

Kestrel Coat

For brisk walks to school or a holiday soiree, the Kestrel Coat is sure to be a gem in your little girl's closet. The Coat is fully lined with a button front. Its full gathered back is echoed in the full-length sleeves. The Coat's integrated scarf is sure to keep little necks warm and never end up in the lost and found bin.

Please read all of the instructions before beginning. For more design ideas and helpful hints for all of our original patterns, please visit us online at www.clevercharlotte.com.

Unless otherwise stated, all pattern pieces are printed with a 1/2" seam allowance.

Step 1: Gather your materials

Refer to the pattern packaging for fabric and notion requirements for your garment. Make sure to wash and iron all fabric as called for by their fiber content before proceeding to Step 2.

You also should have ready standard sewing supplies, including:

sharp fabric scissors or a rotary cutter
measuring tape
straight pins
water-soluble pen or tailor's chalk
Fray check or similar seam sealer (optional)

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Step 2: Prepare Pattern Pieces, Layout and Cut Fabric

All Clever Charlotte patterns are printed in full-scale on heavier tissue paper. Use the sizing chart on the pattern packaging to determine the correct size for your child. You may choose to cut out the paper pattern pieces in the exact size needed for your garment or, in order to preserve all sizes of each pattern piece for reuse, we recommend tracing each piece onto a lightweight, transparent paper (such as tracing or tissue paper), making sure to transfer all pattern markings to the traced copy.

Suggested pattern layout guides for the Kestrel Coat are found on Page 4. In general, make sure that all patterns pieces are placed on the grain line or the fold of the fabric, as indicated on each pattern piece.

Once you have placed the pattern pieces on the fabric, pin the pieces in place and cut the fabric with a sharp pair of fabric scissors or a rotary cutter. Make sure to cut out the number of pieces required by each pattern piece, including any interfacing pieces.

Note that pattern piece 7 also serves as a Button/Buttonhole Placement Guide. Trace this pattern piece, along with the buttonhole and button markings, to a piece of tracing paper and use as directed in Step 9.

Step 3: Transfer Pattern Markings & Iron Interfacing

A. Mark all notches of all pattern pieces by clipping the designated number of notches (single or double) into the seam allowance of the fabric, being careful to stay within the 1/2" seam allowance.

B. With a warm iron, iron the Collar interfacing pieces to the **wrong side** of one set of Collar pieces {The interfaced Collar pieces will be referred to below as the "Lining Collar". The non-interfaced Collar pieces will be referred to as the "Main Collar"}. (Sketch 1) Set aside the left and right Front interfacing pieces until Step **4G**.

****Tip:** When ironing fusible interfacing, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. Generally, you want to place the bumpy side of the interfacing against the **wrong side** of the fabric.

**** Note:** You will use the Button/Buttonhole Placement Guide to transfer the button and buttonhole markings to the Coat in Step 9.

Step 4: Sew Main Body and Lining Body

A. With your sewing machine set to a basting stitch (a stitch length of about 4.0), sew two lines of basting stitches on the Main Lower Back between the notches, the first on the seamline (1/2") and the second 1/4" from the raw edge. (Sketch 2) Be sure to leave the tails of the machine thread long on both ends of the stitch lines for gathering in the next step.

B. With **right sides** together, pin the Main Upper Back to the Main Lower Back at notches. Grasping the bobbin threads of both basting stitches, gently pull the threads to gather the Main Lower Back until it matches the length of the Main Upper Back. (Sketch 3). Adjust the gathers evenly between the notches and pin securely. Sew the Main Upper Back to the Main Lower Back. Clip the curves and press seam allowances open.

C. With **right sides** together, sew one Main Upper Front to the corresponding Main Lower Front. Press seam allowances open. (Sketch 4) Repeat for remaining Main Upper Front/Main Lower Front pieces.

D. With **right sides** together, sew the Main Upper Front to the Main Upper Back at the shoulder seams. Press seam allowances open (Sketch 5).

