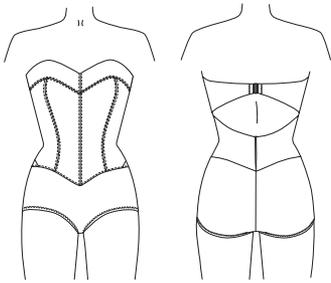
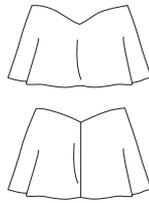


# DESIGN OPTIONS

Strapless swimsuit with panty



Skirt



Bloomers

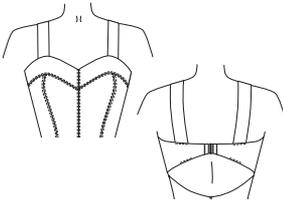


Panty with ruffled sides

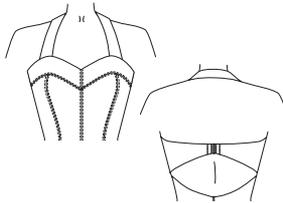


*Exclusive to Patreon subscribers*

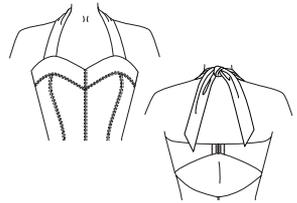
Shoulder Strap



Halter Strap



Tie Halter Strap



## FABRIC NOTES

This swimsuit was designed for swimwear fabrics combined with a layer of heavy power mesh (see recommendations on the outer envelope).

We recommend using swimwear fabric with 80% nylon/polyester and 20% spandex/Lycra. It is also important to use the recommended heavy power mesh as an underlining to achieve the intended fit. The two fabrics layered together should have a stretch percentage of 35–50% (see more about stretch percentages in the fitting section). You will also need specialty swimwear lining and poly laminate foam for the bra cups. This pattern is for spandex/Lycra knits only. Please see the Charm Patterns blog for a list of resource links.

