

Navy gingham off-centre button mini - sewing instructions

EU 36 . 8 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 74.3 cm from the neck edge to the hem, centre back 74.3 cm. The hem sits 38.9 cm below the waist, 19.1 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. 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 1X RIGHT SIDE UP
- #2 FRONT SIDE (LEFT): CUT 1X RIGHT SIDE UP
- #3 FRONT SIDE (RIGHT): CUT 1X RIGHT SIDE UP
- #4 BACK CENTRE: CUT 1X ON FOLD
- #5 BACK SIDE: CUT 2X MIRRORED
- #6 SLEEVE: CUT 2X MIRRORED

- #7 FRONT CENTRE FACING: CUT 1X FACE DOWN

- #8 FRONT SIDE FACING (LEFT): CUT 1X FACE DOWN

RIGHT SIDE UP: lay the paper printed side up on the RIGHT side of the cloth, single layer, and cut once; this piece is not symmetric, a copy cut the other way round belongs to the other side. FACE DOWN: lay the paper printed side DOWN on the right side of the cloth (a facing is laid face down on its extension, so it is cut as its mirror).

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.

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 / BUTTONHOLE 1 (buttonhole): on the extension past FRONT CENTRE's LEFT princess line (the top layer of the opening; worn on your left): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars, its outer end 3 mm past the princess line. None on the other side.

- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTONHOLE 2 (buttonhole): on the extension past FRONT CENTRE's LEFT princess line (the top layer of the opening; worn on your left): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars, its outer end 3 mm past the princess line. None on the other side.

- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTONHOLE 3 (buttonhole): on the extension past FRONT CENTRE's LEFT princess line (the top layer of the opening; worn on your left): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars, its outer end 3 mm past the princess line. None on the other side.

- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTONHOLE 4 (buttonhole): on the extension past FRONT CENTRE's LEFT princess line (the top layer of the opening; worn on your left): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars, its outer end 3 mm past the princess line. None on the other side.

- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTONHOLE 5 (buttonhole): on the extension past FRONT CENTRE's LEFT princess line (the top layer of the opening; worn on your left): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars, its outer end 3 mm past the princess line. None on the other side.

- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTONHOLE 6 (buttonhole): on the extension past FRONT CENTRE's LEFT princess line (the top layer of the opening; worn on your left): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars, its outer end 3 mm past the princess line. None on the other side.

- FRONT CENTRE / BUTTONHOLE 7 (buttonhole): on the extension past FRONT CENTRE's LEFT princess line (the top layer of the opening; worn on your left): a horizontal buttonhole 25 mm long, between the two end bars, its outer end 3 mm past the princess line. None on the other side.

- FRONT CENTRE / SNAP 1 (BALL) (placement): hidden sew-on snap, 10 mm, ball half: on the WRONG side, stitched through the facing only (never through to the right side), centred on this mark.

- FRONT SIDE (LEFT) / BUTTON 1 (placement): on the princess line (the under layer of the opening; worn on your left):

button position 1 of 7: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.

- FRONT SIDE (LEFT) / BUTTON 2 (placement): on the princess line (the under layer of the opening; worn on your left):

button position 2 of 7: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.

- FRONT SIDE (LEFT) / BUTTON 3 (placement): on the princess line (the under layer of the opening; worn on your left):

button position 3 of 7: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.

- FRONT SIDE (LEFT) / BUTTON 4 (placement): on the princess line (the under layer of the opening; worn on your left):

button position 4 of 7: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.

- FRONT SIDE (LEFT) / BUTTON 5 (placement): on the princess line (the under layer of the opening; worn on your left):

button position 5 of 7: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.

- FRONT SIDE (LEFT) / BUTTON 6 (placement): on the princess line (the under layer of the opening; worn on your left):

button position 6 of 7: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.

- FRONT SIDE (LEFT) / BUTTON 7 (placement): on the princess line (the under layer of the opening; worn on your left):

button position 7 of 7: sew a 22 mm button with its centre on this mark.

- FRONT SIDE (LEFT) / SNAP 1 (SOCKET) (placement): hidden sew-on snap, 10 mm, socket half: on the right side, centred on this mark on the princess line; it closes the opening at the bust level between two buttons.

