

Connie Dress Simplicity #2377 view A/B without rickrack and bow

This pattern is modified by adding 1 ½ inches to the top of the front/back bodice and the sleeve. This will allow you to be able to change the elastic casing to a ruffle. Use either ¼" or 3/8" elastic. You will use the elastic guide for the sleeve and neck. If you would like a larger ruffle for the bottom of the sleeve, add some there also.

1. With right sides together, stitch the front bodice to the back bodice at the side seams (5/8")
 - a. Finish or serge the seam and press towards the back. Leave ID tag on both until the size tag is placed on the back
2. Stitch underarm of sleeves (5/8"). **If you prefer to add the elastic with the sleeve flat, do this step after step 3.**
 - a. Finish/serge seams and press towards the back
3. Finish/serge lower hem of sleeve
 - a. Press up 7/8" to create casing
 - b. Stitch casing along from hem edge, leaving an opening to insert elastic (only if step 2 has been done)
 - c. Stitch again 1/4" from hem edge to create ruffle
 - d. Insert elastic and overlap ½". Stitch to close opening (Only if step 2 has been done)
 - e. If adding elastic to a flat sleeve, do step 2 now.
4. Set sleeve into bodice, matching back double notches and front single notch (5/8")
 - a. Clip, finish/serge seam
5. Finish/serge neck edge turning sleeve seams toward center of sleeve
 - a. Press up 1 ¼" to create casing adding a size tag if using
 - b. Stitch casing 1 1/8" from hem edge, leaving an opening to insert elastic
 - c. Stitch again 5/8" from hem edge to create ruffle
 - d. Insert elastic, overlap ½" and stitch to close opening
6. Instead of using the skirt pattern, just cut the skirt selvage to selvage using the appropriate length of the pattern
 - a. Stitch the skirt together at side seams (5/8"). If you like you can also stitch the edge with the fold to give the skirt a side seam look.
 - b. Finish/serge seams, pressing towards to the back
 - c. **HEM**-Finish/serge the bottom of the skirt
 - d. Press up 1" and top stitch. This is also an excellent time to use your blind hem stitch
7. Gather top of skirt (it's a good idea to gather it in ¼ sections as this makes the gathering easier)
8. With right sides together, match side seams of bodice to side seams of the skirt. You can also mark the middle of the bodice and match with the ¼ gathers on the skirt
 - a. Stitch at 5/8" and finish/serge the gathered seam
9. Using embroidery thread or 4 strands of regular sewing thread create chain for ribbon/belt at side seams. Google 'thread belt loop by hand' and watch the you tub video by Suanne Beaubien
10. Remove plastic center of flower and secure with thread and add a large jewel with a hole on each side to secure with thread. Also create a large thread loop on the back side of the flower to allow a hair clip to attach.
11. Cut 45" of brocade ribbon (cut on the diagonal to prevent fraying), insert thru the chains (step 9) and clip the flower.