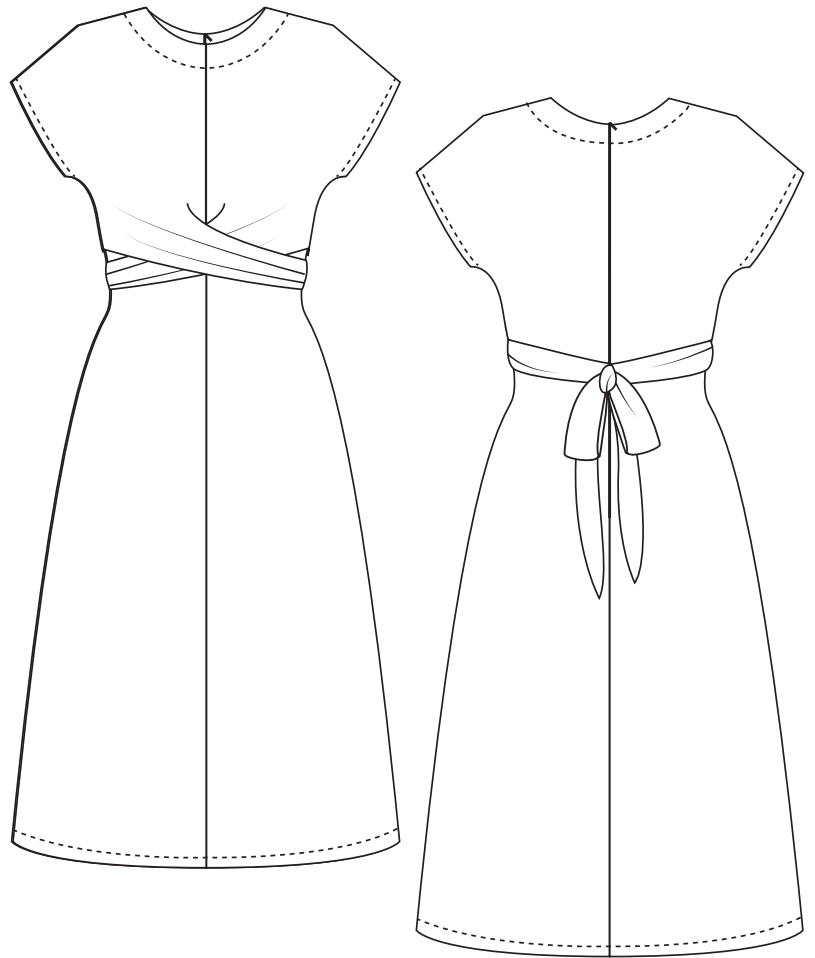




# The Gin & Tonic Dress Instructions

## Our Lady of Leisure

DIVINE SEWING PATTERNS



The Gin and Tonic Dress is a real eye-catcher! This is a flattering A-line dress, with a unique “grown-on” wrap detail. It is designed to be made in two contrasting fabrics, but looks equally lovely in a single colour.

The dress closes with an invisible zipper, and features a lovely wide neckline.

### Skill Level

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

### Material Requirements

This pattern is designed for light woven fabrics. Cotton, silk, rayon, linen and polyester are all suitable. Recommended finishes include challis, crepe, satin, batiste or lawn. Stretch fabrics are not recommended.

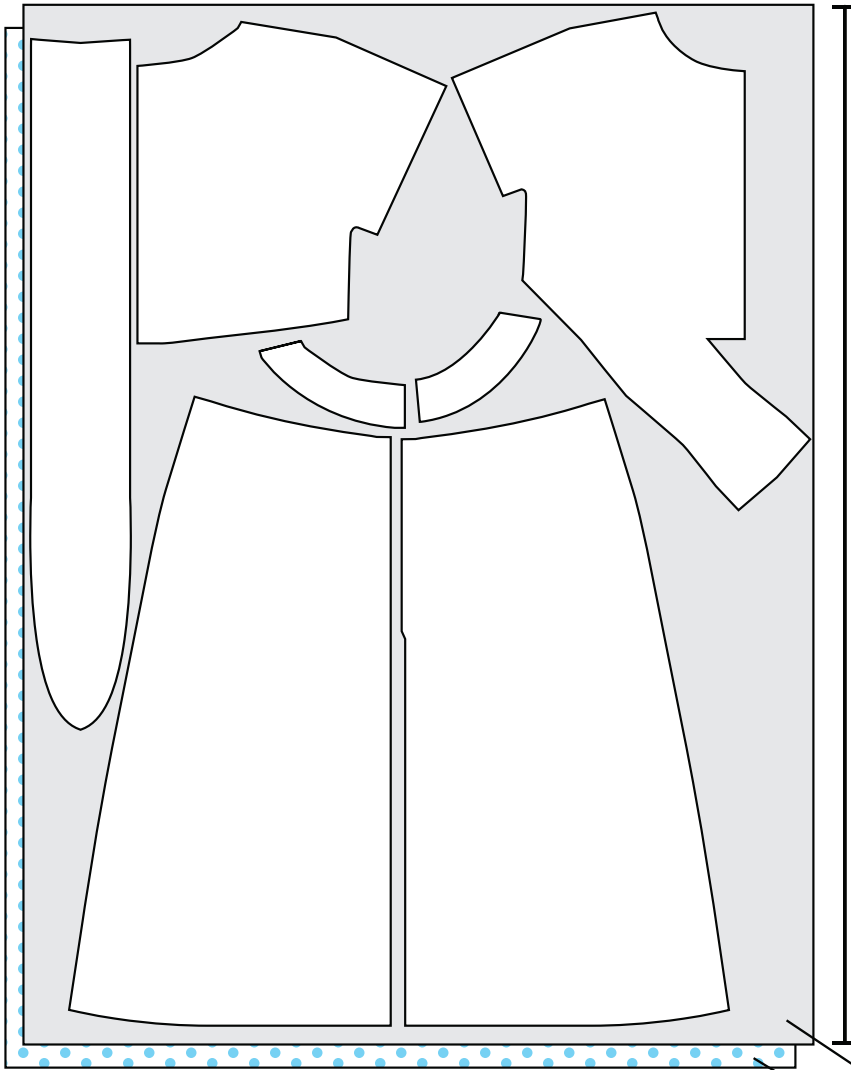
### You'll Need...

- **2.4m (2.6 yards)** of fabric with a 144cm (55”) width [1.2m (1.3y) of each color, if you are using contrast colours].  
OR
- **3m (3.3 yards)** of fabric with a 112cm (44”) width [1.5m (1.6y) of each colour, if you are using contrast colours].
- A 50cm invisible zipper and an invisible zipper foot.

### Before you begin...

- The Gin and Tonic Pattern pieces all include 1cm (3/8”) seam allowances.
- The Gin and Tonic 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 Cutting Guide.

