

Pink bow wrap mini with a pleated underskirt - sewing instructions

EU 36 . 12 pieces . seam allowance 10 mm

0. Paper first

Print the pack at 100% scale, then measure the square on page 3 of the A4 pattern with a ruler. If it is not 100 mm, DO NOT CUT. Trim the sheets along the LEFT and TOP edges, overlap them until the corner targets (a cross in a circle) of neighbouring sheets sit exactly on each other, and tape. The page map is on page 2 of the A4 pattern.

Body and finished garment measurements

EU 36: standard size-table body, not your personal measurements. All circumferences below are in cm; garment minus body is the constructed ease. Seam allowances are excluded.

Bust: body 84.0 / garment 90.0 / ease 6.0 cm.

Waist: body 66.0 / garment 68.5 / ease 2.5 cm.

Hip: body 90.0 / garment 91.6 / ease 1.6 cm.

Skirt join (the bodice's lower edge, a closed loop): garment 81.6 cm round; body hip 90.0 cm. The loop sits where the skirt is attached, not on one body level. Closed, it is too small to pass the hips: open the zip fully to put the dress on. The zip runs 130 mm below the loop and opens it to 107.6 cm (needed: 92.0 cm, body plus clearance); step in, or pull it over the head. Hip, measured on the flared overskirt 103 mm below the skirt join (the skirt widens with depth). The wrap opens at the front below the knot, so at the hip the overskirt does not close round the body; only the underskirt does. Check the hip ease on the toile before cutting the final cloth.

Finished length

EU 36, standard size-table body: centre front 77.8 cm from the neck edge to the hem, centre back 76.8 cm. The hem sits 42.6 cm below the waist, 15.4 cm above the knee. The hem position was read from the photograph, not measured.

Layers at the centre front: FRONT OVERSKIRT hem 37.5 cm below the waist, FRONT UNDERSKIRT hem 42.6 cm below the waist.

To change the length, measure your own waist-to-hem length first. Add or take off the same amount at the hem of every piece: extend (or shorten) each seam line straight on in its own direction and redraw the hem parallel to the printed one, square to each seam.

Fabric and ease decisions

Fabric mechanics are unmeasured. The existing pattern uses its recorded default ease; this is not a fabric-specific fit approval. Sample evidence applies only to its stated load, direction, method and time. It does not establish seam elasticity, movement, pressure, comfort or physical fit. Test a toile and your actual cloth before final cutting.

Derived, not seen

The back is not visible in the photograph, so it was derived: a back with princess seams like the front and a centre-back seam, cut to match the front, with a centre-back closure; the front's decoration is not repeated.

1. Cutting

Cut along the OUTER line; the default 10 mm seam allowance is inside it, except where a different edge allowance is printed. The inner fine line is the stitching line. The arrow on each piece (grainline) must lie PARALLEL to the straight grain of the fabric - set it askew and the garment will twist on the body. A piece marked "ON FOLD" is placed against the folded edge and is never cut along it.

- #1 FRONT CENTRE: CUT 1X ON FOLD
- #2 FRONT SIDE: CUT 2X MIRRORED
- #3 BACK CENTRE: CUT 2X MIRRORED
- #4 BACK SIDE: CUT 2X MIRRORED
- #5 FRONT OVERSKIRT: CUT 1X RIGHT SIDE UP
- #6 FRONT OVERSKIRT (LEFT): CUT 1X RIGHT SIDE UP
- #7 FRONT OVERSKIRT CASCADE: CUT 2X MIRRORED
- #8 BACK OVERSKIRT: CUT 2X MIRRORED
- #9 FRONT UNDERSKIRT: CUT 1X ON FOLD - CONTRAST FABRIC
- #10 BACK UNDERSKIRT: CUT 2X MIRRORED - CONTRAST FABRIC
- #11 FRONT BOW LOOP STRIP: CUT 1X
- #12 FRONT BOW TAIL STRIP: CUT 1X

CONTRAST FABRIC: the pieces marked so are cut from a second cloth (the colour #eae4db in the photograph; polyester or nylon chiffon or georgette, which keeps heat-set pleats), with their own layout on the second page of the cutting layout.

