

Instructions for sewing Yukata (Unlined Kimono) for Male or Female

Formerly found at <http://luxnova.home.mindspring.com/samuraigame/yukata.html> but now apparently no longer on the Internet! (I pasted into Word for ease of printing, hence this copy.) Many thanks to the original author – if only I knew who it was!

I've constructed the following pattern based on other patterns. The purpose of this pattern is simplicity in cutting the pattern with the least number of pieces to sew and minimal use of fabric. But if you are serious about sewing a kimono I would recommend Folkwear's Japanese Kimono 113 pattern. (www.folkwear.com). The sleeves shown are the minimum length for a man's kimono (this is referencing the length from arm to floor). Add inches for a longer sleeve, especially for a female's more formal kimono. This should take 1 to 2 hours to cut and sew.

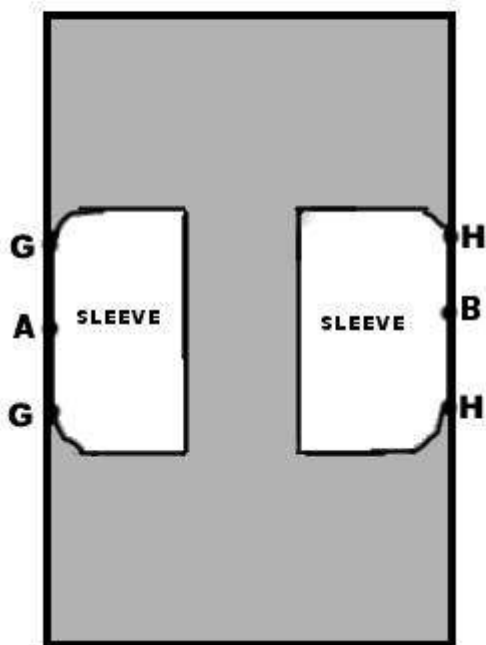
1. Size yourself:

- a) body length measurement: measure the length from your shoulder to floor
- b) stomach measurement

2. Determine the width of your fabric: 60" is preferable, but the most common size is 45", especially if you have a patterned fabric.

fig.2

SEW SLEEVES TO BODY



You can make the following adjustments to ensure a good fit

- a) Determine if you want to wear your kimono with or without a belted fold at the waste. An unbelted kimono will hang straight down your body. For this style to have the kimono hit at about ankle length add about 2 inches to your body length, and make this body length + 2 the length of points AC and BD.

A belted Kimono requires that you fold it around the waist and tie two sashes to hold it. This is shown in the picture, with the first sash hidden under the fold. Women would belt the kimono before adding the obi, pulling the kimono up to the floor/ankle length they wanted and then folding the kimono material over the belt, and using another sash to hold the fold in place. If you are planning to do this you will probably need to add at least 6 to 10 inches. Then, add inches if you want the kimono to drag on the ground.

