

PATTERN A1

The Alice

REPURPOSED
LOOK

A RELAXED
SILHOUETTE
WITH
CLASSIC
APPEAL



Model
height:
5'9"

Alice, like her literary namesake, is practical and adventurous. She likes a silhouette that matches her personality: comfortable, attractive, with a little bit of flare, but without a lot of fuss. Stylistically, her go-to tank top is classic without being boring (note the extra points of fabric along the bottom edge). Dress it up or down depending on the season or the circumstance: Look sharp paired with leggings or pencil pants and booties or exude a more relaxed elegance with flowy Bohemian beach pants and sandals. In the variation, stitch a silk scarf at the bottom of the bodice for a peek into Alice's daydreams (but without the crazy tea parties).

FABRIC AND NOTIONS

NOTE: Sizes S, M, and L of View 1 can be made from 44"/45" fabric or 60" fabric. Sizes XL and XXL must be made from 60" fabric.

- 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ yards 45" fabric (Sizes S, M), 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ yards 45" fabric (Size L); or 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ yards 60" fabric (Sizes S, M), 2 yards 60" fabric (Size L), 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards 60" fabric (Sizes XL, XXL)
- Thread to match fabric
- Serger thread, if applicable

For optional elastic casing:

- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of $\frac{1}{4}$ " elastic
- One package of $\frac{1}{2}$ " single-fold bias tape

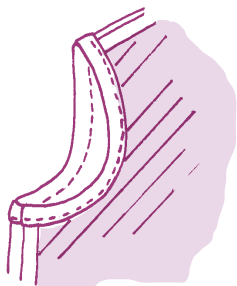
TOOLS

- Straight pins
- Scissors
- Tailor's chalk or fabric-marking pencil
- Clear ruler or seam gauge
- Medium safety pin (if adding elastic casing)

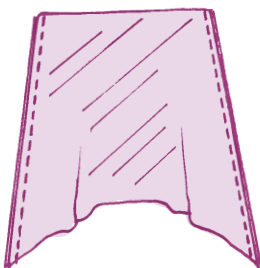
MACHINE(S)

- Standard sewing machine with needle appropriate to fabric choice
- Serger (optional)

With the garment wrong side out, pin and stitch close to the outer fold of the binding.

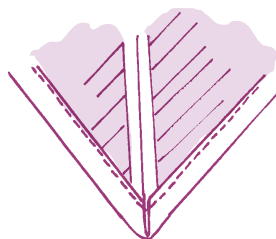


9 Finish the lower edges of the Lower Front and Lower Back. With right sides together, pin the Lower Front to the Lower Back along the sides. Stitch.

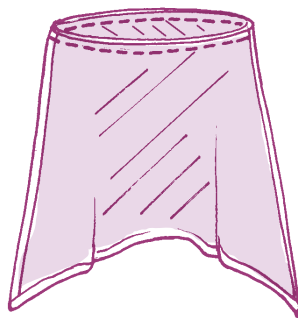


Press open the seam allowances. Trim the seam allowance flush with the point.

10 Press up a $\frac{5}{8}$ " hem, folding it in at the points as shown. Pin. Machine-stitch through the finished edge to secure it.





11 With right sides together, pin the completed bodice to the completed lower tank, aligning the fronts and backs, side seams, and raw edges. Stitch a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam.

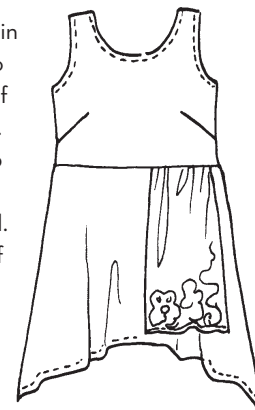


Finish the seam allowance and press it upward.

MAKE YOUR OWN MAGIC

 Use a contrasting fabric for the Neck and Arm Bindings. Reverse the application so that it is visible on the right side of the garment. Pin and stitch the binding to the wrong side of the bodice and fold it over to the Front. Pin and stitch close to the outer folded edge of the binding from the right side.

