

Magic Pattern

Magic Bias Slip for Summer Frocks

Fashion Service, 1931

Falling into the lines of each individual figure as if by magic, this slip (shown on opposite page), ultra modern because of its bias cut, is a perfect foundation under fitted frocks. And it's as fascinating to work out as a picture puzzle, built up, as it is, from squares and triangles of fabric. For the average figure, you will need 2½ yards of material, such as flat crepe or radium in silk or rayon. The measurements given are for the average size, but they may be readily adapted to smaller or larger types.



See Notes, page 232, for modern tips and techniques.

Cutting Your Pattern – For the skirt sections, provide a piece of paper 27 inches square. Tie a string 27 inches long to your pencil, and, holding the free end on the corner *a*, as in Fig. 1, draw an arc, as shown. From *a*, measure toward you 15 inches and place point *b*. From the corner *c*, measure along the curve 8 inches and place point *d*. Connect *b* and *d*. From the opposite corner *e*, measure along the straight edge 3 inches, place *f*, indicate *g* halfway between *e* and *c*, and draw in a new curve from *f* to *g*. Cut from *a* to *b* to *d* to *g*.



To draw the second curve (f to g), try a flexible ruler.

to *f*. Cut four paper patterns like this. For the remainder of the slip, four 15-inch squares of paper are necessary. Number the pattern sections, place as shown in the diagram, and cut. Mark each fabric section like its pattern.

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Bias Slip

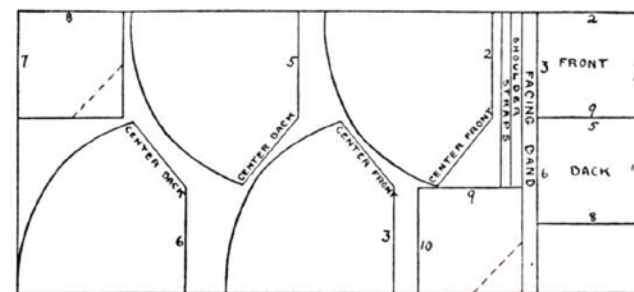
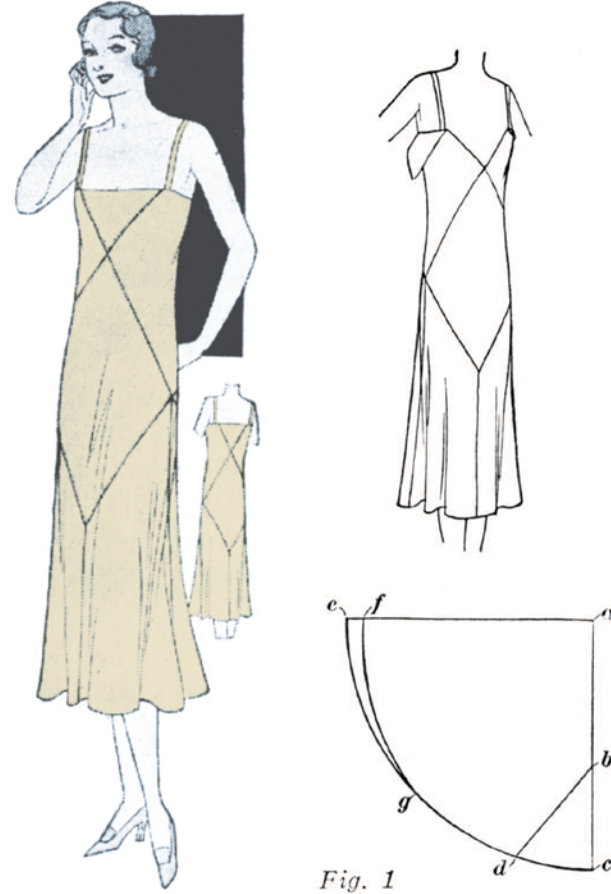
Excerpt from *Vintage Notions: An Inspirational Guide to Sewing, Cooking, Fashion & Fun* by Amy Barickman

Making the Slip – Turn under all edges of front and back squares a seam’s width and baste. Baste remaining sections to these, matching the numbers. Make the shoulder straps, slip the garment on for fitting and pin on shoulder straps. Trim off the corners of the under-arm squares, as shown in the small figure, and keep them for filling in the front and back at the top. Deepen the seams that join the four squares enough to produce a snug fit through the bust line. Lessen this seam depth gradually toward the hip.

Turn under all straight edges of the two triangles removed at the under-arm and place at the center-front and center-back, the points of the triangles meeting the points of the squares, as shown on the garment.

Remove the slip, stitch the center-front and center-back skirt sections in the plain seams, then stitch the edges of the front and back squares and the small triangles. Face the top edge, holding in the bias edge to the straight facing. Attach the shoulder straps. Finish the lower edge with a 1-inch hem. Trim off excess seam allowances and press.

