



Tulle Ruffle Dress



Three rows of fluffy, airy, tulle ruffles make this sleeveless dress a fancy addition to any wardrobe. You can opt to make the ruffles from lace as well. The ties come together to form a cute bow on one shoulder. Pair the dress with a long sleeve tee or peasant top underneath, and she can wear this dress in all seasons!

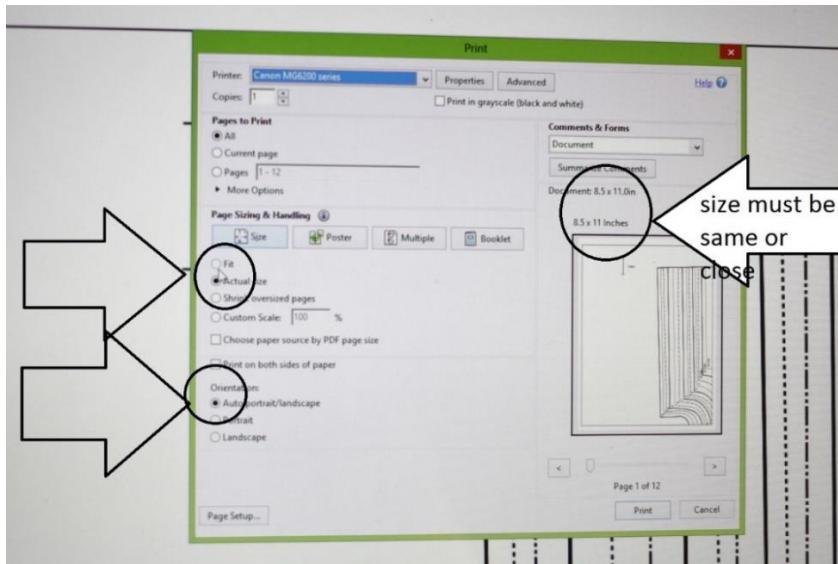
List of required materials:

- Regular woven cotton fabric or any lightweight material
- Tulle, chiffon, lace or other netting for the ruffles
- Sewing machine
- Overlock machine or serger (optional)
- Scissors
- Lip edge ruler
- Cutting board
- Rotary cutter
- Measuring tape
- Regular standard needle for woven material
- Thread
- Iron
- Safety pin
- Fabric marker (optional)

Seam allowance: 3/8" (or half a presser foot)

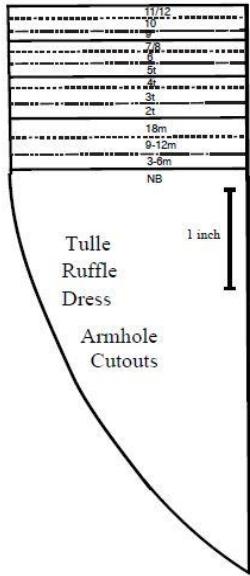
To print out your cutouts:

Print out your templates without scaling. Here is a screen shot of my print preview window:



Make sure the 1" print scale on the template measures exactly 1". If it is even $\frac{1}{8}$ " off, the armholes might not fit correctly!

This is what your printed cutout will look like:



Sizing chart – based on 42 inch wide woven fabric WITH print direction (possible SHRINKAGE INCLUDED!!!) – Tulle it is based on 54" wide material from the bolt (folded).

Cut out the fabric pieces for ruffles, bodice, under skirt and ties according to the sizing chart below.

NOTE: W = is measured across the fabric width from selvage to selvage, L = top to bottom

