

The Fashion Archaeologist

Free PDF Pattern #FP-04 – 1875 Ladies' Fancy Linen Collar/Chemisette

“Col en Toile et Dentelle”

This pattern is offered free of charge to give you an opportunity to try PDF printing and assembly before purchasing a full-size pattern. The pattern and translated instructions are copyright, for your personal use, not to be copied, re-sold, or used for commercial garment production purposes.

Below is some information to help with constructing the patterned item, including a copy of the original French sketch and text, as well as my translation.

General Guidelines:

- These PDF patterns are not “full service” patterns, they are taken directly from the antique pattern sheets as free trial patterns. They do **not** include seam allowances – you will need to add your own allowances appropriate to the fabric and item type. The lines shown are the seam lines only.
- On some patterns, the garment or item pieces may be superimposed, to make the best use of the relatively small space on the scan. Where this is so, you will need to trace off the pattern pieces separately after printing the PDF pattern out on paper. Pieces are marked with the original Figure numbers, to match the antique French text.
- Some lines on these patterns may need to be “trued up” slightly before cutting out. Also, the antique sizing may not be what you might expect -- allow for this when cutting out. It's always best to make a mock-up out of inexpensive fabric before cutting the pattern from your fashion fabric.
- Other than translations of any existing antique sewing instructions, you may need to work out the order of construction and sewing methods on your own. Bear in mind that some patterns may only need to be cut once; others may have to be cut twice. This may not always be clear from the antique text.
- Pay careful attention to the letters or numbers marked at corners, etc. on the patterns – these show which edges are to be matched up when sewing, or they will relate to something mentioned in the antique text.
- Watch for additional notations on the patterns themselves which will assist in construction or finishing.

Notes for This Pattern:

This pattern is for a dressy late Victorian chemisette/collar and matching cuffs. You can use any lace for the edging that resembles the lace in the antique fashion sketch. Whatever lace is used should be the same on both collar and cuffs. This set could be worn to enhance any day gown or fitted jacket, as a neckline filler.

For your convenience, my translation of the 1875 French text is also included below. My own clarifying notes are in square brackets. The original French text is on the following page, along with a copy of the 1875 fashion sketch of this item. Recommend fabrics are fine-grained lightweight pure white linen for the garment construction, and fine white cotton percale for the narrow bias embellishment.

The pattern pieces on the PDF are as follows. Pay attention to the various markings on the pieces:

Figure 63: One-half of the Chemisette

Figure 64: One-half of Cuff [the little plain band shown in the antique sketch of the Sleeve]

Figure 65: One-half of Collar [narrow standing collar]

Figure 66: One-half of Sleeve section [NOTE: This is a short section of sleeve to which the narrow Cuff is sewn – the whole Sleeve section plus Cuff is worn underneath the plain end of a long sleeve of a dress or jacket, and extends beyond, as an embellishment for the garment].

Figure 67: One-half of Lapel [“Revers” – the little turned-back bands shown on the antique sketch]

My Translation of French Description:

“Col en Toile et Dentelle avec Manche Assortie (Collar in Linen and Lace with Matching Sleeve Section):

Collar and Cuff in fine linen, with lace entre-deux, and narrow bias of nansouk [percale] and lace that is 2.5 cm [1 inch] wide. In addition, the collar and sleeve sections are embellished with a frill of pleated muslin, trimmed with 1.5cm wide [about 5/8” wide] lace edging. [NOTE: You will need to cut and pleat this muslin frill in box pleats accordingly – there is no pattern for the frill(s)]. The Collar is attached to a Chemisette. The latter is cut in one piece [i.e. cut once on the lengthwise fold] according to Fig. 63, which represents one-half of the piece.*

Finish the two front edges of the Chemisette with a band 3cm [1-1/8”] wide, turning in [hemming] the edges of the band [NOTE: The normal modern method is to simply machine-sew a band, right sides together with the front edge, then turn and finish the inside edge with a narrow hem or overcasting, and edge-stitch on the outside]. The neckline is bordered with a narrow standing Collar, from “58” to “59” [on the pattern], cut from Figure 64, and to which the Collar itself is attached, from “60” to “61” on the pattern. The Collar is cut from doubled linen and seamed with entre-deux lace, according to Figure 65, which represents only one-half of the Collar. [NOTE: As for the other pieces, this piece is cut from pattern Fig. 65 on doubled fabric, on the fold]. The Collar is ornamented with a trimming of lace and narrow nansouk [percale] bias**, sewn to the underside of the Collar. A box-pleated muslin frill, 5cm [2 inches] wide is sewn around the top of the Collar, tapered toward the two ends [i.e. at the Front opening – see antique sketch]. Add buttons and buttonholes where desired. The matching Sleeve sections with Cuff are made the same as the Collar, according to Figures 66 and 67.

NOTES:

* You will obviously need to finish all seams and edges according to your preferences.]

** As can be seen from the antique fashion sketch, the embellishment consists of little circles of net lace, each edged with a tiny, narrow percale bias band, and arranged in a fish-scale like, overlapping design sewn around the Collar. These little decorations may be able to be done on a sewing machine, but you will need to experiment to see if hand-construction is better. Experiment with widths of the bias cut from percale, to get a width that looks best in this design – the long edges of each bias band should be turned in and sewn in place. The 2.5cm (1”) wide lace is then gathered and sewn on underneath (see antique sketch). To replicate the antique design properly, everything must be very neatly and evenly sewn, using short stitches (if sewing by machine), and preferably a fine heirloom thread. Finish outer edges with edge-stitching.

Original (1875) French text:

Col et manchette en toile fine, avec entre-deux de dentelle, petits biais de nansouk et dentelle ayant 2 centimètres 1/2 de largeur. En outre, on garnit le col et les manchettes avec une ruche de mousseline, plissée, rehaussée d'une dentelle ayant 1 centimètre 1/2 de largeur. Le col est attaché à une chemisette. On coupe celle-ci, entière, d'après la figure 63, qui en représente seulement la moitié. Sous les bords des devants on pose une bande ayant 3 centimètres de largeur, et l'on ourle le contour. L'encolure est borée, depuis 58 jusqu'à 59, d'un poignet coupé d'après la figure 64, et auquel se rattache le col, depuis 60 jusqu'à 61. Celui-ci est coupé entier en toile prise double, et entre-deux de dentelle, d'après la figure 65, qui en représente seulement la moitié. On l'orne de dentelle et de biais de nansouk, piqués sous l'envers du col; on fixe une ruche de mousseline, ayant 5 centimètres de largeur, biaisée sur ses extrémités. Boutons et boutonnières. Manchettes pareilles au col. On les fait d'après les figures 66 et 67.

See Fashion Sketch, next page

1875 Fashion Sketch

