

General Information:

Summer dresses, made from lightweight fabric like silk organza or printed cotton, were popular during the time of the early bustle era from 1869-1876 for excursions to the sea or sporting activities like tennis. Hence the name “seaside costume” comes. Beside strong and light colors also striped fabrics were popular. Striped fabric often was cut on the bias for ruches and decorations to create lovely patterns.

At the beginning of the era skirts were supported by smaller crinolines with an additional bustle at the back. At the middle of the seventies the crinoline was displaced by the actual tournure or “Cul de Paris”.

Information's about the sewing pattern:

A seam allowance of 5/8” (1,5cm) is included, except other directions directly on the sewing pattern. Transfer all marks carefully when cutting the fabric. Pleas always do a mockup first.

To get the desired shape the dress should be worn over a corset and suitable underpinnings. The dress is intended to be worn for more sporting activities, so it is designed to be worn over a small to a medium size bustle pad. If you want to wear the dress over a small crinoline or a larger bustle you have to spread the back width of the skirt to the hip era. Plan to make two or three pleats into the skirt gore #2 and #3 at the hip section.

The front waist piece and the front apron are cut as one piece, at the side and the back the apron pieces are sewn on and folded into regular pleats at the back. The waist itself and the front with the cut-on apron are lined. The technique used is called “flat lining”. That means fashion fabric and lining pieces are lined up, wrong sides together, and basted together within the seam allowance. In the further the two layers are treated like a single one.

Sleeves are different compared to modern ones. Both sleeve pieces are cut the same shape and are inserted smoothly around the armpit, spread the excess width evenly at the shoulder.

The waist is boned at the side seams only with synthetic whalebone, a waistband prevents the waist of sliding up. (You can replace the whalebone with strong and long cable ties.)

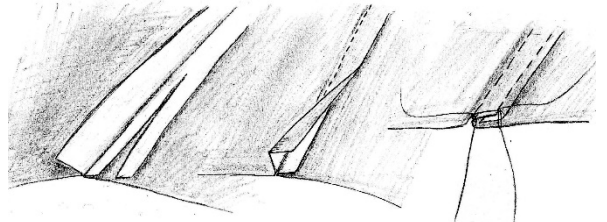
If you are using striped fabric take care of the grainline and the pattern repeat assembling e.g. the flounce.

Sewing techniques:

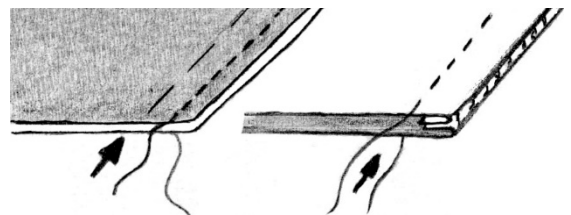
All seam of the skirt, apron and sleeves (but not the waist itself) are made as flat felled seams or French seams. Especially working with fine and sheer fabrics, seams neatened with an overlock stitch or zigzag can often be seen from the right side.

Required hand stitches: felling stich, overcasting stitch, buttonhole stitch

Flat felled seam: Join pieces, right sides together, press seam allowances towards the center back, trim back the bottom seam allowance to $\frac{3}{16}$ " (5mm). Fold the upper seam allowance around the trimmed and topstitch.



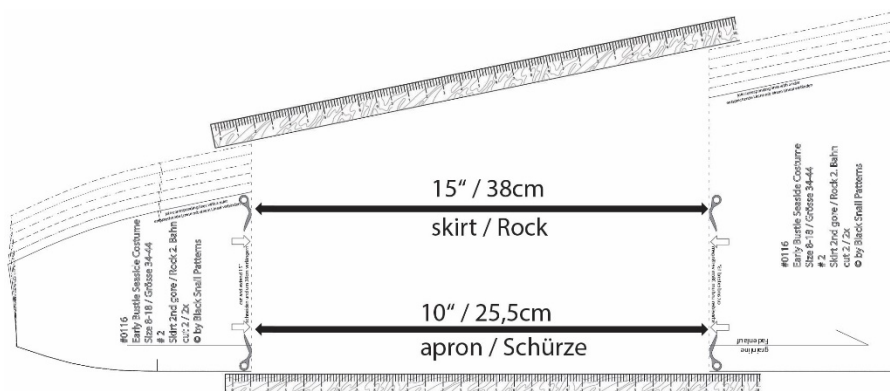
French seam (seam allowance $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1,5cm)): Join pieces, wrong sides together, make this first seam about $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) beside the edge. Press open seam allowances and fold along the seam right sides together. Sew again about $\frac{3}{8}$ " (8mm) beside the edge.



