



SEW LIBERATED



AIDA TOP

Thank you for purchasing the digital version of the Aida Top pattern. It can be printed at your home or office. If you have used a digital pattern before, you should recognize many of our conventions.

After this page, you will find several pages of sewing instructions. Following that, there are pattern piece pages that you will tape together, following our guides, to make one large pattern piece sheet. All the pages are letter-size. This should also work on A4, but if not, please let us know at support@sewliberated.com.

Here is a suggested workflow for using this pattern.

1. Gather required tools and supplies:

For Sizes 2-10: 2 yards of 44-45" or 54" wide **fabric** with a soft drape, such as silk crepe, cotton voile, rayon challis or cotton

For Sizes 12-20: 2.75 yards of 44-45" wide (or 2.5 yards of 54" wide) **fabric** with a soft drape, such as silk crepe, cotton voile, rayon challis or cotton

7 – 1/2" **buttons**, coordinating **thread**, Swedish **tracing paper** or other pattern paper, **ruler**, **scissors**, **pins**, **safety pin**, **iron**

2. Print this PDF file, the instructions, starting with page 2. (Or just read 'em on a screen.)

3. Calibrate your printer with the test box on page 1 of the pattern piece PDF.

This is an important step to avoid errors when printing the pattern tiles. If you print this page at 100% with no page scaling, then the sides of the test box should measure correctly.

If it does not measure correctly, adjust your printer settings.

(The pattern pieces are a separate PDF you probably downloaded with this one.)

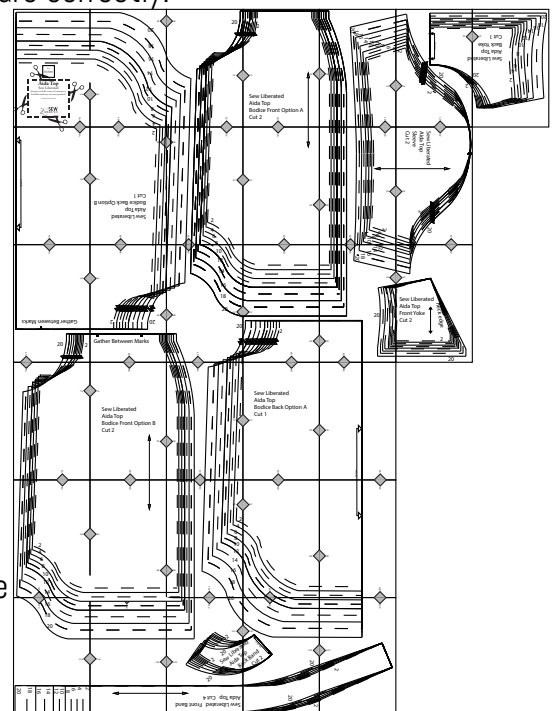
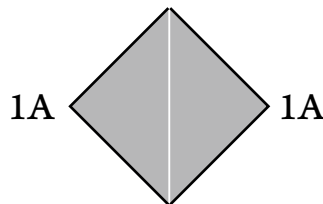
4. Print the rest of the pattern piece PDF.

5. Assemble the pattern piece tiles.

To assemble, line up the labeled diamonds:

Fold back or cut one page's margin and slide the other page behind it. You can tape them.

Your assembled pattern sheet should look like a big version of the diagram to the right:



6. Trace and cut out the pattern pieces (with your tracing paper).

7. Follow the instructions to make your Aida Top.

8. Wear and enjoy!

Please take a picture and share your work with us on social media, using the hashtags #SewLiberated and #AidaTop.

If we made a mistake or could have made this creative experience smoother for you, let us know: support@sewliberated.com.

We have many other patterns available at SewLiberated.com. Thanks for supporting indie designers!

Our Team

Design: Meg McElwee

Editing and Layout: Patrick McElwee

Photography: Jessica Blakely

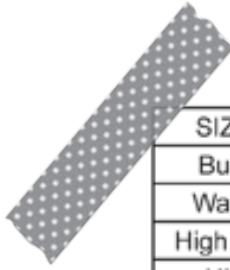
Technical Writing and Support: Kim Ventura

© Sew Liberated 2016

Not intended for commercial production.

Please support Sew Liberated's continued existence by not sharing this PDF. :-)

AIDA TOP INSTRUCTIONS



SIZE	2	4	6	8	10
Bust	32	33	34	35	36
Waist	24	25	26	27	28
High Hip	31-1/2	32-1/2	33-1/2	34-1/2	35-1/2
Hip	34-1/2	35-1/2	36-1/2	37-1/2	38-1/2

SIZE	12	14	16	18	20
Bust	37-1/2	39	40-1/2	42-1/2	44-1/2
Waist	29-1/2	31	32-1/2	34-1/2	36-1/2
High Hip	37	38-1/2	40	42	44
Hip	40	41-1/2	43	45	47

We have included a video tutorial that will help you put together your garment with ease. It's the next best thing to attending a sewing class in-person!

