

THIS MONTH'S MERIT BADGE:
COLLAR TECHNIQUES



Gardner Top

A PATREON EXCLUSIVE PATTERN



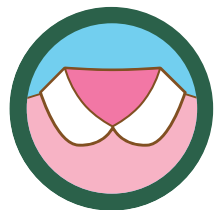
Feel like a Hollywood legend in our Gardner Top! This fabulous design utilizes two different fabrics: a stable knit (like ponte) for the blouse and a rigid lace for the yoke. This gives a peek of skin at the neckline while still providing plenty of coverage. Fun fact: we named this top for screen siren Ava Gardner after seeing a photo of her wearing a beautiful lace blouse. This month's special skill is collars, so make sure to watch the video to learn how to make perfectly polished collars with crisp points and gorgeous structure. You'll also learn how to make a super-clean collar finish with no facing or binding.

xoxo, *Gertie*



This month: If you're in a merit badge tier, your collar badge is on its way! Congrats on building up your skills. In this month's video, you'll learn:

- How our collars are drafted to achieve a lovely finish
- How to make a crisp corner
- Tips for grading, clipping, and understitching your collars
- A unique clean-finish collar method that works perfectly on the sheer yoke



SIZE CHART

The Gardner Top is sized in women's US 2–20, A–H cup sizes. Please use the chart below to pick your size. Note that it is best to choose your size by your bust measurements (and add or remove from the side seams at the waist if needed). To figure out which size you should make, first measure your high bust (under your armpits and above your breasts) and your full bust (the fullest part of your bust). Make sure to hold the measuring tape snug and parallel to the ground. Compare your body measurements to the size chart below. First, find your high bust measurement on the chart to determine your top size and then scan down the cup sizes in that column to find the cup size that matches your full bust measurement. For instance, a 37-inch (in) high bust makes you a size 10 top, and a 39-in full bust puts you in an A–C cup. Take the waist measurement at the smallest part of your waist and adjust the side seams if your waist measurement doesn't match the chart.

	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
High Bust	29 in 73.7 cm	31 in 78.7 cm	33 in 83.8 cm	35 in 88.9 cm	37 in 94 cm	39 in 99 cm	41 in 104.1 cm	43 in 109.2 cm	45 in 114.3 cm	47 in 119.4 cm
Bust A cup	30.5 in 77.5 cm	32.5 in 82.5 cm	34.5 in 87.6 cm	36.5 in 92.7 cm	38.5 in 97.8 cm	40.5 in 102.9 cm	42.5 in 108 cm	44.5 in 113 cm	46.5 in 118.1 cm	48.5 in 123.2 cm
Bust B/C cup	31 in 78.7 cm	33 in 83.8 cm	35 in 88.9 cm	37 in 94 cm	39 in 99 cm	41 in 104.1 cm	43 in 109.2 cm	45 in 114.3 cm	47 in 119.4 cm	49 in 125 cm
Bust D/DD cup	32 in 81.3 cm	34 in 86.4 cm	36 in 91.4 cm	38 in 96.5 cm	40 in 101.6 cm	42 in 106.7 cm	44 in 111.8 cm	46 in 116.8 cm	48 in 122 cm	50 in 127 cm
Bust F/G cup	33 in 83.8 cm	35 in 88.9 cm	37 in 94 cm	39 in 99 cm	41 in 104.1 cm	43 in 109.2 cm	45 in 114.3 cm	47 in 119.4 cm	49 in 125 cm	51 in 129.5 cm
Bust H cup	34 in 86.4 cm	36 in 91.4 cm	38 in 96.5 cm	40 in 101.6 cm	42 in 106.7 cm	44 in 111.8 cm	46 in 116.8 cm	48 in 122 cm	50 in 127 cm	52 in 132.1 cm
Waist	24 in 61 cm	26 in 66 cm	28 in 71.1 cm	30 in 76.2 cm	32 in 81.3 cm	34 in 86.4 cm	36 in 91.4 cm	38 in 96.5 cm	40 in 101.6 cm	42 in 106.7 cm
Hips	36 in 91.4 cm	38 in 96.5 cm	40 in 101.6 cm	42 in 106.7 cm	44 in 111.8 cm	46 in 116.8 cm	48 in 121.9 cm	50 in 127 cm	52 in 132.1 cm	54 in 137.2 cm

FIT NOTES

The cup sizing on this design is a little different than our other patterns. Because knits have a very forgiving fit, we have grouped more cup sizes together than usual: A–C, D–F, and G–H. This top has an easy fit and was designed with 0 to 2½ in (0–6.4 cm) of ease in the bust and 2 in (5 cm) of ease in the waist. The design was meant to be subtly figure skimming but not skin tight. You can consult the finished measurements chart below if you need more information to help you pick a size.



FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Size	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Bust A-C	33 in 83.8 cm	35 in 88.9 cm	37 in 94 cm	39 in 99 cm	41 in 104.1 cm	43 in 109.2 cm	45 in 114.3 cm	47 in 119.4 cm	49 in 124.5 cm	51 in 129.5 cm
Bust D-F	34 in 86.3 cm	36 in 91.4 cm	38 in 96.5 cm	40 in 101.6 cm	42 in 106.7 cm	44 in 111.8 cm	46 in 116.8 cm	48 in 122 cm	50 in 127 cm	52 in 132.1 cm
Bust G-H	35 in 88.9 cm	37 in 94 cm	39 in 99 cm	41 in 104.1 cm	43 in 109.2 cm	45 in 114.3 cm	47 in 119.4 cm	49 in 124.5 cm	51 in 129.5 cm	53 in 134.6 cm
Waist	26 in 66 cm	28 in 71.1 cm	30 in 76.2 cm	32 in 81.3 cm	34 in 86.4 cm	36 in 91.4 cm	38 in 96.5 cm	40 in 101.6 cm	42 in 106.7 cm	44 in 111.8 cm

MATERIALS & NOTIONS

- Fabric for top
- Fabric for yoke
- Thread to match your fabrics
- Hook-and-eye closure
- Fusible interfacing (look for lightweight woven or tricot types for upper collar)

RESOURCES

Here are some of the fabrics and supplies I used for the samples and in the video tutorial. There are lots of places to purchase fabric, so this is solely a guide you can use as a reference:

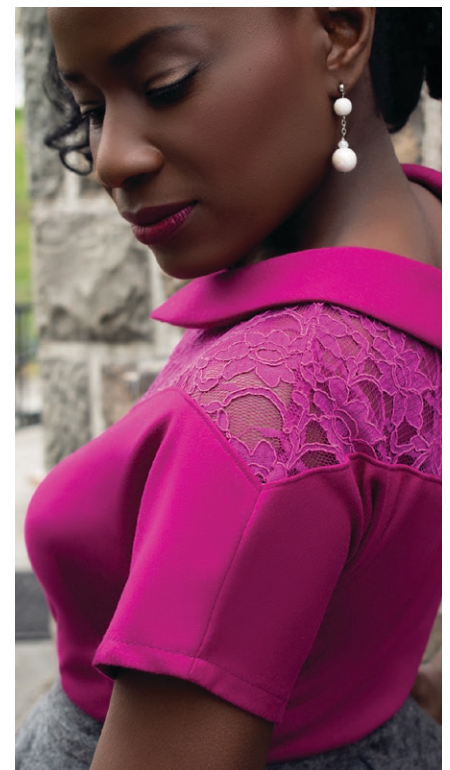
[Lightweight Rayon Blend Ponte in Black](#)

[Poly Blend Ponte Knit in Ivory](#)

[Cotton Nylon Lace](#)

[Cotton Nylon Alençon Lace](#)

[Tricot Fusible Interfacing](#)



FABRIC NOTES

This top uses a combination of two fabrics: a stable knit for the blouse and collar and a rigid lace (or other sheer) for the yoke.

For the stable knit: look for fabrics with 10% to 25% stretch in the widthwise grain and zero or very little stretch in the lengthwise grain. (This means that if you take 4 inches of relaxed fabric in your hands and stretch it out, it should stretch to between 4½ to 5 inches.) If you find a fabric that stretches in the lengthwise direction, you will need to modify the cutting layouts below and orient the pattern pieces so that the stretch goes horizontally around the body. Woven fabrics are not recommended for this pattern. We recommend ponte, interlock, and double knits. Wool and wool blends, cotton and cotton blends, cashmere, and rayon/poly/spandex knit blends are all suitable.

For the lace: look for a rigid lace with no stretch, such as cotton, nylon, or polyester laces. We also recommend other sheers like dotted tulle or other novelty sheers.

PATTERN PIECES

1. Top Front

Cut 1 fabric on fold

2. Top Back

Cut 1 fabric on fold

3. Yoke Front

Cut 1 fabric on fold

4. Yoke Back

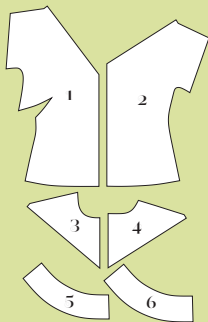
Cut 2 fabric

5. Upper Collar

Cut 2 fabric, 2 interfacing

6. Under Collar

Cut 2 fabric

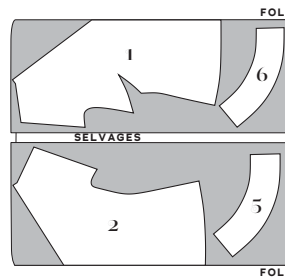


REQUIRED YARDAGE & CUTTING LAYOUTS

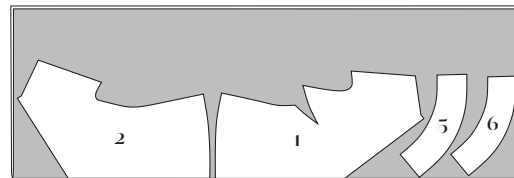
Note: All pattern pieces are shown in a “without nap” layout. You may need additional yardage for directional prints, stripes, plaids, and other prints that need to be matched across seamlines.