Assembling the sewing pattern:

Stick together all pattern pieces, cut the pattern pieces for the skirt along the dotted line and insert a strip of paper with a width of 15" (38cm). Connect the corresponding lines with a ruler.

At the pattern pieces 3rd gore apron and back part apron add 10" (25,5cm), follow instructions on the pattern.



Sewing instruction

Basic skirt with flounce

1. Cut all skirt pieces from your fabric. Depending on the width of your fabric, the width of the back part can vary. If you have a quite narrow fabric, width less than 40" (100cm) sew together either one and a half or two panels to get the required width at the back.

The width of the finished flounce is 12" (30cm) and is cut on the bias when working with striped fabric. Length of the finished skirt is 39 1/2" (100cm) at the front. At the front the skirt should be short enough that you won't stumble over the hem. If the skirt gets a little bit too long at the back or you wear it over a smaller bustle than planned, doesn't matter! You can gather up the skirt at the inside with tapes to the desired length.

In contrast to a common basic skirt at the time, this skirt isn't lined to create a lightweight and fluffy look. Wear a cotton petticoat underneath (use the sewing pattern of the basic skirt).

The skirt is closed on the right side between the 3rd panel and the back panel with hooks and eyes.

2. Close all seams with a flat felled seam, leave open the seam between the 3rd panel and back panel at the right side of the skirt.

3. Fold the placket lengthwise, right sides together. Sew along the bottom and the long edge. Trim back seam allowance and fold inside out, press. The placket now should have the desired width of 1 5/8" + 5/8" (4cm + 1,5cm) seam allowance.

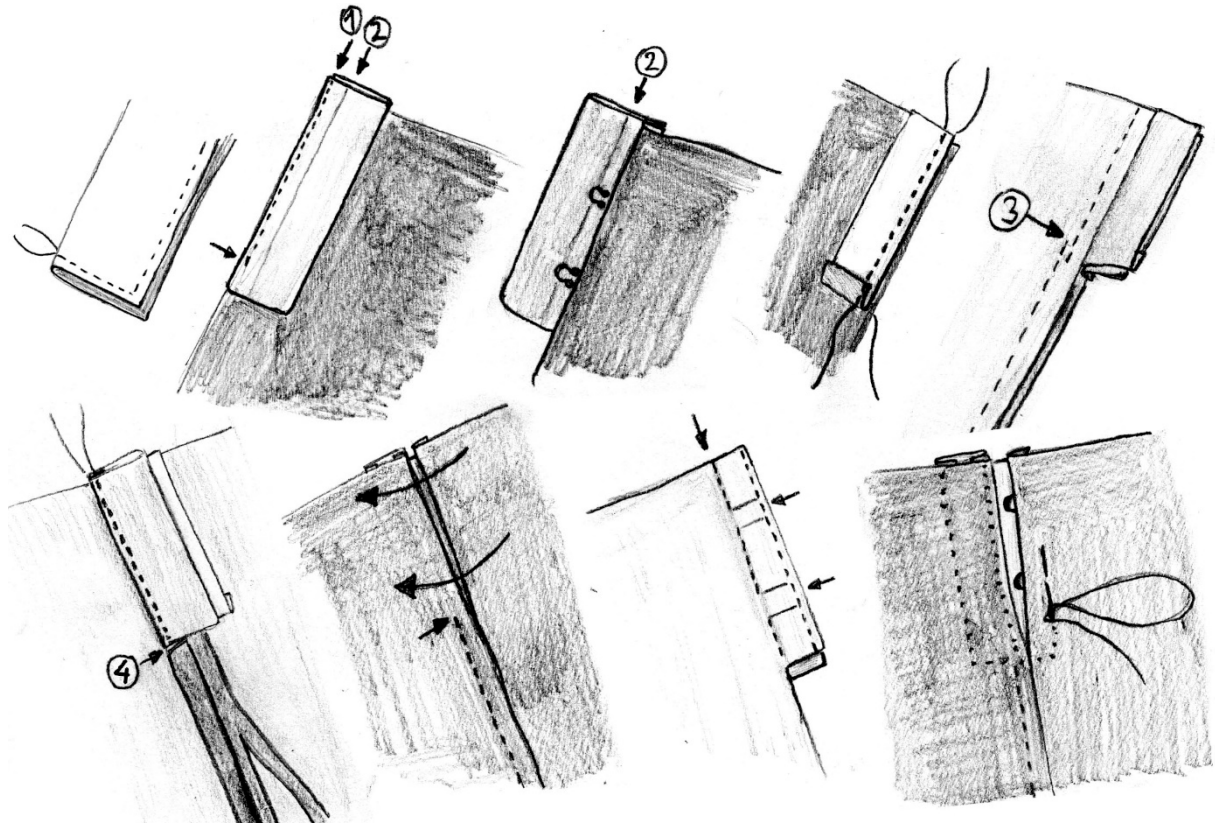
On the top side of the placket mark the seam allowance of 5/8" (1,5cm) (2) and line up with the edge of the back panel, right sides together. Sew close by the edge (1); stop at mark. Unfold the placket and mark position of eyes; Attach eyes by hand on the placket so that they just protrude a little bit the sewing line. (See illustration next page)

