

How to make the Tarkhan dress

By Janet Johnstone

The dress consists of a skirt joined selvedge to selvedge down the left hand side with a weft fringe. The sleeves and yoke are made of two pieces of material joined to the top of the skirt which meet at the centre front and back giving a v-shaped neckline edged with selvedge. The fabric has an irregular grey stripe as decoration and the sleeves have fine pleating.

Fabric

100% Linen (only pure linen will hand pleat successfully)

22-23 warp threads per cm (with two threads together in some places), 13-14 weft threads per cm.

Body: Width 76cm selvedge to selvedge. Length unknown.

Sleeves: Length neck edge (selvedge) to wrist c.58cm. Length over shoulder c.35cm. (The measurements refer to the size of the material after pleating).

1. Cut a paper pattern using Diagram 2 as a reference. Add seam allowance. Pin pattern to linen, mark and cut out.

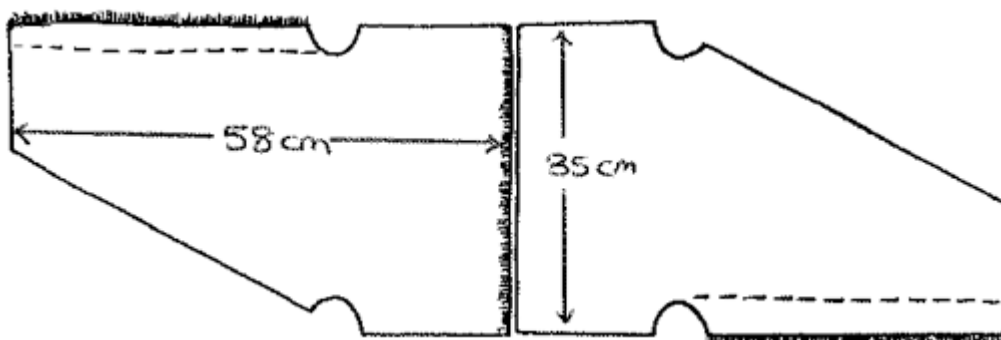


Diagram 1: Bodice and sleeve. Finished measurements

2. Hand pleat the two bodice sections by first dampening with water. Lay one section down on a table or flat surface and starting with the long straight edge (A-B) fold over 1cm and press the folded edge flat. Using this first pleat as a guideline pleat the rest of the fabric on top of it creating 1cm wide accordion pleating. Weight the pleating down if necessary and dry in a warm place.
3. When dry, hand-roll and whip stitch the cut edges of the bodice and sleeves. (See section on sewing techniques.)
4. To make the sleeve. Whip stitch the angled edge of the sleeve to a fold 38mm from the straight edge and fringe the warp threads. Turn inside out. The excess fabric is inside the finished sleeve.
5. Hand-roll and whip stitch the cut edges of the skirt. Seam the two selvages together by overlapping the right selvedge (this can be fringed) over the left and sew as Diagram 3. This forms the left-hand side seam.
6. Mark the centre front, back and sides on the top edge of the skirt and match the corresponding points on the bodice. Attach the rolled edge of the bodice to the top of the skirt with whip-stitching.

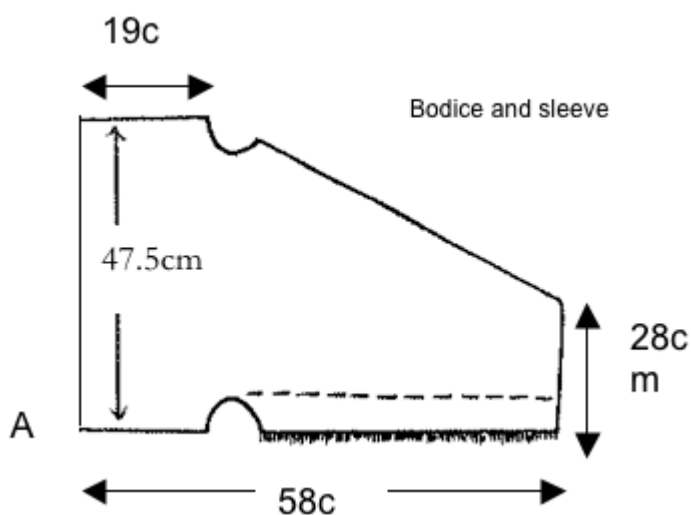


Diagram 2: Pattern measurements for pleating bodice

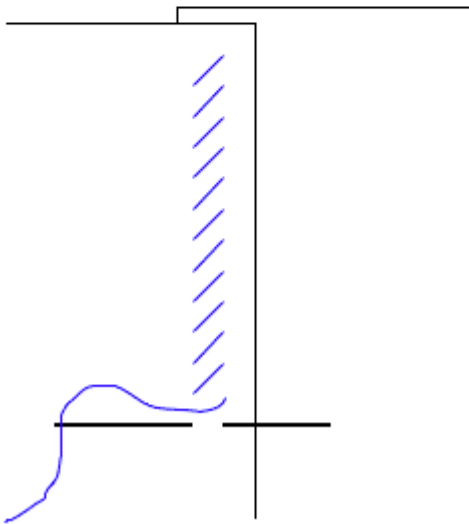
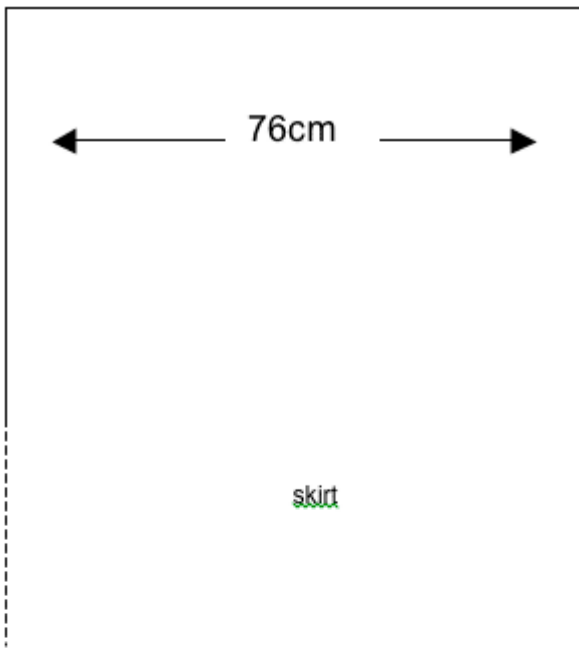


Diagram 3. Flat overlapped seam