

Yellow and lilac plaid belted 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 72.6 cm from the neck edge to the hem, centre back 77.2 cm. The hem sits 40.6 cm below the waist, 17.4 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.

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 plain back and a centre-back seam, cut to match the front, with a centre-back closure.

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 LOWER SKIRT: CUT 1X ON FOLD
- #2 FRONT CENTRE BODICE: CUT 1X ON FOLD
- #3 FRONT SIDE BODICE: CUT 2X MIRRORED
- #4 BACK LOWER SKIRT: CUT 2X MIRRORED
- #5 BACK LONG BODICE: CUT 2X MIRRORED
- #6 FRONT STRIP: CUT 2X MIRRORED

- #7 BACK STRIP: CUT 2X MIRRORED

- #8 REMOVABLE BELT: CUT 1X, GRAIN AS ARROW

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 (Patterns Scissors Cloth: centre front and back first, then side seams). Buy extra cloth for this (see the cutting layout).

REMOVABLE BELT: its grain arrow is turned 90 degrees from the piece's centre line, so the checks follow its front edge (as in the photograph): lay the arrow exactly along one line of checks, and cut the second copy of each pair with the paper turned over on the same line. Its checks are not matched to the bodice.

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. Darts (the triangular wedges) are traced with a tailor's pencil, points included.

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 BODICE / FRONT STRIP PLACEMENT (placement): the outer edge and lower end of FRONT STRIP; the fold of FRONT CENTRE BODICE is its centre line. Chalk it on the right side; section 3b stitches the strip along it.

FRONT CENTRE BODICE is not cut here.

- FRONT CENTRE BODICE / PLACEMENT LINE 1 (placement): Purchased ring hardware: outer diameter 61 mm, inner diameter 44 mm; centre from the declared hardware points. Transfer placement only; no buttonhole and no fabric cut.

- BACK LONG BODICE / BACK STRIP PLACEMENT (placement): the outer edge and lower end of BACK STRIP; the fold of BACK LONG BODICE is its centre line. Chalk it on the right side; section 3b stitches the strip along it. BACK LONG BODICE is not cut here.

- REMOVABLE BELT / PLACEMENT LINE 1 (placement): FOLD LENGTHWISE: internal fold after cutting the full doubled width; sew opposing long edges and close ends, leaving a turning opening.

- REMOVABLE BELT / PLACEMENT LINE 2 (placement): RING RETURN; design estimate: Photo ring x 204-273 / y 467-532 px (70 x 66 px), band ~11 px; at the bust scale 0.872 mm/px outer 61 mm, inner ~42 mm. Inner taken 44 mm so the 40 mm strip passes (drawn ring band halkaEnMM $8.5 = (61 - 44) / 2$, the drawer checks cap - $2 \times \text{band} = \text{icCapMM}$); dark tortoiseshell #423024 sampled. Locking hook-and-bar is a proposed construction (as 16).

- REMOVABLE BELT / PLACEMENT LINE 3 (placement): HOOK AND BAR: fit over garment before final attachment; design estimate: Photo ring x 204-273 / y 467-532 px (70 x 66 px), band ~11 px; at the bust scale 0.872 mm/px outer 61 mm, inner ~42 mm. Inner taken 44 mm so the 40 mm strip passes (drawn ring band halkaEnMM $8.5 = (61 - 44) / 2$, the drawer checks cap - $2 \times \text{band} = \text{icCapMM}$); dark tortoiseshell #423024 sampled. Locking hook-and-bar is a proposed construction (as 16).

2b. Staystitching

Before any seam is sewn, staystitch every edge that will be bound or faced (NECK, ARMHOLE): 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, the zip 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 FRONT CENTRE BODICE is still flat: stitch FRONT STRIP onto it (section 3b).

Before step 1, while BACK LONG BODICE is still flat: stitch BACK STRIP onto it (section 3b).

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. DARTS - sew every dart before any seam that crosses it. Fold the piece right sides together so the two drawn legs lie exactly on top of each other, stitch from the wide end to the point, run the last 10 mm along the fold and tie the threads at the point (no backstitch there).

BACK LONG BODICE: 2 x fish-eye (double-pointed) waist dart on the garment - press toward the centre; clip the fold at the waist so it lies flat.

