

# SEW YOUR OWN: MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

1/21

created by **Alice & Co**  
PATTERNS



## MEET MARY QUANT

Mary Quant is one of the most iconic designers of the 1960s. Her fun, young, innovative approach shook up British fashion, with eye-popping designs like hot-pants, playsuits and the era-defining miniskirts and dresses – all in rainbow colours.

### Did you know?

Quant was a self-taught designer and pattern cutter. Her first designs were adapted from commercially available sewing patterns, which she customised to make her own. Later, Quant produced a range of home sewing patterns so that women across the world could create their own versions of her famous designs.

## ABOUT THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

### DESIGN

The Mary Quant-style minidress is an easy to wear A-line shift that can be personalised with a mix and match collection of collars, necklines, pockets and sleeves, all inspired by Mary Quant's iconic designs. You'll want to try this out more than once in lots of different fabrics and combinations!

### FIT

Neat on the shoulders and bust, flaring out to an A-line shape designed to sit just above the knee.

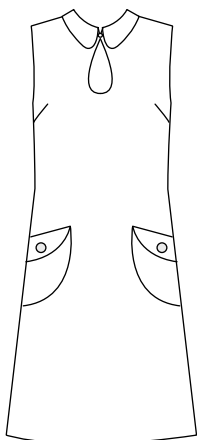
### VARIATIONS

The world is your oyster! This pattern comes with two neckline options, two pocket options, three collar finishes, and two sleeve finishes so you can mix and match to your heart's content. The dress is drafted as a classic 1960s mini that sits just above the knee - shorten if you want to show a bit more thigh, or lengthen to turn it into a more 70s style maxi-dress.

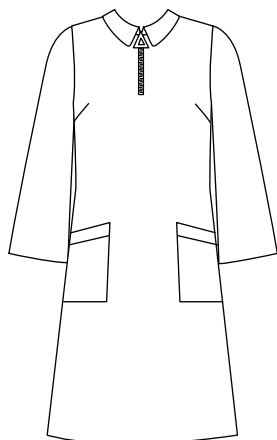
### LEVEL

Advanced Beginner – if you've never tried an all-in-one neck and armhole facing, now's your chance!

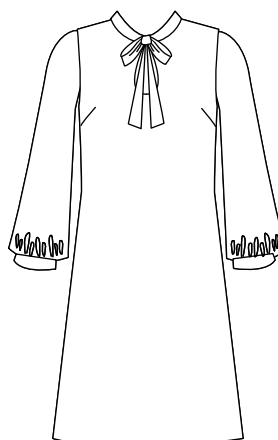
*Here's a few variations you could try...*



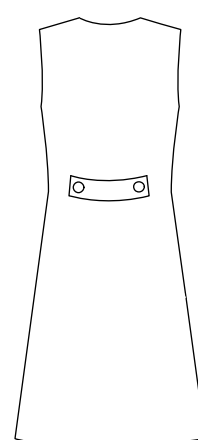
FRONT: keyhole neckline, rounded collar, curved pockets, no sleeves



FRONT: zip front neckline, pointed collar, angled pockets, fluted sleeve



FRONT: keyhole neckline, necktie, gathered sleeves



BACK: belt with buttons

## YOU WILL NEED

### FABRIC

This is one of those patterns that can be made up in almost any fabric. You could do a winter version in a natty tweed or cosy needlecord, or a summer version in crisp cotton shirting. Dress it up for a party in brocade, make it in lace to wear to a wedding, or how about contrasting a cotton velvet body with georgette sleeves and necktie? For beginners we recommend a fabric that presses well as this will make your life a lot easier. For more advanced sewers it will also work with firmer knit fabrics such as ponté or double knit wool jersey.

Sizes 6–14 (sleeveless): you will need 2m/2.2 yards of 140cm/56" wide fabric.

Sizes 6–14 (with sleeves): you will need 2.5m/2.8 yards 140cm/56" wide fabric.

Sizes 14–22 (all versions): you will need 2.1m/2.3 yards 140cm/56" wide fabric.

*If your fabric is narrower than 140cm/56" you may need a little more – refer to the lay plans on page 5.*

### HABERDASHERY

Interfacing for the collar, belt and pocket tops, and facings: approx 40cm, fabric weight appropriate.

for the keyhole neck: x1 small dome button.

for the zip front neck: a 12cm/5" zip – try and find an interesting ring pull or make your own zip tag/tassel.

for the curved pockets: x2 feature buttons.

for the back belt: x2 feature buttons or x4 small buttons.

### TOOLS/EQUIPMENT

Paper scissors, fabric scissors, sticky tape, tailor's chalk or washable fabric marker, pins, thread, sewing machine, iron, hand sewing needle, tracing paper/baking parchment, pinking shears (optional).

### PAPER PATTERN

You'll find this online as a separate downloadable PDF, ready to print at home.

## HOW TO PRINT YOUR PATTERN

The Mary Quant-style mini dress pattern is provided in two size ranges (UK 6–14 and 16–22), in three page formats (A0/A4/US Letter) and is designed to be printed in full colour. The A4/US Letter formats can be printed at home or use the A0 files to print at a copy shop or using an online service.

It is vital to make sure your pattern prints at full scale or the sizing will not be correct. Your print settings should be set to 'full scale', '100%', 'actual size' or equivalent according to your printer software.

There is a 5cm/2" test square on the first page of the pattern. Print just this page first and check your square measures up before printing the rest of the pattern.

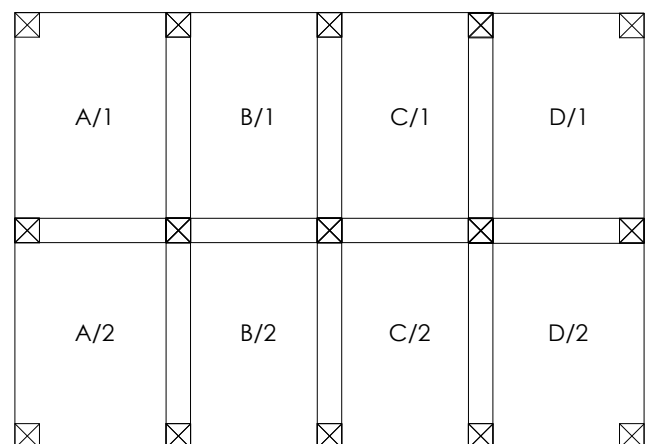
## HOW TO ASSEMBLE YOUR PATTERN

Once you have identified your size range (see next page) and printed out all of the pattern pages, arrange them in columns and rows according to the letters and numbers in the corner of each page. *Please note that the diagram shows the pages aligned vertically, however they may come printed horizontally in order to use the least amount of paper.*

The letters are the columns and the numbers are the rows. It is best to lay out all the pages roughly before you start sticking them together.

Once you have them laid out, overlap the matching crosses in the corners of each page and stick the sheets together with sticky tape.

You can either cut the pattern straight out from your assembled sheets – the joy of the PDF being that you can just print it again if you want to make another size – or if you prefer you can trace off the pattern pieces to another piece of paper.

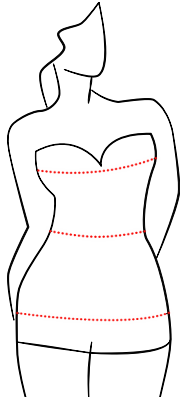


### TIP: ALIGNING CROSSES

*If your paper is particularly thick you might find it helpful to hold the pages up to a window in order to align the crosses. Alternatively try sticking a pin through the centre of the crosses to match them up as you go.*

## MEASUREMENTS

Use the measurement chart below to select which size pattern you want to use. The sizes are identified on the pattern by different colour lines.



### Taking your measurements

**Bust:** measure around the fullest point, keeping the tape measure nice and straight.

**Waist:** measure around the narrowest point, just under the rib cage, usually about level with the belly button – not necessarily where you wear your jeans.

**Hips:** a polite word for bottom! Look in the mirror sideways and measure at the widest point – it's often lower than you think.

No cheating!

## SIZE CHART

COLOUR	TURQUOISE	PINK	LIME	BLUE	ORANGE	GREEN	PURPLE	NAVY	RUST
SIZE UK	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
SIZE US	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
BUST CM	76.5	81	86.5	91.5	96.5	101.5	109.5	116.5	124.5
WAIST CM	66	70	71	76	81	86.5	94	104	111
HIP CM	86.5	91.5	96.5	101.5	107	112	119.5	127	135
BUST INCHES	30	32	34	36	38	40	43	46	49
WAIST INCHES	24	26	28	30	32	34	37	41	44
HIP INCHES	34	36	38	40	42	44	47	50	53

## FINISHED GARMENT MEASUREMENTS

COLOUR	TURQUOISE	PINK	LIME	BLUE	ORANGE	GREEN	PURPLE	NAVY	RUST
SIZE UK	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22
SIZE US	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18
BUST CM	84	89	94	99	104	110	116	122	130
HIP CM	92	97	102	107	112	119	126	132	138
NAPE TO HEM CM	87	88.5	90	91.5	93	98	100	102	104
BUST INS	33	35	37	39	41	43.25	45.75	44	51.25
HIP INS	36.25	38.25	40.25	42.25	44	47	49.75	52	54.25
NAPE TO HEM INS	34.25	35	35.5	36	36.75	38.75	39.5	40.25	41

**\*\* Patterns by Alice & Co Patterns are drafted using metric measurements (mm/cm/m). Where imperial measurements ("/yards) are shown they have been rounded to the nearest useful fraction.**

**\*\*\*The final measurement will depend on the 'give' of your fabric, the accuracy of your cutting and the exact sewing of the seam allowances.**

## CUTTING OUT: VARIATIONS

There are lots of variations for this pattern so take care to cut out all the right pieces for your desired design. Refer to the lay plans on page 5 for suggested arrangements of pattern pieces on your fabric. **Please note that all facings are designed to be traced off the main pattern pieces** – don't worry if you haven't done this before – it is all explained in the instructions.

### ALL VARIATIONS

DRESS FRONT: Cut x1 on fold (**EITHER** cut out keyhole **OR** mark zip)

DRESS BACK: Cut x1 on fold

### SLEEVELESS

FRONT NECK AND ARMHOLE FACING: Trace then cut x1 on fold + interfacing

BACK NECK AND ARMHOLE FACING: Trace then cut x1 on fold + interfacing

### WITH SLEEVE

FRONT NECK FACING: Trace then cut x1 on fold + interfacing

BACK NECK FACING: Trace then cut x1 on fold + interfacing

SLEEVES + **EITHER** CUFF (GATHERED SLEEVE) **OR** SLEEVE FACING (FLUTED SLEEVE): Cut x1 pair sleeves + **EITHER** cut x1 pair cuffs + interfacing **OR** trace then cut x1 pair sleeve facings + interfacing.

### OPTIONAL

COLLAR (**EITHER** POINTED COLLAR **OR** ROUNDED COLLAR **OR** NECKTIE): Cut x1 pair (+ interfacing - collar only)

POCKETS (**EITHER** ANGLED POCKET **OR** CURVED POCKET + CURVED POCKET FACING): **EITHER** cut x1 pair angled pockets **OR** cut x1 pair curved pockets + trace then cut x1 pair curved pocket facings + interfacing.