**When you add length to the kimono body, also lengthen the front pieces by an equal amount.

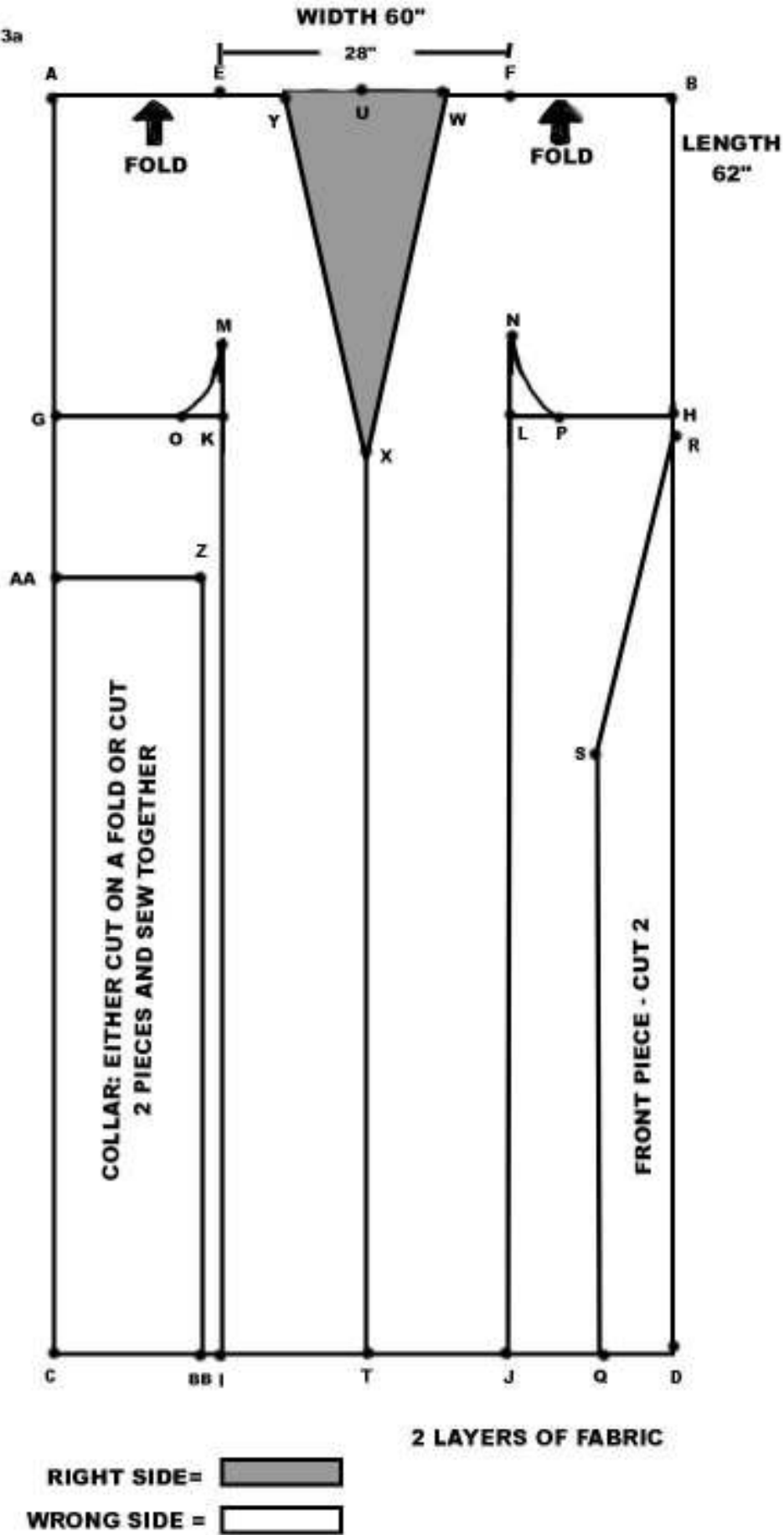
- b) The width of the kimono is for someone with up to around a 35" waist. Add 1/4 inch to each side of the kimono (or 1/2" total to the width of the kimono) for every extra inch of your waist. As you increase the width you are increasing the width of the shoulder measurement. Measure from one shoulder to the next -

you want the sleeve to meet the body 1 to 3" below this. You may need to taper the kimono so the top portion has a smaller width than the middle and lower sections (such as if you are pear shaped or wider around the waist than across your shoulders).

Use the pattern guidelines under 3b if you increase the size.

- c) Add 10 inches for a woman's sleeve, or 20 inches for a really long formal sleeve.

FIG. 3a



2 LAYERS OF FABRIC

RIGHT SIDE = [shaded box]
WRONG SIDE = [unshaded box]

3a) Layout for 60" fabric, unaltered. PATTERN A

Picture 3a shows the layout for a standard sized person.

Lay out your fabric, folding it over with the right sides together. Use pins to mark the points: cut, but keep the fold at the shoulders. (If you are using material that has a directional pattern and you don't want the pattern to be upside down on the back, then you will not cut on the fold. Instead cut the front and back separately ensuring that the pattern is in the right direction on both), adding 1/2 inch to the up/down length of the sleeve. You should then sew the front kimono to the back kimono with right sides together before following the other instructions).

