

Marisa Dress

RUCHED PRINCESS SEAM PATTERN HACK



VIDEO TUTORIAL & INSTRUCTIONS CREATED EXCLUSIVELY
FOR PRINCESS & INNER CIRCLE PATRONS

This is such an easy way to completely change the look of the Maria Dress! Follow along with our simple hack instructions to create a ruched side panel for the Maria Dress bodice. The finished result looks far more complex than it actually is!

The techniques shown in this pattern hack can also be used to add ruching to any seam (or even one or both legs of a dart)! Play around with some muslin to create different variations of the Maria Dress or your favorite bodice. I can't wait to see what you come up with!

xoxo, *Gertie*

PATTERN ALTERATION INSTRUCTIONS

For this neckline hack, you'll be adjusting the front neckline on a bodice with princess seams. It will work similarly on any bodice with bust/waist darts, like the Aurora Bodice or Betty Dress.

Cut the pattern pieces for your Maria Dress. Set aside all except for the Bodice Center Front (1).

PATTERN DRAFTING

1. Add a circle to indicate where the ruching starts and ends. Using the Bodice Side Front (2) pattern piece, draw a circle approximately 2 inches (in) down from the bust apex notch, $\frac{5}{8}$ in (1.5 cm) from the princess seam edge. Draw another circle $\frac{5}{8}$ in from the lower edge, again $\frac{5}{8}$ in from the princess seam edge. Repeat this process on the Bodice Center Front (1) to add two matching circles in the same locations.

2. Draw in your slash-and-spread lines. Ruching adds length, so you'll need to slash and spread your pattern pieces. On the Bodice Side Front, draw five lines evenly spaced between the two circles, perpendicular to the grainline. Do not draw your lines through the circles. For an easy way to do this, watch the companion video which shows how to fold the paper instead of drawing the lines.

3. Cut the new pattern pieces to spread. Using your paper scissors, cut the new pattern piece along each of the five lines, starting at the princess seam edge and ending just before the side seam edge. Do not cut completely through at the side seam; leave a hinge.

4. Trace your new Bodice Side Front. Using tracing paper or pattern making paper underneath the slashed Bodice Side Front, tape the upper bodice section in place. Measuring at the princess seam line, tape each slashed bodice section down with equal distance between each one. For my Maria Dress example, I added 1 in (2.5 cm) between each section. Using a French curve, true the princess seam and side seam edges, and then cut out your new Bodice Side Front pattern piece.



MATERIALS & NOTIONS

- All fabric & notions listed in the Maria Dress instructions

RECOMMENDED PATTERN DRAFTING SUPPLIES

- Gridded ruler or [seam allowance ruler](#)
- French curve
- Colored pencils
- Regular pencils
- [Tracing paper or pattern drafting paper](#)
- Paper scissors
- Tape

RESOURCES

Be sure to watch the companion video to see these pattern hacking steps in action!

And don't forget! You'll need the [Maria Dress pattern pieces and instructions](#) to complete this project.

5. Add pattern markings and label the pattern piece. Using the grainline at the upper bodice section, extend the grainline arrow straight down. Transfer all markings from the original pattern piece onto your new Bodice Side Front, and add “gather between circles” on the princess seam edge. Label it with today’s date, the pattern name, and the cutting instructions.

SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

Follow all instructions for the Maria Dress, replacing your new pattern pieces for the originals.

After Bodice section Step 2 (Staystitch the neckline), you’ll want to gather the new Bodice Side Fronts.

Gather bodice side front: using a 4-mm to 5-mm-long gathering stitch, sew two lines of stitching within the seam allowance between the circle marks on each new Bodice Side Front (2). Sew the first line of gathering stitches 1/2 in (1.3 cm) from the raw edge and the second line 1/4 in (6 mm) from the raw edge. Do not backstitch to lock your stitches. Pull up bobbin threads to gather. Gathers will be concentrated between circle marks.

Continue sewing the bodice as in the instructions, including staystitching and clipping into your princess seams.

Enjoy your new ruched Maria Dress!

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