

Hi everyone! I'm Shannon from [luvinthemommyhood](#) and I'm here to inspire you to take some fun quilting techniques & add them into your wee ones wardrobe this summer!

This adorable tank was inspired by the beautiful coast I am so lucky to live on. The gorgeous waves never cease to take my breath away and I thought it would be fun to try to replicate the feeling of the waves with the equally gorgeous line "[Summerlove](#)" from [Pat Bravo](#). A perfect combination - yummy summer tones reminiscent of sand and surf partnered with the swoops and curves of coastal waves.





The tank itself is simple in construction with a wide neckline & strap and an a-line cut allowing all the detail work of the curves to speak for themselves and to allow that lovely fabric to shine! It's a fun project and a great way to dive head first into sewing with curves. I'm now hopelessly addicted and dying to make a quilt to match!

So join me....take a walk along the surf, smell the ocean breeze, feel the sand between your toes and get inspired to add The Wellen Tank to your kidlets summer wardrobe!





## Materials:

- 8 Fat Quarters
- (used: [Summerlove - Beyond Bliss Ginger](#), [Summerlove - Swept Away Serenity](#), [Summerlove - Tokens of Love Pink](#), [Summerlove - Passionate Spirit Teal](#), [Summerlove - Malibu Kiss](#), [Summerlove - Naivety Berry](#), [Summerlove - Sweet Days Seashell](#), [Summerlove - Retro Harmony Sugar](#))
- Approximately 44" of handmade bias tape or 1 package pre-made
- Coordinating Thread
- Pins
- Scissors
- Rotary cutter & mat

## Pattern Piece:

- Download and print the "curves template" [here](#).

NOTE: When printing please make sure your printer is set to "actual size" or set your page scaling to "none". Be sure not to select "shrink to fit" or any other page scaling as this will result in your pattern pieces being the incorrect size. Pattern piece is sized to fit on a standard 8.5" x 11" page.

## The Wellen Tank Curves Template

For the tank top pattern itself use a pre-existing garment to trace your pattern piece from. There are a lot of great tutorials online that you can find that will show you how to use an existing piece of clothing to trace out a pattern template. Make sure when making a larger/smaller size than a 2T that you adjust the amount of "curved" pieces needed. You can simply add another column of curves to increase the width and to increase the height you would add more curved pieces to the top of each column. For more instructions on how to do this please see Step One below. My tank top was a Size 2 Tank that I drafted from scratch.

NOTE: The style of tank used to draft your pattern would need to have a wide neckline to allow the tank to slip over the child's head without the use of buttons, zippers or a "v" neck.







## Instructions:

### STEP ONE: PREP AND CUT YOUR FABRIC

NOTE: Make sure to wash, dry and press your fabric before sewing. This is very important when making garments.

- Print out your Curves Template Piece and cut (6) curves out of all (8) of your prints for a total of (48) curved pieces. I did this with my fabric folded so that I could cut doubles right off the bat. Make sure that when you are cutting your curved pieces that your grain line (straight grain) is going vertically. Your selvages will be parallel to this. When you tug the fabric you should feel some give/stretch from left to right. If the give is from up/down you need to adjust your fabric.



Starting from bottom going upwards - #1 - Passionate Spirit Teal,  
#2 - Sweet Days Seashell, #3 - Naivety Berry, #4 - Malibu Kiss,  
#5 - Retro Harmony Sugar, #6 - Tokens of Love Pink,  
#7 - Beyond Bliss Ginger, #8 - Swept Away Serenity

- Lay your curved pieces out and plan your layout for your “waves”. We will be assembling these in the next step in columns so it’s easiest to plan your layout laying them out vertically first and then if you’d like to see the whole picture align more columns of curves beside your original column. I used the following layout shown in the picture above.

- I’m all about customizing great garments for your own style/taste. The outline of the Wellen Tank is easy and quick to change. Based on the tank you are using for your pattern you can lower the neck, add a v, widen the a-line or elongate the hem - it’s up to you! That’s the fun part of making your own clothes! If you would like a larger/smaller size just adjust the number of curves used to make each column and the amount of rows of columns you use. We are essentially going to be creating two large rectangles made of pieced curves that are made big enough to cut your tank pattern out of. Ready to get sewing? Yay!

## STEP TWO: SEWING YOUR CURVES



- Lay your pieces out in order in separate piles for each soon to be sewn column. Figure out what is your inner concave and what is your outer concave. See the pic above for an example.