## 115cm (44") Width Fabric



### CUTTING GUIDE

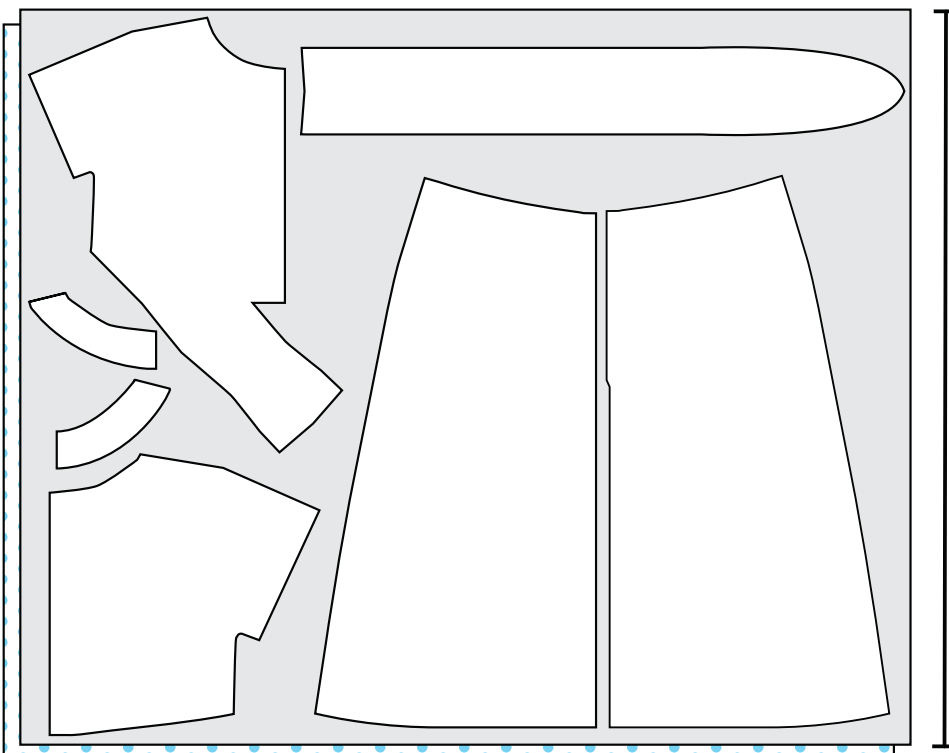
If you'd like to make your Gin and Tonic dress out of two contrasting fabrics, the cutting diagrams on this page will help you cut the correct pieces.

A few things to note:

- The right sides of your fabric should be face-to-face when you cut.
- The pattern pieces are all laid right side up. They should not be flipped over.

1.5m length of each fabric  
(1.7 yards)

## 144cm (55") Width Fabric



Fabric A, right side DOWN.

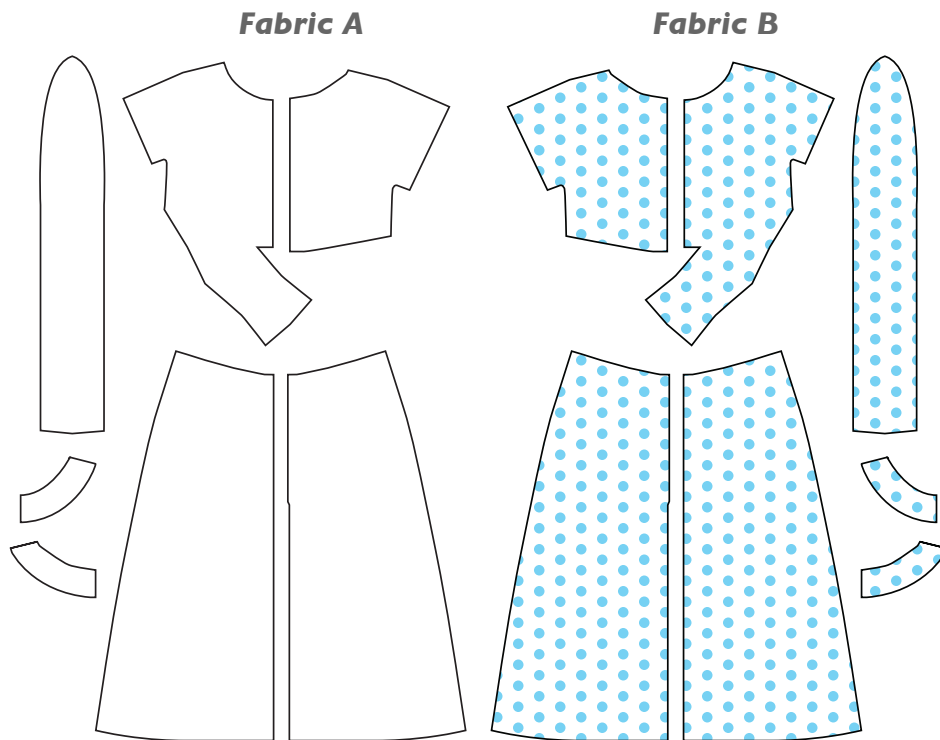
Fabric B, right side UP.

1.2m length of each fabric  
(1.3 yards)

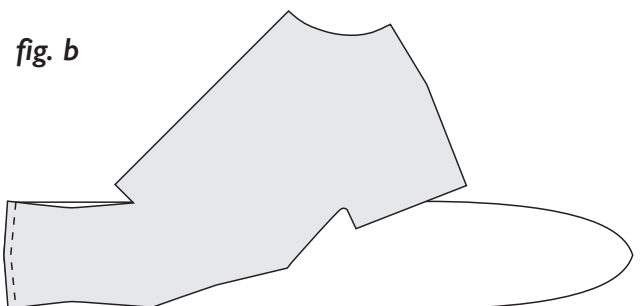
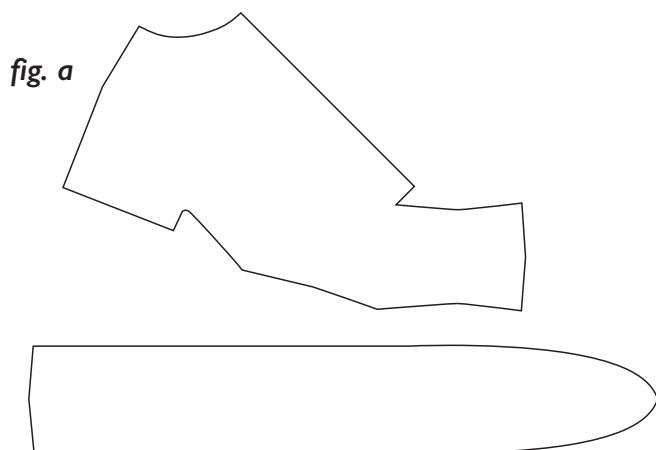
## Let's begin!

**Step 1.** Cut the pattern pieces from your chosen fabric, taking care to keep the grainline parallel to the selvage. If you're using contrasting fabrics, follow the **Cutting Guide** to make sure you cut the correct pieces from each fabric.

