



A Fairytale Wedding in an English Castle

By Maree Pigdon

When Maree's son announced his intended wedding in England she automatically thought, "What shall I wear?" Maree had a thousand design ideas flying through her head but her mother-of-the-groom outfit had to be perfect for the occasion. The question was, "Where to start?" The inspiration came, once again, after falling in love with a pair of shoes!

NOTE: The patterns used for this outfit were, skirt – Vogue 8047, and jacket – Vogue 8205, both of which are now discarded from the catalogue. Stitches has found substitute patterns and added the instructions to achieve a similar look.

With jacket and skirt patterns in hand, Maree took up the challenge of finding fabric to match her dusty rose shoes. The perfect fabric was finally found, in the last of many shops – a beautiful black Italian silk fabric with dusty pink embroidery – matching the shoes perfectly. Coordinating plain silk georgette and crepe satin were purchased for the camisole and skirt.

Patterns

Skirt: McCall's 2255

Jacket and camisole: Vogue 1021

Skirt

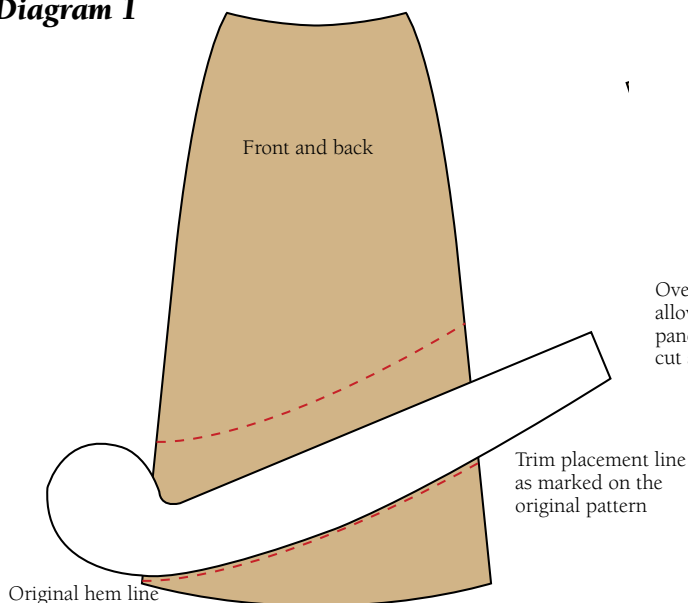
The featured fabrics for the skirt are both pure silk. The longest layer of the skirt is silk crepe satin, which was chosen for a hint of sheen and ties in with the camisole. The two top layers are silk georgette.

All skirt pieces are cut on the bias, making this a great pattern as it has an easy elastic waistband, which is not only comfortable but avoids the challenge of sewing a zip into three layers of bias.

Pattern alterations

- Working with the front pattern piece for view B, gently curve a line from the trim placement position, on the left side seam, down to the hemline at the right side seam. [See diagram 1](#). Repeat for the back pattern piece. These pattern pieces become the under-layer.
- The middle and outer layers are approximately 7.5cm (3in) shorter than each other and follow the same hemline curve.

Diagram 1



Construction

- Construct the pattern following the pattern instructions and incorporating the middle skirt layer.
- Use an overlocked rolled hem to create a soft fluted finish on the hemline.

TIP: Ensure you allow your skirt to hang for 24 hours before hemming, to allow the bias to set.

Jacket

The jacket is made from a black Italian silk satin that is lightly quilted and machine-embroidered with pink silk embroidery thread. The jacket is fully lined using the silk crepe of the skirt and camisole.

Pattern alterations

- Overlap the seam allowances of the upper, middle and lower side front panels and tape together. Cut as one piece. [See diagram 2](#).
- Working with the front pattern piece, re-shape the neckline to reflect the original pattern, opening it out a little more so the camisole can be seen. [See diagram 3](#).
- Shorten the side seams by 2cm (3/4in). Lengthen the centre-back seam by 2cm (3/4in).

Overlap the seam allowances of the side front and front, side back and back, plus the side seam and re-curve from the lengthened centre back to the shortened side seam points curving up toward the waistline. [See diagram 4](#).

