



How to shorten shirt straps

This guide will show how to shorten the length of straps on a shirt.

Written By: Natalie Clark



INTRODUCTION

Do you have a shirt with straps that are too long? These instructions will teach you how to reduce the length of your shirt straps using a sewing machine. If at any time you feel confused by the terminology, please refer to [iFixit's Sewing Glossary](#).



TOOLS:

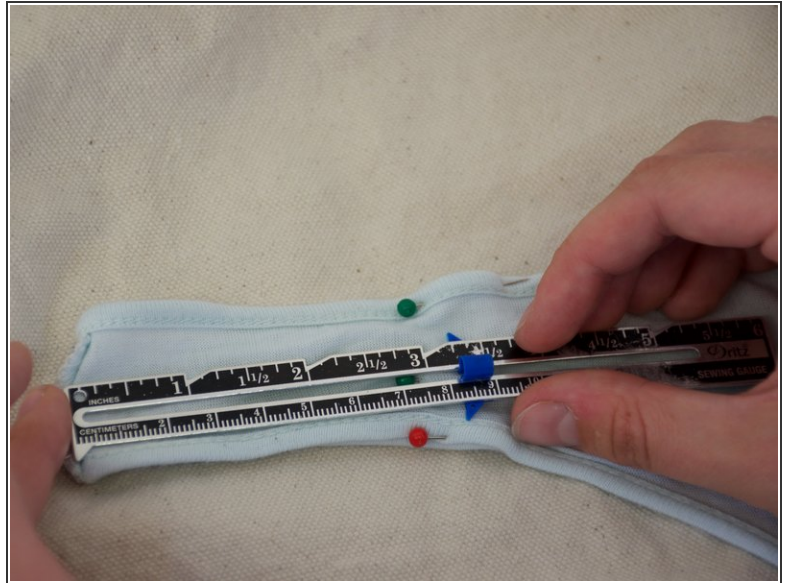
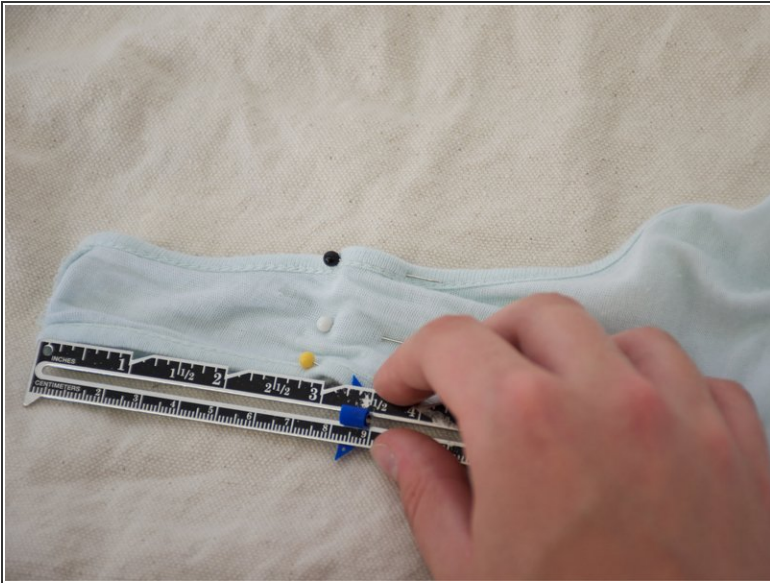
- [Fabric Scissors](#) (1)
 - [Sewing Pins](#) (1)
 - [Sewing Machine](#) (1)
 - [Seam Gauge](#) (1)
 - [Spool of Thread](#) (1)
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Step 1 — How to shorten shirt straps



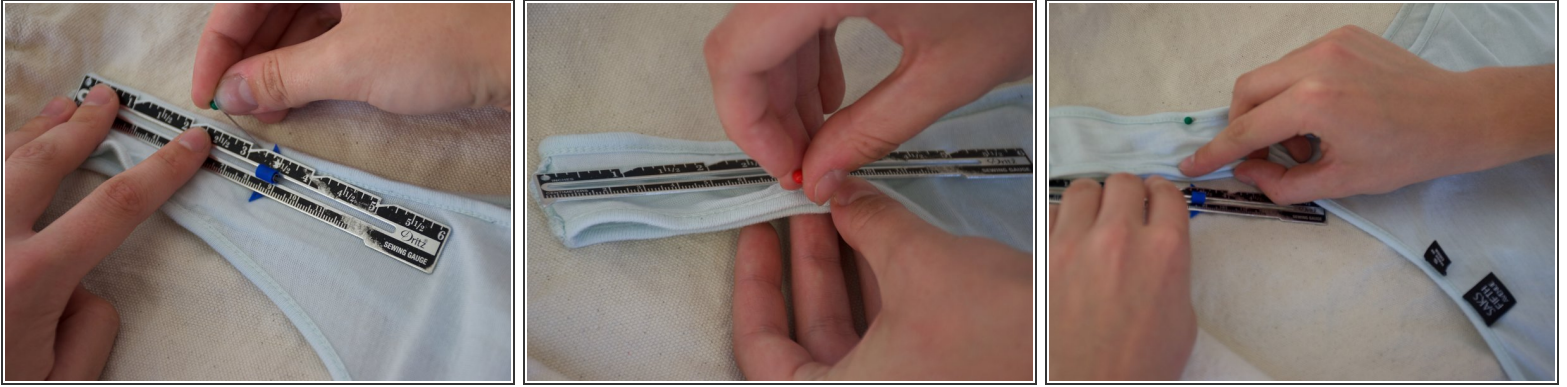
- Put on the shirt.
- Pull the strap up until you reach your new desired length. Be sure to take the same amount of fabric from the front and the back of the seam.
- Pin both straps to the desired length.

