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Ashton Dress



Shopping List:

Follow commercial pattern recommendations to determine fabric requirements for Dress and Hood (dress in photo made with lightweight wool)

- Hood Pattern, such as that found in Simplicity 3694
- Dress Pattern, such as Simplicity 3835
- Approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ yard extra dress fabric will be needed for the cuffs, cuff tabs and faux welt pocket flaps
- Lining fabric for inside the hood (use commercial pattern to determine fabric requirements)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ Yard light-weight fusible interfacing (for cuffs, cuff tabs and faux welt pocket flaps)
- All-purpose thread to match fabrics
- INSPIRA™ needle, size 90
- Fabric marking pencil
- 2 Matching $\frac{1}{2}$ " buttons
- Hand sewing needle
- 1 Yard extra-wide double fold bias tape (in color to coordinate with dress)

By combining commercial patterns with a few of your own embellishments, you can create this designer look, too! These instructions will help you personalize a basic raglan dress pattern and basic hood pattern, by taking it one step further, showing you how to create cuffs, cuff tabs and faux welt pockets. You'll have your very own version of a designer dress. This project requires fairly proficient sewing skills and a basic understanding of general garment construction.

Note: Seam allowances for dress and hood will be according to commercial patterns. Seam allowance for cuffs, cuff tabs and pocket flaps is $\frac{3}{8}$."

Preparation:

Cut additional materials as indicated below:

1. For the Cuffs, cut 2 from dress fabric and 2 from interfacing – the width should be that of the sleeve (including seam allowances), and the depth should be 5¼."
2. For the Cuff Tabs, cut 4 of fabric and 2 of interfacing, all measuring 1½" x 6" (which includes seam allowances).
3. For the Faux Welt Pocket Flaps, cut 4 of dress fabric, and 2 of interfacing – each should measure 6¾" x 2¾" (which includes seam allowances).

Main Dress:

Assemble the dress, following commercial pattern instructions, with the following exceptions:

1. Don't hem the sleeves yet, as cuffs and cuff tabs will be added later.
2. Leave the hem until the end, to be sure of the fit once the hood is attached.

Hood:

1. Using commercial pattern instructions as a guide, sew hood outer pieces, right sides together. Do the same with the lining pieces.
2. Clip the seam allowances along the curved sections at the back of the outer hood and the hood lining. Press seams open.
3. Place lining and hood right sides together, then sew around front edge. Grade seam allowance. Turn the hood right side out and press.
4. Topstitch the hood front, about 1" away from the front edge.
5. Baste the hood and hood lining together, joining the raw edges at the bottom of the hood.
6. Cover the seam allowances at the bottom of the hood, using the extra-wide double-fold bias tape. This can be done either by hand or by machine.
7. Pin the finished hood to the neck area of the dress. Stitch together.

Faux Welt Pocket Flaps:

1. Apply the fusible interfacing to the wrong side of 2 pocket flaps.
2. Take one of the fabrics without interfacing and pin it to a pocket flap with interfacing, right sides together. Repeat for the other pocket flap pieces.
3. Stitch all around the pocket flaps, leaving a small opening for turning right side out. When stitching is finished, grade seam allowances and clip corners.
4. Turn the pocket flaps right side out and press. Hand-sew the openings closed.

Ashton Dress – Sewing Instructions:

(continued)

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Faux Welt Pocket Flaps: *(continued)*

5. Try on dress and pin the flaps in position as desired.
6. With machine set for straight stitch, sew the flaps onto the dress. Use an edgestitch to sew 3 sides of each of the flaps to the dress; leave the top edge of each flap free.

Cuffs:

1. Apply the fusible interfacing to the wrong side of each cuff fabric.
2. Fold the seam allowance to the wrong side at one long edge of each cuff. Press.
3. Fold the cuff pieces so the short ends meet, right sides together. Sew along short edges, then press open. Trim the corners of the seam allowances.
4. Note that seam allowance of one edge has been folded in, but the other is unfolded. Sew the raw, unfolded edges of cuffs to sleeve ends with right side of cuff against wrong side of sleeve.
5. Turn the cuff, bringing the folded seam allowance to the stitching line where the cuff was just attached to the sleeve. Pin in place, then stitch from right side.
6. Fold the cuff up. Stitch it in place so that it won't unroll.

Cuff Tabs:

1. Apply the fusible interfacing to the wrong side of 2 of the cuff tab fabrics.
2. Take one of the fabrics without interfacing and pin it to a cuff tab with interfacing, right sides together. Repeat for the other cuff tab pieces.
3. Stitch the cuff tabs, down one long side, across one short end, and back up the other long side.
4. Clip corners and grade seam allowances.
5. Turn right side out. Turn in the remaining raw edges on each tab, then press.
6. Edgestitch all around each tab.
7. Use fabric marking pencil to mark buttonhole placement. The buttonhole placement should be near one end of each tab.
8. Stitch buttonholes, then cut the buttonholes open.
9. Attach the cuff tabs to the inside of sleeve cuffs.
10. Hand sew the button in position, then button the tabs over the cuffs.

Finishing:

Try on the garment to determine desired hem length. Set the machine for a blind hem stitch, then hem the dress.