

Morris Blazer

Created by: Rachel Barnes, Janome Maker



If you've been wanting to sew an easy, but beautiful blazer jacket, this project is for you! Some fun features of the pattern include:

- The blazer is unlined (which is helpful for speedy sewing).
- The construction is not fitted (which is helpful when sewing printed fabrics for minimal seam construction to not disrupt the print).
- The pattern allows for using a stable knit or stretch cotton fabric for comfort and versatility.
- The blazer is cropped for an updated look.

The Morris Blazer pattern is by Grainline Studio. Two sewing machines are recommended for this project, the Air Thread 2000D and the Skyline S7. Supplementary notes and tips are included to be used in parallel with the pattern directions.

Time: One full day or two half days

Skill Level: Intermediate

Janome Supplies Required:

- Sewing machine needles (matching selected fabric)
- Air Thread 2000D
- Standard sewing machine (sample was made with the Skyline S7)
- A Knee lifter bar is recommended for the armhole seam
- Dual feed foot

Fabric and Notions Required:

- Morris Blazer pattern from Grainline Studio (<https://grainlinestudio.com/products/morris-blazer/?variant=22646663970898>)
- 2 yards, 44" wide stretch cotton or stable knit fabric (note fabric requirements for sizes and fabric width)
- Suggested fabrics: Medium weight woven fabrics with a bit of stretch or medium weight stable knits. Various stretch wool suitings, stretch cottons, ponte knit, and French terry are all suitable, though the drape on each may be slightly different. This blazer is unlined. Extra fabric may be needed to match plaids, stripes, or one-way design prints.
- 1 1/8 yards 20-25" SF101 Woven Shape Flex Interfacing
- Matching or contrasting thread
- Marking pen/chalk/French curve ruler
- Tailor's ham/Iron
- Rotary cutter/ruler/mat/paper scissors/pinking shears
- Highlighter (to note size to cut from the pattern)
- Knit Picker or sewing needle (to pull through serger chain thread ends)
- Point Turner
- Sleeve board

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SAMPLE NOTES:

- The final sample was sewn in a black and white floral, stretch cotton fabric. A test muslin was sewn in stretch corduroy.



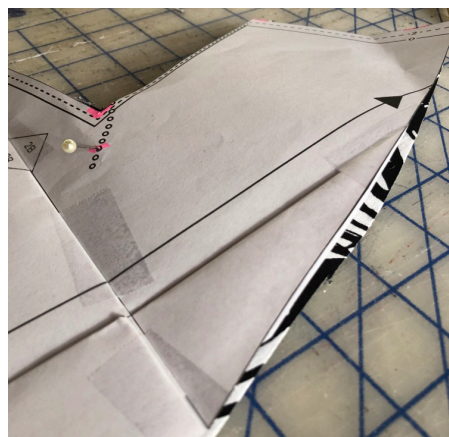
- Inside seams, Gutermann col. 20 white thread
- Topstitched seams, Gutermann col. 10 black thread
- The pattern does not call for tacking the lapels down, however, in the sample I added copper snaps as a creative detail to secure the lapels. I wanted to share this idea as an optional feature to add to the pattern (with snaps, thread tacking or adding buttons with buttonholes).



Preparation

PATTERN PREP TIPS:

1. Use a highlighter to note which lines to cut out in the pattern
2. The blazer is worn open. For sizing, note the Bust dimension to focus on fit at the shoulders and arms.
3. The sleeve length in the pattern is cropped. If full length sleeves are desired, add length to the sleeve pattern pieces before cutting out the fabric.
4. With the Knit Picker or sewing needle, place the tail ends of the serged seams inside the Knit Picker or sewing needle. Pull the tail end through the serged seam to hide and finish the serged ends (reference pg. 36 of the Air Thread 2000D Manual for photos).
5. When marking the shoulder pivot point, a sewing pin and marking pen is a quick way to transfer the dots to the pattern pieces.