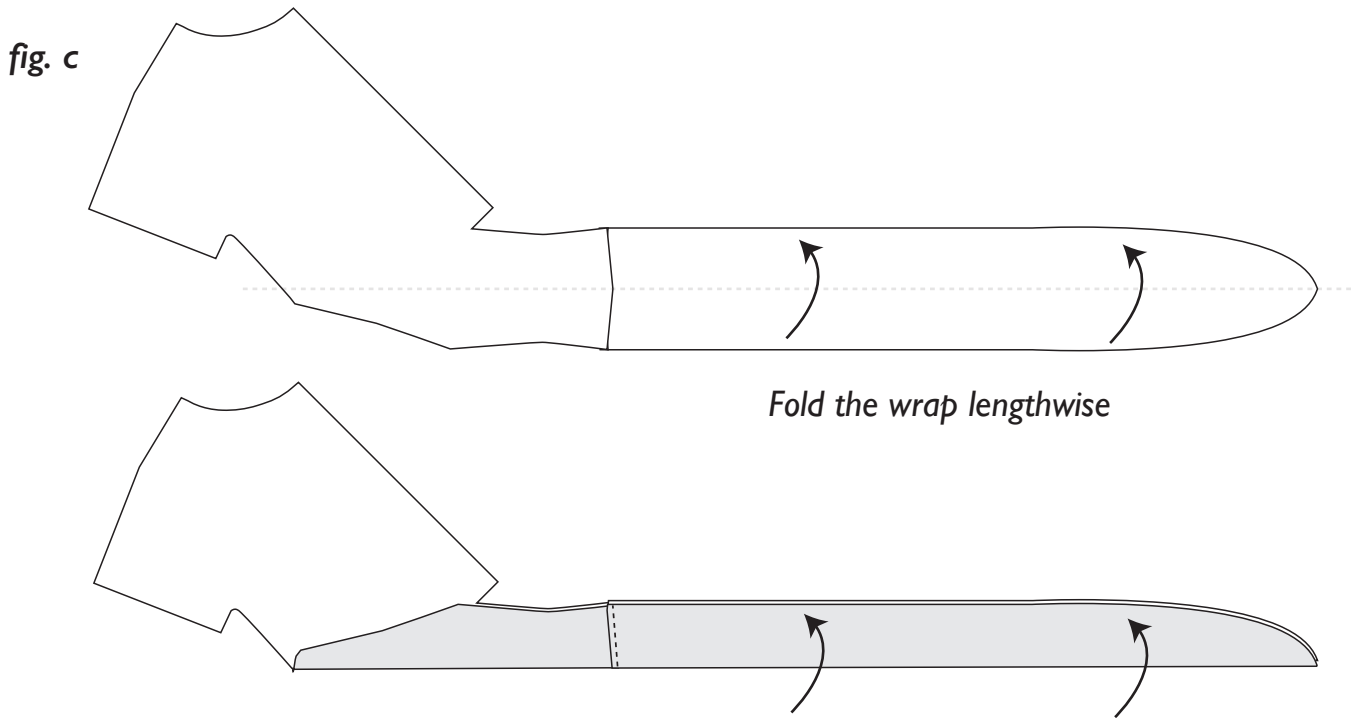
When you're finished cutting, your pieces should match the picture below.



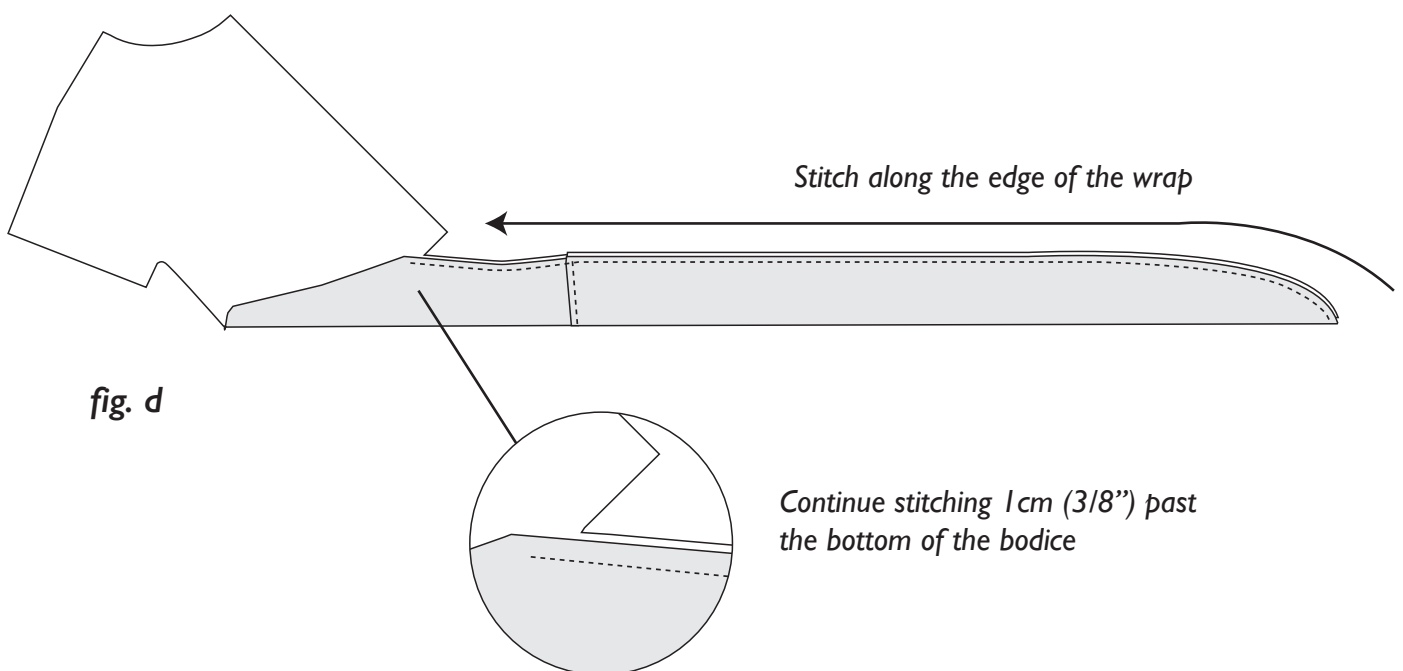
**Step 2.** Let's get sewing! Start by taking one **Bodice Front** piece, and the matching **Wrap** piece. With the right sides together, stitch the Wrap to the protruding section of the Bodice (as shown in figure b). Use a 1 cm (3/8") seam allowance.