4. Sew placket facing to the edge of the 3rd gore, right sides together, turn in the seam allowance of the bottom edge while sewing.

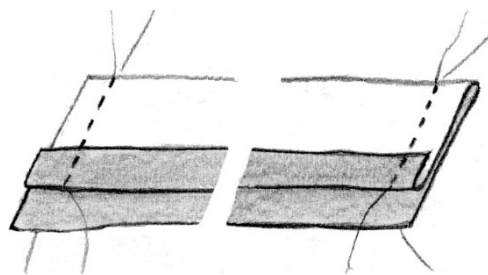
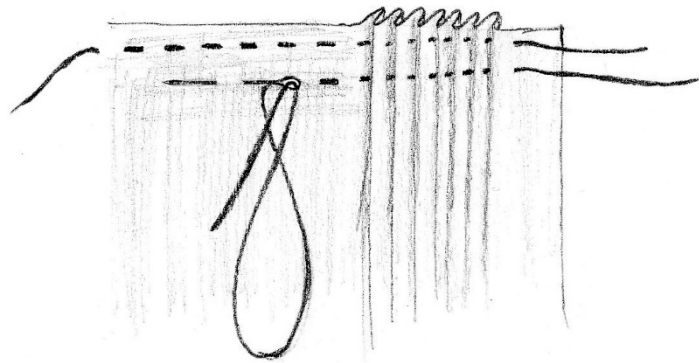
5. Close seam between 3rd gore and back part, fold aside placket and facing, sew. Stop about 5/8" (1,5cm) above the end of the facing seam (3); take care not to catch facing or placket.

Press open seam allowances, notch at the placket side (4) and continue with a flat felled seam as described above. Place the skirt on a table, right side up. Fold aside the skirt portion on the placket side and mark position of eyes. Sew along the stitching line; skip eyes, secure seams before and after skipping. If you want a continuous stitching line sew with your hand wheel so you won't break the needle. Press the edge carefully.

Turn in the remaining raw edge of the facing. From the right side sew with a prick stitch through all layers along all edges of the placket and seam allowances. Mark position of hooks and attach to the facing only.