Top (1, 2, 5, 6)

	Sizes 2-10	Sizes 12-20
45 in	1 7/8 yds 1.7 m	2 yds 1.8 m
60 in	1 1/8 yds 1 m	2 yds 1.8 m



45 in, sizes 2-10

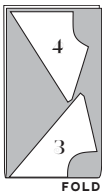


45 in, sizes 12-20
60 in, all sizes

For this layout, fold both selvages in toward the center of the fabric, creating a fold on both long edges of the fabric.

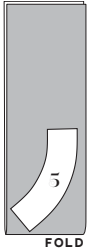
Yoke (3, 4)

All sizes	
45 in	1/2 yd 0.4 m
60 in	0.4 m



Interfacing (5)

All sizes	
60 in	3/8 yds 0.3 m



KEY TO LAYOUTS



Right side of
pattern piece



Wrong side of
pattern piece

Be sure to note whether the pieces are cut on a double or single layer of fabric. For a double layer, there will be a note indicating FOLD on the layout.



SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

BEFORE SEWING

Transferring marks: Use dressmaker's tracing paper and a tracing wheel to transfer all pattern markings to the wrong side (WS) of your fabric. Mark pattern notches by snipping into the seam allowance with the tip of your scissors.

Seam Finishing: If finishing seams with a serger, serge the following seam allowances (without trimming the edges) before construction. Knits typically do not fray, so seam finishing is optional.

- Side seams and hem of Top Front and Top Back

NOTES

- 5/8-inch (in) (1.5 cm) seam allowances are included on all pattern pieces, except where otherwise noted.
- If you don't have a serger, consider using a zigzag or overlock stitch on your sewing machine.
- If you find it difficult to see notches after serging, you may wish to mark them with chalk, thread tacks, or another marking tool.
- Use a ballpoint or jersey needle to avoid skipped stitches.
- Use a narrow zigzag stitch on seams and hems to provide some stretch (about 1.5 mm wide by 2.5 mm long).

TIPS

- When sewing delicate lace, consider using a layer of tissue paper under your seams to stabilize the lace. Tear the tissue away after sewing.
- For an easy sheer seam finish, zigzag both seam allowances together with a wide (5 mm) zigzag close to the seam stitching. Trim close to the zigzagging and press seam allowances to one side.

SEW THE GARDNER TOP

Top

1. Staystitch upper edge of top front and back: on Top Front (1), using a 1/2-in (1.3 cm) seam allowance, staystitch front upper edge from each shoulder to the center front so the stitching lines meet at center front v-point (it may help to mark in the exact center front point before stitching). Clip to center front v-point. Repeat staystitching

and clipping on Top Back (2).

2. Sew French darts: on top front bring dart legs right sides (RS) together, pinning along marked lines. Stitch along marked lines from dart base to dart point. Backstitch at the beginning but not at the end, leaving a thread tail a few inches long. Tie thread tails by hand. For A–C cup, press dart down. For D–H cups, slash dart open to the point and press open.

Yoke

1. Staystitch yoke neckline: on Yoke Front (3), using a 1/2-in (1.3 cm) seam allowance, staystitch neckline from each shoulder to the center front so the stitching lines overlap at center. Repeat staystitching on Yoke Back (4) pieces, staystitching each piece individually.

2. Join yoke to top front: pin Yoke Front (3) to Top Front (1), RS together, matching notches and spreading clip of top front's v-point to match point of yoke. Stitch, pivoting at v-point. Grade seam allowances so that the top front's is slightly wider than the yoke's seam allowance. Press seam allowances toward top front. Edgestitch 1/8 in (3 mm) from seamline, stitching through both seam allowances.

3. Sew Yoke Backs (4) together: pin yoke backs RS together at center back and stitch from bottom point to notch. Backstitch. Finger-press seam allowances open. Topstitch seam allowances 1/2 in (1.3 cm) from folded edges to secure them.

4. Join yoke back to top back: pin yoke back unit to Top Back (2), RS together, matching notches and spreading clip at top back's v-point to match point of yoke. Stitch, pivoting at v-point. Grade seam allowances so that the top back's is slightly wider than the yoke's seam allowance. Press seam allowances toward top back. Edgestitch 1/8 in (3 mm) from seamline, stitching through both seam allowances.

