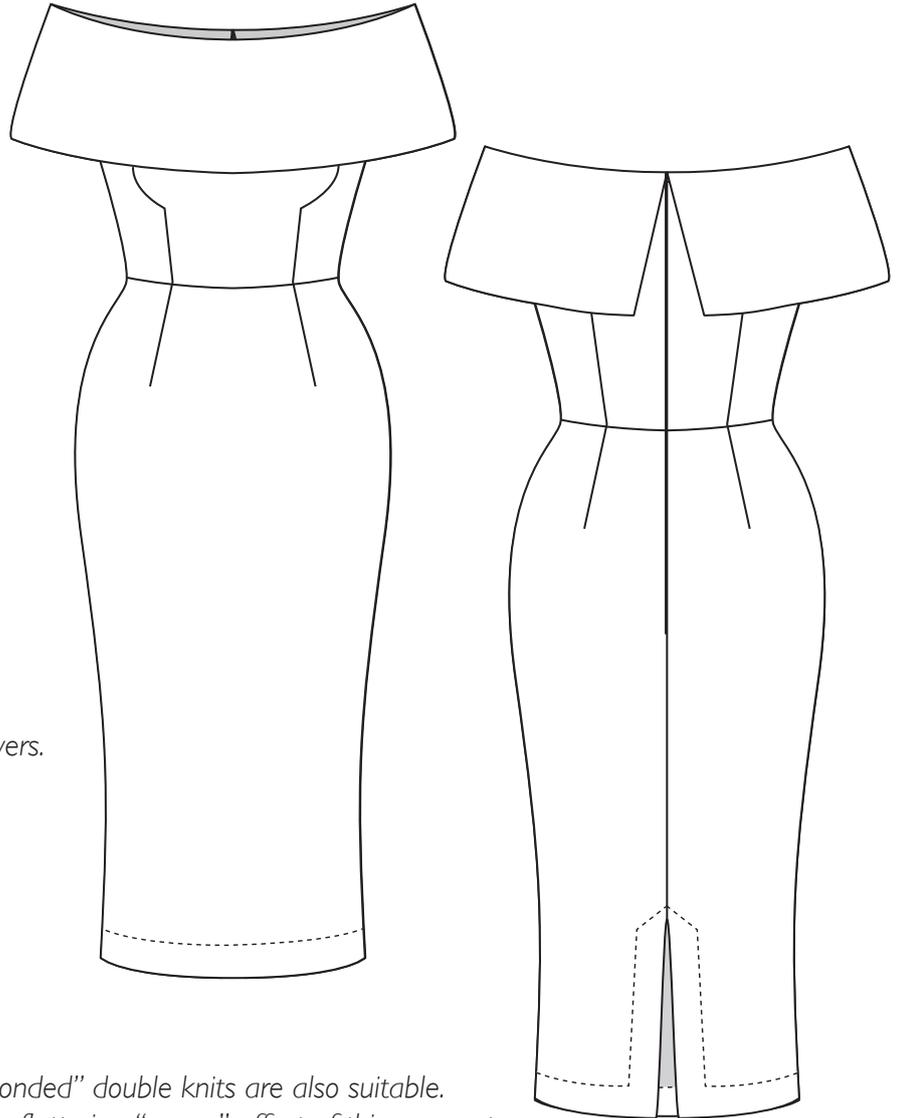


The Margarita Dress Instructions

Our Lady of Leisure

DIVINE SEWING PATTERNS



The Margarita Dress is pure glamour! This is a stunning off-the-shoulder cocktail dress, with a flattering wrap around the bust, and a firm-fitting princess cut. The dress closes with an invisible zipper, and features a slit at centre-back for ease of movement.

Skill Level

These instructions are aimed at intermediate sewers. The construction is quite straightforward, though beginners may find the invisible zipper a little challenging.

Material Requirements

This pattern is designed for heavy knit fabrics. Scuba Knit or Neoprene is ideal, but ponte or “bonded” double knits are also suitable. It is important to use a thick fabric to achieve the flattering “spanx” effect of this garment.

You'll Need...

- 2m (2.2 yards) of stretch fabric with a 144cm (55”) width.
- A 50cm invisible zipper and an invisible zipper foot.

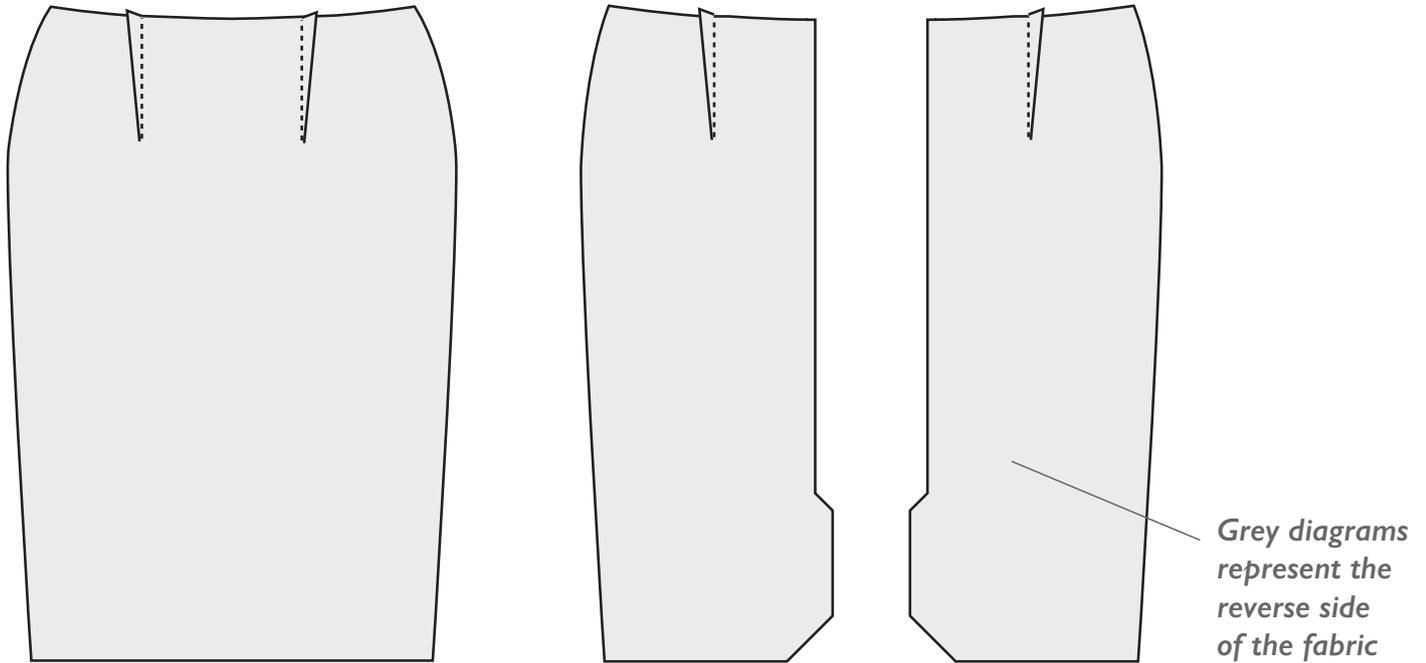
Before you begin...