2b. Staystitching

Before any seam is sewn, staystitch every edge that will be faced (NECK, SLEEVE HEM): 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).

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

YOUR RIGHT SIDE ONLY: sew FRONT CENTRE's right princess edge to FRONT SIDE (RIGHT). On your left the same line is the buttoned opening: FRONT CENTRE's extension laps over FRONT SIDE (LEFT)'s and the buttons close it; it is never sewn (section 3b prepares both edges before this step).

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 (neck princess: the bust dart lives in the seam): FRONT CENTRE is cut 49 mm longer above the bust line at the princess and neck (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 (RIGHT)'s edge curves out over the bust (convex), notched on both pieces at the point nearest the bust point (26 mm from it). They are the same length. 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 neck ends, then the lower ends and between, and sew slowly through the curve without easing. On FRONT SIDE (RIGHT), 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. The two edges differ by 0.7 mm in all and by less than 1 mm between any two notches: match the notches, no easing needed.

notches - FRONT CENTRE princess edge (789 mm seam): single notch at 91 mm, single notch at 208 mm, single notch at 373 mm from its upper end (698 mm, 581 mm, 416 mm from its lower end); FRONT SIDE (RIGHT) princess edge (790 mm seam): single notch at 415 mm, single notch at 581 mm, single notch at 698 mm from its lower end (374 mm, 209 mm, 92 mm from its upper end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

2. 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 1.9 mm longer from the lower end to notch 1; 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 BACK CENTRE underneath.

notches - BACK CENTRE princess edge (777 mm seam): double notch at 392 mm, double notch at 668 mm from its lower end (385 mm, 109 mm from its upper end); BACK SIDE princess edge (775 mm seam): double notch at 109 mm, double notch at 385 mm from its upper end (666 mm, 390 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.

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

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

FRONT SIDE: stop this seam at the small tick on its shoulder edge; past the tick the edge is free (finished, not sewn to another piece).

notches - FRONT SIDE (LEFT) shoulder edge (60 mm seam): single notch at 30 mm from its outer end (30 mm from its centre-line end); the notch at 30 mm goes to the BACK PRINCESS SEAM seam line (no partner tick); FRONT SIDE (RIGHT) shoulder edge (60 mm seam): single notch at 30 mm from its centre-line end (30 mm from its outer end); the notch at 30 mm goes to the BACK PRINCESS SEAM seam line (no partner tick). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

4. SLEEVE <-> BACK SIDE + FRONT SIDE (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 (woven 3-5%)

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

notches - SLEEVE front sleeve cap edge (201 mm of this piece's 393 mm seam): single notch at 103 mm from its centre-line end; SLEEVE back sleeve cap edge (192 mm of this piece's 393 mm seam): double notch at 98 mm, single notch at 192 mm from its outer end; the notch at 192 mm goes to the SHOULDER seam line (no partner tick); BACK SIDE armhole edge (185 mm seam): double notch at 94 mm from its lower end (90 mm from its upper end); FRONT SIDE (LEFT) armhole edge (193 mm seam): single notch at 94 mm from its lower end (99 mm from its upper end); FRONT SIDE (RIGHT) armhole edge (193 mm seam): single notch at 99 mm from its upper end (94 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 3 seams each close a ring - sew them after the flat work above, in this order.

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. 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 (LEFT) side edge (390 mm seam): single notch at 195 mm from its lower end (195 mm from its upper end); FRONT SIDE (RIGHT) side edge (390 mm seam): single notch at 195 mm from its upper end (195 mm from its lower end); BACK SIDE side edge (390 mm seam): single notch at 195 mm from its lower end (195 mm from its upper end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

7. 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

notches - FRONT SIDE (LEFT) side edge (194 mm seam): single notch at 97 mm from its lower end (97 mm from its upper end); FRONT SIDE (RIGHT) side edge (194 mm seam): single notch at 97 mm from its upper end (97 mm from its lower 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.

3b. Left princess opening (buttoned)

Your LEFT princess is the opening; your right princess is an ordinary seam (step 1). FRONT CENTRE is cut in one piece with an extension 17 mm past its left princess line; FRONT SIDE (LEFT) is cut with an under-lap 17 mm past its princess line. Each extension edge is finished with its own facing, FRONT CENTRE FACING and FRONT SIDE FACING (LEFT), 55 mm wide. The dotted line along the opening on both pieces is the princess line: chalk it (or thread-trace it) on the right side; the lap is set by it. Do steps 1-4 before the sewing order above, with the pieces flat.

