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BULLETIN 23A



SUMMER DRESSES
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SEWING FOR SUMMER

*Two dresses and a bolero in gay pattern
and plain, contrasting cottons.*



PATTERNED COTTON FABRIC allied with plain cotton fabric is the theme of this bulletin.

The checked dress is made of red and white gingham and is trimmed with bands of white tape. It has a fitted bodice with cap sleeves and a back fastening. No buttonholes and no complicated seams—it is all so easy to cut and to sew. This style may be worn successfully by a girl of any age. The bust size of the diagram pattern given is 28 in. Follow the instructions and the simple diagram to make the bodice larger if required. The gathered skirt will fit any size, merely adjust the length. In this case more fabric will be needed.

The dress of green and white spotted cotton is worn with a white bolero jacket. A princess style has been selected, but no pattern is included in the bulletin, so that you may have the opportunity of selecting your own style from any good commercial paper pattern catalogue. Your selected pattern will of course include complete sewing instructions.

A diagram pattern and full working instructions are given for the fitted bolero jacket which may be worn with a variety of styles of summer dresses. The fabric selected for the jacket may tone or contrast with the dress.



Bulletin 24A contains instructions for making a very simple bolero and a flannel jacket.

CHECKED DRESS WITH BOW

Size: Waist 25 in. Bust 28 in. Length of Skirt 20 in. plus 2½ in. hem.

Materials: 2¼ yd. checked gingham, 36 in. wide; 4 yd. tape (the width of a check); 1 yd. belt backing, ¾ in. wide; six buttons, ½ in. diameter; two press studs; twelve hooks; one reel mercerised sewing cotton No. 40 to match; one Sharps needle No. 7; one machine needle No. 14.

Patterns: Make these from diagram, 1 sq. = 1 in. Solid spots mark edge to be laid on folded edge of fabric. Arrows mark straight grain. Broken lines mark darts. CF marks centre front; CB marks centre back. Notch marks base of armhole. Dotted line marks fold of facing. Xs mark position of buttons.

Cutting directions: Allow ¾ in. for seams on pattern pieces (finish all seams with machine stitching). Pattern A (Front). Cut one piece. Pattern B (Back). Cut two pieces. Skirt. Cut two pieces, 23½ in. by 36 in. Neck binding. Cut one crossway strip, 1½ in. by 22 in. Bow. Cut one piece, 12 in. by 5½ in. Bow Band. Cut one piece, 2½ in. by 3 in. Belt. Cut one piece, 2 in. by 29½ in.

Sewing directions: (1) Tailor tack round pattern pieces and darts to mark stitching lines. (2) Run a basting stitch down centre front. (3) Pin and baste darts on front and back bodice sections. (4) Baste side and shoulder seams. (5) Fit bodice, making any necessary alterations. (6) Machine stitch darts and press towards centre. Machine stitch side and shoulder seams. Press open and finish raw edges. (7) Press the facing on left back section to wrong side. Fold remaining facing to the right side. On right back section stitch along the fitting line at waist from edge of fold to

centre back line. Trim seam to ¼ in. and clip to end of stitching. Turn to right side and press. Finish long raw edges on both facings. (8) Place neck binding to neck edge, right sides together, raw edges even; baste and stitch along fitting line. Trim seam to just under ¼ in. (9) Fold binding over to wrong side. Turn in long raw edge and the two short ends; baste. Slipstitch in position just above the machine stitching. (10) Fold raw edge of each sleeve to the wrong side. Unpick the edge of shoulder seam to fitting line, then refold seam allowance so that folded edges meet, slipstitch. Turn in the raw edges ¼ in. and slipstitch in position. Sew a buttonhole bar on the wrong side at the base of each sleeve to reinforce. (11) Place the two skirt sections right sides together, selvages even; baste and machine stitch together, one seam ½ in. from the selvages; the other 3 in. from the selvages, leaving a 6½ in. opening at the top of this seam. Press the seams open. (12) On the wrong side of the opening, trim the left side of seam to 1½ in. and finish the raw edge. (13) Clip the right side of seam at the top of the stitching. Trim and finish the edge of seam below the slash. Finish the edge of seam above the clipped edge. (14) Run two rows of gathering stitches (one ½ in. above the fitting line, the other ½ in. below) round the top raw edge of skirt sections, between the centre back lines on each side of opening. (15) Pull up gathers to fit lower raw edge of bodice. Space gathers evenly all round; pin and baste bodice to skirt, having the right edge of skirt opening in line with the centre back of bodice and the left edge of skirt opening in line with the finished edge of back bodice. Machine stitch waist seam; press seam open then press it towards bodice. Remove lower gathering thread. (16) Trim the gathered raw edge of

