

**As Seen on It's Sew Easy Public Television – Series 1400**

Light and Breezy Kimono Style Over blouse



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Create a New Look with this lightweight kimono style over blouse. Use scarves rescued from your closet as "fabric" or choose a breezy lightweight fabric. You'll have a new look to top off many different outfits. I used [Shannon Fabrics](#) Embrace cotton for two of the featured blouses. Visit my website, [www.letsgosew.com](http://www.letsgosew.com) to download a Free **Sewing with Double Gauze Fabric Tip Sheet** to help you sew this beautiful fabric. I used a serger to finish all raw edges of the garments shown in this segment but you'll find alternative ideas for seam and hem finishes in the tip sheet.



Blouse on the left is cut from a large scarf with pattern hemline for sleeves and front/back bottom hem placed along finished edge of scarf. Blouse on the right is made from [Shannon Fabrics](#) Embrace cotton fabric with 3-inch Venice style lace trim on sleeves and bottom hem. Instructions for lace application are included below.

## General instructions for creating a similar blouse:

Choose a kimono style pattern with an open front and cut-on or boxy sleeves. Patterns featured here are New Look SO805/6378 (left) and Simplicity 8172 (right).

If you are using a scarf you can finish off the center front and neck opening with bias trim. Sew sleeve and side seams with the finished hems matching. I followed most of the basic pattern directions for the blouse made from double gauze fabric, finishing the front and neck opening with 1-inch single fold bias trim using the method described and shown below:

1. Stay stitch close to the raw edge.
2. Press bias binding flat.
3. Stitch binding to right side of front using a ¼-inch seam allowance, shaping it carefully around the back neck.
4. Turn binding to the wrong side and press under raw edge of tape to finish at approximately ½-inch wide.
5. Topstitch from the right side.

Press tape open - stitch to right side – turn to wrong side and press under – topstitch from the right side:

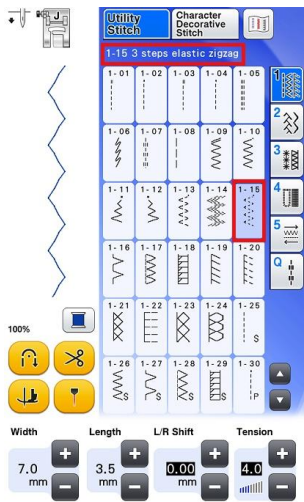


For a neat and clean finish on both the right and wrong side I used a method slightly different from the pattern instructions. Here's how I finished the sleeves and bottom hem with lace:

Serge finish raw edges using thread that blends well with the fabric. Turn and press a 1/2-inch hem allowance to the right side of the garment. I like to use a Dritz metal hem gauge for pressing straight hems. Pin lace in place.



To finish, select a wide and long triple (three-step) zigzag stitch, stitching with lace facing up.



### Additional Resources:

- Visit me at my Sewing and Embroidery website [www.letsdosew.com](http://www.letsdosew.com). I would love to hear your thoughts, comments, and answer any questions you may have. You'll find online lessons, videos, free downloads, and lots of sewing fun at letsdosew.com!
- Find me on Facebook [www.facebook.com/letsdosew/](http://www.facebook.com/letsdosew/)
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