

Red gingham button-front mini - sewing instructions

EU 36 . 4 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 36: 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 84.0 / garment 90.0 / ease 6.0 cm.

Waist: body 66.0 / garment 68.5 / ease 2.5 cm.

Hip: body 90.0 / garment 95.0 / ease 5.0 cm.

Finished length

EU 36, standard size-table body: centre front 81.4 cm from the neck edge to the hem, centre back 80.6 cm. The hem sits 46.0 cm below the waist, 12.0 cm above the knee. The hem position was read from the photograph, 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. A slit keeps its printed length, measured up from the new hem. Buttons are re-spaced evenly between the top and the lowest one.

Fabric and ease decisions

Fabric mechanics are unmeasured. The existing pattern uses its recorded default ease; this is not a fabric-specific fit approval. 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.

Derived, not seen

The back is not visible in the photograph, so it was derived: a back with princess seams like the front, cut on the fold (no centre-back seam), cut to match the front; the garment opens at the front; the front's decoration is not repeated.

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 FRONT CENTRE: CUT 2X MIRRORED

- #2 FRONT SIDE: CUT 2X MIRRORED

- #3 BACK CENTRE: CUT 1X ON FOLD

- #4 BACK SIDE: 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. Front opening: both fronts with their CENTRE FRONT line on the same vertical check line, so the checks run on unbroken across the lap when buttoned. Then put each side-seam notch of the front and of the back on the same horizontal check line (Patterns Scissors Cloth: centre front and back first, 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. Each seam step below names its notches piece by piece, with the distance along the edge.

This pattern also carries LINES DRAWN ON THE PIECE (not cut, not sewn): trace them onto the fabric with tailor's chalk before you unpin the paper. Each one is listed with the piece it belongs to and what it is for.

- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTON 1 (placement): LEFT FRONT ONLY (the under layer): button position 1 of 8: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.
- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTONHOLE 1 (buttonhole): RIGHT FRONT ONLY (the top layer): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars. Leave it unmarked on the left front.
- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTON 2 (placement): LEFT FRONT ONLY (the under layer): button position 2 of 8: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.
- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTONHOLE 2 (buttonhole): RIGHT FRONT ONLY (the top layer): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars. Leave it unmarked on the left front.
- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTON 3 (placement): LEFT FRONT ONLY (the under layer): button position 3 of 8: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.
- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTONHOLE 3 (buttonhole): RIGHT FRONT ONLY (the top layer): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars. Leave it unmarked on the left front.
- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTON 4 (placement): LEFT FRONT ONLY (the under layer): button position 4 of 8: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.
- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTONHOLE 4 (buttonhole): RIGHT FRONT ONLY (the top layer): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars. Leave it unmarked on the left front.
- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTON 5 (placement): LEFT FRONT ONLY (the under layer): button position 5 of 8: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.
- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTONHOLE 5 (buttonhole): RIGHT FRONT ONLY (the top layer): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars. Leave it unmarked on the left front.
- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTON 6 (placement): LEFT FRONT ONLY (the under layer): button position 6 of 8: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.
- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTONHOLE 6 (buttonhole): RIGHT FRONT ONLY (the top layer): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars. Leave it unmarked on the left front.
- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTON 7 (placement): LEFT FRONT ONLY (the under layer): button position 7 of 8: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.
- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTONHOLE 7 (buttonhole): RIGHT FRONT ONLY (the top layer): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars. Leave it unmarked on the left front.
- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTON 8 (placement): LEFT FRONT ONLY (the under layer): button position 8 of 8: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.

- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTONHOLE 8 (buttonhole): RIGHT FRONT ONLY (the top layer): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars. Leave it unmarked on the left front.

2b. Staystitching

Before any seam is sewn, staystitch every edge that will be faced (NECK, ARMHOLE): a regular straight stitch 4 mm from the raw edge, inside the 6 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).

Before step 1, while each FRONT is still flat: interface its facing and neaten the facing edge (section 3b, step 1). The facing's neck end waits for the neck tape (section 3c).

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. Bound edges, hem turns and fold lines need nothing extra.

1. FRONT CENTRE <-> BACK CENTRE (SHOULDER) - plain seam, 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

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

2. FRONT CENTRE <-> FRONT SIDE (FRONT PRINCESS SEAM) - plain seam, 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

PRINCESS SEAM THROUGH THE DART: the bodice dart is sewn as part of this seam, there is no separate dart. On both pieces the stitching line is one smooth curve through the dart point and the waist; match the notches, do not straighten the curve.