# REQUIRED YARDAGE & CUTTING LAYOUTS

## 1. Upper Bust

Cut 4 fabric, 2 power mesh

## 2. Bodice Center Front

Cut 2 fabric, 2 power mesh

## 3. Bodice Side Front

Cut 2 fabric, 2 power mesh

## 4. Bodice Lower Back

Cut 4 fabric, 2 power mesh

## 5. Bra Back

Cut 4 fabric, 2 power mesh

## 6. Bra Center Front Lower

Cut 2 fabric

## 7. Bra Side Lower

Cut 2 fabric

## 8. Bra Foam Upper

Cut 2 foam

## 9. Bra Foam Center Front Lower

Cut 2 foam

## 10. Bra Foam Side Lower

Cut 2 foam

## 11. Panty Front

Cut 1 fabric on fold, 1 power mesh on fold

## 12. Panty Back

Cut 2 fabric, 2 lining

## 13. Skirt Front

Cut 1 fabric on fold

## 14. Skirt Back

Cut 2 fabric

## 15. Bloomer Front

Cut 2 fabric, 2 lining

## 16. Bloomer Back

Cut 2 fabric, 2 lining

## 17. Hook and Eye Guard

Cut 1 fabric

## 18. Shoulder Strap

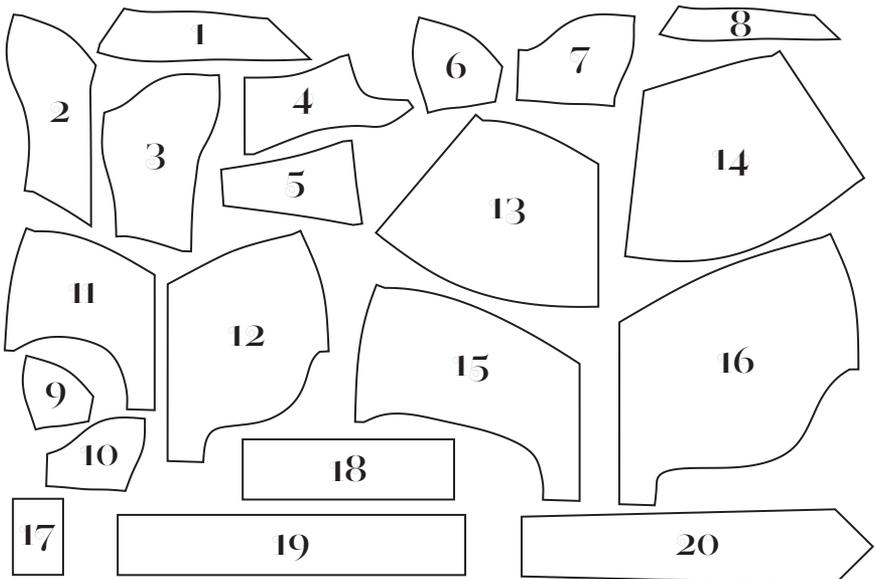
Cut 2 fabric, 2 power mesh

## 19. Halter Strap

Cut 1 fabric, 1 power mesh

## 20. Tie Halter Strap

Cut 2 fabric, 2 power mesh



# A GUIDE TO FITTING YOUR SWIMSUIT

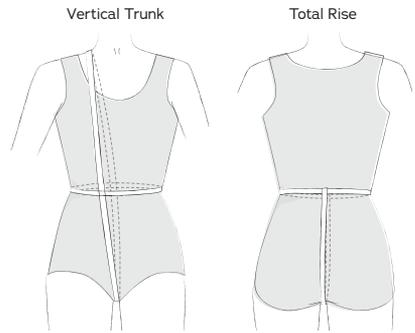
Here are my top tips for choosing a size and diagnosing fit issues, specifically for the Esther Swimsuit pattern. Careful attention to fit is especially important with this pattern, as the design lines will best compliment you when custom-fit to your figure. Let's start with understanding aspects of swimwear fit and how to pick your size.

**First, understand ease (positive and negative):** The Size Chart on the envelope corresponds to your body measurements. The Finished Measurements Chart (page 13) corresponds to the garment measurements. The size chart tells you your recommended size based on your measurements, but the finished measurements give you more information about how the garment is meant to fit (and could potentially change your mind about which size to make—it's just more information!). The Esther Swimsuit is meant to be quite snug, with negative ease in the bust and waist. Negative ease means that the garment is smaller than your body measurements (this applies almost exclusively to garments with stretch); zero ease means that the garment is the same size as your body measurements; and positive ease means that the garment is larger than your body measurements. For garments like the Esther Swimsuit, it's possible to have both negative and positive ease in the same garment: the fitted bust and waist have negative ease and the bloomer and skirt have positive ease.

**Next, understand stretch percentage:** The amount of stretch your fabric has is crucial to getting the intended fit for this garment. If your fabric has more stretch than intended for the design, your swimsuit will be baggy and lack control. If your fabric has less stretch than intended, your suit will be too tight. To test the fabric's stretch percentage, layer a swatch of the outer fabric with a swatch of the heavy power mesh. Take 2 inches in your hands and stretch as far as possible. Your fabric should stretch to between 2¾ and 3 inches. If your fabric has too much stretch, you need heavier power mesh (or an additional layer of lighter power mesh), or a sturdier outer fabric. If your fabric has less stretch, make sure you are using the recommended fabrics and also consider going up a size.

**Start with your body measurements to choose a size:** Measure yourself around your upper bust (under your armpits and above your breasts), the fullest part of your bust, the smallest part of your waist, and the fullest part of your hips (this is likely around the fullest part of your butt). Make sure to hold the measuring tape snugly and parallel to the ground. Compare your body measurements to the size chart on the envelope back. First, find your upper bust measurement on the first line of the chart to determine your swimsuit size, then scan down the cup sizes in that column to find your cup size. For instance, a 37-inch (in) upper bust will put you in a size 10 swimsuit, and a 39-in full bust means you need a B cup. Don't worry if your waist doesn't match the size 10 column's measurement of 32 in; read on for tips on adjusting the waist, if needed.

The vertical trunk measurement is taken lengthwise around your torso, threading the measuring tape between your legs and over one shoulder (this gives you an idea of whether you'll need to lengthen or shorten the torso of the swimsuit).



