

It's Sew Easy – Series 800
Gretchen Hirsch

Button Back Blouse

This project is based on my Portrait Blouse pattern from *Gertie's New Book for Better Sewing*. This is a simple side-zip blouse with kimono sleeves and a scoop neck. We'll omit the side zipper and add a back button placket for a distinctly vintage look. A variety of simple blouse patterns can be used. You'll need 8 buttons that are ½" wide.

1. Adapt the pattern: Locate center back on your blouse pattern. The blouse pattern we're using is cut on the fold, so there is no seam allowance at center back. Using a clear gridded ruler, extend the center back by 2.5". Cut out the blouse as usual, but cut two of the back, rather than cutting one on the fold.
2. Sew the blouse as usual, finishing the edges as desired. For the sample blouse, I bound the neckline with bias binding and used a narrow hem on the bottom.
3. On each center back edge, fold 1" to the wrong side and press. Fold and press in another 1". Pin in place. Stitch along the folded edge, creating the center back button placket.
4. Mark the first buttonhole just below the back neckline binding on the left side placket. Mark the next buttonhole 1.5" below the bottom of the first. Continue in this manner, until you've made 8 buttonhole markings. Stitch buttonholes by machine.
5. Sew buttons to right side placket, matching up with the buttonholes.