BUST SHAPING IN THIS SEAM (armhole princess: the bust dart lives in the seam): FRONT CENTRE is cut 49 mm longer above the bust line at the princess and armhole (the centre front keeps the body's length, so the neckline dips deeper at the centre front on the paper than when worn). The two edges curve differently over the bust: FRONT CENTRE's edge curves in (concave), FRONT SIDE's edge curves out over the bust (convex), notched on both pieces at the point nearest the bust point (29 mm from it). FRONT SIDE's outward curve is 5.0 mm longer (the ease below). On FRONT CENTRE, staystitch 2 mm inside the stitching line through the inward curve, then clip the allowance to the staystitching every 10-15 mm along the curve so it spreads. With FRONT CENTRE on top, pin the bust notches together first, then the armhole ends, then the lower ends and between, and sew slowly through the curve easing FRONT SIDE in between the notches. On FRONT SIDE, cut small V notches out of the allowance where it bunches on the outward curve. Press the allowances open over a tailor's ham (or a rolled towel), not flat on the board.

SLIT AT THE HEM: the 42 mm at the hem end stays open; sew down to the notch on this edge and backstitch. Press the seam open and press both slit allowances under along the seam line down to the hem. When you hem, turn the hem up first, then fold the slit allowances back over it (mitre the corner), and topstitch around the slit 6 mm from its edges, across the top of the slit.

EASE, stretch by stretch (notches counted from the lower end): the FRONT SIDE is 3.1 mm longer between notches 3 and 4; the FRONT SIDE is 2.0 mm longer from notch 4 to the upper end; elsewhere the two edges are the same length (within 1 mm). Pin the notches together first, then ease the longer piece in within its stretch, with no tucks; sew with the FRONT SIDE underneath.

notches - FRONT CENTRE princess edge (777 mm seam): single notch at 42 mm, single notch at 483 mm, single notch at 639 mm, single notch at 724 mm from its lower end (735 mm, 293 mm, 137 mm, 53 mm from its upper end); FRONT SIDE princess edge (782 mm seam): single notch at 55 mm, single notch at 143 mm, single notch at 299 mm, single notch at 740 mm from its upper end (727 mm, 639 mm, 483 mm, 42 mm from its lower end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

3. BACK CENTRE <-> BACK SIDE (BACK PRINCESS SEAM) - plain seam, 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

PRINCESS SEAM THROUGH THE DART: the bodice dart is sewn as part of this seam, there is no separate dart. On both pieces the stitching line is one smooth curve through the dart point and the waist; match the notches, do not straighten the curve.

EASE, stretch by stretch (notches counted from the lower end): the BACK CENTRE is 2.7 mm longer from the lower end to notch 1; the BACK SIDE is 1.9 mm longer between notches 1 and 2; elsewhere the two edges are the same length (within 1 mm). Pin the notches together first, then ease the longer piece in within its stretch, with no tucks.

notches - BACK CENTRE princess edge (745 mm seam): double notch at 469 mm, double notch at 689 mm from its lower end (276 mm, 55 mm from its upper end); BACK SIDE princess edge (744 mm seam): double notch at 55 mm, double notch at 277 mm from its upper

end (689 mm, 466 mm from its lower 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 4 seams each close a ring - sew them after the flat work above, in this order.

4. FRONT CENTRE <-> FRONT CENTRE (FRONT CENTRE) - BUTTONED OPENING, NOT SEWN: the right front laps over the left front, centre front lines on top of each other, and the buttons close it. Prepare both front edges before step 1 and sew the buttonholes and buttons last (section 3b).

Steps 5-7 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.

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

skirt side seam: skirt edge <-> skirt edge, waist <-> waist

FRONT SIDE: the small tick on its side edge is where the SKIRT SIDE SEAM hands over to the BODICE SIDE SEAM (the next 194 mm); sew on through it.

BACK SIDE: the small tick on its side edge is where the SKIRT SIDE SEAM hands over to the BODICE SIDE SEAM (the next 194 mm); sew on through it.

notches - **FRONT SIDE** side edge (461 mm seam): single notch at 230 mm from its lower end (230 mm from its upper end); **BACK SIDE** side edge (461 mm seam): single notch at 230 mm from its lower end (230 mm from its upper end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

6. FRONT SIDE <-> BACK SIDE (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

FRONT SIDE: the small tick on its side edge is where the BODICE SIDE SEAM hands over to the UNDERARM SIDE SEAM (the next 5 mm); sew on through it.

BACK SIDE: the small tick on its side edge is where the BODICE SIDE SEAM hands over to the UNDERARM SIDE SEAM (the next 5 mm); sew on through it.

notches - **FRONT SIDE** side edge (194 mm seam): single notch at 97 mm from its lower end (97 mm from its upper end); **BACK SIDE** side edge (194 mm seam): single notch at 97 mm from its lower end (97 mm from its upper end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

7. FRONT SIDE <-> BACK SIDE (UNDERARM SIDE SEAM) - continues the step above in the same pass. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

the top of the side seam: carry the BODICE SIDE SEAM straight through this short edge in the same pass, then stop where the armhole curve begins

3b. Front opening (buttoned lap)

Each **FRONT** is cut with an extension 22 mm past its **CENTRE FRONT** line and a facing 69 mm wide beyond the **FOLD - FACING** line, all in one piece. Mark the **CENTRE FRONT** line and the fold line on both fronts (tailor's chalk or a thread tracing): the lap is set by them.