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6. There are extra resources available online from the designer for this project:
 - a. Resources on the Grainline Blog for the Morris Blazer (<https://grainlinestudio.com/search?q=morris+blazer>)
 - b. Adding a lining to the garment. This will take more time than the recommended sewing time but is a lovely detail to note. (<https://grainlinestudio.com/blogs/pattern-tutorials/pattern-tutorial-adding-lining-to-an-unlined-blazer>)

MACHINE PREPARATION TIPS:

- Prior to starting sewing, use scraps of the selected garment fabric with contrasting thread to adjust and set the stitch tensions on the standard sewing machine and the serger.
- Stretch cottons or knit fabrics are easy to sew on a standard sewing machine with the dual feed foot. All sewing for this project on the Skyline S7 utilizes the dual feed foot.
- Note the two notches at the front of the foot of the Air Thread 2000D. These notches represent the left and right needle positions for the serged seam. When finishing the edges of the seams in this project, ignore the seam allowance markings on the tray. Keep the stitched seam to the left of the left mark on the serger foot (reference photo below).



CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS:

- For the final sample, the sleeve facing pattern piece was omitted. Although this is a nice detail, I found it added time and wasn't required. You may also omit the sleeve facing pattern piece as well (**Pattern Piece 7**).
- There is an error in the fabric cutting diagrams. The Back pattern piece (**Pattern Piece 2**) should not be placed on the fold but instead should be cut out in the flat with a seam down the back of the blazer. The pattern is being updated but I wanted to note this in case you're referencing a previous version of the pattern. In the photo below, the highlighted areas note the discrepancy in the fabric cutting diagrams:

Cutting

Lay out the pattern pieces on your fabric according to the following cutting layout diagrams. Fabric should be folded selvage to selvage with the right side facing out.

Using a marking pen or pencil, trace each piece making sure to transfer all pattern markings to your fabric as well.

Mark the center front and back of each piece placed on the fold with a notch. This will help you align things later on.

When cutting, cut away the lines you traced on the fabric and don't forget to clip your notches!

45" Wide Layout | Sizes 0-10



45" Wide Layout | Sizes 12-18



54" Wide Layout | Sizes 0-10



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- The side seam notches in the front and back pattern pieces don't align. Just an FYI that you can disregard the side notches and just align the top and bottom of the fabrics for the side seams.
- If utilizing a printed fabric, note the print direction before cutting out the pattern pieces.
- With scissors, snip the following additional reference points in the seam allowance for sewing reference:
 - Snip into the top center of the Back Hem Facing, **Pattern Piece 5** (at the fold)
 - Snip into the top center of the Sleeve, **Pattern Piece 3** (at the fold)

PATTERN MODS:

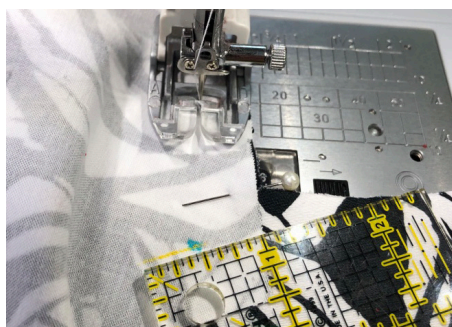
- The following seams are finished with the serger: Side seams, shoulder and neck seams, bottom sleeve edge, shoulder armhole seam

Sewing Instruction Notes

(referencing the Grainline Studio directions):

STEP 3: I wanted to note that there is some variation in the side seam notches (between the front bodice piece, Pattern Piece 1 and back bodice piece, Pattern Piece 2). I ignored the side notches when sewing this seam and just aligned the top and bottom edges of the seam.

STEP 4: Before sewing the shoulder seam, at the pivot point mark the ½" seam allowance for the perpendicular seam reference (note photo below). This will help bring a crispness to snipping into this corner at step 6 and will help the finishing for the final seams.



STEP 6: The closer you can snip up to the pivot point at this step (without cutting into the seam), the nicer the final garment will look. Sharp, pointed scissors help control this detail.

STEP 7: When sewing the seam connecting the shoulder to the neckband take care when sewing at the pivot point. There will be a "bubble" of fabric that will lay flat when complete (if this bubble isn't caught in the seam at step 7). If preferred, baste this seam first to avoid catching the pivot point in this seam.



