

Hankie panties and nightie for Bleurette

baw 10/10/2012

Materials:

- A Bleurette!
- A hankie, approximately 12 inches square
- An iron and ironing surface
- A squirt bottle with water
- A seam gauge
- Sharp scissors
- One 1/4 inch button
- A sewing machine; or, if you like hand work, you could do this by hand.

This is primarily a picture tutorial; there are no patterns needed to turn a pretty hankie into darling panties and a nightgown. You can use these basic steps to make a pair of pants and a short top, or three pair of panties, or panties and a simple sundress. It is up to you!

Hankie Panties



First, find a pretty hankie! The ones I used are not vintage, but printed by Moda and available from HomeSew (www.homesew.com). Since my hankies do not have a decorative border, I zig-zag stitched some narrow lace to two opposite edges of the hankie; one for the bottom edge of the panties, and one for the bottom edge of the nightgown. Both of these will be made from this one hankie.

For the panties, measure up 3 1/2 inches from the finished edge of the hankie, excluding the lace. Mark this and cut the hankie along this line. Finish the two raw edges you have with a narrow zig-zag stitch on the wrong side of the hankie. On my Viking sewing machine, I used a zig-zag width of 3 and a stitch length of 1.5.

Turn under both of the zig zagged edges to the wrong side 3/8 ". This will form the casing on the panties, and finish the raw edge on the nightie.

Simple as they are, please do not sell or copy this pattern.

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On the panties, press and stitch close to the zig-zag edge. Do NOT stitch down the nightie edge, just press it.

Fold the short edges of the pantie fabric to the center, right sides together. Measure up one inch from the bottom edge, excluding the lace, and mark this point on the center back of the panties, as shown in the middle picture.

Pin both side of the panties along the center back, and stitch the inseam of the panties. Curve your stitching in toward the marks at the top of the crotch. When you've finished this seam, go back and stitch over the crotch area again to reinforce.

Clip the front side of the panties up to the crotch point, being careful not to cut into the stitching.

Press open the inseam, turn, and press the wrinkles out of the crotch area. You can dampen this area and that will help to press the wrinkles out.



Thread a blunt tapestry needle with a length of 1/4 inch silk ribbon or cotton twill tape and thread this through the casing at the waist. Pull up the waist to fit your doll, cut the ribbon or tape to leave a enough ribbon to tie in a bow, and you are done!

Hankie Nightie



We have already prepared the top of the nightie by zig-zag stitching and pressing it when we did the panties. You might want to check and make sure this is the length you want. My nightgown is a little long; it would not have hurt to trim about an inch from the remaining section of hankie before I zig-zagged it.

I made four pleats in the top of this nightgown, just for fun. You can make this with or without the pleats. If making the pleats, mark the center front of the nightgown, then make a pleat 3/8 inch deep just to the right of the center. Make a second pleat just to the left, as shown in the left hand picture above. Press the pleats down about two inches. Make another pleat an inch from one back edge, and another on the other back edge. Sew these pleats down for about an inch.

Cut four pieces of 1/4 silk ribbon or cotton twill tape 7 1/2 inches long for the shoulder ties (silk is easier to work with). Pin two of the ties one inch in from the back edges, and the other two ties just outboard of the pleats in the front. Stitch the ties down by hand.

With a large eye embroidery needle (sharp tip, not blunt), thread a length of 1/8 inch silk ribbon into the needle and knot the end. With even running stitches, hand stitch close to the edge from the back to the center front. Cut the ribbon leaving a tail at the center front of the nightie. Repeat this coming from the other side of the nightie, so you have two ribbon tails in front. Gently pull up the ties to fit the top of the nightgown around the doll's chest. Tie the tails in a double knot bow, to secure.



Fold the nightgown right sides together and pin up the center back. Sew the center back seam up three inches. Press open. Place the nightgown on your doll and tie the shoulder straps. Once you get them adjusted as you like them, tie the bows into a double knot; this is much easier to do with silk ribbon, and the result does not look bulky.

Make a thread loop buttonhole on one side of the nightgown back, and sew a 1/4 inch button to the other side. Your are done! Doesn't your doll look sweet in her simple nightgown :-)