



# Washi Fit Guide

In the same way that a ready-made dress in your size may or may not fit off the rack, simply sewing a Washi Dress in your size may or may not result in a great fit. I've included this section of recommendations and tips to help you maximize your chances of getting a great-fitting Washi Dress.

These steps may seem tedious initially, but there is nothing more frustrating than cutting and sewing an entire dress only to find at the END that it doesn't fit well. Take some extra time now getting the fit right so you can make many, many Washi Dresses for yourself that fit and flatter your body!

Visit <http://made-by-rae.com/washi> for more information and links to other posts on this topic.

## 1. Choose your size

	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL
<b>Upper Bust</b>	30-31"	32-33"	34-35"	36-37"	38-39"	40-41"
<b>Bust</b>	32-34"	34-36"	36-38"	38-40"	40-42"	42-44"

The Washi Dress is fairly generous in the hips so we suggest using your upper bust and bust measurements to select the size you need. Measure upper bust with tape measure positioned above the bust, just under the armpit. Measure bust at fullest part of bust.

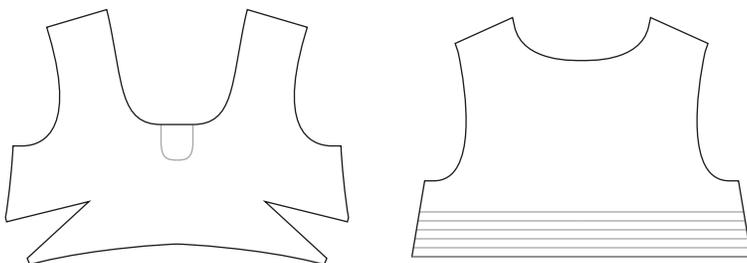
### What if I fall into two different sizes on the chart?

If your measurements put you in two different sizes, you can do one of two things:

- use the upper bust measurement to select your size. If the bust is too tight or too loose, then do a bust adjustment (see "Bust Adjustments" on next page).
- make the muslin (see below) in both sizes and see which fits best.

## 2. Trace your bodice pattern pieces for the muslin

Using tracing paper, trace the front bodice piece and upper part of the back bodice from the bottom shirring line upward. These two pieces form the fitted upper part of the dress, so in most cases it's fine to just use these pieces for your muslin.\*



*\*Note: the Washi skirt is fairly full, but those with wider hips may want to include the front skirt and back pieces when making the muslin as well.*

*HINT: If you fall into two different sizes and aren't sure which one to make, trace both sizes to save time later.*

### 3. Make a muslin

Cut your pieces out of unwashed muslin, sew the darts, and machine-baste the side and shoulder seams.

Try it on and evaluate fit. Remember that the back of the bodice will have shirring, so just pinch the back together to get an idea of how the front will fit around your body. Most importantly, pay attention to the fit of the bust and how the shoulders feel. Can you pull it on easily over your head? If the shoulders feel too tight or too loose you might need to go up or down a size. If one size feels too tight but the other size feels too loose, you may be between two sizes. In that case, just trace between the two sizes (draw your line halfway between the two pattern lines) and make that size in a muslin to see if it fits.

### 4. Make adjustments to the pattern pieces if necessary

A couple common adjustments are bust adjustments and length adjustments.

#### Bust Adjustments

The bust darts on the Washi Dress and Tunic comfortably accommodate most B and C cups.

- If there is LESS than a 2" difference between your bust and upper bust, you may need to do a Small Bust Adjustment (SBA) on the pattern pieces in order to get the best fit.
- If there is MORE than 3" difference between your bust and upper bust, you may need to do a Full Bust Adjustment (FBA) on the pattern pieces in order to get the best fit.

