

Sewing Instructions

VICTORIAN URCHIN 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.**

This kit includes breeches, jacket and necktie. Work on one item at a time. You may want to cut out the pattern pieces as you need them.

Breeches

Place both front F pieces right-side together, match the waistband edge and join the centre front seam. Neaten the raw edge of the seam with a zig-zag stitch or an overlocker if you have one.

Place both back B pieces right-side together, match the waistband edge and join the centre back seam. Neaten the raw edge of the seam with a zig-zag stitch or an overlocker.

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 with a zig-zag stitch or an overlocker.

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 with a zig-zag stitch or an overlocker.

Neaten the waist-band edge with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker. Using the notches on the side-seams at the waist as a guide, turn under the waistband allowance, pin and stitch in place.

The buttons printed on the front are used as the position of a front pleat, so 5mm to the outside of either button apply Velcro vertically over the waistband, stitch in place. Then 5mm to the outside of the first piece of Velcro, apply the partner so that the fabric folds to form a pleat that sits behind the button.

Neaten the hem edges of the legs with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker. Using the notches on the side-seams of the legs as a guide, turn under the hem allowance for the leg, pin and stitch in place.

The elastic in the kit is to create braces to hold the breeches up. Fold the elastic in half lengthways and pin this point to the centre back seam at the waistband. You'll need to do a fitting at this stage to set the length of the elastic. Get your boy to wriggle into the breeches and measure the elastic over his shoulders to the buttons at the front. The breeches are high-waisted and the elastic should hold the trousers smoothly but still give room under the legs for comfort.

Cut off any excess elastic and then hand sew in place at both back and front joins.

Jacket

With right sides facing, place jacket front F over jacket back B. Match the shoulder seams, pin and stitch in place. Repeat on other side. Neaten the seams with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker.

With right sides facing, match the centre notch of the sleeve head to the shoulder seam. Make sure that the double notch aligns to the back B and the single notch to the front F. Stretch the fabric slightly to allow the fabric to line up smoothly, pin and stitch in place. Repeat on other side. Neaten the seams with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker.

Match the sleeve hem and the waist hem of the jacket to sew the underarm seam. Stretch the fabric slightly to create a smooth seam, pin and stitch in place. Repeat on other side. Neaten the seams with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker.

Fold the collar C in half lengthways with the right side inside. Pin and stitch both short ends. Turn to the right side.

Match both ends of the collar C to the dots at centre front of the jacket neckline. Match the notch at the centre of the collar to the centre back of the jacket neckline. Stretch the fabric slightly to allow both pieces to create a smooth seam. Pin and stitch in place.

Neaten the edge of both front facings with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker.

Fold the front facing over the jacket front at the notch in the centre of the neckline (so that right sides are facing). Match the neckline edges and continue the stitching line from the collar seam through to the edge of the facing. Repeat on other side. Clip the collar seam to 2mm of the seam-line so that the fabric can curve smoothly. Neaten the collar seam with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker.

Neaten the sleeve hems with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker. Using the notches on the underarm seams as a guide, turn under the hem for the sleeves, pin and stitch in place.

Neaten the jacket hem with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker and turn the front facing over the jacket at the notch on the hemline. Stitch across the bottom 1cm up from the edge. Repeat on other side.

Using the notches on the side seams as a guide, turn up the hem for the jacket, pin and stitch in place.

Necktie

Neaten the edges all round with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker. Turn under a narrow hem, pin and stitch in place.

You're done, have fun wearing the costume.

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, side seams, under leg seam, waist band, apply Velcro to form front pleats.

Hem legs, fit elastic for braces.

Jacket

Shoulder seams, insert sleeves, collar, front facing, hem sleeves, hem jacket.

Necktie

Neaten and hem