

# Marisa Dress

## SWEETHEART NECKLINE PATTERN HACK



VIDEO TUTORIAL & INSTRUCTIONS CREATED EXCLUSIVELY  
FOR PRINCESS & INNER CIRCLE PATRONS

This sweet neckline hack for the Maria Dress is an easy way to change the look of the dress. Not only that, but the hack can be used on many different bodice patterns, and the lessons here can be used to alter the neckline shape in many different ways.

Play around with creating square necklines, a V-shaped neckline, or a wide scoop. There's so many possibilities!

xoxo, *Gertie*



## PATTERN ALTERATION INSTRUCTIONS

For this neckline hack, you'll be adjusting the front neckline on a bodice with princess seams. It will work similarly on any bodice with bust/waist darts, like the Aurora Bodice or Betty Dress.

Cut the pattern pieces for your Maria Dress. Set aside all except for the Bodice Center Front (1).

### PATTERN DRAFTING

**1. Sketch your new neckline.** Using tracing paper over your Bodice Center Front (1) pattern piece, trace out the original pattern piece and sketch out your new neckline in pencil. Once you're happy with the shape, use a colored pencil and French curve to smooth out the shape. It may help to sketch the neckline without the seam allowance first, then add a  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch (in) (1.5 cm) seam allowance before cutting out the pattern piece. **NOTE:** if you adjust the shoulder width on the Bodice Center Front, you'll want to make a similar adjustment to the shoulder width of the Bodice Center Back (3) pattern piece.

**2. Cut out your new Bodice Center Front pattern piece.** Transfer all markings from the original pattern piece onto your new Bodice Center Front. Label it with today's date, the pattern name, and the cutting instructions.

**3. Create your new Bodice Front Facing.** Using tracing paper over your new Bodice Front pattern piece, use your ruler to draw a line  $\frac{1}{8}$ -in (3 mm) from the new neckline edge. This will be the neckline edge of your facing. Draw a line for the shoulder seam edge, identical to the existing pattern piece. Use your ruler to draw a line  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -in (6.4 cm) from this facing neckline edge for the opposite edge of the facing, adjusting at center front as needed. Use your French curve to smooth out the edges of the two curved lines.

**4. Cut out your new Front Neck Facing pattern piece.** Transfer all markings from the original pattern piece onto your new Front Neck Facing. Label it with today's date, the pattern name, and the cutting instructions.

## SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

Follow all instructions for the Maria Dress, replacing your new pattern pieces for the originals. When sewing the bodice front neckline, be sure to pivot exactly at center front to create the perfect sweetheart point.

*Enjoy your new sweetheart Maria Dress!*

### MATERIALS & NOTIONS

- All fabric & notions listed in the Maria Dress instructions

### RECOMMENDED PATTERN DRAFTING SUPPLIES

- Gridded ruler or [seam allowance ruler](#)
- French curve
- Colored pencils
- Regular pencils
- [Tracing paper or pattern drafting paper](#)
- Paper scissors

### RESOURCES

Be sure to watch the companion video to see these pattern hacking steps in action!

**And don't forget!** You'll need the [Maria Dress pattern pieces and instructions](#) to complete this project.

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