SHIFT STYLE

SUPPLIES

FABRIC: Nearly any fabric will work in this style, but I would avoid very stretchy knits. Measure from your shoulder to the length you want your dress to finish at. Add 5cm for seams and hems. If your fabric is wider than your widest measurement (hip or bust) plus 15cm, you will need one length. If it is narrower, you will need two lengths. You will need bias binding to finish the neck and armhole. You can buy one packet of cotton or satin bias to match, or you can cut strips of your leftover fabric 45 degrees to the selvedge, and 3cm wide. I would recommend using pre-made bias binding, because it’s prefolded and a little easier to handle. It’s also surprisingly easy to find half-packets at op-shops, my favourite source of sewing supplies.

MATCHING THREAD: You’ll just need a regular sized reel, 100m. Don’t use cheap bulk thread, it’s not as strong or as well spun, meaning the seam might break more easily, and your machine will get clogged with lint faster.

HOOK & EYE CLOSURE

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Sew the darts by joining the cut edges then tapering to the dot. Neaten with a zigzag stitch or overlocker.

2. Sew the shoulder seams with a 1cm seam allowance, then neaten the edge with a zigzag stitch or overlocker.

3. Open the prefolded bias and sew to the neck edge and armhole edges, right sides together.

4. Open out the binding and understitch the seam by topstitching the seam allowances to the binding, very close to the seam.

5. Sew the side seam with the underarm binding opened out. Neaten with a zigzag stitch or an overlocker.

6. Sew the centre back seam to within 5cm of the top edge and neaten each side separately with a zigzag stitch or overlocker.

7. Turn the binding to the inside and topstitch about 5mm from the edge, folding the raw edge of the binding under as you go.

8. Topstitch the binding in place around the neckline. At centre back, turn the seam allowances back neatly and topstitch around the opening. Sew on a hook and eye.

9. Fold the hem up 2cm, then tuck the raw edge under to meet the hem fold, sew the hem neatly.

10. Press and wear.