**Pattern cup sizes can be (and often are) different from bra cup sizes:** The cup sizes included with this pattern indicate the relationship between your upper bust measurement and your full bust measurement. Measure your upper bust and full bust as indicated above to find your cup size on the chart. Don't worry if it's not the same cup size you wear in bras. Bra cup sizes are measured by the relationship between the band (underbust) and the full bust, so they can be slightly different than dress cup sizes. When sewing, it's always better to go by your measurements than to pick a size based on something you've bought in a store.

**Consult the finished measurements:** The finished measurements chart (next page) provides more information to help you choose a size you'll feel great in. If you're between sizes (and lots of people are) the

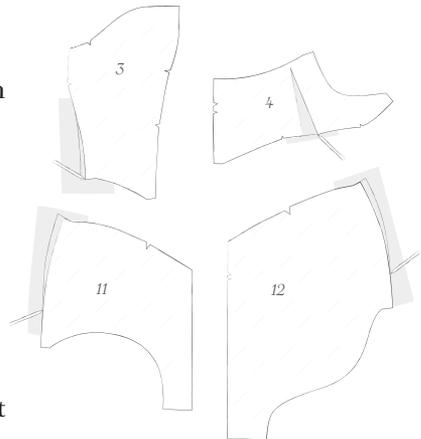
finished measurements can help you decide whether to size up or down or to adjust the pattern. They will also help you figure out the best cup size for you.

**FINISHED MEASUREMENTS:** This swimsuit was designed to fit with approximately 3 inches (in) of negative ease in the bust and 3 in of negative ease in the waist. The panty has 5½ in of negative ease in the hip, while the bloomer has 15½ in of positive ease at the hip.

Size	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Bust A	28.5 in 72.4 cm	30.5 in 77.5 cm	32.5 in 82.6 cm	34.5 in 87.6 cm	36.5 in 92.7 cm	38.5 in 97.8 cm	40.5 in 102.9 cm	42.5 in 108 cm	44.5 in 113 cm	46.5 in 118.1 cm
Bust B/C	28 in 71.1 cm	30 in 76.2 cm	32 in 81.3 cm	34 in 86.4 cm	36 in 91.4 cm	38 in 96.5 cm	40 in 101.6 cm	42 in 106.7 cm	44 in 111.8 cm	46 in 116.8 cm
Bust D/DD	29 in 73.7 cm	31 in 78.7 cm	33 in 83.8 cm	35 in 88.9 cm	37 in 94 cm	39 in 99 cm	41 in 104.1 cm	43 in 109.2 cm	45 in 114.3 cm	47 in 119.4 cm
Bust F/G	30 in 76.2 cm	32 in 81.3 cm	34 in 86.4 cm	36 in 91.4 cm	38 in 96.5 cm	40 in 101.6 cm	42 in 106.7 cm	44 in 111.8 cm	46 in 116.8 cm	48 in 121.9 cm
Bust H	31 in 78.7 cm	33 in 83.8 cm	35 in 88.9 cm	37 in 94 cm	39 in 99 cm	41 in 104.1 cm	43 in 109.2 cm	45 in 114.3 cm	47 in 119.4 cm	49 in 124.5 cm
Waist	21 in 53.3 cm	23 in 58.4 cm	25 in 63.5 cm	27 in 68.6 cm	29 in 73.7 cm	31 in 78.7 cm	33 in 83.8 cm	35 in 88.9 cm	37 in 94 cm	39 in 99.1 cm
Hip (Panty)	31.5 in 80 cm	33.5 in 85.1 cm	35.5 in 90.2 cm	37.5 in 95.3 cm	39.5 in 100.3 cm	41.5 in 105.4 cm	43.5 in 110.5 cm	45.5 in 115.6 cm	47.5 in 120.7 cm	49.5 in 125.7 cm
Vertical Trunk	57.5 in 146.1 cm	58.5 in 148.6 cm	59.5 in 151.1 cm	60.5 in 153.7 cm	61.5 in 156.2 cm	62.5 in 158.8 cm	63.5 in 161.3 cm	64.5 in 163.8 cm	65.5 in 166.4 cm	66.5 in 168.9 cm

