

# Violet Waves: *Sewing Instructions*

JANNIE TAYLOR

**1 Lower bodice:** Measure the lower bodice fabric, cut to 45", and secure the cut edges with a line of short straight or zigzag stitching. For the center back seam, fold the fabric in half with right sides together and sew a seam to form a bodice that measures about 2" more than the larger of the bust or hip measurement taken in step 3 of the weaving pattern. Match the pattern as much as possible, ideally at a pattern repeat. Trim the seam to ½" and press open.

**2 Add the gussets:** Cut two 8" squares from the gusset fabric and secure all edges with a row of fine straight or zigzag stitches. Fold diagonally into triangles with wrong sides together. Press.

**3** Lay out the lower bodice, centering the seam in the back. Cut a slash 1" shorter than the cut sides of the gussets on each side of the lower bodice and secure the cut edges with a row of short straight or zigzag stitches. (Refer to Figures 1 and 2 for guidance in this and all other construction.)

**4** Open out the cut and pin the gusset in place, right sides together, with the fold forming the underarm. Baste and then machine stitch it in place, taking care to maintain a smooth stitching line and to catch both layers at the bottom of the slash. Repeat on the other side; press seams toward the gusset.



**5 Yoke:** Fold the yoke fabric in half widthwise and press along the fold to mark the center (this should be where the pattern reversed in step 5 of the weaving pattern). Open and fold lengthwise, pressing along this fold as well.

**6 Neck facing:** Cut an 18" length of the cotton fabric (width should be the same as the width of the handwoven yoke). Machine sew a narrow hem on each short end of this piece and center it on the yoke fabric. Pin in place with right sides together.

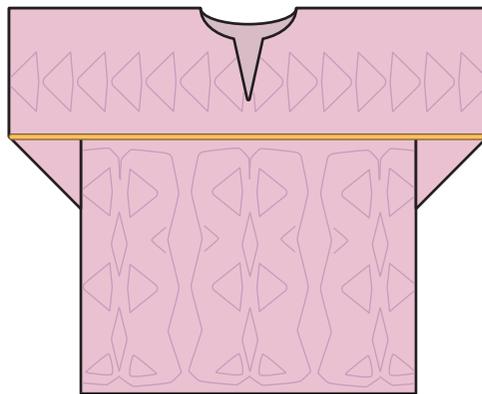
**7** Make a copy of the keyhole neckline illustration in Figure 3. Cut the pattern out, rounding the corners on the front for a smooth keyhole-style neckline. Test the fit with scrap fabric. Adjust the pattern if needed to fit over your head. Pin the paper pattern to the yoke side of the yoke/facing, taking care to center it on both the horizontal and vertical markings. Baste along the cut edge of the paper pattern through both layers of fabric around the entire neck opening. Remove the paper pattern.

**8** Sew around the opening  $\frac{1}{2}$ " outside the basting stitches, taking care at the curves to get them even on each side. Reinforce the stitching at the front point with an extra row of stitches.

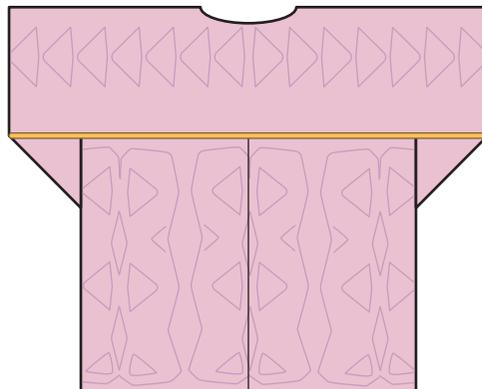
**9** Carefully cut away the inside of the neck opening at the basting line; snip the seam allowance