- 1) Interfacing: fuse a lightweight fusible interfacing to the wrong side of FRONT CENTRE FACING and FRONT SIDE FACING (LEFT), cut with the same pattern pieces. Neaten each facing's long inner edge (overlock or zigzag).
- 2) Facings on: lay FRONT CENTRE FACING on FRONT CENTRE's extension and FRONT SIDE FACING (LEFT) on FRONT SIDE (LEFT)'s under-lap, right sides together, extension edges level. Stitch each extension edge 10 mm from the edge, from the neck stitching line down to the hem line (30 mm above the raw hem edge); pivot there and stitch straight across the facing on the hem line to its inner edge. Trim the allowances to 5 mm and the lower corner on the diagonal, understitch facing and allowances together 2 mm from the seam (down to 20 mm above the hem line), turn the facing to the inside, push the corner out and press, rolling the seam 1 mm to the inside. Leave the facing's neck end free.
- 3) Neck end: the facings' neck ends are stitched together with the neck tape after the shoulder seams (section 3c, NECK): the tape's ends go under the facings, so they are hidden when the facings turn inside. FRONT SIDE FACING (LEFT) runs 19 mm along the shoulder past the neck point: keep that shoulder edge FREE when you sew the shoulder seam (step 3), fold the facing out of the way, so it can still be turned back for the neck stitching. After the neck (section 3c), turn the facing inside, fold its shoulder edge under along the shoulder stitching line and slipstitch it by hand to the shoulder seam allowance.
- 4) Buttonholes in FRONT CENTRE only (the top layer; worn on your left, its extension laps over FRONT SIDE (LEFT)): 7 horizontal buttonholes, 25 mm, on the BUTTONHOLE marks, through the piece 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 last, after the hem: lap FRONT CENTRE over FRONT SIDE (LEFT) (its extension lies on FRONT SIDE (LEFT), which carries the under-lap beneath), the two princess lines on top of each other, neck edges and hem edges level. Check that each BUTTON mark shows through the outer end of its buttonhole. Sew the 7 buttons (22 mm) on the BUTTON marks of FRONT SIDE (LEFT), through the piece and its facing, with a thread shank as tall as FRONT CENTRE's layers are thick.
- 6) Hidden snap at the bust level (1, 10 mm): the bust shaping lies in this unsewn line, between two buttons it would part. Sew the socket half on FRONT SIDE (LEFT)'s SNAP mark (on the princess line), the ball half on the wrong side of FRONT CENTRE's facing at its SNAP mark, through the facing only, so nothing shows on the right side.
- 7) Below the last button the two extensions overlap and hang free to the hem, each finished on its own.

3c. Complete edge finishes

NECK: one, finished edge 545 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 467 mm for one edge: the neck between the two opening facings + 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 opening facings' neck ends are stitched in the same pass (section 3b, step 3). Unfold one long edge of the tape. At each side of the opening, turn the facing back out onto the right side along its stitched extension edge, right sides together, and slip the tape's end between the piece and the facing, raw edges together, reaching 10 mm past the facing's inner edge towards the opening (layers from the bottom: piece, tape end, facing; the facing's top is cut along the piece's neck, so all raw edges lie together). FRONT SIDE FACING (LEFT) covers the whole neck of FRONT SIDE (LEFT) and runs onto the shoulder: first press its shoulder allowance to its wrong side along the shoulder stitching line (clip it at the neck corner) so it stays clear of the back neck; on that side the tape's end goes 10 mm past the shoulder seam, under the facing. Lay the rest of the tape on the right side of the neck, raw edges together, round to the other side of the opening, and stitch from extension edge to extension edge, 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).

SLEEVE HEM: each of 2, finished edge 311 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 341 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 underarm 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 950 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. Distribute any extra length evenly without pleats; test the hem turn on the toile before cutting the final fabric. At the buttoned opening the hem stops at the two facings: their lower ends were stitched across on the hem line in section 3b; turn the hem up to them and slipstitch the facing edge to the hem.

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.