BELT: Cut x1 pair + interfacing

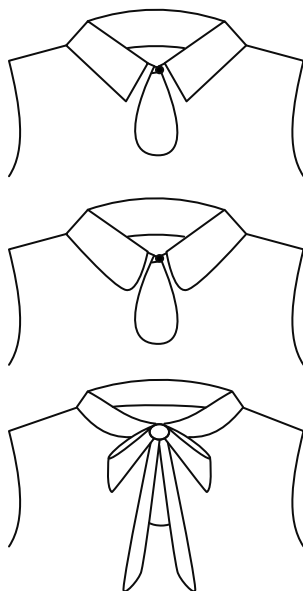
BUTTON LOOP: Cut x1 on bias (keyhole neckline only)

### TIP: FACING vs INTERFACING

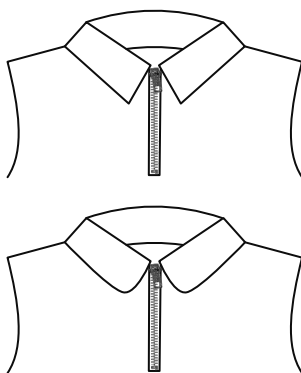
*A facing is a small section of part of the garment, mirrored and placed on the inside of the garment to give a tidy finish.*

*Interfacing is a fabric used to stabilise your facing. It comes in various weights and types - ask your haberdasher!*

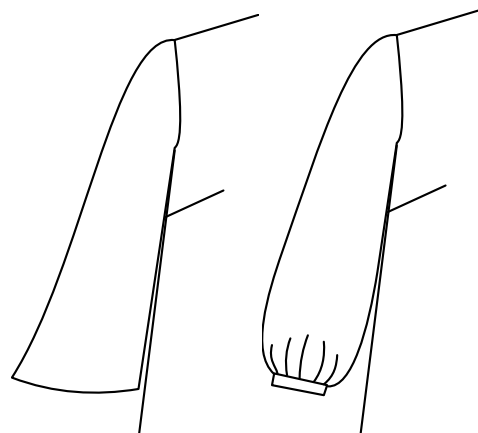
### NECKLINE VARIATIONS A: KEYHOLE NECKLINE with COLLAR (rounded/pointed) or NECKTIE



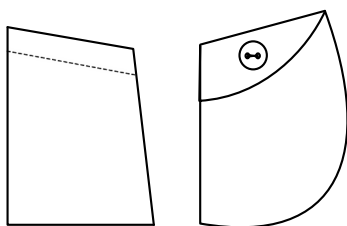
### NECKLINE VARIATIONS B: ZIP FRONT NECKLINE with COLLAR (rounded or pointed)



### SLEEVE VARIATIONS: (fluted or gathered)



### POCKET VARIATIONS: (angled or curved)



## CUTTING OUT: THE NITTY GRITTY

Each pattern piece is labelled with how many pieces to cut, whether it should be on the fold or not, and if it needs to be cut in interfacing as well as main fabric.

Each pattern piece is also marked with a grain line which it is very important to follow to ensure your garment hangs correctly.

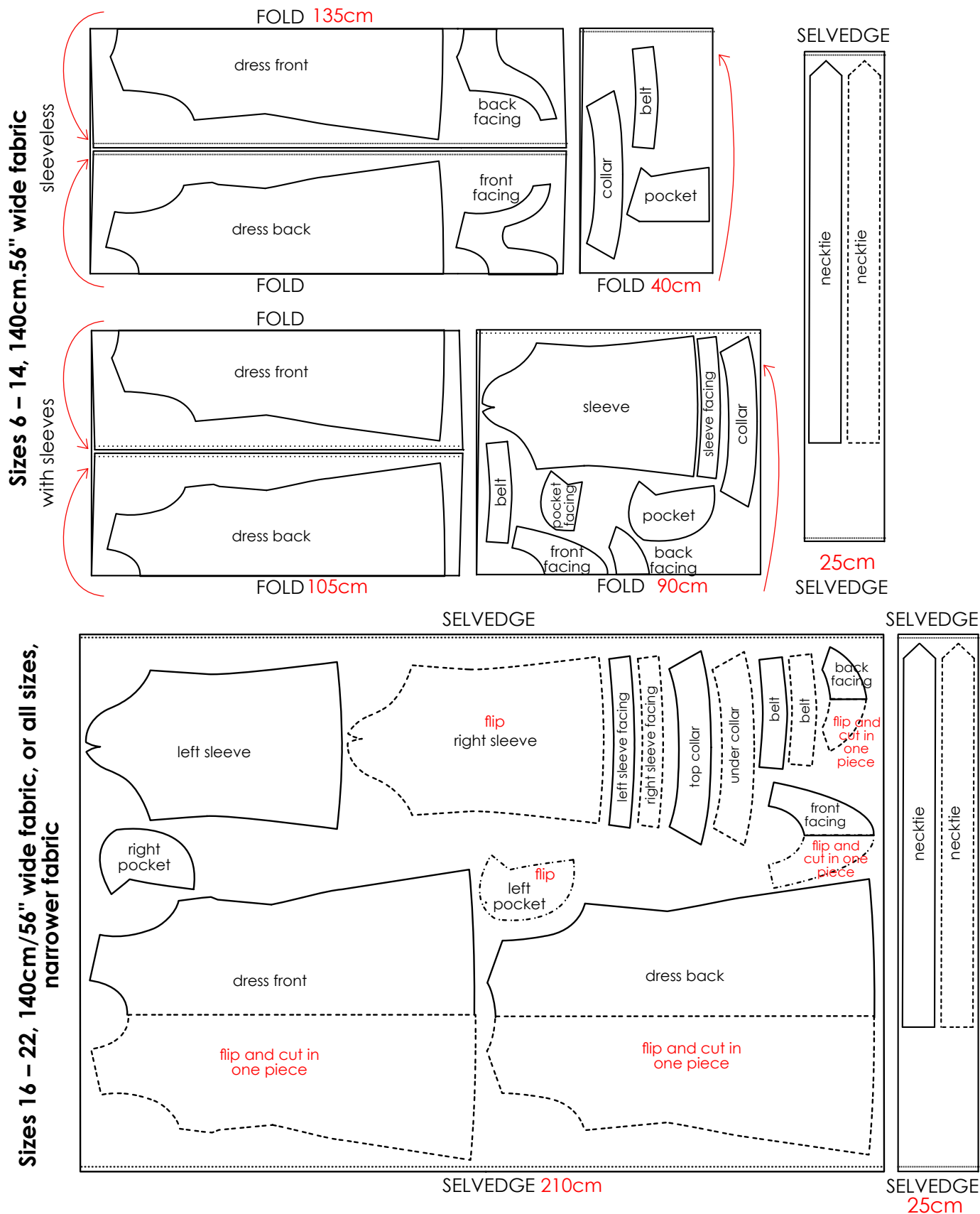
Don't forget to transfer all the pattern markings onto your fabric – notches, darts etc.... Notches are marked by red lines across the seam allowances.

Make sure you lay out ALL of your pattern pieces before you plunge in with your scissors so you know that you will have enough fabric to complete your garment!

All seam and hem allowances are included in the pattern pieces. Pay attention to the measurements given as they can differ across the pattern.

## LAY PLANS

Depending on which style you are making, your fabric width and whether or not it has a directional pattern or nap, there are infinite ways to lay out your pattern pieces. Here are a couple of suggestions: remember if you are not cutting on the fold, to flip the right and left sides of each piece as shown by the dashed lines in the diagrams below – you don't want to end up with two left sleeves!



## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

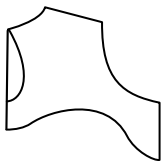
This pattern has two different construction methods, determined by whether you are making the dress with or without sleeves. For all dresses follow steps 1–15 (pages 6–11), at which point please refer either to the 'SLEEVELESS FACING CONSTRUCTION' (step 16a, pages 12–15) or the 'WITH SLEEVES FACING CONSTRUCTION' (step 16b, pages 16–20). Continue with steps 17–19 (page 21) to complete the instructions.

All seam allowances are included within the pattern pieces. The seam allowance is 1cm on all seams except for 0.5cm around keyhole neck opening. The hem allowance is 4cm.

**1 PREPARE YOUR FABRIC** Before cutting out it is important to prepare your fabric by washing or steam ironing to sort out any shrinkage – ignore this step at your peril!

**2 PREPARE YOUR PATTERN** After printing and assembling all the pages of the pattern, carefully cut out all the relevant pieces of your pattern, following the correct colour line for your chosen size.

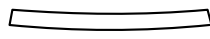
**3 TRACE YOUR FACINGS** Trace off the facings marked on the pattern pieces by the dotted/dashed lines. There are two different lines on the front and back pieces according to whether you are making a version of the dress with sleeves or without. Note that there are also facing pieces to trace off for the fluted sleeve and curved pocket pieces.



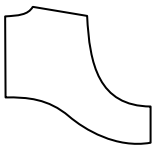
front neck and armhole facing  
(sleeveless)



front neck facing  
(with sleeves)



fluted sleeve facing



back neck and armhole facing  
(sleeveless)



back neck facing  
(with sleeves)



curved pocket facing

### TIP: TRACING FACINGS

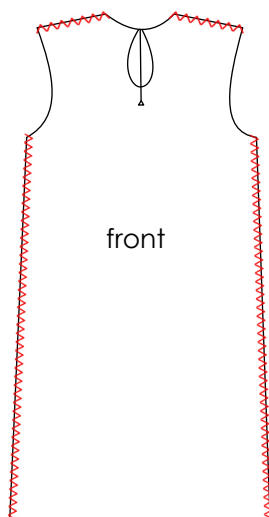
You don't need fancy tracing paper for this, a roll of baking paper will do just as well.

Remember to also trace any notches or pattern markers onto the facing piece, as well as the grain line. It's a good idea to label the pieces too.

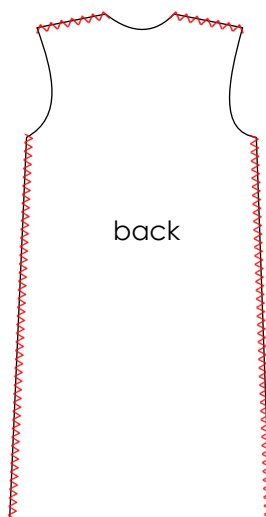
If you really hate tracing you can just cut off the facing directly from the pattern – but not until you have used it to cut out your main fabric first!

**4 CUTTING OUT** Cut out all the pattern pieces (including your traced facings) for your chosen variation. Mark all notches and pattern markers. Remember to also cut out your interfacing pieces.

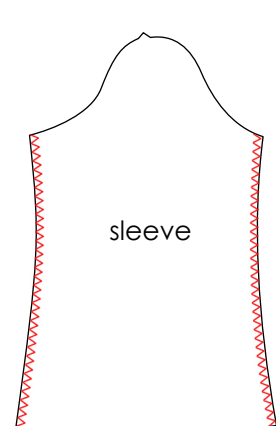
**5 NEATEN THE EDGES** Zig-zag stitch or overlock along the edges of the fabric on the **side, shoulder** and **long sleeve** seams only (these are indicated in red on the diagram below). You can leave the rest of the edges raw as they are going to end up enclosed within a facing. Alternatively you can cut all the pieces out with pinking shears.



front



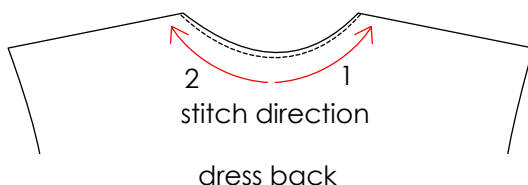
back



sleeve

## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

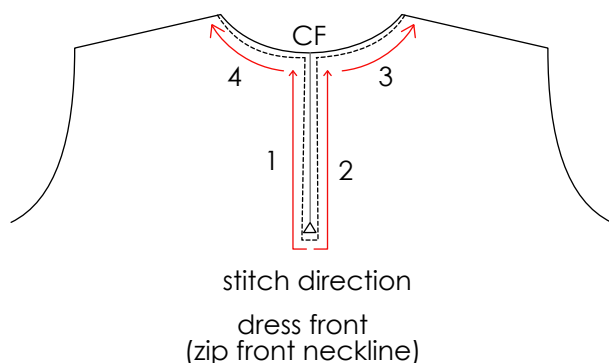
- 6 STAY STITCHING** Stay stitch the neckline on the dress front and back pieces to prevent them from stretching. If you are making a zip front version we also suggest that you stay stitch around the zip opening before you cut a slit down the middle of your fabric.



