

Lilac gingham boxy top - sewing instructions

EU 38 . 3 pieces . seam allowance 10 mm

0. Paper first

Print the pack at 100% scale, then measure the square on page 3 of the A4 pattern with a ruler. If it is not 100 mm, DO NOT CUT. Trim the sheets along the LEFT and TOP edges, overlap them until the corner targets (a cross in a circle) of neighbouring sheets sit exactly on each other, and tape. The page map is on page 2 of the A4 pattern.

Body and finished garment measurements

EU 38: standard size-table body, not your personal measurements. All circumferences below are in cm; garment minus body is the constructed ease. Seam allowances are excluded.

Bust: body 88.0 / garment 108.0 / ease 20.0 cm (design estimate).

Waist: body 70.0 / garment 108.0 / ease 38.0 cm (design estimate).

Hip: body 94.0 / garment not measured / ease not measured cm.

Finished length

EU 38, standard size-table body: centre front 40.6 cm from the neck edge to the hem, centre back 46.1 cm. The hem sits 9.5 cm below the waist, 49.0 cm above the knee. These lengths are a design estimate: there was no photograph, so the hem position was set from the description, not measured.

To change the length, measure your own waist-to-hem length first. Add or take off the same amount at the hem of every piece: extend (or shorten) each seam line straight on in its own direction and redraw the hem parallel to the printed one, square to each seam.

Fabric and ease decisions

Fabric proposed for this design: Dokuma pamuklu kumas (gingham desenli). Source: Istekte kumas adi yok; Dokuma pamuklu kumas (gingham desenli) bu tasarim icin oneridir.

Stretch and residual extension have not been measured. The chosen ease is a design decision, not evidence of fabric recovery.

Bust: chosen circumference ease 200.0 mm, a design estimate. Reason: Boxy kesim: bedene oturmayan rahat govde ve basa gecirme icin bol govde.

Waist: on the straight side line between Bust and Hip (no shaping in between); for this size that is 380.0 mm circumference ease, a design estimate. Reason: Kullanici duz/boxy kesim istiyor; bel suprese edilmiyor (oturma.bel:false), bitmis bel cevresi gogus-kalca arasinda duz hatta cozulur.

Hip: chosen circumference ease 140.0 mm, a design estimate. Reason: Dik kutu/boxy siluette bitmis kalca cevresi gogusunkine yakin olmalı; bedenin kalcasi gogsunden genis oldugu icin kalca payi gogus payindan (200mm) kucuk secildi.

Sample evidence applies only to its stated load, direction, method and time. It does not establish seam elasticity, movement, pressure, comfort or physical fit. Test a toile and your actual cloth before final cutting.

1. Cutting

Cut along the OUTER line; the default 10 mm seam allowance is inside it, except where a different edge allowance is printed. The inner fine line is the stitching line. The arrow on each piece (grainline) must lie PARALLEL to the straight grain of the fabric - set it askew and the garment will twist on the body. A piece marked "ON FOLD" is placed against the folded edge and is never cut along it.

- #1 ON UST: CUT 1X ON FOLD

- #2 ARKA_UST: CUT 2X MIRRORED

- #3 SLEEVE: CUT 2X MIRRORED

CHECKED FABRIC: match the checks before you cut. Cut single layer, right side up, and turn the paper over for the second copy of a mirrored piece, so both copies sit on the checks the same way; a piece marked ON FOLD is traced, flipped along its fold line, traced again and cut whole. Place a piece's centre line (or fold line) on the middle of a check, and its hem line on the same horizontal check line on every piece. Then put each side-seam notch of the front and of the back on the same horizontal check line, and the sleeve cap notches on the check line of their armhole notches (Patterns Scissors Cloth: centre front and back first, then sleeves, then side seams). Buy extra cloth for this (see the cutting layout).

2. Markings

Notches (the small ticks on an edge) tell you where two pieces meet. Cut each piece out on its solid line first; then, at every tick, snip 3 mm straight into the allowance from the cut edge, along the tick (a double tick is two snips). The tick is printed 7 mm long only so that you find it; it stops 3 mm short of the stitching line, so a 3 mm snip never reaches the seam. On a piece cut with no allowance (a binding strip) mark the tick with chalk instead of snipping. A single tick marks a FRONT edge, two ticks close together mark a BACK edge (Tilly: "two notches together usually indicates the back of a pattern piece"). A seam that joins a front piece to a back piece (a side seam) carries a single tick on BOTH pieces, so the two ticks you match always look the same. A single tick that meets a seam of the other piece (the top of the sleeve cap) has no partner tick: it goes to that seam line. Each seam step below names its notches piece by piece, with the distance along the edge.

2b. Staystitching

Before any seam is sewn, staystitch every edge that will be bound or faced (NECK, SLEEVE HEM): a regular straight stitch 6 mm from the raw edge, inside the 10 mm allowance, so the curve cannot stretch while it waits through the seams, and the fitting. Sew in one direction on each side: a neck edge from the shoulder or strap corner towards the centre, an armhole from the shoulder or strap corner down to the underarm. Handle these edges as little as possible until they are finished.

3. Sewing order

This order is not invented: it is the topological order of the stitch graph. The seams that keep the work FLAT come first; the seams that close a ring and turn flat work into a tube come after them (flat construction).

Seam allowances: after stitching each seam, neaten each raw allowance edge on its own with an overlock (serger) or a narrow zigzag close to the edge, so the cloth cannot fray inside the garment; then press as the step says. Where a step says to finish the two allowances together, neaten them as one. Bound edges, hem turns and fold lines need nothing extra.

