

Getting Started

The costumes come in kit form, with the pattern printed directly onto the fabric. It is important to lay the fabric out on a flat surface - the floor is fine - before you start to cut anything out.

Make a note of how the pieces are labelled. Each piece has a title outside the cutting line and once they are cut out, you won't be able to refer to what it is. You could cut out this title and pin it onto the corresponding piece if you are worried.

The cutting lines for the pieces have construction notches. The front pieces have one notch and the back pieces have two notches. Another good way to distinguish between front and back is to attach a safety pin to all the back pieces (or all the front pieces) and group them together.

Make sure your scissors are suitable for fabric too, as scissors that you cut paper with will not be as sharp and could snag the cloth.

Read the instructions and if anything doesn't make sense, please call us. We want you to enjoy making your costumes and are very happy to help, if something goes wrong.

Follow the order that is given in the instructions for making up your costumes. We have had test sewers construct the costumes and this was the order that they felt was easiest and gave the best results.

All seam allowances are 1.5cm.

All hem allowances are 3cm. Hems on jackets are 2.5cm. Sleeve hems are 2.5cm.

Not all costumes come in all sizes, so if your child is smaller than the size of the costume - even though it is the right age - adjust the sewing line by taking it in by .5cm. Make sure you match the edges of the fabric to allow for the pieces to line up properly as with the original sewing line.

If your child is shorter than average, adjust the hem-line by reducing the length of the garment and cutting out the pieces inside the original cutting line. This could be done after the child has tried on the nearly finished garment, so that you can see exactly how much you need to reduce the length by.

If your child is larger than the size of the costume - even though it is the right age - adjust the cutting line by cutting out the pieces 1cm outside the original cutting line. Make sure that you match the edges of the fabric to allow the pieces to line up properly as with the original cutting line.

If your child is taller than average, adjust the hem-line by cutting out the pieces 2.5cm below the original hemline.

Always use a damp cloth - tea-towel - to iron the costumes. This will protect the fabric and help to keep the seams neat.

As with all clothing please do not allow your child to wear this costume near naked flame or fire.

Sewing Instructions

TUDOR WEALTHY 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. **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.**

Breeches

Place both front F pieces right-side together and allowing a 1.5cm seam, join the centre front seam. Neaten the raw edge of the seam.

Place both back B pieces right-side together and join the centre back seam. Neaten the raw edge of the seam.

Open both front and back pieces and lay F over B, matching the edges of the waist and hem. Sew the side seams on both sides and neaten the raw edge of the seam.

Match the under-leg seam and stretch the pieces slightly to allow for the fabric to join neatly. Sew carefully across the other seams. Neaten the raw edge of the seam.

Using the notches on the side-seams turn under the waistband allowance and pin in place. Stitch round until you are 3cm from the place you started. Leave this gap so that you can thread elastic through for the waistband.

Using the notches on the side-seams, turn under the hem allowance for the leg and pin in place. Stitch round until you are 3cm from the place you started. Leave this gap so that you can thread elastic through the leg hem. Repeat this on the other leg.

Measure the wider elastic on the waist of the wearer and allow a 5cm overlap. Attach a safety pin to one end and thread this through the opening on the waistband casing. Continue to thread the elastic through until the safety pin come out the opening again and then stitch the ends together securely. Arrange the elastic neatly within the waistband casing so that the fullness is even.

Measure the narrow elastic around the thighs of the wearer and allow a 3cm overlap. Remember to cut 2 pieces and thread through the leg casings as for the waist.

Trim

This is slow and repetitive, but worth the effort!

The Picadil edging has bias tape to cover the edges. Place the bias tape over the fabric trim so that the raw edges of both meet, about 5mm. Fold the tape around the fabric edge and using a zig-zag stitch in a contrast thread, sew the tape in place. Cut the tape, turn the trim and repeat. Six will be used for the shoulders, six across the back and the angled pieces (four for each side) form the front hemline. Do the straight pieces first to get used to the technique.

For the angled pieces, simply stretch the bias tape slightly around the angle and continue to sew as the angle is reached.

The ruff is pleated by hand. Turn under a small hem at each end of the ribbon and stitch with a zig-zag stitch to neaten. Make a pencil mark every 3cm and join the dots to form 1.5cm pleats, pin the ribbon into place, then stitch across the pin line. The finished ruff should measure about 32cm - or the same as the collar.