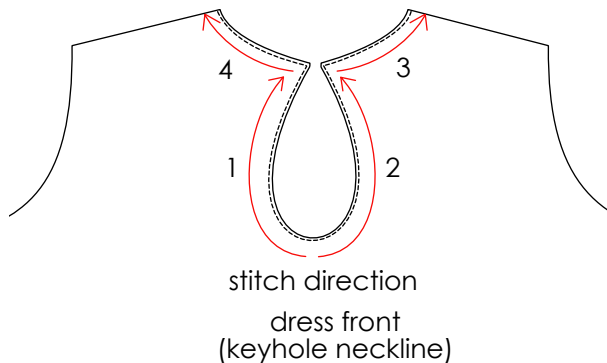
### TIP: STAY STITCHING CURVES

When you are stay stitching around a curve it is best to sew in two sections, starting from the middle and stitching round to each edge.

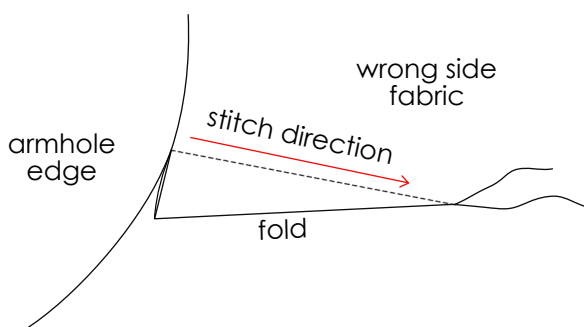
**zip front:** The position of the zip is indicated on the pattern piece by a small triangle – draw a straight line on your fabric down the centre front (CF) to this point. Stay stitch around this line from the triangle marker to the neckline edge on each side, pivoting at the corners. Stay stitch around the neck edges. Cut down the line within the stay stitching to create the opening for your zip.



**keyhole front:** Stay stitch around the edge of the fabric on the neck edges and around the keyhole opening. Remember the seam allowance on the keyhole is only 0.5cm/3/8" so you will want to stitch about 0.25cm/1/8" from the edge.



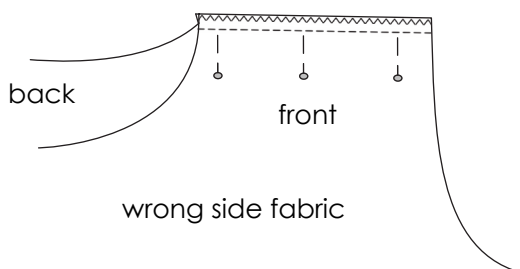
- 7 BUST DARTS** With right sides together, stitch the bust darts. Press dart down towards hem.



### TIP: SEWING DARTS

To achieve a nice smooth dart, fold the dart and stitch from the outside edge to the dart point. Instead of backstitching the end, run off a few stitches, leave approx 10cm/4" of thread and tie in a knot to finish.

- 8 SHOULDER SEAMS** With right sides together stitch the shoulder seams 1cm from the edge of the fabric. Press open.

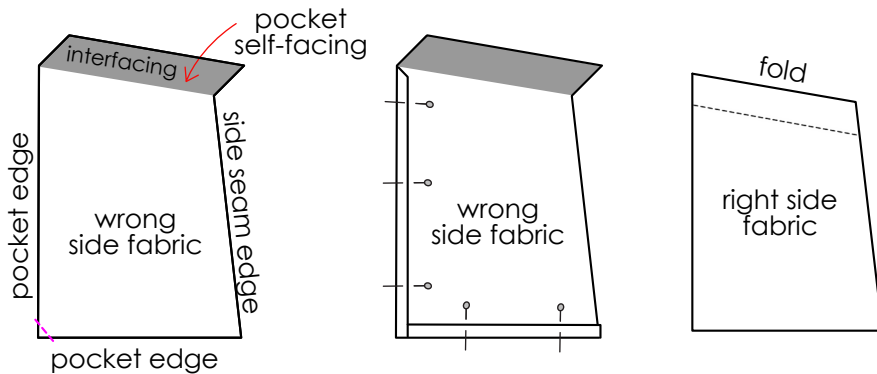




## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

### 9 PREPARE POCKETS

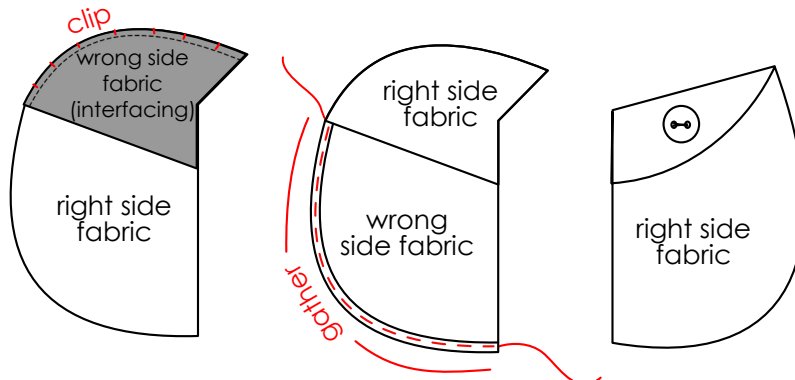
**angled pockets:** Iron a strip of interfacing onto the pocket self-facing (wrong side fabric). The pocket self-facing is the funny shape that sticks out the top of the pattern piece, that will magically sit neatly inside once you've folded it back. Fold and press in the seam allowance on the two pocket edges towards the wrong side of the fabric by 1cm/3/8". Pin to hold in place. Leave the other long edge as this will get sandwiched into the side seam. Fold the facing to the inside of the pocket (wrong side fabric), turn right side up and top-stitch in place along the edge of the facing.



#### TIP: FOLDING CORNERS

If your fabric is thick snip off the corner of the pocket as shown by the red line in the diagram. This will mean there is less bulk to fold up.

**curved pockets:** Iron interfacing onto the pocket facing piece (wrong side fabric). Match to the top of the main pocket piece, right sides together and stitch around the top curve only, 1cm/3/8" from the edge. Turn the right way out and press in the seam allowance along the remainder of the curved edge. With the pocket turned back the right side you should now have a cute little front flap you can fold to the front and secure with a button of your choice.



#### TIP: CURVED EDGES

To help press in the curved seam allowance try sewing a quick running stitch along the edge of the fabric – you can pull on this to create an even gather, which a quick blast of steam should set in place beautifully!

You can also trim and clip into the seam allowance around the top curve facing seam to help it lie flat when turned the right way out.

**10 PLACE POCKETS** pin or tack the pockets to the right side of the front dress piece as marked on the pattern. If tacking, try to stitch within the seam allowance on the side seam edge.

**11 FIT SIDE SEAMS** This is the moment to tack your side seams together and check the fit and pocket placement. With right sides together tack the length of the side seams by hand or machine, 1cm/3/8" from the edge of the fabric. Press open and try on!

When you are happy with the fit and pocket placement **unpick the side seams so the dress is joined only at the shoulders:** you need the dress flat again for placing the pockets and inserting the facings.



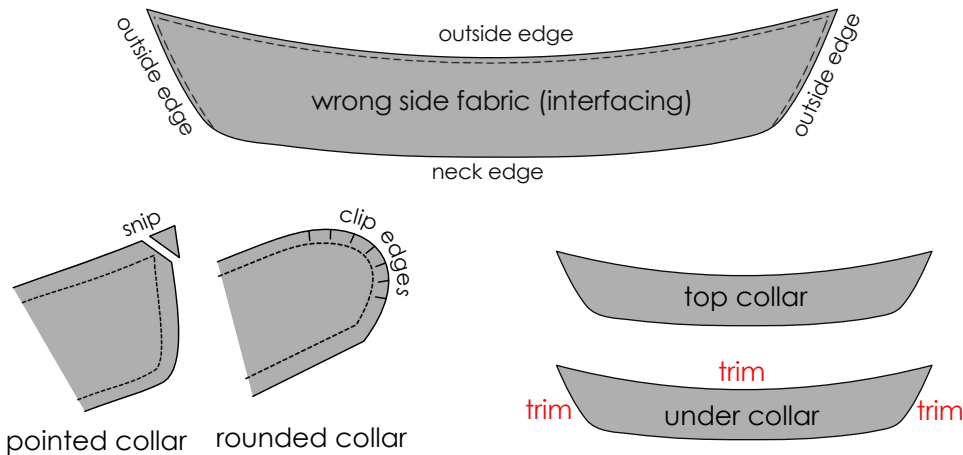
**12 TOP STITCH POCKETS** Top stitch the pockets in place. Use an edge-foot if you have one or just stitch carefully 3mm/1/8" from the edge.



## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

### 13 PREPARE COLLAR / NECKTIE / BUTTON LOOP

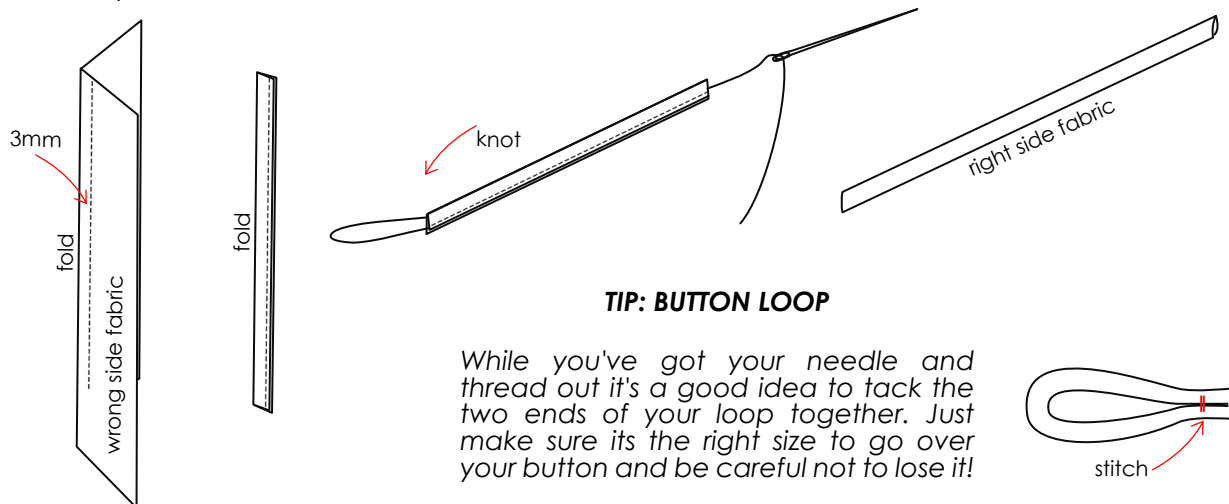
**collar (rounded or pointed):** iron interfacing onto the wrong side of both collar pieces. Match right sides together and stitch around three outside edges of the collar, leaving it open along the neck edge. (The neck edge is the shorter of the long edges, with the three notches on it). Trim away the seam allowance. If you are using the rounded collar clip around the curved edge. If you are using the pointed collar snip off the corner points. Turn right way out and press.



