

Sewing Instructions

TUDOR PEASANT BOY

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. This kit has both trousers (breeches) and jacket. Complete one first before starting on the other. **It may be easier to cut out the pieces as you need them.**

With scissors that are sharp and suitable for fabric, carefully cut round the outline of all the pattern pieces.

Breeches

With right sides facing, place the front breeches FB together and using a 1.5cm seam allowance stitch the centre seam (the scooped edge) in place.

With right sides facing, place the back breeches - indicated by the double notch on the centre seam - BB together and repeat as for the front. Neaten the seams of both with a zig-zag stitch or an overlocker if you have one.

Open out both pieces and lay the front breeches on the back breeches. Match the side seams and ease the cutting line together to create a smooth seam, pin together. Stitch in place. Repeat on the other side. Neaten both seams with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker.

Match the under-leg seam at both hemlines and ease the cutting lines together to create a smooth seam, pin in place and stitch together. Neaten the seam with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker.

Neaten the waist edge with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker and then using the notches at the side seams as a guide, pin the allowance for the waistband. At centre back (the double notch on the back breeches is the indicator) leave an opening of 2.5cm to insert the elastic for the waistband. Stitch the waistband in place.

Measure the elastic around your child's waist to set the size - it should be firm but not gaspingly tight. Cut to size and with a safety pin, thread the elastic through the casing. Overlap the ends and stitch securely, then allow the join to slide neatly into the casing.

Neaten the hemline of both legs and then using the notches at the side seams as a guide, pin the allowance for the hems. At the inside leg seam, leave an opening of 2.5cm to allow for the elastic to be inserted. Stitch the hems in place.

Measure the elastic around your child's calves to set the size. It should be firm but allow for movement. Cut to size and with a safety pin, thread the elastic through the casing. Overlap the ends and stitch securely, then allow the join to slide neatly into the casing. Repeat on the other side.

Jacket

Both front and back jacket pieces have dots to show where pleats are to be stitched at the waist band. The pleats are 4cm wide, with a double row of dots to indicate the vertical stitching line but as there is such a variety of size in children, stitch as many or as few as you think is best for the fit of your child. Match the top dots together and the bottom dots together, pin in place and stitch through from top to bottom (or vice versa) securely. (We've allowed for 2 pleats per front and 4 across the back, with an additional pleat over the side seams if needed.)

With right sides facing, match the jacket back JB with the jacket front (JF) at the shoulder seams. Allowing a 1.5cm seam allowance,

stitch in place. Neaten the seams with a zig-zag stitch or an overlocker if you have one.

The sleeves (of contrasting fabric) S are very full, so run a gathering thread from the outside notches and gently draw up the additional fabric to allow the sleeve to fit the armhole smoothly. Match the notch at the shoulder head to the shoulder seam. Make sure the double notch is matched to the JB and the single notch to the JF, pin in place and stitch together. Repeat on the other side and neaten the seams with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker.

Match the hemline of the sleeves and the hemline of the jacket, ease the fabric together, pin and stitch in place. Repeat on the other side and neaten the seam with a zig-zag stitch or an overlocker.

Neaten the hemline of the jacket and using the notches on the side seams as a guide, turn under the hem. Use the notch on the centre to position the front facing. Turn to the wrong side and stitch the first part of the hem in the facing. Turn back to the right side, pin the hem in place and stitch through to secure.

Match the back neck facing BF to the front facing (grown on to the jacket front, so that the neck curve is complete) and stitch the ends of the facings together. With right sides facing, match the neckline curves of both jacket and facings, keeping the shoulder seams smooth and stitch in place. Clip the curve at right angles to 2mm from the seam line to allow the neckline to curve smoothly. Clip across the corner to within 2mm of the stitching that forms the front edge of the neckline, push neatly into the corner and turn through to the right side.

The jacket insert creates a false shirt-front for the jacket. Neaten the cutting edge of the insert, right the way round. The neckline can be left as one or can be opened down to the central dot. Create a narrow hem around the neckline of about 1cm. To create a decorative effect, use a zig-zag stitch and dark thread and follow the cutting line of the neck edge about 1cm from the edge. Stop at the centre dot at the neckline and turn the foot, then sew - still with a zig-zag stitch - down to the central dot. Turn the foot again and sew back up to the centre dot at the neckline, then continue on about 1cm from the cutting line to the other side of the insert. If you decide to open the insert, take a pair of sharp scissors and neatly cut between the two lines of zig-zag that form the outline to the central dot.

Working from the inside of the jacket, match the neckline of the jacket and the insert. Make sure that the right side of the insert faces the same way as the jacket. Pin the insert to the shoulder seam. Stitch the jacket insert to the shoulder seam on the right hand shoulder. Follow the edge of front facing and the jacket insert. Pin both layers of fabric to the outside of the jacket on the right side only. Stitch in place from the top.

Attach the loop side of the Velcro to the left side shoulder seam. Attach the hook side to the insert shoulder seam. Match the hem of the insert to the stitching line of the jacket hem. Follow the edge of the facing and the insert and pin to the outside of the jacket. Stitch in place from the hem to 5cm below the pleats.

Level with the armhole, attach the looped side of the Velcro to the front facing and match the same position of the insert. Attach the hooked side of the Velcro to the insert. This closes the jacket across the chest.

Follow the edge of the facing and pin this to the outside of the jacket. Pin and stitch in place.

The narrow cord can now be hand sewn over the armhole to give the effect of binding. Use a large eyed needle and secure the end of the cord with a firm knot. Start about 15cm from the bottom of the

armhole and work over the seam in a diagonal running stitch. Repeat on the other side.

Measure the narrow elastic around each wrist and cut to size. With a safety pin thread this through the hem of the sleeve. Leave the ends free and securely stitch together. Pull back inside the casing. Repeat on the other side.

Knot the ends of the heavier cord and use this for a belt. The costume is ready to go. Well done!

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

Quick-Sewing Guide

Breeches

Centre front seam, centre back seam, outside seams, under leg seam. Waistband casing, leg hems, measure elastic for all and thread through.

Jacket

Form pleats, shoulder seams, insert sleeves, under arm seam, hem jacket. Join back neck facing to front facing, attach to neckline. Neaten insert, hem neckline, decorative stitching to opening of insert, attach to right shoulder seam. Follow facing and stitch through to outside of jacket right side only. Attach Velcro to left shoulder seam and insert, match hem lines of insert and jacket, stitch in place to pleats. Attach Velcro to inside facing and to insert.

Apply narrow cord to armholes, measure elastic around wrists and thread through hem of sleeves. Knot ends of cord belt.