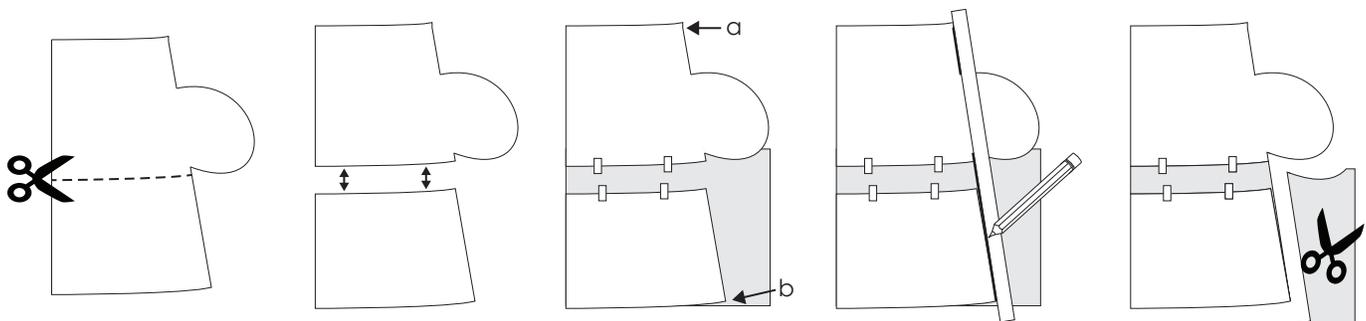
In both cases, I suggest you first make the muslin without bust adjustments; you may find that the extra room in the back allows for enough cup size flexibility that you won't need any bust adjustment. If you find that the muslin is pulling or gaping at the bust, try doing a SBA or FBA on your front bodice pattern piece, make another muslin, and see if that helps.

For a list of books and online tutorials that include instructions on bust adjustments, please go to <http://made-by-rae.com/washi> and scroll down to the "Resources" section.

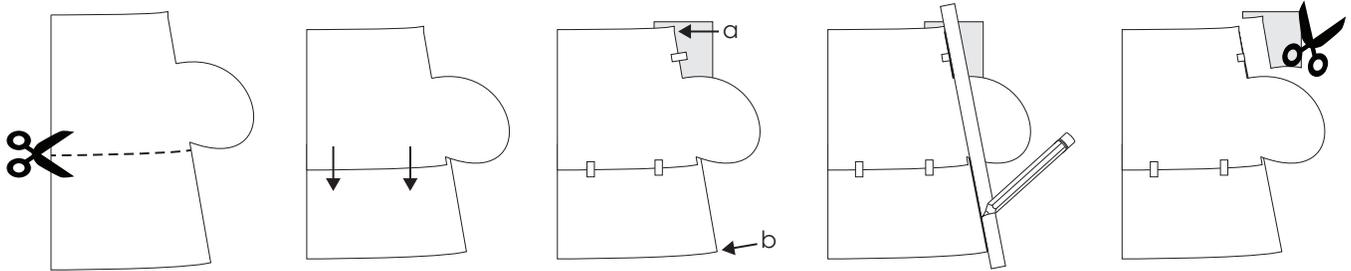
#### Length Adjustments

The Washi Dress skirt falls above the knee on an average person. If you would like more or less length, you can easily adjust the skirt length by adding or subtracting length to/from each skirt piece. If you would prefer to maintain the original width of the skirt, adjust the skirt length on both the back dress and front skirt pattern pieces as follows:

- Cut the pattern piece along the line marked "cut here for tunic," continuing all the way across to the right hand edge.
- To lengthen, move pieces apart parallel to each other by the amount you would like to lengthen the skirt, then tape a piece of paper between the two pieces to hold them in place. If necessary, take a ruler and draw a straight line along the side of the skirt from the top (a) to the bottom (b) to smooth out the side and trim the pattern along this line (working around the pocket).



- To shorten, overlap the pieces by the amount you would like to shorten the skirt, keeping the fold line straight. Tape the pieces together to hold them in place. Use a ruler to draw a straight line along the side of the skirt ("a" to "b") to smooth out the side and trim the pattern along this line (working around pocket).



5. Cut your pattern pieces out of your fabric and sew your dress!