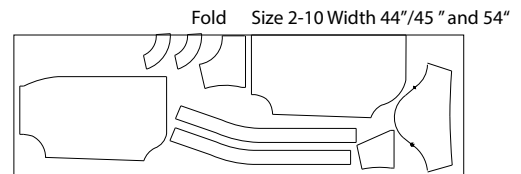
As always, if you have any questions as you are sewing, please don't hesitate to contact us at: support@sewliberated.com

To access the Aida Top video, visit: SewLiberated.com/videos. Enter passcode **BabyFleeceSatinPinkSilk**

All seam allowances are 5/8" unless otherwise indicated, and are included in the pattern pieces. See the glossary for assistance with definitions of sewing terminology. Remember to wash and dry all fabric before cutting it out to prevent shrinkage of the final garment. Always backstitch at the beginning and ending of a seam to secure the stitching, unless otherwise noted.

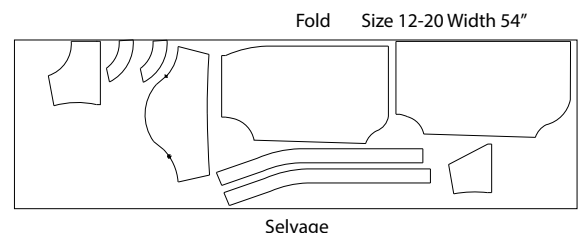
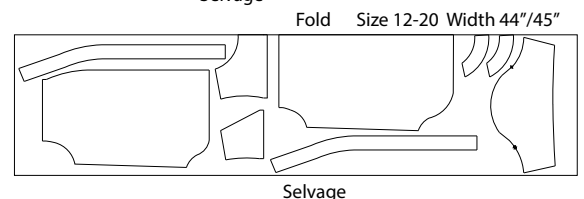
PREPARE THE PATTERN PIECES, CUT THE FABRIC AND FINISH EDGES

a. Trace the pattern pieces onto Swedish tracing paper or other pattern paper, being sure to transfer all markings. Then cut out your pattern pieces.



b. Fold the fabric with right sides together, matching the selvage edges, and place pattern pieces as shown in the layout diagram, placing the grainline directional arrows parallel to the selvage edges. Cut out the following pieces:

- 2 Bodice Fronts (option A or B)
- 2 Bodice Front Yokes
- 1 Bodice Back - on the fold (option A or B)
- 1 Bodice Back Yoke - on the fold
- 4 Front Bands
- 2 Back Bands - on the fold
- 2 Sleeves



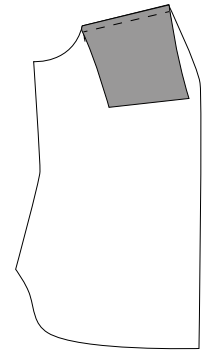
c. Transfer all pattern markings to the wrong side of the fabric with a fabric marker.

d. Finish all edges using your preferred method (zigzag, tricot stitch or serge). You may choose to finish edges before beginning construction (omitting edges that will be hemmed) or you may prefer to finish the edges as you work through the construction process

2. ATTACH BODICE FRONTS TO BODICE FRONT YOKE

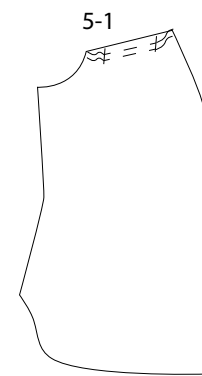
Option A:

a. Place one bodice front and bodice front yoke right sides together matching the raw edges. Pin and stitch. Press the seam allowance toward the bodice. Repeat to attach second bodice and bodice yoke.



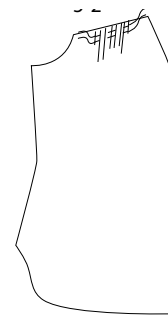
Option B:

a. Stitch 2 lines of basting between the marks at the top of the bodice. The first line will be 3/8" from the raw edge and the second will be 7/8" from the raw edge. Do not backstitch when basting and leave long tails of thread.

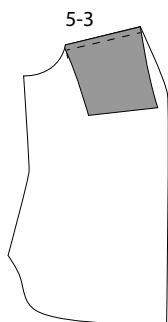


b. Place one bodice front and one bodice front yoke right sides together matching the raw edges. Begin pinning from each side edge and pin together to the point where your basting stitches begin.

c. Gently pull on the bobbin threads of the basting, holding both threads together to assure even gathering. When the raw edges of the bodice and bodice front yoke fit nicely, secure the basting threads by wrapping them in a figure 8 around a pin. Evenly distribute the gathers and pin in place.



d. Stitch along the pinned edge. Remove all basting threads and press the seam allowance toward the bodice.

