

atelier  
Charlotte  
auzou

ebook

*Advice and techniques  
on sewing your exceptional dress*

# MY WEDDING DRESS





Many seamstresses dream of making a wedding dress, but it can seem complex and inaccessible. I would like to show you that is not the case and invite you to make your own special dress.

It may be your long wedding dress for the ceremony or a short dress for a civil wedding, the party in the evening or for brunch the day after. It can also be your party dress made in colourful and sumptuous fabrics for a special occasion. Dream up your next creation.

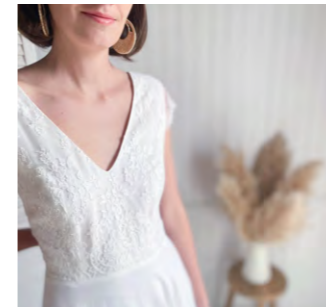
In this e-book, you will find advice and techniques explained with photos to help you complete your project. Using any sewing pattern, you will be able to create a gorgeous dress made all the more beautiful by the fabric and the finishings used.

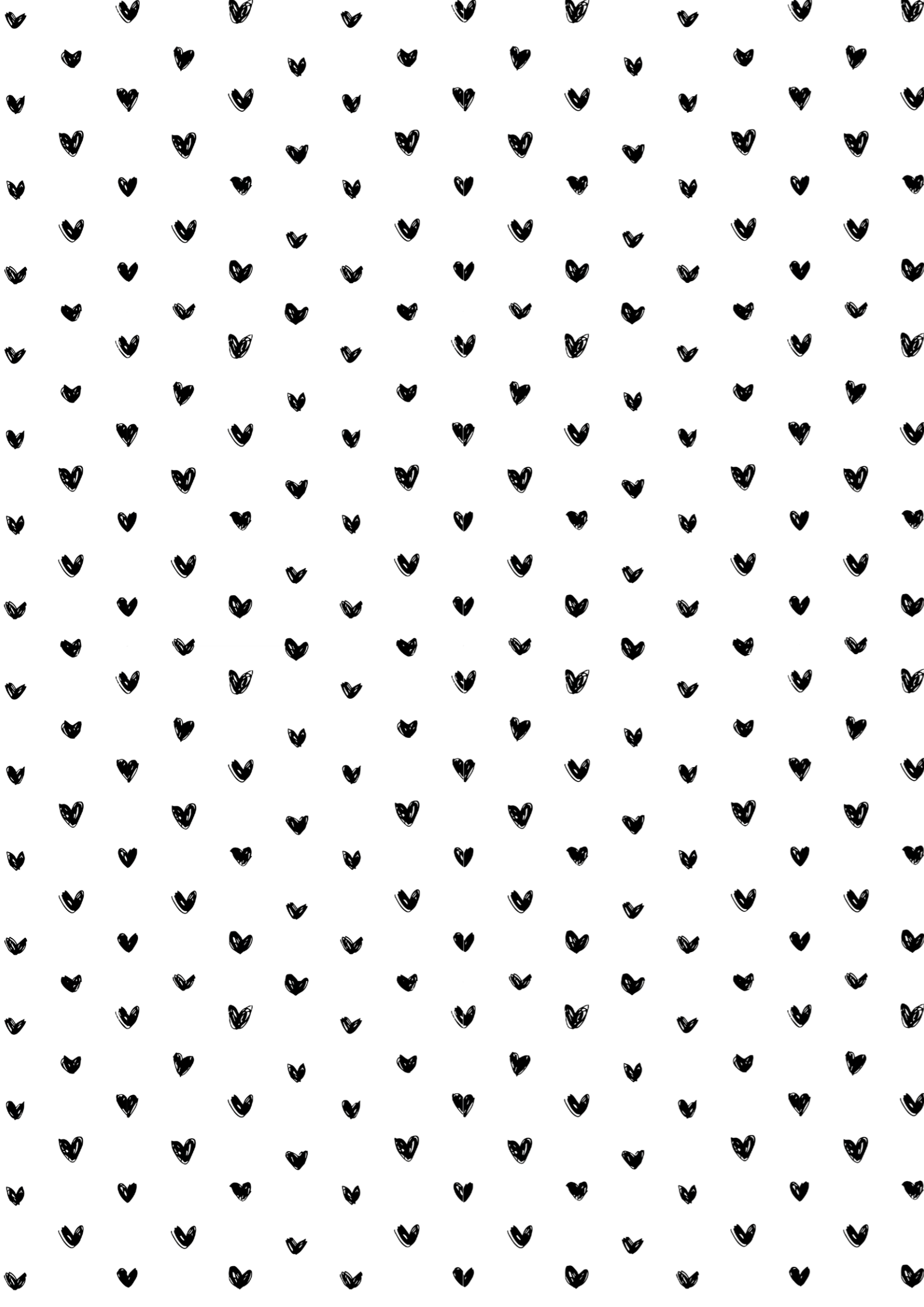
Good luck with this fine project!

Charlotte

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1

*preparation*

# Plan ahead!

## 1<sup>ST</sup> STEP: THE SEARCH FOR INSPIRATION

Browse wedding dress collections and decide what style of dress suits you. Do you want a high-waisted or drop-waisted dress? Long or short? A minimalist dress without lace? A dress with classic lace or modern? A fluid or really full dress?

