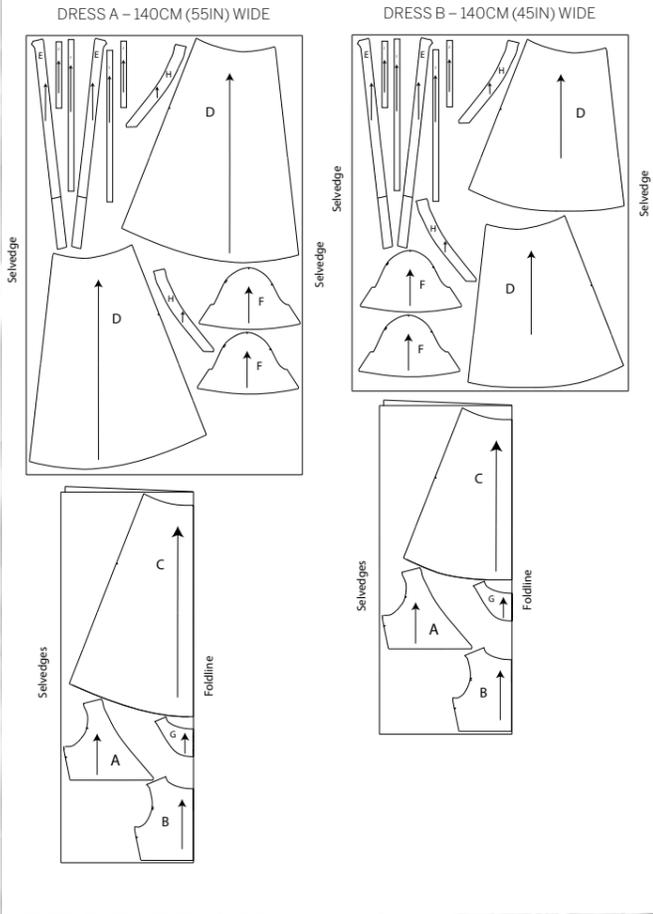


THE MARIA DRESS

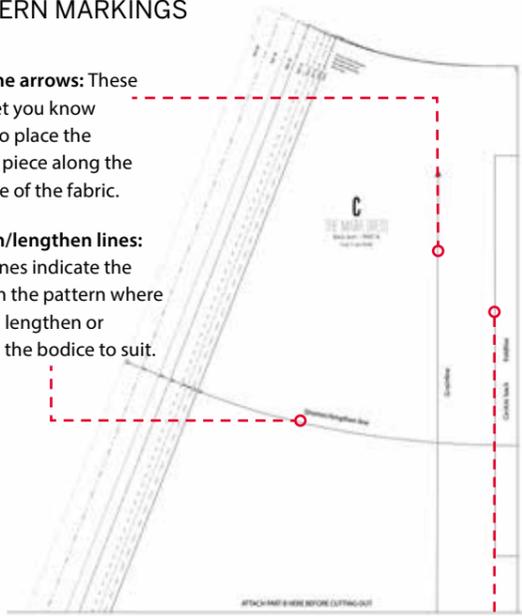
CUTTING LAYOUTS



PATTERN MARKINGS

Grainline arrows: These are to let you know where to place the pattern piece along the grainline of the fabric.

Shorten/lengthen lines: These lines indicate the point on the pattern where you can lengthen or shorten the bodice to suit.



Foldline: This line indicates where the pattern should be positioned on the fold of the fabric.



STITCHING TERMS

Right side (RS)/ Wrong side (WS): The right side and wrong side of the fabric. Usually the right side has the print or texture and the wrong side is plain.

Machine tack: Use a long stitch length to hold a section in place. Don't backstitch at the start and end.

Finish the seams: Finish the raw edges with a zigzag stitch or an overlocker.

Understitch: A line of stitching worked close to the seam line, usually on the side that will be on the inside of the garment such as the facing. This will hold the seam allowance in place when the garment is worn.

Staystitch: A line of stitching sewn on areas prone to stretching, such as necklines, to hold the fabric in shape while it is being worked on.

Topstitch: This is usually worked from the right side of the garment and used to hold seam allowances in place or for decorative purposes.

MAKING THE DRESS

CUTTING OUT

Step one From the main fabric cut:

- Front bodice (A):** Cut 1 pair.
- Back bodice (B):** Cut 1 on fold.
- Back skirt (C):** Cut 1 on fold.
- Front skirt (D):** Cut 1 pair.
- Front skirt facing (E):** Cut 1 pair.
- Sleeve (F):** Cut 1 pair.
- Back bodice facing (G):** Cut 1 on fold.
- Front bodice facing (H):** Cut 1 pair.
- Long waist tie (I):** Cut 1 pair.
- Short waist tie (J):** Cut 1 pair.