Measurements: Kimono and sleeves: A-B= 60", AE=14", EF=28", FB=14", AG AND BH=16

VW = 8", VX or WX= 18"

3b) Layout for 45" fabric (or any width fabric under 60"), or making a larger width kimono on 60" fabric

This picture is not to scale as the 3a picture is because you are using instructions from 3b for either 60" or 45". Take the standard measurements used in 3a and lay out the body of the kimono on the 45" fabric, and the sleeves separately, or increase the width of the kimono body and lay it out with the sleeves separately on the 45 or 60" fabric. Keep the shoulders of the body and the sleeves on a fold.

Now sew the sleeves on to the body: measure out point E and K, F and L on the body, and match the sleeve with right sides together.

FIG. 3b (NOT TO SCALE)

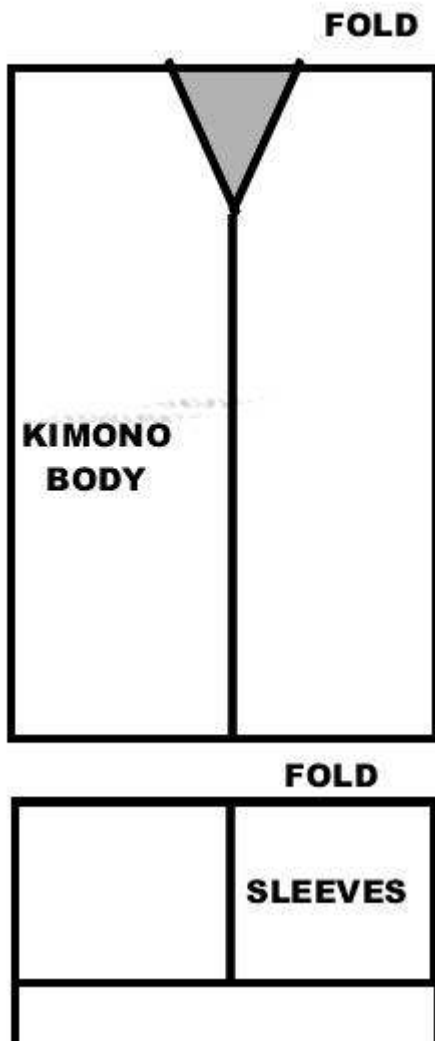
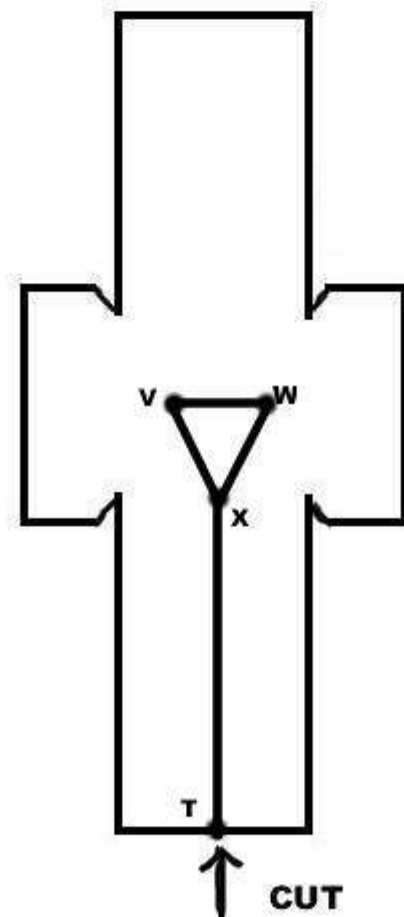


FIG. 4 CUT FRONT



4) CUT. FOR PATTERN A : Cut from G -O-M-K-I then J-L-N-P-H. From the side scraps cut out 2 front pieces. If you made longer sleeves, your scraps won't be long enough - cut it out elsewhere from your fabric. (Remember to adjust the length of your front pieces by the same amount that you've adjusted the length of the kimono body.)
Measurements: QD=4", DR=45", QS=29"