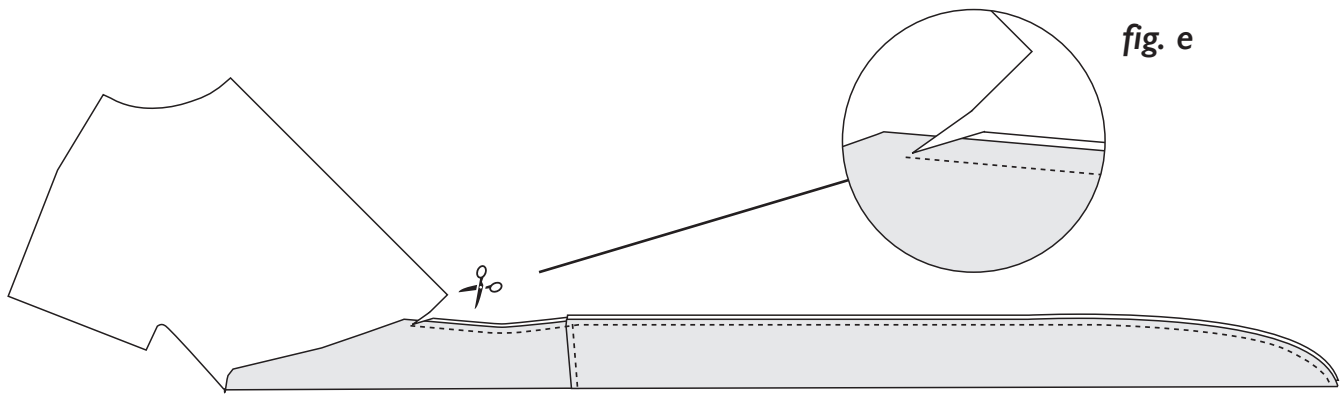
**Step 3.** Now we're going to create the 'twist effect' in the bodice. It's much easier than it looks!  
Start by folding the wrap along its length, and pinning it in place.



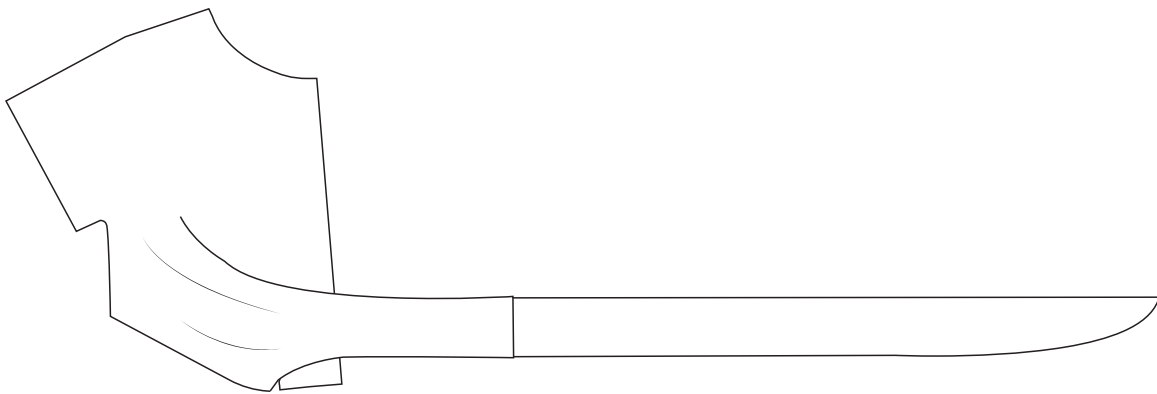
Stitch along the edge of the wrap, maintaining a 1 cm (3/8") seam allowance.  
The stitching should extend 1 cm beyond the bottom edge of the bodice  
(see the figure d below).



Using a sharp pair of scissors, cut a notch into the seam allowance where the wrap meets the bodice. Cut as close to the stitching line as you can (fig. e).

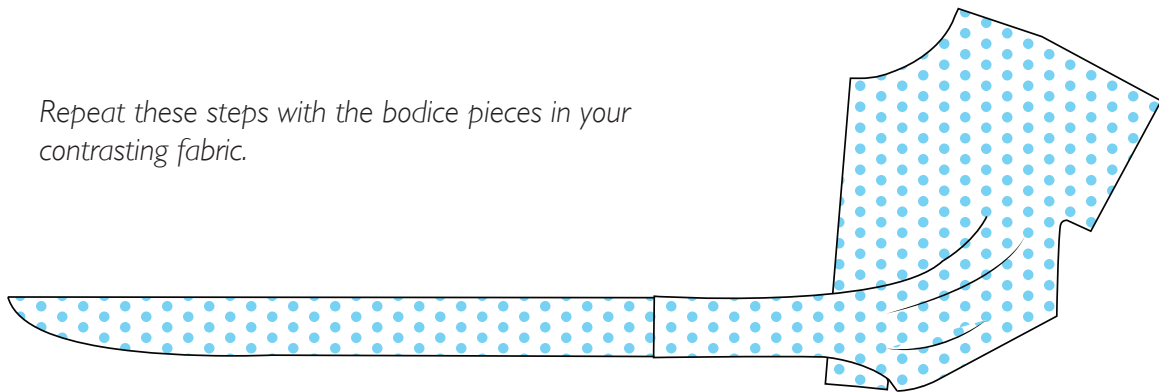


Turn the bodice and wrap right side out.