Size	Approx. length from chest to hem	Approx. chest circum.	Cut 2 bodice pieces W x L	Cut 6 pieces of tulle* W x L	Cut 2 underskirt pieces W x L	Cut the following amount for tie strips
NB	11 1/2"	19"	10 1/2" x 6 1/2"	54" x 4"	18" x 7 1/2"	4" x 34"
3-6m	13"	20"	11" x 7"	60" x 4 1/2"	20" x 8 1/2"	4" x 36"
9-12m	14"	22"	12" x 7 3/4"	66" x 5 1/2"	22" x 12"	4" x 39"
18m	16"	23"	12 1/4" x 8"	84" x 5 1/2"	24" x 11 1/2"	4" x 42"
2t	16 1/2"	23 1/2"	12 1/2" x 8"	91" x 5 1/2"	26" x 12"	4" x 20" + 4" x 29"
3t	18"	24"	12 3/4" x 8 1/4"	95" x 5 3/4"	27" x 13"	4" x 22" + 4" x 33"
4t	19"	24 1/2"	13" x 8 1/2"	105" x 6 1/2"	28" x 15"	4" x 24" + 4" x 36"
5t	22"	26"	13 1/4" x 9"	109" x 6 3/4"	29" x 16"	4" x 26" + 4" x 39"
6	23 1/2"	28"	13 1/2" x 9 1/2"	120" x 7 1/4"	30" x 17"	4" x 29" + 4" x 42"
7/8	26"	29 1/2"	14" x 10"	124" x 8"	31" x 19 1/2"	4" x 32" + 4" x 42"
9/10	29"	31"	15" x 11"	128" x 8 3/4"	32" x 21 1/2"	4" x 36" + 4" x 42"
11/12	31 1/2"	32"	16 1/2" x 12"	132" x 9"	33" x 22 1/2"	4" x 38" + 4" x 42"

*Measurements are for one color of tulle. If you want to do each tier a different color, just take into account that each tier uses 2 strips of tulle. Out of your 6 strips of tulle, you could do 2 strips in color #1, 2 strips in color #2, and 2 strips in color #3.

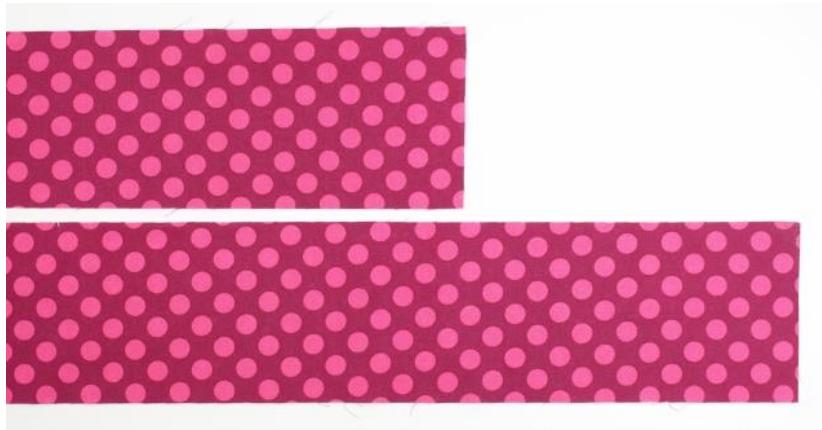
Yardage chart (calculated when using only one color tulle):

Size	Bodice	Tulle*	Under Skirt	Ties
NB	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd	1½ yds	$\frac{1}{3}$ yd	$\frac{1}{8}$ yd
3-6m	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd	2 yds	$\frac{1}{3}$ yd	$\frac{1}{8}$ yd
9-12m	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd	2 yds	$\frac{1}{3}$ yd	$\frac{1}{8}$ yd
18m	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd	2 $\frac{1}{3}$ yds	$\frac{2}{3}$ yd	$\frac{1}{8}$ yd
2t	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd	2 $\frac{7}{8}$ yds	$\frac{3}{4}$ yd	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd
3t	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ yds	$\frac{3}{4}$ yd	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd
4t	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd	3 yds	$\frac{7}{8}$ yd	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd
5t	$\frac{1}{3}$ yd	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ yds	1 yd	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd
6	$\frac{1}{3}$ yd	3 $\frac{1}{3}$ yds	1 yd	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd
7/8	$\frac{1}{3}$ yd	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds	1 $\frac{1}{8}$ yd	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd
9/10	$\frac{1}{3}$ yd	3 $\frac{5}{8}$ yds	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ yd	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd
11/12	$\frac{1}{3}$ yd	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ yds	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ yd	$\frac{1}{4}$ yd