E. With **right sides** together and matching the pressed seam lines joining the upper and lower portions of the Front and Back, sew the Main Front to the Main Back along

the side seams (Sketch 5). {We refer to this completed portion of the Coat below as the "Main Coat".}

F. Repeat steps A-E above for the corresponding Lining pieces. {We refer to this completed portion of the Coat below as the "Lining Coat".}

G. With a warm iron, iron the left and right Front interfacing pieces to the **wrong sides** of the left and right Lining Front pieces as sewn together in the preceding step. (Sketch 6)

Step 5: Sew Collar

A. Cut out one Main (Spring) Collar on the fold and one Lining Spring Collar on the fold.

~~A. With **right sides** together, sew the Main Collar pieces together along center back seam. Repeat for the Lining Collar.~~

B. With **right sides** together, pin the Main Collar to the neckline of the Main Coat, matching the inner notches on the Collar with the shoulder seams on the Main Coat. Clip curves to make collar fit smoothly to the Main Coat at neckline as you pin. Sew the Main Collar to the Main Coat ~~between the outer notches on the Main Collar.~~ (Sketch 7). ~~Clip the curves and p~~Press seam allowances open. Repeat for the Lining Collar and the Lining Coat.

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Step 6: Sew Sleeves

A. With your sewing machine set to a basting stitch, sew between the notches of each Main Upper Sleeve at the sleeve cap, leaving tails of the machine thread long on both ends of the stitch line to help ease in the sleeve to the armhole (Sketch 8).

B. Still using a basting stitch, sew two lines of basting stitches on one Main Lower Sleeve between the notches, the first on the seamline (1/2") and the second 1/4" from the raw edge, similar to shown on the Lower Back piece in Sketch 2. Be sure to leave the tails of the machine thread long on both ends of the stitch lines for gathering below in Step C. Reset your machine to a regular stitch length.

C. With **right sides** together, pin one Main Upper Sleeve to a Main Lower Sleeve at notches. Grasping the bobbin threads of both basting stitches, gently pull the threads to gather the Main Lower Sleeve until it matches the length of the Main Upper Sleeve. (Sketch 9) Adjust the gathers evenly between the notches and pin securely. Sew the Main Upper Sleeve to the Main Lower Sleeve. Clip the curves and press seam allowances open.

D. With right sides together and matching the seam between the Upper and Lower Sleeve pieces, sew the underarm seams for both sleeves (Sketch 10). Press seam allowances open.

****Tip:** Use a sleeve board or rolled up towel inserted into the sewn sleeve to press seam allowance open.

E. Repeat Steps A through D for the other Main Upper Sleeve/Main Lower Sleeve and both pairs of Lining Upper Sleeves/Lining Lower Sleeves.

Step 7: Set In Sleeves

A. Turn one of the Main Sleeves to the **right side** and insert it into the armhole of the Main body of the Coat so that the **right sides** of the Main Sleeve and Main Coat are together and the Main Sleeve is matched to the armhole at the single notches, the underarm points, and the double notches. Secure the Main Sleeve in place at these points with pins. Once the Main Sleeve is positioned, grasp the bobbin thread of the basting stitches on the Main Upper Sleeve cap and gently pull the thread to lightly gather the sleeve cap of the Sleeve and ease it into the armhole. Be sure to distribute the extra fullness in the sleeve cap evenly and match the seamlines as smoothly as possible to avoid puckers on the **right side** of the Coat. Finish pinning the Sleeve into place, then sew around the armhole (Sketch 11).

B. Proceed in the same manner to set the remaining Main Sleeve in the Main Coat and the two Lining Sleeves in the Lining Coat.

Step 8: Assemble the Coat and Collar, Finish the Center Front, and Hem Sleeves

A. With **right sides** together, align the Main Coat to the Lining Coat starting at the center back of the Collars and working around the outer edges of the Coat (around the Collar, the center front of both sides and the bottom hem). Make sure the Sleeves are sandwiched between the layers away from the outer edges.

B. Sew the Main Coat to the Lining Coat in one continuous seam as follows:

- Starting at the bottom hem, about 4" away from the center back, sew across one side of the bottom hem, then up one center front.
- Pivot your sewing machine needle slightly at the point where the Collar meets the center front of Coat and continue sewing around the outer edges of the Collar, pivoting again at the point where the Collar meets the Coat on the opposite side, ~~pivoting at the corners of the Collar~~ points.
- Sew down the other center front, and back across the bottom hem, stopping 4" short of the center back.

This results in an opening in the bottom hem at the center back that is approximately 8" long through which you will turn the Coat to the right side. Take care not to catch the sleeves when sewing along the outer edges. (Sketch 12)

****Note:** To pivot your needle at the front and bottom corners of each center front, at the points where the Collar meets the body of the Coat, ~~and the Collar points~~, leave the needle in the down position at that point and lift up the presser foot so that you can rotate the fabric freely. Once the fabric is rotated into the new position, lower the presser foot and continue sewing along the second side.

**** Tip:** For heavier weight fabrics, consider using a walking foot to help feed the fabric layers evenly through the machine.

