

Chelsea Jacket

Sewing instructions · short lined jacket — every option · task by task, with video links

About This Pattern

The **Chelsea Jacket** is a short, fully lined jacket finishing about 4 1/2 in below the waist, with a round collarless neckline and a beautifully plain back — **one flat piece cut on the fold, no darts, no center seam**; the side seams and the front's bust dart carry all the shaping, Chanel-cardigan style. She's built from your three choices at order:

- **Front Closure** — Buttons (five 7/8 in) or Zipper (one separating zip).
- **Jacket Sleeve Options** — **Sleeve Vent for Buttons** (the tailored vent with three buttons per cuff) or **Simple Sleeve** (a clean, quiet hem). The vent is a choice, not a default — both are fully drafted.
- **Pockets** — Patch (lined and bagged) or Welt (single welt at the waistline).

The work below is organized as **tasks**, each with steps and a few video tutorials for visual company — a jacket has real challenges (the welt window, the two-panel sleeves, the bagging, the vent) and they all become manageable one task at a time. The videos show general methods on their own patterns; where they differ, **your printed pattern and these steps are the authority**. And press as you go — a jacket is made at the iron as much as the machine.

Note — *Your pattern is drafted to your measurements with your chosen seam allowance already included — cut on the heavy solid line and stitch at your chosen allowance throughout. Every piece is labeled with its name and cut count, and **your pattern's cover prints the exact yardage and notions calculated for your size and your options** — the cover is the final word; the table below is for planning the fabric shopping.*

You will need — fabric, verified by real cutting lays

- **Self fabric, 45 in wide:** 2 1/4 yd (sizes through 40) · 2 1/2 yd (42–44). **Self fabric, 60 in wide:** 1 5/8 yd · 1 3/4 yd for the larger bracket. These figures come from laying the actual pattern pieces, grainlines respected, one-way — not from guesswork; your cover prints the exact figure for your size.
- **Lining:** 1 3/4 yd at 45 in · 1 5/8 yd at 60 in (Bemberg/cupro is lovely and breathes).
- **Fusible interfacing:** 1/2 yd, weight matched to your fabric — it covers the facings, the welt pieces, and the patch pocket.
- **Pattern matching:** directional prints and napped fabrics need nothing extra (the lay is already one-way). Small repeats up to 3 in: add 1/4 yd. Repeats 3–6 in: add

1/2 yd. Grand motifs: allow 3/4-1 extra repeat per pair of panels you want mirrored.

Notions — by your options

- **Buttons closure:** five 7/8 in (22 mm) front buttons.
- **Zipper closure:** one **separating** zipper, about 18-19 in — the exact length for your size is printed on the cover.
- **Sleeve Vent for Buttons:** six 5/8 in (15 mm) sleeve buttons — three per cuff. (Simple Sleeve needs none.)
- Matching thread (plus buttonhole twist if you like a raised buttonhole), machine needle for your fabric, chalk or marking pen, pins, hand needle — and the pressing kit that earns its keep on a jacket: ham, seam roll if you have one, press cloth.

Reading the pattern

- **Heavy solid line** — cutting line (seam allowance included). **Dashed** — stitching; fine dash patterns mark folds and printed reference lines (hem fold lines, the lining's center-back ease pleat, placement lines).
- **The bust dart is cut open** — its intake is removed from the cutting outline, so the dart's two legs are cut edges that will sew back together. Nothing is missing; that's the drafting.
- **Hem extensions are drawn** — the turn-ups are part of the pieces, fold lines printed.
- **Welt option:** the pocket window is printed on the front — two lines and **four corner dots**; every seam of that pocket starts and stops on a dot.
- **Notches** — single ticks mark FRONT edges, double ticks BACK edges; the sleeve panels and armholes carry their own match notches.
- **Scale bars** on every sheet — measure them with a real ruler before cutting anything.

Task 1 — Check Scale, Cut & Mark

Goal: every piece cut on grain from self, lining, and interfacing, every notch snipped, every printed mark transferred.

