

Hankie pinafore/sundress 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 a sweet little pinafore or sundress for your doll.



For the hankie pinafore/sundress we will cut a skirt and a bodice from one hankie. The skirt section is cut along the border, with the hankie folded in half, as shown in the lefthand picture. Cut the skirt 4 1/4 inches from the finished edge of the hankie. Make sure you have at least two inches remaining above the cut line to the fold of the hankie; this will be used for the bodice.

If your hankie has a decorative, embroidered, or crocheted edge, you will want that to show in the front of your dress. You can overlap your two skirt sections, or baste a piece of decorative lace behind the skirt sections and treat as one skirt, as shown in the middle picture. Since my hankie does not have a decorative edge, I cut off the two short hemmed sections you see, placed these edges right side together, and sewed up the center front seam. Press this open and you have the skirt as shown on the right hand picture.



With the remaining piece of your hankie, which was folded lengthwise when you cut off the skirt section, fold it widthwise so you have a double folded piece of material about two inches by six inches.

Measure around the waist of your doll, and add one inch to this measurement. My doll has a waist of 5 1/2 inches, so my measurement is 6 1/2 inches. Divide this measurement in half, which is 3 1/4 inches. Mark this distance from the short folded edge; this is how long your bodice will be. Draw the bodice shape onto the fabric, with the back edge of the bodice about one inch wide. Extend this for about two inches, then curve the bodice up to the center front point, as shown in the picture on the left. Shaping the bodice this way allows for a nice fit under the arms of the doll, with good coverage over her chest.

Cut along these lines, then fold out your bodice and bodice lining. The center picture above shows a quick fit check on the doll, and the right hand picture above shows your bodice and bodice lining pieces cut out.



On the straight edge of the bodice lining, turn under 1/4 inch to the wrong side and press. Cut four 7 1/2 inch ties from 1/4 inch silk ribbon and pin them to the right side of the pinafore bodice. Pin two of the ties one inch from either end of the bodice, and the other two spaced an inch apart at the front of the

bodice, as shown in the middle picture above.

Place the bodice lining on top of the bodice, right sides together. Pin in place, then stitch around the short edge, long curved edge, and remaining short edge of the bodice. Trim the corners and the seams, turn and press.



Bodice sewn, pressed, and turned in the left hand picture, and fit checked again on our patient little girl in the middle.

Prepare the skirt by zig-zag stitching the raw edge. Use a narrow zig zag and stitch on the wrong side of the fabric. On my Viking sewing machine I used a zig-zag width of 3 and a stitch length of 1.5.

On the right side of the fabric, stitch two rows of gathering stitches 1/4 inch apart with long machine stitches (I used a stitch length of 4). Stitch the first row of gathering stitches 1/8 inch from the edge. Two rows of gathering stitches allows you to gather the material evenly. Pull up the bobbin threads to gather the skirt; they are on the wrong side of the skirt.



Gather the skirt to fit the bodice. With the right sides together, pin the skirt to the bodice, making sure the gathers are evenly distributed. Stitch the skirt to the bodice, being VERY CAREFUL not to catch the bodice lining in your stitching. Press the seam toward the bodice, then fold the bodice lining over the gathered seam. slip stitch the lining to the seam, then press the little dress again.

Simple as it is, please do not copy or sell this pattern.

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Make a thread loop on one side of the bodice back, and sew a 1/4 inch button to the other side. Place on the doll, tie up the shoulder ties in double knots, and you are done! If you want to make a pinafore to fit over a dress, just add 1/4 to 3/8 inch to the bodice around the waist.