- The Margarita Pattern pieces all include 1 cm (3/8”) seam allowances.
- The main seams of the Margarita Dress can be sewn with a straight stitch on a standard sewing machine. Optional overlocking/serging instructions are included.
- Before you cut the pattern pieces from your chosen fabric, be sure to read the “Determining Your Size” note on the pattern sheet.

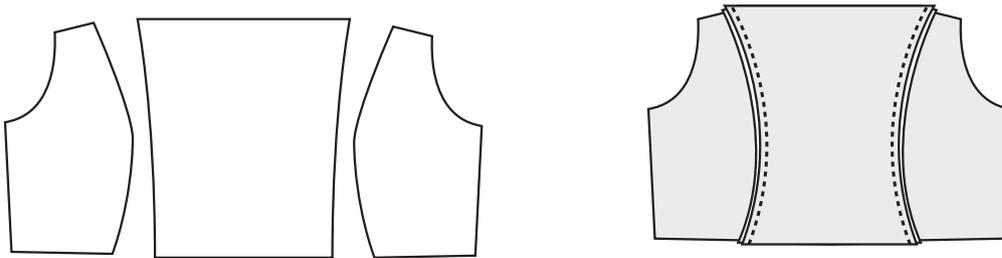
Let's begin!

Step 1. Cut your pattern pieces from your chosen fabric, being careful to keep the stretch going in the direction indicated on the pattern. **TIP:** If your fabric stretches both ways, you can choose either, but make sure it's the same for the whole garment.

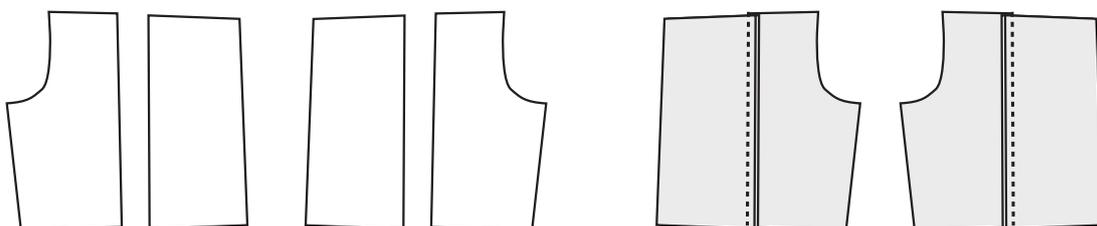
Step 2. Start by stitching the darts closed on the **Front Skirt** and **Back Skirt** pieces.



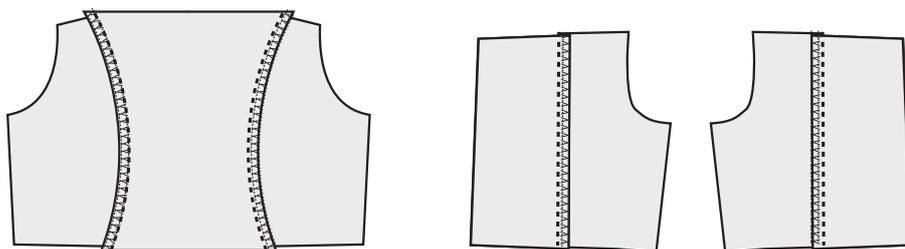
Step 3. Now take the **Front Bodice** pieces (**Front Bodice Centre** and **Front Bodice Side**), and, with right sides together, join them along the curved "princess" seams. **Use a 1 cm (3/8") seam allowance for all seams.**



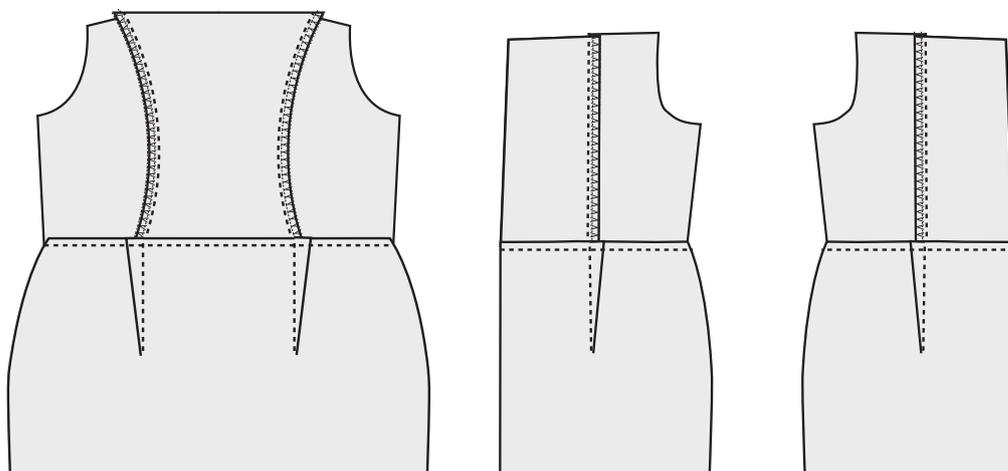
Step 4. Repeat the same steps for the **Back Bodice** pieces.