1. Measure the printed scale bars, then pre-treat your fabric the way you'll care for the finished jacket; press flat and true the grain.
2. Lay out with grainlines parallel to the selvage. The **back goes with its center back edge exactly on the fabric fold** — and that's all the back asks of you: no darts, no seam, nothing to mark but its notches. Enjoy that.
3. Cut every piece per its printed label — fronts with their **open bust darts** cut exactly as drawn (the notch-shaped bite out of the side edge is the dart; its legs will kiss again soon), the two-panel sleeves for your sleeve option, the facings, the pocket pieces for your pocket choice, the belt — no wait, no belt; this is a jacket that hangs free.
4. Cut the lining pieces: front linings (they carry the dart too), the back lining with its **center-back ease pleat** marks, and the sleeve linings **for your sleeve option** — the vent version and the simple version are different pieces, per their labels.
5. Cut the interfacing pieces, snip every notch, and transfer: dart legs and points, the pocket placement (patch corner ticks or the welt window's lines and four dots), hem fold lines, ease-pleat line, and the closure marks for your front.

► **Watch it done:** [How to Cut Out a Sewing Pattern](#) · [Transferring Pattern Markings onto Fabric](#)

Task 2 — Interface & Prep

Goal: structure fused where the jacket needs it — your 1/2 yd of interfacing covers all of it.

1. Test the interfacing on a scrap: support without stiffness, no bubbling.
2. Fuse to the wrong side of: the **front facings**, the **back neck facing**, the **welt pieces** (welt option), and the **patch pocket self** (patch option — yes, the pocket is interfaced; it keeps its shape for years).
3. Staystitch the neckline of fronts and back a scant seam allowance from the edge — a round collarless neckline is a curve worth guarding.
4. Finish the raw edges of the side and shoulder seams if your fabric frays eagerly (everything else ends up enclosed by the lining).

► **Watch it done:** [Fusible Interfacing Step-by-Step](#) · [How to Apply Fusible Interfacing](#)

Task 3 — The Pocket (first, while the fronts are flat)

Goal: your chosen pocket finished on each front before any body seam is sewn — pockets are a joy on a flat piece and a wrestle on a finished jacket.

Patch pocket (lined & fully bagged — the Couture Craft way)

1. With right sides together, sew the pocket lining to the **top edge** of the interfaced pocket self. Press the seam toward the lining.
2. Fold right sides together along the printed fold line so 2.5 cm of self turns back behind the top; the lining now faces the self all around.
3. Sew all the way around the outer edge, **leaving an opening** along the bottom for turning. Trim the corners, grade the curves.
4. Turn out through the opening and press beautifully, seam rolled just under; tuck the opening's allowances in level with the edge — no need to close it yet.
5. Place the pocket on its printed marks and edgestitch around sides and bottom — **the topstitching closes the opening as it goes** — reinforcing the top corners with small triangles.

► **Watch it done:** [Perfect Lined Patch Pocket — Pocket 101](#) · [Lined Patch Pocket, Properly \(tailored\)](#) · [Patch Pockets — Placement & Topstitching](#)

Single-welt pocket

Note — *The window is printed on your front — two lines and four corner dots. **The dots are the whole secret:** every seam starts and stops exactly on a dot. Trust them and the pocket almost sews itself. The bag is drafted deep on purpose — it reaches the hem, where the turn-up will catch and hide it later.*

1. Fold each interfaced welt in half lengthwise, wrong sides together; press; baste the raw edges together.
2. On the right side, place the welt's raw edges along the **lower** window line, folded edge down, ends exactly on the dots. Stitch dot to dot; backstitch crisply.
3. Place the pocket bag over the window per the printed diagram and stitch the **upper** window line, dot to dot — the two stitch lines exactly parallel, never longer than each other.
4. From the wrong side, cut the window open along the center, stopping 1 cm from each end, then clip a Y into each corner dot — up to, never through, the stitching.
5. Turn welt and bag through, press the welt up to fill the window, stitch the little triangles at each end through welt and bag, and sew the bag's sides closed. The bag hangs toward the hem — leave it; that's its designed home.

► **Watch it done:** [Sew a Single-Welt Pocket \(Threads\)](#) · [How to Sew a Single Welt Pocket \(Seamwork\)](#)

Task 4 — Dart & Body

Goal: the bust shaping sewn, shoulders and sides joined. The back is one flat piece — there is no back work at all; the side seams do the shaping, exactly as designed.