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

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

3. BACK LOWER SKIRT <-> BACK LONG BODICE (BACK LOW WAIST SEAM) - plain seam, 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

notches - BACK LOWER SKIRT joint edge (218 mm seam): double notch at 109 mm from its outer end (109 mm from its centre-line end); BACK LONG BODICE joint edge (218 mm seam): double notch at 109 mm from its centre-line end (109 mm from its outer end). Match the single ticks to the single ticks and the double ticks to the double ticks; the two sides line up there.

4. FRONT CENTRE BODICE <-> FRONT SIDE BODICE (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.

EASE, stretch by stretch (notches counted from the lower end): the FRONT SIDE BODICE is 1.6 mm longer from the lower end to notch 1; the FRONT CENTRE BODICE is 1.5 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 - FRONT CENTRE BODICE princess edge (418 mm seam): single notch at 152 mm, single notch at 376 mm from its lower end (267 mm, 42 mm from its upper end); FRONT SIDE BODICE princess edge (418 mm seam): single notch at 42 mm, single notch at 265 mm from its upper end (376 mm, 153 mm from its lower end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

5. FRONT LOWER SKIRT <-> FRONT CENTRE BODICE + FRONT SIDE BODICE (FRONT LOW WAIST SEAM) - PLEATED SEAM: the pleats are folded first (below), 10 mm allowance.

PLEATS IN THIS SEAM, folded first: on FRONT LOWER SKIRT's top edge, near the side seam, 1 inverted box pleats 14 mm deep (the first 100 mm from the side seam line, 0 mm apart on the finished seam). Follow the two opposing fold arrows for each pleat: bring the outer fold lines inward to the centre placement line, keeping both underfold marks inside, pin and machine-baste across them 6 mm from the edge: the edge now matches the other piece's. Sew the seam with FRONT LOWER SKIRT underneath, finish the two allowances together and press them up, away from the skirt; do not press the pleats below the seam: they open into the skirt.

notches - FRONT LOWER SKIRT joint edge (274 mm seam): single notch at 165 mm from its outer end (109 mm from its centre-line end); FRONT CENTRE BODICE joint edge (109 mm seam): single notch at 109 mm from its centre-line end (0 mm from its outer end). Match the 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.

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

back centre zip (bodice): the garment opens here

ZIP OPENING: along the whole seam (366 mm); machine-baste the opening shut on the seam line, neaten both allowances and press the seam open. Prepare the remaining zip openings before inserting the single zip in the final zip step.

BACK LONG BODICE: stop this seam at the small tick on its centre back edge, where the BACK CENTRE SKIRT seam takes over (the next 142 mm of this piece's edge are the BACK CENTRE SKIRT seam); the edge runs on straight past it, so the tick is the only mark.

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

back centre zip (skirt)

ZIP OPENING: from 0% to 35% of its length (142 mm); sew the other 264 mm of this seam with a normal stitch, backstitching at the zip stop, machine-baste the opening shut on the seam line, neaten both allowances and press the seam open. Put the zip in over the basting now, as section 3b describes, before the side seams are closed.

BACK LONG BODICE: this seam starts at the small tick on its centre back edge, where the BACK CENTRE BODICE seam ends; the edge runs on straight past it, so the tick is the only mark. Match the other piece's start of this seam to the tick.

notches - BACK LONG BODICE centre back edge (142 mm seam): double notch at 139 mm from its upper end (3 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.

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

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

FRONT SIDE BODICE: this seam starts at the small tick on its side edge, where the SKIRT SIDE SEAM ends; the edge runs on straight past it, so the tick is the only mark. Match the other piece's start of this seam to the tick.

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

BACK LONG BODICE: this seam starts at the small tick on its side edge, where the SKIRT SIDE SEAM ends; the edge runs on straight past it, so the tick is the only mark. Match the other piece's start of this seam to the tick.

BACK LONG BODICE: stop this seam at the small tick on its side edge; past the tick the edge is free (finished, not sewn to another piece).

notches - FRONT SIDE BODICE side edge (194 mm seam): single notch at 97 mm from its lower end (97 mm from its upper end); BACK LONG BODICE side edge (193 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.

9. FRONT LOWER SKIRT + FRONT SIDE BODICE <-> BACK LOWER SKIRT + BACK LONG BODICE (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 BODICE: stop this seam at the small tick on its side edge, where the BODICE SIDE SEAM takes over (the next 194 mm of this piece's edge are the BODICE SIDE SEAM); the edge runs on straight past it, so the tick is the only mark.

