

Pattern Review: Sol Set in Heavyweight Linen

Description



Sol set made with FS Spice Heavyweight Softened Linen

At the ripe oleâ?? age of 32 and after an almost-ten-year career in teaching, I have recently (and shockingly) found myself in *corporate America*. While many of you have been walking these fluorescent-lit hallways since graduating from whatever business or engineering program you attended, this is my first foray. I had masterfully dodged these stodgy buildings, spending my mid-twenties to early-thirties wearing space buns and socks with Birkenstocks to work while hanging out with kids. Letâ??s just say it wasnâ??t that unheard of to end the day with a sparkly sticker on my forehead, Tsunade-style.



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But one summer break and a career change later, Iâ??m in the land of lawyers, and my wardrobe was in shock. I was totally at a loss on how to incorporate what I loved most about the curated me-made wardrobe I had spent years on and â??business casual.â?•

I found inspiration in a lot of the matching linen sets that have been a staple of the maker community for years now (I actually made my first one back in 2020, which was also the first Fabrics Store linen I ever bought!). Matching sets, even the more casual ones, have always been a species of suit in my mind. Perhaps theyâ??re the evolved Darwinian finches of our collective archipandemigo, but I think we can all agree that there was a huge rethinking around what constitutes office wear in the last several years. For my matching office set, I had some specific parameters Iâ??d identified for my search: I wanted a slightly more structured jacket than my other woven cardigans but wasnâ??t quite ready to tackle a full-on blazer pattern, and I wanted a pop of color to combat so much office gray.



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When Masha reached out about trying one of Fabrics Storeâ??s paid patterns, I jumped at the opportunity to try the Sol. Itâ??s a three-piece set that includes a tunic with a structured Â¾ front placket and waist tie, a button-up cardigan with the same structured collar design, and simple wide-legged pants with a straight waistband and invisible side zipper.

I chose to make the pants and cardigan in a straight Size 2 based on finished garment measurements and with my ease preferences in mind. The combined yardage called for a little over four yards of fabric and after much indecision, I ultimately went with the heavy softened linen in Spice (Iâ??ve never met an orange I donâ??t like, and I thought a darker colorway would lend itself well to bottoms). The only modifications I made were to forego the split hem on the cardigan, and remove 2â?• from the pantsâ?? inseam length.



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The instructions for both pieces were incredibly easy to follow, and the visuals were especially helpful with the trickier bits. The sleeve construction was something Iâ??d never come across before and I was slow to trust the process, but I took it step by step and the aha! moment finally clicked as I was finishing up the underarm seam. I will say that the top-stitching detail around the split hem sleeve was difficult for my Singer to maneuver around, and my first pass was too messy for my taste. I decided to unpick and forego this detail, but after washing, the linen frayed a bit at the top and I ended up having to go back and reinforce with some not-so-cute bar tacks. I made a note to be more careful with my scissor snips and think through a different reinforcement approach for next time.



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I was a little worried about the simplicity of the pants pattern, but the finished garment measurements were spot on and itâ??s a super solid block (at least for my dimensions). I will definitely be tinkering with the cardiganâ??s side seam pockets to use with the pants though, because ya girl needs pockets. Between the two pieces, the cardigan is obviously the star of the show. The neckband shape and placket stitching really sets it apart from other woven cardigans Iâ??ve seen, and creates a beautiful balance between chic structure and nature-inspired ease.

Overall, this set is comfortable and classy, magically preserving my sense of style within the confines of the office. The coord passes the baddie check, and the color feels fresh. Iâ??m already dreaming of a wool suiting set and sleeveless cardigan dress next!

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