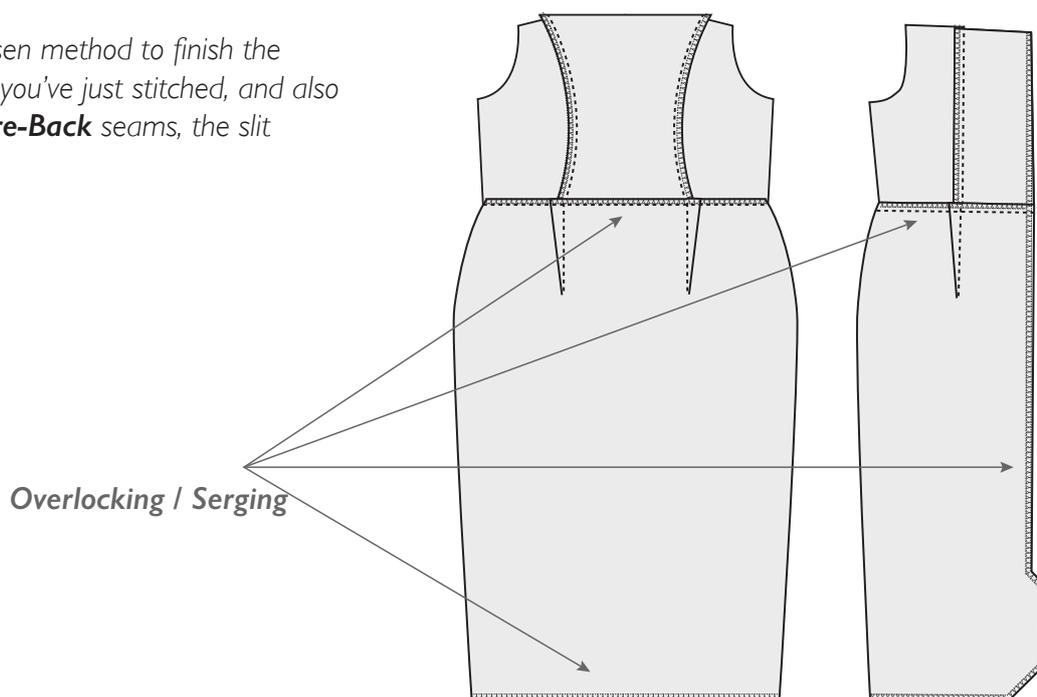
Step 5. Finish these seams using your chosen method. In these diagrams I'm using overlocking (also known as 'serging' in some parts of the world). Zigzag stitch is another option. If you're using scuba knit, it will not fray, so I won't tell anyone if you leave your seams raw just this once.



Step 6. Join the Bodice pieces to their respective **Skirt** pieces. Since the fabric is stretchy in this direction, it might misbehave a little. The darts and princess seams should meet up, so use them as a guide when you pin and stitch this seam.

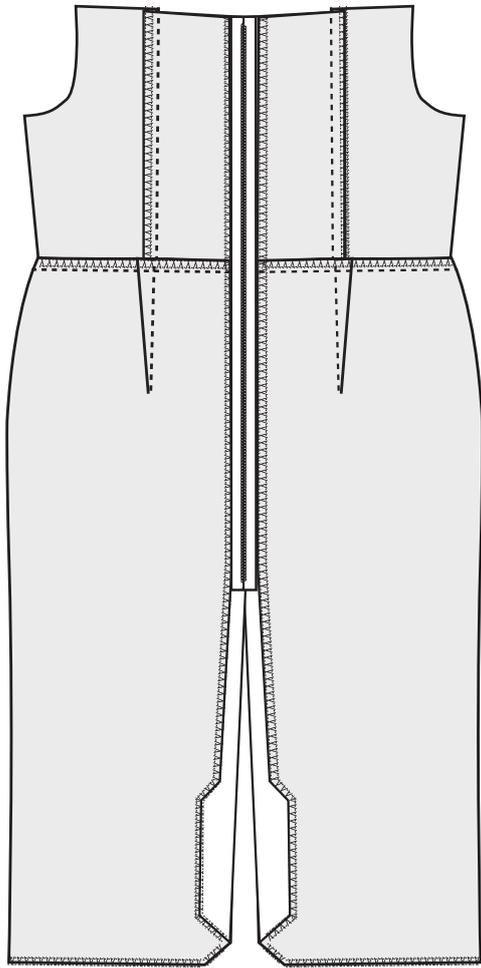


Step 7. Use your chosen method to finish the **Waist** seams you've just stitched, and also the two **Centre-Back** seams, the slit and the hems.



Step 8. Now we're going to insert the invisible zipper into the dress. We're doing it at this early stage because it's so much easier than wrestling to put a zipper in the finished dress.

Using an invisible zipper foot, stitch the zipper into **Centre-Back**.