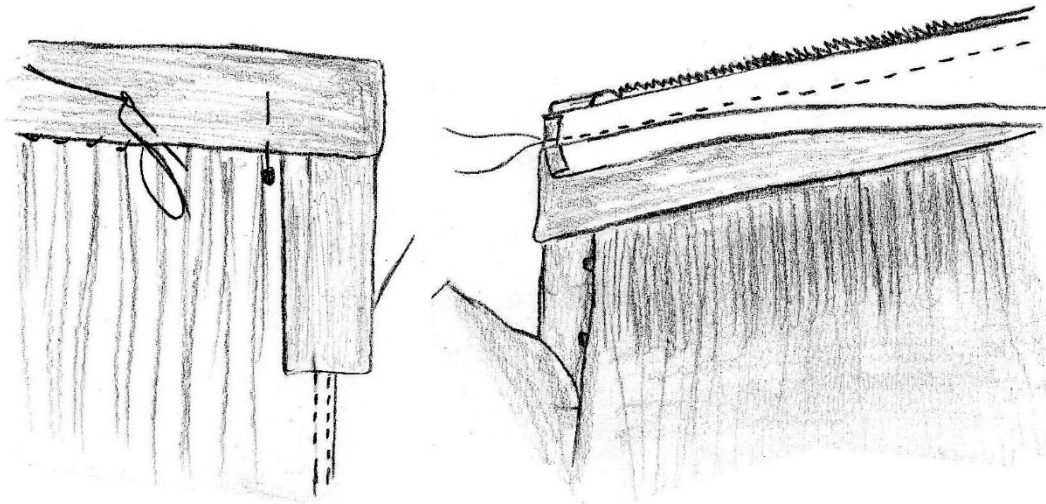
6. Along the top edge of the back part, sew two rows of gathering stitches for **cartridge pleats**. For regular folds draw in lines with a distance of $\frac{1}{4}$ " (5mm) or take the grid of the fabric as guide.



7. Flat line the **waistband** with cotton fabric, turn in the seam allowance along the bottom edge of the inside portion, and fold lengthwise, right sides together. Sew along the short edges, trim back seam allowances and fold inside out.

Pin waistband to the skirt, right sides together, arrange the cartridge pleats evenly, and sew. Arrange gore #2 and #3 in two or three pleats each side around the hip section for big bustles or small crinolines. Press all seam allowances into the waistband and attach the inside of the waistband with a felling stitch. Attach hooks and eyes (eventually sew eyes by hand).

Check length of skirt above your desired bustle/crinoline before attaching the flounce.



8. Width of the finished **flounce** is 12" (30cm); length is two times the hem. 6.2yds. (5,6m) up to size US 18 (EU 44), 6.8yds. (6,2m) up to size US 30 (EU 56). Depending on the width of the fabric, you'll need several straps with a width of 33cm. A smooth selvedge can be used, otherwise add 5/8" (1,5cm) seam allowance for a flat felled seam.

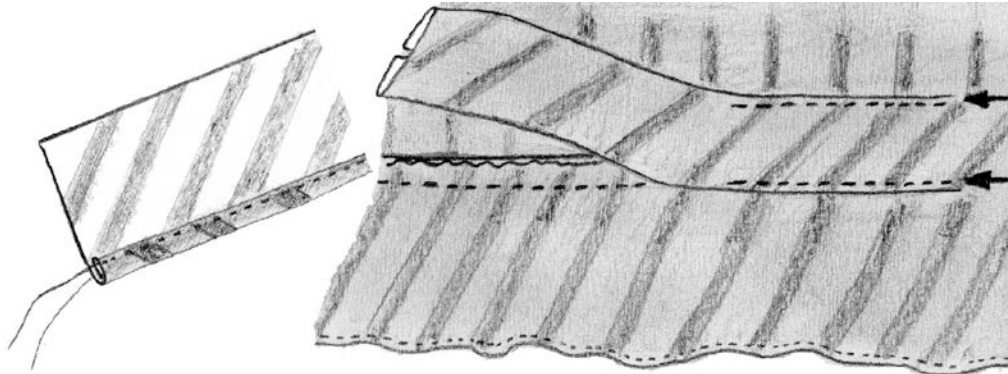
Join all straps, respecting the pattern repeat, close to a loop. Turn in the hem allowance of 5/8" (1,5cm) twice and topstitch. Sew two rows of gathering stitches along the upper edge (distance from the edge: 1/2" (1cm) and 3/4" (2cm). Mark 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/16 etc. of the flounce length, do the same at the skirt.

Pin flounce to the skirt, **left sides together**, pull threads and arrange the width of the flounce evenly, sew. Press seam allowance towards skirt.

Cut trimming straps on the bias; length of strap is the skirt hemline (not the flounce), 3.1yds. (2,8m) up to size US 18 (EU 44) and 3.4yds. (3.1m) up to size US 30 (EU 56), width (12cm), finished width will be (6cm). Respect the pattern repeat as you did before, join all straps with flat felled seams.