BACK LONG BODICE: stop this seam at the small tick on its side edge, where the BODICE SIDE SEAM takes over (the next 193 mm of this piece's edge are the BODICE SIDE SEAM); the edge runs on straight past it, so the tick is the only mark.

notches - FRONT LOWER SKIRT side edge (267 mm seam): single notch at 206 mm from its lower end (61 mm from its upper end);

BACK LOWER SKIRT side edge (267 mm seam): single notch at 206 mm from its lower end (61 mm from its upper end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

3b. Zip and pieces sewn onto the surface

Zip: a centred zip, as the views show - the opening is 508 mm; buy a 55 cm zip. It is longer than the opening: put it in with its top stop at the neck as below; at the opening's lower end whip-stitch a new stop by hand across the teeth (8-10 stitches) and cut the zip 20 mm below it. With the zip opening machine-basted shut on the seam line, neaten and pressed open (steps above), lay the zip face down on the allowances, teeth centred on the seam, top stop 13 mm below the raw neck edge so it clears the neck seam. From the right side stitch 6.5 mm either side of the seam and straight across just below the stop, then unpick the basting. Put it in before the seams that cross its lower end are closed, then finish the neck edge over the tape ends.

- FRONT STRIP (sewn onto FRONT CENTRE BODICE): Make 2 loop strips. Press the seam allowances to the wrong side; edgestitch the long edges of each strip to itself. Place it on its garment marks and tack across ONLY the two short ends, 5 mm inside each end. Keep the centre free: REMOVABLE BELT must slide through it. Check the clear opening over the finished strip before securing the second end.

- BACK STRIP (sewn onto BACK LONG BODICE): Make 2 loop strips. Press the seam allowances to the wrong side; edgestitch the long edges of each strip to itself. Place it on its garment marks and tack across ONLY the two short ends, 5

mm inside each end. Keep the centre free: REMOVABLE BELT must slide through it. Check the clear opening over the finished strip before securing the second end.

Removable strips and hardware

REMOVABLE BELT: cut ONE complete doubled-width piece, not on a fabric fold. The pattern includes 10 mm seam allowances. Finished width 40 mm. Fold along the LENGTHWISE FOLD mark, right sides together; sew the long edges and both ends, leaving a turning gap in the long seam. Trim corners, turn, press and close the gap. Thread through FRONT STRIP, BACK STRIP; do not sew the strip onto the dress.

Hardware: one purchased ring, outer diameter 61 mm, clear opening 44 mm, plus one concealed hook-and-bar set. Take the 50 mm return end through the ring, fold it back at RING RETURN and stitch the return securely to the strip only. Pass the other end through the ring. Try on over the finished garment; use HOOK AND BAR as the initial closure station, then adjust and sew the concealed fastener inside to hold the fitted circumference. The 180 mm extra tail remains beyond that station. A plain ring alone is not the closure. Photo ring x 204-273 / y 467-532 px (70 x 66 px), band ~11 px; at the bust scale 0.872 mm/px outer 61 mm, inner ~42 mm. Inner taken 44 mm so the 40 mm strip passes (drawn ring band halkaEnMM $8.5 = (61 - 44) / 2$, the drawer checks cap - $2 \times \text{band} = \text{icCapMM}$); dark tortoiseshell #423024 sampled. Locking hook-and-bar is a proposed construction (as 16).

Length drafting: $0.3 \times \text{waist circumference} + 0.7 \times \text{hip circumference} + 20 \text{ mm ease} + 50 \text{ mm return} + 180 \text{ mm tail}$. This interpolation is a design estimate; check it over the garment before cutting final fabric.

3c. Edges that are finished, not sewn

These run right round the garment but meet no other piece, so they appear in no step above. Each one is a raw edge until you finish it - bind it with bias strip or turn it back on a facing. The length given is the finished garment measurement, so cut binding to it plus overlap.

NECK - 401 mm round, across BACK LONG BODICE + FRONT CENTRE BODICE. Finish after the seams that form it are sewn and pressed.

ARMHOLE - 489 mm round (each side), across FRONT SIDE BODICE + FRONT CENTRE BODICE + BACK LONG BODICE. Finish after the seams that form it are sewn and pressed.

HEM - 1219 mm round, across FRONT LOWER SKIRT + BACK LOWER SKIRT. Finish after the seams that form it are sewn and pressed.

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.