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DESIGNS  
LONDON

### What you need:

1.2 metres of Fabric for a Top  
2 metres of fabric for a Dress (and an extra 15 cms if you wish to make a self-tie belt)  
Thread  
Dressmaker's Pins

NOTE: This pattern works best with an Overlocker (Sergers).

### Prepare the Pattern Pieces

Print the pattern *twice* using a standard home printer. Make sure to print at actual size, and do not allow your printer to scale the pages to fit.

Piece all the pages together, matching all the corner squares. Trim away the excess paper from the margins, and tape or glue together.

Cut out the pattern pieces from your paper pattern, following the Front neckline on one, and the Back neckline on the second.

Alternatively, trace the pattern onto tracing paper, once for the Front Piece and once for the Back piece, and cut out the pattern from there.

NOTE: If you are making a dress, add another 3 cms in length for finishing the hem.

### Adjusting your Pattern to Fit

If you are making a dress, or wish to make the top longer, you will need to lengthen the pattern from the double line labelled 'Lengthen here'. You can use some tracing paper to trace a second pattern, or pin

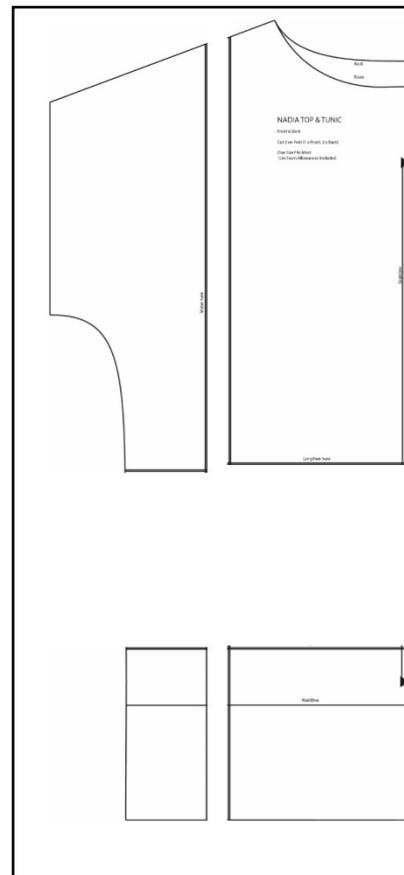
the pattern straight onto the fabric, with gaps between the pieces

Cut the Front and Back pattern piece horizontally through this line.

Measure desired length from your shoulder to your knee.

Pin the top of the pattern piece onto your fabric or tracing paper to hold it in place, then lay your measuring tape on top of the pattern and fabric /tracing paper from the shoulder seam straight down the straight grain.

Place the hem of the bottom fabric piece to your desired length, and pin in place.



If you wish to make the pattern wider to go up a size or two, or to make a more boxy shape, you will need to widen the pattern in the same way.

Cut through the double line labelled 'Widen here', and spread the pattern across the width of the fabric/tracing paper to your desired width.

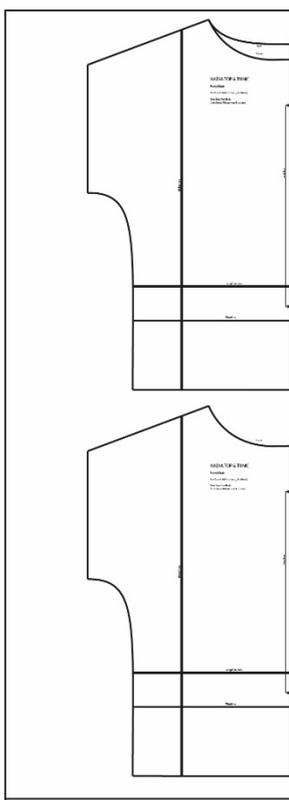
NOTE: If making a dress, ensure the adjusted width is slightly larger than your hip measurement.

NOTE: You cannot make the pattern wider than the width of your fabric, so make sure you are using fabric with a minimum 140 cm width to do this.

### Pattern Layout - Top

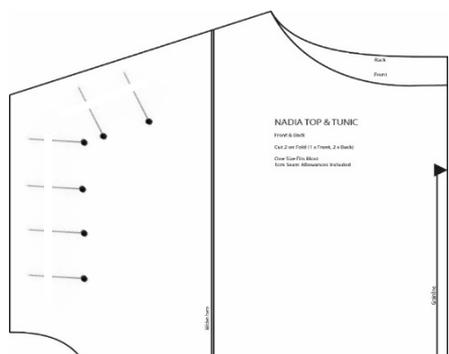
Fold your fabric lengthwise, selvedge to selvedge.