RIGHT SIDE UP: lay the paper printed side up on the RIGHT side of the cloth, single layer, and cut once; this piece is not symmetric, a copy cut the other way round belongs to the other side. FACE DOWN: lay the paper printed side DOWN on the right side of the cloth (a facing is laid face down on its extension, so it is cut as its mirror).

2. Markings

Notches (the small ticks on an edge) tell you where two pieces meet. Cut each piece out on its solid line first; then, at every tick, snip 3 mm straight into the allowance from the cut edge, along the tick (a double tick is two snips). The tick is printed 7 mm long only so that you find it; it stops 3 mm short of the stitching line, so a 3 mm snip never reaches the seam. On a piece cut with no allowance (a binding strip) mark the tick with chalk instead of snipping. A single tick marks a FRONT edge, two ticks close together mark a BACK edge (Tilly: "two notches together usually indicates the back of a pattern piece"). A seam that joins a front piece to a back piece (a side seam) carries a single tick on BOTH pieces, so the two ticks you match always look the same. A tick that shows where a seam of the piece it is sewn to lands (a princess seam meeting the skirt's top edge) is single on front and back pieces alike: it has no partner tick, it goes to that seam line. Each seam step below names its notches piece by piece, with the distance along the edge.

2b. Staystitching

Before any seam is sewn, staystitch every edge that will be faced (NECK, ARMHOLE): a regular straight stitch 4 mm from the raw edge, inside the 6 mm allowance, so the curve cannot stretch while it waits through the seams, the zip and the fitting. Sew in one direction on each side: a neck edge from the shoulder or strap corner towards the centre, an armhole from the shoulder or strap corner down to the underarm. Handle these edges as little as possible until they are finished.

3. Sewing order

This order is not invented: it is the topological order of the stitch graph. The seams that keep the work FLAT come first; the seams that close a ring and turn flat work into a tube come after them (flat construction).

Seam allowances: after stitching each seam, neaten each raw allowance edge on its own with an overlock (serger) or a narrow zigzag close to the edge, so the cloth cannot fray inside the garment; then press as the step says. Bound edges,

hem turns and fold lines need nothing extra.

1. FRONT CENTRE <-> BACK CENTRE (SHOULDER) - plain seam, 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

shoulder seam: shoulder edge <-> shoulder edge, neck <-> neck

2. FRONT CENTRE <-> FRONT SIDE (FRONT PRINCESS SEAM) - plain seam, 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

PRINCESS SEAM THROUGH THE DART: the bodice dart is sewn as part of this seam, there is no separate dart. On both pieces the stitching line is one smooth curve through the dart point and the waist; match the notches, do not straighten the curve.

BUST SHAPING IN THIS SEAM (armhole princess: the bust dart lives in the seam): FRONT CENTRE is cut 49 mm longer above the bust line at the princess and armhole (the centre front keeps the body's length, so the neckline dips deeper at the centre front on the paper than when worn). The two edges curve differently over the bust: FRONT CENTRE's edge curves in (concave), FRONT SIDE's edge curves out over the bust (convex), notched on both pieces at the point nearest the bust point (39 mm from it). FRONT SIDE's outward curve is 6.1 mm longer (the ease below). On FRONT CENTRE, staystitch 2 mm inside the stitching line through the inward curve, then clip the allowance to the staystitching every 10-15 mm along the curve so it spreads. With FRONT CENTRE on top, pin the bust notches together first, then the armhole ends, then the lower ends and between, and sew slowly through the curve easing FRONT SIDE in between the notches. On FRONT SIDE, cut small V notches out of the allowance where it bunches on the outward curve. Press the allowances open over a tailor's ham (or a rolled towel), not flat on the board.

