



Photo Credit: Simplicity Pattern Co..

Garment Fundamentals

Simplicity 1538

Thimble Bee's

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Welcome to Garment Fundamentals!

Hi Future Garment Maker,

Welcome to Garment Fundamentals! I'm so excited you'll be joining us as we sew the Simplicity 1538 top together. This project is a great next step for advanced beginners and developing garment makers — familiar enough to feel manageable, but designed to stretch your skills and build confidence with new techniques.

I also want to share something special with you. One of the biggest challenges in sewing right now is finding high-quality, fashion-forward fabrics at a reasonable price. Because of this, we recently launched a carefully curated fabric collection right here in the studio. Each piece is chosen with our classes in mind, so you can feel confident that what you're buying will both sew beautifully and look amazing in your finished garment.

You're welcome to shop our [Etsy Shop](#) before class or browse and purchase in person during your first class. While it's not required to purchase fabric from us, we truly hope you'll consider it. Every yard purchased helps us continue to expand our in-studio selection and bring in more exciting options for future projects. Your support directly impacts what we can offer to you and the rest of our sewing community — and we're grateful for it.

Skills You'll Gain in This Class

By completing the Oxford button-up using Simplicity 1538, you will practice and develop the following skills:

- Gain confidence in reading and interpreting commercial pattern instructions and markings
- Laying out and cutting woven fabric accurately
- Applying interfacing to collars, cuffs, and plackets
- Constructing a button-up placket
- Sewing a collar and collar stand
- Attaching set-in sleeves and sewing cuffs
- Creating buttonholes and sewing on buttons
- Using pressing, topstitching, and seam-finishing techniques to achieve a polished result
- Building confidence working through a multi-step garment construction process

This class is designed not just to complete a garment, but to give you techniques you'll use again and again in future garments.

I'm thrilled to get started with you and can't wait to see your tops come to life. Thank you for trusting me to guide you through this next step in your sewing journey.

See you in class,

Mrs. Jen

Thimble Bee's Sewing School



Determining Sizing

Before our first class, take a few body measurements using a flexible tape measure: high bust (measured above the bust, under the arms), full bust, waist, and hip. Jot those down and highlight them on the size chart below. This will give you a good starting point for choosing your pattern size.

Because the Simplicity 1538 top has a bit of shape through the bust and waist, those measurements matter more than they would in a loose-fitting top. When you're looking at the chart, start with your bust measurements, then take your waist measurement into account as well. It's very common to fall into more than one size — for example, one size at the high bust and another at the waist. That's normal and expected with fitted garments. We'll use the bust area to guide our starting size, then talk through how to adjust the fit where needed so the top feels comfortable and flattering.

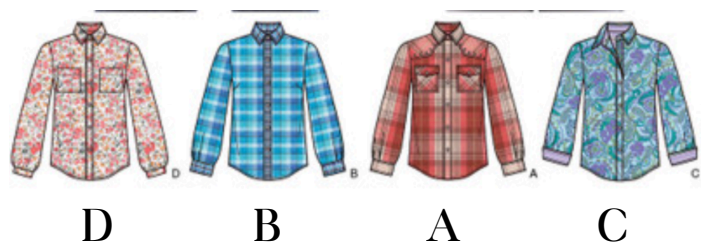
If you're feeling unsure, don't stress about it. We'll walk through sizing together in class and talk through what makes the most sense for your body. And just a reminder — sewing pattern sizes don't line up with store-bought clothing sizes, so if the number surprises you, that's totally normal.

BODY MEASUREMENTS (For Sizing Help Visit www.simplicity.com)										
Bust	30½	31½	32½	34	36	38	40	42	44	In
Waist	23	24	25	26½	28	30	32	34	37	"
Hip-9" below waist	32½	33½	34½	36	38	40	42	44	46	"
Back-neck to waist	15½	15¾	16	16¼	16½	16¾	17	17¼	17¾	"
Pattern Size	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	
Sizes-European	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	
FINISHED GARMENT MEASUREMENTS (Includes Design and Wearing EASE)										
All Views Bust	36	37	38	39½	41½	43½	45½	47½	49½	In

Determining Yardage

Now that you know your approximate size, use the chart below to find the fabric yardage you'll need. Simply locate your size on the chart, then follow it down to see the yardage requirements for both 44/45" and 54"-60" wide fabrics.

When purchasing fabric, it's a good idea to buy yardage for the next size up. This ensures you'll have enough when it comes time to cut and gives a little flexibility for adjustments or errors along the way.



Pattern Size	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	
Sizes-European	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	
A Shirt										
45***	2½	2½	2½	2½	2¾	2½	2½	2½	2½	Yd
60***	1½	1½	1¾	1¾	1½	1½	2	2	2	"
B Shirt										
45***	1½	1¾	1½	1½	1½	2	2½	2½	2½	Yd
60***	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	1½	"
Contrast- 1 yd. of 45" or 60***										
C Shirt										
45***	1½	1¾	2	2	2	2½	2½	2½	2¾	Yd
60***	1½	1½	1½	1½	1¾	1½	1½	1½	2	"
Contrast- ¾ yd. of 45" or 60***										
A,B,C Interfacing- 1½ yd. of 20" to 25" lightweight fusible, such as Pellon®										
D Shirt										
45***	2	2	2	2½	2½	2¾	2½	2½	2½	Yd
60***	1½	1½	1½	1½	1¾	1½	2	2	2	"
Interfacing- 1½ yd. of 20" to 25" lightweight fusible, such as Pellon®										
A,B,C,D Ribbon (opt.)- ¾ yd. of ¼" wide										

Chart Credit: Simplicity Pattern Co.

Suggested Fabrics

A quilter's cotton is the perfect fabric for your first time making the 1538 top — it's easy to handle and forgiving as you learn. Think of this as your "rough draft," where you can focus on understanding the pattern and building confidence in your technique. Once you've got the hang of it, you can always experiment with more challenging fabrics later. (Please note: Quilter's cotton has a firmer hand than fashion fabrics. While it is beginner-friendly, the final garment may feel more structured when worn.)

If you're more advanced and up for the challenge, you can choose a flannel, gingham, challis, chambray, pique, woven, rayon, or linen.

Notions: 1 ⅛ yds of lightweight interfacing + (10) 1/2" buttons + thread