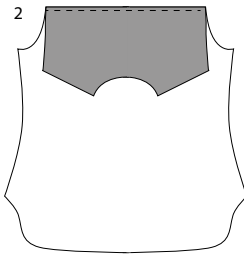


e. Repeat Steps 2a through 2d (Option B) to attach the second bodice front and bodice front yoke.

3. ATTACH BODICE BACK TO BODICE BACK YOKE

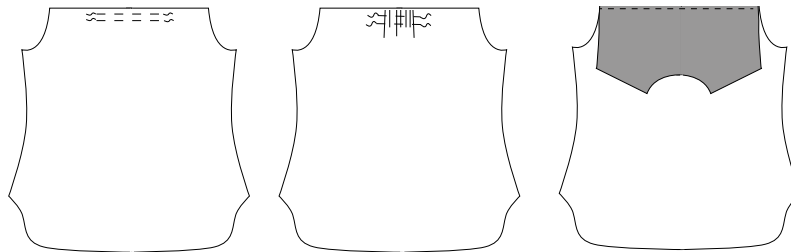
Option A:

a. Repeat Step 2a, Option A.



Option B:

a. Repeat Step 2a through 2d, Option B.

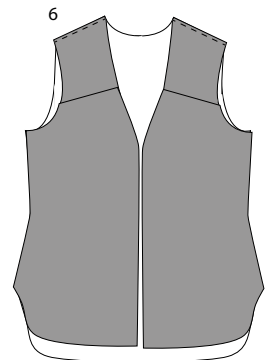


4. ATTACH BODICE FRONT AND BACK AT SHOULDERS

a. Place one bodice front right sides together with the bodice back, making sure the center of the front is facing the center of the back. Match the shoulder raw edges and pin.

b. Stitch and press the seam allowance open.

c. Repeat Steps 4a and 4b to attach the other bodice front to the bodice back.



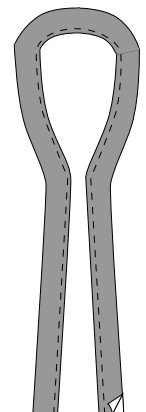
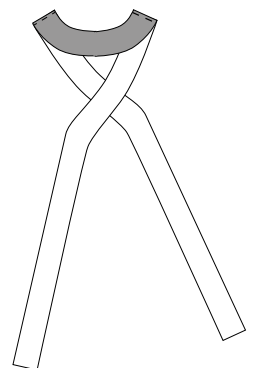
5. PREPARE THE NECK BANDS

a. Place 2 front bands and one back band right sides together matching the short, shoulder edges. Make sure the curve of the front band is facing in toward the center of the back band.

b. Stitch the shoulder seam. Trim the seam allowance to 1/4" and press it open.

c. Repeat Steps 5a and 5b to attach the second set of front bands to the second back band.

d. Place the bands right sides together, matching the shoulder seams and pin along the inside edge. Stitch.



e. Open the band and press the seam allowance to one side. From the right side, understitch the seam allowance to the band, stitching 1/8" from the seam. Then trim the seam allowance to 1/4". Understitching will give the finished band a nice smooth edge.

f. Turn the band right side out. Match the raw edges and press the seam flat.

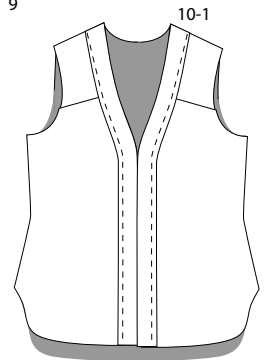
6. ATTACH THE BAND TO THE BODICE

a. Machine baste the matched raw edges of the band together to avoid slipping.

b. Find and mark the center back of both the band and the bodice back by folding, matching the shoulder seams and marking with a pin or a gentle crease.

c. Place the band and bodice neck edge right sides together. (The right side will be the one without the understitching.) Match the center back, shoulder seams and front curve and pin in place, treating the basted edges of the band as one layer.

d. Stitch along the pinned edge, easing along the back neck edge and front curve as needed. Press the seam allowance toward the bodice.



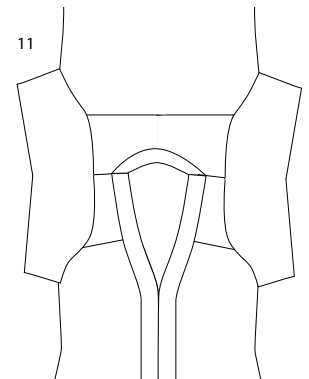
7. ATTACH SLEEVES AND STITCH SIDE SEAMS

a. Place the first sleeve and the bodice right sides together matching the sleeve cap to the armhole. Match the notches at front and back and match the top mark on the sleeve to the shoulder seam of the bodice. Pin.

b. Stitch the sleeve in place, easing as needed along the curves. Trim the seam allowance to 1/4", finish the seam edge and press toward the sleeve.

c. Repeat Steps 7a and 7b to attach the other sleeve.

d. Place the bodice front and bodice back right sides together at one side, matching the side raw edges, including the underarm sleeve edges. Pin and stitch. Clip the seam allowance at the underarm and press the seam allowances open. Repeat to stitch other side seam.