STITCHING THE BODICE

Step one Staystitch the neckline of the front and back bodice pieces within the 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance. If you are using a slippery fabric such as rayon or silk, use stay tape along the front neckline as well to prevent stretching. ⁰¹

Step two With the RS together, stitch the front bodice darts. Press the darts towards the waist. ⁰²

Step three With RS together, stitch both front bodice pieces to a front skirt piece along the waist, matching notches. Finish the seams and press upwards.

MAKING AND ATTACHING THE TIES

Step one With the RS of the fabric together, press the short and long waist ties in half lengthways. Stitch along the long edge and across one end to close the waist tie with a 5mm (1/4in) seam allowance. ⁰³

Step two Cut off the corners of the waist ties before turning RS out. Use a loop-turning tool or safety pin to help. Press flat. Machine-tack the open short side closed within the 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance.

Step three Lay out the front dress pieces on your workspace RS up in front of you. Using a long stitch length, machine-tack a short and long waist tie to the left dress piece at the centre front raw edge where the bodice meets skirt at the waist seam. Place the long tie above the shorter tie and stitch within the 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance. ⁰⁴

Step four With the front dress pieces laid flat on the table in front of you, attach the remaining long tie to the centre front raw edge of the right dress panel where the skirt meets the waist seam.

Step five Stitch the remaining short tie to the right dress panel at the side seam just below the waist seam. Stitch within the 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance and make sure the raw edges match. ⁰⁵

Step six Stitch the back bodice to the back skirt at the waist with RS facing. Finish the seam and press up.

Step seven Finish the side seams of the front and back dress pieces separately.

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Step eight With RS together, stitch the shoulder seams of the front and back dress pieces. Finish the seams and press towards the back. ⁰⁵

ATTACHING THE FACING

Step one Stitch the front bodice facings to the front skirt facings at the waist with RS together. Press the seams up.

Step two Stitch the front and back facing pieces together at the shoulder seams, with RS of the fabric facing. Press the seams forward.

Step three Finish the long outer edge of the facing piece. ⁰⁷

Step four With the RS of the facing and dress together, pin the facing piece around the neckline. Remember to match the seams and notches and be careful not to catch the waist ties.

Step five Stitch in place with a 1cm (3/8in) seam allowance, starting at the centre back neckline and stitching all the way down one side to the hem. Repeat for the other side. ⁰⁸

Step six Clip into the seam allowance at the curves, particularly around the back neckline. Reduce bulk by cutting off the corner of the seam allowance where the front bodice meets the front skirt.

Step seven Press the facing towards the seam allowance. Understitch the facing to the seam allowance all the way around, starting at the centre back neckline and stitching down one side to the hem. Repeat for the other side. ⁰⁹

Step eight Press the facing in place. Pin the facing to the bodice around the front of the dress down to the hem.

Step nine Topstitch the facing to the bodice 3.5cm (1 3/8in) from the pressed edge. Start at the shoulder seam and stitch all the way down to the hem, then repeat on the other side. ¹⁰

STITCHING THE BODICE SIDE SEAMS

Step one With the RS of the front and back dress pieces together, stitch the side seams. Start stitching at the underarm and continue down to the hem. For the

right-hand side only (when the dress is laid flat in front of you on the table), stop and start stitching either side of the waist tie opening, as marked on the pattern, backstitching to secure. Press the side seams open.

Step two To secure the side seam opening for the waist tie, stitch around the opening by 5mm (1/4in) to create a rectangle of stitching. ¹¹

INSERTING THE SLEEVES AND HEMMING THE DRESS

Step one Stitch two rows of gathering stitches along the sleeve head, within the seam allowance, as marked on the pattern.

Step two Finish the underarm seams of both sleeve pieces separately. With the RS together, stitch the underarm seams of both sleeves. Press open.

Step three Press over 5mm (1/4in) and then 1cm (3/8in) of the sleeve hem to the WS. Stitch in place. Repeat for the other sleeve.

Step four Gently pull the gathering stitches at the sleeve head. With the bodice WS out and the sleeve RS out, insert the sleeve into the armhole. Pin the sleeve in place all the way around, matching the notches and the side seam with the underarm seam of the sleeve.

Step five Stitch the sleeve in place and repeat to insert the other sleeve. Finish the armhole seam and press in place. ¹²

Step six Check you are happy with the length of the dress and then hem by pressing over 5mm (1/4in) and then 1cm (3/8in) to the WS. Stitch in place.

Step seven Give your garment a final press to finish.

DIAGRAMS



FINISHED GARMENT MEASUREMENTS

SIZE	UK	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
	US	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
	EUR	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
BUST	cm	92.5	95	97.5	100.5	105.5	110.5	118	125.5
	in	36.5	37.5	38.5	39.5	41.5	43.5	46.5	49.5
WAIST	cm	92.5	95	97.5	100.5	105.5	110.5	118	125.5
	in	36.5	37.5	38.5	39.5	41.5	43.5	46.5	49.5
HIPS	cm	127	129.5	132	134.5	139.5	144.5	152.5	160
	in	50	51	52	53	55	57	60	63