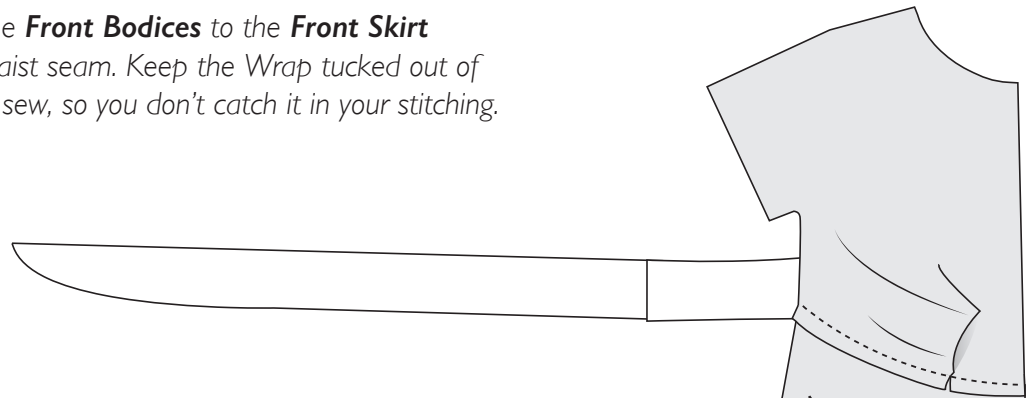


**If your bodice won't sit flat (especially at the waist seam), you haven't trimmed the seam allowance enough.**

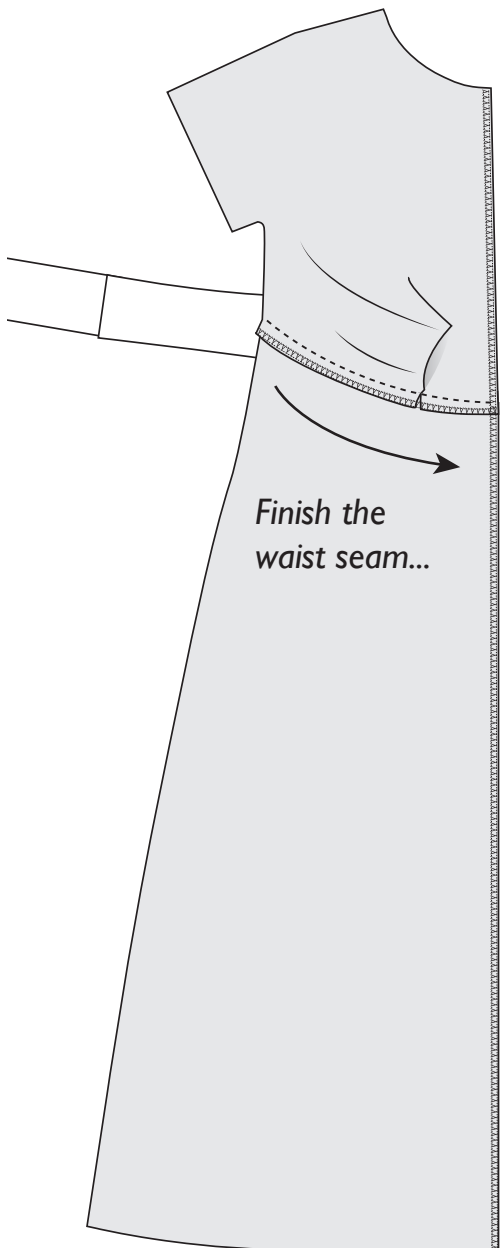
Repeat these steps with the bodice pieces in your contrasting fabric.



**Step 3.** Next, attach the **Front Bodices** to the **Front Skirt** pieces at the waist seam. Keep the **Wrap** tucked out of the way as you sew, so you don't catch it in your stitching.



**Step 4.** Use your chosen 'seam finish' to tidy up the waist seam and the centre-front seam. In the diagram below we have used overlocking (serging), but you may use any seam finish you like.



...and the  
centre-front seam.

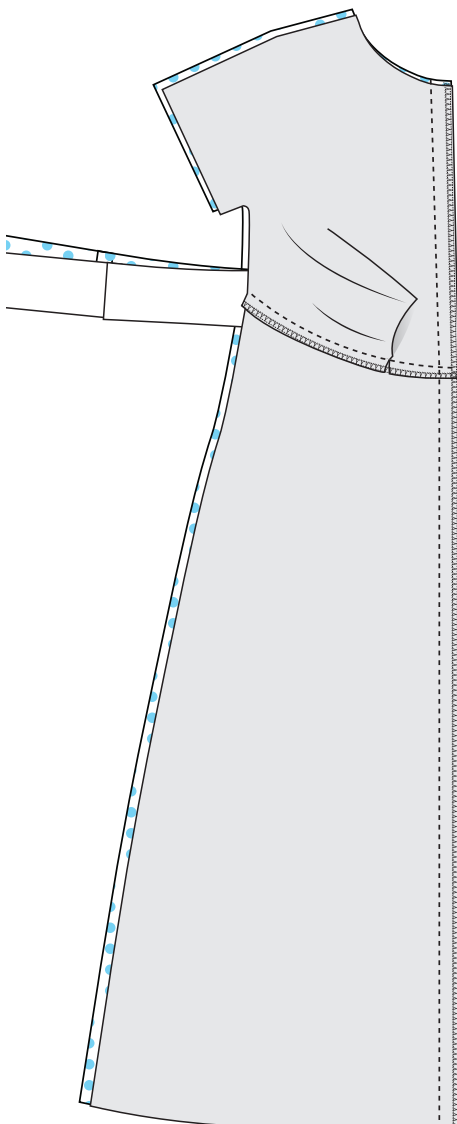
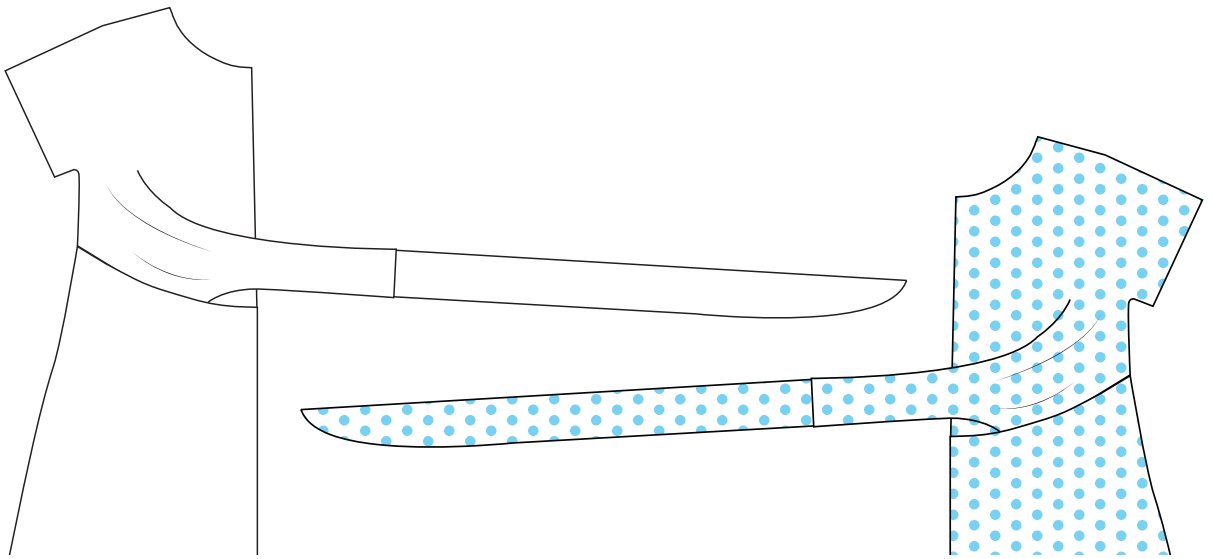
Stitch the bodice  
to the matching  
Front Skirt

Finish the  
waist seam...

#### Seam Finishing

In these diagrams we have used overlocking (also known as 'serging') to finish the seams. If you don't have an overlocker, you can use zig-zag stitch, or trim your seams with pinking shears to prevent fraying.

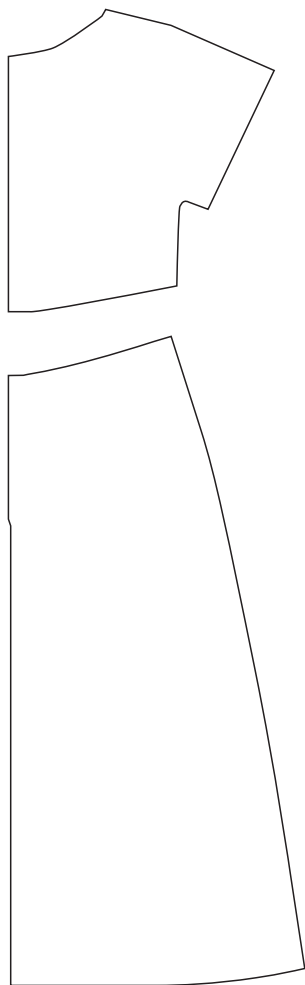
**Step 5.** Repeat step 3 and 4 with the contrasting fabric, so you have two finished front pieces.