seam to ¼ in. (17) Finish raw edges by turning in the other raw edge of the seam; fold it down to meet the line of stitching. Slipstitch the folded edge in position just above the machine stitching. (18) Fold the bodice facings back into position. Turn in the remaining raw edge of bodice facing and slipstitch to the fitting line of the skirt. Press the left side of skirt opening into a fold continuous with the bodice facing fold. (19) Finish the lower raw edges of opening on the wrong side with close blanket stitch. (20) Catch the left facing in position at the waist seam. (21) Sew the buttons to the right back bodice. (22) Sew six hooks on the underside of the finished right edge, evenly spaced as for buttons. Sew two hooks at the neck and waist of the bodice overlap and three hooks on the skirt overlap. Make buttonhole bars on left side of opening to correspond. Sew remaining press stud at neck edge to secure underlap. (23) Make 1 in. belt carriers at the side seams with buttonhole bars. (24) Measure hem and turn up to required length; turn in raw edge and slipstitch. Press. (25) Place tape round hem of skirt, the first row 3 in. from the edge and lying on a dark check; baste and machine stitch in position. Turn in the short ends and slipstitch. Repeat for the second row, approximately 1 in. above the first, and also lying on a dark check. (26) Place two strips of tape across the width of the bow strip, 4¼ in. from each short end. Baste and stitch in position. (27) Fold the bow strip in half lengthwise, right sides together; baste and stitch the long edges, ¼ in. from the edge. Press seam open. Turn to the right side and press, with the seam to the centre of one side. Turn in the short ends ½ in. and slipstitch the two ends together. (28) Fold in the edges of bow band strip to measure 1 in. by 2 in. Slipstitch

band in position round bow. Slipstitch bow to centre front of neck edge. (29) Place belt backing to wrong side of belt strip, centres matching. Baste. Fold in one long edge of belt strip and place over remaining long edge. Slipstitch in position. Turn in the open ends and slipstitch together. Sew a hook on wrong side at one end of belt; sew one half of a press stud on right side at the other end. Sew the remaining half press stud in position and work a button-hole bar to correspond with hook.

BOLERO JACKET

Size: Bust 32 in. or 34 in.

Materials: 1½ yd. pique, 36 in. wide; ¼ yd. stiffened interlining, 36 in. wide; one card bias binding to match; one reel mercerised sewing cotton No. 40 to match; one Sharps needle No. 7; one machine needle No. 14.

Patterns: Make these from diagram, 1 sq. = 1 in. Solid lines mark 32 in. bust size; dotted lines mark 34 in. bust size. Solid spots mark edge to be laid on folded edge of fabric. Arrows mark straight grain. Broken lines mark darts. CF marks centre front; CB marks centre back.

Cutting directions: Allow ¼ in for seams on pattern pieces (finish all seams with machine stitching).

Pattern A (Front). Cut 2 pieces. Pattern B (Back). Cut 1 piece.

Pattern C (Facing). Cut 4 pieces (2 in pique, 2 in interlining).

Pattern D (Sleeve). Cut 2 pieces.

Sewing directions: (1) Tailor tack round all pattern pieces and darts to mark stitching lines. (2) Run a basting thread down centre back bodice. (3) Pin and baste darts on front and back bodice. (4) Pin and baste centre back collar, side and shoulder seams. (5) Fit jacket, making any necessary alterations. (6) Machine stitch the centre back collar and the shoulder seams. Press seams open and finish the raw edges. (7) Machine stitch the darts and press towards the centre. Baste and machine stitch the back neck seam. (8) Machine stitch the side seams. Press open and finish the raw edges. (9) Overlap the centre back edges of interlining ¼ in. Machine stitch and trim the edges to ½ in. Trim seam allowance of interlining along outer edges. (10) Place interlining to jacket, wrong sides together, centre backs matching, raw edges even. Baste. (11) Baste and stitch the centre back seam of facing and place to jacket right sides together, centre backs matching, raw edges even. (12) Press seams open and trim to ¼ in. (13) Turn in inner curved edges of

facing. Baste and topstitch. (14) Catch facing to jacket at shoulder seams and at back neck. (15) Turn up hem at lower edge of jacket and slipstitch. (16) Baste and stitch darts on sleeves. Press upwards. (17) Baste and machine stitch sleeve seams. Press open and finish the raw edges. (18) Turn up a hem on lower edges of sleeves and slipstitch. (19) Place each sleeve in the corresponding armhole, baste and stitch in position. Overcast the raw edges together. (20) Press well.

Bodice Pattern Alteration

To widen the bodice pattern follow this method. Take your own bust measurement and compare it with the measurement of the original pattern. Divide the difference by four, as only half the bodice front and back are given. Cut the pattern as shown, avoiding the darts. Then spread each pattern to the required measurement and keep in position with a strip of paper pinned behind. To lengthen the bodice pattern, cut the pattern at right angles to the centre front, halfway between the waistline and the armhole (in this case marked by a notch). Spread the pattern to the required length and keep in position with a strip of paper pinned behind.

