BIKES AND BLOOMERS

VICTORIAN WOMEN’S CONVERTIBLE CYCLE WEAR
SEWING PATTERNS

#3 THREE PIECE CYCLING SUIT

A cycling costume inspired by Henrietta Müller’s 1896 UK Patent #8766
These improvements consist in the form and combination of three separately constructed articles of ladies’ costumes, so made as to afford special faculty and convenience when cycling.”

Henrietta Müller (1896)
VICTORIAN WOMEN’S CONVERTIBLE CYCLE WEAR SEWING PATTERNS

Victorians enthusiastically took to the bicycle. Yet women had to deal with many social, political and material challenges to their freedom of movement. Cycling in ‘ordinary’ dress could be dangerous as it wrapped around pedals and caught in wheels. Wearing more ‘rational’ cycle wear, such as shorter skirts and bloomers, was more comfortable, but not necessarily safer as some parts of society were threatened by the sight of this progressive ‘New Woman’ carving new modes of gendered independence in public space. Onlookers sometimes hurled abuse and stones! However, nothing was going to stop women from cycling. In response, some creatively protested against restrictive ideas of how a woman should act and move in public through their clothing, by designing convertible costumes that enabled wearers to switch from street wear to cycle wear when needed. Luckily for us, these inventive women not only imagined, made and wore radical new forms of cycle wear - they also patented their designs!

Six sewing patterns in this collection (comprising a total of nine different garments) are inspired by convertible cycle wear patents lodged in the 1890s by inventive British women. They form part of an ESRC funded Bikes & Bloomers sociology project led by Dr Kat Jungnickel at Goldsmiths, University of London, with Rachel Pimm, Nadia Constaninou, Alice Angus and Britt Hatzius. More about the lives of these fascinating inventors is in Bikes & Bloomers: Victorian Women Inventors and Their Extraordinary Cycle Wear (Goldsmiths Press). Along with the book, these patterns bring to life some of the inspiring cycling, sewing and suffrage stories that have helped shape how we cycle today. They also (still) provide useful ideas for functional clothing that works on and off the bike. We look forward to seeing what modern sewing cyclists make with them.
Pattern #3 is a three-part design featuring a tailored jacket, A-line skirt that can be raised in height via loops sewn into the hem that catch at buttons at the waistband and an all-in-one undergarment, which combines a blouse and bloomer. **Requirements:** See individual patterns.

**This pattern is approx UK size 12** and will need to be customised to fit as required. Minimal instructions are provided. See our mistakes, workarounds and suggestions at: bikesandbloomers.com

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**BIKES & BLOOMERS CONVERTIBLE CYCLE WEAR SEWING PATTERNS:**

#1 – Pulley cycling skirt
#2 – Cycling semi-skirt
#3 – 3-piece cycling suit
#4 – Cycling skirt/cape
#5 – Side-button skirt
#6 – Cycling bloomers I, II

All sewing patterns are free to download. Profits from the sale of printed patterns go to the London Bike Kitchen, a DIY workshop. Please share your cycle wear creations with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Google+ or Pinterest. 

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**RESEARCH PROJECT**
Kat Jungnickel

**SILK LINING ARTWORK**
Alice Angus

**COVER PHOTO**
Charlotte Barnes
VICTORIAN WOMEN'S
CONVERTIBLE CYCLEWEAR
SEWING PATTERNS

#3 ALL-IN-ONE
BLOOMER

www.BIKESandBLOOMERS.com
3 X BUTTONHOLES ON LEFT SHOULDER
FOLD
UNDERGARMENT LEFT BACK
SHOULDER BUTTON STAND
CUT 1 SELF
CUT 1 FUSE RIGHT SIDE UP
UNDERGARMENT CENTRE FRONT BODICE

CUT 1 SELF RIGHT SIDE UP
UNDERGARMENT
BLOOMER CUFF BAND

CUT 1 PAIR SELF
UNDERGARMENT FRONT BLOOMER

CUT 1 PAIR SELF
CUT OR FOLD TO PRINT SAFE BOX
LINE UP SHAPES
STICK TOGETHER
CUTTING LINE
SEAM ALLOWANCE

ASSEMBLE ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS AND NOTES ON PATTERN PIECES