

# Jacci Jaye's Corset Pattern

By: burdastyle

<http://www.burdastyle.com/projects/jacci-jayes-corset-pattern>

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This pattern download and tutorial is a cinch—literally! Say hello to your inner Rockstar Warrior Princess: Jacci Jaye Fredenburg is an accomplished Costume Designer and Stylist, working in theater, film, television, and print. Jacci also has a fierce line of corsets which are elegant and classy, yet sexy and powerful. These are not just articles of clothing, but rather, about a lifestyle. Jacci's clients have included rockstars,

models, television personalities, pin-up models, and burlesque performers. You can view her collection by visiting Jacci Fredenburg. This pattern is a size 4/6. If you need to draft the pattern to your size, please refer to the grading tutorials below, it's simple! We want to thank Jacci for sharing one of her corset patterns with the BurdaStyle community— and for giving us a happy Valentine's Day treat!

## Materials

Decorative outer/fashion fabric: 1 yard. You can use any durable, non-stretch woven fabric like cotton, silk, twill or linen. Lining: 1 yard. Recommendation: Coutil (also spelled coutille) which is a woven cloth created specifically for making corsets-- but any woven like cotton or cotton blend works as well; such as canvas, duck, or twill. Busk (also spelled busque): The rigid element of a corset placed at the center front and also serves as a closure. 1 pair. Boning: The corset pictured here has 20 spiral steel bones, you will need 2 bones / seam, as well as 4 for the back panel and 2 for the front. Heavy-weight fusible interfacing, all-purpose thread, corset lacing, grommets, grosgrain ribbon or twill tape.

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## Step 1 — Tools



This tutorial will walk you through how to construct a basic Corset or Waist Cincher. Once you get these basic steps down, you can elaborate on your details and pattern making. I will be using my basic 4 pc. waist cincher pattern, but these same rules apply no matter what corset pattern you decide to use.

**Decorative outer/fashion fabric:** You can use any durable, non-stretch woven fabric like cotton, silk, twill or linen.

**Lining:** Coutil (also spelled Coutille) is a woven cloth created specifically for making corsets— but any woven like cotton or cotton blend works as well; such as canvas, duck, or twill.

**Busk (also spelled busque):** The rigid element of a corset placed at the center front and also serves as a closure. 1 pair.

Boning: The corset pictured here has 20 spiral steel bones, you will need 2 bones / seam, as well as 4 for the back panel and 2 for the front.

Heavy-weight fusible interfacing, all-purpose thread, corset lacing, grommets, grosgrain ribbon or twill tape.

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## Step 2 — Layout



Cutting on the grain is VERY important!

Lay out the pattern pcs w/the grainline in the direction of the most amount of stretch— you want the LEAST amount of stretch going horizontally around your body.

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## Step 3 — Cutting





Cutting with precision is VERY important  
Cut 2 fashion (self)  
Cut 2 lining  
Cut 2 interfacing

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## Step 4 — Chalk Waistline



Chalk the waistline:  
Chalk the waistline on the wrong side of the lining fabric

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## Step 5 — Baste Sides



Baste (flat line) the interfacing to the fashion fabric:

Baste lining to fashion fabric: Baste with long stitches along the sides, NOT along the top and bottom. By doing this you are flat lining each piece individually.

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## Step 6 — Press



Press each piece taking care to press firmly in the center as to not shift the layers.

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## Step 7 — Sewing



Sew (there is 1/2" — seam allowance included)

-This part can get quite confusing since you are dealing with so many pattern pcs, so it helps to lay everything out, in order, to prevent mixing them up. I always label all of my pcs in chalk on the wrong sides. It is really helpful to chalk the waistline. I also notch the top and bottom — 1 notch top, 2 notches bottom.

-Since corsets are all about fit and curves, be sure to notch all curved seams to ensure smooth lines.