 After Step 10, baste one finished end of a rectangular scarf off center to the lower Front. Place the scarf on top of the completed lower tank at the desired location, mark the required length, and cut across the scarf at the mark. Then, with the scarf right side up, pin the cut edge to the raw edge of the lower tank. Gather the top edge of the scarf if desired. Baste the scarf to the tank, and proceed with Step 11.



CONTRAST
BINDING CAN
BE SUBTLE



Model
height:
5'9"

A1 VARIATION

The Alice tank top takes a decidedly flow-y turn when the bottom pieces are replaced by a single wrapped vintage scarf.

FABRIC AND NOTIONS

NOTE: Choose a scarf made of fabric that is fairly substantial in weight, one that drapes nicely and is not considerably lighter than the bodice fabric.

- For bodice: $\frac{1}{2}$ yard 45" fabric (Size S), $\frac{7}{8}$ yard 45" fabric (Sizes M, L), 1 yard 45" fabric (Sizes XL, XXL); or $\frac{1}{2}$ yard 60" fabric (All sizes)
- For contrasting Neck and Arm Bindings: $\frac{5}{8}$ yard fabric, any width (All sizes)
- For lower tank: large square, or almost square, new or vintage scarf (All sizes)
NOTE: The circumference of the lower edge of your finished bodice needs to be approximately the same as the measurement of the upper edge of your scarf. Variations within a few inches are fine.
- Thread(s) to match bodice fabric, scarf, and contrasting binding (if desired)
- Serger thread, if applicable

For optional elastic casing:

- $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of $\frac{1}{4}$ " elastic
- One package of $\frac{1}{2}$ " single-fold bias tape

TOOLS

- Straight pins
- Scissors
- Tailor's chalk or fabric-marking pencil
- Clear ruler or seam gauge
- Tape measure
- Hand-stitching needle
- Medium safety pin (if adding elastic casing)

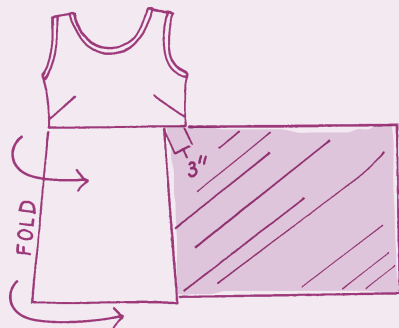
MACHINE(S)

- Standard sewing machine with needle appropriate to fabric choice
- Serger (optional)

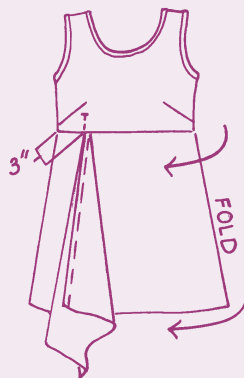
"Scarfs [sic] are very important, both separate and attached to garments."

—The Woman's Institute's
Fashion Service magazine, 1931

Wrap the left edge of the scarf, keeping it flat against the bodice's lower edge, until it is approximately 3" from the left-side seam. Pin and mark the bodice at this point.



Wrap the right edge of scarf over the lower edge of the bodice until it is approximately 3" from the right-side seam. Pin and mark both the scarf and the bodice at this point.



The remaining scarf length will drape down in front.

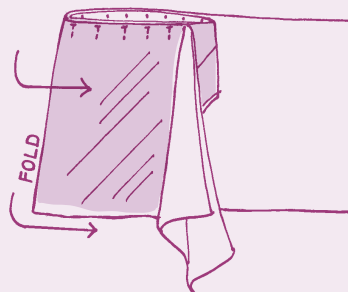
NOTE: If the end of the scarf is too long, remove length from the left edge of the scarf by cutting and hemming until the scarf is the length you desire after wrapping. Do not cut the right end of the scarf. Make sure you have made all markings on the bodice and scarf and then remove the scarf from the bodice.

5 Fold and stitch a narrow hem along the cut raw edge, from the mark on the right end of the scarf to the front corner.

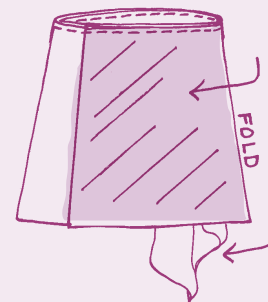


NOTE: If desired, hand-stitch the hem using a small running stitch in a complementary color thread.

