

Silk Velvet

- Deepika Prakash



Swing Dresses are for everyone. You can make one in no time at all. They are also very versatile. You can wear them year long.

Make a sleeveless version in rayon for summer and you'll be cool and comfy.

Add a cropped cardigan and some tights and you are ready for winter.

And of course it looks fabulous in a drapey [silk velvet](#) to wear to all your evening events.

This luscious silk velvet was provided to us by Mood Fabrics in New York. They have a wide selection of really high quality silk velvet in many colors so be sure to check them out. I am using the [garnet color](#) in the show.

mood DESIGNER
FABRICS

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If you've never worked with silk velvet there are a few things to keep in mind.

Napped Layout

Because velvet has a pile, you need to cut all your pattern pieces going in the same direction. Generally going down.

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Selecting a pattern



When sewing with velvet choose a style which has as few seams as possible because velvet is not easy to press. For this project I choose a simple sleeveless A-Line dress with darts and rotated the darts to the hem resulting in a flared dress which is fitted on the bust without the need of darts or seams. If you do not want to alter a pattern, here are some other pattern ideas.

Tip: Click on [this link](#) for even more patterns on PatternReview.com

[Burda 7390](#)

[New Look 6469](#)

[Named Minttu Swing Top](#)

[McCall's 7407](#)

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Cutting out Fabric

When cutting your pattern pieces, cut in a single layer. Place fabric right side down and place your pattern piece on top. If your piece instructs you to cut on the fold, simply mark the fold line on the fabric with chalk and after cutting one side, flip the pattern piece and continue cutting.

Secure the pattern pieces with weights instead of pins.

Sewing Velvet

Because velvet has a pile, when you place the two right sides together and sew using a regular foot, it causes the fabric to slip resulting in uneven seams. So always use a walking foot which prevents this. See your sewing machine's manual and get a walking foot made especially made for your machine. I do not recommend using a generic walking foot as it can damage your machine.

Use pins only in the seam allowances or hand baste before you sew.



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Ironing

Never press iron to velvet. Always use a gentle burst of steam on the seam allowances and then press with your fingers. Because our dress has so few seams, we can do this easily.

Finishing the neck and armholes

Cut a lining from silk or rayon fabric the same way you cut your dress pattern pieces and sew it together. Then pin just the neckline of velvet and lining right sides together and sew. Clip curves and gently press and turn. Hand finish the armholes in a similar manner.

Hemming

Let the dress hang for at least 24 hours and then measure. Even out the hem and using tiny slip stitches hem the dress. Hem the lining separately using a sewing machine.

Storing and caring for Velvet

Always store flat fabric by accordion folding it and hanging it to a hanger using large safety pins in the selvage of the fabric. Or you can roll up the fabric and store it that way. Never fold and store the fabric as it can result in permanent wrinkles.

Always pre-treat your fabric the way you want to wash it later. Most manufacturers recommend dry-cleaning silk velvet.

I hope I've inspired you to sew with velvet. Once you follow these simple tips, you'll be surprised how easy it is to sew and you'll be swinging in your pretty dress in no time at all.

If you love to sew, check out PatternReview.com. A website with more than 125,000 sewing projects shared by sewing enthusiasts from all around the world.

