Sewing an Asymmetric Mitered Hem

One of the most interesting features of the Liberty Shirt is the beautiful hem finishing. Since the back is longer than the front, there are two corners that need attention in a special way. The bottom hem in the back is a 2½” finished hem and the adjacent side vent hems are 1¾”. The instructions for mitering this corner condition is just one of the seven mitering techniques that Linda has written in her book, Mastering Miters.

We like to make pressing templates out of tagboard (manila file folders). For this technique, cut four templates. Use a rotary cutter and a ruler to cut really precise edges. Here are the sizes:

- 3" x 11½" (the height of a folder)
- 2½" x 11½"
- 1¾" x 11½"
- 1⅞" x 11½"
Start with the widest template (3”). Press the bottom raw edge up and over the template, even with the top of the template.

Place the narrower template in the crease that you have just made in the previous step and press the raw edge over the bottom of the template.

Repeat this process for the adjacent hem starting with the widest template (1⅞”) and finishing with the narrow template (1¾”).

Press the two hems on top of one another. Place one pin in one hem allowance only, exactly where the folds intersect and perpendicular to the hem fold. Place a second pin in the opposite hem fold at the intersection of the two hems.
Open out the hem folds, keeping the ½" turndown in place. With right sides together, match the pins at the folded edges. The folded edges do not line up. Match the pins and flatten the fabric from the pins to the point where the creaseline meets the diagonal fold. Draw a chalk line from the pins to the point.

Stitch from the pins to the point, backstitching at both ends. It helps to use a clear presser foot so that you can see the exact starting and stopping points.

Trim the excess fabric to ¼".
Press the seam over a point presser/clapper.

Turn the seam to the outside and refine the point using a point turner, if necessary.