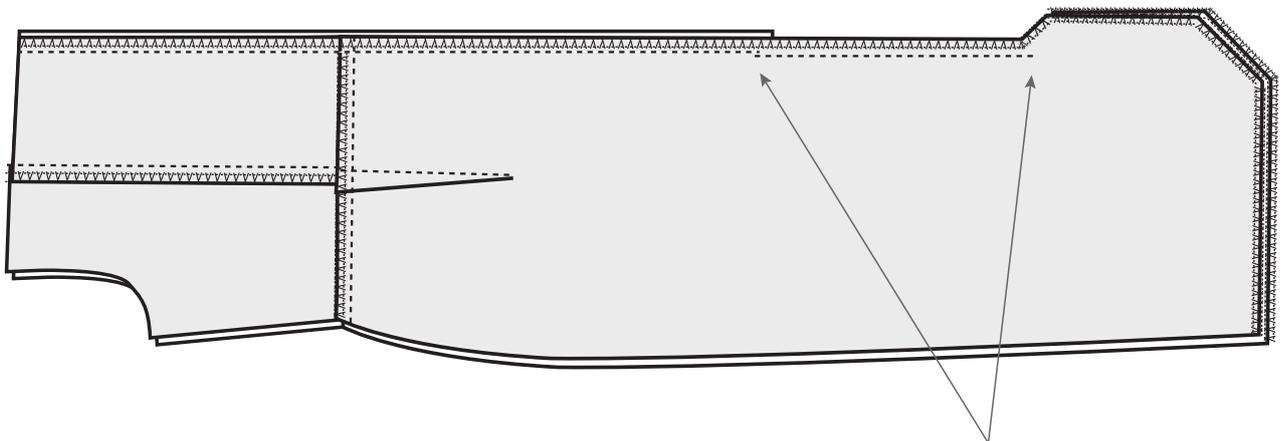
TIP: If your fabric stretches in both directions, you might find it will pucker along the zipper. Using extra pins can help, or iron strips of fusible interfacing to stabilize this area before stitching.

Invisible Zipper Tutorial!

The lovely folks at Collette have a brilliant tutorial for sewing invisible zippers. If you find zippers challenging, check their method out here:

<https://blog.colettehq.com/tutorials/tutorial-installing-an-invisible-zipper>

Step 9. Stitch the rest of the **Centre-Back** seam closed, from the bottom of the zipper to the top of the slit. Using a **Normal Zipper Foot** here can help you get nice and close to the end of the zipper. (Have a look at the Colette tutorial at the link above to see what I mean.)



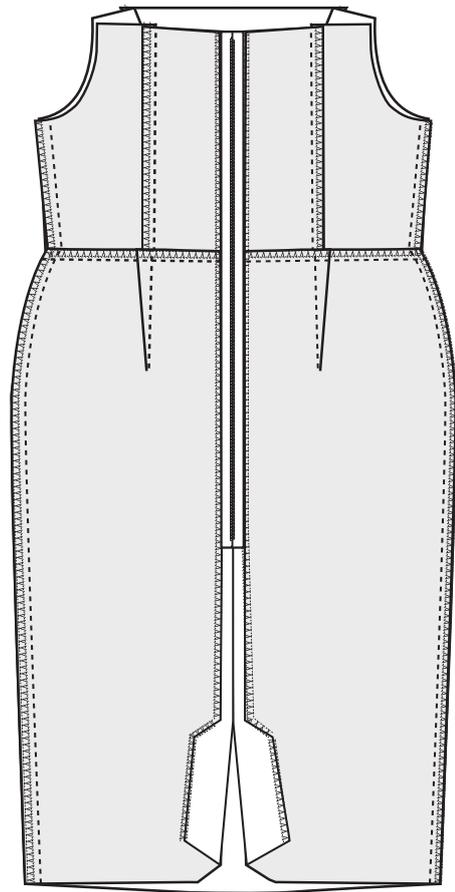
Stitch between these points

Step 10. Now take the **Dress Front** and **Dress Back**, and lay them face to face. Stitch the **Side Seams** together.

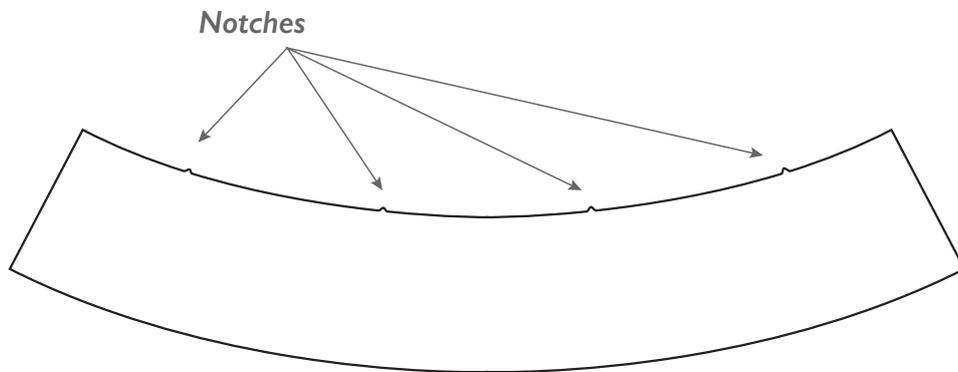
Now is a good time to try the dress on and see how well it fits. If it needs adjustments, try wearing it inside out, and get a friend to help you pin out any excess fabric at the side seams. Re-stitch the side seams so you get a firm fit.

Follow this with your chosen seam finish.

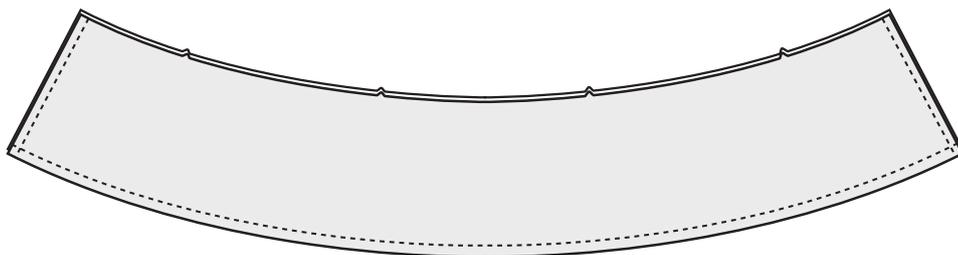
Set the dress aside.