EASE, stretch by stretch (notches counted from the lower end): the FRONT SIDE is 1.6 mm longer between notches 1 and 2; the FRONT SIDE is 1.5 mm longer between notches 2 and 3; the FRONT SIDE is 1.0 mm longer from notch 3 to the upper end; elsewhere the two edges are the same length (within 1 mm). Pin the notches together first, then ease the longer piece in within its stretch, with no tucks; sew with the FRONT SIDE underneath.

notches - FRONT CENTRE princess edge (422 mm seam): single notch at 114 mm, single notch at 269 mm, single notch at 360 mm from its lower end (308 mm, 153 mm, 62 mm from its upper end); FRONT SIDE princess edge (427 mm seam): single notch at 63 mm, single notch at 155 mm, single notch at 312 mm from its upper end (364 mm, 272 mm, 115 mm from its lower end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

3. BACK CENTRE <-> BACK SIDE (BACK PRINCESS SEAM) - plain seam, 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

PRINCESS SEAM THROUGH THE DART: the bodice dart is sewn as part of this seam, there is no separate dart. On both pieces the stitching line is one smooth curve through the dart point and the waist; match the notches, do not straighten the curve.

The two edges differ by 1.4 mm in all and by less than 1 mm between any two notches: match the notches, no easing needed.

notches - BACK CENTRE princess edge (383 mm seam): double notch at 105 mm, double notch at 326 mm from its lower end (277 mm, 56 mm from its upper end); BACK SIDE princess edge (384 mm seam): double notch at 56 mm, double notch at 278 mm from its upper end (327 mm, 106 mm from its lower end). Match the single ticks to the single ticks and the double ticks to the double ticks; the two sides line up there.

4. FRONT OVERSKIRT <-> FRONT CENTRE + FRONT SIDE + FRONT UNDERSKIRT (FRONT SKIRT JOIN) - layered seam, 10 mm allowance; prepare each layer separately and join at one stitch line.

FRONT OVERSKIRT IS IN TWO PIECES (a wrap opening on your left): FRONT OVERSKIRT runs from your right side seam across the centre front to your left princess; FRONT OVERSKIRT (LEFT) runs from that princess to your left side seam. Prepare both pieces first (section 3b.1: opening edges, staystitched tops, pleats, cascade), then pin them to this seam as that section's skirt-join step says. The notches below are counted on the half pattern: on your left FRONT OVERSKIRT's top runs on past its CENTRE FRONT line along the centre panel's joint edge as far as the princess, and FRONT OVERSKIRT (LEFT)'s top runs along the side panel's joint edge.

Additional layer FRONT UNDERSKIRT: It is sunray-pleated, not gathered. Cloth: polyester (or nylon) chiffon or georgette: heat-set pleats hold only in thermoplastic fibres, cotton and silk lose them. BEFORE CUTTING, ask the pleating service for its sunray take-up (the printed sectors assume 2.00:1 at the top) and the largest radius its former takes: the cut sectors reach from about 794 mm (the top cut line) to about 1170 mm (the hem with its allowance) from the circle's centre, so the former must take 1170 mm; if either differs, have the sectors redrawn to its figures before you cut. The printed top cut line lies 40 mm above the top stitching line (a 30 mm extension plus the 10 mm seam allowance; the waist is trimmed after pleating): before pleating, thread-trace the top stitching line and its notches in a contrasting thread (the tracing survives the pleating and you trim and match along it). While it is flat: sew its side seams (allowances overlapped together, pressed to one side) and leave the centre back open, then hem the whole curved lower edge in one pass (section 3c). Send it to the pleating service as one piece to be sunray-pleated (pleats radiating from the top: narrow at the top, opening toward the hem); sunray pleats are set by heat on a former and cannot be folded by hand. After pleating, trim the top 10 mm above the traced line (the seam allowance) so the traced line matches the host length, close the centre back below its opening inside a pleat (its own step below) and baste across the pleats 5 mm from the top. It is already a ring: baste it to the joint in two halves, front and back, each only between the side-seam lines (stop 10 mm from each side edge), and baste across the side seams once the outer layers' side seams are sewn. Do not gather it.

Baste to FRONT OVERSKIRT, matching the notches; all layers share this single stitch line. Keep the free lower hems separate.

notches - FRONT OVERSKIRT top edge (212 mm seam): single notch at 91 mm from its outer end (121 mm from its centre-line end); the notch at 91 mm goes to the FRONT PRINCESS SEAM seam line (no partner tick). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

5. BACK OVERSKIRT <-> BACK CENTRE + BACK SIDE + BACK UNDERSKIRT (BACK SKIRT JOIN) - layered seam, 10 mm allowance; prepare each layer separately and join at one stitch line.