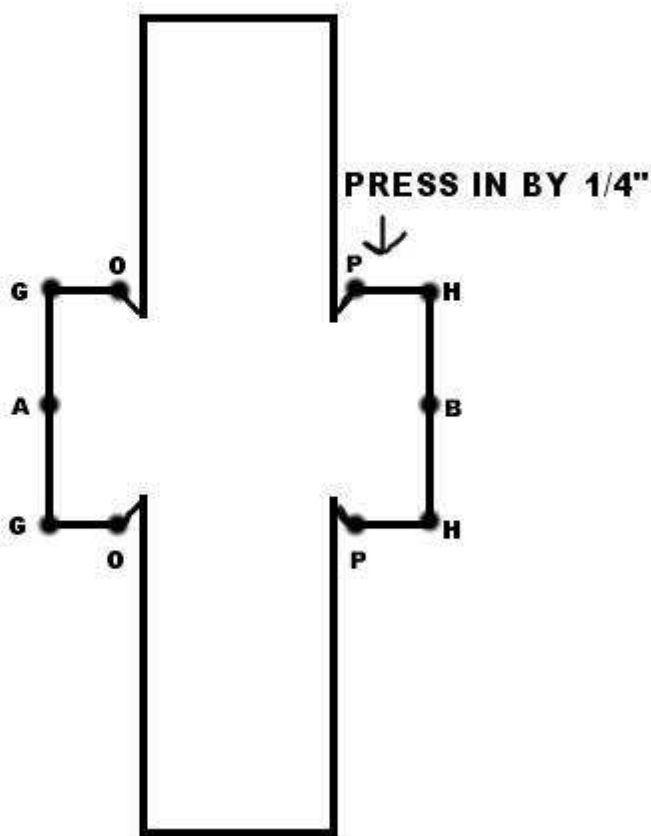
Cut your collar. You can cut this as one long piece on a fold, or if you don't have enough material for one long piece, or you want to use the fabric scraps, you can sew 2 pieces together as shown in 3a.

The entire collar length should be 78" with the width of 7 inches.

On ONE side of the kimono only, mark points V, W, X, and T. You will cut from T to X and then a triangle between X-V-W and this will become your front opening. Do not cut through both layers of your kimono so I suggest you unfold your kimono.

5) You now need to hem your sleeve prior to sewing the garment together. Unfold the kimono and lay out with the right side down against the floor. Fold the edge of the fabric in (about 1/4) and press or simply sew in place. You are folding in on both the back and front of the kimono: points A to G to O to M to K and then points B to H to P to N to L. Fold in a second time so the edge of your fabric is now hidden. Sew the hem in place.

FIG. 5 HEM FOR SLEEVE



6) Analyze the quality of your fabric: is it fraying? Cheap fabric usually is and even if you only wear this once, it's still worth doing a french seam so that you don't trail thread all evening long. If it is not fraying skip to step 7.
French seams. Refold your kimono with wrong side together. Sew very close to the edge from points K to I and L to J. Now turn the fabric inside out so right sides are together. Press the edges with an iron. Now sew again from K to I and L to J, about a 1/2 inch seam. Turn fabric right side out and make sure none of the fabric is sticking out from the seam - if so sew a larger-than-1/2" seam.

7) with right sides together, sew a 1/2" seam from K to I and L to J. Now sew the bottom of the sleeve from G to O and P to H. Note that the area from O-M-K and L-N-P are not sewn together, and left open.

8. Sew front pieces. With right sides together, sew the front pieces to the front of the kimono. Match front piece point R with kimono body point X and point Q with T. Sew from the point of TQ up past XS to R. (I suggest you start at the bottom of the kimono and sew up - it's more important to match the bottoms then to worry about matching where it ends up on the top - matching the points isn't that critical.)