Cut a strap of cardboard with a width of (6cm) to help folding your strap (don't stretch the fabric while pressing on the bias). Place your cardboard centered on the wrong side of the strap, turn around the edges and press.

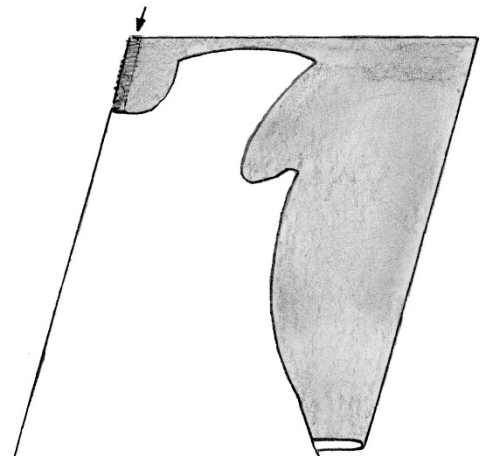
Start pinning the folded strap to the skirt at the center back, that it just covers the seam allowance of the flounce. Turn in the seam allowance at the end to cover the start. Topstitch the strap to the skirt close to the edges. Attach a matching satin ribbon or a strap of fabric cut on the straight grain along the center of the strap.



Bodice:

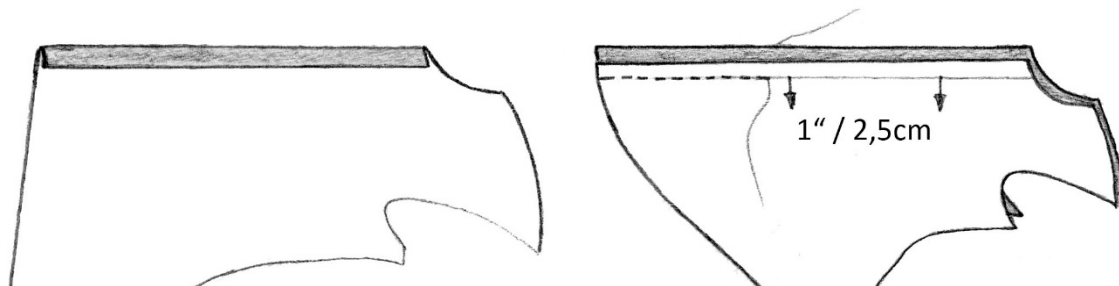
Cutting the front and front lining the selvages are cut on to reinforce the center front edge (see sewing pattern).

1. Flat line front part, side back part and back part with a lightweight cotton fabric.



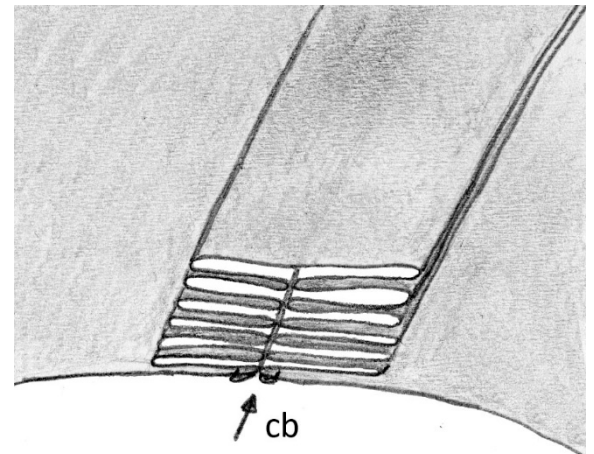
2. Turn in front facings along the front edges, wrong sides together, press and reopen. Line up the right front part on top of the left front part, right sides together. Now move the right front part 1" (2,5cm) towards inside. Sew together fronts along the pressed line of the right side, stop at mark. Now the right front edge meets the sewing line of the left side (see sewing pattern). Turn facings to the inside again. Sew along the left center front (along this line the buttons will be attached). On the right side just baste the facing, it will be hold by the buttonholes later on.

Baste darts at the front parts.