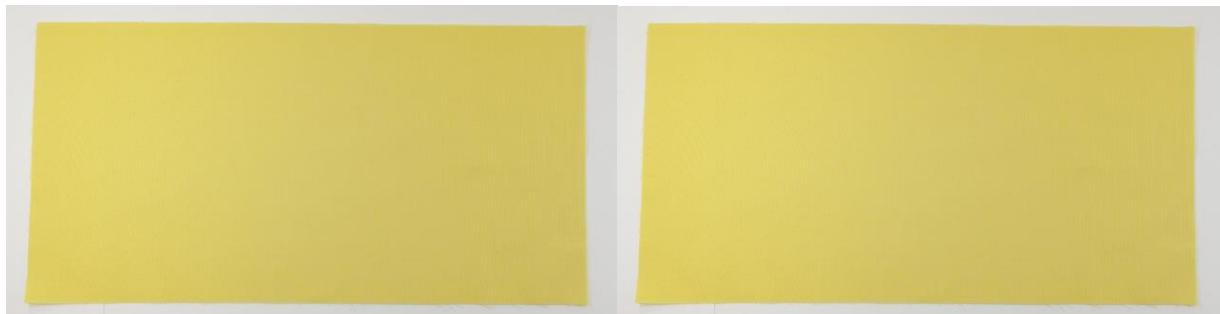
*When using 2 or 3 colors for the tulle strips, divide the yardage by that number. You must end up with the given yardage total! Meaning, if you are using 3 colors and divide yardage by 3, those 3 pieces must equal the given yardage total!

These are the fabric pieces you have cut out:

1-2 pieces for the ties (depending on the size you are making). Refer to the sizing chart on page 2.



2 under skirt pieces.



2 bodice pieces.



To make the bodice:

Fold one of your bodice pieces over from side to side (print direction must go down) so that your fabric fold is on the left. Place the armhole cutout into the upper right corner. Pin and cut around it.



Repeat with the other bodice piece so you will have two bodice pieces, as shown below.



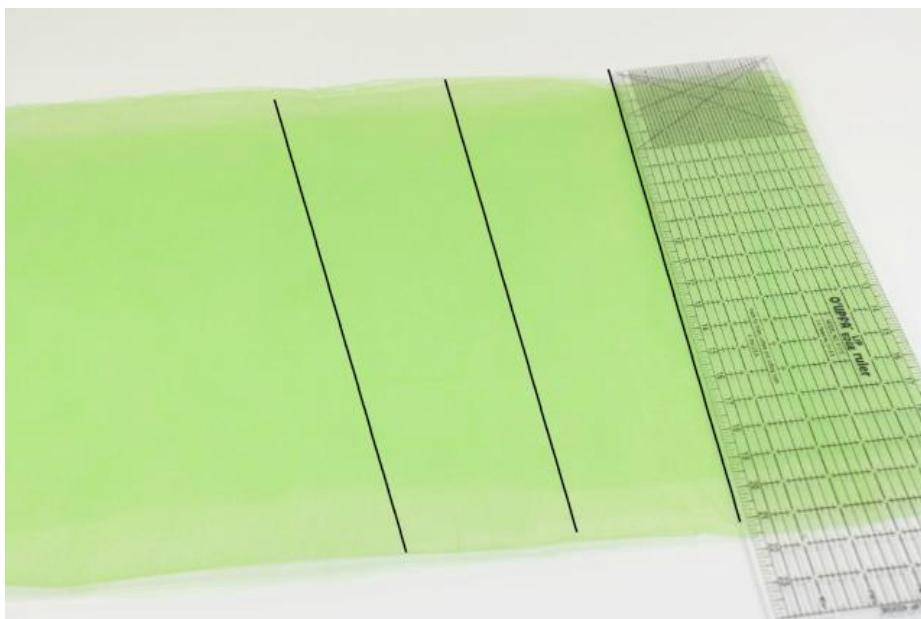
To cut the tulle ruffles:

Tulle and similar materials are tricky to cut, so the following steps will make it a bit easier.

