Pattern Review: How to Customise Your Charlie Pattern Set

Description

Wearing customised FS Charlie shorts and shirt made with FS Lilas and Angora midweight signature finish linen

As always, the FS premium Printed Pattern arrived at my house neatly in a tube with a separate box of fresh folded linen full of potential. No matter if youâ??re a beginner or a pro, this delivery is a super exciting moment for any sewist. The Charlie Pattern comes with 6 items 2 top styles, 1 dress, 2 short lengths and a full length pant. I chose this pattern because I thought the shape was perfect for the custom changes I would want to make. So here we go, letâ??s customize an already lovely and classic pattern.

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I started with the shorts. Well, to be fair, I started with laundering my fabric. For me, that is the absolute rule â?? wash, dry, iron before anything I make. Now back to the shorts. I live in Florida and Iâ??m comfortable in shorter shorts so I picked the shorts style not the bermudas. I cut out all the pieces except the belt. The pattern is very clear and easy to follow with the accompanying drawings. If youâ??re a beginner, you may need to slow down for the pleat portion of the directions but youâ??ve got this. Once I finished step 6, I stopped to try on the shorts.

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The design was still a little long for my taste so I cut 2 inches off. While working on the waist band (in the middle of step 8) I decided this would be a very high waist style and carefully trimmed 1â?• off the top of pieces M/O and P/N. This is the beauty of making your own clothes, customizing the garment to your exact tastes. At this point I was able to finish the shorts exactly as the instructions lead. Thankfully I saved the belt for last because the belt now needed to be more narrow.

Moving on to the top, I picked view A, also known as the Charlie Sleeveless Blouse. In my usual fashion I wanted something a bit different. So I cut out the two main pieces A & B and I waited on the rest. The Blouse is quite long so I cut 5â?• off the length. I must not have looked closely at the center detail on the photos when I picked the pattern so the fact that this didnâ??t have buttons took me by surprise. Itâ??s two plackets that are sewn together or overlapping and then are not top stitched fully at the top and bottom for ease over your head and a comfort fit at the bottom.

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Pretty straightforward and simple construction but itâ??s the collar that I planned to get crazy with. I wanted a Peter Pan oversized collar so I went to Pinterest to gain some inspiration for the shape. If you have some experience with patterns, especially collars, you can construct your own like I did OR use parts from other patterns in your collection. I think this turned out to be a fun twist on the Charlie Blouse. I hope you enjoy the encouragement to make these garments your own. Happy sewing!

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