Diagram 2



Diagram 3

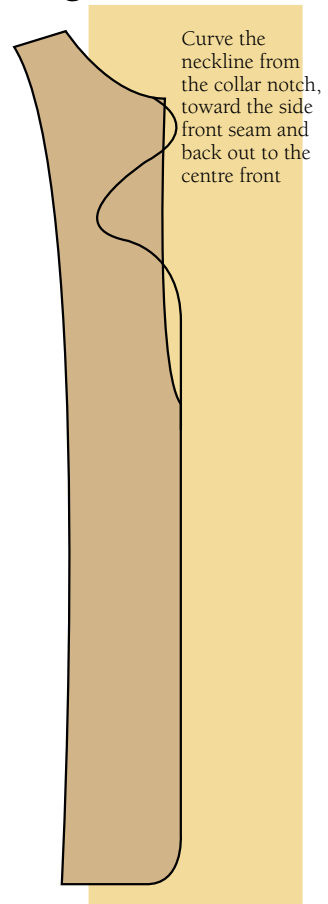
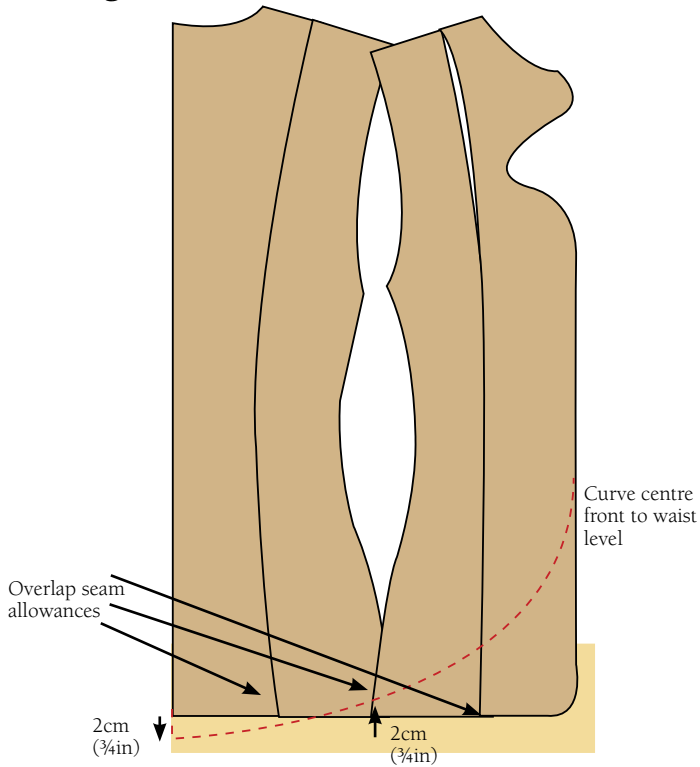


Diagram 4



NOTE: Curving the hemline of a jacket will avoid a horizontal line at the high-hip/hip area (often a person's widest part), enhancing the design as well as creating a flattering line.

- Curve the sleeve hem to a similar curve of the jacket hemline.

Cutting

- Cut all pattern pieces from both outer and lining fabrics.

Construction

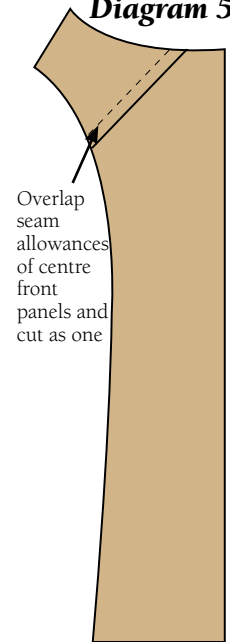
- Step 1** – To have a continuous line of piping around the entire outer edges of the jacket, attach the outer collar to the neckline of the jacket and the inner collar to the facing pieces.
- Step 2** – Stitch the piping to the outer edge of the jacket, clipping at all curves around the collar and neckline.
- Step 3** – Stitch the collar to the jacket lining pieces in the same manner.
- Step 4** – With right sides together, pin the lining to the jacket. Stitch together following the piping stitching.
- Step 5** – Stitch piping to the sleeve edges.

TIP: To easily bag out the jacket, leave an opening in one side seam of the lining.

Camisole

- Overlap the seam allowance of the front and upper front pattern pieces and tape together. See diagram 5.
- Cut the garment following the layout guide.
- Construct the garment following the pattern instructions.
- Overlock the hemline to prevent it showing through when tucked into the skirt.

Diagram 5



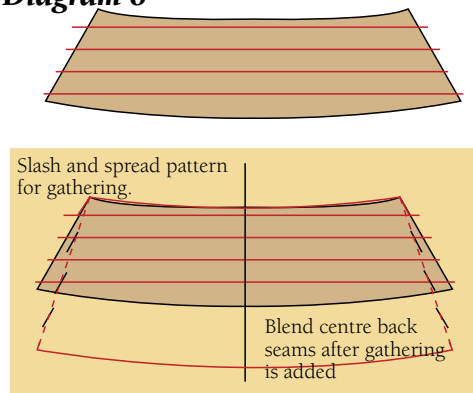
Cummerbund

The cummerbund was created so the jacket could be comfortably removed and the elasticised waistband would not be visible.

- Step 1** – Cut a curved pattern piece 10cm (4in) wide to fit your waist. Dart and shape the pattern piece until it fits you perfectly.
- Step 2** – Evenly space lines along the length of the pattern piece. On a separate piece of paper 'square-block' the pattern for the ruching. See diagram 6.
- Step 3** – Cut the original pattern and the wider ruching piece from the crepe satin.
- Step 4** – Ruche the top layer to fit the under layer. With right sides together, stitch the layers, leaving a small opening for bagging out. Turn right sides out and hand-stitch the folds of the ruching in place. Finish with a covered-button closure.

Summary Diagram 6

Maree found her mother-of-the-groom outfit a delight to wear to her son's wedding. It certainly was a journey to be remembered, travelling with her family and her outfit from Geelong to the English countryside for a beautiful wedding ceremony and reception in Powderham Castle in Exeter, United Kingdom. Maree has since worn her wedding outfit to two more weddings in both combinations of jacket with skirt and jacket and black trousers.



Happy Sewing,
Maree

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