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## Jayne Dress Sew-along

Here are my cut pieces ready to be turned into a dress. Two identical bodice pieces and a few 2" tall strips. One strip will be enough to bind the tops of both bodice pieces, each of the others is more than long enough for a strap. If you're working with jersey and it's curling, don't even torture yourself by trying to cut a strip piece from the curly area ~ trust me on this, life's too short for that kind of aggravation.

It's time to prepare the binding/strap strips. These instructions are for knits, if you are working with a woven you won't need to be quite as starch happy. I have my trusty Magic Sizing and have already sprayed and pressed the strip so it's nice and flat.-  
Spray more sizing on and press the strip in half-



Open it up, spray a bit more, fold the ends into the middle and press



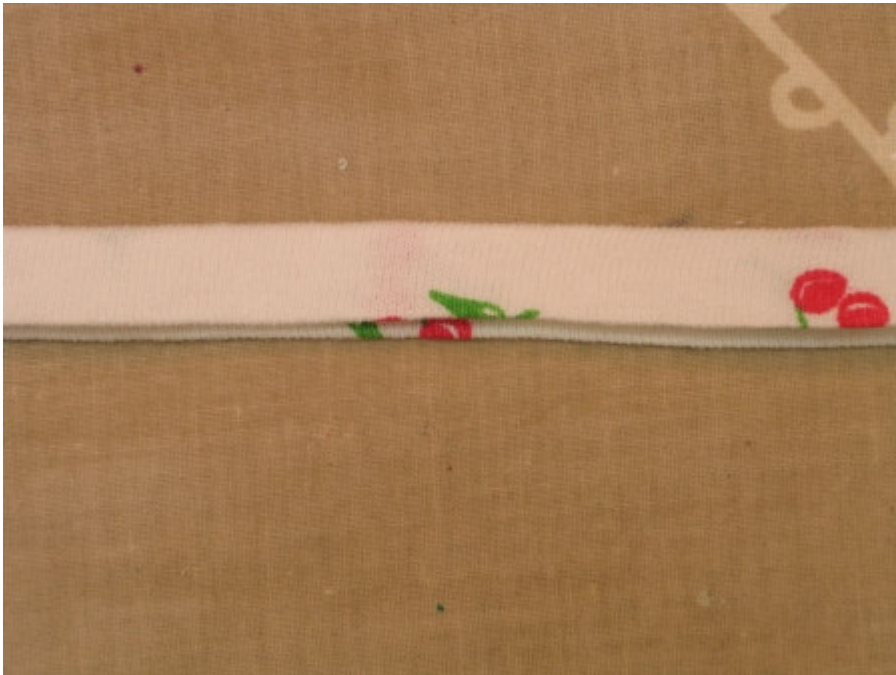
Spray, fold in half and press again. Leave one side slightly longer than the other.-



Grab a bodice piece and sew the binding onto the top edge.-



When I sew the strip on the top of the bodice, I place the longer side of the binding strip on the wrong/inside of the dress. That way I'm more likely to catch the binding with my stitches on both sides.-

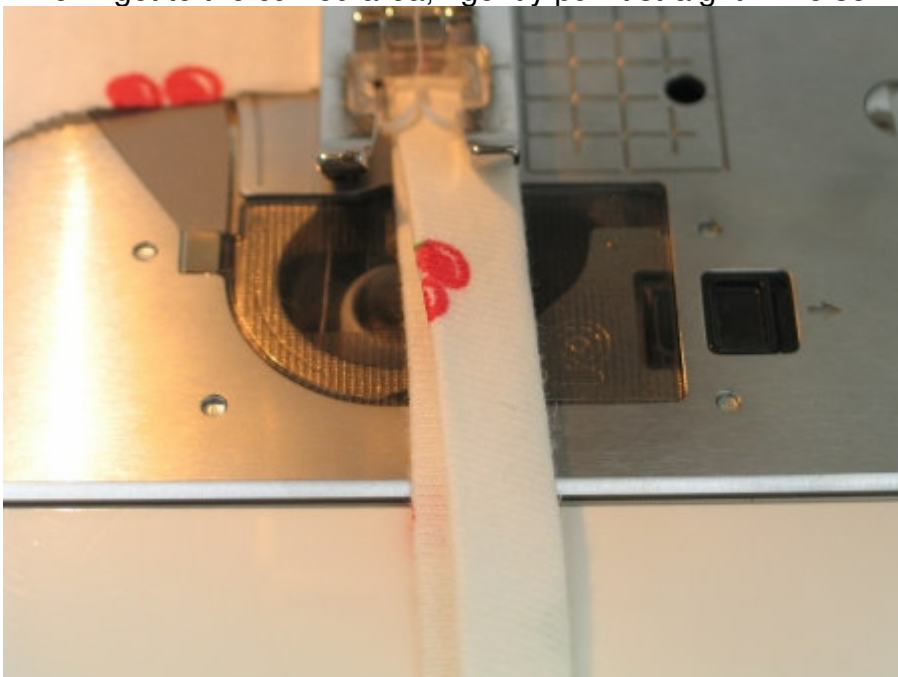


Getting ready to sew the strap. I tuck the bodice into the binding strip, getting the cut edge of the bodice as close to the fold of the binding as possible.-