#### TIP: TRIM THE COLLAR

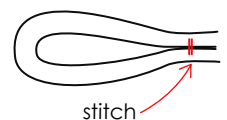
For a really professional finish make **one** of the collar pieces ever so slightly smaller than the other by trimming down by 1-2mm/1/16" around the three outside edges. This means when you sew them together (easing as you go) the seam will naturally curve in towards the smaller piece and won't be seen. The original sized piece becomes the 'top' collar and the slightly smaller one the 'under' collar.

**if you are making the keyhole front variation you will also want to prepare a button loop:** there is a pattern piece provided, or just take a piece of your scraps and cut a bias strip approx 10cm/4" by 3cm/1 1/4". Fold in half lengthways, right sides together. Stitch along the length of the strip, 3mm from the folded edge to make a channel. Trim away the seam allowance. Knot a length of thread to one of the ends and carefully feed the needle through the channel to the opposite open end. Keep pulling on the thread until the channel turns inside out and voila! One perfect little dainty button loop!

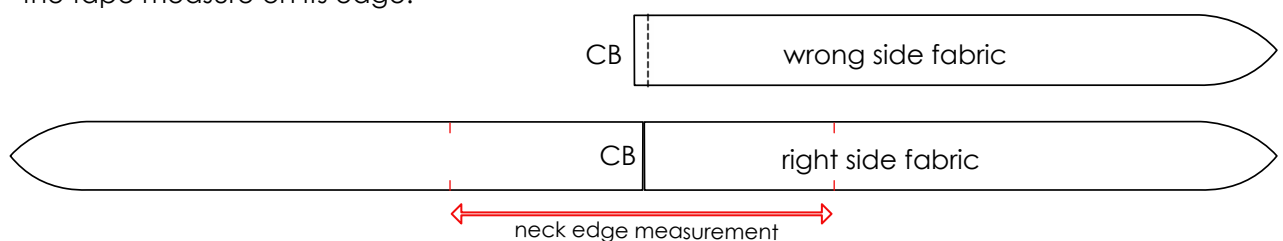


#### TIP: BUTTON LOOP

While you've got your needle and thread out it's a good idea to tack the two ends of your loop together. Just make sure its the right size to go over your button and be careful not to lose it!



**necktie:** with right sides together, join the two necktie pieces at the centre back (CB). Measure the length of the neck edge on your dress and mark half of this measurement either side of the centre back seam on both long edges of the necktie with a notch. To measure around a curve try standing the tape measure on its edge.

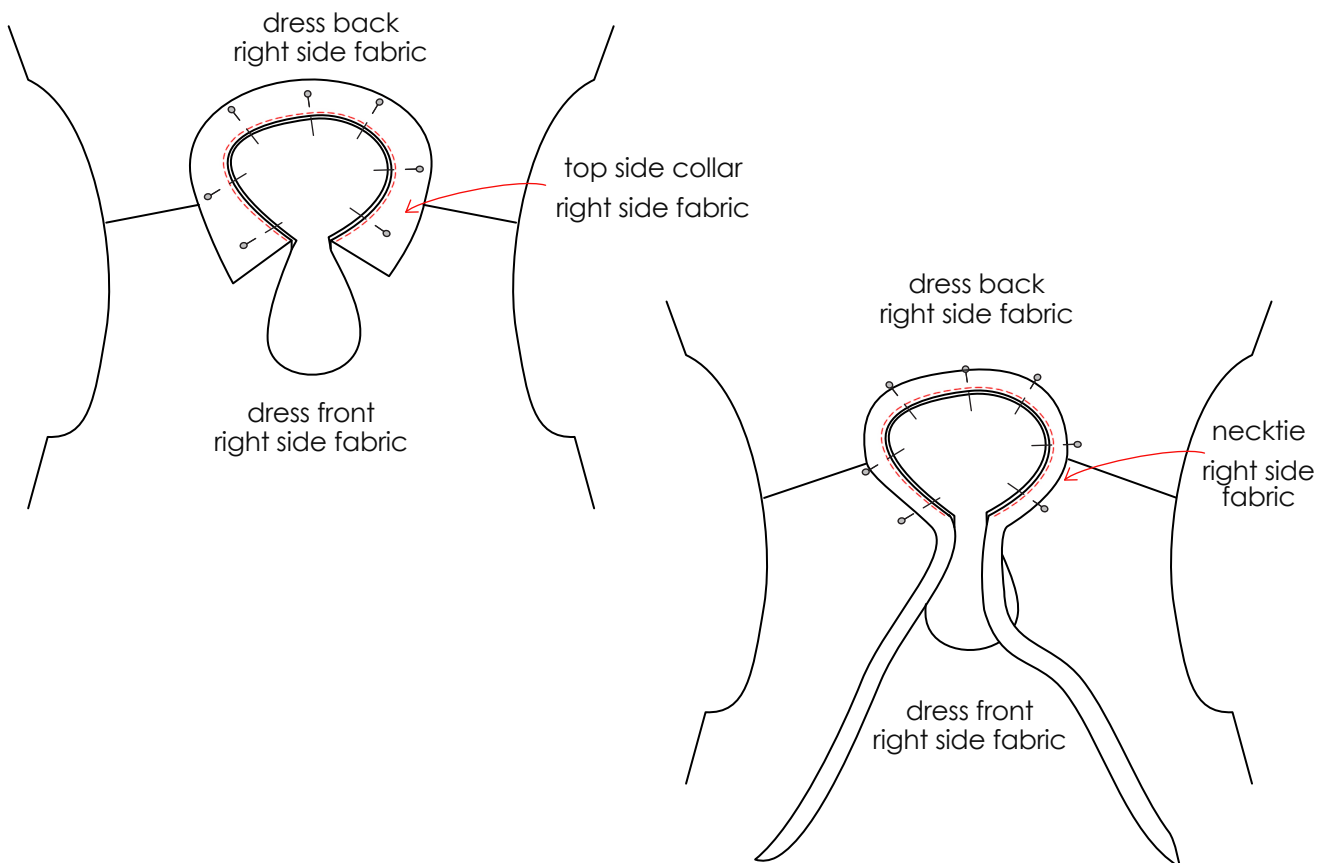


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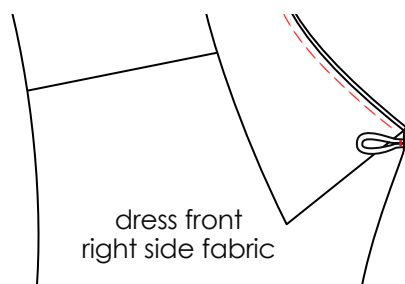
Fold the necktie in half lengthways, right sides together. Stitch each end up to the notch point, 1cm/ $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the edge. At the notch, make a snip into the seam allowance. Turn the right way out and press, leaving the seam allowance in the middle exposed. This is the part that will get stitched to the dress, the raw edges will become encased in the facing,



**14 ATTACH THE COLLAR/NECKTIE** Working on the right side of the fabric, match the notches on the collar/necktie to the neck edge of the dress. Tack together by hand or machine about 0.5cm/ $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge to ensure it is within the seam allowance and will get trimmed away later. *The diagrams show the keyhole version only but the method is the same for the zip front option.*

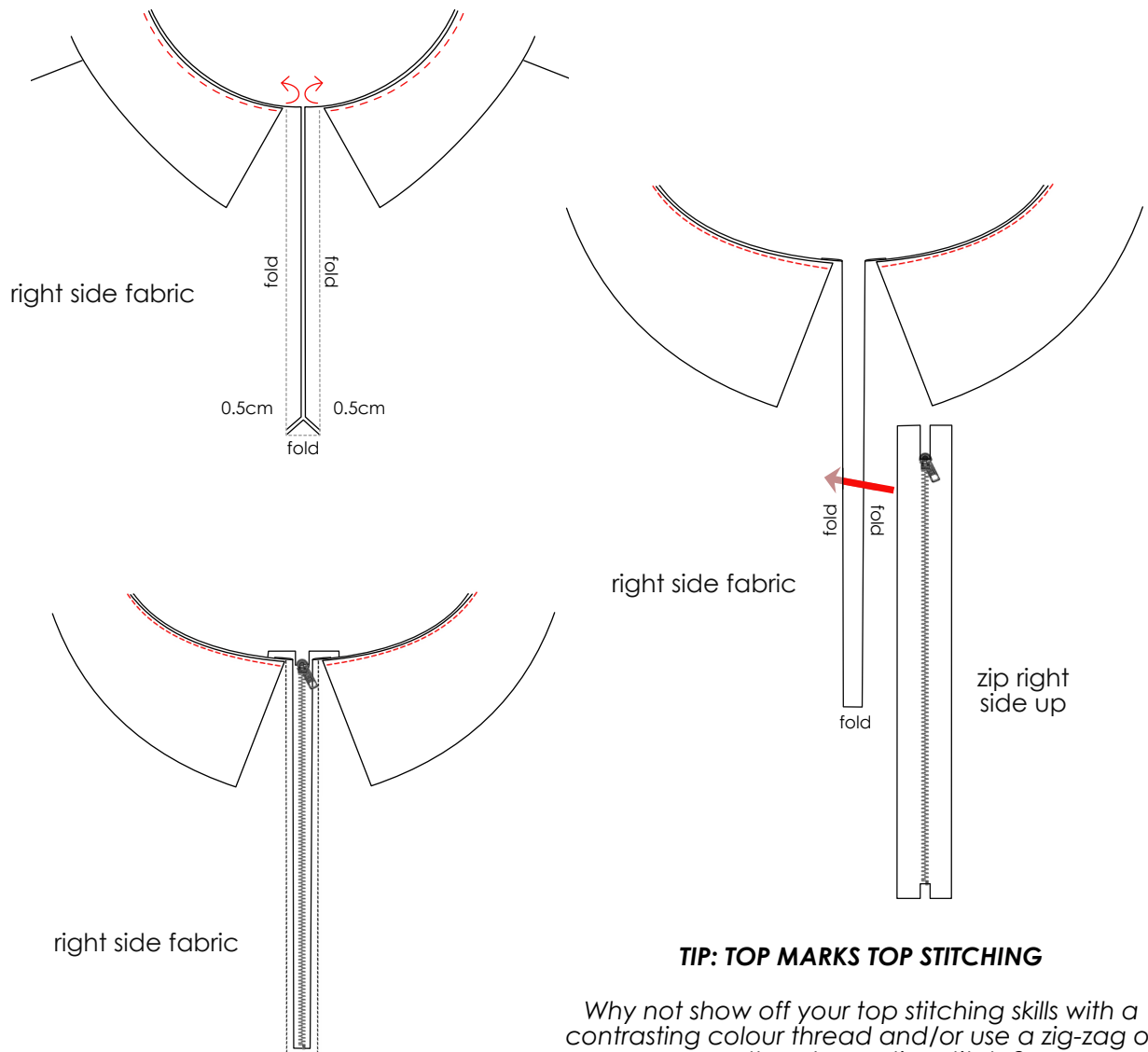


**if you are making the keyhole front + collar variation:** still working on the right side of the dress, tack the button loop to the top right hand corner of the key hole. The loop should face towards the collar, with the raw ends overhanging the seam allowance.



## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

**if you are making the zip front variation:** At the end of the slit make two small snips to create a triangle. Be careful not to snip too far – you only want to make enough room to fold back the opening by 0.5cm/1/4" on each side. Fold back and press. With right sides up place zip behind the the front opening so that the folded back seam allowance is sandwiched between the zip tape and the main fabric. Pin/tack in position before top-stitching in place, pivoting at the bottom of the zip and stitching across the zip teeth.



**15 ATTACH FACINGS + FINISH SIDE SEAMS** Well done – you are now about half-way through making your Mary Quant-style mini dress. At this point our instructions meet a fork in the road, depending on whether you are making a dress with or without sleeves.

Continue or skip to the relevant instructions:

SLEEVELESS: Step 16a, pages 12 – 15

WITH SLEEVES: Step 16b, pages 16 – 20

## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

16a

### SLEEVELESS FACING CONSTRUCTION

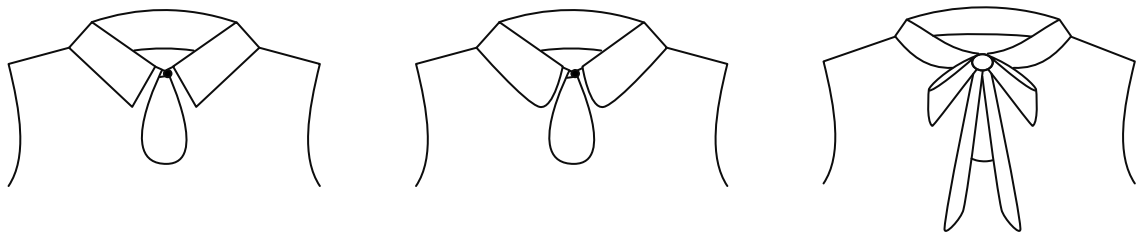
We are using an all-in-one facing method, meaning that when you are done the neckline and armhole edges will be completely encased within the facing. Don't worry if you've never done it before – we will walk you through every step of the way and you will be pleased as punch once you've finished. It gives a very satisfying result.

You should be using the pattern pieces you traced off from the main pattern along the **dotted** lines as labelled for the 'front neck and armhole facing' and 'back neck and armhole facing'.

At this stage the dress should be joined only at the shoulders, with the pockets stitched in place.

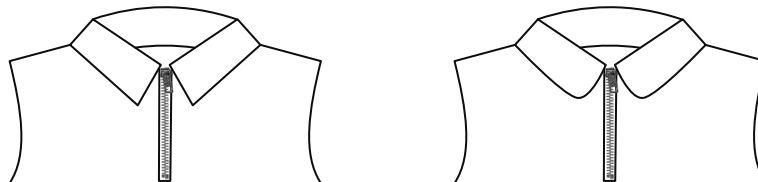
### SLEEVELESS NECKLINE VARIATIONS A:

#### KEYHOLE NECKLINE with COLLAR (rounded/pointed) or NECKTIE

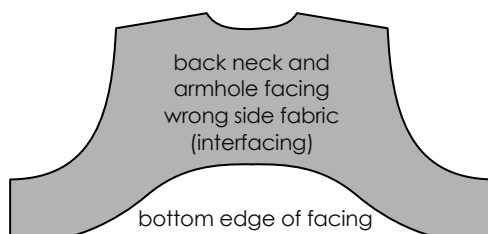
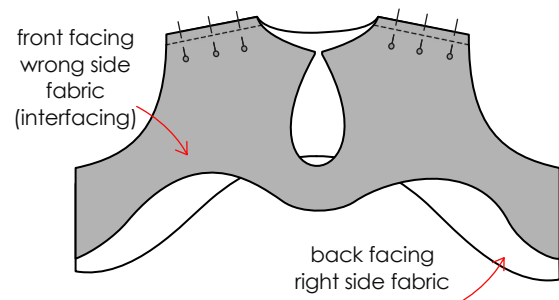
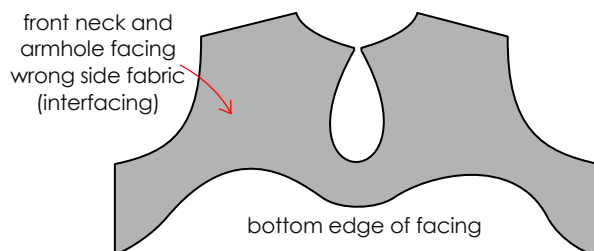


### SLEEVELESS NECKLINE VARIATIONS B:

#### ZIP FRONT NECKLINE with COLLAR (rounded or pointed)



**FIRST JOIN THE FRONT AND BACK NECK AND ARMHOLE FACINGS** Iron interfacing onto the wrong side of both facing pieces. With right sides together, stitch along the shoulder seams, 1cm/3/8" from the edge. The diagrams show the keyhole version but the method is the same for the zip front version.



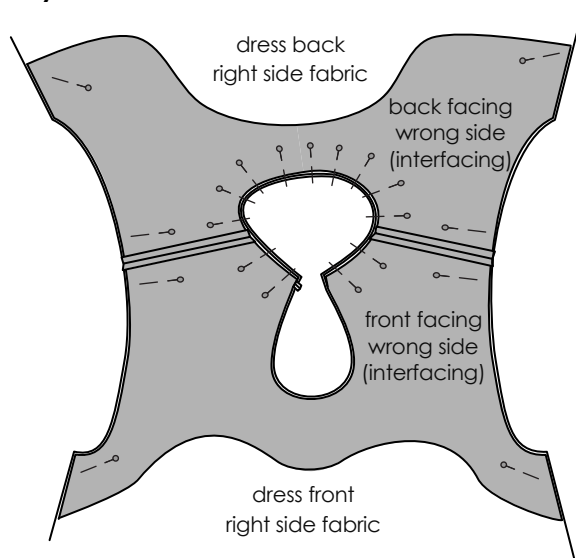
### TIP: FINISHING FACING

There's no need to finish the neck and armhole edges on the facing pieces as the iron-on interfacing will do the work for you and they will all be encased within the facing. You may want to neaten the bottom edge of the facing, however beware a bulky finish that might show through the front of the dress! A zig-zag stitch or pinking shears would be best.

## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

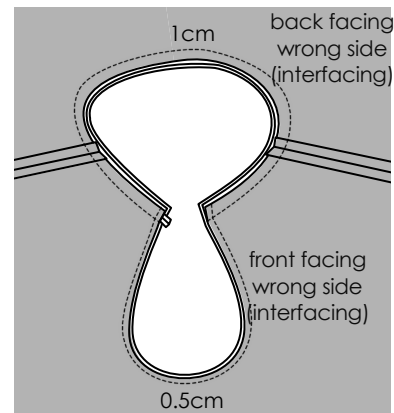
**ATTACH THE FACING:** With the collar and button loop/zip securely tacked in place (see step 14), it is now time to sandwich them within the facing. Match the facing to the dress, right sides together and pin in place all around the neckline.

### keyhole front variation:



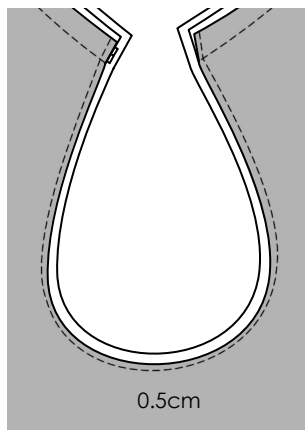
### TIP: PINNING FACING

Take your time making sure you match all the notches – easing the fabric together around the curved edges. You may want to put a couple of pins at the shoulder seam and arm holes to help anchor it in the right place, however we are not going to stitch the armholes just yet.



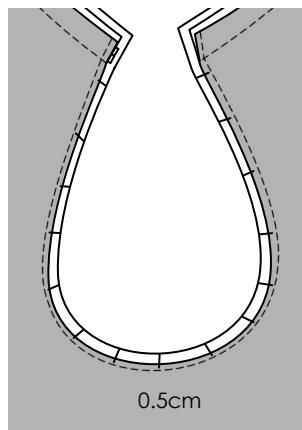
Stitch around the keyhole 0.5cm/1/4" from the edge. Stitch around the neck edge 1cm/3/8" from the edge. Go slowly and be sure that you are stitching through all the layers of the fabric. Take care not to get the ends of the collar/necktie caught in the seam!

Grade, clip and understitch the keyhole seam allowance. Trim, grade and clip the collar seam allowance. There is no need to understitch the collar.



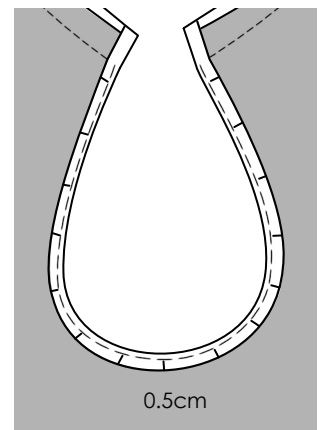
### GRADE:

**Cut facing edge down to 2-3mm. Also trim away the button loop ends at this point.**



### CLIP:

**Make small cuts into the seam allowance all the way around the keyhole at 2-3 cm intervals. Be careful not to cut through the actual seam stitching!**



### UNDERSTITCH:

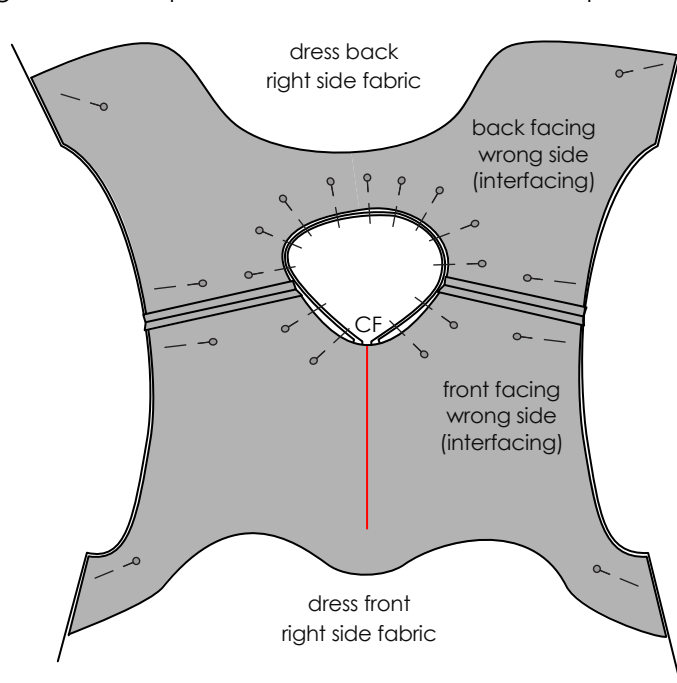
**Press the seam allowance towards the facing around the keyhole and stitch the seam allowance to the facing, 1-2mm inside the original seam.**

**Note:** The diagram shows an inside view of the finished understitching but this is easiest to do by turning the garment right side up and top stitching onto the facing side, smoothing the pieces apart from each other as you stitch round. Don't worry if you can't get right into the top corners - just go as far as you can.

