

Sewing Instructions

KING

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.

Following the outside line and using sharp scissors suitable for fabric, cut out the pattern pieces. Please note the name of each piece, especially the letters (F, NF etc) as this is what each piece is called throughout the sewing instructions. It may help to cut out the titles and pin them to the centre of their pattern piece so that you don't get confused while you are sewing.

With right sides of the fabric facing each other, place piece F (front) on top of piece B (back). Line up the shoulder seam, making sure that the arm edge matches neatly. Pin the seam allowing 1.5cm seam allowance. Many sewing machines have this marked on their footplate. Stitch together and repeat for other side. Neaten the seam with a zig-zag stitch or an over locker, if you have one.

Using a steam iron and a **clean tea towel to protect the fabric**, press the seam neatly so that the fabric is smooth from the outside.

Take piece S (the sleeve) and take note of the construction notches along the sleeve head. The **central notch matches the shoulder seam**, the single notch to the notch on piece F and the double notch to the notches on piece B. With the right side of the body pieces facing up, place the right side of the sleeve over top, matching the shoulder seam and taking care that you have the front of the sleeve matching piece F. Pin the centre of the sleeve to the shoulder seam and pin the edge of the sleeve, front and back, to line up neatly with the edge of the body. To get a neat finish to the shoulder seam, you need to stretch the two pieces together, so instead of pinning every few cm, use your fingers to hold the pieces in place and allow the fabric to curve together smoothly as you stitch. Remember to reverse stitch at either end to secure the seam. Using small, sharp scissors, clip the **sleeve seam allowance only** to within 3mm of the stitching line every 2cm or so to allow the sleeve to sit smoothly. Neaten the seam with a zig-zag stitch.

With right sides facing, match the sleeve hem and the side seams to the hem of the body, pin in place. Allow 1.5cm seam allowance and stitch from sleeve hem to body hem. Repeat on the other side. Neaten the seam with a zig-zag stitch - or an overlocker, if you have one. Before you hem the sleeves, it might be a good idea for your little King to try it on so that you can set the length. Mark with a pin or two. Neaten the edge with a zig-zag stitch - or an overlocker if you have one and then turn under the amount pinned as the hem. Stitch round and reverse stitch to stop the stitching unravelling.

Now for the neckline. Take the front facing FF and the neck facing NF. Join at the shoulder seam, with right sides facing. Match the neck edge, pin in place and using a 1.5cm seam allowance stitch in place with a reverse stitch at either end to stop the seam unravelling.

Place the facing on the ironing board right side down and using a steam iron and a **clean tea towel to protect the fabric**, press the

seam open neatly so that the fabric is smooth. Neaten the outside edge with a zig-zag stitch - or an overlocker, if you have one. (The outside edge **doesn't have the notch** at the hemline.) Then with right sides facing lay the facing for the neck on top of the body. Match the shoulder seams of both facing and body. Pin in place. Stitch from the hemline all the way round the neck to the other side and down to the other hemline. Reverse stitch at either end to stop the seam unravelling. Using small, sharp scissors clip the seam allowance around the curved areas of the seam to within 3mm of the stitching line about every 2cm. This will help the stitching line to sit smoothly. Now, turn the facing through to the back, place the costume over the ironing board and using a steam iron and a **clean tea towel to protect the fabric**, press the seam open neatly so that the fabric is smooth. You will need to coax the stitching line around the curved areas, so pin in place to guide the fabric.

Using the width of the presser foot as your guide, on the right side of the costume, stitch around the neckline from hem to hem to top-stitch the opening. This can be done with a contrast thread if you wish.

Finally hem the bottom of the costume. Neaten the edge of the fabric with a zig-zag stitch - or an overlocker if you have one. Turn under a 3cm hem, pin in place and stitch round, remembering to reverse stitch at either end to stop the stitching unravelling.

Thread a needle and position the hooks and eyes on the inside of the front opening to secure the costume. Allow about 12cm from the neck for the top one and another 12cm below that for the others.

There are some sequins in the kit which you can scatter over the costume if you wish. Stitch or glue (not supplied) in place. (If using glue make sure to protect the other side of the costume by spreading a plastic bag or sheet inside the costume. Allow the glue to dry according to their instructions.)

And that's it, you are done! Your King is ready to follow yonder star.

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

Quick-Sewing Guide

Shoulder seams, sleeves, under arm seam, facings, attach to front edge. Top stitch, hem, hooks and eyes, sequins.