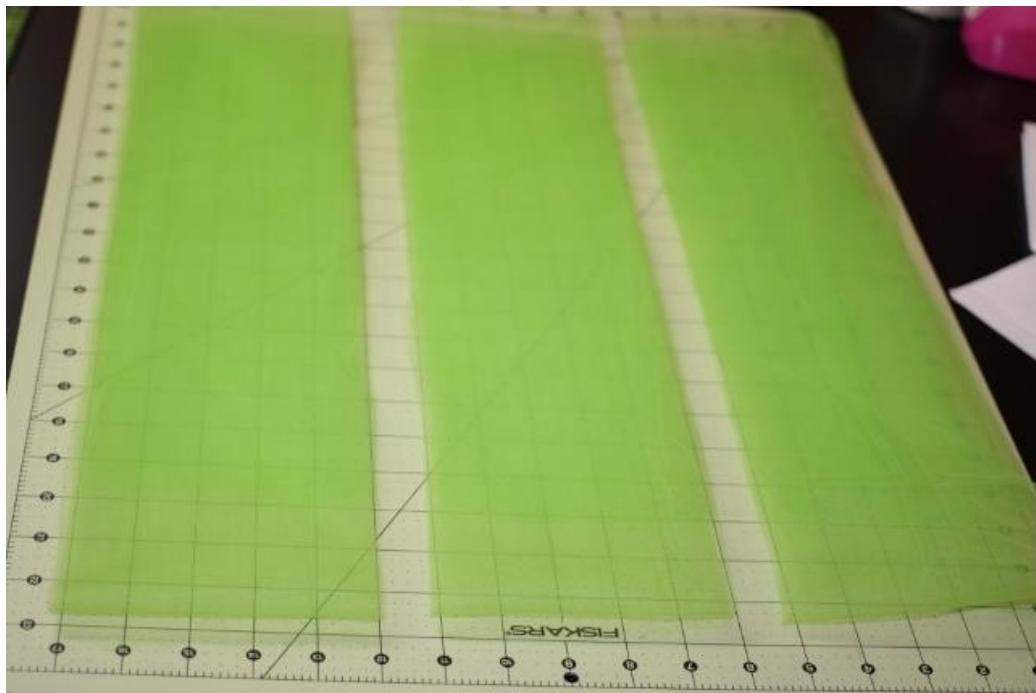
Leave your tulle folded as it comes from the bolt (must measure 27" wide, folded). Unroll the tulle and measure the **given length from the sizing chart** and cut this piece off. Now fold your long piece of tulle in half lengthwise as often as necessary until you have reached a manageable length to fit onto your cutting board.



While you now have a bunched up piece, rotate your piece so that the manufacturer fold is now facing to the side instead of to the top or bottom. Arrange your folded tulle to straighten it as much as possible and place your lip edge ruler onto the cut edges as shown. In the picture below, the folds of the tulle are facing to the sides. Using your rotary cutter, cut strips of tulle in the measurements **given in the sizing chart on page 2.**



These are 3 of the 6 tulle strips:



To construct the underskirt:

Please note that even though hemming the skirt is usually done last, this step will be easier to complete now without the tulle being in the way.

With right side down, fold up the bottom hem $\frac{1}{2}$ " and press. Fold up $\frac{1}{2}$ " once more and press.



Repeat with the other under skirt piece.