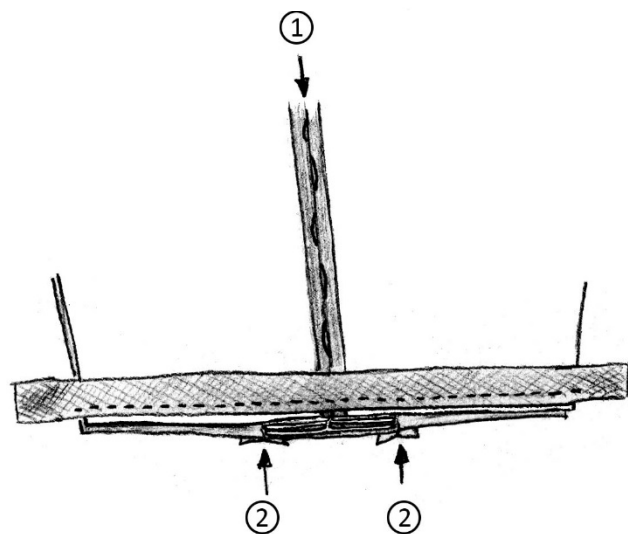


3. Join side backs #9 and back part #10, right sides together, ease in fullness between marks.

4. Join apron parts #11 (2nd gore) and #12 (3rd gore) with a flat felled seam. Sew to back apron #13. Fold the apron along the center back, wrong sides together. The seams between 2nd and 3rd gore (cb) meet now. Baste together along that seam (1). This basting now has to meet the center back of the back apron #13. Arrange the remaining fabric (3rd gore and back part) on both sides into six regular folds; baste folds in place along the top edge. The illustration shows the right side.



5. Place back apron part on top of the **back bodice**, right sides together, place a strap of fabric cut on the bias (width 1 5/8" (4cm)) on top of the apron, and sew. Press seam allowances towards back waist and trim back. Turn the bias strap around the seam allowances. Attach only to the lining with a felling stitch. (2): Seams between back and side back of bodice.

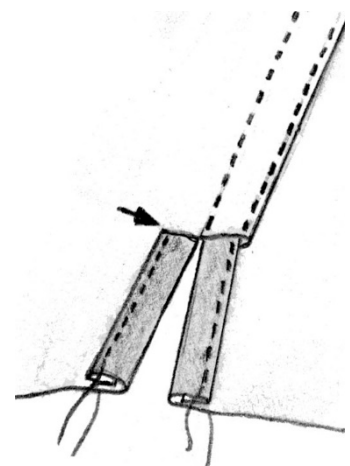


6. Sew shoulder and sides seams with a basting stitch, right sides together, and plan a fitting. Check and adjust front darts, side and shoulder seams. Sew finally.

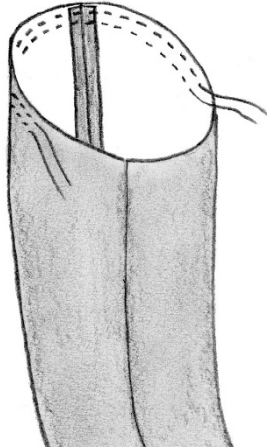
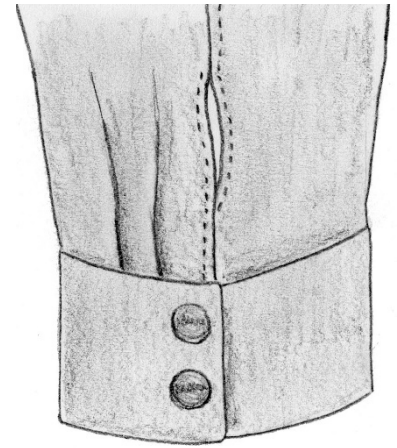
7. Fold the collar lengthwise, right sides together, turn in the inner seam allowance and sew along short edges. Trim back seam allowance and turn inside out. Sew to neckline, right sides together. Attach inner collar with a felling stitch (see waistband).

8. Sleeves:

Close back sleeve seam; stop at mark. Make a flat felled seam, don't trim back the seam allowance at the vent, notch at mark and turn in twice, topstitch. Secure the corner of the vent with a bar tack.