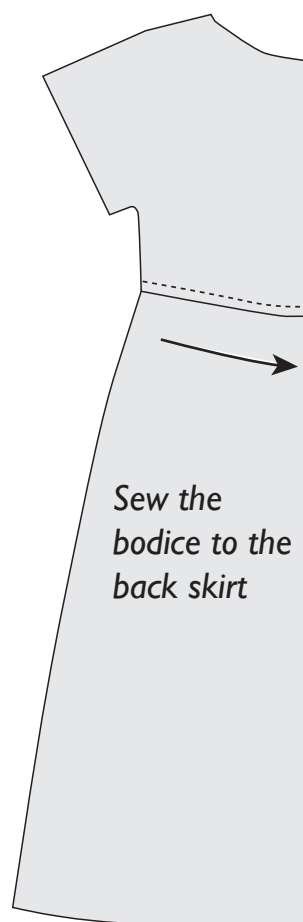
**Step 6.** Place the two Fronts face to face, and stitch them together along the centre front seam. As always, maintain a 1 cm (3/8") seam allowance.

*Join the center-front seam*

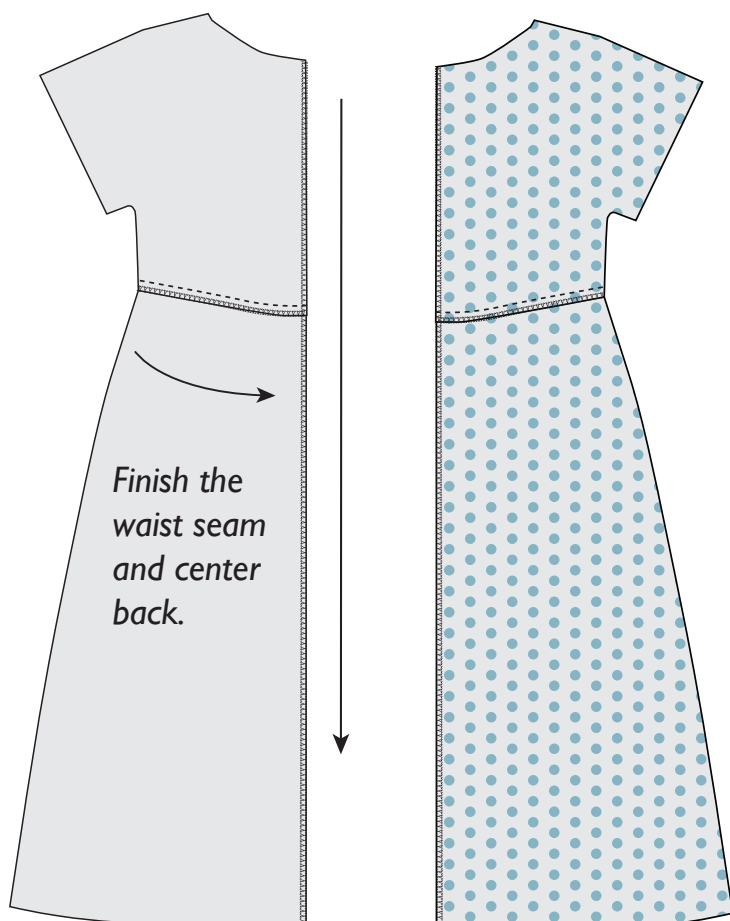




**Step 7.** Take one of your **Bodice Back** pieces and the matching Skirt Back. Join them at the waist seam using a 1 cm (3/8") seam allowance.



Sew the bodice to the back skirt



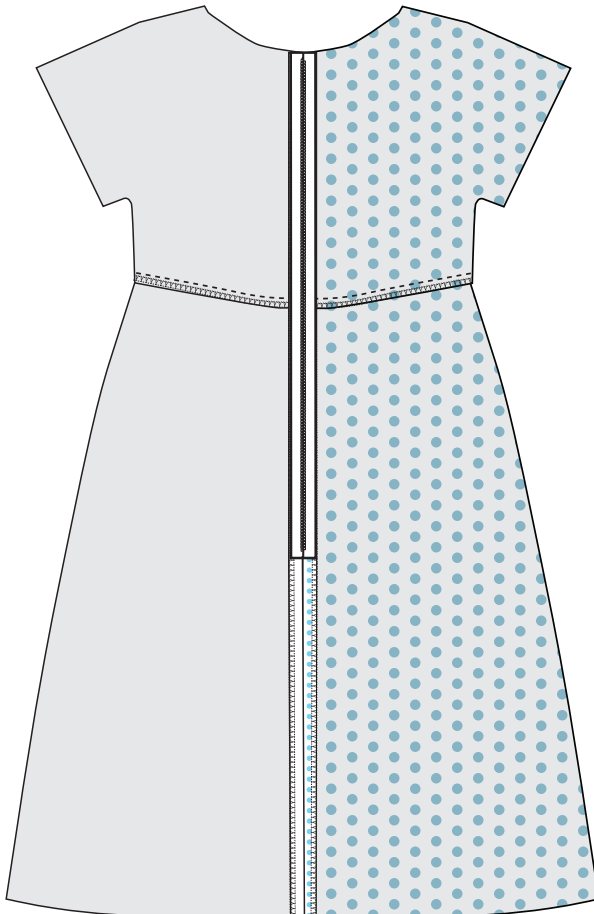
Finish the waist seam and center back.

**Step 8.** Just as you did earlier on the front, tidy the waist seams and the center-back seams using your preferred method of seam finish.



**Step 9.** Next, it's time to insert the invisible zipper into the dress. We're doing it at this stage because it's so much easier than trying to put a zipper in at the very end.

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



**Invisible Zipper Tutorial!**

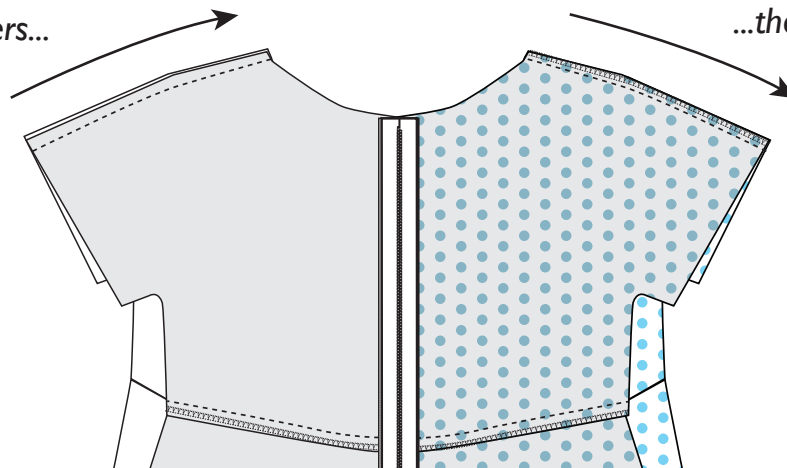
The lovely folks at Collette have a brilliant tutorial for sewing invisible zippers. If you find zippers challenging, check their method out here:

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

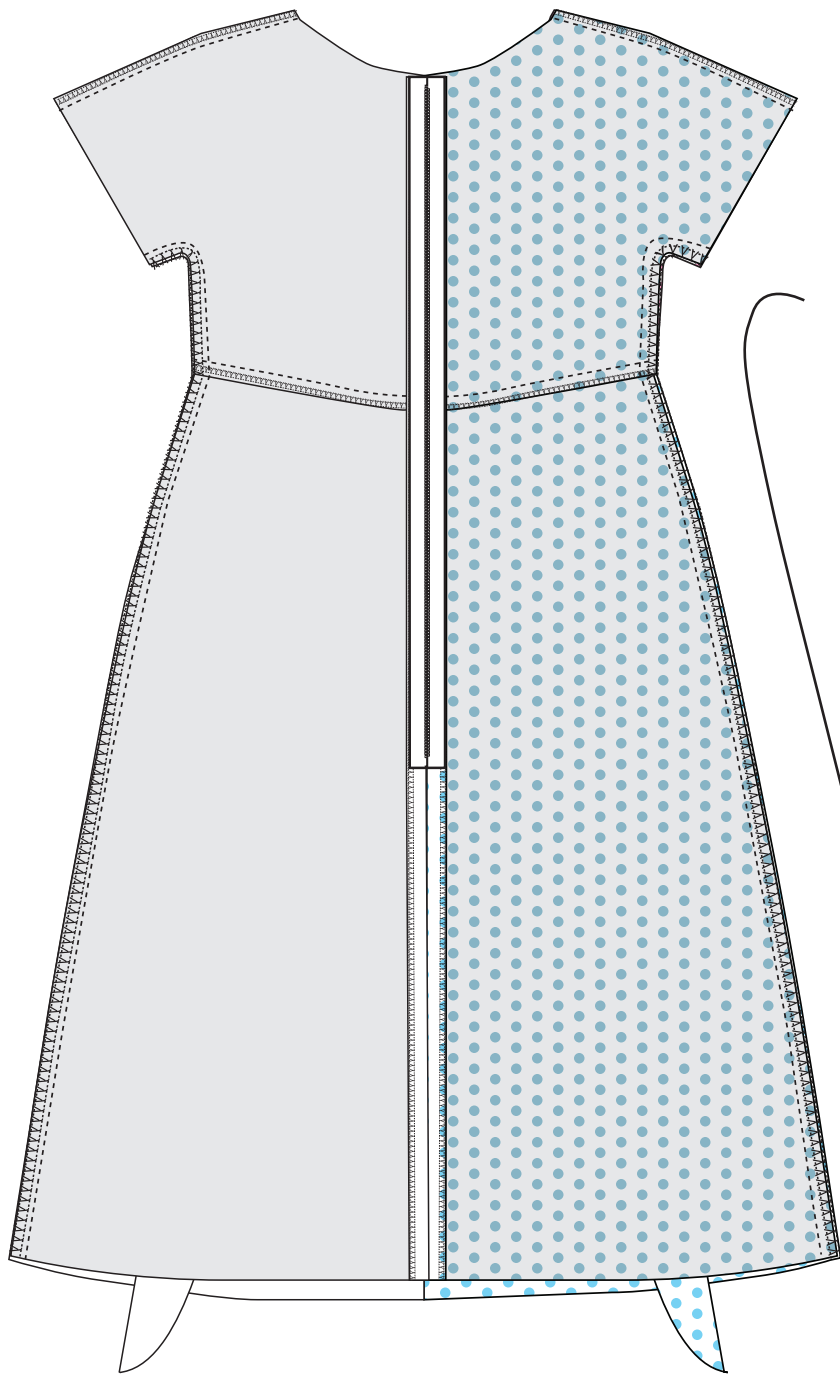
Stitch the rest of the centre-back seam closed, from the end of the zipper to the hem.

**Step 10.** The next step is to assemble the dress. Place the front and back right sides together, and pin them along the shoulder seam. Stitch them together with your 1 cm (3/8") seam allowance, and then finish the seam with your chosen seam finish.

Join the shoulders...



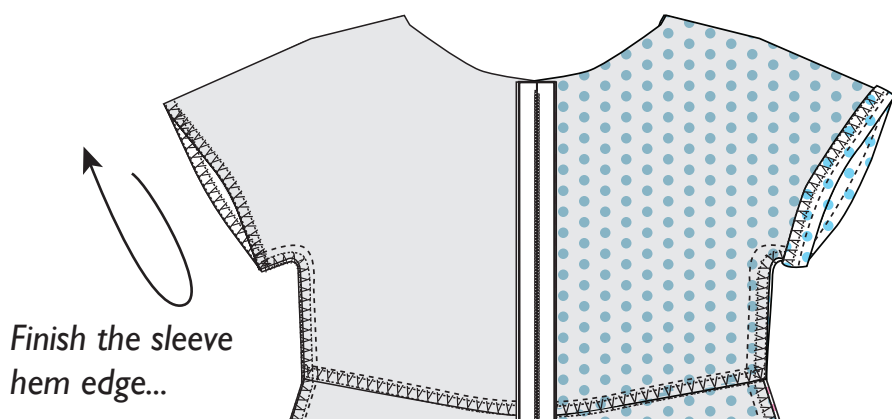
...then finish the seams



**Step 11.** Next, join the side seams and finish them.

In the tight corners of the under-arm area, you may want to snip into the seam allowance to "release" the fabric (for example, if it is bunching or twisting), this is optional and should only be necessary if your fabric is quite sturdy.

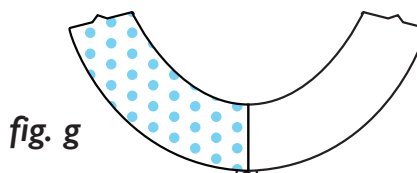
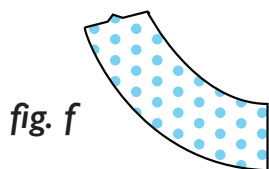
*Join and finish the side seams.*



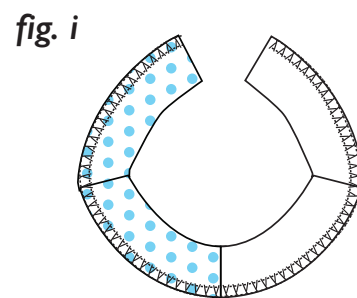
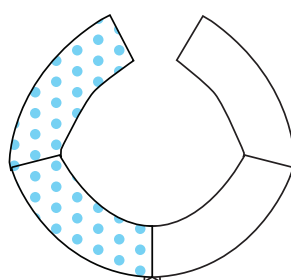
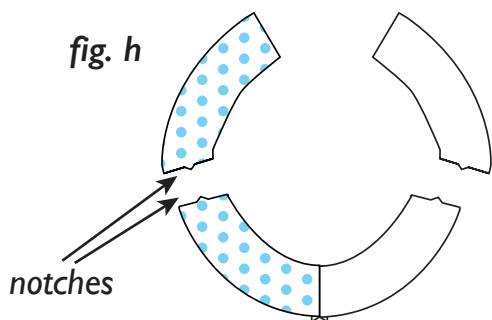
*Finish the sleeve hem edge...*

**Step 12.** Finish the sleeves with your preferred seam finish, and then fold them up and hem them with a 1.5cm (2/3") hem allowance.