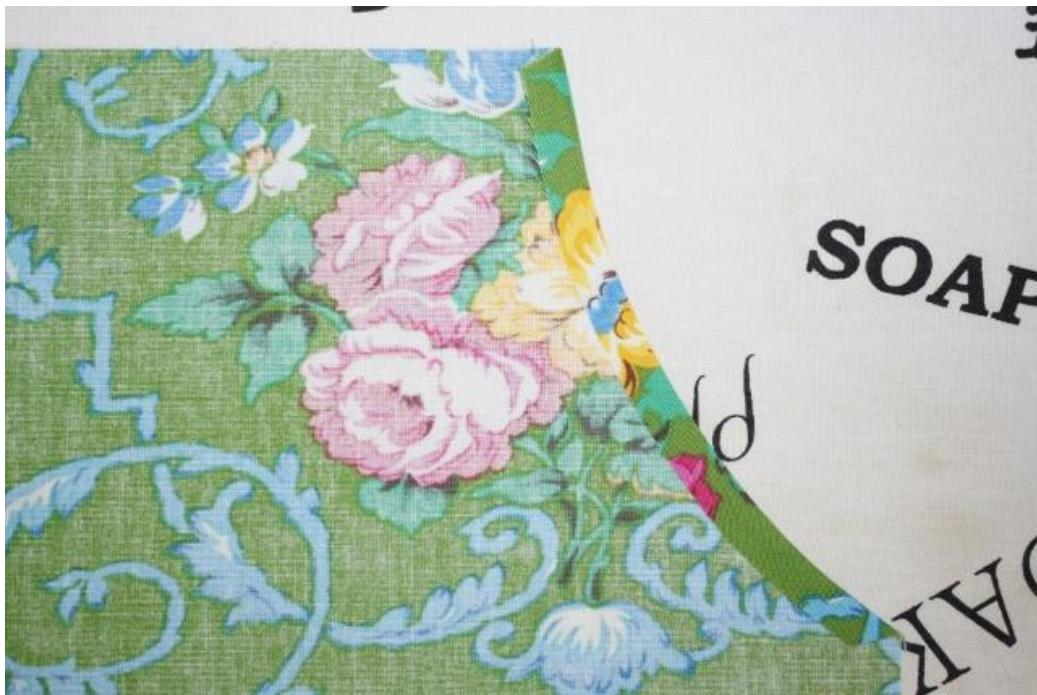
Sew along the dashed line $\frac{1}{8}$ " away from the inner folded edge:



Repeat with the other under skirt piece.

To sew the armholes:

Place one of your bodice pieces with the right side down and fold the armhole curve inwards $\frac{3}{8}$ " and press. The best way to do this is to press after each inch of folding and continue until your entire armhole fold is pressed.



Repeat with all remaining armholes.

Cut tiny slits into the fold every $\frac{1}{4}$ ". This will ensure the curve lays nicely.



Repeat with all remaining armholes.

Fold in the armhole fold another $\frac{3}{8}$ " and press, then sew in place along the dashed line, $\frac{1}{8}$ " away from the inner folded edge.



Repeat with all remaining armholes.

This is now one of your bodice pieces:



To ruffle the tulle strips:

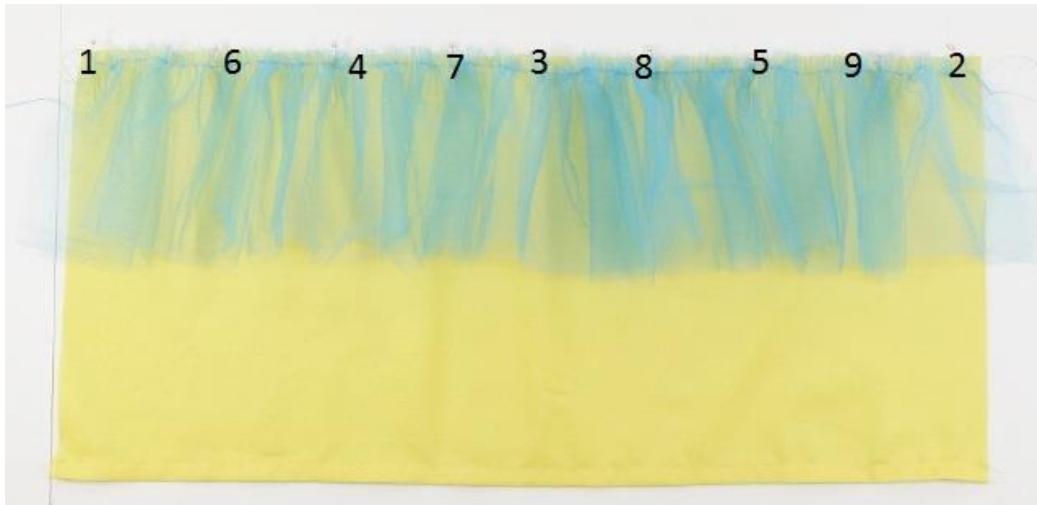
Because tulle is hard to see on a white surface, I have already ruffled it. Use your preferred method to ruffle fabric and sew a gathering stitch along the top edge with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance. Most regular machines allow automatic gathering by setting the tension to the highest number and the stitch length to the longest stitch.