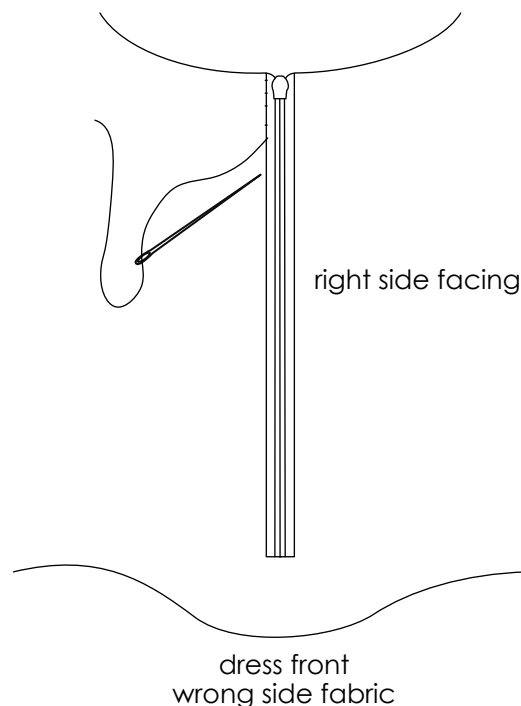
## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

### zip front variation:

Mark a line down the CF of the facing the length and position of the zip, using the dress front pattern piece as a guide. Match the facing to the dress, right sides together and pin in place all around the neckline. Stitch around the neck edge to encase the collar, with 1cm/ $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance. Trim, grade and clip the collar seam allowance; snip off any bulky ends on the zip.



Turn the facing to the inside of the dress and press around the collar. Making sure that everything is lying flat, cut a slit down the centre-front of the facing to match the length of the zip. Snip into the corners as you did to insert the zip (step 14) so that you can fold and tuck under the edges of the slit, exposing the back of the zip. Press and pin before slip stitching the folded edge of the the facing around the zip by hand.



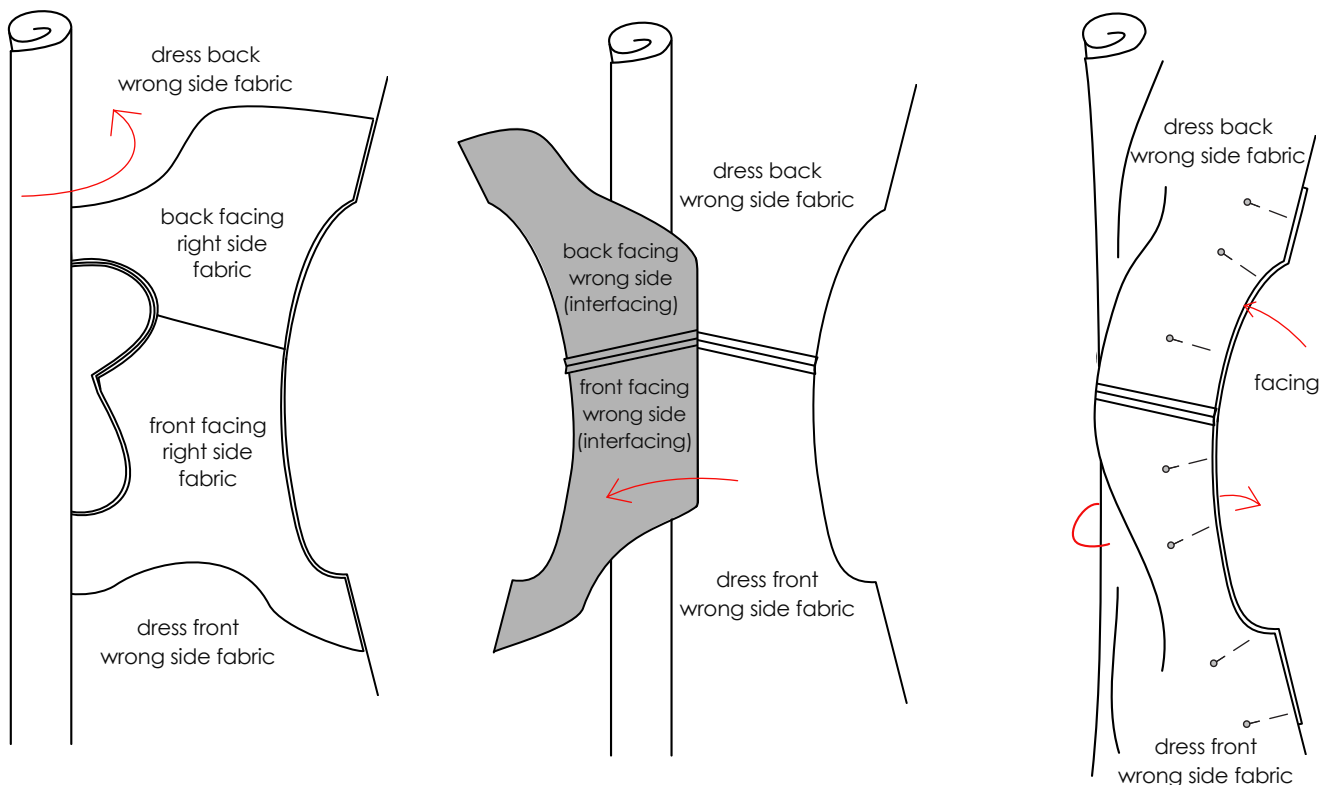
**both variations:** turn the facings to the inside, press and admire your handiwork!

## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

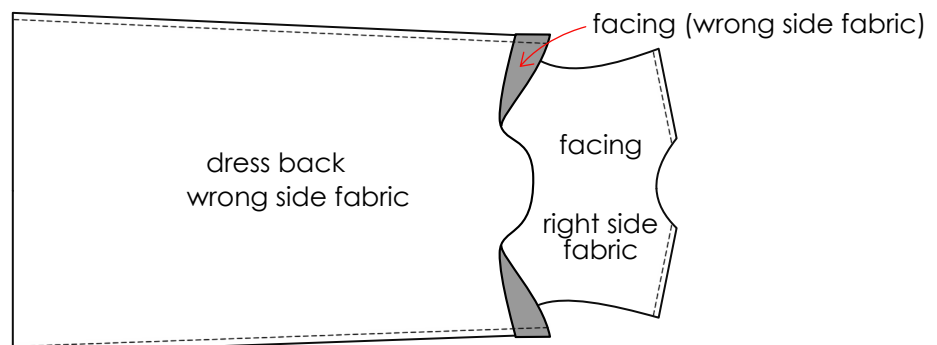
**SEW ARMHOLES** With your facing now neatly finishing the neckline, it's time to turn our attention to the armholes. This method is known as the 'burrito' method – but there's no need to make a meal out of it! Follow the diagrams below and you'll have those armhole seams encased in no time. The aim of the game is to roll the garment up inside itself so you can match the facing and dress armholes right sides together and stitch.

Start with the garment laid flat, inside out so that the right side of the facings are visible. Carefully roll up one side of the garment lengthways until you reach the opposite neck edge. When you are close enough flip the facing back and around the rolled fabric until you can match the armhole edges, right sides together. Pin and sew  $1\text{cm}/\frac{3}{8}"$  from the edge. Take care not to catch the rolled up garment! Trim, grade and clip the seam as before.

Pull the garment out the right way out and repeat on the other side. When you have done both sides understitch the seam allowance to the facing as far as possible.



**SIDE SEAMS** With right sides together, pin/tack the sides seams, folding back the facing at the armhole so that you can stitch along the whole length of the seam from the end of the facing to the hem,  $1\text{cm}/\frac{3}{8}"$  from the edge. Make sure you catch the pocket in the side seam too as you go!



Congratulations! You have now done all the hard work. All that's left is to turn to page 21 to add the back belt and hem.



## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

### WITH SLEEVES FACING CONSTRUCTION

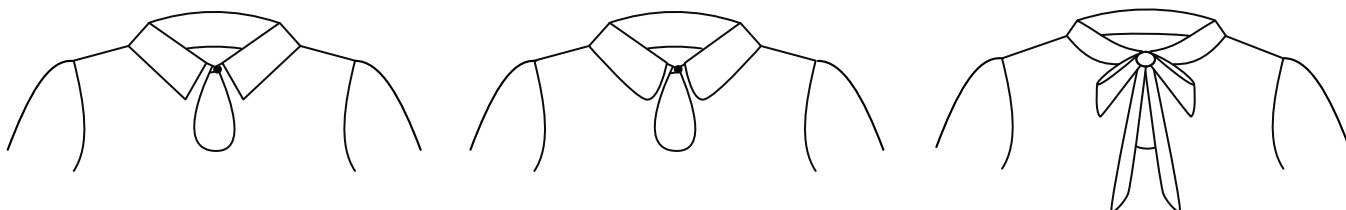
16b

As the armhole edges will be attached to the sleeves, we only need to face the neckline edges.

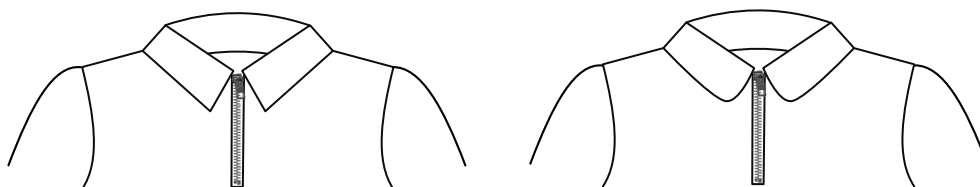
You should be using the pattern pieces you traced off from the main pattern along the **dashed** lines as labelled for the 'front neck facing' and the 'back neck facing'.

At this stage the dress should be joined only at the shoulders, with the pockets stitched in place.

