

Dress Making Instructions

Step 1 – cutting the dress



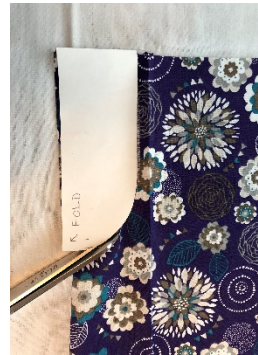
Start your project with fabric folded in half lengthwise. Trim the end to create a straight edge.

Select your desired length based on the size chart, mark a straight line and cut to length.

Cut the correct width according to the size chart.



Choose appropriate size armhole template, place it in the corner with the long side of the template along the long side of the dress. If the side of the dress requires a seam, move the template away from the edge 1/2 inch to allow for seam. Cut around template.



If the side has a folded edge, place the template along the fold. Cut around template to create armhole.



Step 2 – pressing the top and bottom edges



Fold under the bottom edge of the dress 1/4 inch and press. Fold under another 1 1/4 inch and press again.

Repeat in this manner for the top edges of dress.

Step 3 – adding trims or pockets

Now is the best time to apply trims or pockets. To help keep a nice straight application of ribbon or laces, you can use chalk, a marking pencil, or press a crease to use as a placement guide for adding the trims.



Step 4 – side seams



With right sides of the fabric together, sew the side seam (long sides of the dress) using a serger OR a straight stitch PLUS a finishing zig-zag stitch.

Step 5 – bottom and top hems



Stitch bottom and top hems in place close to the edge.

On only the top edges of the dress, stitch again about ¼ inch from the top edge of the dress.
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Step 6 - elastic

Cut 2 pieces of elastic the length stated on your size chart. One piece is ½ inch shorter than the other and will be used in the FRONT of the dress. The longer piece will be used in the back.



Attach a safety pin to the end of the short elastic and insert it into the casing you have sewn along the top edge of dress front.



Work the pin through the casing until the back end of the elastic is even with the edge of the dress. Stitch across the end to hold the elastic in place. Now pull the safety pin the rest of the way through the casing; stitch the second end of the elastic in place. Repeat with second piece of elastic for the back of the dress.



Step 7 – armhole edges including tie straps

Cut 2 pieces of bias binding, length according to size chart.



Use a pin to mark the center of the piece of binding. Be sure to keep the wider half of the binding on the UNDER side.



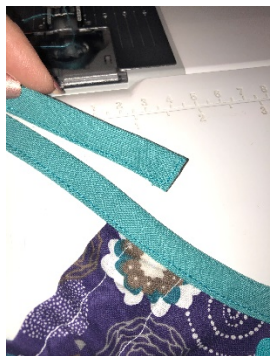
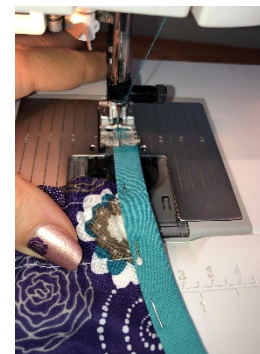
Match the center of the binding to the center/bottom of the armhole opening. Spread open the binding and insert the dress to the center crease of the binding. **MAKE SURE** the fabric goes all the way to the center fold of the binding, so as it's sewn, the widest possible portion of the dress will be secured within the binding.



Fold the upper side of the binding over the dress edge and pin in place. Continue pinning around the armhole as needed.



Beginning at one end of the binding, tuck the ends into the center, refold in half, and stitch as close to the open edge as possible.



Continue to stitch the entire length of the binding and finish the end the same way as the beginning. Repeat all steps for the other armhole.



That's it! Now imagine a little girl with a big smile wearing your dress. Priceless!