Repeat this step with all remaining tulle strips. Don't forget to reset your machine when you are done!

To sew the tulle ruffles on:

Distribute the gathers to match the width of the under skirt. Pinning is done in different steps. The picture below shows you numbers from 1 to 9. Take 9 straight pins and start pinning from the left edge where number 1 is. The next step is to pin on the right edge where number 2 is. Then, go to number 3 and place a pin. Continue pinning by numbers. This will ensure that the unruly tulle ruffle gets pinned evenly.



Take your second tulle ruffle and pin it in the same way to the bottom part, letting the tulle exceed the under skirt by 1". Then, sew both ruffles on, along the dashed lines.



Last step is to pin the center ruffle, which should be placed so that the top ruffle covers the center ruffle the same amount as the center ruffle will cover the bottom ruffle.



Sew the center ruffle on. This is what one of the under skirts looks like with tulle ruffles sewn on.



Repeat with the other under skirt piece and the remaining set of 3 tulle ruffles. Be sure that your tulle ruffles are positioned so that they will be aligned with those on the other skirt piece once they are sewn together. Simply place the 2 skirt pieces side by side and make sure the tulle is positioned correctly.

To gather the skirt part:

Sew a gathering stitch along the top edge of the skirt along the dashed line.

**To attach the skirt to the bodice:**

Distribute the gathers to match the width of the bodice.



Flip the skirt up and over the bodice so that right sides are together, and pin through all layers. Sew along the dashed line slightly above the gathering stitches.



Serge/zigzag stitch the seam and flip the skirt back down. Press the seam towards the bodice, and then topstitch where both fabrics meet with a $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance.



Repeat with other bodice and skirt.

To sew the sides:

Place the front and back pieces with right sides together, and pin both sides from the armhole curve's bottom corner to the bottom hem of the dress, minus the tulle! Sew along the dashed lines with backstitching at the beginning and end.



Serge/zigzag stitch the raw seams.

To make the casing:

With the right side down, fold the top edge down $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press. Fold down once more by 1" and press.



Insert your size tag and sew along the dashed line $\frac{1}{8}$ " away from the inner folded edge. Backstitch the beginning and end.



Repeat with the front side of the bodice.

This is now your almost finished dress:



To make the ties:

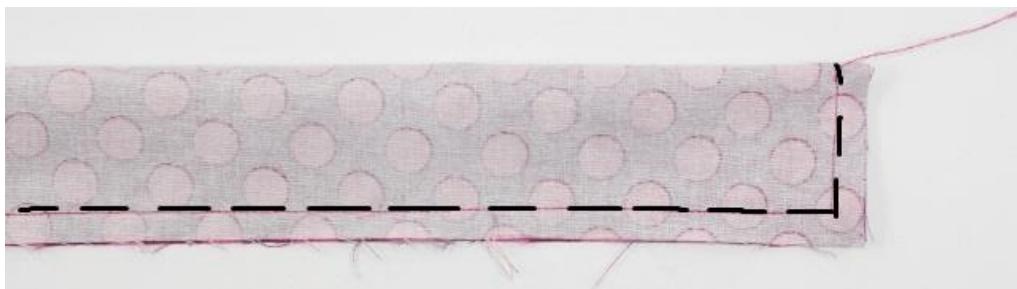
If you cut out 2 tie pieces, you'll need to connect them. Place the 2 tie strips with right sides together and match up the print direction, if applicable. Pin and sew along the dashed lines on one end.