### WITH SLEEVES NECKLINE VARIATIONS A: KEYHOLE FRONT NECKLINE with COLLAR (rounded/pointed) or NECKTIE

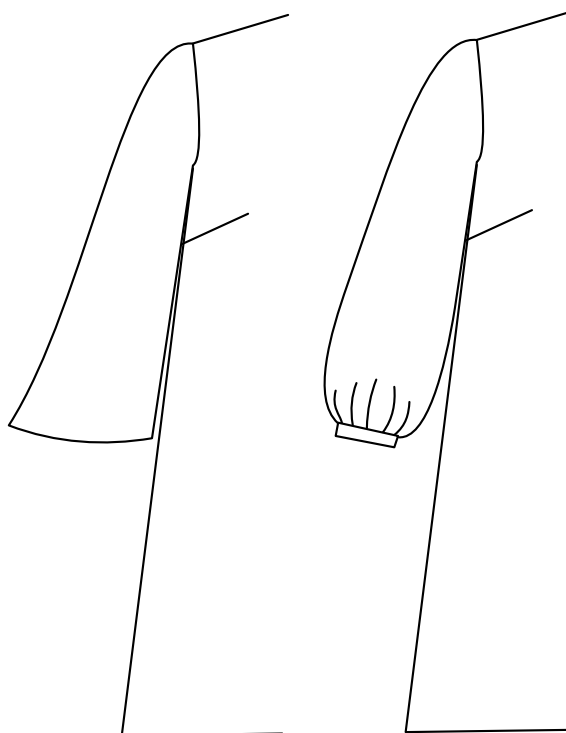


### WITH SLEEVES NECKLINE VARIATIONS B: ZIP FRONT NECK LINE with COLLAR (rounded or pointed)



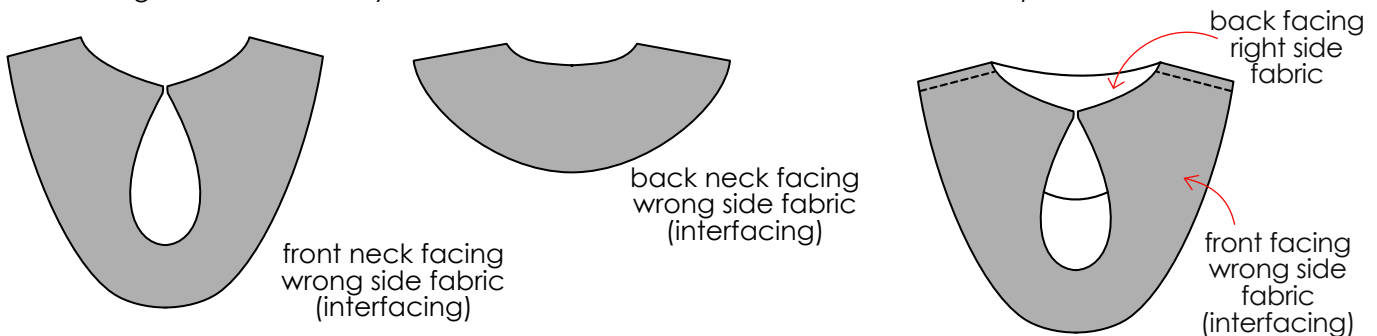
### SLEEVE VARIATION 1: FLUTED SLEEVE

### SLEEVE VARIATION 2: GATHERED SLEEVE



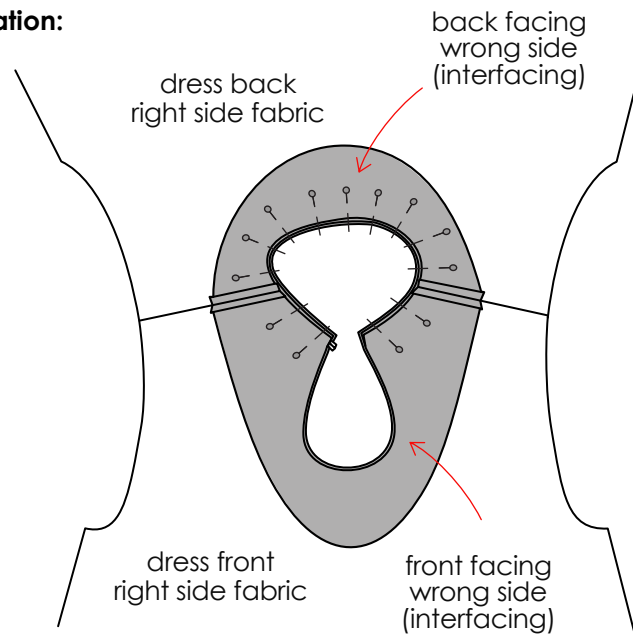
## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

**FIRST JOIN THE FRONT AND BACK NECK FACINGS** Iron interfacing onto the wrong side of both facing pieces. With right sides together, stitch along the shoulder seams, 1cm/ $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the edge. The diagrams show the keyhole version but the method is the same for the zip front version.

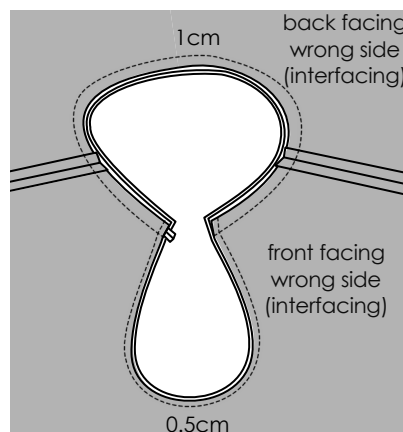


**ATTACH THE FACING:** With the collar and button loop/zip securely tacked in place (see step 14), it is now time to sandwich them within the facing. Match the facing to the dress, right sides together and pin in place all around the neckline.

**keyhole front variation:**



Stitch around the keyhole 0.5cm/ $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge. Stitch around the neck edge 1cm/ $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the edge. Go slowly and be sure that you are stitching through all the layers of the fabric. Take care not to get the ends of the collar/necktie caught in the seam!

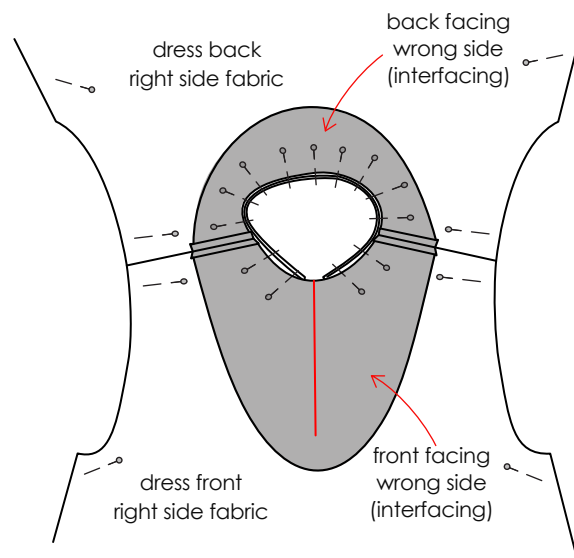


Grade, clip and understitch the keyhole seam allowance (detailed diagrams are given on page 13). Trim, grade and clip the collar seam allowance. There is no need to understitch the collar.

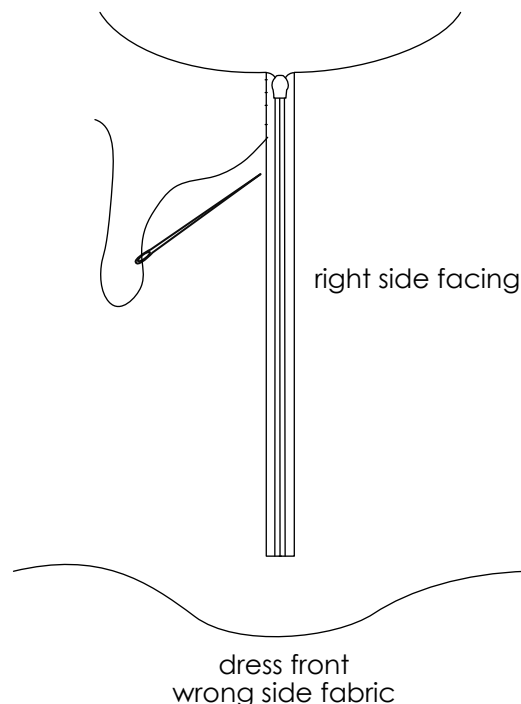
## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

### zip front variation:

Mark a line down the CF of the facing the length and position of the zip, using the dress front pattern piece as a guide. Match the facing to the dress, right sides together and pin in place all around the neckline. Stitch around the neck edge to encase the collar, with 1cm/ $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance. Trim, grade and clip the collar seam allowance; snip off any bulky ends on the zip.



Turn the facing to the inside of the dress and press around the collar. Making sure that everything is lying flat, cut a slit down the centre-front of the facing to match the length of the zip. Snip into the corners as you did to insert the zip (step 14) so that you can fold and tuck under the edges of the slit, exposing the back of the zip. Press and pin before slip stitching the folded edge of the facing around the zip by hand.

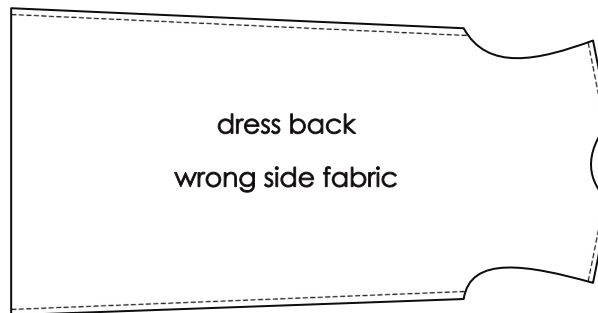


**both variations:** turn the facings to the inside, press and admire your handiwork!

## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

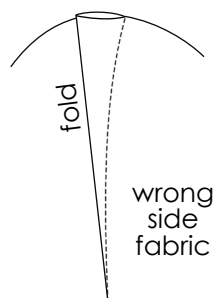
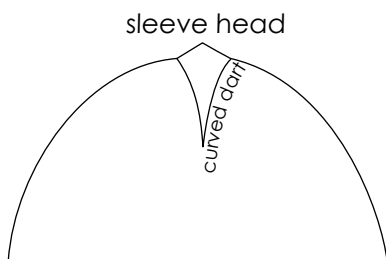
**FINISH NECK EDGE** Trim, grade and clip the collar seam allowance. There is no need to understitch the collar. Turn the facings inside around the neck edge, press and admire your handiwork.

**SIDE SEAMS** With right sides together, stitch the length of the side seams from the armhole to the hem, making sure you catch the pocket in the side seam as you go.



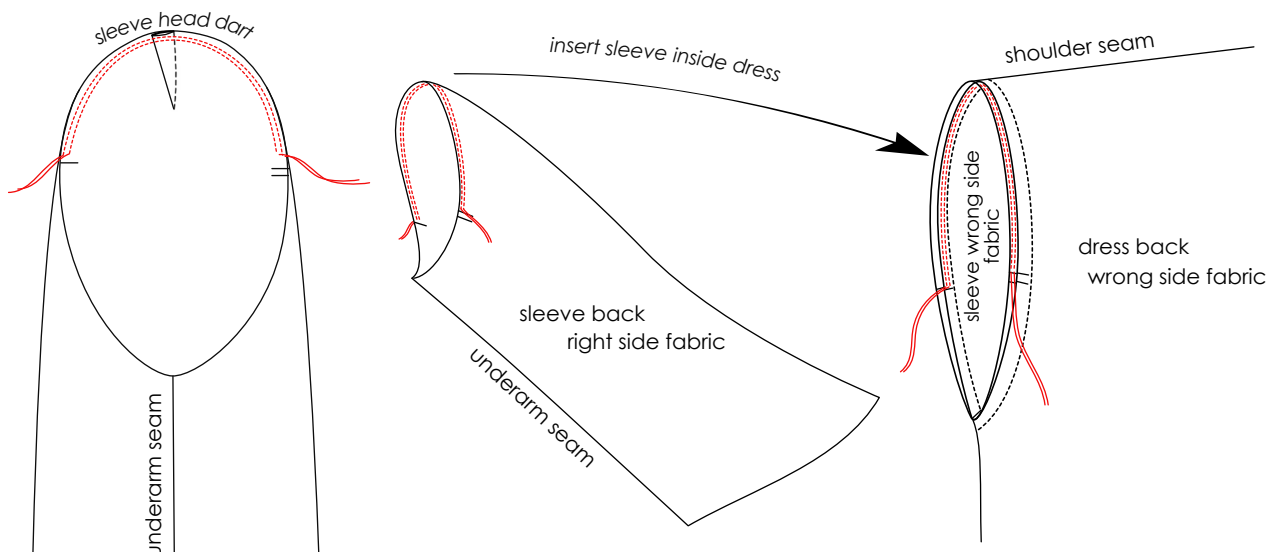
**SET IN SLEEVES** First prepare both sleeves: with right sides together, stitch the dart on each sleeve head. The dart is curved in order to fit nicely over the shoulder. Press dart towards the front of the sleeve (the side with the single notch). Match the notches along the underarm seam and sew with a 1cm/ $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance.