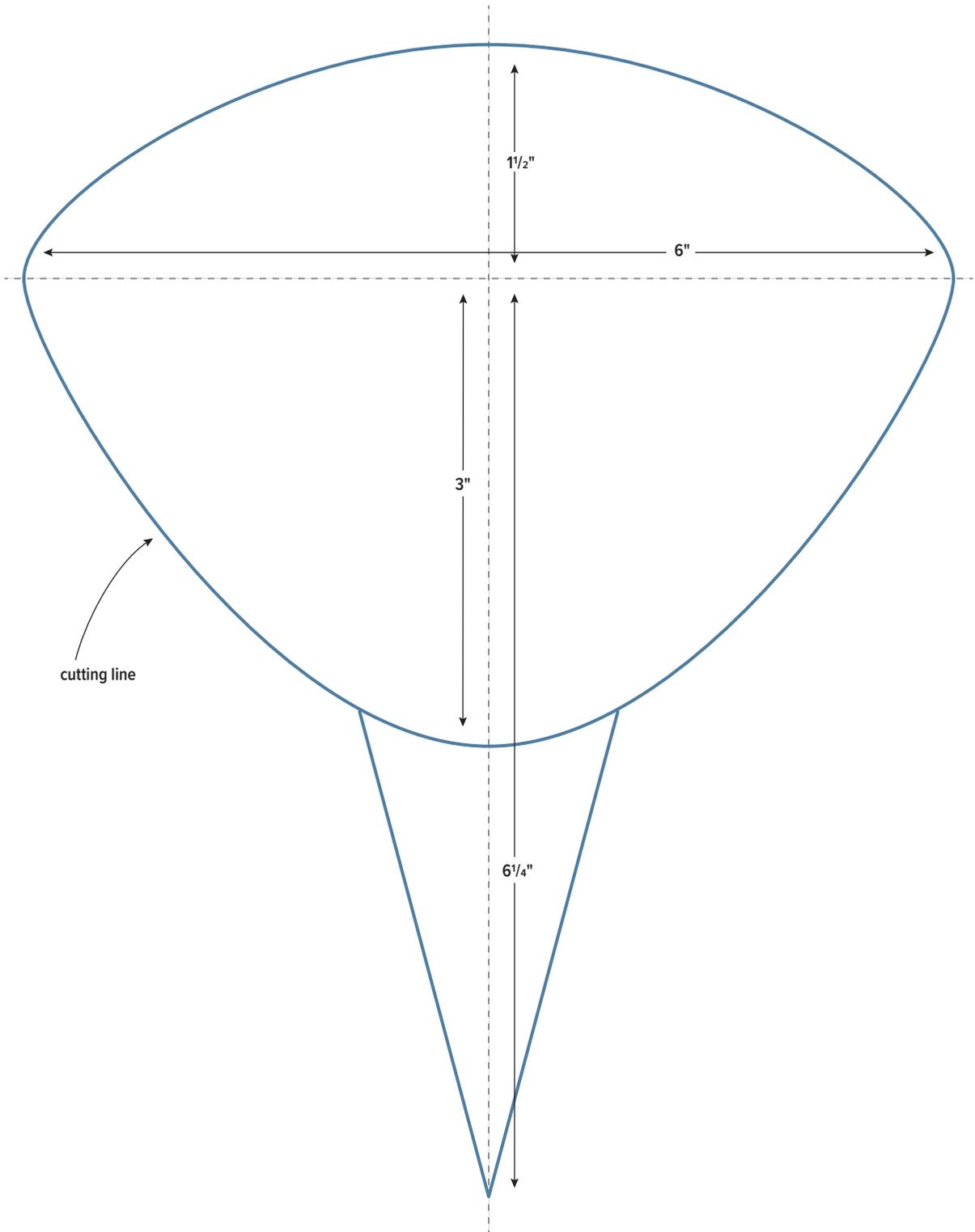
**1. FRONT**



**2. BACK**



3. KEYHOLE NECKLINE PATTERN (ACTUAL SIZE)





every inch or so all around, especially at the tight curves. Carefully cut into the point to allow the point to be turned.

**10** Turn the facing and press into place.

**11** *Join the yoke to the lower bodice:* On the right side, pin the piping to the upper edges of the front and back lower-bodice piece and gussets, aligning the piping  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the raw edges. Sew in place. Turn the lower bodice wrong side out.

**12** With right sides together, center the front of the yoke on the front of the lower bodice. Pin the two pieces together along the selvedges including the lower edge of the neck facing; sew in place along the stitching line for the piping. Leave any extra yoke length free—it will be trimmed and secured in Step 14.

**13** Repeat for the back of the blouse. Press the seams toward the lower bodice.

**14** Handsew the free edges of the front and back of the yoke together. Trim to about 1" past the point where the gusset ends. Apply the hem tape to the raw edge, then turn under 1" for the sleeve hem, and blindstitch the hem in place. 