Additional layer BACK UNDERSKIRT: It is sunray-pleated, not gathered. Cloth: polyester (or nylon) chiffon or georgette: heat-set pleats hold only in thermoplastic fibres, cotton and silk lose them. BEFORE CUTTING, ask the pleating service for its sunray take-up (the printed sectors assume 2.00:1 at the top) and the largest radius its former takes: the cut sectors reach from about 794 mm (the top cut line) to about 1170 mm (the hem with its allowance) from the circle's centre, so the former must take 1170 mm; if either differs, have the sectors redrawn to its figures before you cut. The printed top cut line lies 40 mm above the top stitching line (a 30 mm extension plus the 10 mm seam allowance; the waist is trimmed after pleating): before pleating, thread-trace the top stitching line and its notches in a contrasting thread (the tracing survives the pleating and you trim and match along it). While it is flat: sew its side seams (allowances overlapped together, pressed to one side) and leave the centre back open, then hem the whole curved lower edge in one pass (section 3c). Send it to the pleating service as one piece to be sunray-pleated (pleats radiating from the top: narrow at the top, opening toward the hem); sunray pleats are set by heat on a former and cannot be folded by hand. After pleating, trim the top 10 mm above the traced line (the seam allowance) so the traced line matches the host length, close the centre back below its opening inside a pleat (its own step below) and baste across the pleats 5 mm from the top. It is already a ring: baste it to the joint in two halves, front and back, each only between the side-seam lines (stop 10 mm from each side edge), and baste across the side seams once the outer layers' side seams are sewn. Do not gather it. Baste to BACK OVERSKIRT, matching the notches; all layers share this single stitch line. Keep the free lower hems separate.

notches - BACK OVERSKIRT top edge (196 mm seam): single notch at 82 mm from its centre-line end (114 mm from its outer end); the notch at 82 mm goes to the BACK PRINCESS SEAM seam line (no partner tick). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

The remaining 9 seams each close a ring - sew them after the flat work above, in this order.

6. BACK CENTRE <-> BACK CENTRE (BACK CENTRE BODICE) - CLOSING SEAM: this one closes a ring, so flat work becomes a tube. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

back centre zip (bodice): the garment opens here

ZIP OPENING: along the whole seam (342 mm); machine-baste the opening shut on the seam line, neaten both allowances and press the seam open. Prepare the remaining zip openings before inserting the single zip in the final zip step.

BACK CENTRE: stop this seam at the small tick on its centre back edge, where the CENTRE BACK, LOWER BODICE seam takes over (the next 100 mm of this piece's edge are the CENTRE BACK, LOWER BODICE seam); the edge runs on straight past it, so the tick is the only mark.

7. BACK CENTRE <-> BACK CENTRE (CENTRE BACK, LOWER BODICE) - CLOSING SEAM: this one closes a ring, so flat work becomes a tube. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

ZIP OPENING: along the whole seam (100 mm); machine-baste the opening shut on the seam line, neaten both allowances and press the seam open. Prepare the remaining zip openings before inserting the single zip in the final zip step.

BACK CENTRE: this seam starts at the small tick on its centre back edge, where the BACK CENTRE BODICE seam ends; the edge runs on straight past it, so the tick is the only mark. Match the other piece's start of this seam to the tick.

8. BACK OVERSKIRT <-> BACK OVERSKIRT (SKIRT CENTRE BACK) - CLOSING SEAM: this one closes a ring, so flat work becomes a tube. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

ZIP OPENING: from 53% to 100% of its length (130 mm); sew the other 145 mm of this seam with a normal stitch, backstitching at the zip stop, machine-baste the opening shut on the seam line, neaten both allowances and press the seam open. Put the zip in over the basting now, as section 3b.2 describes, before the side seams are closed.

notches - BACK OVERSKIRT centre back edge (275 mm seam): double notch at 145 mm from its lower end (130 mm from its upper end). Match the single ticks to the single ticks and the double ticks to the double ticks; the two sides line up there.