6 With right sides together, pin the raw edge of the scarf to the bodice. Begin by placing the right end of scarf (where it begins to drape) on the marking that is 3" from the right side seam. Pin.



Wrap the scarf around the lower edge of the bodice, aligning the raw edges and pinning. When you reach the front again, place the left end of the scarf over the first layer until the left end lines up with the marking 3" from the left side seam. Stitch a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam through all the layers.



Finish the seam allowance and press upward.

STYLE SECRET

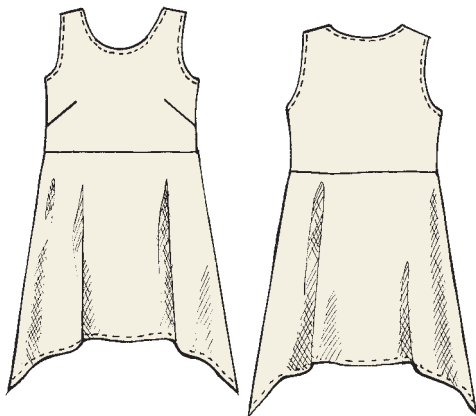
Don't shy away from using bold prints and oversize patterns on the tank top. Tops are the best place to add drama and color and can be balanced with solid pants, jeans, or leggings.

Meet the Family

PATTERN A1
THE ALICE

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REPURPOSED
LOOK



PATTERN A2
THE AVERY

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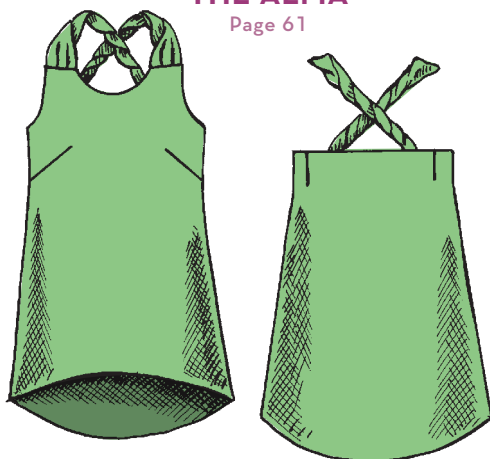
PATTERN A3
THE ADELAIDE

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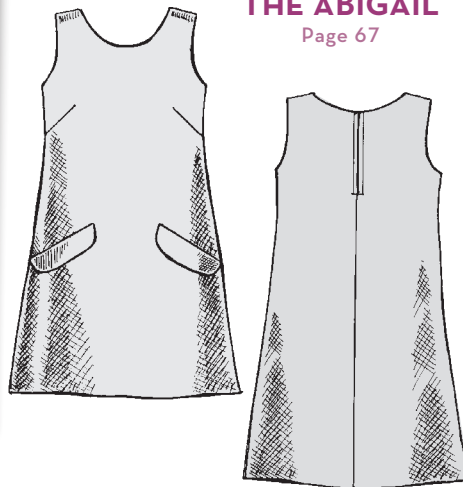
PATTERN A4
THE ALMA

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PATTERN A5
THE ABIGAIL

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PATTERN A6
THE ANNE

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MAKING BIAS TAPE, MAGICALLY

Bias tape is used to cover raw edges of cut fabric. Because it's cut on the diagonal, it's flexible and easy to maneuver around curved areas such as armholes or necklines. Packaged bias tape is available in standard widths in solid colors of a cotton/polyester blend. But by creating your own, you can add just the right accent to garments, handbags, or home decorator projects. If you have a favorite remnant of fabric that you can't bear to part with, give it new life as bias tape. Scraps are great.

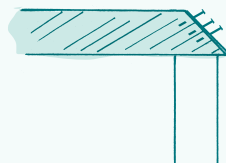
If you do not have a bias tape maker, follow these simple directions to make a strip of bias tape:

- 1 If your pattern doesn't tell you exactly how much bias tape you'll need, use your flexible tape measure to get a rough idea of the necessary length. Piece together fabric strips as shown to attain the desired length, and remember to figure in seam allowances.

