Linen Kaftan Dress Tutorial

Description

1 2 3

Linen is the perfect summer fabric: itâ??s comfortable, breathable and with some texture to make even the simplest garment a little bit special. A good example of an easy summer wear that is comfy and feminine is our V-neck kaftan dress. It has a beautiful straight-bodied style that flatters any body type, two side slits and a deep V-neck collar.

Cut from our luxury Premier Finish striped linen, this dress is smooth and agreeable to the senses and will keep you cool during the hot summer months. Stripes run parallel to the selvage and colors include pale blue and white.

In this tutorial, we are going to show you how to make this casually chic kaftan dress and you would be surprised how easy it is!

Materials

kimono_body1A

2.5 yards of IL042 904 FS Premier Finish 100% linen

Matching sewing thread

Tools

kimono_body2

Scissors, pins, chalk, ruler, measuring tape, sewing machine

Time

2-3 hours

Difficulty

Beginner

Pattern

The great thing about this dress is that it doesnâ??t even need a real pattern. What you do is cutâ?? rectangles of fabric lengthwise. If you have a continuous 2.5-yard piece of fabric, you cut 2 rectangles 13,5 inches (34,5 cm) wide and 83 inches (211 cm) long all seam allowances included. If you only have 1.5 or 2 yards of fabric, you cut 4 rectangles 13,5 inches (34,5 cm) wide and 42 inches (106,5 cm) long all seam allowances included and then you assemble them at the shoulders to create two long rectangles.

Steps

Note: Prewash your fabric and tumble dry it until it is still slightly moist, dry in room temperature. Iron the fabric so it is easier to work with.

If you cut 4 rectangles, youâ??ll need to start by assembling them at the shoulders. If you already have 2 continuous rectangles 83 inches (211 cm)

long, skip steps 1-3 and start directly at step 4.

1. Pin two pairs of rectangles at the shoulders right sides together and sew at 3/8â?³Â• (1 cm) seam allowance.

kimono_body3A

kimono_body4A

2. Serge or zigzag the raw edges together leaving both ends 1 inch stitch free to avoid creating extra bulk when rolled. Press the serged/zigzagged edge flat folding it towards the back of the dress and press the unstitched ends open.

kimono_body5

3. Fold the inner raw edge of each rectangle (the one that will later form your V-neck) 3/8â?³Â• (1 cm) to the wrong side and press.

kimono_body6

kimono_body7

4. Fold another 1.5â?³Â• (3,5 cm) and press to mark a line which will later be your guide for finishing the neckline. Unfold this second fold for now.

kimono_body8

5. Now match the shoulder seams and pin these folded edges right sides together along that line that youâ??ve just pressed.

kimono_body9

6. Now would be a good time to try the dress on and decide how deep you want your front and back V-necklines to be. Take a few pins around the shoulder seams out and put your dress on. Make a mark or place contrasting color pins at the spots where you want the neckline to end.

kimono_body10

We went for a rather deep V-neck and placed a black pin 10,5â?³Â• from the shoulder seam at the front and 10â?³Â• at the back. The space between these two pins is your neck opening. The rest needs to be stitched together. Start from the neck opening marks and stitch all the way to the bottom hems. Remember to backstitch when you come to the V-point.

kimono_body11

7. Press the seam open and the 1.5â?³Â• (3,5 cm) seam allowances flat.

kimono_body12

This is what your neckline looks like from the right side at this point:

kimono_body13

8. Now we need to pin the 1.5â?³Â• (3,5 cm) seam allowances to the dress and enclose the raw edges under.

kimono_body14

9. Edgestitch both sides of the dress and press. By creating these large folds to the left and to the right of the center seam, youâ??ll get a nicely looking collar that runs through the entire dress and gives it an original detail. You can even use a darker thread to make it more visible.

kimono_body15

This is what your finished neckline looks like from the right side:

kimono_body16

10. Pin the side seams together.

kimono_body17

11. To create the armholes openings, measure 6.5â?³Â• (16.5 cm) from the shoulder seam and make a mark with a piece of chalk.

kimono_body18

12. To form side seam slits, measure 11â?³Â• (28 cm) from the bottom hem and make a mark. If you want a deeper slit, increase this measurement.

kimono_body19

13. Please note that the side slits require a larger seam allowance. So when you stitch in between these two marks, use a 1â?³Â• (2,5 cm) seam allowance. Remember to backstitch at both ends.

kimono_body20

14. Finish the armholes with a rolled hem â?? fold the raw edges twice and pin. Make sure that the second fold is a continuation of the side stitch line.

kimono_body21

15. Edgestitch the armholes.

kimono_body22

16. Trim the edges parallel to the stitched line to a standard 3/8â?³Â• (1 cm) seam allowance.

kimono_body23

slit_body5A

17. Serge or zigzag them together to prevent fabric from fraying.

slit_body6

kimono_body25

18. Sew the side seam slits following our detailed tutorial HERE.

kimono_body26

kimono_body27

19. Finally, finish the bottom hem by folding the raw edge twice (3/8â?³Â• to 3/4â?³) and pin.

kimono_body28

20. Stitch the hem and give it a good press.

kimono_body29

One last press and you are all done! This versatile dress is perfect for lounge or beachwear. You can also dress it up by adding a simple belt!

Why not check out all the other colours we have and play around with all the possibilities you can find?

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Author

rima-khusainova