FIG. 8

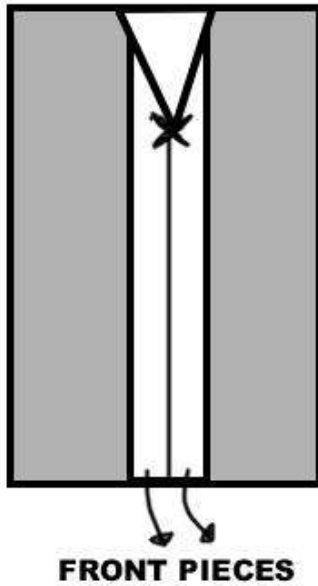
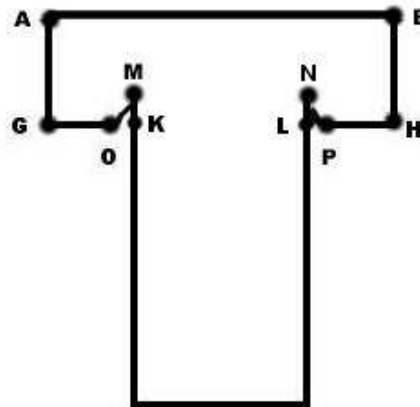
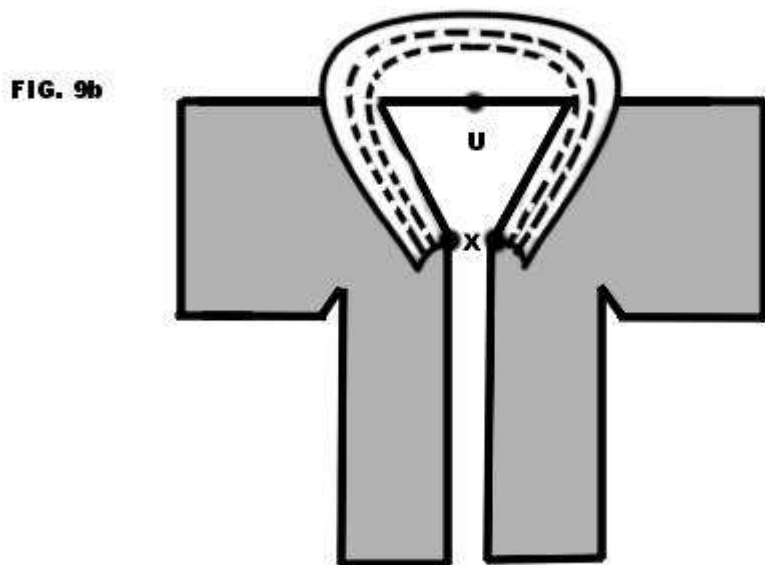


FIG. 7



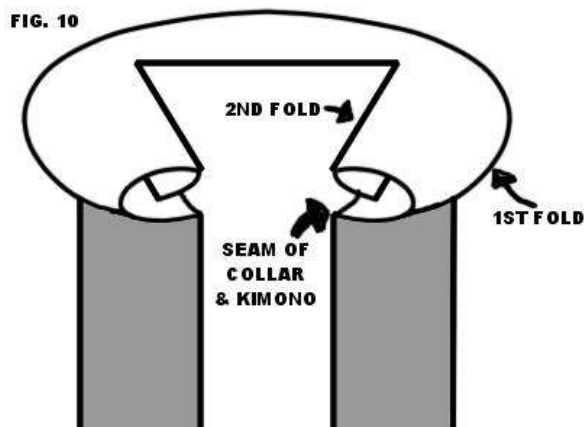
9a. Before applying the collar it is usually easier to iron in the two folds you will need for after it's sewn on. Lay out the collar with right side down and fold one of the long sides over 1/3rd of the collar width. Iron fold. Fold a second time. Iron fold. Now unfold and lay collar out straight again.



9b. Match the midpoint of the collar to point U on the back side of the kimono body. Lay the right side of the collar against the right side of the kimono, matching the edges and sew down one side from point U to point X. Now sew down the other side of the collar from point U to X.

10. Lay the collar out in front of you with the wrong side up of the collar. Fold the collar in 1/3rd of the way on the first fold you already created, and then fold again on the second fold you had created. The lengthwise edge of the collar should extend past the original seam where the collar was sewn to the kimono in order to hide that seam. Press again with an iron.

11. Sew the collar in place one more time: with the right side of the kimono up, you are going to do a "stitch-in-a-ditch" where you stitch in the "ditch" of the seam created when you sewed the collar to the kimono only. As you stitch in the ditch, you are sewing through the folded layers of the kimono. Alternatively, you can hand sew the collar from the wrong side if you don't want any stitches showing from the outside. As you near each collar end, tuck the ends inside the folded collar to seal it so there are no raw edges showing, and making the collar even with the kimono edge.



12. Hem the raw edge of the front pieces and the bottom of the kimono.