Sew the binding starting at the underarm area and working toward the top of the bodice. This time the longer side of the binding strip is on top. Don't sew too close to the edge or you're likely to miss the strip on the underside.-

When I get to the curved area, I gently pull it straight while sewing.-



Now I've gotten to the top of the bodice and I'm about to sew off the edge to begin the "strap" area.-





For the size 2T, I leave 4.5" of strap before I start sewing onto the second bodice piece. 12-18 months = 4" strap 2T = 4.5" strap 4T = 6-6.5" of strap size 6 = 7-7.5" of strap-





When I get near the 4.5" mark, I tuck the second bodice piece into the binding strip.-

Here's a shot of the placement on the cut edge of the bodice within the strap.-



Here's the dress once the first strap is sewn on. At this point, check to make sure that you caught the back of the strap in all places with your stitching. If not, go back and sew a second row parallel to the first. Repeat for the second strap.-



Now my bodice has two straps. Normally, I sew both bodice side seams, but this time I thought I'd try something different and I just sewed one side so I could put the skirt on flat. Preparing the skirt. The bottom of each bodice piece measured about 11" so I cut two skirt pieces each 22" wide by 17" tall (this is for a long skirt for size 2T). Sewed one skirt side seam and gathered the top of the skirt.-



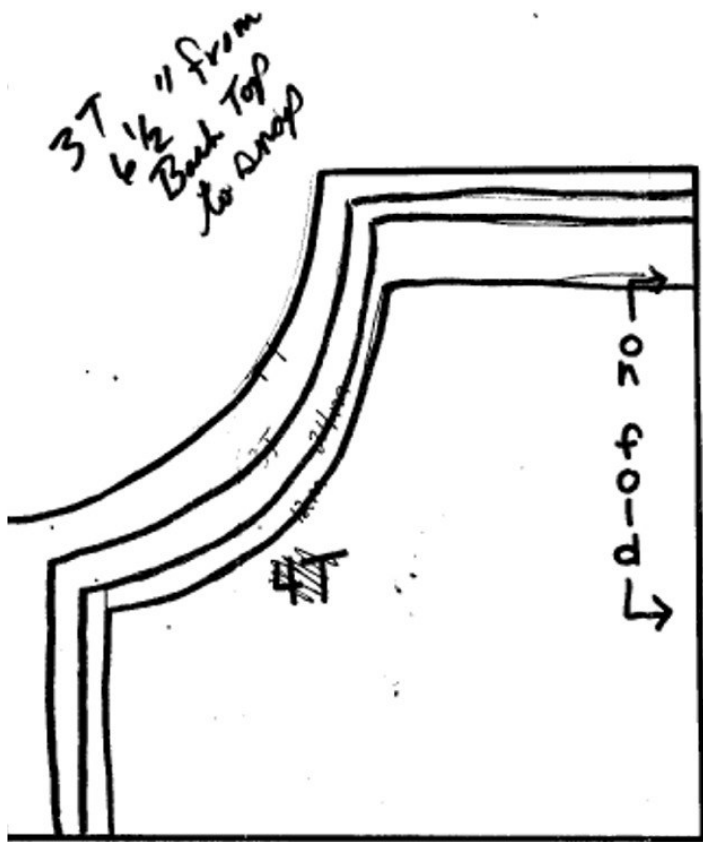
Pinned the bodice and skirt right sides together adjusting the gathers to fit then sewed. I think I prefer this method to sewing both side seams together then attaching the skirt. I didn't accidentally fold and catch parts of the bodice in my stitching that aren't supposed to be there.-



Sew the second side seam all the way from the underarm to the bottom. Hem and you're done! Here's the almost finished dress. I haven't hemmed it yet because I'm still deciding what to do about dyeing it.







Jayne Bodice  
12 m - 4T  
use directions found at  
[sewingmamas.com](http://sewingmamas.com)



when printing  
this square should = 1 inch