1. ON_UST <-> ARKA_UST (SHOULDER) - plain seam, 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

shoulder seam: shoulder edge <-> shoulder edge, neck <-> neck

2. SLEEVE <-> ARKA_UST + ON_UST (ARMHOLE) - eased seam, 10 mm allowance: do not press it open. Finish the two allowances together and press them toward the SLEEVE.

the sleeve cap is set into the armhole, its lower corners at the underarm ends of the armhole; ratio 1.04 = cap ease

SLEEVE is 4% longer than ARKA_UST + ON_UST here (ratio 1.04): ease it in evenly between the notches, with no gathers showing.

notches - SLEEVE front sleeve cap edge (255 mm of this piece's 512 mm seam): single notch at 0 mm, single notch at 127 mm from its upper end; the notch at 0 mm goes to the SHOULDER seam line (no partner tick); SLEEVE back sleeve cap edge (257 mm of this piece's 512 mm seam): double notch at 128 mm from its lower end; ARKA_UST armhole edge (247 mm seam): double notch at 123 mm from its lower end (124 mm from its upper end); ON_UST armhole edge (245 mm seam): single notch at 123 mm from its lower end (122 mm from its upper end). Match the single ticks to the single ticks and the double ticks to the double ticks; the two sides line up there.

The remaining 5 seams each close a ring - sew them after the flat work above, in this order.

Steps 3-4 are ONE continuous seam joining the same two pieces: sew them in a single pass, without stopping at the hand-over ticks; the ticks only show where one part of the seam ends and the next begins.

3. ARKA_UST <-> ARKA_UST (BACK CENTRE BODICE) - CLOSING SEAM: this one closes a ring, so flat work becomes a tube. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

ARKA_UST: the small tick on its centre back edge is where the BACK CENTRE BODICE hands over to the neighbouring seam (the next 95 mm); sew on through it.

4. ARKA_UST <-> ARKA_UST - continues the step above in the same pass. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

5. SLEEVE <-> SLEEVE (UNDER SLEEVE) - CLOSING SEAM: this one closes a ring, so flat work becomes a tube. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

SLEEVE under seam: corner <-> corner, hem <-> hem (reverse)

Steps 6-7 are ONE continuous seam joining the same two pieces: sew them in a single pass, without stopping at the hand-over ticks; the ticks only show where one part of the seam ends and the next begins.

6. ARKA_UST <-> ON_UST - CLOSING SEAM: this one closes a ring, so flat work becomes a tube. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

ON_UST: the small tick on its side edge is where the this seam hands over to the BODICE SIDE SEAM (the next 192 mm); sew on through it.

ARKA_UST: the small tick on its side edge is where the this seam hands over to the BODICE SIDE SEAM (the next 192 mm); sew on through it.

7. ON_UST <-> ARKA_UST (BODICE SIDE SEAM) - continues the step above in the same pass. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

bodice side seam: waist <-> waist, underarm <-> underarm

notches - ON_UST side edge (192 mm seam): single notch at 96 mm from its lower end (96 mm from its upper end); ARKA_UST side edge (192 mm seam): single notch at 96 mm from its lower end (96 mm from its upper end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

3c. Complete edge finishes

NECK: one, finished edge 593 mm. Design assumption, not a measured source detail.

The cutting pattern includes exactly 20 mm on this edge. Turn the raw edge 5 mm to the wrong side, then turn another 15 mm; the second fold is the drawn finished edge. Press and stitch close to the inner fold. This hem curves where it meets the flared seams, so the turned-up allowance is about 156 mm longer in all than the line it is stitched to (up to 78 mm on one piece, mostly near the seams). Before turning, run a long ease stitch (4-5 mm) 5 mm from the raw edge, draw up the bobbin thread until the allowance lies flat against the garment, and steam-press; never fold a pleat (Seamwork, Sew Two Basic Hems). test the hem turn on the toile before cutting the final fabric.

SLEEVE HEM: each of 2, finished edge 378 mm. Design assumption, not a measured source detail.

The cutting pattern includes exactly 20 mm on this edge. Turn the raw edge 5 mm to the wrong side, then turn another 15 mm; the second fold is the drawn finished edge. Press and stitch close to the inner fold. Distribute any extra length evenly without pleats; test the hem turn on the toile before cutting the final fabric.

ETEK_UCU_BITIS: one, the edge as printed on the piece. Design assumption, not a measured source detail.

The cutting pattern includes exactly 30 mm on this edge. Turn the raw edge 10 mm to the wrong side, then turn another 20 mm; the second fold is the drawn finished edge. Press and stitch close to the inner fold. Distribute any extra length evenly without pleats; test the hem turn on the toile before cutting the final fabric.

4. Machine, needle and thread

Fabric mechanics have not been verified for this pattern. These are general examples. Pick your fabric first, then read your row from the table below.

For a light cotton: Universal needle 80/12, all-purpose polyester thread, stitch length 2.5 mm.

Choose the row for your actual cloth and test on a scrap:

- cotton and other light wovens (lawn, poplin, gingham, voile): Universal 70/10 - 90/14
- fine and sheer (chiffon, organza, silk): Microtex (or Universal) 60/8 - 70/10
- linen: Universal 70/10 - 90/14
- woven wool and tweed: Universal 80/12 - 90/14
- cotton twill / denim: Jeans 70/10 - 110/18
- jersey and knits: Jersey (ball point) 60/8 - 80/12
- very stretchy knits: Stretch 75/11 or 90/14
- satin, silk, microfibre: Microtex 60/8 - 90/14

Interfacing: choose a type compatible with your actual cloth and test a scrap first. Follow its manufacturer instructions for temperature, moisture, pressing time and cooling. The printed appearance does not identify the fabric or its interfacing requirements.

Needle and stitch-length figures: Schmetz "Needles by Fabric Type"; thread: Gutermann Sew-all No. 100; stitch length: Deer & Doe; interfacing: Vlieseline.