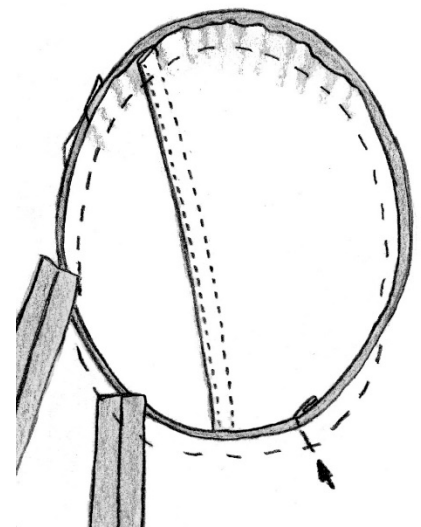


Close inner sleeve seam; making a flat felled seam can be a little bit tricky with the small sizes, better use a French seam. Flat line cuff with a lightweight cotton fabric. Fold cuff lengthwise, right sides together and continue like you did at the waistband/collar. Attaching the cuff, lay the excess fabric of the sleeve into two small folds, opening towards the vent.



Sew two rows of gathering threads along the sleeve head.

Insert sleeves, respecting the mark. Ease in the excess evenly with at the shoulder, pulling the gathering threads.



9. Flounce apron: working see skirt instruction

Join several bias straps with a width of 6" (15cm) for the flounce, length is twice the hemline – see table.

Width of trimming strap is 4" (10cm), fold to 2" (5cm). Length has to be the length of the hemline (flounce length/2).

Length of flounce, divide in half for trimming strap length:

US 8/10 (EU34/44)	7.2 yds. (6,6m)
US 12/14 (EU38/40)	7.7 yds. (7m)
US 16/18 (EU 42/44)	7.9 yds. (7,2m)
US 20/22 (EU 46/48)	8.7yds. (8m)
US 24/26 (EU 50/52)	9.6yds, (8,8m)
US 28/30 (EU54/58)	9.9yds. (9,9m)

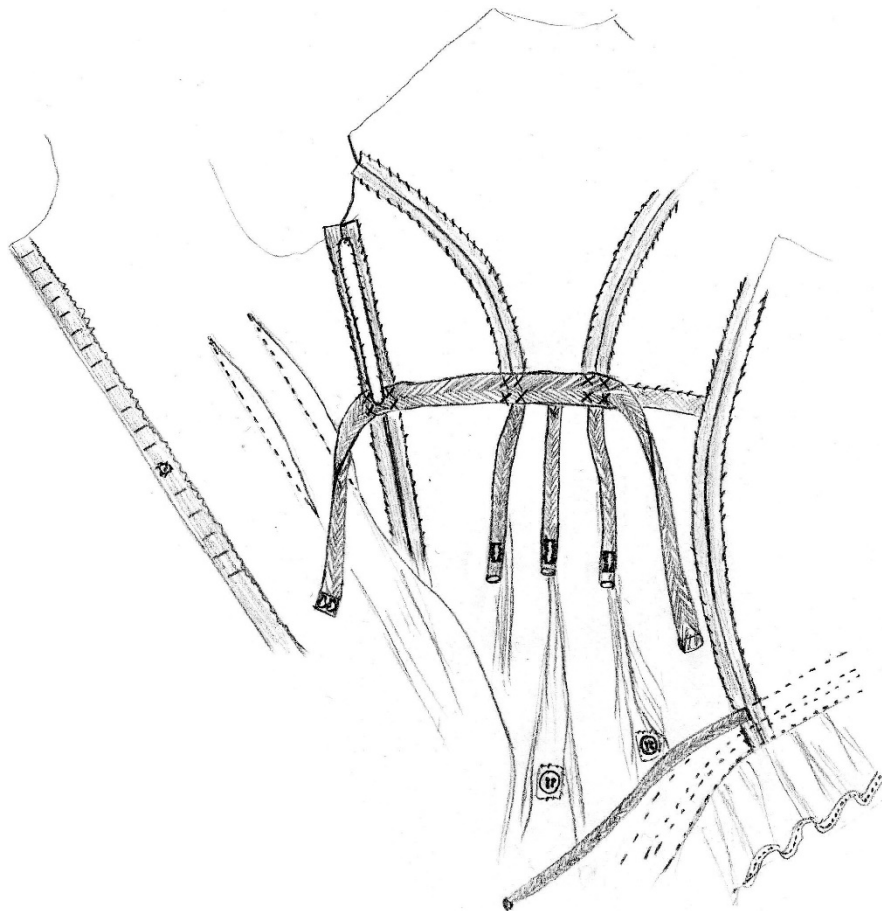
10. The inside:

On the inside of the bodice cast all raw edges with casting stitches. To gather up the apron attach three tapes with a length of 7" (17cm), make a button hole into the loose end of each tape. Position of tapes: center back and the seams between side back and back part. Sew buttons to the inside of the apron (see pattern), sew on buttons with an additional small piece of fabric between button and skirt fabric.

Attach cotton tapes to side seams (position see sewing pattern). This tapes are tied together to hold the volume of the apron backwards.

The side seams are boned with synthetic whalebone. Boning starts about 1 5/8" below the armpit and ends at waistline. For the bone casings cut stripes of lining fabric, turn in edges and sew them with a felling stitch to seam allowance of side seams. The width of the casing should be as narrow that boning can't twist inside of the tunnel. Insert boning and close opening carefully.

Take your waist measurement (the waistband should lay tight around the waist to hold the bodice in position) and add 2" for seam allowances and underlap. Turn in twice at both ends and topstitch. Attach hooks and eyes. Mark center back of waistband and line up with the bodice center back. Attach to the bodice within the seam allowances of the back and side seams with some stitches.



11. Closure:

Cover buttons with the fashion fabric, mark position of buttons, 9 above waistline, 10 buttons below waistline, 2 at each cuff. Sew corresponding buttonholes at front closure and cuffs; attach buttons. At the waistline, skip one button, close with a snap fastener to allow the belt laying evenly around the waist (see sewing pattern). The buttons reach down to the flounce, below the button tab the buttons are attached through all layers.

At the collar attach a hook and a hand-sewn eye.

For the belt cut a satin ribbon to the length of your waistline + 2" (5cm) for seam allowance and underlap. Tie a bow from the remaining ribbon and attach to the loose end of the belt. Attach the other end of the belt to the center back of the bodice, close at center back with hooks and eyes.

Sew a narrow ribbon to the collar to tie a bow at the center front.

Size Chart misses

General information for historical patterns:

For all historical patterns, which would be worn over a Corset, waist circumference is reduced, according to the next smaller size. For Example, you wear a size 14 with a bust measurement of 36" and a natural waist of 31" a waist reduction about 2" is already considered.

Please always do a mock-up first.

EUR	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56
US	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30
Body height					66							
Bust	31,5	33	34,5	36	38	39,5	41	43,5	45,5	48	50,5	53
Waist	26	27,5	29	30,5	32	34	35,5	38	40	42,5	45	47
Hip	37	38	39	40,5	42	43	45	47	49	51	53	55
Back length	16,5	16,5	16,5	16,5	16,5	16,5	17	17	17	17	17	17
Arm length	23	23	23,5	23,5	23,5	24	24	24	24,5	24,5	24,5	24,5
Upper arm circumf.	10	10,5	11	11,5	12	12	12,5	13,5	14	15	16	16,5
Back width	6	6	6,5	6,5	7	7	7,5	7,5	8	8	8,5	8,5
Neck circumference	13,5	14	14	15,5	15,5	15	15	15,5	16	16,5	17	17,5
all measurements in inch												

EUR	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56
US	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30
Body height					168							
Bust	80	84	88	92	96	100	104	110	116	122	128	134
Waist	66	70	74	78	82	86	90	96	102	108	114	120
Hip	94	97	100	103	106	109	114	119	124	129	134	139
Back length	41,4	41,4	41,6	41,8	42	42,2	42,4	42,7	43	43,3	43,6	43,6
Arm length	59,3	59,6	59,9	60,2	60,5	60,8	61,1	61,4	61,7	62	62	62
Upper arm circumf.	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	34	36	38	40	42
Back width	15,5	16	16,5	17	17,5	18	18,5	19,2	19,9	20,6	21,3	22
Neck circumference	34,6	35,2	35,8	36,4	37	37,6	38,2	39,4	40,6	41,8	43	44,2
all measurements in cm												