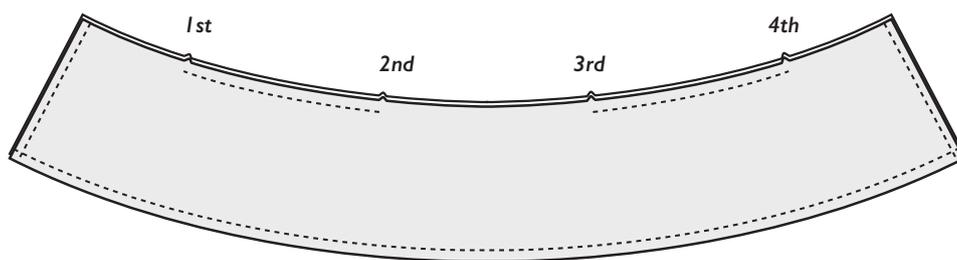
Step 11. Next take the two **Wrap** pieces and make note of the four notches along the top edge. You will need them in a few steps.



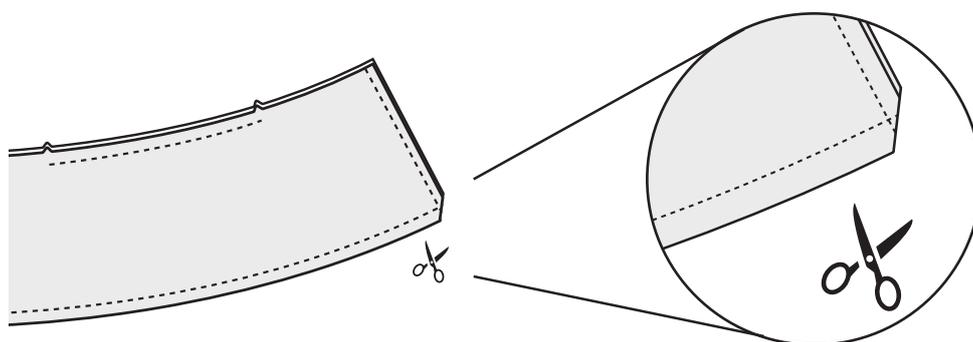
Take the two **Wrap** pieces and, with right sides together, stitch them together along the **bottom edge** and the **sides**.



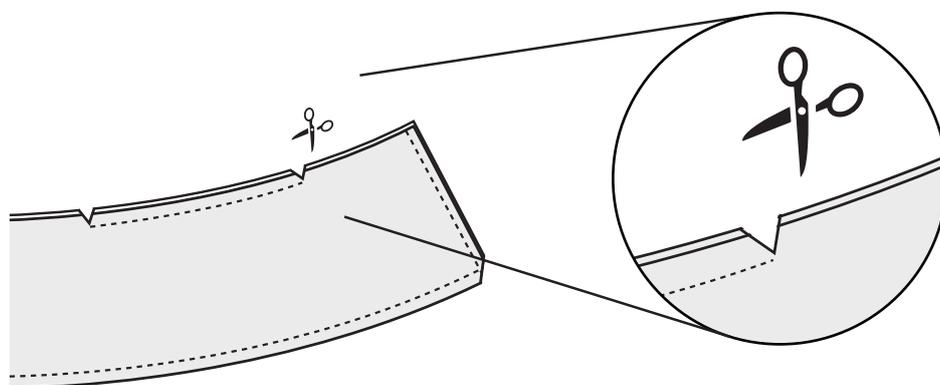
Next, stitch between the 1st and 2nd notch, and between the 3rd and 4th notch.



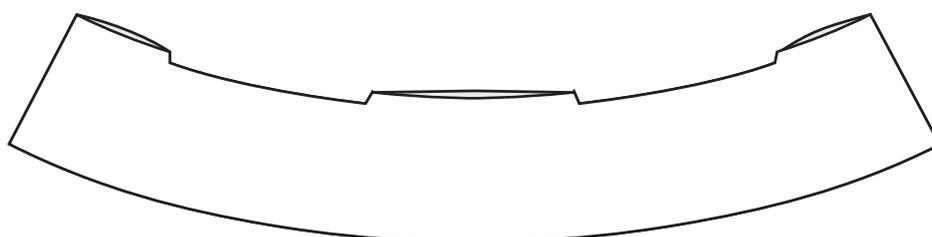
With a sharp pair of scissors, trim the bottom corners off the wrap.



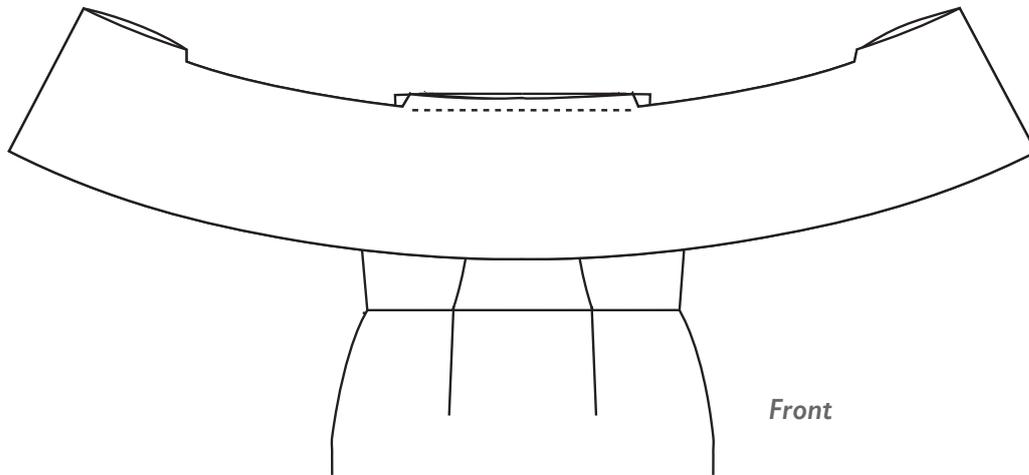
Next, trim the notches off by cutting a small V-shape into the seam allowance. Cut as close to the stitches as you can.



