean Finish Sleeves**

Fold the raw edge of your sleeve up 1/4". Fold up another 1/4" to conceal the sleeve's raw edge and pin into place. Top stitch through all layers of the sleeve to secure clean-finished edge using a straight stitch.

Repeat this process with the second sleeve.

### **14. Clean Finish Bottom Hem**

Fold the raw edge of your coat up 1/4". Fold up another 1/4" to conceal the coat's raw bottom edge and pin into place. Top stitch through all layers of the coat to secure clean-finished edge using a straight stitch, making sure to wrap stitch the beginning and end of your seam.

### **15. Construct Pocket and Flaps**

Turn the top edge of your pocket down 1/4". Turn down another 1/4" to conceal the pocket's raw top edge. Top stitch approximately 1/8" away from the finished edge. Repeat this for the second pocket.

Fold the pocket flap in half with right sides together, and pin together the short edges. Using a straight stitch, stitch the short ends of the pocket flap beginning and ending each seam by wrap-stitching its edges to secure them. Leave inner edge of pocket flap raw to allow for turning. Turn the pocket flap right side out and press. Repeat for the second pocket flap.

### **16. Place and Attach Pockets**

Lay your coat out flat in front of you. Place your pockets on the front panels of your coat, approximately 18" down from the high shoulder point, 11" from the bottom hem, and 4" from the center front of the coat. Turn under the raw edges of the sides and bottom of the pocket 1/4" and pin into place. Top stitch around the sides and bottom of your pocket to clean finish the edges and secure the pocket into place. Repeat for the second pocket.

### **17. Place and Attach Pocket Flaps**

With the raw edge of the pocket flap at the bottom and the finished edge on top, line up the pocket flap 1" above the top edge of your pocket, making sure to line up the left and right edges of the pocket and flap. Attach the pocket flap using a straight stitch 1/4" from the raw edge, wrap stitching at the beginning and end of your seam. Fold the pocket flap down and top stitch across the folded edge of the flap through all layers of the pocket flap and coat. Repeat this process for the second pocket flap.



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## About Alabama Chanin

Alabama Chanin as a concept and a company began as a DIY enterprise. Workshop programming was a natural outgrowth of the emerging DIY initiative growing around us. Our experiences showed us that face-to-face and hand-to-hand contact helped our customers better understand the what, why, and how of our making processes and the importance of an organic supply chain. And our business continued to grow. DIY offerings expanded, our workshop offerings became more diverse, and our Journal content added additional DIY instruction, stories, and ideas.

Educational programming is one of the fastest growing and most exciting aspects of our business model. So, as the opportunities to educate our team and our customers began to multiply, we realized that we should create a specific home for this knowledge.

To fully embrace our growing model, we have developed an overseeing body that will direct and innovate learning initiatives and educational programs: The School of Making. All of our current and developing educational and training initiatives fall under the umbrella of The School of Making. This arm of the Alabama Chanin Family of Businesses oversees all DIY, Makeshift, and workshop programming, format, and content; it acts as a researching body for new subjects and new ways of disseminating information. Our hope is that The School of Making can be an active voice in our local community, our state, and the making community, at large.

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