

Alison

By: burdastyle

<http://www.burdastyle.com/projects/alison>

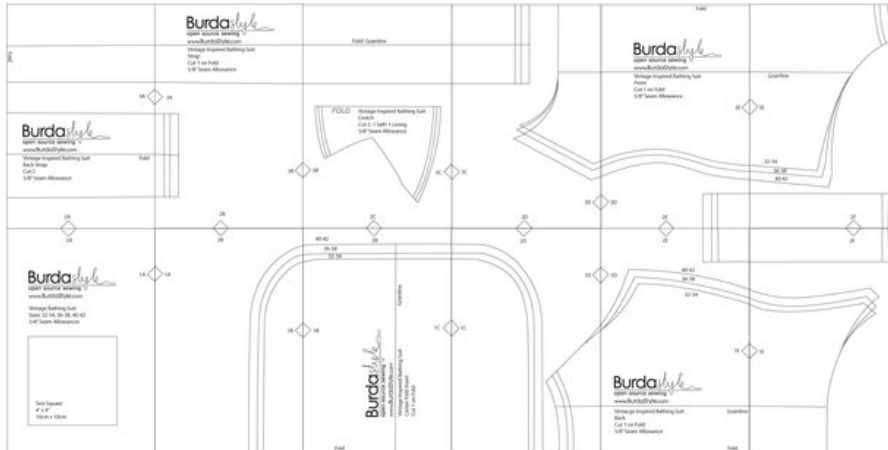


Our favorite vintage 50s maillot has been a hit with our members since we released the pattern. Soak up some rays or hit the beach in your very own version. The instructions have been updated for those who were confused by the original steps.

Materials

Navy Spandex, Nude Stretch Lining

Step 1 — Tile Pattern | Layout



Tile pattern together and determine your size.

Center Front Insert: Cut 1 on fold

Front Suit: Cut 1 on fold, 1 in lining

Back suit: Cut 1 on fold, 1 in lining

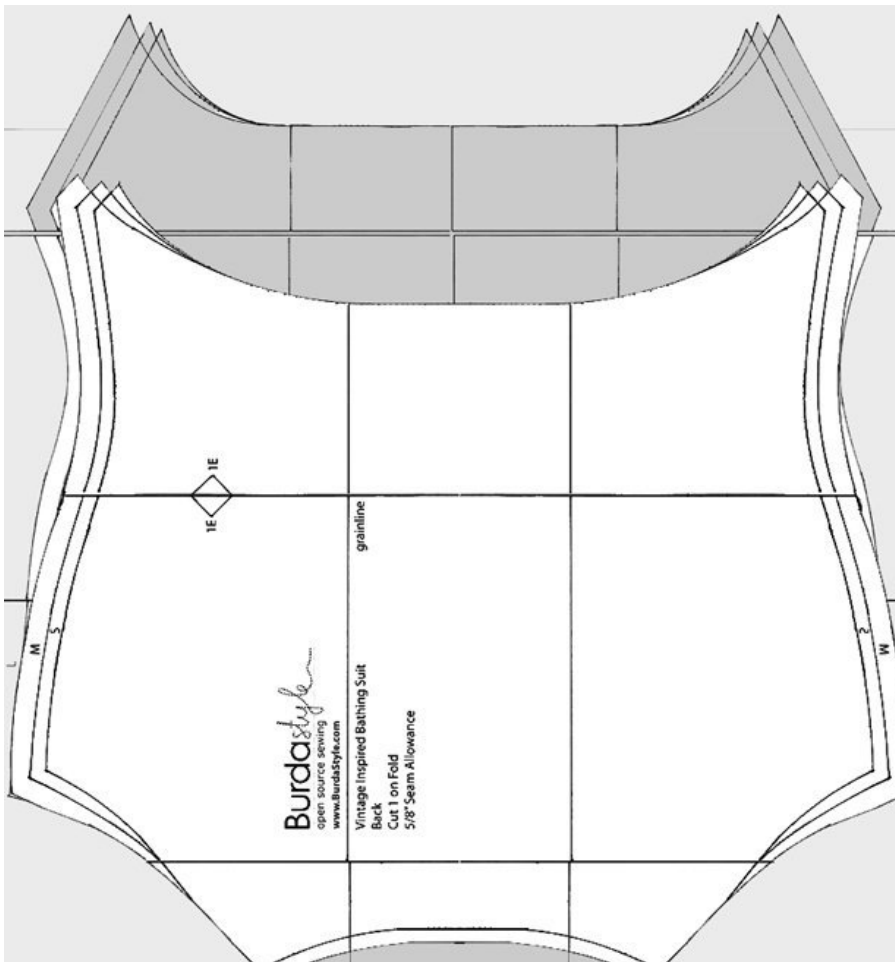
Crotch: Cut 1 on fold, 1 in lining

Neck Strap: Cut 1 on fold

The following instructions were inspired by and reworked from a pattern review by KittyCouture. She really knows how to make a suit!