9. BACK UNDERSKIRT <-> BACK UNDERSKIRT (UNDERSKIRT CENTRE BACK) - AFTER PLEATING, BEFORE THE SKIRT JOIN (see the layer's note at the skirt join step): close it below its open section with the seam inside a pleat's inner fold (match the pleats on both sides), 10 mm allowance; overlock the two allowances together, do not press it open. It is already done at this point of the order.

OPEN SECTION: the top 132 mm (the end at the skirt join) stays open: sew only the rest and backstitch where the opening begins (the notch on this edge). After the zip is in, turn the open allowances under along the seam line and slipstitch them to the zip tape, clear of the teeth.

notches - BACK UNDERSKIRT centre back edge (326 mm seam): double notch at 194 mm from its lower end (132 mm from its upper end). Match the single ticks to the single ticks and the double ticks to the double ticks; the two sides line up there.

Steps 10-12 are ONE continuous seam joining the same two pieces: sew them in a single pass, without stopping at the hand-over

ticks; the ticks only show where one part of the seam ends and the next begins.

10. BACK SIDE <-> FRONT SIDE (SIDE SEAM BELOW THE WAIST) - CLOSING SEAM: this one closes a ring, so flat work becomes a tube. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open (the ease shrinks out under the iron).

BACK SIDE is 2% longer than FRONT SIDE here (ratio 1.02): ease it in evenly between the notches, with no gathers showing.

FRONT SIDE: the small tick on its side edge is where the SIDE SEAM BELOW THE WAIST hands over to the BODICE SIDE SEAM (the next 194 mm); sew on through it.

BACK SIDE: the small tick on its side edge is where the SIDE SEAM BELOW THE WAIST hands over to the BODICE SIDE SEAM (the next 194 mm); sew on through it.

notches - BACK SIDE side edge (102 mm seam): single notch at 51 mm from its lower end (51 mm from its upper end); FRONT SIDE side edge (100 mm seam): single notch at 50 mm from its lower end (50 mm from its upper end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

11. FRONT SIDE <-> BACK SIDE (BODICE SIDE SEAM) - continues the step above in the same pass. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

bodice side seam: waist <-> waist, underarm <-> underarm

FRONT SIDE: the small tick on its side edge is where the BODICE SIDE SEAM hands over to the UNDERARM SIDE SEAM (the next 14 mm); sew on through it.

BACK SIDE: the small tick on its side edge is where the BODICE SIDE SEAM hands over to the UNDERARM SIDE SEAM (the next 14 mm); sew on through it.

notches - FRONT SIDE side edge (194 mm seam): single notch at 97 mm from its lower end (97 mm from its upper end); BACK SIDE side edge (194 mm seam): single notch at 97 mm from its lower end (97 mm from its upper end). Match the ticks; the two sides line up there.

12. FRONT SIDE <-> BACK SIDE (UNDERARM SIDE SEAM) - continues the step above in the same pass. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

the top of the side seam: carry the BODICE SIDE SEAM straight through this short edge in the same pass, then stop where the armhole curve begins

13. FRONT OVERSKIRT <-> BACK OVERSKIRT (SKIRT SIDE SEAM) - CLOSING SEAM: this one closes a ring, so flat work becomes a tube. 10 mm allowance, press the allowances open.

PLEAT HINGES ON THIS SEAM: FRONT OVERSKIRT's 3 pleat lines end on its side edge (25 / 45 / 65 mm below the top), where the pleats are zero: sew the side edge as one smooth line, nothing is folded into it.

14. FRONT UNDERSKIRT <-> BACK UNDERSKIRT (UNDERSKIRT SIDE SEAM) - SEWN BEFORE PLEATING (the layer is pleated in one piece, see its note at the skirt join step): with the layer flat, 10 mm allowance, overlock the two allowances together and press them to one side. It is already done at this point of the order.