1) **Interfacing:** fuse a lightweight fusible interfacing to the wrong side of each facing, 69 mm wide from the fold line to the facing's long edge, 821 mm long from the neck edge down to the hem fold line, its edge exactly on the fold line; trim its top along the facing's neck edge (the facing's top follows the neckline, it is not square). Neaten the facing's long raw edge (overlock or zigzag).

2) **Neck end of the facing:** leave it unstitched for now. It is stitched in one pass with the neck tape after the shoulder seams (section 3c, **NECK**), so that the tape's end lies between the front and the facing and is hidden when the facing turns inside.

3) **Lower end, before the hem:** unfold the facing and fold it back onto the right side along the fold line, right sides together. Stitch straight across the facing 30 mm above the raw hem edge (the finished hem line), from the fold to the facing's edge. Trim the corner, turn the facing to the inside, push the corner out and press; then hem the rest of the edge up to the facing (section 3c).

4) **Buttonholes in the RIGHT FRONT only** (the top layer: worn on your right, it laps over to your left): 8 horizontal buttonholes, 25 mm, on the **BUTTONHOLE** marks of the extension, through the front and its interfaced facing. Sew one on a scrap of the same layers first; cut each open from the ends towards the middle.

5) **Buttons on the LEFT FRONT only:** lap the right front over it, centre front lines on top of each other; the lap's neck edge is

cut as the other front's neckline, so it lies exactly on the left front's neck edge. Check that each BUTTON mark shows through the outer end of its buttonhole. Sew the 8 buttons (22 mm) on the BUTTON marks, through the front and its facing, with a thread shank as tall as the right front's layers are thick.

6) Below the last button the fronts stay apart: the lap hangs free to the hem, each front finished on its own.

3c. Complete edge finishes

NECK: one, finished edge 562 mm. Design assumption, not a measured source detail.

Use ready-made single-fold bias tape, 12 mm wide (25 mm unfolded), in a colour that matches the cloth: it turns fully to the inside and is not seen from outside. Cut 445 mm for one edge: the edge between the two front facings' long edges + 10 mm under each facing. This is a purchased notion, not included in the cloth layout.

The cutting pattern includes 6 mm seam allowance on this edge. Sew this after the shoulder seams; the front facings' neck ends are stitched in the same pass (section 3b, step 2). Unfold one long edge of the tape. At each front, fold the facing back onto the right side along the fold line, right sides together, and slip the tape's end between the front and the facing, raw edges together, reaching 10 mm past the facing's long edge towards the fold (layers from the bottom: front, tape end, folded facing; the facing's top edge is the neck's mirror, so all raw edges lie together). Lay the rest of the tape on the right side of the neck, raw edges together, to the other front, and stitch from fold to fold, 6 mm from the edge (along the tape's crease), through every layer. Trim the facing corners, turn each facing to the inside, push the corners out and press: the facing now covers the tape's ends. Between the facings, trim the allowance to 3 mm and clip inward curves every 10 mm up to the stitching (not through it). Press tape and allowance away from the garment and understitch them together 2 mm from the seam, from facing to facing. Turn the tape fully to the inside, rolling the seam 1 mm inward so it cannot be seen, and press. Topstitch from the right side 10 mm from the finished edge, catching the tape's folded edge (Megan Nielsen, bias facing).

ARMHOLE: each of 2, finished edge 361 mm. Design assumption, not a measured source detail.

Use ready-made single-fold bias tape, 12 mm wide (25 mm unfolded), in a colour that matches the cloth: it turns fully to the inside and is not seen from outside. Cut 391 mm for each of 2 edges: measured length + 10 mm folded under at the start + 20 mm overlap where the ends meet. This is a purchased notion, not included in the cloth layout.

The cutting pattern includes 6 mm seam allowance on this edge. Start at the side seam: fold the first end under 10 mm and let the other end overlap it 20 mm. Unfold one long edge of the tape and lay it on the right side of the edge, raw edges together; stitch along the tape's crease, 6 mm from the edge. Trim the allowance to 3 mm and clip inward curves every 10 mm up to the stitching (not through it). Press tape and allowance away from the garment and understitch them together 2 mm from the seam. Turn the tape fully to the inside, rolling the seam 1 mm inward so it cannot be seen, and press. Topstitch from the right side 10 mm from the finished edge, catching the tape's folded edge (Megan Nielsen, bias facing).

HEM: one, finished edge 1156 mm. 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. This hem curves where it meets the flared seams, so the turned-up allowance is about 25 mm longer in all than the line it is stitched to (up to 5 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.

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.