



THE FLIP VEST

a pattern by MADE
www.danamadeit.com

sizes 6 months to 5 years

SEE YOU ON THE FLIP SIDE!



THE FLIP VEST PATTERN

Our family has always lived in warm climates, which requires little more than a hoodie jacket in the winter. So over the years I've become equally curious and obsessed with fleece vests. Are they necessary? Do they really keep you warm? Should I make one for my kids?

One day I decided to try one out. And the answer to all of the above is: YES.

A fleece vest is adorable! And if you make it reversible, you can FLIP it over for an entirely different look. Fun! I love options. And I love how well this vest works for every season. With just a simple Tee underneath, it adds the perfect warmth on a Fall afternoon. And for the extra chilly days, throw it under a coat and send the kiddies off to school. It's the vest that keeps giving, all year long.



With a fleece lining and knit ribbing around the neck and arms, we'll make two versions of the vest for boys and girls, toddlers and babies. The velcro vest is reversible and easy to flip. The button vest, however, is best worn on the button side for comfort. We'll also share two different methods for sewing ribbing around the armholes. And if you've never sewn with ribbing, have no fear! Today's your day. We'll walk through the simple steps, using a standard sewing machine. And you'll be a pro!



THE FLIP VEST PATTERN

The Flip Vest comes in 5 sizes based on age (**NOTE: m stands for months (baby sizes); T stands for Toddler size**). The vest is a loose fitted garment, so there's wiggle room with sizing. But the best way to determine which size you want to cut/sew is to measure across your child's front chest, from underarm (armpit) to underarm (or measure one of their T-shirts). Then refer to the table below. You can also print/cut out the pattern and hold it up to their body to see which size is best. And if you're still unsure.... go with the size that corresponds with their age!

FINISHED VEST SIZES

(measured across the chest, from side-seam to side-seam, right below the armholes)

6-12m	10.5 inches
12-24m	11.5 inches
2T-3T	13 inches
3T-4T	14.5 inches
4T-5T	15.5 inches



PRINTING & PIECING the PAGES

I've tried to make this as easy as possible. So please don't fear the printing!

There are 3 pages that make up ONE pattern piece for the vest. Pages are at the end of this entire pattern doc.

- **Print the 3 pages to standard US Letter size.** If you're having problems with the print size, experiment with the various settings on your printer (borderless, etc). But I found that just a standard 100% size, US Letter worked perfect.
- **If you live in another country** I don't have exact steps for printing.....but print to your standard paper size and use the measuring marks to see if you've printed properly.
- **To ensure you've printed to the proper size,** there are two measuring marks: the 1-inch square box and a 1-inch ruler along the top and side of the first page. Check both markings with your own ruler to see if the printed pages are the exact size as your ruler. Of course, if you just can't get it exact....don't worry! As mentioned, this is not a form-fitting pattern so there's slight room for error here and there.



THE FLIP VEST PATTERN

WORKING WITH FLEECE AND KNIT RIBBING

If you've never sewn with knits before, no worries. It's not scary; it's just fabric. You can always throw it away and start over if needed. There! Now I've freed you from sewing insecurity.

Also, you don't need a serger or fancy sewing machine to sew with knits. Of course a quality sewing machine does make the process easier. I have a bottom-of-the-line Bernina and LOVE it. It's an all-metal work-horse but costs about \$900. You don't need to spend that much money but I've found that people who feel frustrated with sewing knits are often using an inexpensive \$100 machine, which is fine. Don't let that stop you! But just keep in mind that if you plan to sew more knits in the future....you may want to upgrade your machine a bit. Janome makes some nice machines, also Baby Lock, and even some higher quality Brother machines. I've only used Bernina so I really can't vouch for those brands but I've heard good things. Okay, enough about machines....we're talking fabric.

FLEECE

Though it might not seem like it, Fleece is part of the KNITS family. And while it's a fairly easy fabric to sew, here are a few things to keep in mind:

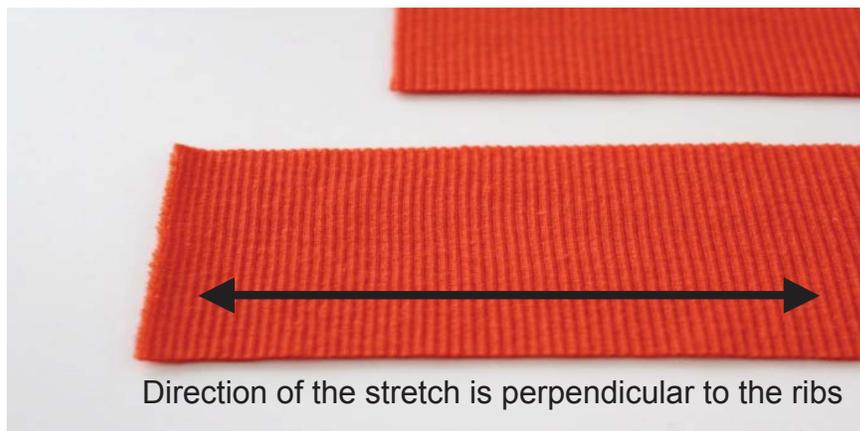
- **Fleece typically stretches in one direction.** When cutting the vest you want the fleece to stretch horizontally across the chest (as shown in the photo to the right).

- **It's important to pay attention to the nap of the fabric**

Nap is that fuzzy stuff covering the surface. It may not seem like it at first glance but the front and back of the fleece have slightly different looks.

In fact the same side of the fleece might look slightly different when turned in a certain direction, as the nap catches light. So, when you cut and sew pay special attention to which side of the fleece, and which *direction*, are the "right" side and which are the wrong side.

- **When it comes to ironing fleece**, always test-iron before pressing your garment since some synthetic fleece has a tendency to melt under a hot iron. Use low to medium heat or consider using a presscloth over the top of the fabric.



RIBBING

For years I walked by bolts of **ribbing** in the fabric shop without realizing what it was. I knew that T-shirts and sweatshirts often had interesting ribbed collars and cuffs. But I assumed people were buying cuffs as a pre-folded trim, similar to bias tape. Then one day, it just hit me. I stood looking at a row of colorful ribbed knits and exclaimed internally, *a-hah!* *This is what you use to make collars and cuffs. THIS is ribbing. It's sold by the yard!* And life was better from that day on.