3b.1 Left overskirt opening (wrap, knotted at the hip)

FRONT OVERSKIRT is the top layer: its top runs from your right side seam across the centre front to your left princess. Its edge runs down that princess line to the KNOT, then straight and diagonally down to its TIP (the pointed lower corner), which hangs 15 mm below the hem just past the centre front. FRONT OVERSKIRT (LEFT) runs from your left princess to your left side seam (your right SKIRT SIDE SEAM joins FRONT OVERSKIRT, your left one joins FRONT OVERSKIRT (LEFT)). On FRONT OVERSKIRT the dotted CENTRE FRONT line marks the centre front (the piece is cut whole, single layer): match it to the bodice's centre front. The drape's folds are 3 pleats cut into FRONT OVERSKIRT as wedges: each pair of lines PLEAT n FOLD / PLEAT n PLACE starts on the knot edge, open 20 / 25 / 30 mm there, and narrows to nothing at its hinge on the right side seam, so the fullness sits at the knot while the side seam and the hem stay flat (pivot pleats). FRONT OVERSKIRT CASCADE (cut 2: an outer and a lining) is sewn to FRONT OVERSKIRT's straight edge from the KNOT to the TIP (the cascade seam, 291 mm, notched at its middle on both pieces): it hangs outside that edge, below the knot, and turns back along its ROLL LINE to show its inside. The KNOT marks: on FRONT OVERSKIRT (LEFT)'s opening edge 57 mm below its top, and on FRONT OVERSKIRT's edge where the pleated stretch ends. Mark the lines, the knots and the TACK with chalk or thread on the right side, and snip 3 mm into the allowance at each line end.

1) Opening edges: narrow-hem FRONT OVERSKIRT's knot edge (from its top corner to its KNOT; the pleats are folded afterwards, through the hem) and FRONT OVERSKIRT (LEFT)'s opening edge (from its top edge down to the hem line): turn 5 mm to the wrong side, then 5 mm again, and stitch close to the inner fold. On the wrong side of FRONT OVERSKIRT, centre 6 mm stay tape on the stitching line of its cascade seam edge (KNOT to TIP) and stitch it within the allowance, so the bias edge cannot stretch.

- 2) The overskirt is sewn to the joint flat, without gathers (it flares from a curved top, cut as part of a circle). Staystitch both pieces' top edges 8 mm from the raw edge, so the curved, partly bias top cannot stretch.
- 3) Pleats: on FRONT OVERSKIRT's knot edge bring each PLEAT n FOLD line onto its PLEAT n PLACE line, the fold edge facing up, and pin. Machine-baste through all the pleats 6 mm from the hemmed edge, from the top corner to the KNOT: that stretch, 132 mm long flat, now measures 57 mm. Do not stitch or press along the lines: below the edge they open into soft folds across the front, fading out before the side seam.
- 4) Cascade: place the two FRONT OVERSKIRT CASCADE pieces right sides together and stitch their long free edge and their bottom edge, from the knot corner to the tip, 10 mm from the edge. Trim to 4 mm, clip the curves, cut across the corners, turn right side out and press. Baste the open edges together 6 mm from the edge.
- 5) Cascade seam: lay the cascade on FRONT OVERSKIRT, right sides together, its open edge on FRONT OVERSKIRT's cascade seam edge: its knot corner on the KNOT, its tip on the TIP, the middle notches matched. The cascade's edge is cut concave: clip its allowance to 7 mm every 25 mm so it lies straight along FRONT OVERSKIRT's edge. Stitch 10 mm from the edge, KNOT to TIP, backstitching at both ends. Overlock the allowances together, press them toward FRONT OVERSKIRT (the cascade hangs outward) and edgestitch FRONT OVERSKIRT 2 mm from the seam, from the KNOT to 40 mm above the TIP.
- 6) At the skirt join (step 4): pin FRONT OVERSKIRT's top to the bodice from your right side seam to your left princess, its CENTRE FRONT line on the bodice's centre front and its opening corner on the left princess seam; pin FRONT OVERSKIRT (LEFT)'s top from that princess to your left side seam, its opening edge at the princess. The two opening edges meet there. The curved top lies straight along the joint: pin the notches first, then between them without stretching, add the underskirt beneath as that step says and sew through all layers.
- 7) Hem (section 3c): the overskirt hem runs from FRONT OVERSKIRT (LEFT)'s opening edge round the back to FRONT OVERSKIRT's TIP, curving down over its last 40 mm to the tip. Turn it up after the skirt side seams are sewn (sewing order above) and after step 5, folding its ends in line with the finished edges; at the TIP fold the hem's end over the cascade seam allowance, slipstitch it and finish the edgestitch down to the tip.
- 8) The knot, after the join is pressed toward the bodice: place FRONT OVERSKIRT's KNOT (with the cascade's knot corner) on FRONT OVERSKIRT (LEFT)'s KNOT mark, the pleated edge above it lying along FRONT OVERSKIRT (LEFT)'s opening edge (it now spans the 57 mm from the joint to the knot). Hand bar-tack through the pleats, the cascade's top and FRONT OVERSKIRT (LEFT), five or six stitches, not through the underskirt: it must swing free.
- 9) Roll: with the dress on a dress form, turn the cascade's free edge back along its ROLL LINE (about 20 mm just below the knot, 45 mm at the bottom) so its inside shows, and make one 5 mm bar tack at the TACK mark through the turned layers only. Between the bow's tail and the cascade's free edge a narrow strip of the underskirt shows. Check the fall against the photograph on the toile before cutting the final cloth.

