



PATTERN REVIEW: Noor Wrap Dress in Shibori Dyed Linen

Description



Midweight Linen

A few weeks ago, I wrote a tutorial on how to make [a natural indigo vat](#), this was followed by a tutorial on [how to create patterns using Indigo dye](#) combined with Japanese shibori techniques. It seemed fitting to apply the techniques to linen and create an item of clothing from the fabric. I have been wanting to make a dress for some time, the last dress I made my daughters told me I looked like a pilgrim (and just to clarify, not in a flattering or stylish way!) needless to say, I haven't put that dress back on. With my past dress a no go, I thought a wrap dress would be a more flattering fit and something I could wear on warmer days ahead. I had a look through the [patterns on FS](#) and I was delighted to see the [NOOR wrap dress pattern](#).

This was my first time using a pattern from FS and I found it so simple and straightforward, [the instructions](#) along with the pattern itself and the blog tutorial made the entire process very simple. The Noor pattern is free, which is always a bonus!



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I choose [BLEACHED Midweight Linen](#) and [using the shibori tutorial](#) I mentioned, I incorporated a simple itajime fold, dipped in indigo. For the sleeves and waist ties, I used a block printed cotton that I had in my fabric stash. For the inner neck lining, I used a beautiful piece of khadi cotton also from my stash.

I decided to make a few modifications to the pattern, I wanted the dress to be loose-fitting across the chest so I went with a Medium 8-10 size and as I am a little fuller in the chest, I added a dart into both of the front pieces. I modified the sleeves so they were ungathered and I added a lining to the end of the sleeves so that when they were rolled up the contrasting fabric would show. I used roughly 4 of fabric for this and a combination of machine and hand stitching to sew in place. When adding the bias to the front opening I decided to hide the bias on the inside. I did this by sewing the bias to the front edges (right sides facing), then ironing it at the seams and folding it behind the front edge, so it doesn't show. I then hand-stitched the inside edge in place, using the stitching as a detailed feature.



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I wanted this dress to fall at mid-length, so I adjusted the skirt panels to make sure the length was right for me, I also decided to leave the bottom on the skirt unhemmed. I fully intended to hand-stitch the hem as I much prefer how it drapes with hand-stitching, sometimes I feel a machine hem adds a structure to clothing that I don't always want. For now, it is unhemmed with a raw selvedge edge, which I like, I may decide to stitch it in the future. For the waist ties, I made them extra long and used the same fabric I used on the front chest panels and the sleeves.

Fabrics-Store did an excellent job with the Noor pattern and I think this could easily be made by a beginner. The fact that you get the pattern and a step by step tutorial, takes a lot of the usual guesswork out of the equation and simplifies the entire process. Once you figure out the layout its very straightforward and could made beautifully without the modifications I incorporated. I don't make clothes as often as I would like but when I do, I always enjoy adding details that personalise the piece and make it that bit more bespoke, I find lining the end of sleeves and the inside neck a great place to start.



If you have been wanting to make a dress, I think the [NOOR pattern](#) is a wonderful place to start and if you decide to incorporate the indigo dye or shibori techniques be sure to let me know how it goes, I would love to see photos of your work. Special thanks to my lovely daughter Alannah for letting me take photos of her in the dress (Alannah is roughly a size 4-6 and the dress size is size 8-10)

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