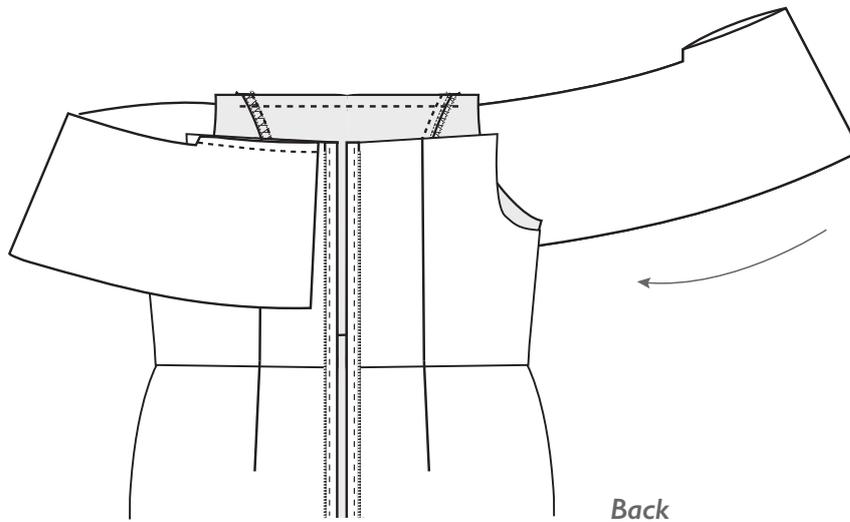
Turn the **Wrap** right way out. There should be three raw edges along the top, and two finished sections.



Step 12. Now we'll attach the **wrap** to the dress. Start with the dress right-side-out. Line up the middle section of the wrap with the front of the Bodice. Attach the raw edge to the **Front Neckline**. It will be slightly too short, to allow for seam allowances on either side. Be careful not to stretch it.

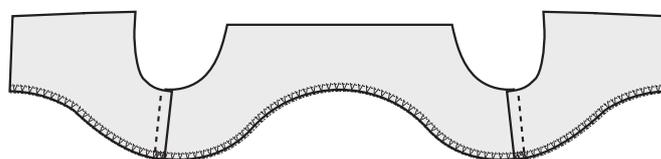


Step 13. Next, do the same on the back of the dress. Stitch the raw edges of the wrap to each side of the **Back Bodice**, leaving a little room on each side for seam allowance. The wrap shouldn't overlap the zipper.

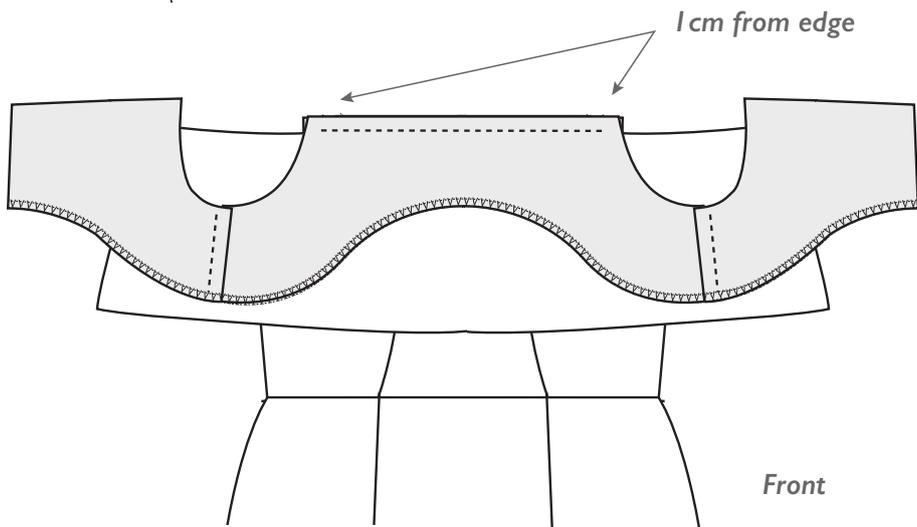


Step 14. Take the last remaining pattern pieces, the **Front Facing** and **Back Facings**. Stitch them together at the **side seams**.

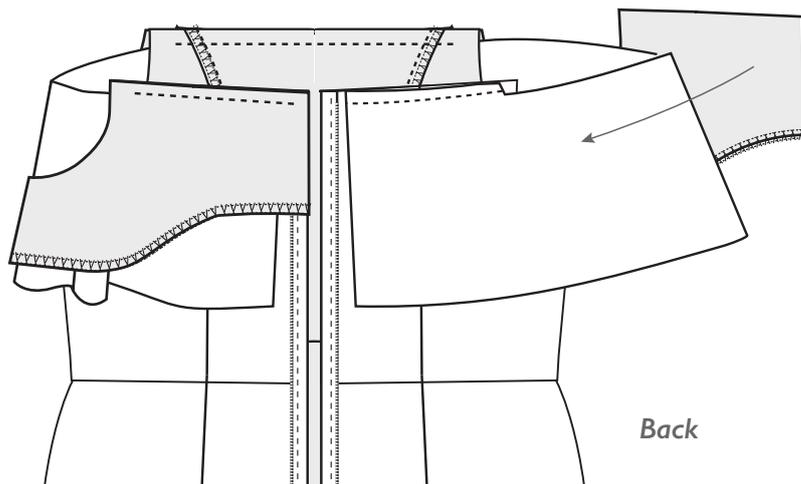
Finish the bottom edge with overlocking or your preferred finish.