3b.2 Zip and pieces sewn onto the surface

Zip: a centred zip, as the views show - the opening is 572 mm; buy a 60 cm zip. It is longer than the opening: put it in with its top stop at the neck as below; at the opening's lower end whip-stitch a new stop by hand across the teeth (8-10 stitches) and cut the zip 20 mm below it. With the zip opening machine-basted shut on the seam line, neaten and pressed open (steps above), lay the zip face down on the allowances, teeth centred on the seam, top stop 13 mm below the raw neck edge so it clears the neck seam. From the right side stitch 6.5 mm either side of the seam and straight across just below the stop, then unpick the basting. Put it in before the seams that cross its lower end are closed, then finish the neck edge over the tape ends. Keep any lining layer folded out of the way while you stitch the zip; its open centre back is slipstitched to the tape afterwards. Where the zip crosses a layered join (bodice + flared BACK OVERSKIRT + pleated BACK UNDERSKIRT), grade the allowances first: trim BACK UNDERSKIRT's to 5 mm and BACK OVERSKIRT's to 7 mm across the zip, press them toward the bodice, and stitch slowly over the bulk.

- FRONT BOW LOOP STRIP (tied over the overskirt knot): fold the strip in half lengthwise, right sides together, and stitch the long edge and one short end at 10 mm. Trim, turn right side out and press. Turn the open end in 10 mm and slipstitch it closed. This is the loop: fold it in half, its two ends together, and hand-tack the ends on the KNOT over the tacked folds (section 3b.1), the loop pointing out towards your side seam as the views show.
- FRONT BOW TAIL STRIP (tied over the overskirt knot): fold the strip in half lengthwise, right sides together, and stitch the

long edge and one short end (the knot-band end; the tail end stays open) at 10 mm. Trim, turn right side out and press. This is the knot band and the tail: lay it across the loop's tacked ends, wrap its closed end once round them as the knot band (seam underneath) and tack it at the back; the rest hangs down as the tail from the outer half of the knot (the side-seam half), along the side, clear of the underskirt strip that shows below the knot. With the dress on a dress form, mark the tail's end where the views show it (level with the overskirt hem at the side), cut it on the slant 10 mm below the mark, turn the raw end in 10 mm and slipstitch it closed. Make the loop first.

3c. Complete edge finishes

NECK: one, finished edge 549 mm. Design assumption, not a measured source detail.

Use ready-made single-fold bias tape, 12 mm wide (25 mm unfolded), in a colour that matches the cloth: it turns fully to the inside and is not seen from outside. Cut 570 mm for one edge: measured length + two 10 mm end turns. This is a purchased notion, not included in the cloth layout.

