

Sewing Instructions

STAR

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.

Working on both Back pieces (B) neaten the raw edge of the fabric at the centre back seam (the straight line) with a zig-zag stitch - or an overlocker, if you have one. With right sides facing each other, lay the two back pieces together. Match the notch on the hem edge and the notch on the centre back seam, pin together. Using the notch on the hem edge to set the seam allowance, stitch up to the centre back notch. Remember to reverse stitch at either end to stop the seam from unravelling.

Fold open the seam and with a steam iron and a **smooth clean tea-towel to protect the fabric**, press the seam out flat following the line you have created with the seam up to the neck edge.

Using a zig-zag stitch - in a contrast thread if you wish - stitch down from the neck edge to the seam, across the seam and back up to the neck edge again to stop the seam allowance from poking out.

With right sides facing, lay the front (F) over the back B and match the neck edges and the side edge. Using a 1.5cm seam allowance, stitch together. Remember to reverse stitch at either end to stop the seam from unravelling. Repeat on the other side. Neaten the seams with a zig-zag stitch - or an overlocker, if you have one. Lay the costume over the ironing board with the wrong side up and with a steam iron and a **smooth tea-towel to protect the fabric**, press the seam toward the back piece.

Using the bias tape from the kit, measure 30cm at one end as the tie closure, then open out one side of the bias tape. Use this as your seam allowance and on the **reverse of the printed fabric**, pin the opened edge to the opening at centre back on the neckline. The bias tape will stretch so you can pull against it slightly to get a nice neat finish. Stitch along the fold line of the bias tape, making sure to keep the side seams flat as you stitch over them and come round the neck to the opposite centre back. Reverse stitch at either end to stop the seam unravelling. Cut the thread and measure along the bias tape for another 30cm to create the other end of the tie closure.

Now, turn the fabric the right way up. Using small, sharp scissors, clip the neck edge to within 3mm of the seam line about every 2cm to help the fabric to curve neatly. Then fold the bias tape around the raw edge of the fabric, this will neaten the seam and make it comfortable around the neck for our little star. Pin in place at intervals around the neckline.

Using a zig-zag stitch and contrast thread if you wish, fold the last 5mm of **both ends** of the tie closure into the inside. Stitch from the end of the tie all the way around the neck edge and along to the other end of the tie closure. Stretch the bias tape slightly to get it to lie smoothly and this will help to guide the fabric under the machine foot, taking out the pins as you go.

Now for the hem. Neaten the raw edge with a zig-zag stitch - or an overlocker, if you have one, all the way around the hemline. With the right side down, place the costume on the ironing board and using a warm/hot iron and a **smooth tea-towel to protect the fabric**, turn under a 2cm hem all the way round the bottom edge. Pin in place. You may have to create small tucks to get this to look neat, but this can be pressed smoothly with the iron after stitching. Using a straight stitch sew all around the hem, reverse stitch at the end to secure the seam.

With the right side of the star facing out and the front facing up, find the underarm stitching line printed on the fabric. Line the front and back pieces together and pin so that the hem edge is even. Stitch the two together along the underarm seam line on both sides and make sure to reverse the stitching to stop the sewing coming undone at the hem edge.

Scatter with sequins and stitch or glue in place. If using glue (not supplied) make sure to place plastic sheeting inside the costume (a carrier bag will do) to stop the inside of the fabric sticking together. Leave to dry according to instructions on the glue.

There you are, all done. Now find some tinsel and shine bright, little star light.

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

Quick-Sewing Guide

Centre back seam, neaten neck opening, side seams, bias tape to neck edge, hem, under arm seams, apply trim.