- Take your first curved piece and lay it right side facing up with your inner concave to your right. Place your next curved piece wrong side facing up with the inner concave to the left taking care to align only your top point at this moment as shown in the image below.

NOTE: Your top will overlap just a bit with the point not matching up with your bottom curve. This is fine.





- Now comes a bit of a tricky part. It's going to feel weird to sew these two together but trust me - it will work out. Use a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance using the outer edge of your presser foot as a guide to use as you move your curve while sewing. I didn't use pins and you don't need to either. Simply go slow while you get the hang of it. I highly suggest doing a sample swatch to try it out before you do the real one. Once you start sewing you simply slowly keep moving your top piece "only" to align it with your bottom one and voila! A sewn curve! You don't even need to clip your seams!!!! That's right! Turn that bad boy right side out and press and you've started your column! I pinked all of my seam allowances to prevent unraveling since this will be a worn garment.



- Continue on joining curve to curve building your column in this manner always starting with your curved pieces laid out as previously stated. Once you have sewn (8) curves together you have finished your first column! Make 5 more columns in this manner for a total of (6) columns.

- Once you are done all your columns and pressed them all neatly line up (3) columns for your front rectangle. Pin (2) columns together with right sides facing each other. Pin along the left outer long edge. Sew these columns together using a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Trim your seam allowance with your pinking shears and press neatly.

- Now attach your other column to the right side of the column with right sides facing each other. Repeat the steps above. You now have your front rectangle complete. Repeat the steps in this paragraph to make your back rectangle.

- We're going to topstitch those pretty waves you created now :) With your front rectangle topstitch along all of your seams (right side facing up) to add some detail and also so that those curves look nice and finished. I've got a thing for topstitching so following the waves with some pretty stitching was a lot of fun for me :) Press. Repeat for the back rectangle. Great job!







### STEP THREE: SEWING YOUR TANK

- Get out your tank pattern pieces and cut them out of your newly created wave rectangles. Place your front pattern piece on your front rectangle piece and cut it out. Do the same for the back pattern piece placing it on your back rectangle.
- Take your front and back tank pieces and place them right sides facing each other. Pin your side seams and sew them with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Zig zag stitch/pink or serge your seam allowances to finish your seams. Press.
- Pin your shoulder seams. Sew them both with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Finish your seams in the same method as your side seams. - If possible try the tank on your wee one before finishing in case you need to make any adjustments and also to mark your hem length.





- Press your bottom hem up ¼" and press. Press the hem up yet again ½" and pin in place. Sew along the inside edge of your fold. I like to do two stitch lines on my hems for a nice professional finish. I simply follow the first one and stitch about the size of the teeth of the presser foot away from it. It is also possible to sew the hem with just a double needle if you have the option on your sewing machine. Press again.

#### STEP FOUR: FINISHING YOUR TANK

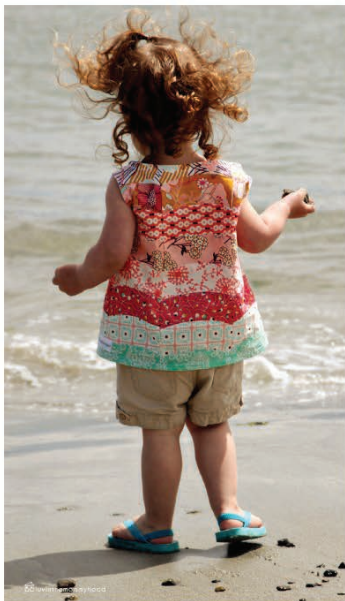


- We are now going to finish off your neckline and your armholes. You can choose to either make your own bias tape or used pre-bought bias tape. I used pre-bought single fold bias tape for my tank. Single fold bias tape is most commonly used for finishing garments when you don't want it to show.





- With your tank right sides facing out take the edge of your bias tape (wrong side facing up) and pin along your entire armhole. Stitch down along the first crease of your bias tape. Turn the tank inside out and fold the bias tape over and under pinning as you go. You will not be able to see the bias tape from the outside now. Stitch down close to your bias tape inner edge. Repeat this for your other armhole and for your neckline. Press. Voila! You now have your very own Wellen Tank (wellen is german for waves)! You did awesome! I can't wait to see it!



Happy sewing from my home to yours :)