

Maxi Dress

In this tutorial we will learn how to sew a gorgeous Maxi Dress

Material Required

4 meters fabric of 45" width

The Maxi dress templates which you can download from our website www.ushasew.com

Chalk

Scissors

Matching thread

Pins

And the Usha Janome Gathering Foot

We will be learning how to cut the various pieces like front, back, yoke and sleeve, attaching the yoke to the front piece of the dress, sewing the back piece to the front, working on the neckline, adding in the sleeves and finally sewing the side seam and hemming the sleeves and the bottom.

Step 1- Template Marking and Cutting

Take the fabric of your choice and fold it in half length wise as shown in the tutorial. Now place the back template downloaded from www.ushasew.com over the fabric and pin it in place with the help of some beaded pins. Make sure the side of the template which reads on fold is kept on the fold of the fabric. Next, we will trace on the pinned fabric with a piece of chalk. Once done, grab a pair of scissors and carefully cut along the traced pattern. Keep it aside.

Now let's take the remaining piece of cloth and cut the other parts. Fold 1/4th of the cloth and place the template titled yoke over it like shown in the tutorial. Then proceed to pin the template in place and trace it. Unpin the template and for some stability while cutting you can re-pin the fabric before cutting along the traced line.

Now fold the fabric like shown in the tutorial and again place the yoke template over it. Repeat the same process for the other yoke. Now you should have two pieces of yoke.





Next we take the front template and place it over the remaining cloth. Ensure that the side which says on fold comes on the folded section of the fabric. Then pin and trace the template. Pay extra attention because you have to create a notch as indicated on the template. Once done, grab a pair of scissors and cut along the markings.

Lastly, we'll cut up two sleeve pieces. Repeat the process of pinning, tracing, unpinning and then finally cutting the fabric.

Step 2- Preparing front pieces by creating gathers and attaching the yokes to the front fabric

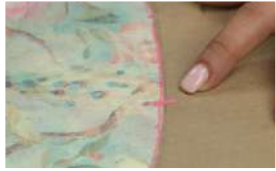
Remember the marking in the front piece, notch the marking with a pair of scissors and proceed to create gathers on the pointed section. To do that remove the A foot on the Usha Janome Wonder Stitch Sewing Machine and replace it with the Usha Janome Gathering Foot . Set the thread tension dial to maximum which is 9 in this case and the stitch length to 3.5 and begin sewing. Cut off any extra threads. This is how your finished gathers should look.

Now, take the two pieces of yoke, fold them in half and create a notch in the center like shown. Do this for both of them. We also have to fold the front piece in half and create a notch in the center, this will help in matching the pieces.

Once done, take a yoke piece and match the center notches and place it over the front piece right side facing right side like shown in the tutorial and then take the other piece, match the center notches and place it under the front fabric where the right side of the yoke faces the wrong side of the front fabric. Pin all these three pieces in place exactly like shown in the tutorial.

To familiarise ourselves, the pointed section in the yoke is the shoulder part and this is the arm hole part. Match shoulders and two arm holes and pin them. Pin all the remaining areas a well, this is a bit tricky so pay close attention. After you have pinned them, your front piece should look like this. This is called the yoke.

Let's go back to our machine and stitch them together, we've already replaced the gathering foot with the A foot. Now align the round yoke with the edge of the presser foot and begin sewing, take out the beaded pins as you go. Your completed stitches should look like this.





Step 3- Joining the Front and Back Pieces

Now we take the back piece and lay it over the front piece and match the shoulders right side facing right side. We will pin them in place and proceed to stitch them together. Don't forget to reverse stitch at the start and the end to secure your stitches in place. Cut off all the excess threads. Repeat the same process on the other shoulder.

Step 4- Finishing the Neckline

Next we work on the neckline. Cut a 1 inch bias strip from the same cloth. To learn how to cut a bias strip from your desired fabric watch the tent dress tutorial on www.ushasew.com. We've already cut one to save time. Fold it into half and match it to the neckline on the right side of the cloth. The open ends of the strip should be at the top where you'll be sewing. Go all the way across and cut any extra cloth left. Your final stitches should look like this.

Fold the bias strip at the start and overlap at the end for a neater look. Sew an edge stitch on the facing to give a nice finish. Once done, proceed to create slashes in the neckline like shown, this will flatten the circle and ensure that it settles properly around the neck. After finishing this step, fold the bias strip inside like shown in the tutorial and sew over the fold. Keep going till you reach the end of the neckline, then cut off any excess thread. Good job! Our neckline is complete and we will now move on to the sleeves.

Step 5- Attaching the sleeves

Take your sleeves and fold them into half and give a notch in the center. Make sure the sleeves, the dress front and back matches. Match these center notches to the pieces shoulder joints. To do that, pin the sleeve in place like shown in the tutorial. Do this for both the sleeves. Be careful while pinning the material. Are you set? Let's get stitching.

Align the pinned side with the edge of the presser foot and begin sewing. Remember to remove the pins as you go.

The same process will be repeated on the other side. Once done, to avoid any frayed edges on the sleeve joining we will do a zig zag stitch. Set the Pattern Selector Dial to C and Stitch length to 1.5 and get



sewing. Remember we don't need to do reverse stitches when it comes to zig zag stitches. This will be done on both the sides. This might seem like double work but we promise it's worth it.

These are what our finish stitches look like. Was worth it.

Step 5- Finishing the side seam and the hemline

Next on our to-do list is the side seam. Fold the cloth in half like shown in the tutorial so that it resembles a dress. We will be stitching the pointed area on both the sides and hemming the sleeves and the bottom of the dress. Let's get started.

Align the side seam area, sleeve first with the presser foot but before set the pattern selector dial to A for straight stitches and the stitch length to 2.5. Begin sewing and make your way down. Let's do this slowly and steadily. Once you reach the end remember to do reverse stitches to secure the stitches in place. Then move to the other side and repeat the same process. Once done, cut off the extra threads and do the zig-zag stitches on both the side seams. To save some time for this tutorial, we've already done the step. But ensure that you don't miss it as it's crucial for completing the dress.

Let's now hem the sleeves. To do that fold the sleeve in twice by quarter inch and do a straight stitch over it. Go all the way across the sleeve and adjust as you go. Cut off the thread and repeat the same process on the other side. Your final stitches should look like this. Once done, move to the bottom of the dress and exactly like the sleeves fold twice by a quarter inch and sew all the way across. This is how your final stitches will look like.

Just to recap, we've stitched the side seams and hemmed the sleeves and the bottom of the dress. With this, we are done with stitching.

Doesn't it look absolutely lovely? We'd wear this dress for shopping, movie night, brunch and just about everything else on laid-back days. It looks super stylish without putting in much effort. Let us know what you think about the dress. Comment and let us know what you'd like to see next and don't forget to like, comment and share.