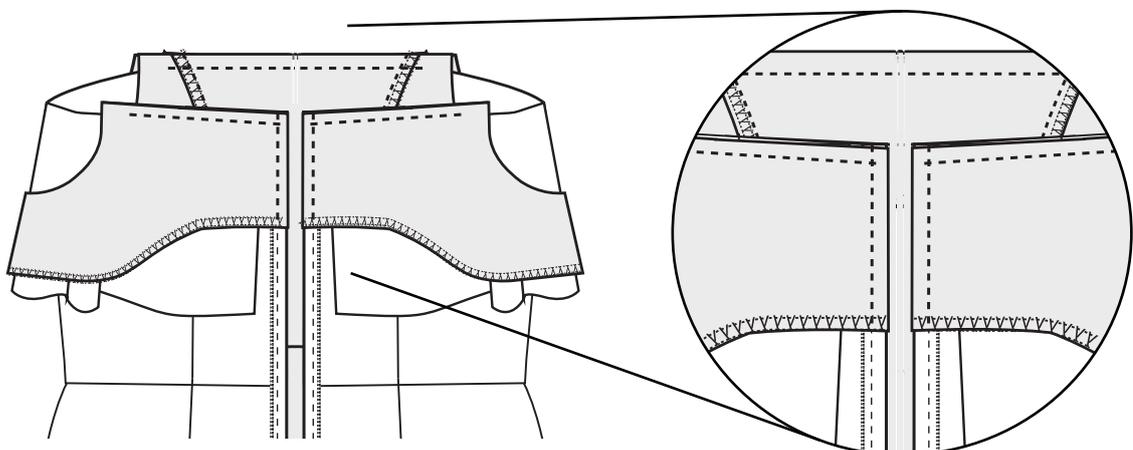
Step 15. Next attach the Front Facing to the Bodice Front. As with the Wrap, it should be stitched to the raw edge, and a small gap (1 cm, 3/8") should be left on each end.



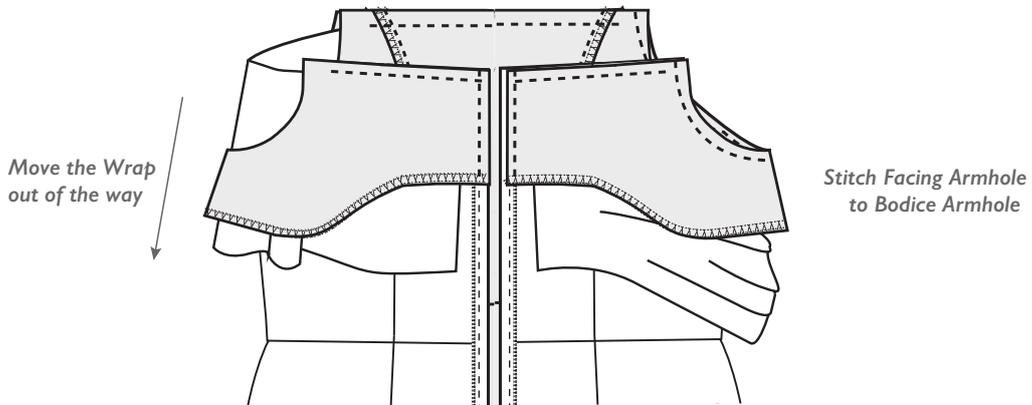
With the back zipper open and the teeth facing outwards, stitch the Back Facing along the top edge of the Back Bodice, leaving a small gap at each end.