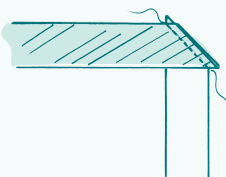
For double-fold bias tape, cut your bias fabric strips four times as wide as the desired finished tape:

Width of bias fabric strips	Width of finished bias tape
1"	1/4"
1 1/2"	3/8"
2"	1/2"
3"	3/4"
4"	1"

- 2 Cut the ends of the bias fabric strips on the diagonal and overlap them, right sides together, at a 45-degree angle. Pin the ends as shown.



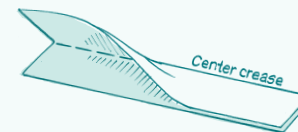
- 3 Stitch in a 1/4" seam.



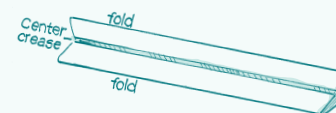
- 4 Press open the seam allowance, pressing the binding flat.



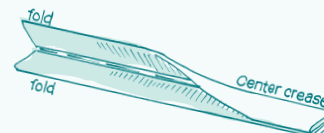
- 5 Fold the binding in half lengthwise, with wrong sides together, and press.



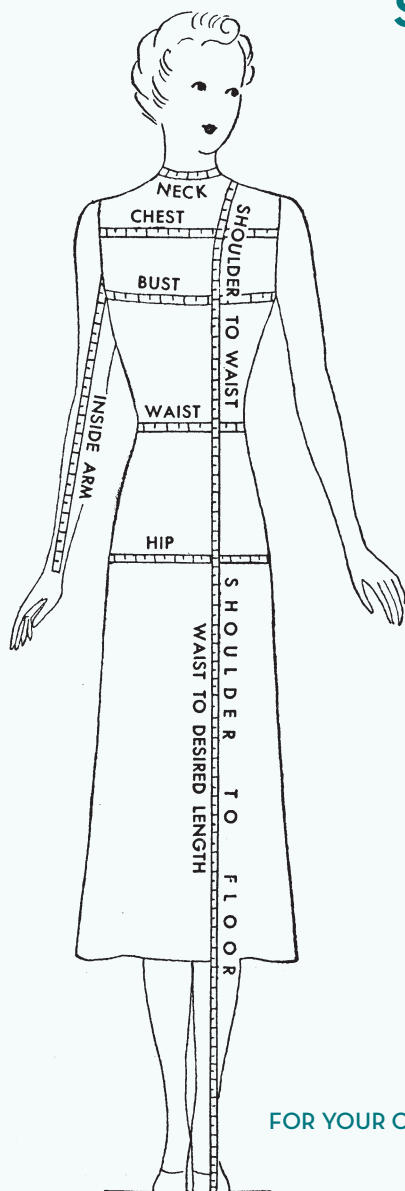
Open, and fold the outer long edges in to meet the center crease and press again.



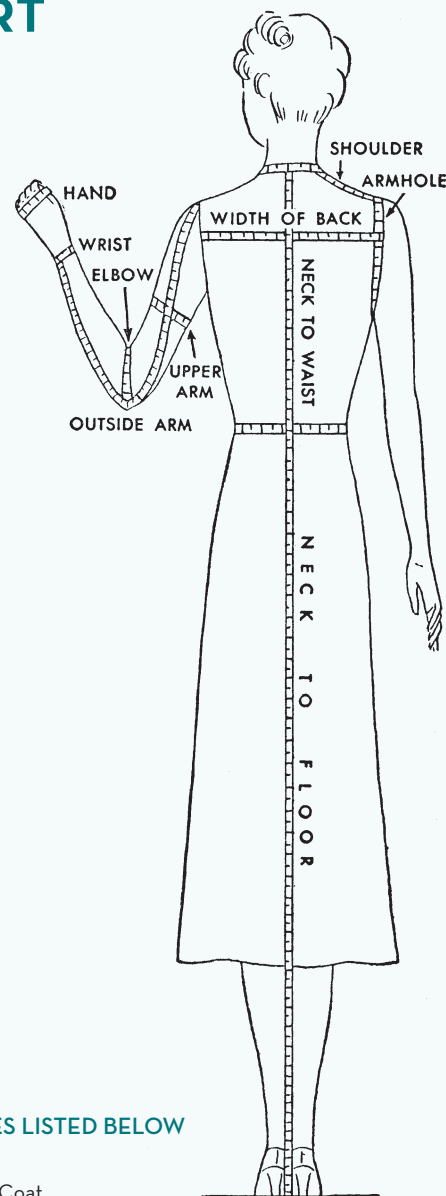
Fold in half once again along the center crease and press.