Place the pattern pieces on your fabric, remembering to place the centre fold line on the pattern along the fold in your fabric.



### Pinning

When pinning it is best to insert the pin at a 90 degree angle to the cutting edge, as shown below.



When pinning pattern pieces onto fabric for Cutting Out, place the pins with the sharp ends pointing towards the cutting edge. Be careful to keep the ends of the pins away from the edge to be cut.

NOTE: When pinning pieces together for Sewing, face the sharp ends of the pins towards the centre of the fabric, with the pin heads off the fabric.

### Cutting Out

NOTE: All pattern pieces include a 1 cm Seam Allowance, so there is no need to add this on when cutting out.

Pin the Front and Back piece to the fabric, lining up the centre fold marking on the pattern pieces with the centre fold of the fabric.

Cut around all the edges.

Alternatively, use tailor's chalk to mark the cutting lines. Carefully remove the pattern pieces, pin the fabric through all layers, and cut.

NOTE: Silk satin is very slippery to work with, so take your time, and make sure you pin through all layers of fabric.

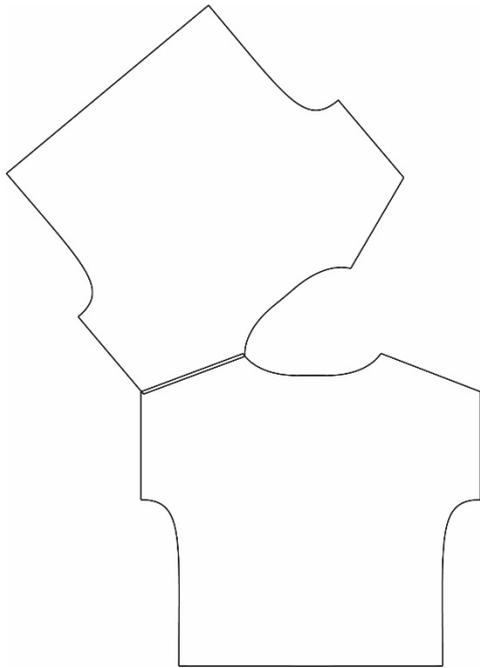
### Sewing

Start by laying the Back piece flat on your work surface, right side up. Then, place the Front piece on top of the Back piece, right side down.

Match the seam lines together at the shoulders. Pin the pieces together at the right hand shoulder seam, then stitch. For best results, sew with an Overlocker/Serger, or use a straight stitch and finish the seam with an overlock or zig zag stitch.

Press the seam with an iron, then open the pieces, right side down, and press the seam flat towards the back.

Your two pieces will now be joined as below.



If using an Overlocker or Serger, overlock or serge the neckline edge.

NOTE: If using jersey, it is not absolutely necessary to do this, but preferable for all other fabrics, especially those that fray.

If you do not have an Overlocker/Serger, you can finish the inside edge with bias binding. For more information on using bias binding to finish necklines, please see the following blog post:

<https://lisawagnerdesigns.wordpress.com/2017/08/14/finishing-with-bias-binding/>

Turn the seam allowance into the inside neckline, press and pin.

Using a twin needle, sew a double line of top stitching along the neckline edge. If your sewing machine doesn't suit twin needle stitching, a single line of stitching will also do fine, or sew two lines of stitching close together.

Press the finished neck edge.

Pin the pieces together at the left hand shoulder seam, then stitch and press as before. After pressing the seam towards the back, add a few straight stitches at the neckline where the left shoulder seam is, to reinforce the join, and to keep it lying flat.

Next, overlock or serge both armhole edges. Turn the seam allowance under 1cm, press, pin, top stitch in place and press, as before.

Turn inside out, and pin the side seams together.

Overlock or Serge the side seams together, from the underarm down to the bottom.

If you do not have an Overlocker/Serger, sew together using a straight stitch, and finish the seam with an overlock or zig zag stitch.

Press the seam, then open the seams over your ironing board and press flat towards the back.

Take your time pressing around the underarm curve. The narrow seam allowance will help you press this curve flat without the need to clip notches.

Finally, overlock or serge the bottom hem. Turn the seam allowance under 2 cm, press, pin, top stitch in place and press, as before.

If you are making a dress, it is usual to turn up the bottom hem approximately 3 cm.

If you are using a jersey fabric, then Overlocking/Serging the edge before turning up and topstitching will give a nice finish.

If you are using a lighter fabric like cotton, cupro or silk, then first turn the hem up 1 cm, press, and pin, then turn it up another 3 cms, press and pin.

Finally topstitch, or hand stitch, in place.

Give it one last press all over, and wear your piece with pride!