**What to do when you're more than one size:** This is common, and it's very easy to grade between sizes.

For instance, let's say you're a size 14H in the bust but your waist is 2 in bigger than the size 14 waist measurement on the size chart. To add to the waist, figure out how much you need to add by calculating the difference between your desired finished waist measurement and the waist measurement on the finished measurements chart. Next, divide that by 4 (because you have four seam allowances at the side seams). So if you need to gain 2 in at the waist, divide that by 4 to get ½ in. This is how much you will add to the Bodice Side Front's side seam allowance. On piece 3, make a mark ½ in



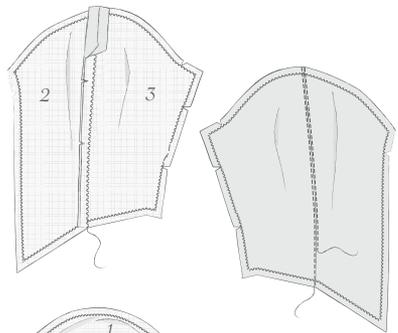
## NOTES AND TIPS:

- $\frac{5}{8}$ -in (1.5 cm) seam allowances are included on all pattern pieces unless otherwise noted.
- Swimwear fabric does not fray, so seam finishing isn't necessary.
- Use a stretch or jersey/ball point needle to avoid skipped stitches.
- Use a narrow zigzag stitch on hems to provide some stretch (about 1.5 mm wide by 2.5 mm long). Use a slightly wider zigzag on seams (2.5 mm wide by 2.5 mm long) and slightly stretch the fabric as you are sewing it; this will help retain stretch at the seam.
- Use a straight stitch (3.5 mm wide by 2.5 mm long) for topstitching.
- Be cautious when pressing swimwear fabrics. Irons can burn spandex easily. Keep your iron on a synthetic setting.
- To reduce bulk, consider trimming away the power mesh from seam allowances after underlining the fabric.

## BODICE FRONT

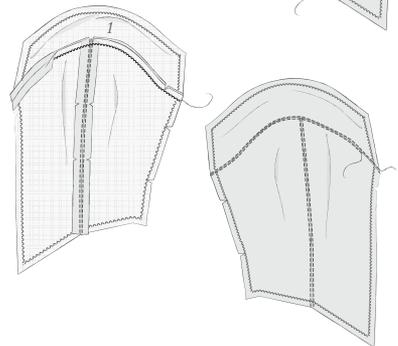
### 1. Sew the front princess seams:

pin the Bodice Side Front (3) to Bodice Center Front (2), right sides (RS) together. Stitch. Press seam allowances open. From the RS, topstitch each side of the seam  $\frac{1}{8}$  in (3 mm) from the seamline. Trim seam allowances close to topstitching.

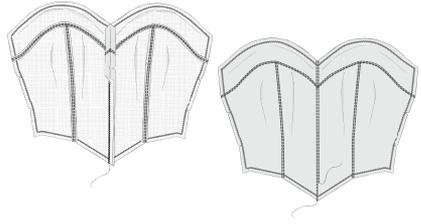


### 2. Pin underlined set of Upper Bust (1) pieces to front bodice pieces

RS together, matching notches. Stitch. Press seam allowances open. From the RS, topstitch each side of the seam  $\frac{1}{8}$  in from the seamline.

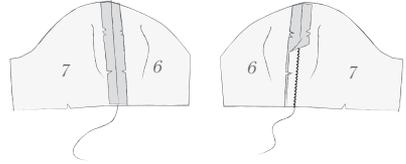


**3. Sew center front seam:** pin bodice front units RS together at center front. Stitch. Press seam allowances open. From the RS, topstitch each side of the seam  $\frac{1}{8}$  in from the seamline.