**** Tip:** Once you are finished sewing around the Coat and before you have turned it, check that the center front lengths on both sides of the Coat are the same and the bottom hems on both sides are aligned horizontally. If an adjustment is necessary, re-sew the longer of the two sides, shortening at the hem or collar as necessary to make it match the shorter side. (See note in Sketch 12)

C. Trim seam allowances to 1/8", leaving a 1/2" seam allowance at the opening.

****Tip:** You may apply a dab of Fray Check or a similar seam sealer on the remaining seam allowance at the points of the Collar and where the Collar meets the body of the Coat in order to reinforce them and help prevent fraying. Let dry before proceeding.

D. Turn the Coat, including the Collar pieces, to the **right side**. Press the Coat carefully to ensure crisp seams all around, turning the extra seam allowance at the bottom hem opening to the inside of the Coat as you press.

~~****Tip:** When turning the Collar to the **right side**, use a point turner to get crisp corners. If you don't have one, a very dull pencil or chopstick works as well.~~

****Tip:** If using velvet or similar fabric, press from the lining edge or use a press cloth to minimize the flattening of the pile.

E. Topstitch around all outside edges of the Coat 1/4" from the edge in one continuous seam, including around the outside of the Collar.

****Note:** When you topstitch around the hem, you will close the opening through which you turned the Coat at the same time.

Step 9: Sew Buttonholes and Buttons to Coat Front; ~~add Buttonhole to the Right Collar~~

A. Working on the **right side** of the Coat, pin the paper Button/Buttonhole Placement Guide to the right Main Front (as worn), aligning the placement lines along the finished edges of your sewn garment. Transfer the buttonhole markings to the **right side** of the Coat by inserting straight pins into the fabric from the lining side of the Coat at each end of a buttonhole marking printed on the Guide, then drawing a line connecting the pins using a water-soluble pen or tailor's chalk (Sketch 13).

Alternatively, you may thread trace the marking. To do so, thread a needle with a piece of contrasting color thread. Insert the needle from the lining side of the Coat at each end of the buttonhole mark. Snip the thread so that there are 2-3" tails of thread free and unknotted on both sides of the fabric for easy removal later. Take care not to pull string markers out while manipulating the fabric after marking.

Using the Placement Guide again, pin it to the left Main Front (as worn), aligning the placement lines along the finished edges of your sewn garment. Transfer the button markings in the same manner used to transfer the buttonhole markings on the right side.

B. Using the buttonhole feature on your machine or a tight, narrow zigzag stitch, sew the five buttonholes marked in the previous step and carefully snip open. Sew each button to the the Coat by hand, securing the thread through both layers of fabric.

~~C. Using the Collar pattern piece, transfer the buttonhole marking on the Collar to the right side (as worn) of the Collar in a similar manner used in Step 9A, taking care to position sewn Collar in the center of the pattern piece, as there is still 1/2" seam allowance on all sides of the Collar pattern piece. Using the buttonhole feature on your machine or a tight, narrow zigzag stitch, sew the buttonhole and snip open. (Sketch 13)~~

Step 10: Hem the Sleeves and Attach Clothing Label

A. To finish the sleeve hems, insert the Lining Sleeves into the Main Sleeves with **wrong sides** together. Turn under the Main Sleeve hem 1/2" and the Lining Sleeve hem 5/8" so that the raw edges of both layers are hidden. Press and pin these folded edges in place. With the Main Sleeve facing up, topstitch 1/4" from the folded edge of the Main Sleeve to secure the hem.

B. To attach the Clever Charlotte clothing label included with your pattern, hand stitch the tag to the inside of the Back Waistband using a sharp needle, matching thread and small stitches.

Be sure to check out www.clevercharlotte.com for tutorials and additional Kestrel Coat styling options.

Kestrel Coat Layout Guides

Please refer to these layout guides when cutting out the Kestrel Coat. **Layout options are shown for 45" and 60" wide fabric and are the same for fabric with or without nap (or directional print).**

Pattern Pieces:

Piece #	Piece Name
1	Upper Back
2	Lower Back
3	Upper Front
4	Lower Front

5	Upper Sleeve
6	Lower Sleeve
7	Front Facing and Button/Buttonhole Placement Guide
8	Collar

Additional Notes:

Pattern piece 7 also serves as a Button/Buttonhole Placement Guide. Trace this pattern piece, along with the button/buttonhole markings, to a piece of tracing paper and use as directed in Step 9.
(insert illustration key)