-Repeat with fashion fabric and lining, ending up with 4 separate pcs

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## Step 8 — Press and Trim



- Press all SA towards the back
  - Follow reg. sewing rules when grading SA— sâ— trimming the bottom layer the shortest
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## Step 9 — Attach waist reinforcement ribbon to the lining



- Cut 2 lengths of grosgrain ribbon. To determine the length of each take your desired waist measurement, add 2â— for SA, then divide by 2.
  - Line up the ribbon with the chalked waistline of the LINING, pin in place
  - Hand baste along the length of the ribbon to hold it in place
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## Step 10 — Prepare to insert the Busk





Busk:

~~pin right sides together~~ lining and fashion fabric-matching the CF seam

- Pins should be perpendicular to CF
  - With lining side up, line up busk along edge
  - chalk each side of the eyes of the busk so you know where NOT to sew
  - sew from the top-skipping the areas that the eyes will go through
  - For reinforcement I like to backstitch on either sides of the eyes
  - Once stitched, open and press seam open— exposing eye holes
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## Step 11 — Insert the Busk



- Place busk along seam-inserting eyes through holes
  - Turn to right side and secure with pins
  - Baste along edge of the busk
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## Step 12 — Stitch and secure Busk





Stitch and secure Busk

- Using the zipper foot, now sew into place— stitching as close to the edge of the busk as possible
- For the knob side sew right sides together, fashion fabric and lining
- flip to wrong side to trim/grade SA
- Topstitch SA to lining to create a crisp, clean CF edge
- Sew 5/8" to create pocket for busk (busk is 1 1/2" — need opening to be slightly larger to accommodate the knobs)
- Slide busk into place
- Use an awl to pick threads to expose knobs
- Make sure you insert busk the right way— knobs should be closest to CF
- DO NOT use scissors to cut the holes! This will weaken the most vital part of the corset.

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## Step 13 — Sew Boning Channels



#### Sew Boning Channels

- Start at the CF
- Make sure all layers are flat and aligned
- Place pins as you go to make sure everything remains smooth
- Starting at panel #1, sew 1st bone channel  $\frac{1}{4}$ " over from the busk— this is where you will insert your flat steel bone.
- Next you are going to stitch in the ditch of all of the actual seams, don't forget to smooth as you go making sure the lining isn't shifting.
- Now you are going to double bone each seam by sewing  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to either side of each stitch line.

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### Step 14 — Insert Boning | Back Facing



### Insert Boning

- Insert boning into each channel, making sure the boning is 1" shorter than the length of the channel— 1/2" from the top and bottom to accommodate the boning.
- Once all of the boning is secured stay stitch the top and bottom edges to keep the boning in place.

### Back Facing

- Take your 2 extra back lining pcs and lay them down on the table.
- Trim inside edge 1" smaller— chalk and cut
- Place facing right sides together with corset fashion edge
- Sew 5/8"
- Press, trim, grade, notch curve
- Topstitch SA toward facing, the same way you did with the CF panel
- Fold over raw edge and pin down
- Stitch 1/4" CB channel
- From the stitch line, go over 1" and create another channel, this creates the secured space for the grommets
- By doing this you should have captured the folded over edge from the facing-giving it a now clean finish
- Insert boning

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## Step 15 — Binding



### Binding

Pin binding to top edge of corset right sides together

- ~~-Be very careful when sewing not to hit the boning~~
  - ~~-Leave 1" CF and CB~~
  - ~~-Do the same thing on the bottom edge~~
  - ~~-Turn over and topstitch, or if you're feeling couture hand stitch down the inside of the binding to the lining, otherwise use the 1/4" stitch in the ditch method.~~
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## Step 16 — Grommets



### Grommets

- Use a chalk pencil to mark your grommet placement
  - Mark the 1st hole  $\frac{1}{4}$ " down from the top edge. Depending on the length of the back panel you will have to evenly space the grommets. How many grommets you put is up to your discretion, but I like my grommets spaced b/n 1  $\frac{1}{4}$ " - 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". I would not leave more than 2" between grommets.
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## Step 17 — Lacing your Corset



### Lacing your Corset

- Find your center by determining the 2 holes closest to your waist tape
- Lace from the top to the bottom, just like lacing a shoe, but skip the waist holes
- knot the 2 ends on the inside of the bottom 2 holes (make sure the knots are larger than the holes).

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