AUSSEW Along

# Couture Cardigan Jacket - Part 1

All instructions for this sew-along assume you are using Vogue pattern V8804. If you are using a different pattern, you may have to adjust the construction method to accommodate the design.

Testing and fine-tuning the fit of the pattern is essential BEFORE you cut into your fashion fabric. The couture method of constructing this jacket does not allow for fitting adjustments as you go. You MUST do all the necessary adjustments on your toile.

It is not uncommon to make more than one toile, particularly if you are making multiple adjustments. It may not be very rewarding making a calico jacket which is not very pretty, but don't be tempted to take shortcuts. Perfecting the fit now will mean you can concentrate purely on sewing when you start to work with your beautiful fabric.

## *What size pattern should you use?*

Select the size based on your full bust measurement if you are no larger than a C-cup. If your bust is greater than a C-cup, use your high bust measurement. You will then need to adjust the pattern to accommodate a fuller bust.

Some common pattern adjustments are explained in videos (see page 2).

## *Preparing the pattern*

Trace two copies of the following main pattern pieces.

- Front (Piece 1 - V8804)
- Side front (Piece 4 - V8804)
- Side (Piece 8 - V8804)
- Back (Piece 7 - V8804)
- Upper sleeve front (Piece 12 - V8804)
- Upper sleeve back (Piece 13 - V8804)
- Under sleeve (Piece 14 - V8804)

Remove all seam allowances from **one** set of pieces. The set of pattern pieces **with** seam allowances will be used to cut your toile. The set **without** seam allowances will be used if you need to make any alterations.

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## *CUTTING THE TOILE*

A toile is usually made from an inexpensive unbleached plain-weave cotton fabric such as calico. It is easily available in most fabric stores, but if you have difficulties finding it you can substitute old sheets, or any plain-weave firmly woven cotton.

Cut out all the main pattern pieces, using the copy with seam allowances:

- 2 x front (Piece 1 - V8804)
- 2 x side front (Piece 4 - V8804)
- 2 x side (Piece 8 - V8804)
- 2 x back (Piece 7 - V8804)
- 2 x upper sleeve front (Piece 12 - V8804)
- 2 x upper sleeve back (Piece 13 - V8804)
- 2 x under sleeve (Piece 14 - V8804)

Transfer all relevant pattern markings to the fabric, using a permanent marker (ballpoint pen is fine).

## *ASSEMBLE THE TOILE*

- sew centre back seam
- sew side fronts (4) to fronts (1)
- sew sides (8) to side fronts
- sew assembled fronts (pieces 1, 4 and 8) to assembled back (7)
- sew shoulder seams
- sew upper sleeve fronts (12) to upper sleeve backs (13)
- sew under sleeves (14) to assembled upper sleeves
- insert sleeves

## *COMMON PATTERN ADJUSTMENTS*

It's not possible to explain every possible pattern adjustment that may be required. Some of the more common ones are explained in these videos. I encourage you to make use of a sewing friend, if possible, to assist with fitting your toile. You can also use the **Couture Cardigan Jacket Forum** on the website to post photos of any fitting problems and get some on-line help. Remember you have to be logged in to see this page.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bust adjustments | Watch video |
| Round back adjustment | Watch video |
| Full hip adjustment | Watch video |

When pattern fitting is completed, cut new pattern pieces and remove all seam allowances.

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If any pattern adjustments are required, make them using the pattern pieces without seam allowances. Once all the adjustments have been made, you may need to create new pattern pieces, particularly if you have made multiple adjustments. I find it easier to work with a 'clean' pattern that has not been cut, spread, overlapped, and does not have bits of extra paper taped to it.

The final result should be a pattern that will give you a custom fit for your unique shape. These pattern pieces should NOT have seam allowances.

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