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STEP 9: Utilize the Ease stitch pre-set for a quick shoulder gathering stitch at this step. Utilize the knee lifter bar to quickly adjust fabric around the curves at the shoulder seam as you sew, preventing wrinkled seams.

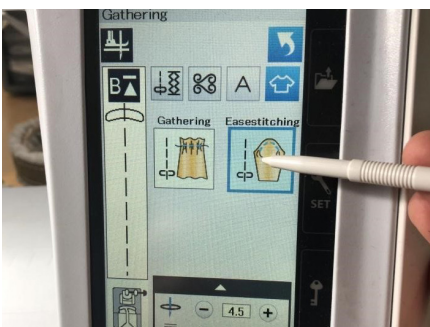
Ease Pre-set stitch

Select the Garment Icon:

Select the Gathering Icon:



Select the Ease Stitching Icon:



Knee Lifter

Insert the Knee Lifter bar into the front of the machine. As you sew around the shoulder seam, raise and lower the presser foot as needed (with the knee lift bar). Adjust the fabric frequently around the shoulder curves to prevent wrinkled stitches. The Knee Lifter allows you to keep both hands on the fabric and raise and lower the presser foot simultaneously, to save time.



STEP 10: Although the arm bicep dimension isn't included in the Body Measurement Chart, I wanted to note this dimension. I have a larger bicep for my body type so I sewed the underarm seams with a ¼" seam allowance rather than the recommended pattern seam allowance. I like to wear blazers layered so I also wanted a little more wearing ease than the pattern included. I wanted to note this option at this step (varying the pattern's seam allowance). Also for ironing sleeve seams, a sleeve board is a handy tool to use.

STEP 11: When sewing the armhole seam, move the side seam to the right and the underarm sleeve seam to the left (to flatten this seam and prevent bulk). I prefer to sew this seam slowly to prevent puckering in the fabric. Sew this seam with the inside of the sleeve facing up and the bodice laying at the wrong side. Orienting the fabric for this seam in this way will help adjust the gathering as you go if you need be. I frequently (and carefully) place my

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hand inside the garment when sewing this seam to flatten the bodice fabric under the seam and adjust as I sew around the curve of the armhole.

I noticed some variation in the sleeve notches in the sleeve and bodice pieces. To sew in the sleeve I reference the center top of the sleeve with the shoulder seam, the side seam with the underarm seam, and the flat areas (where the notches lie). The gathered fabric can be adjusted in between those points. Just a note that there is a slight amount of variation in the front and back notches in the sleeves. This did not affect the assembly, I just wanted to note this detail. A tailor's ham is a handy tool to use when ironing the armhole seam and curved neckband.

STEP 14: To easily reference the orientation of the hem facings at this step, lay out all three pattern pieces (as shown in the photo below). The back and side bottom hem pieces have width variation that you'll note as you sew them together but this will get hidden in the final garment.



STEP 15: At this step, mark the stop point with a fabric marking pen (shown in the photo below in yellow, at the fold). This will help sew this seam more quickly, noting where to stop sewing with the fabric flat.



After sewing this seam, do not press this seam open (as the directions call out) but instead iron this seam toward the front facing piece (as shown in the photos below). This helps keep this seam hidden and flat when sewing Step 21.



STEP 16: I skipped this step and instead sewed this edge down around the blazer after top stitching in step 21.

STEP 19: I omitted this step. Although I appreciate the finishing detail of understitching, I prefer crisp corners in a blazer. I didn't like understitching the corners. Ironing the facings away from the blazer in step 18 helps achieve a crispness without understitching.

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STEP 22: As referenced in Step 16 above, instead of slip stitching the facings in place by hand, I machine stitched around the blazer to save time. This gives a second row of stitches around the right side of the garment, but I liked the speed and look of this option.

STEP 23 - STEP 25: I recommend omitting the sleeve facings. I preferred instead to fold up the sleeve hem by $\frac{3}{8}$ " and stitch this seam in place (with the bottom edge of the sleeve serged to finish).

