

Sewing Instructions

EVACUEE GIRL

Firstly lay out the piece of fabric on a clean, flat surface - the floor is fine - and read through the instructions. Do this before you cut anything out, so that you understand what to do next. **To give a pretty decorative effect, using a contrast thread works very nicely on the collar and cuffs.**

The pattern pieces in this kit are marked with letters to help you piece the right ones together. All seams are 1.5cm allowance. Remember to reverse stitch at the beginning and end of every seam to stop it unravelling.

With scissors that are sharp and suitable for fabric, carefully cut round the outline of all the pattern pieces. **You may want to pin the printed name to each piece to avoid confusion when you start to sew.**

Each bodice front has decorative bias tape stitched to it. This can be done in which ever way you desire, vertically, horizontally or as I chose, diagonally. Taking care not to obscure the printed buttons place your bias tape in the chosen design, pin and stitch in place.

With right sides facing, place the front bodice FB over the back bodice BB. Match the shoulder seam and stitch in place, neaten the seam using a zig-zag stitch or an overlocker if you have one. Repeat on other side.

Match the centre notch of the sleeve S to the shoulder seam. (The double notch on the sleeve should face the BB) Pin in place and stitch through, neaten the seam with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker. Repeat on the other side.

With right sides facing, match the edges of the collar. The bigger curved edge is the outside of the collar. Using the same seam allowance as above, stitch the collar edge together. Clip the curve of the seam to within 2mm of the stitching line to allow the fabric to curve and turn through to the right side. Using a contrast thread (if you wish) top stitch the outside edge of the collar the using the width of the foot as a guide.

Now match the unstitched edge of the collar to the neckline. Line the outside of the collar to the dot at centre front of the bodice (on both sides) and the notch on the collar to centre back of the neckline. Pin in place and pull the fabric gently to ease the edges together smoothly. Stitch in place. Neaten the seam with a zig-zag stitch or and overlocker.

Neaten the front edge of the bodice with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker and fold the facing back over the right side of the bodice at the notch on the neckline. Continue the stitching line of the collar across the facing and secure. Then turn through to the right side.

The sleeves S are slightly puffed so run a gathering thread from the single outside notch to the double notch and gently draw up the fabric. Repeat on the other side. Match the centre notch of the sleeve head to the shoulder seam. Make sure that the double notch faces the BB and the single notch the FB. Stitch in place and repeat on other side.

Run a gathering thread along the bottom of the sleeve starting and stopping 10cm from each underarm cutting line. Gently draw up the fabric to fit the size of the cuff.

Fold the cuff in half along the length and match the edge of the cuff to the edge of the sleeve. Pin and stitch in place. Repeat on the other side.

Match the edge of the cuffs and the waist edges of the bodice. Stretch the fabric gently to create a smooth seam, pin and stitch in place. Repeat on the other side, neaten with a zig-zag stitch or an overlocker. Fold the seam toward the back on the cuff and stitch it in place. Repeat on other side.

With right sides facing, match the waist edges of the skirt front SF to the skirt back SB. Pin and stitch in place. Neaten the seam with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker.

Neaten the centre front edges of the SF. With right sides facing, match the waist edges of the SF and stitch from the hem to the dot at centre front.

Attach the bodice to the skirt by lining up both the side seams of the bodice and the skirt. Pin in place and match the edges of the front pieces. Stitch the bodice to the skirt and neaten the seam with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker.

There is more fabric in the skirt than the bodice. This forms a pleat at centre front to cover the opening, so use the centre front line of the bodice (marked by a notch) to form the position of the pleat. The bodice piece with the buttons, sits in front and the skirt folds under at this point. The bodice piece without the buttons sits behind and the skirt piece sits under the other side.

Use one piece of Velcro to secure the waist-line and stitch the hooked side to the skirt panel that sits underneath. Stitch the looped side to the inside of the front piece.

Place the other pieces of Velcro at the neck-line - as close as you can get it to the top - and halfway down the front. Stitch the hooked side to the underneath piece and the looped to the inside of the front piece.

Neaten the hem of the skirt using a zig-zag stitch or an overlocker. Using the notches at the side seams as a guide, turn under the hem and pin at that distance all the way round the hem. Stitch in place.

Fold the belt in half along the length and stitch in place. Turn through to right side. Measure this around your daughter's waist for size, cut off any excess, tuck in the ends and stitch securely. Place Velcro at the ends to close the belt and use any off-cuts of bias tape to decorate the belt, we used a vertical stripe at the end.

And you're done. Have fun wearing it!

If you're a confident sew-er, follow the quick-sewing guide and use your own method of construction.

Quick-Sewing Guide

Apply bias tape decoration to bodice front, shoulder seams, gather sleeves, insert sleeves, gather hem of sleeve apply cuff, stitch underarm seam from cuff to waist.

Side seams of skirt, centre front, attach skirt to bodice, form pleat over front opening. Velcro to front, hem skirt, create belt, size to child's waist.