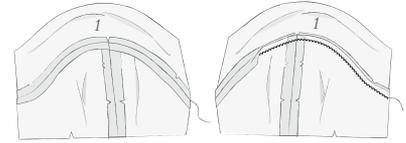


## BRA

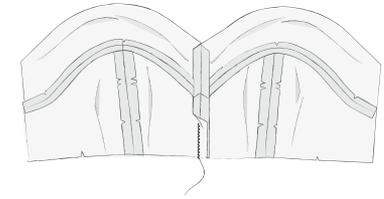
**1. Sew the interior bra:** pin Bra Side Lower (7) to Bra Center Front Lower (6) RS together. Stitch. Press seam allowances open.



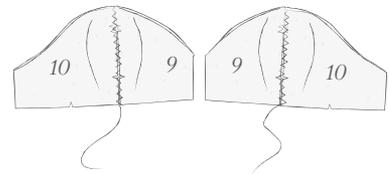
**2. Pin remaining set of Upper Bust (1) pieces to lower bra unit, RS together. Stitch. Press seam allowances open.**



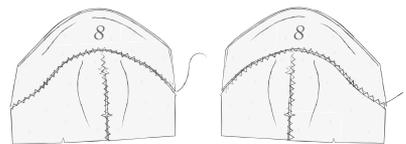
**3. Pin bra units RS together at center front. Stitch, and press seam allowances open.**



**4. Assemble foam lower unit:** lay the Bra Foam Side Lower (10) and Bra Foam Center Front Lower (9) edge to edge, butting the edges together. Sew the raw edges together using a zigzag stitch.



**5. Assemble foam bra cup:** lay the Bra Foam Upper (8) edge to edge with the bra foam lower unit, butting the edges together. Sew the raw edges together using a zigzag stitch.





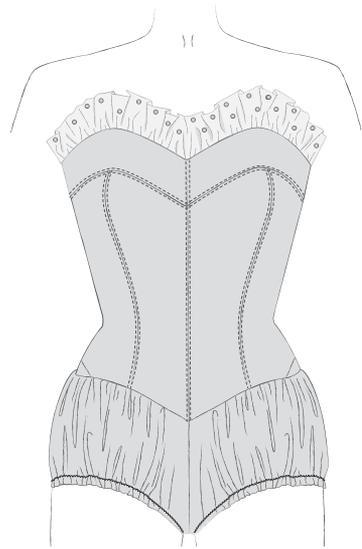
TAKE YOUR  
SWIMSUIT  
TO THE NEXT  
LEVEL

## USE CONTRAST FABRICS

An easy way to create visual appeal on this swimsuit is to cut smaller elements in a contrasting fabric. Try sewing the Upper Bust outer sections in a contrasting fabric from the primary swimsuit fabric for a beautiful effect. Also try sewing the halter strap and skirt in a different fabric from your primary swimsuit fabric.

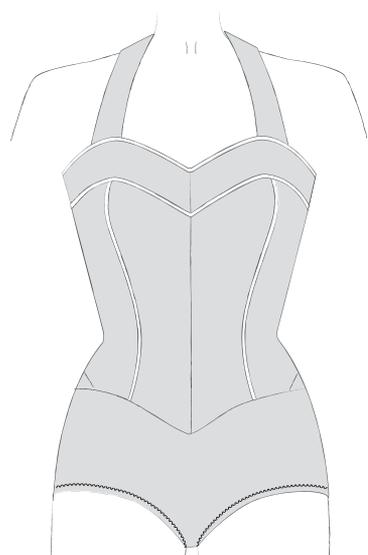
## ADD RUFFLES

Cut a 2¼-inch-wide strip of tulle or lace that is about three times the length of the front neckline. Sew two lines of gathering stitches along one long edge. Pull bobbin threads to gather. Hand-sew the ruffled lace or tulle to inside of the Upper Bust piece of your swimsuit. Add rhinestones for a sparkle effect (I used flatback crystals and a non-toxic glue like Gem-Tac).



## ADD PIPING

Piping can provide a fun contrast look to—and emphasize—key elements like the swimsuit’s upper bust and princess seams. With spandex/Lycra fabrics, it’s best to make your own piping. Cut 1½-inch-wide strips of fabric and wrap them lengthwise around ¼-in cotton cord, pinning raw edges together. Using a zipper foot, stitch close to the cord.



To insert piping, first baste the piping to one half of the seam. Pin the piping flange (the seam allowance)