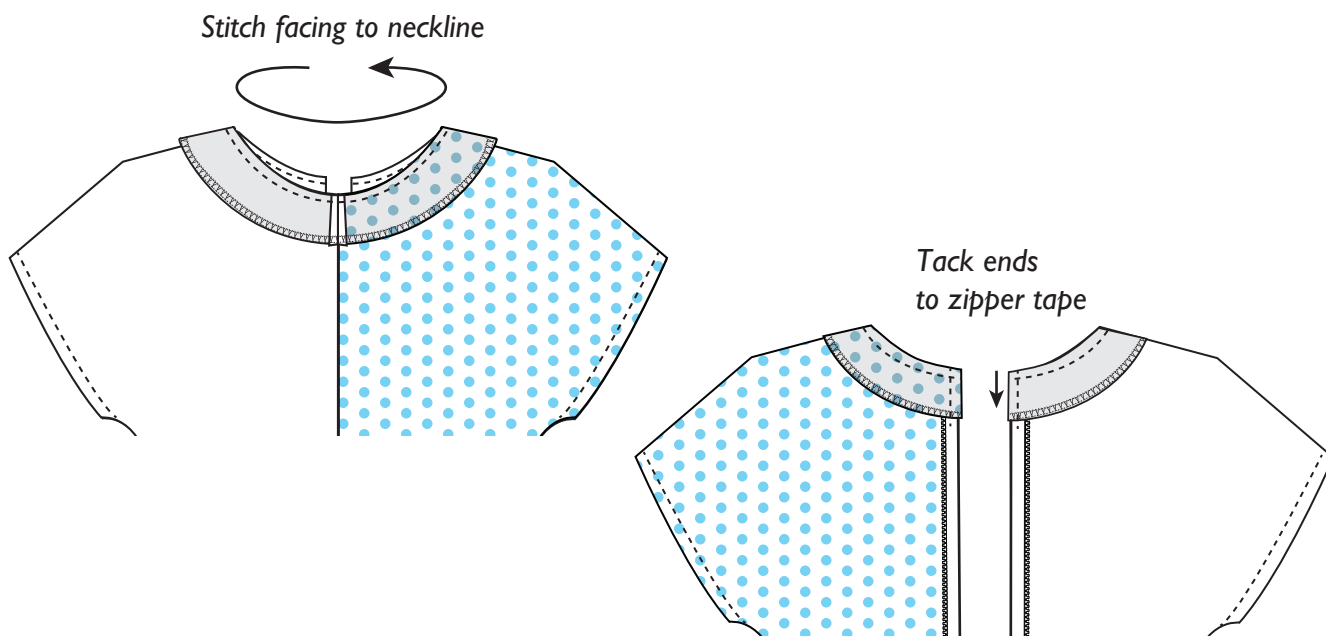
**Step 13.** We're on the home stretch now! Set your dress aside for a moment and gather your **Neckline Facing** pieces (fig. f). Take the two **Front Neckline Facing** pieces and join them at centre front with a 1 cm (3/8") seam allowance (fig. g).  
 NB: Center-front is the edge without a notch.



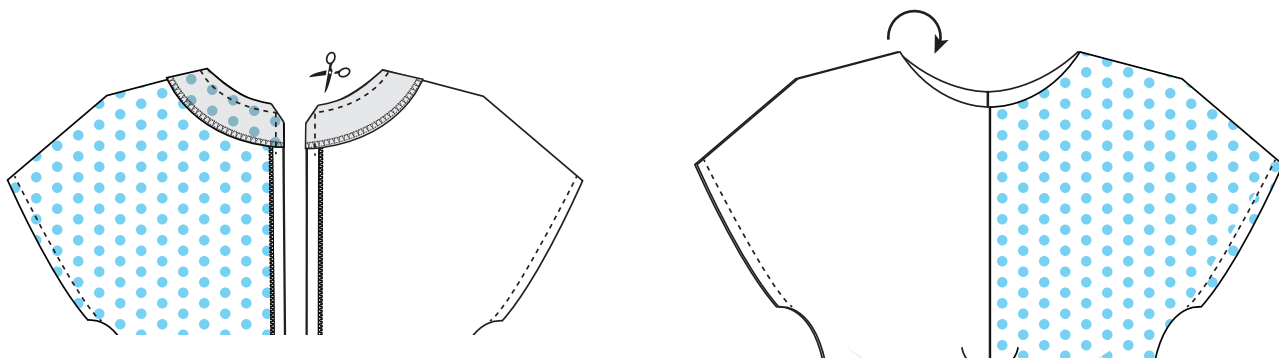
**Step 14.** Now take your **Back Neckline Facing** pieces and join them to the Front at the shoulder seams. The shoulder seams have notches to help you identify them (fig. h).  
 When the Facing is complete, finish the outer edge with your chosen seam finish (fig. i).



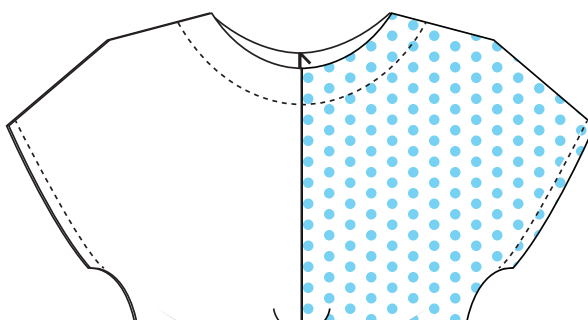
**Step 15.** Next, it's time to attach the facing to the **Neckline**. With the dress turned right way out, pin the Facing face-down around the neckline, taking care to line up the shoulder and center seams. Stitch the facing in place.  
 When you reach center-back, stitch the ends of the facing to the (unzipped) zipper tape.



**Step 16.** Trim the excess seam allowance from the corners and turn the facing inside the garment.



**Step 17.** Stitch the Facing in place. For a crisp finish, iron the neckline first and stitch on the outside. Take your time as this stitching will be very visible when the garment is worn.



**Step 18.** The last step is to try on your Gin and Tonic dress and see how you like the length. Shorten the skirt as you see fit, and then hem it with a double-fold hem.

And that's it! Enjoy your new Gin and Tonic Dress!  
Be sure to check back at [www.ourladyofleisure.com](http://www.ourladyofleisure.com) for more patterns including our popular "freebies" section.