SIZING REFERENCE CHART



- BUST (Fullest Part)
- WAIST.....
- HIP (Fullest Part).....
- WIDTH OF CHEST.....
- FRONT WAIST LENGTH
Shoulder to Waist
- FRONT SKIRT LENGTH
Shoulder to Floor.....
- NECK (At Base)
- SHOULDER
Neck to Armhole Line
- ARMHOLE.....
- WIDTH OF BACK
- BACK LENGTH
Neck to Waist.....
- BACK LENGTH
Neck to Floor
- OUTSIDE ARM
Shoulder to Wrist (Arm Bent)
- INSIDE ARM
Shoulder to Wrist (Arm Straight) ...
- UPPER ARM (Fullest Part)
- ELBOW (Arm Bent)
- WRIST.....
- HAND (Closed)



FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, KEEP A RECORD OF THESE OTHER SIZES LISTED BELOW

PATTERN SIZE: Dress _____ Shirt _____ Skirt _____ Coat _____

Tools You Will Need

The following is a list of tools I find essential for efficient sewing. Some, of course, are obvious, like needles and thread, while others, such as a point turner, may not appear to be life-altering (that is, until you use one and discover for yourself the fleeting joy of a properly turned corner!). But they will all help you create professional-looking results—and if your results look professional, you’ll be more likely to tackle additional projects with confidence. There are so many innovative sewing gadgets available today that are worth exploring. Beyond the machines, most of the basic tools listed here, however, are relatively inexpensive and will give you a proper send-off as a successful seamstress.

Sewing machine

Because your machine is your best friend when sewing, it’s important to really get to know it. Whether you have a simple one or a modern computerized system, read and follow the machine manual, practice all the stitches that your machine is capable of, and familiarize yourself completely with the straight stitch, which is far and away the primary stitch you’ll use to make the projects in this book. Most machines will also have a zigzag



stitch, which I recommend in a few instances for finishing edges or sewing with knits (more on that in a bit). If you’re familiar with machine sewing, you know that the number of presser feet you have for your machine will vary. Most of the projects in this book require one standard machine foot, though two require a zipper foot (the Avery tank top, Pattern A2, page 49, and the Abigail tank dress, Pattern A5, page 67), and two require a buttonhole foot (the Chloe tank dress, Pattern C4, page 152, and the Evelyn cape, Pattern E5, page 242). If you’re shy about buttonholes, though, rest assured that both patterns C4 and E5 can be made using a hidden snap instead!

Sewing machine needles

The most important thing, when it comes to needles, is that they are the right size and type for the fabric you are planning to sew. Sharps, or sharp-point needles, pass

easily through fine, thin fabrics without breaking the weave. A ballpoint needle (featuring a blunter tip) is best when sewing knits, because it will pass through the knit without snagging or piercing the fibers. If you’re ever unsure what needle you should be using, ask an expert at your local quilting or fabric shop, or consult the Internet.

Needle sizes correspond with machine and fabric recommendations. Read the packaging to select the appropriate size for the fabrics you are sewing. A medium-size needle is good for most medium-weight fabrics (like standard cottons, linen, flannel, shirting, and twills). A fine fabric like silk requires a smaller needle, whereas heavier fabrics like men’s suiting call for a larger one—and when sewing with denim, it is imperative that you use needles with “denim” printed on the packaging.