Shoulder and Side Seams

1. Sew shoulder seams: pin top front RS together with top back at shoulder seams, matching yoke seams. Stitch. Finish seam allowances by stitching them together with a wide (5 mm) zigzag stitch close to the seam stitching. Trim close to the zigzag stitching and press seam allowances to one side.

2. Sew side seams: pin top front RS together with top back at side seams, matching notches. Stitch. Clip inner curve at underarm seam. Press seam allowances open.

Collar

1. Construct collar: apply fusible interfacing to the Upper Collar (5) pieces only. Pin each upper collar RS together with an uninterfaced Under Collar (6) piece. Stitch along three sides of collar, starting and ending at circle marks, pivoting at the corners and leaving notched edge open. Trim points close to stitching and grade seam allowances so that interfaced seam allowance is slightly wider than uninterfaced seam allowance. Turn collar RS out, making sure corners are crisp by using a knitting needle or pin to gently poke or pull them out.

2. Understitch collar: with the uninterfaced collar opened out and seam allowances underneath, stitch on the RS $\frac{1}{8}$ in (3 mm) from seamline, catching seam allowances in stitching. Press collar piece flat, rolling seamline slightly to WS so it is hidden on the uninterfaced collar side. Turn under seam allowances

on notched edge of upper collar and press.

NOTE: Interfaced side of collar is the upper collar.

3. Join collar to yoke neckline: pin the uninterfaced side of the collar pieces to RS of the yoke neckline, leaving the interfaced side of the collar free. Match shoulder seams to collar notches. Collar pieces should meet at center front, overlapping slightly, and end at the back neck opening. Stitch.

4. Finish collar neckline: clip close to stitching at center front seam allowance. Trim uninterfaced seam allowance down to $\frac{1}{4}$ in (6 mm). Slipstitch upper collar seam allowance to seamline, completely encasing the seam allowances, rolling the under collar slightly down so that it is not visible from the RS of the garment. Give the collar a final press to help it lay flat.

Hem

1. Hem the top and sleeves: press the top's bottom and sleeve hem allowances under $\frac{5}{8}$ in (1.5 cm). Topstitch with a narrow zigzag stitch $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.3 cm) from fold.

Enjoy your lovely new Gardner Top!



PATTERN PIECE LOCATION GUIDE

Here is a list to help you locate the pattern pieces on the letter-size tiled pages and A0 pattern sheets. The tiled pieces and A0 sheets are included as separate pdf files as part of this digital pattern.

PC#	Piece Name	Tiled	A0	PC#	Piece Name	Tiled	A0
1	Top Front, A-C Cup	10-15, 17-18	1	3	Yoke Front	22, 25	2
1	Top Front, D-F Cup	19-24, 26-27	1	4	Yoke Back	31, 34	2
1	Top Front, G-H Cup	28-33, 35-36	2	5	Upper Collar	6, 9	1
2	Top Back	1-8	2	6	Under Collar	13, 16	1

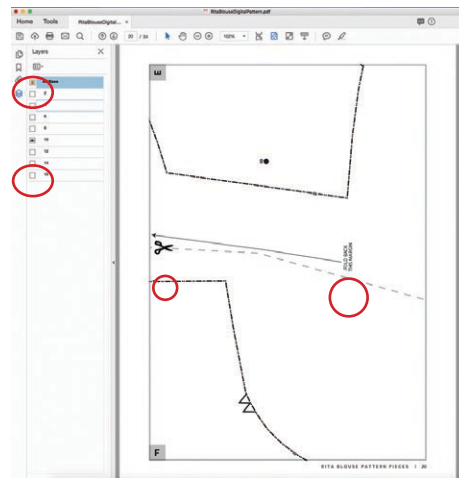
HOW TO USE THIS PATTERN

The pattern pieces are tiled so you can print them on Letter (8½" x 11") or A4 size paper. You can also send the A0 pattern sheet PDF to a local or online printer (like www.pdfplotting.com) to print on large sheets (36" x 48" for U.S. or AO for international).

This pattern includes size layers. To get the best results, open either the Tiled or A0 pattern pieces PDF in Acrobat Reader.

Open the Layers Palette (View>Show/Hide>Navigation Panes>Layers) and hide all of the layer(s) except for the ones you want to print by clicking on the eye icon.

The All Sizes layer has general pattern information and will always print.



WORKING WITH THE TILED PIECES

Go to File>Print and change the page range to the pages you need for the pieces you've chosen (see Pattern Pieces Printing Index). Make sure the Page Sizing settings to 100% or Actual Size. Test this after printing by measuring the 1" test box on the first page of the bodice pattern pieces.

Cut apart any pattern pieces that share a page by cutting on the gray long dashed lines. Then fold back the page margins on each page as directed.

Tape the pages together, butting up the folded page edges with the gray margin lines, matching up the letters in gray boxes.

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