Keep track of what you like in a notebook or save to a Pinterest board.

***Follow our inspirations on Pinterest***

## 2<sup>ND</sup> STEP: FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF FABRIC

Wedding dresses are generally made in materials that we are not used to working with. What is Moroccan crepe, taffeta, silk crepe supreme or Douppion silk? To familiarise yourself with these fabrics, go into fabric stores and have a look or order samples.

A sample may not be sufficient to get an idea of what the fabric is like. Once you have made an initial selection from those samples, purchase 50 cm offcuts from which you will be better able to realise what the fabric is like. This may seem like an unnecessary expense, but it is an investment for what is to follow. These offcuts can be used to make test pieces to practice on before sewing the final dress.

***You will find all our advice on fabrics in chapter 2 page 15***

## 3<sup>RD</sup> STEP: FITTINGS

There can be a world of a difference between what inspires you and the dress that you actually fall in love with. Make a fitting appointment with a wedding dress designer or in a boutique selling a variety of brand names to put your inspiration to the test and see how well it coincides with what you want, as well as with your body type. If you have ordered fabric samples beforehand, then you will recognise the different fabrics more easily and better understand how each of them falls.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> STEP: CHOOSING THE FINAL DESIGN AND THE PATTERN

Every choice is a renunciation! Decide which design you wish to make, then find or create the pattern that will enable you to produce it.

- You can seek existing patterns from which your ideas can take shape. Don't restrict your searches to wedding dress patterns. This e-book is all about learning how to adapt any dress pattern and to make it into a wedding dress.

- Think about the practicality of the design you choose. Will you be able to put it on easily? A fastening in the middle of the back means that you can do your hair and make-up before putting on your dress without it being stained. Don't overlook comfort either so that you can make the most of your wedding day.

- Be realistic about your level of skill as a seamstress and about the amount of time you have to sew your wedding dress. Do be ambitious though as it is a wonderful challenge and within your reach.

- Does your weight fluctuate from time to time? Consider a design with a construction that allows alterations to be made easily through to the final stages of the work. For example, in a design that fastens in the middle of the back, the side seams can be adjusted easily without having to unpick the zip. Larger seam allowances can also be helpful here.

***Personalise your unique dress with our mix and match patterns #MaRobeAtelierCharlotteAuzou***



## 5<sup>TH</sup> STEP: TOILE (OR TOILES !)

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Your dress takes shape! The toile stage allows you to make pattern alterations so that it fits you perfectly. You can also think about the assembly steps and the finishings of your final dress.

*You will find lots of advice about the toile and pattern alterations in chapter 3 page 31*

## 7<sup>TH</sup> STEP: SEWING TEST PIECES

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A test piece is an assembly using your final fabric on which you can practise and test techniques and alterations.

For example: choose your interfacing, hemming technique, machine settings for sewing lace, practise applying braid trim, etc.

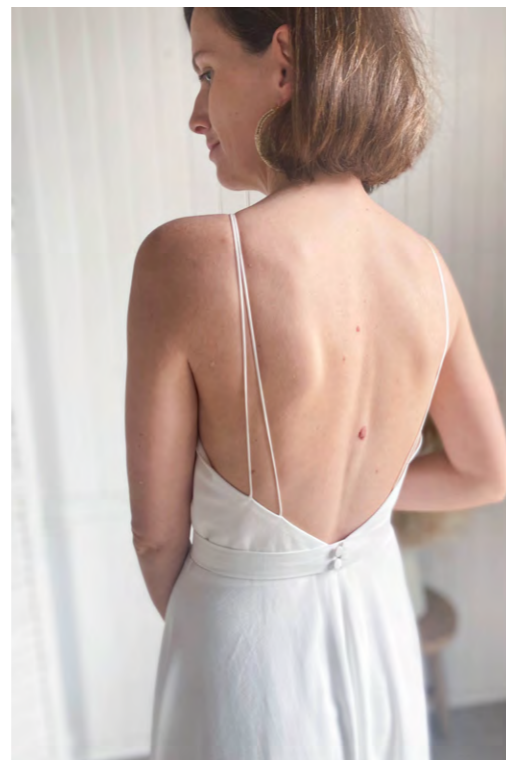


## 6<sup>TH</sup> STEP: PURCHASING THE FABRIC

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During the toile stage, work out the length of fabric and the notions you will need to make the final dress. We recommend that you order a little more than you think you need to allow for any mistakes and to make your test pieces.

*You will find advice on calculating length in chapter 4 page 38*



## 8<sup>TH</sup> STEP: CUTTING

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This stage is of paramount importance as if the pieces are badly cut, the final fit of the dress will be altered. Take the time to really think about how you are going to cut the fabric.

*You will find our advice in chapter 4 page 37*

## 9<sup>TH</sup> STEP: ASSEMBLY

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Be patient and take your time. If you have prepared your work well in the previous steps, it will go well!

*You can find seam techniques in chapter 5 page 45*

## 10<sup>TH</sup> STEP: FINAL ALTERATIONS

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These must be done in the month before the wedding to make sure that it fits perfectly on the big day. It is also a good time to do the hem of the dress wearing your final shoes.

*You will find hemming techniques in chapter 5 page 70*

You are sublime!

Enjoy  
your day ;-)