Spruce up almost any shirt or dress by putting a cute little collar on it. You can use this technique to any size garment from babies to adults. This project is also a great way to use some of those decorative stitches you have been wanting to use, but are unsure where to use it.

**Skill Level:** Advanced beginner

**Janome Supplies:**
- 1/4” Foot O Foot
- Clear View Foot F Foot
- Optional - Machine with Auto Pivot

**Fabric and Notions:**
- A shirt or dress
- 1/4 yard of fabric for the collar
- Piecing thread that matches the garment
- 1/4 yard of fusible light weight interfacing
- 12 wt. or 30 wt. thread for optional decorative stitching
- Pattern paper for making collar pattern or scrap paper
- Paper scissors
- Pinking shears
- Fabric marking pen
- Pen or marker
- Pressing ham
- Basic sewing supplies

**Picking a Garment:**
Almost any dress or shirt with a scoop neck will work. When picking a garment, be cautious of anything that is very stretchy. You may also want to avoid high necklines, unless there is a back zipper. When you sew the collar to the garment, it will dramatically reduce the amount of stretch that the neckline will have. Make sure that you can get it on and off.
Put a Collar on It

Sewing Instructions:

Making the Collar:

1. Lay the garment on a flat surface.
2. Find the center front and center back and mark with a pin.
3. Fold in half, pin at the shoulder seams and make sure not to distort or stretch the neck line.
Put a Collar on It

4. Place paper under the garment.

5. Draw a line with a pen around the neckline.
6. Remove the paper form under the garment.

7. Draw the collar.

8. Add a 1/2" seam allowance to the collar.

9. Cut out the collar along the seam allowance line.
Put a Collar on It

10. Make sure you like the shape of the collar. Make any adjustments at this point.

11. Cut out 2 collar pieces, flip the pattern over and cut 2 more pieces (2 right and 2 left).

12. Iron the interfacing to the back side of 1 right and 1 left side of the collar.

13. Trim any excess interfacing.
Put a Collar on It

Optional Decorative Stitches:

1. Gather the two collar pieces with the interfacing.
2. Cut off the seam allowance from the paper pattern.
3. Center the pattern piece on the fabric side of the collar and trace with a fabric marker.
4. Repeat on the other side of the collar.
5. At your machine, select the desired stitch. In this case, stitch 21 was used.
6. Thread the machine with 12 wt. or 30wt. thread.
7. Attach the Clear View Foot F.
8. Line the F Foot with the edge of your drawn line.

9. Stitch all around the collar. If your machine has Auto Pivot, turn it on. This function is helpful when sewing along curved edges.

10. Repeat steps 9 and 10 on the remaining collar (depending on the selected stitch, you may need to use your mirror image button).
Put a Collar on It

11. Select basting stitch.

12. Stitch on the drawn line. This will help you sew the accurate shapes of the collar relative to the decorative stitching when sewing the collar together.

Sewing Collar Together:

1. Thread the machine with the top and bobbin thread that matches the collar fabric.

2. Gather all four collar pieces and separate them into the right and left sides.

3. Start with one side of the collar.

4. Place the right sides of the fabric together, aligning the edges.

5. Pin in place.

6. Sew along the outside edge of the collar, using a 1/2” seam allowance.

7. If your machine has Auto Pivot, turn it on. This function is helpful when sewing curves.

8. If you added any decorative stitches to your collar and there was a line of basting stitches, sew on that line.

9. Do not sew the inside curve of the collar.
Put a Collar on It

10. Repeat steps 3-9 on the remaining side of the collar.

11. Trim the outside edge of the collar to a 1/4” with pinking shears.

12. Repeat step 11 to the remaining side of the collar.

13. Turn both collar pieces right side out.

Understitching the Collar:

Understitching is the technique of topstitching the seam allowance to the lining. This will help the collars lining from rolling forward.

1. Understitch the collar and sew the seam to the lining of the collar.

2. Repeat to the other side.

3. Using a pressing ham, press both sides of the collar. This will help the shape of the collar.
Put a Collar on It

4. Trim the inside curve of the collar to a 1/4” with pinking shears.

5. Repeat step 4 to the other side.

Attaching the Collar to the Garment:

1. Zig Zag the inside curve of the collar.
2. Repeat to the other side of the collar.
3. Find the center front and center back of the garment.
4. Pin the right side of the collar to the inside of the garment.
5. Align the pinked edge of the collar to the neckline of the garment.
6. Make sure the collars meet in the center front and back.

7. Attach a 1/4” Foot O.
Put a Collar on It

8. Select a 1/4” seam allowance.

9. Change the bobbin so that it matches the garment.

10. Sew around the neckline.

11. Thread the machine with the thread that matches the garment.

12. Topstitch the seam to the collar. This will allow the collar to lay better.
Put a Collar on It

13. Press the collar using a pressing ham to help shape the collar.