1. Sew each **open bust dart**: the dart's legs are cut edges, so bring them right sides together, matching them exactly, and stitch from the side edge toward the point, tapering to nothing at the tip. Tie off — no backstitching at the point.
2. Press each dart **downward** over a tailor's ham, letting the shaping bloom rather than crease.
3. Sew the fronts to the back at the shoulders, matching notches; press open.
4. Sew the side seams; press open over the ham. Try it on a hanger and admire the plain, quiet back — that emptiness is the design.

► **Watch it done:** [How to Sew Darts](#) · [Darts for Garment Sewing & Contour](#)

Task 5 — The Sleeves & the Vent

Goal: two tailored two-panel sleeves, finished at the wrist per your option. The upper and under panels give the sleeve its forward curve; the printed “sustain” and “stretch” notes tell you where to ease which panel.

1. Pin each upper panel to its under panel along the **front (inner) seam**, right sides together, matching notches. Sew; press open over a seam roll.
2. **Sleeve Vent for Buttons:** sew the back (hindarm) seam from the underarm down, stopping at the printed vent point. Construct the vent on the printed fold lines — the upper panel's extension laps over the under panel's, the corner miters where the fold lines cross, folds pressed knife-crisp, the lap secured at its top with a diagonal stitch or small bar tack. The three buttons come at the very end.
3. **Simple Sleeve:** sew the back seam straight through, underarm to hem. Done — the quietest cuff there is.
4. Ease as printed: **sustain** (hold slightly full) the upper panel over the elbow, **stretch** the under panel through the saddle; a steam press over the ham sets that shape permanently.

► **Watch it done:** [Sew a 2-Piece Sleeve \(Angela Wolf\)](#) · [Attach & Insert a Two-Piece Sleeve](#) · [How to Sew a Sleeve Vent \(mitered corner\)](#) · [Tailored Sleeve Vent with Lining](#)

Task 6 — Setting the Sleeves

Goal: both caps eased smoothly into their armholes. The most patient moment of the whole jacket — pour a cup of something, put on some music, and give it the time it wants.

1. Run two rows of long machine stitches over each cap, just inside and outside the seam line, between the front and back notches; long tails.

2. Jacket inside out, sleeve right side out: slip the sleeve into its armhole, right sides together, matching underarm seams, front and back notches, and the cap notch to the shoulder seam — the two-panel sleeve has a definite front and back, and the notches keep you honest.
3. Draw the ease threads until the cap fits and distribute the fullness over the top — a soft, classic cushion of tailored ease, no gathers, no pleats. Steam the cap over the ham; wool especially will shrink the fullness in like it was never there.
4. Baste, try on if you like, then sew sleeve side up; a second row through the underarm curve for strength.
5. Press the allowances toward the sleeve at the cap, standing in the underarm. On the hanger: this is the moment the Chelsea gets her posture.

► **Watch it done:** [Set in a Sleeve for a Tailored Jacket](#) · [Set-In Sleeve with a Sleeve Head](#)

Task 7 — Facings & the Front Closure

Goal: the facing loop on around fronts and neckline — with the zipper sandwiched inside if that's your closure. The facings' inner edges are drafted to meet the shoulder seams at right angles, so the loop sews up without a kink.

1. Sew each front facing to the back neck facing at the shoulders, right sides together; press open — one continuous facing loop.
2. **Zipper front:** separate the zipper. Baste each half face down on the right side of its jacket front, teeth exactly on the printed center front line, top stop at the neckline seam line, bottom stop at the hem fold line. Zip it closed once to check both sides hang level — now, while corrections are cheap.
3. Pin the facing loop over it, right sides together, sandwiching the tapes; sew up one front, around the neckline, down the other, pivoting cleanly at the corners.
4. **Buttons front:** the same seam with nothing inside — facing loop to fronts and neckline in one pass. (Buttonholes wait for the finishing task.)
5. Trim and grade, clip the neckline curve generously, and **understitch** the facing wherever the machine reaches. Turn and press with the facing rolled just inside — with a zipper, this press is what makes the teeth stand proud and straight.

► **Watch it done:** [Separating Zipper in a Jacket — 2 Methods](#) · [Separating Zipper into Anything Lined](#)

Task 8 — Adding the Liner

Goal: the lining body built and joined to the facing loop — the jacket's beautiful secret interior. The lining is drafted a touch generous on purpose; that generosity is what lets you move.