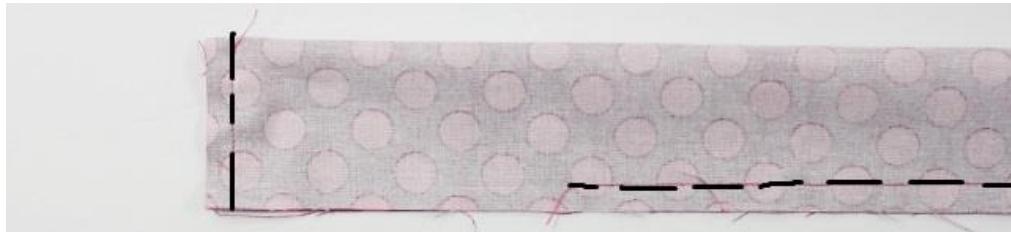
Unfold the fabric and pin a safety pin into the lower right corner, leaving a 1" seam allowance.



Fold the strip over lengthwise, with right sides together, and pin. Then sew along the dashed lines, backstitching at the beginning.



Continue sewing until you reach the last 3", and stop there with backstitching. Start sewing down the short end from top to bottom. Backstitch the beginning and end.



Grab the safety pin from the other end and guide it through while gently pulling the fabric over the pin...



...until the safety pin exits. Remove the safety pin. Pull the entire strip with right sides out and gently poke out the corners.



Press all seams out and flat. Then, topstitch along the outer edges with a $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance. Backstitch the beginning and end.



This is now your finished tie strap:



Secure a safety pin to one end of the tie strap and feed it into the casing.



Once it exits the casing, continue feeding it through the other casing.



Pull it through until you have the same amount of tie on both sides. The left side in the picture below shows you the shoulder area. Leave a few inches out and, for safety reasons, stitch the center of one of the casings through all layers. The ties should not be able to get pulled out of the casing now.



Tie the straps into a bow and double knot it to prevent it from coming undone.



Tuck in the threads from the armhole areas and bottom edge (minus the tulle) and top stitch to keep them neatly inside.



Your dress is done!

Design examples:



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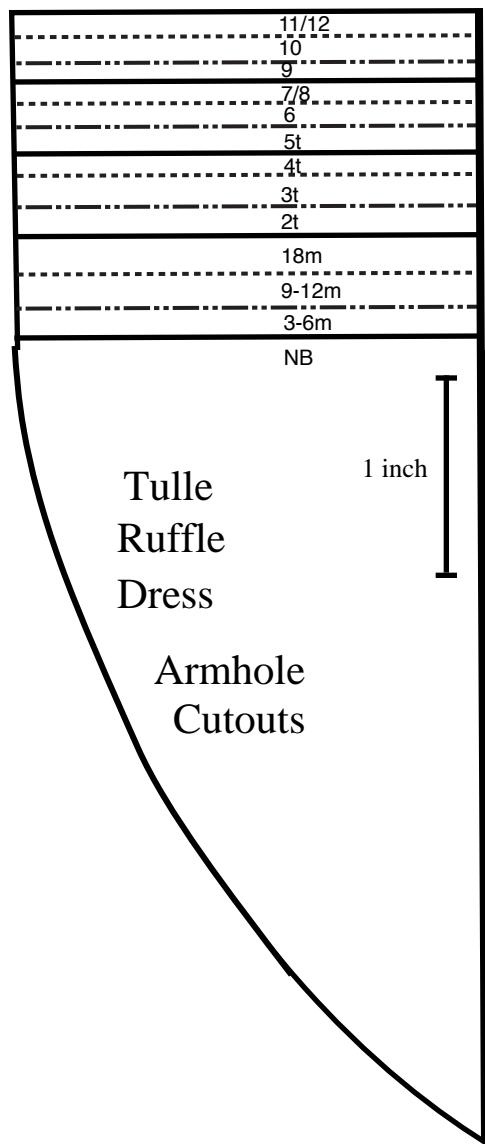
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