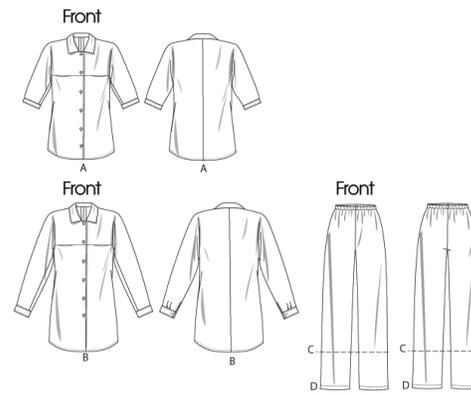


Sewing Secrets

Vogue 8735



What we like: This is a nice shirt pattern with some unusual twists. The sleeves are cut as a part of the shirt body, which gives some interesting options for multiple fabrics, particularly stripes and plaids. By inserting the front pockets into the yoke seam, they remain useful and attractive, in an invisible sort of way. For those people who see traditional patch pockets as the visual equivalent of a pair of headlights, this is a nice alternative.

The pants pattern is very easy to make and to fit. It is one pattern piece, which avoids the traditional side seams. The elastic waist is comfy.

Timing: With no sleeve insertion, this shirt is made more quickly than most.

Fabric selection: Since the sleeves are cut as a part of the body of the shirt, the pattern pieces are quite wide. There is no way to avoid the seam in the back, so make sure that you have enough fabric to match any patterns. If you use a striped/plaid fabric for the front yoke, the stripe will be vertical at the center front, changing to a slight bias at the cuff. This is a fun design feature to play with.

Sizing: The shirt is loose, but will need the usual fitting for sleeve length and bust size.

Changes that I made to the pattern: I changed the seams to all be French Seams, so that the inside of the shirt is cleaner in appearance.

Changes that I wish I'd made to the pattern: The opening at the bottom of the long sleeve version is created by simply turning back the seam allowance, instead of a sleeve placket. I've never been a fan of this technique, as it is a frail option. When paired with the French Seams that I chose, it has the added disadvantage of a sloppy transition at the top of the opening. I wish I'd thought of that sooner and come up with a better plan! (I'm not sure what that better plan might be, actually, even in retrospect.)