

MATERIALS LIST

- [Gardenia Dress & Blouse](#) digital pattern
- [Sew Confident! Gardenia Dress & Blouse Kit](#) (optional purchase)
 - Dress Kits
 - [White & Prussian Blue Abstract](#)
 - [Blue Abstract Watercolor](#)
 - [Melon Watercolor Poppy](#)
 - Blouse Kits
 - [White & Prussian Blue Abstract](#)
 - [Blue Abstract Watercolor](#)
 - [Melon Watercolor Poppy](#)
- Or use similar Linen or Ramie fabric
 - Dress Yardage
 - 45" — 3 yards XS-XXXL
 - 54-60" — 2 ½ yards XS - M
 - 54-60" — 2 ¾ yards L - XXXL
 - Blouse Yardage
 - 45" — 1 ½ yards XS - M
 - 45" — 2 ⅞ yards L - XXXL
 - 54-60" — 1 ¼ yards XS - M
 - 54-60" — 1 ½ yards L - XXXL
- 1 spool 100% Cotton Thread
- Silk Basting Thread
- 70/10mm Universal Machine Needle
- Hand Sewing Needle
- 3 spools Isacord Thread or other Overlock Thread
- [Rotary Cutter](#) - recommended but [Shears](#) are fine
- Trimming [Scissors](#) or Snips
- [Glasshead Silk Pins](#)
- [Ballpoint Bodkin](#)
- Pattern Weights
- [Chakoner](#) or Chalk Marker
- [Seam Ripper](#)
- Edgestitch Foot
- Steam Iron

You will need a sewing machine that has been cleaned and oiled and is in good condition. If your machine also embroiders and has a 9mm throat plate, you may want to invest in a 5mm-wide throat plate or a single hole plate. If you have the even-feed feature on your machine, engage it. If not, add a walking foot, if possible.

An overlock machine (serger) is recommended but not required.

PREPARATION

Plan to have the following work done before the start of the video class.

Pattern Work

Order the Gardenia Dress & Blouse digital pattern.

Determine your size using your full bust measurement. Refer to the Size Measurement Chart on the last sheet of your instruction materials. Use this chart to find your full bust measurement and select that size. Then measure the bust and hip circumferences on the pattern. Compare the finished measurements to your bust and hips sizes and you will know how much design ease is built into the pattern. This garment is oversized so you may want to consider going down one size, but measure to make sure.

Trace or cut out your pattern pieces, lightly press, and make any fitting adjustments to the pattern.

Sleeve / Armhole Options

Choose a sleeve/armhole option. The dress pattern includes cutting lines for the extended shoulder and folded sleeve band. The blouse pattern has cutting lines for the sleeveless version. They can be interchanged.

If you are making a sleeveless dress, trace the armhole of the blouse and superimpose this onto your dress pattern. You will need the Armhole Binding #8 piece from the blouse pattern.

If you are making the sleeve band version on the blouse, trace the shoulder/armhole shape from the dress and superimpose it onto the blouse pattern. You will need the Sleeve Band #5 piece from the dress pattern.

See the attached illustration at the end of this document.

Fabric Prep

If you are planning to launder your dress or blouse, pre-wash and dry your fabric. The ramie fabric softens nicely when washed.

Ramie is a flax-like bast fibre that is strong and soft fiber yielded by the inner bark of various species of the ramie plant. While the plant was formerly produced primarily in China, it is now grown all over the world. The fabric is woven with coarse, irregular ramie yarn. While it looks like linen, that is a misnomer. The fabric that we are using in this project is handkerchief weight. Lightweight linen could be substituted.

Pull a thread on the crossgrain to establish true straight of grain.

Cutting Out

Using the cutting layouts on page 2 & 3 of the instructions, lay out your pattern pieces using pattern weights or pins. Use a rotary cutter to cut out your pieces. Before moving the cut pieces from your table, snip into the seam allowances at the notches — one snip for one notch, two snips for a double notch. Use tailor's tacks to mark the tucks and tie placements.

Clean and oil your sewing machine, wind a bobbin (remove any other thread that might be wound on your bobbin), thread your machine, and sit back and wait for the class video. You are all set!

Video Access

The class video will be available for viewing July 23, 2021. Details and links for accessing the class video and the follow-up Zoom Q&A sessions will be sent to you prior to the class in a separate email.

GARDENIA DRESS & BLOUSE

SLEEVE / ARMHOLE OPTIONS

