

## Easy Colonial Shirt



Shirts for men or boys during Colonial times could be plain or could have ruffles at the cuffs and or the neckline. Shirts were also much wider and the sleeves and the front and back were ruffled or pleated. These instructions are not historically accurate but rather a way to turn a modern day dress shirt into a Colonial looking shirt that could be worn on Early Guilford Days. The idea of these instructions is to change the collar and add ruffles to the front and cuffs to give the shirt the appearance of a Colonial shirt.

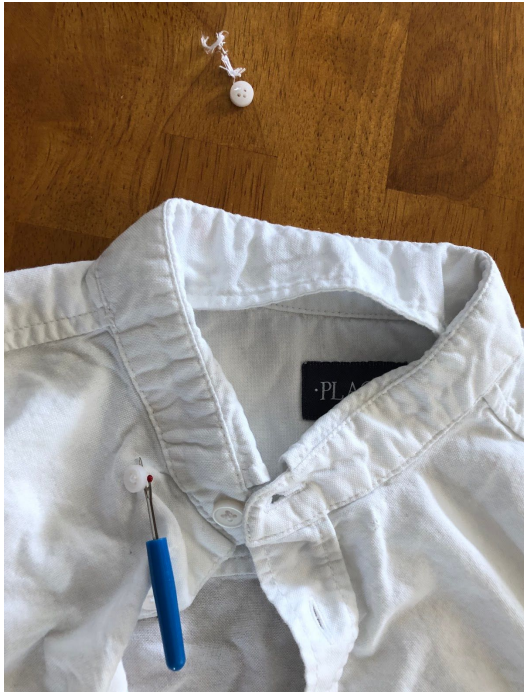
### You need:

- A dress shirt (used ones can be found at a thrift store)
- 40" of ruffled lace trim or ruffled quilt binding
- Scissors that can cut fabric
- A seam ripper or nail scissors
- Sewing needle or sewing machine and thread
- A measurement tape



## Step 1: Preparing the Shirt

If the shirt has buttons for the ends of the collar, remove it.



If the shirt has a front pocket, remove it.



Remove two or three of the upper buttons of the shirt, but not the one closing the collar at the neck.



Optional: Remove the part of the collar that folds over by cutting it off with scissors.





The shirt would look like this



## Step 2: Sewing the ruffled trim

**Prepare the ruffles if the ends fray or if closing the binding tape**

To keep the ends from fraying, you can secure them with zigzag stitches or fold inside and sew shut

Zigzag stitches



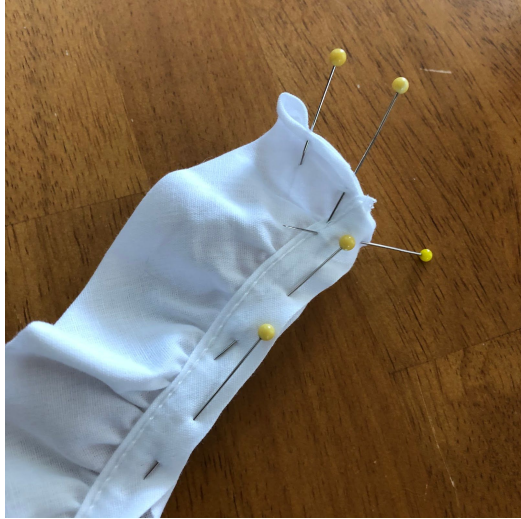
Folding the ends inside



### **Sew the ruffles to the shirt**

Measure the desired length of the ruffles you want for the front of the shirt. Double it and cut the trim. It will be about 8" for a boy's shirt and 12" for a men's shirt. If you use ruffled quilt binding tape you might want to close the binding opening.

The picture below shows how to pin it together before sewing shut.



Pin the trim to the shirt opening, starting at the collar. Sew one side using the sewing machine or sewing by hand using back stitches or hem stitches. Then, pin the trim to the other side of the shirt opening and sew on.



Below is a picture of hand sewing using a hem stitch



Below is a picture of machine sewing





### **Sew the ruffled trim on the cuffs**

Measure the length of the cuffs and cut the trim based on that measurement.

The cuffs in this picture are 4" wide and therefore 8" in length. In this case the trim piece to use needs to be 8" long



Pin the trim to the cuffs and sew them on the same way the trim was sewed to the shirt.