8. HEM SLEEVES AND TOP

a. Turn under 1/4" to the wrong side along the bottom raw edge of the first sleeve and press. Then turn under 3/8" to the wrong side enclosing the raw edge. Pin and stitch from the right side of the sleeve 1/4" from the edge. Stitching from the outside of the sleeve will allow you to make a nice straight stitch line. Repeat for second sleeve.

b. Repeat Step 8a to hem the top, easing at the curves as needed.

9. MAKE BUTTONHOLES AND ATTACH BUTTONS

Note: The Aida Top can be made with buttonholes and buttons, but is roomy enough that you can omit the buttonholes if desired and simply stitch the buttons in place through both layers of the band.

- a. Lay the top on a flat surface with the front facing up and place the left band over the right band matching the curve. *Note: The overlap when looking from the outside will be left over right. When actually wearing the garment it will be right over left.*
- b. Determine and mark placement of buttonholes according to your personal preference. The buttonholes will be stitched vertically.
- c. Stitch buttonholes evenly along outer band referring to your sewing machine owner's manual.
- d. Stitch buttons in place on inner band to match buttonholes, OR, stitch buttons in place through both bands if omitting the buttonholes.

AIDA TOP GLOSSARY

- **Backtack or Backstitch:** Sewing backward over previous machine stitching to secure it in place. This is usually done at the beginning and end of a stitch line. Most sewing machines have a backtack function: refer to your sewing machine manual for assistance with the setting on your machine.
- **Baste:** Uses long, loose running/straight stitches to temporarily secure a seam or other feature (such as gathers) in place and can be done by hand or by machine. The longer length makes them easier to remove when they are no longer needed. To machine baste, set your machine to a long stitch length: to hand baste use long running stitches, spaces about 1/4" (6mm) apart.
- **Clip:** Cut out little v's in the seam allowances outside of a stitched curve. This will help rounded edges push out nicely and lie neatly.
- **Drape:** A term that refers to the aesthetics of a fabric, specifically how it hangs from an object or body.
- **Ease:** This describes the even distribution of slight fullness when one section of a seam is joined to a slightly shorter section without forming gathers or tucks. The technique is used to shape set-in sleeves, princess seams and other areas.
- **Edge Stitch:** A line of machine stitching that is placed very close to an edge or existing seamline, usually no more than 1/16-1/8" (2-3mm) away.
- **Fabric grain:** The threads in a woven fabric that crisscross each other at right angles along the length and width of the fabric. The lengthwise grain refers to the threads that run along the length, parallel to the selvages: the crosswise grain refers to the threads that run along the width, perpendicular to the selvages. Straight grain refers to cutting the fabric along the lengthwise or crosswise grain.
- **Grainline:** A line marked on a pattern that is used to line up the pattern with the straight grain of a fabric (grainlines are used to line up a pattern on the lengthwise grain, unless specifically marked as crosswise.).
- **Notch:** A pattern marking placed on the edge to indicate placement of an adjoining piece or other feature. Notches appear as lines on the edge of the pattern.
- **Raw edge:** The cut edge of the fabric that has not yet been finished by seaming or hemming.
- **Right side:** The right side of the fabric is the front side or the side that should be on the outside of a finished garment or project. On a print fabric, the print will be more visible on the right side of the fabric.
- **Seam allowance:** The fabric between the raw edge and the seam.
- **Selvage:** The tightly woven borders on the lengthwise edges of the fabric that are created by the weaving process.
- **Serge:** A stitch used to finish the raw edges of fabric to prevent unraveling. It can be produced with a serger. The zig-zag stitch on a conventional sewing machine can be used as an alternative to finish the edges.
- **Straight Stitch:** This basic stitch is the default stitch on your sewing machine.
- **Trim:** Used to reduce a seam allowance to allow it to curve, or to reduce bulk in a seam allowance. Cut away the seam allowance to the width stated in the pattern (typically 1/4").
- **Understitch:** A line of straight stitching applied along certain seamlines to keep seam allowances lying flat in a particular direction. This is done by pressing the seam allowance to the side desired and then, from the right side, stitch through both the fabric and the seam allowance. Stitch close to the seam line.
- **Wrong side:** The underside of the fabric or the side that will be on the inside of a finished garment or project. On a print fabric, the print will be less visible on the wrong side of the fabric.