



Rita Blouse

BISHOP SLEEVE EXPANSION

Expand the possibilities of your Rita Blouse with this statement sleeve! Make it in lace for a little extra drama.

soxo, Gertie

FABRIC INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The usual Rita Blouse fabric recommendations still apply: lightweight fabrics like rayon challis, cotton lawn, batiste, poplin, and sateen work well for this blouse. If you're feeling up for a more challenging fabric, try it in a lightweight silk, like crepe de chine. For this version, we've dressed Rita up with a lace fabric. Look for laces like Chantilly that don't have a lot of raised texture or cording.

BUY THE RITA BLOUSE PATTERN

CharmPatterns.com/shop/rita-blouse



RESOURCES

Here are some of the supplies and fabrics we used in the video.

- [JoAnn Fabrics Casa Collection Lace](#)
- [Stabilizer Tape for Zipper](#)
- [1/2 in wide \(12.7 mm\) Double Fold Bias Tape Stabilizer Tape for Zipper Double Fold Bias Tape](#)

REQUIRED YARDAGE

Bishop sleeve requires 1 yd (0.9 m) of fabric in addition to the original Rita Blouse requirements.

BEFORE SEWING

Seam finishing: If finishing seams with a serger, serge the following seam allowances (without trimming the edges) before starting construction:

- Long vertical edges of sleeve pieces

SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

NOTES

- Use $\frac{5}{8}$ in (1.5 cm) seam allowances on all seams.
- If you don't have a serger to finish your seams, 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.

1. Sew the long underarm seam on the Bishop Sleeve: with RS together, fold sleeve so that vertical edges match, and pin. Stitch. Press seam allowances open.

2. Sew sleeve to blouse, as in Step 10 of the Rita Blouse instructions.

3. Create casing for elastic at wrist, as in Steps 12–15 of the Rita Blouse instructions. When measuring the elastic for the wrist casing, wrap elastic around your wrist at a comfortable snugness plus $\frac{1}{2}$ -in.

Finish blouse as usual!

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 seams together with a wide (5 mm) zigzag, close to the seam stitching. Trim close to the zigzagging and press seam to one side.
- When making this blouse in a sheer fabric in a color other than black or white, use a double-fold bias tape channeling to prevent elastic show-through. Remove $\frac{3}{8}$ -in (1 cm) from the seam allowances where applying the tape. Unfold the tape completely and pin RS together with the blouse, matching the raw edges. Fold in the short raw edge when you start stitching. Stitch tape to blouse at first fold of tape ($\frac{1}{4}$ in [6 mm] from edge). Overlap tape where you started. Fold up tape and press to inside of blouse. Topstitch free edge of tape. Insert elastic into center of tape. Sew the opening in the channel overlap closed by hand or machine.

HOW TO USE THIS PATTERN

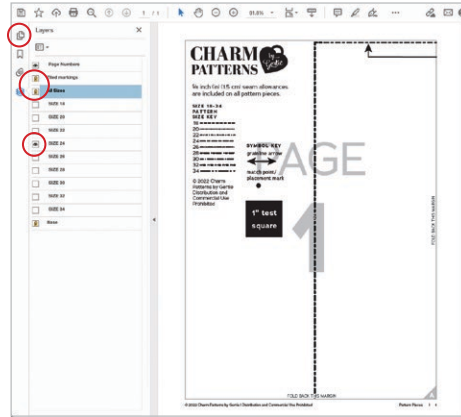
The pattern pieces are tiled so you can print them on Letter (8½" x 11") or A4 size paper. You can also send the A0 pattern sheet PDF to a local or online printer (like www.pdfplotting.com) to print on large sheets (36" x 48" for U.S. or A0 for international).

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 and Tiled Markings layers have general pattern information and will always print.

You may choose to turn off the Page Numbers layer. The page numbers will still appear at the bottom of each page in the footer.



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 pattern pieces.

Cut apart any pattern pieces that share a page, then fold back the page margins on each page as marked.

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

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