Turn the sleeves the right way out and insert inside the dress through the armholes so that right sides of the armhole and the dress are together. Match the notches on the sleeves and armholes; the underarm seams should line up with the side seams. The sleeve should be smooth between the notches underarm, and eased between the notches over the head of the sleeve. Pin or tack in place before stitching together around the armhole with a 1cm/ $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance. Finish the raw edges together with a zig-zag stitch or overlock.



### TIP: EASY SLEEVE-Y

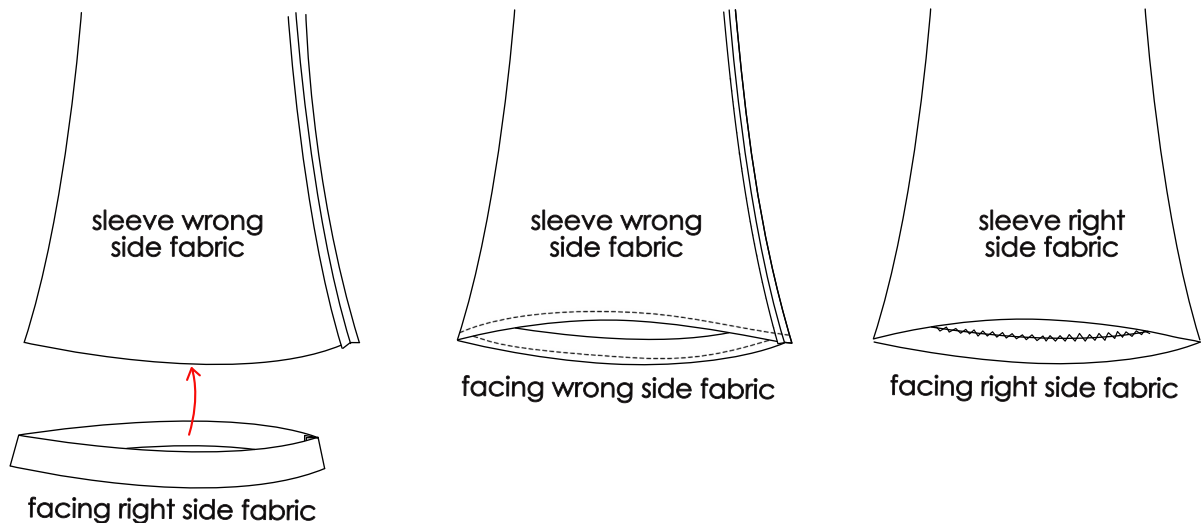
To help ease the sleeve into the armhole try sewing a double gathering stitch (by hand or machine) between the notches on the sleeve head, leaving the threads loose at each end so you can ease the fabric evenly around the top of the armhole.



## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

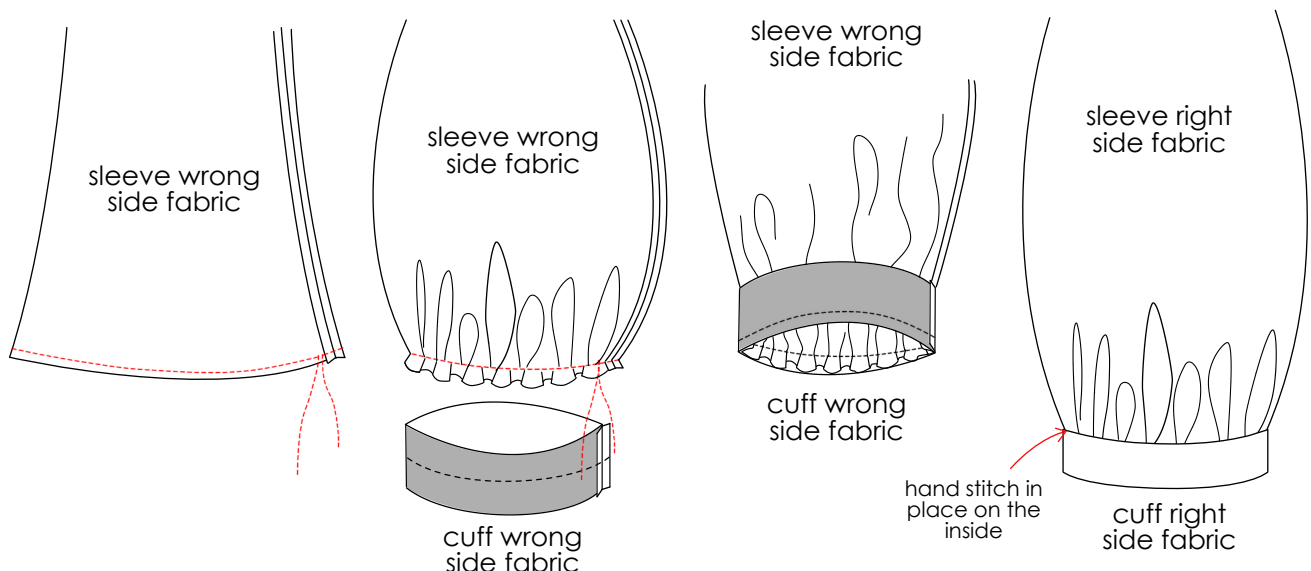
**FINISH SLEEVES** Check you are happy with the sleeve length, then finish according to whether you are making the fluted or gathered sleeve variation:

**fluted sleeve variation: use the 'SLEEVE FACING' pattern piece** iron interfacing onto the wrong side of the sleeve facing. Check that the circumference of the sleeve facing matches that of the sleeve hem (as the sleeve piece is shaped it may have changed if you have made any alterations to the length). Fold sleeve facing in half, right sides together, and stitch the short edge, with a 1cm/ $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance. Match to the sleeve hem, right sides together and stitch around the circumference of the hem. Turn to the inside and press well before hemming or top stitching in place.



**gathered sleeve variation: use the 'CUFF' pattern piece** iron interfacing onto the wrong side of the cuff. Fold in half right sides together to make a ring and stitch the short edge, with a 1cm/ $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance. Press.

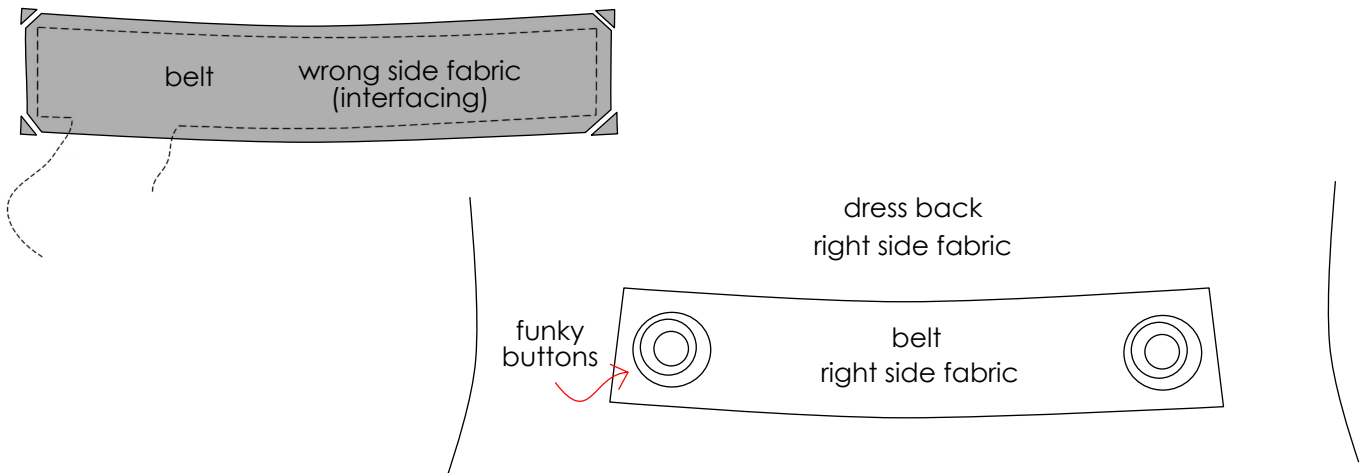
Sew a running stitch all the way around the sleeve hem, leaving the threads loose at each end. Pull on these threads to gather in the fabric until it matches the circumference of the cuff. Place the cuff over the sleeve hem, right sides together and stitch around the cuff, catching all the gathers in place. Turn under the remaining edge on the cuff and hand stitch in place around the inside of the sleeve hem.



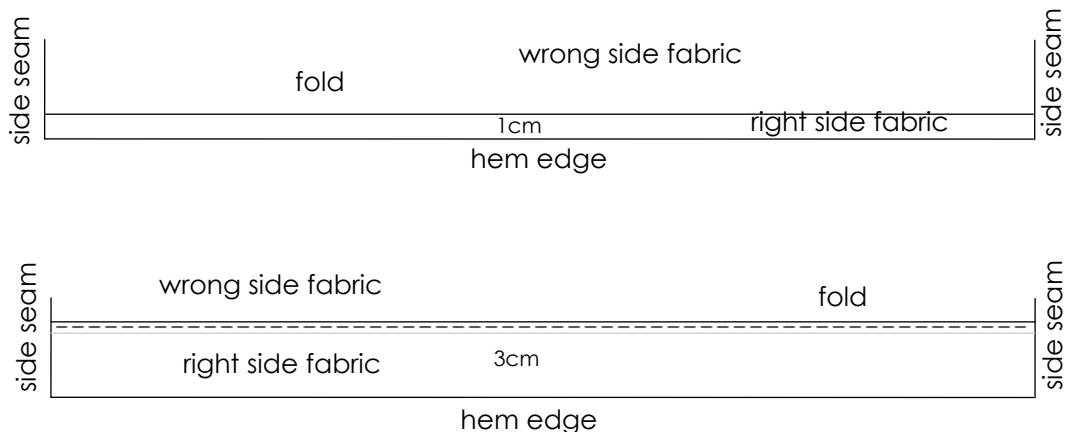
Congratulations! You have now done all the hard work! All that's left is to turn to page 21 to add the back belt and hem!

## HOW TO MAKE THE MARY QUANT-STYLE MINIDRESS

- 17 BELT** Iron interfacing onto the wrong side of both belt pieces. Match belt pieces right sides together, pin/tack before stitching all the way around 1cm/3/8" from the edge, leaving approx 6cm/2 1/2" opening at the bottom left corner. Snip the corners off and turn the right way out. Press well before slip stitching the opening closed. Pin the belt to the back of the dress before attaching with buttons at either end.



- 18 HEM** Double turn the 4cm/1 1/2" hem: first fold back the hem edge by 1cm/1/2" all the way around and press to hold in place. Fold back again by 3cm/1" and topstitch in place by hand or machine.



- 19 TRY ON AND SHOW OFF** Congratulations! You have now made your very own Mary Quant inspired 60s minidress. Groovy baby!

To share your creations and connect with other Mary Quant-inspired minidress makers use the hashtag #WeWantQuant @vamuseum @aliceandcopatterns.

## ABOUT ALICE & CO PATTERNS



The Mary Quant-style minidress has been produced for the V&A by Alice & Co Patterns. Alice & Co Patterns are designed in London by mother and daughter team Alice and Lilia. Alice is a designer, pattern cutter and teacher, with over 30 years experience making fabulous made-to-measure clothes for women. Brought up in a house full of fabric and pins Lilia has been making her own clothes since she could thread a needle, and now works in museum textile conservation. We believe that dress making should be fun, with fast and simple techniques so you can sew inventive and stylish outfits at home. We are passionate about creating modern patterns that fit well and are enjoyable to wear. [www.aliceandcopatterns.com](http://www.aliceandcopatterns.com)