Step 2



- Remove the shirt.
 - ⚠ Be careful of the pins when taking off the shirt.
- Measure and take a note of the length. Make sure it is the same on both straps.
 - ⓘ This length will be the amount your strap that will be removed.

Step 3



- Remove the pins and flip the shirt inside out.
- Re-pin both shirt straps. Make sure the pins follow the measurements you just took.
 - Make sure you have a clear line to sew along.
- Check and make sure the base of the straps are lined up for a continuous edge on your shirt.


Step 4



- Thread the sewing machine and set it to your desired stitch length.
 - ❗ Refer to your specific sewing machine manual for more guidance.
- Align the pinned part of the shirt with the needle.
- Put down the [presser foot](#).

Step 5



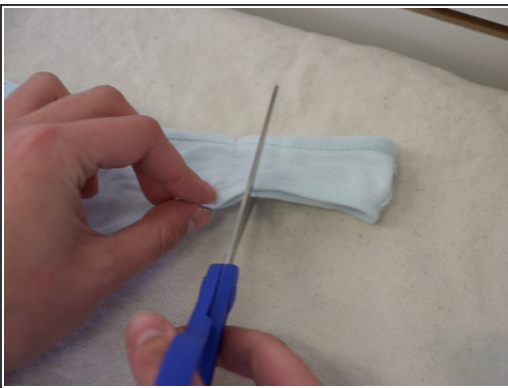
- Sew along the line mapped out by your pins.
- Pull out the pins as you sew. Make sure not to sew over any of them.
 If you sew over the pins, you may break the needle.
- Make sure to [backstitch](#) at each end of the seam.
- Repeat this step for each strap.

Step 6



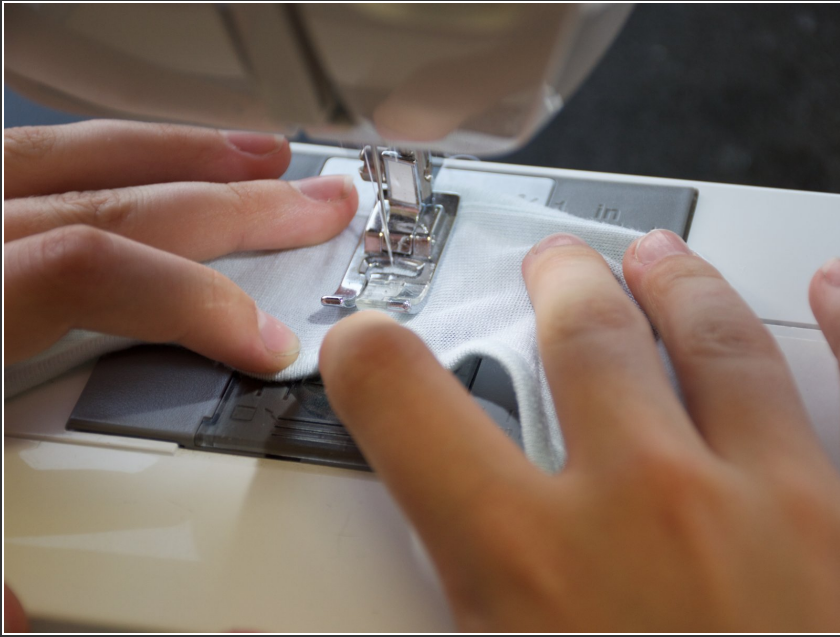
- Put the shirt back on.
- Confirm the new length that you chose for the garment.
- If the straps are too still long or short, carefully rip out your new seam and return to Step 1.

Step 7



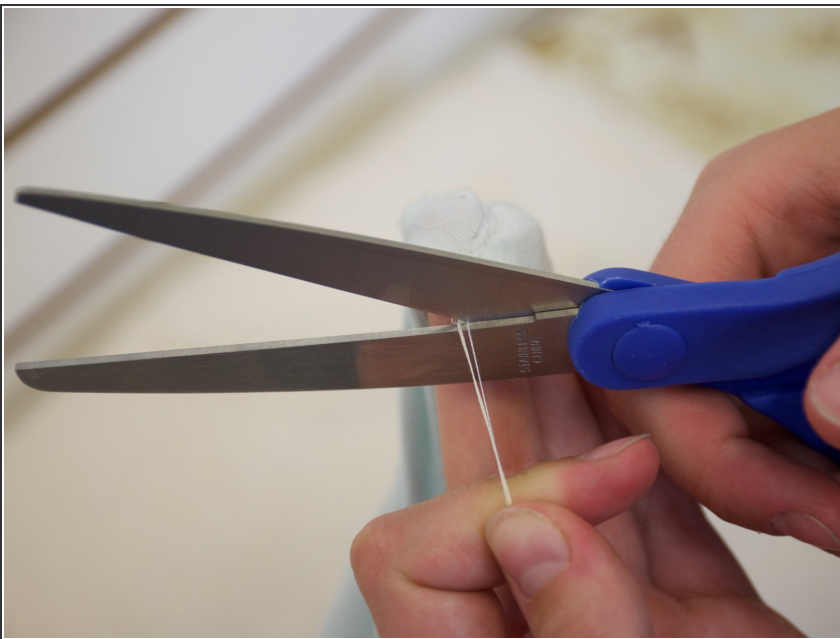
- Cut excess fabric from the new seams, leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.
- Iron the [seam allowance](#) left after your cut to the back of the shirt.

Step 8



- Flip the shirt right side out.
- Make a straight stitch approximately 1/8 inch behind the new shoulder seam on the outside edge.
- ⓘ Make sure your new seam properly secures the seam allowance underneath.

Step 9



- Cut any loose threads on the shirt.

Your shirt straps now should be secured at their new length.