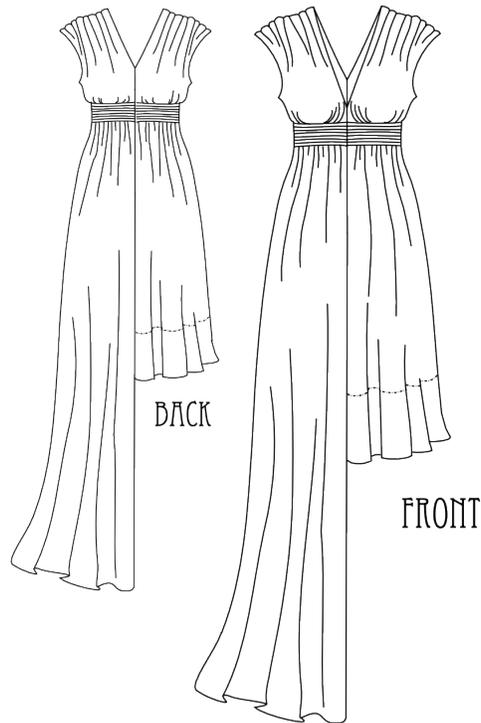


THE GRECIAN GODDESS SUNDRESS

A TANIT-ISIS PATTERN
TANITISIS.WORDPRESS.COM



Description: Easy-fitting sundress with gathered shoulders, V-neck front and back, and cut on sleeves. Shirring with elastic thread draws in the waist area for a comfortable fit. Three different length options are available, maxi, knee-length, and mini/tunic length.

Fabric: light-weight, soft or crisp wovens, stretch wovens, or knits. (I haven't tested it with knits yet but I think it would work fine with some extra reinforcing). Gauze, voile, and crinkle-cottons would be especially nice.

The full-length pattern is quite long (suitable for someone 5'7" or taller), and will require close to 4 m (4 yards) of 150-cm (60") wide fabric (slightly narrower fabric would work just as well). The knee-length version requires about 2.5 m (just under 3 yards), and you should be able to get the tunic length out of 2 m (2.1 yards).

Notions: thread; elastic thread for shirring. Seam stabilizer (fusetape, clear elastic, or long-grain strip of self fabric) if using a knit or fragile fabric.

Seam allowances are 1cm except along neckline and sleeve and skirt hems.

Printing Pattern: I have made the pattern available for standard US letter-size and A4 size paper. Print with no scaling (or scaling 100%), and make sure that the scale-box provided prints out at 10 cm square

(4" x 4"). The first page that prints out shows the overall layout of the numbered pages.

You shouldn't need to trim anything from the edges but they may need to be overlapped slightly. Masking tape works best for this, I find, as you can draw in any bits of the lines your printer failed to print on top of it.

Sizing: The pattern is sized XS, S, M, L, XL

Size	Bust		Hip	
XS	80 cm	31.5"	86 cm	34"
S	86 cm	34"	92 cm	36"
M	92 cm	36"	98 cm	38.5"
L	98 cm	38.5"	104 cm	41"
XL	104 cm	41"	110 cm	43"

Instructions:

1. Gather shoulder seams of front and back between notches;
 1. Two lines of basting stitches provide better control than one.
 2. Draw in the gathering so the shoulders measure 15 cm (6") between notches.
 3. If you are not sure how gathered you want the shoulders to be, gather only the front piece so that it matches the length of the back piece and stitch shoulder seam. Then run basting stitches along seam-allowance so you can adjust the total gathers when trying on the dress later.
2. Stitch shoulder seams; press gathers to reduce bulk, if desired, and stabilize (especially if using a knit or a fragile fabric)
3. Press neckline extension under 1 cm (3/8"). Topstitch. If using a knit or a fragile fabric, reinforcing this area with fusetape or Steam-a-Seam before folding over would probably be a good idea as well.
4. Stitch front and back seams from circle to hem.
 1. Press open.
 2. Press neckline so that edge is continuous with front and back seams. Topstitch.
5. Press sleeve hem under twice, stabilizing if necessary, and topstitch.
6. Stitch side-seams.
7. Try on. Tie a string or elastic under the bust and mark the line; this is where you will want your shirring to begin. (The pattern includes lines marking this general location; I strongly recommend fitting this part personally)
8. Shir elasticated area below the bust. To do this:
 1. By hand, wind elastic thread on a bobbin for your machine. The amount of gathering depends on how tightly you wind the elastic thread, on your fabric, and on your machine's bobbin tension, so if you haven't tried this before make some test samples so you know how much your fabric will gather up. Thinner fabric will usually gather up more than thicker. If your fabric isn't gathering enough, try winding your bobbin tighter, but also try spritzing with water and ironing to see if that shrinks it up more.
 2. With elastic thread in the bobbin and regular thread on top (coordinating or contrasting), position your dress in the machine with right side of fabric to the top.
 3. Beginning at a side-seam or centre back, stitch along your marked under-bust line.

Particularly in the front, this line may be somewhat curved.

4. When completing the first circle, angle your line slightly to arrive just below your starting point; continue stitching. You will be stitching in a spiral around your bodice.
 1. I recommend shirring at about .6 cm (1/4") as that is the width of most standard presser feet, which makes it easy to keep the distance between the rows of stitching even. RTW shirring is often done at a wider distance, up to about 1.5 cm (5/8"), which will take less time but is trickier to keep even. Personally I don't like the look of shirring done further apart than 1cm (3/8") but it's up to you.
5. When shirring, stretch fabric gently so it is flat as it passes under the needle, otherwise you risk breaking stitches when the shirring is stretched, especially in thin fabrics.
6. Continue spiral until the shirred section measures about 10 cm (4") from top to bottom, or as desired.
9. Hem skirt bottom. For lightweight fabrics a narrow hem is usually best:
 1. stitch .6 cm (1/4") from fabric edge
 2. turn up and press along stitch-line
 3. edgestitch
 4. turn up another .6 cm (1/4") and press.
 5. Topstitch.

Some ideas:

1. make the gathers at the shoulders adjustable by stitching casings from the seam-allowance and running a narrow cord through (you would probably want to widen the seam allowance at the shoulders for this)
2. adjust for a fuller bust by increasing the curve at the top of the shoulder on the front piece. I haven't been able to try this myself (lacking a full bust) but I think it would work and keep the hem more straight.
3. The depth of the V at front and back can be adjusted by changing where you end your stitch line. I've tried to make the back high enough to accommodate a bra, but a deep, plunging back-V would look great, too. (If you're going to make the V deeper, just remember to lengthen the fold-over portion when you cut)
4. Add a sash over (or instead of) your shirring.
5. Broomstick your dress: wet down and twist until the fabric knots up. Leave to dry, unroll--- presto! Crinkled dress!
6. Back ties at the shoulder: if you have sloping shoulders, you might find that the shoulders of the dress can slip off. Little ties of ribbon or cord stitched in just behind the neck would hold it in place perfectly.