1. Sew the front lining darts (the linings carry the dart too); press down. Fold and press the **center-back ease pleat** on its printed line and baste it closed at neck and hem — it stays a soft pleat for life, never a seam.
2. Assemble the lining like the shell: shoulders, sides, and the two-panel sleeve linings **for your sleeve option** — the vent version meets the sleeve's finish higher, the simple version runs clean; the printed lengths are already right. Set the lining sleeves into the lining armholes (no ease rows needed — lining forgives).
3. Pin the lining to the facing loop's inner edge, right sides together, all the way around — fronts, back neck, fronts again — matching shoulder seams. Sew: one shared seam by design.
4. Press toward the lining. Jacket and liner are now one object, open only at the hems and cuffs — exactly where the next task begins.

► **Watch it done:** [How to Line a Jacket — Bagging Out](#) · [Bagging a Dartless Lined Jacket at the Hem](#) · [How to Bag Out a Coat Lining](#)

Task 9 — Hems & the Turn

Goal: body and sleeve hems turned on their printed lines, the lining sewn to them by machine, and the whole jacket pulled right side out. The lining is drafted slightly longer than its meeting point — that extra is the **jump**, and it falls over the hem seam so nothing ever pulls when you reach.

1. Press the body hem up along its printed fold line — the full 2 in turn-up. **Welt pocket:** tuck the bag's lower edge into the turn-up so the hem catches and hides it; the bag was drafted to reach exactly here.
2. Right sides together, pin the lining's lower edge to the **raw edge** of the turned-up hem, matching side seams; the facings' hem ends fold into place at the fronts. Sew. (It looks too short. It isn't — the jump makes up the difference and then some.)
3. Press the sleeve hems up on their lines and join each sleeve lining to its hem edge the same way. **Vent sleeves:** the lining meets the vent's facing as printed — keep the vent's lap free and crisp.
4. Reach through the opening left in one sleeve lining's seam and gently pull the whole jacket right side out. Slow is smooth.
5. Close the opening with an edgestitch or slipstitch, settle the jump with a light press at the hems — **press the fold, never flat** — and give the body a careful all-over press.

► **Watch it done:** [Hand-Sewn Blind Catch-Stitch Hem](#) · [How to Bag Out a Coat Lining](#)

Task 10 — Tack Down the Neck Facing

Goal: the facing loop anchored so it never flips or creeps — invisibly, from the outside. A facing that stays put is half of what makes a handmade jacket read as a bought-in-Paris one.

1. With the jacket turned and pressed, smooth the facing and lining flat inside and pin from the **outside** along each shoulder seam, catching the facing's edge beneath.
2. **Stitch in the ditch** of each shoulder seam from the right side, in matching thread — a short line riding the groove of the seam, anchoring the facing below. It vanishes into the seam.
3. At the center back neck, add a few discreet hand tacks through the facing and the seam allowances only — never through to the outside — so the back neck facing lies down for good.
4. Press once more. Run a hand around the inside of the neckline: everything flat, everything anchored, nothing waiting to escape.

► **Watch it done:** [How to Stitch in the Ditch](#) · [Stitch in the Ditch with Brittany J. Jones](#) · [Stitch in the Ditch, Two Ways](#)

Task 11 — Buttons & Finishing

Goal: the closure finished, every thread buried, the Chelsea on her hanger. (Zipper fronts: your closure is done — skip straight to the sleeve buttons and the final press.)

- 1. Buttons front:** work five buttonholes on the right front (as worn) at the printed marks, sized for the 7/8 in buttons — the top spacing keeps the bust anchor, and the lowest sits well above the hem so the jacket opens gracefully when you sit. Practice on a scrap of your interfaced fabric first — always.
- 2.** Cut the buttonholes open (a pin across each end stops an overeager seam ripper) and sew the five buttons on the left front, centered on the center front line, each with a small thread shank so it sits proud of the layered front edge.
- 3. Vent sleeves:** sew three 5/8 in buttons on each vent at the printed marks, through the lap.
- 4.** One last press, snip every thread tail, and hang the Chelsea overnight so the pressing settles. A fully lined, pocketed, tailored jacket — flat calm back, sharp little vents, an inside as pretty as the outside. We never doubted you for a second.

► **Watch it done:** [Buttonholes: Beginner to Expert](#) · [Perfect Buttonholes Every Time](#) · [Sew a Button with a Thread Shank](#) · [Suit Jacket Sleeve Buttons](#)