



Linen Kimono Top

Description



The kimono trend is popping up everywhere in fashion lately. This season, fashion designers have really embraced the large, kimono sleeve look.

Various interpretations of the kimono popped up over major runways this season and can be seen in retail stores just about everywhere now.

Although the kimono is a classic style that has made reappearances throughout the evolution of fashion; it still manages to add a modern touch to

any ensemble. The long, clean lines represent simplicity at its finest.

The flattering shape is both stylish and comfortable. I'll show you how I made my kimono top, so you can make your own. Pick your favorite shade of linen and get started!



Materials:

- 2 yards of linen/cotton blend IS003
- Sewing machine
- Scissors
- Measuring tape or ruler
- Paper for the pattern

[Shop for linen/cotton IS003 here >](#)

I thought black would suit this style well, so I chose a linen/cotton blend in IS003 weight. IS003 is a cheaper alternative to pure 100% linen and is slightly easier to deal with in terms of wrinkles. I love black tops like this because they can be paired with just about any color and dressed up or

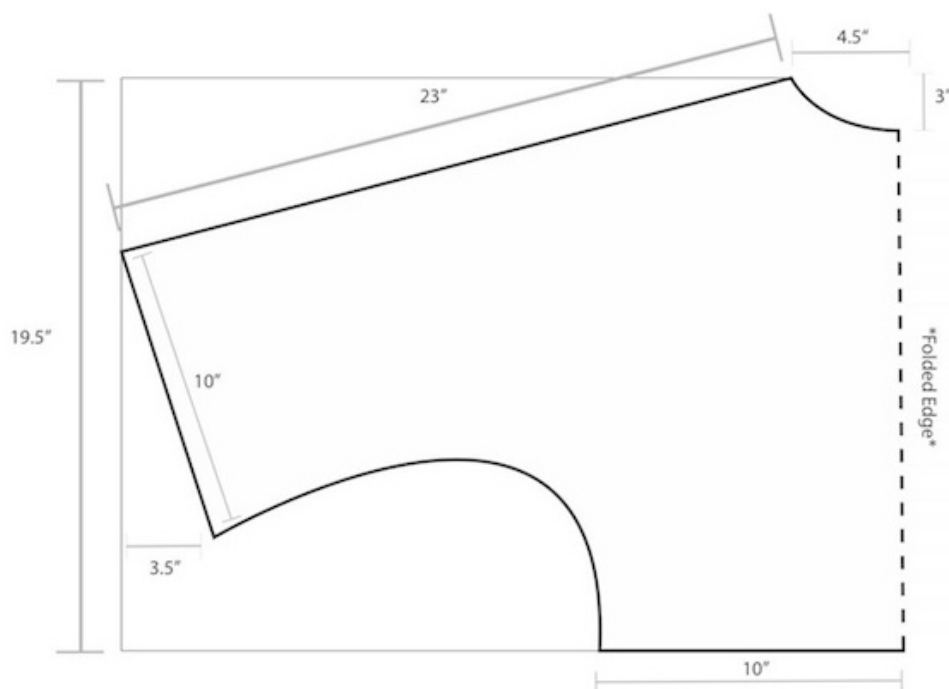
down.

Once I had my fabric I prepped it by washing and drying it to preshrink it before I began cutting into it. I also ironed it so making precise measurements would be easier.

To be honest, I made really “loose” measurements when making my pattern.

By that I mean, I didn’t stress about one or two inches when measuring the lengths of sleeves and such. As long as you create two patterns with the same measurements, your top will come out just fine. Just have fun with it!

Another element I decided on for my top, was a $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeve style. I thought a shorter sleeve would suit the kimono style nicely.



The image above shows the shape I drew out for my pattern. I have included the measurements I made for mine as a guideline.

For the length, I measured from the high point of my shoulder to down just below my hip bone. Just grab your measuring tape and don’t fuss too much with getting exact fits. It isn’t a tight top, so you don’t have to worry about

precise numbers here.

For the sleeves, I measured from the high point of my shoulder to the $\frac{3}{4}$ length of my arm. I measure around my bust to get an idea of the width necessary for the area across my chest.



For the neckline line, I measured from the high point of my shoulder to the center of my collarbones. The pattern shows the measurements for the **front** of the top. The **back** is exactly the same with the exception of the neck measurement. The back will have a slightly shallower neckline, so subtract about $1 \frac{1}{2}$ inches from the depth of your neckline. This will leave you with a front neckline that is deeper than the back.

I measured my waist and then added 6 inches to it (for a looser fit). Linen does not have much stretch to it, so its a good idea to add a few inches to something like this that does not have a zipper or button closure. This way I can still pull it on over my head and have it fit just right!

For the pattern, I divided my total waist measurement (with the added 6 inches) by in half twice.

For example, I gave myself 40 inches for a loose waist measurement. I then

divided this by 2 and was left with 20 inches. I need to divide this in half (leaving me with 10 inches) for my pattern. Once I unfold my cut fabric, I will have a 20 inch waist measurement for the front and the back piece. This will give me a total of 40 inches when the two pieces are sewn together.

An important note to keep in mind- you will need to add a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch around the entire pattern for the seam. The ends of the sleeves will need an extra inch to create a $\frac{1}{2}$ hem. The bottom of the garment will need an extra $1 \frac{1}{2}$ to create a 1 inch hem. Remember to add these seam allowances to all your measurements when making your pattern.



Once you have your patterns ready, you can trace them onto your linen. The left side of each pattern should align with the fold in your linen. This way, when you finish tracing and cutting the pattern out, you will be left with one whole front and back piece (rather than just half like the pattern).



After I traced my patterns, I cut them out of my linen.



I sewed the top part of each piece together first. I just created a $\frac{1}{2}$ seam that ran along each shoulder, down to the arms on both sides. This seam is technically on the inside because I plan on flipping this right-side out once I am done sewing it together. But not just yet....



Next, I created a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch seam to run along each side.



If you have an outerlock machine, you can finish all of the inside seams with it. This step is completely optional though, so don't worry if you skip it!



To finish the collar, I just sewed the same ½ inch seam. The top is essentially all sewn together. All that is left to do is to finish it up by hemming the sleeves and the bottom.



For the sleeves, I folded the fabric over $\frac{1}{2}$, then over again another $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. I then sewed this to create the hemmed finish. For the bottom of the garment, I folded the fabric a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and then over again 1 inch. (The image above shows the 1 inch bottom hem.)

That's the last touch to your kimono top! Now just flip it right-side out and iron your stylish kimono top!

Would you like to sew a kimono like the one in this tutorial? Order 2 yards of IS003 linen/cotton blend by following the link below:

[Shop for linen/cotton IS003 here >](#)

*Tell us your thoughts! Comments are always welcome!

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