Variations For Size – When the figure is short and slender, lessen all measurements. When tall and slender, make the squares smaller, but make the skirt sections the length suggested or longer. Make the line *a* to *b* the same length as the edge of the square. For the tall, large figure, increase all measurements. For the short, large type, increase the size of the squares but not of the skirt sections, making line *a* to *b* the same length as the square.



Bias Slip

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TECHNIQUES

- Fabric Requirements: Three fat quarters
 - One for exterior
 - One for lining
 - One for bias trim and interior pocket
- Use 3/8" seam allowance for gusset construction.
- When it says, "join straight edges" of gusset it refers to the straight ends at the top of the "U." Stitch them right-sides together, turn, and press.
- To attach the gusset to the large lining piece, first turn under 1/4" on the lining. Then match up the bottom of the lining with gusset piece and turn under the gusset over the lining 1/4". Stitch to foundation.
- Press under 1/4" of small foundation section edges. To attach the gusset to the remaining lining and foundation, stitch the lining to the foundation on the top straight edge as on the large section. Fold the gusset over the lining, then pin to small foundation edge matching bottom. Stitch.

July

Bias Slip

This is a more complicated pattern recommended for advanced sewers.

TIPS

- To draw the first large curve (*c-e*) it is helpful to have a partner hold the string or tape the end to a table.
- To draw the second curve (*f-g*) try a flexible ruler
- Before beginning, finish all raw edges of the pattern pieces with a zigzag stitch or serger.

TECHNIQUES

- Approximate finished slip measurements using original cutting instructions:
 - Bust: 38"
 - Waist: 38"
- "A seam's width" refers to a 3/8" seam allowance for slip construction.
- Cut shoulder straps 1-3/4" wide.
- Cut the top edge facing piece 2" wide.
- After you stitch the center-front and center-back skirt section, stitch the side seams.

August

Kimono

TIPS

- If using one-way directional fabric, be aware that the design on either

the front or the back will finish upside down.

- You will also need 3 yards of 1-1/2" wide soft satin ribbon, cut in two equal pieces for the belt.
- Make sure the fabric is straight at the cut edges.
- Practice the fabric folds, marking and cutting on a piece of 8-1/2" x 11" paper. This will help to avoid a costly error with your fabric.
- Use chalk or your favorite marking system to mark all the lines before you cut.
- After marking, and before cutting, pin the layers together to prevent slipping.
- Shoulder tucks: Hang the garment from a door to be sure the tucks follow a straight line down the back of the garment. Measure the front tucks to be sure they are equidistant from the binding.

TECHNIQUES

- Use one length of 44" wide fabric, by measuring from your shoulder to the floor and doubling this measurement to determine the complete yardage needed. For an average person, 3 yards is required.
- "Plain seams" refer to a 5/8" seam allowance for Kimono construction.
- Stitch down the back tucks on the shoulders (at *k*) when inserting the ends of the waist ribbon belt pieces.
- Hem the bottom and the sleeves.

September

Economical Apron

TIPS

- Instead of placing a line of pins from point *c* to *d*, use a ruler and a chalk-marking pencil to mark this line.
- Before beginning, finish all raw edges of the pattern pieces with a zigzag stitch or serger.
- Make the side sections of the apron skirt equal when gathered.

TECHNIQUES

- We recommend not cutting the pocket from the 6" fabric strip, instead cut a pocket from the fabric piece you cut from the bib section. This will allow for a longer bib strap and waistband/belt to adjust to your figure.
- We recommend a wider bib for better coverage. Measure across your bust for a bib width measurement that suits your figure and divide that

measurement in half and add 1/2" for seaming. This will be your new distance from *a* to *b*.

- Use 1/4" seam allowances for apron construction.
- Before you gather the top edge of the side sections and baste the bands in place, you will need to hem the sides of the apron by turning the raw edges in a 1/4" and topstitching.

October

Practical Nightgown

TIPS

- For measuring and marking the placement of the decorative scallop design, use a circle template and a chalk pencil.
- Use a size 4.0 twin needle to stitch down both sides of the decorative bias binding simultaneously.

TECHNIQUE

- Use 1/2" seam allowances for nightgown construction.

November

Apron—no additional notes needed

December

Cape

TIPS

- Use a flexible ruler and chalk-marking pencil to mark the 14" curved line at the center-back neckline as a guide to follow for the two rows of gathering threads.
- Instead of using matching silk bias strips to finish the lower edge of the cape as in Fig. 2a, you could use hem tape or bind the edges with a contrasting material as in Fig. 2b.
- Leave both ends of the tie open and use a tube turner to turn right-side out then slipstitch both ends closed.
- On Fig. 1a and b, note that the center-back is the "fold" of the fabric.

Cape Lining Instructions:

If the cape is to be lined, sew the lining to the selvage edge of the turned-back facing before shirring the collar. Pin all other edges together firmly, and, after the lower edge of both cape and lining are evened off together, turn the edges in and slipstitch them together. In doing this, make the turn of the lining deeper than that on the cape material, so that the seam will not show on the right side.