Jacket (Doublet)

Placing right-sides together, take the back B and place the front F over the top, matching the shoulder line. Use a 1.5cm seam and stitch across. Repeat for the other shoulder. Neaten raw edges.

Using 3 pieces of trim per armhole, fold the trim in half, place the raw edges together and match to the armhole edge. The centre piece is placed with the shoulder seam as the centre and the other pieces either side. Stitch together and repeat on other side.

Take the sleeve S and with right-sides facing matching the notch at the centre of the sleeve to the shoulder seam. Check that the trim is smooth and sandwiched between the two. Make sure that the notches for front (single notch) and back (double notch) face the right pieces. Pin the centre and then stretch the fabric slightly to allow the edges to ease together. The sleeve will be more full than the armhole, but this can be pinned or gently eased with your fingers for a smooth line. Stitch in place and neaten raw edges. Repeat for the other sleeve.

With right-sides facing, match the cuff line of the sleeve S and place the front F on top of the back B. Match the hem line at the side-seam, match the armhole seam, pin in place and stitch the underarm from hem to cuff. Neaten raw edges. Repeat on other side.

With the collar folded in half lengthways - right-sides together, stitch either end with a 1.5cm allowance to create the upstand to support the ruff. Turn through to the right side and with a smooth tea-towel to protect the fabric, iron the collar so that the edges are square.

On the neck edge of the jacket there are dots marked close to the centre front. This shows the position of the collar. With the right-side of the jacket up, lay the collar on top, match the raw edges and pin the edge of the collar at the dot. Stretch the collar slightly to allow it to 'stand up' and pin the end to line up with the second dot. Match the notch at the centre of the collar with the centre back of the jacket. Stitch round the neckline, stretching the fabric gently for a smooth line. Neaten the raw edges.

The front edge of the front F forms the facing. With the right side up, neaten the edge from the shoulder piece to the hemline.

The notch in the centre of the neckline is centre front. With the right side up, fold the facing back on itself at centre front to cover the collar, match the raw edges and stitch from the edge of the facing to centre front. Make small cuts from the raw edge toward the stitching line (stopping about 2mm from the stitching) to allow the fabric to curve. Turn the right side out and gently put the point of your scissors into the corner of centre front to create a sharp edge. Pin the Velcro in place on both sides of the jacket 1cm below the neckline, Put the hooked side on the front of the jacket and the fluffy side on the inside of the jacket. Stitch in place securely. Repeat the process on the other side.

Secure the shoulder edge of the facing by stitching along the shoulder seam allowance, this really makes things look tidy inside.

Now for the trim - Front trim (FT) numbers 1-4 are for the front edge of the jacket, FT1 is centre front, FT2 beside it etc. The angled edge is difficult to work out, so lay the jacket right side up and lay the trim pieces as they will hang - centre front follows the line of the front from neck to hem, the others are angled from that and follow the hemline angle, FT4 will overlap the back, but this is fine. Then fold them back onto the jacket and pin in the position you need to sew. Now fold the facing hemline over the trim pieces and stitch across the same stitching line to finish the centre front edge. Make sure not to catch the trim! Turn through to the right side and repeat on the other side. Now, lay the jacket right side up and place the trim across the back. This is more straightforward as all the pieces are squared at the corners. Simply adjust the spacing and pin in place. Stitch across and then neaten the raw edges of the whole hemline. You're nearly done!

Neaten the hem of the sleeves and then find the notch on the seam to form the hem of the sleeve, pin evenly. Stitch this round and repeat on the other side.

Add the ruff to the collar by laying the ruff on the inside of the collar edge. With a 5mm allowance stitch the ruff in place so that it stands above the collar.

Cut the ribbon in half and fold under 2cm at one end. Place this onto the collar of the jacket and stitch in place. Repeat on the other side.

Everything looks better if it's neatly pressed, so **using a smooth tea-towel to protect the fabric** iron the seams and hemlines flat.

Well done, this is a time consuming project, but doesn't it look great?

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 Check

Breeches

Join centre front, centre back, side seams and then under leg seam. Form waistband casing, form leg hem casings. Thread through elastic.

Jacket

Make trim and ruff. Join shoulder seams, put in sleeves, underarm seam, and collar. Attach facing at neck edge, apply trim and attach facing at hemline. Hem sleeve and attach ruff. Add ribbon to collar.