The cutting pattern includes 6 mm seam allowance on this edge. Fold each short end under 10 mm first. Unfold one long edge of the tape and lay it on the right side of the edge, raw edges together; stitch along the tape's crease, 6 mm from the edge. Trim the allowance to 3 mm and clip inward curves every 10 mm up to the stitching (not through it). Press tape and allowance away from the garment and understitch them together 2 mm from the seam. Turn the tape fully to the inside, rolling the seam 1 mm inward so it cannot be seen, and press. Do not topstitch: the edge shows no stitching from outside. Pin the tape flat to the inside and slipstitch its folded edge by hand, catching only one or two threads of the garment cloth with each stitch, and tack it to every seam allowance it crosses.

ARMHOLE: each of 2, finished edge 343 mm. Design assumption, not a measured source detail.

Use ready-made single-fold bias tape, 12 mm wide (25 mm unfolded), in a colour that matches the cloth: it turns fully to the inside and is not seen from outside. Cut 373 mm for each of 2 edges: measured length + 10 mm folded under at the start + 20 mm overlap where the ends meet. This is a purchased notion, not included in the cloth layout.

The cutting pattern includes 6 mm seam allowance on this edge. Start at the side seam: fold the first end under 10 mm and let the other end overlap it 20 mm. Unfold one long edge of the tape and lay it on the right side of the edge, raw edges together; stitch along the tape's crease, 6 mm from the edge. Trim the allowance to 3 mm and clip inward curves every 10 mm up to the stitching (not through it). Press tape and allowance away from the garment and understitch them together 2 mm from the seam. Turn the tape fully to the inside, rolling the seam 1 mm inward so it cannot be seen, and press. Do not topstitch: the edge shows no stitching from outside. Pin the tape flat to the inside and slipstitch its folded edge by hand, catching only one or two threads of the garment cloth with each stitch, and tack it to every seam allowance it crosses.

HEM (FRONT OVERSKIRT + BACK OVERSKIRT): one, finished edge 894 mm. Design assumption, not a measured source detail.

The cutting pattern includes exactly 15 mm on this edge. Turn the raw edge 5 mm to the wrong side, then turn another 10 mm; the second fold is the drawn finished edge. Press and stitch close to the inner fold. This hem curves where it meets the flared seams, so the turned-up allowance is about 17 mm longer in all than the line it is stitched to (up to 7 mm on one piece, mostly near the seams). Before turning, run a long ease stitch (4-5 mm) 5 mm from the raw edge, draw up the bobbin thread until the allowance lies flat against the garment, and steam-press; never fold a pleat (Seamwork, Sew Two Basic Hems). test the hem turn on the toile before cutting the final fabric.

HEM (FRONT UNDERSKIRT + BACK UNDERSKIRT): one, finished edge 2269 mm. Design assumption, not a measured source detail.

The cutting pattern includes 5 mm on this edge. Set the overlocker to a 3-thread rolled hem (short stitch, the right needle only) and sew along the drawn finished line with the knife trimming the 5 mm allowance as you go; test the setting on a scrap of the same cloth first, and do not stretch the curved edge. This layer is pleated after hemming: hem it while it is flat, in one pass after its side seams, before it goes to the pleater.

4. Machine, needle and thread

Fabric mechanics have not been verified for this pattern. These are general examples. Pick your fabric first, then read your row from the table below.

For a light cotton: Universal needle 80/12, all-purpose polyester thread, stitch length 2.5 mm.

Choose the row for your actual cloth and test on a scrap:

- cotton and other light wovens (lawn, poplin, gingham, voile): Universal 70/10 - 90/14
- fine and sheer (chiffon, organza, silk): Microtex (or Universal) 60/8 - 70/10
- linen: Universal 70/10 - 90/14
- woven wool and tweed: Universal 80/12 - 90/14
- cotton twill / denim: Jeans 70/10 - 110/18
- jersey and knits: Jersey (ball point) 60/8 - 80/12
- very stretchy knits: Stretch 75/11 or 90/14
- satin, silk, microfibre: Microtex 60/8 - 90/14

Interfacing: choose a type compatible with your actual cloth and test a scrap first. Follow its manufacturer instructions for temperature, moisture, pressing time and cooling. The printed appearance does not identify the fabric or its interfacing requirements.

Needle and stitch-length figures: Schmetz "Needles by Fabric Type"; thread: Gutermann Sew-all No. 100; stitch length: Deer & Doe; interfacing: Vlieseline.