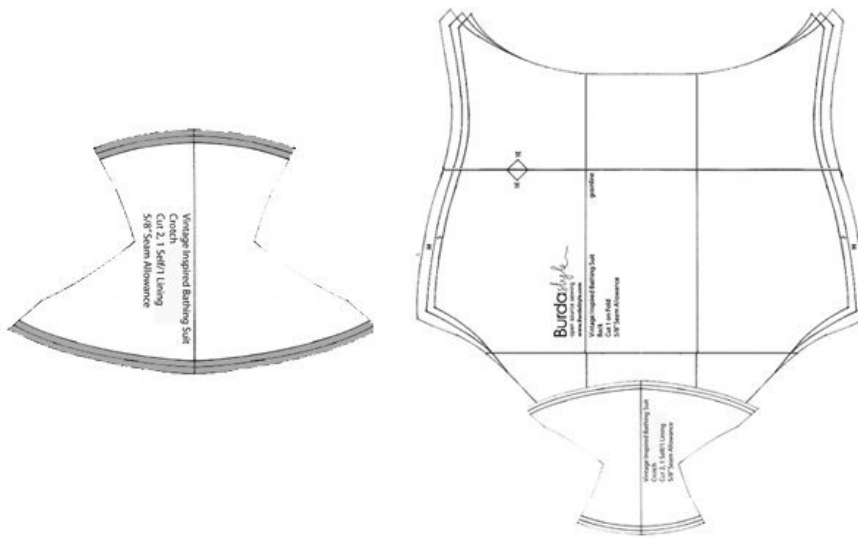
<http://kittycouture.blogspot.com/2008/07/curaa-swimsuit-review-and-step-by-step.html>

Step 2 — Sew Side Seams



With right sides together sew front and back bathing suit pieces together at the side seams using a stretch needle and the stretch stitch on your machine (which looks like 2 dashed lines vs. the single dashed line of the straight stitch) or use a zig-zag stitch.

Step 3 — Crotch & Lining



Assemble crotch lining to front and back of the swimsuit's body, with lining's right side against the swimsuit body's wrong side.

Try the suit on, make alterations to fit yourself accordingly. Sew the side seams.

For a neater finish, can sandwich the front and back seam allowance between the crotch and crotch lining. To do this, stitch crotch outer piece to back right sides together. Then to stitch the crotch to the body's front, right sides together, you'll just need to scrunch the crotch lining out of the way. There should still be enough room to do the seam on the machine.

Step 4 — Gather Inlay | Insert Bra Cups (Optional)



Fold the “front insert” in half.

Note: since the front insert folds in half, what I’m calling the lining is the half that folds to the inside of the swimsuit

Make 2 rows of gathering stitches, on each side, for **both** the insert and insert lining (you’ll need to make them separately as we don’t want to attach the insert and it’s lining at this point, for a neater finish). Start about 1 cm after the insert’s curve at the bottom, and stop about an inch from the top (i. e., the fold).

Now you will have 4 thread-tails at either end of the top front piece. Tie the bottom 4 in a knot to avoid losing your gathers. From the top 4 threads, grab the 2 bobbin threads and begin to pull away while gathering the fabric. Continue this until you have gathered the fabric all the way to the bottom knot.

Repeat on the other side.

Make sure the material has been gathered enough by placing the pattern piece insert on top. Continue gathering until the top is the same size as the pattern insert and pin – making sure that the gathers are evenly distributed.

Optional: Adding Bra Cups

Stitch the insert’s lining to the swimsuit’s body, lining’s right side against body’s wrong side. **do not attach the insert’s outer side to the swimsuit now.**

Try the suit on and pin the cups to the lining’s inside, where you need them to be (careful with those pins, ladies!).

You’ll be sewing the cups onto the inside of the lining (not directly against your skin). The cups will be hidden between the lining and the shell.

Adjust the gathers so that they are spread evenly over the cups. Stitch the cups to the lining’s inside, using a narrow zigzag stitch.

Step 5 — Attach Insert | Sew Tab at Center Front



Attach insert to body.

Stitch the insert to the swimsuit, right sides together. As in step 2, the bodice will thus be sandwiched between the insert's shell and lining, and no seam will be visible on the inside or on the outside. This is made possible because we haven't assembled the insert's shell and lining at the side seams yet, thus leaving an opening allowing to do this seam on the sewing machine.

If desired you can omit the tab, OR add the center tab to gather the insert in the middle. Fold the piece lengthwise right sides together, sew the long side, turn right sides out. Fold under one of the short ends, attach to the bottom of the insert's lining. Fold the other short end under, attach to the bottom of the insert's shell.

Step 6 — Attach Lining



Baste the insert's and lining's sides together.

Fold the long strap piece wrong sides together. Mark its center, and mark the back of the swimsuit's center. Pin the folded strap's center to the swimsuit's center. Stitch the strap to the swimsuit, pulling on the strap as

you sew. This will make the strap stay snugly against your body as you wear the swimsuit.

Stop one each before you reach the insert's top. Make a 1-cm notch perpendicular to the strap's raw side, right at the top of the insert. Turn the straps to the wrong side, and sew the remaining long sides as well as the short end closed. Turn the straps inside out through the 1-inch opening on top of the inlay. Sew the opening at the inlay closed.

Serge/finish the binding and body's raw edges together.

Step 7 — Back Straps | 2 Options



Back Straps (tied version):

Fold the back straps right sides together and stitch the long side and one short side closed. Turn inside out, pin where you want them to be (I pinned mine at the bottom of the bra cups). Stitch them to the seam allowance only, being careful not to catch the body or the binding into the seam. I recommend making a double seam for added strength (you're going to be pulling on these each time you tie your swimsuit in the back).

Back straps (single strap version):

Stitch the long side closed. Turn inside out. Stitch either end of the strap onto the seam allowances of the swimsuit's sides.

Step 8 — Leg bands (Optional)



Optional leg band:

Measure the legs' opening's perimeter, and cut 2 straps in this length, plus seam allowance. Width: I cut mine 1 cm narrower than the body's binding. Again, you may want to cut them just a bit shorter, to make them sit snugly at the legs – but not too snugly, or your legs will look like stuffed sausages. I pulled just a tiny bit on the band while attaching it to my leg opening.
Sew the bands closed on the short side.

Attach to the legs same as you did for the body's binding. Serge/finish bands' and leg' raw edges together.

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