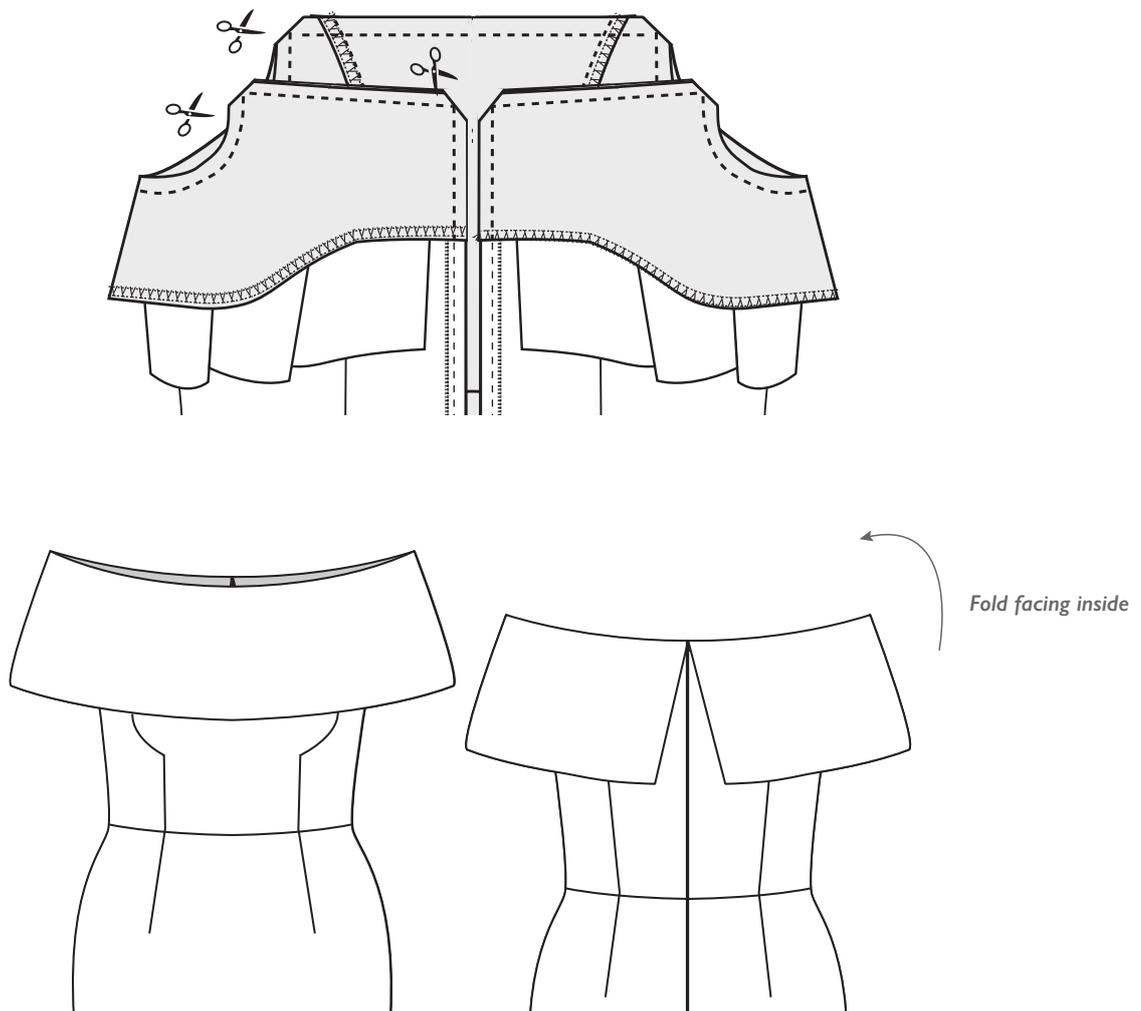
Step 16. Stitch the ends of the facing to the zipper tape

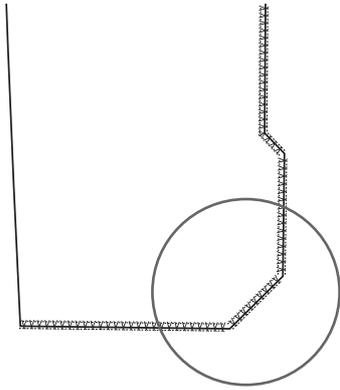


Step 17. Now to attach the Facings to the Armhole, you'll need to shuffle the wrap out of the way. Tug it downwards and use pins to hold the Bodice Armhole and Facing Armhole together. Stitch slowly and carefully so you don't catch the wrap in your stitching.

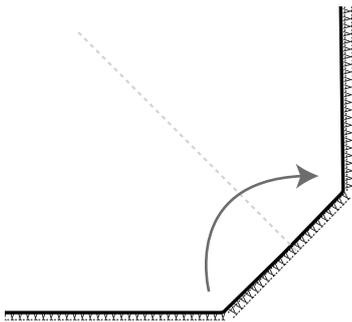


Step 18. Snip the corners off the seams you've just stitched, specifically at the top of the zipper and the tops of the armhole seams. Fold the facing inside the dress and the bodice is finished.

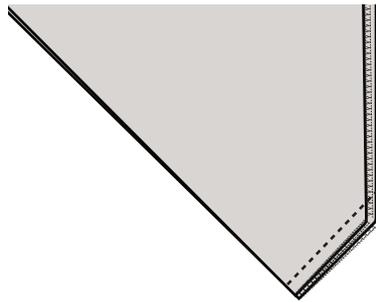




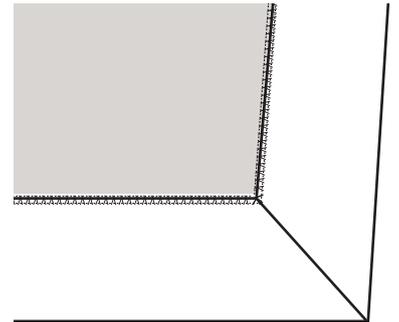
Step 19. You're nearly finished!
 The slit in the back of this dress has mitred corners.
 To sew it up, take a corner and fold it right-sides together so that the points meet. Stitch the corner closed, and then turn it right side out, and you should have a sharp point.



Fold the points together

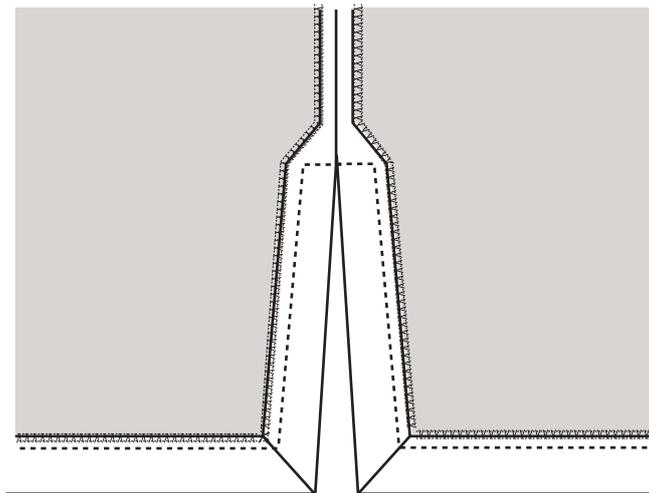


Stitch closed



Turn right side out

Repeat with the other mitred corner, and iron the slit and hem flat. Secure with pins. The mitred corners will give the dress a 4cm (1.5") hem. Stitch the hem and slit down using your machine, or if you prefer, blind stitch by hand for an invisible hem.



And that's it! You're done!
Enjoy your beautiful Margarita Dress!