

## Sewing Instructions

### VICTORIAN URCHIN GIRL

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.**

#### Dress

The centre front of the bodice has a decorative panel down the front. Work on this first. The dots at the neckline and waist show the positioning of this.

For the sample, I pleated this panel by marking dots 1cm apart between the outside dots and then stitching them flat first in one direction and then the other every 5cm down the front. The panel could be stitched pleats or even smocked (by hand stitching a running stitch across the panel every 2cm down the front.) Or you could simply form a box pleat and stitch that in place. **Allow for the outside dots to be 3cm apart in whichever decorative style you choose.**

With right sides facing, place pins in the top of both darts on the bodice back BB pieces. Turn through to the back, fold from the dart point to the centre of the notches at the waist and pin in place. Stitch from the notches at the waist to the dart point. Repeat on other side.

With right sides facing, place front bodice FB over back bodice BB and match the shoulder seam. Pin and stitch in place. Repeat on other side. Neaten the seams with a zig-zag stitch or an overlocker if you have one.

Using the bias tape included in the kit, lay a decorative strip over the sleeve S using the notches below the armhole as a guide. Top stitch in place. With the elastic provided, measure your child's upper arm for size and using a safety pin, thread the elastic through the casing created by the bias tape. Stitch both ends securely in place. Repeat on other side.

With right sides facing, match the centre notch of the sleeve head to the shoulder seam. Align the double notch to the back bodice BB and the single notch to the front bodice FB. 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.

Match the sleeve hem, underarm seam and the waist edge, pin and stitch in place. Repeat on other side. Neaten the seams with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker.

Using the bias tape provided, edge the sleeves. With right side of sleeve facing up, place right side of bias tape on top, stitch in place 1cm from cutting line. Turn the bias tape through to the wrong side and secure over the seam by running a second row of stitching around the sleeve hem. Repeat on other side.

With right sides facing, place front skirt FS over back skirt BS, match the waist edge at the side seams, pin and stitch in place. Repeat on other side. Neaten seam with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker.

Join centre back seam of back skirt BS from the dot to the hem. Neaten the seam with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker and continue this around the opening flap of the skirt.

Run a gathering thread around waist of skirt and gently draw up the threads to fit the waist of the bodice. Pin and stitch in place. Neaten the seam with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker.

Neaten neckline with the bias tape provided. With right side of bodice facing up, place right side of bias tape on to, stitch 1cm from cutting line taking care as you stitch over decorative panel at centre front.

Neaten back seam allowance of the bodice with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker.

Apply Velcro to the centre back opening by placing the Velcro 2cm down from the neckline, at the middle of the bodice and at the waist. Place the hooked side on the bottom, to the inside of the notches at the neckline (which mark centre back). Place the looped side on the underneath of the top (outside the notches on the seam allowance).

Turn the seam allowances at centre back over the bodice and match the neck edges - the bias tape will be sandwiched in the middle. Follow the stitching line where you joined the bias tape and stitch over the seam allowance to create a sharp corner. Repeat on other side and turn though to the right side. The bias tape will stand away from the seam.

With the wrong side of the bodice facing up, fold the bias tape over the seam and run a second row of stitching around the neckline to secure it. Take care when stitching over the decorative panel at centre front.

Neaten the hem of the skirt with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker. Using the notches on the side seams as a guide, pin the hem and stitch in place.

### **Shawl**

Neaten the entire edge of the shawl with a zig-zag stitch or overlocker. Turn under a narrow hem of 1cm and stitch in place.

The shawl can either be attached to the bodice at centre front as we have done, with a couple of hand stitches, or it can be knotted at the neck.

And you're done! 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 Guide**

Decorative panel centre front bodice, darts back bodice, shoulder seams.

Bias tape on sleeves, thread elastic through and secure. Insert sleeves, side seams, edge sleeve hems with bias tape.

Side seams of skirt, centre back seam of skirt, gathering thread to waist, fit to size of bodice waist. Edge neckline with bias tape, Velcro to back closing, hem skirt.

Edge and hem shawl, attach to dress if desired.