

Whimsy Couture
TM



...Almost Famous

This dress is perfect for any dressy event. Use soft tulle/netting to make this dress comfortable to wear. The back bodice has shirring to ensure a great fit. The tulle overskirt has open sides for a nice flow. The underskirt is just as important as it provides coverage but it's fully sewn on the sides. The straps are short for safety but can be extended on your own liking. They tie behind the neck but by adding a loop of ribbon to the center back, they can be looped through as well (see page 25).

List of required materials:

- Cotton fabric for bodice, straps
- Broad cloth for underskirt
- Soft tulle/netting in full sheet yardage for outer layers
- Thread
- Elastic thread
- Sewing machine
- Serger (optional)
- Scissors
- Iron
- Straight pins
- Measuring tape

Seam allowance: 3/8" unless stated otherwise

To print your templates:

Set your printer without scaling. Double check the 1 inch print scale on the template. Cut out the desired size.

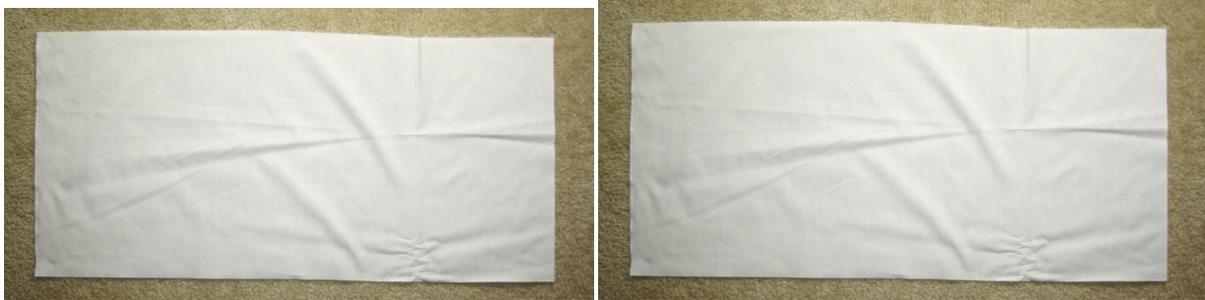
Sizing chart to cut your fabric (measurements are in inches):

Size	Overskirt- cut 12 length x width	Underskirt – cut 2 Length x width	Straps – cut 2 Length x width	Approximate Finished dress length f. shoulder to hem	Fits a chest circumference of up to
NB	10 x 22"	10.5 x 22"	21 x 2.5"	13"	16.5"
3-6m	10.5 x 23"	11 x 23"	21 x 2.5"	13.5"	17"
6-9m	11.5 x 26"	12 x 26"	21 x 2.5"	14.5"	18"
12-18m	14 x 32"	14.5 x 32"	21 x 2.5"	16"	19"
2t	16.5 x 34"	17 x 34"	22 x 2.5"	20"	20"
3t	17.5 x 36"	18 x 36"	22 x 3"	21"	21"
4t	18.5 x 37"	19 x 37"	22 x 3"	22"	22"
5t	20.5 x 38"	21 x 38"	23 x 3"	23"	23"
6	21.5 x 39"	22 x 39"	24 x 3"	24"	24"
7/8	24.5 x 40"	25 x 40"	25 x 3"	29"	25.5"
9/10	26.5 x 41"	27 x 41"	26 x 3"	32"	27.5"
11/12	28.5 x 42"	29 x 42"	27 x 3"	35"	29"

Fabric yardage chart:

Size	Front & Back Bodice, straps & ruffles	Underskirt (broad cloth)	Overskirt (tulle/netting)
NB	1/3 yd	1/3 yd	3.5 yds
3-6m	1/3 yd	2/3 yd	3.5 yds
6-9m	1/3 yd	2/3 yd	4 yds
12-18m	1/3 yd	1 yd	4 ¾ yds
2t	1/3 yd	1 yd	5.5 yds
3t	1/2 yd	1 yd	6 yds
4t	1/2 yd	1 1/8 yd	6 ¼ yds
5t	1/2 yd	1 1/4 yd	7 yds
6	1/2 yd	1 1/4 yd	7 ¼ yds
7/8	1/2 yd	1.5 yd	8 ¼ yds
9/10	1/2 yd	1.5 yd	9 yds
11/12	1/2 yd	1 2/3 yd	9.5 yds

These are your 2 underskirt panels:

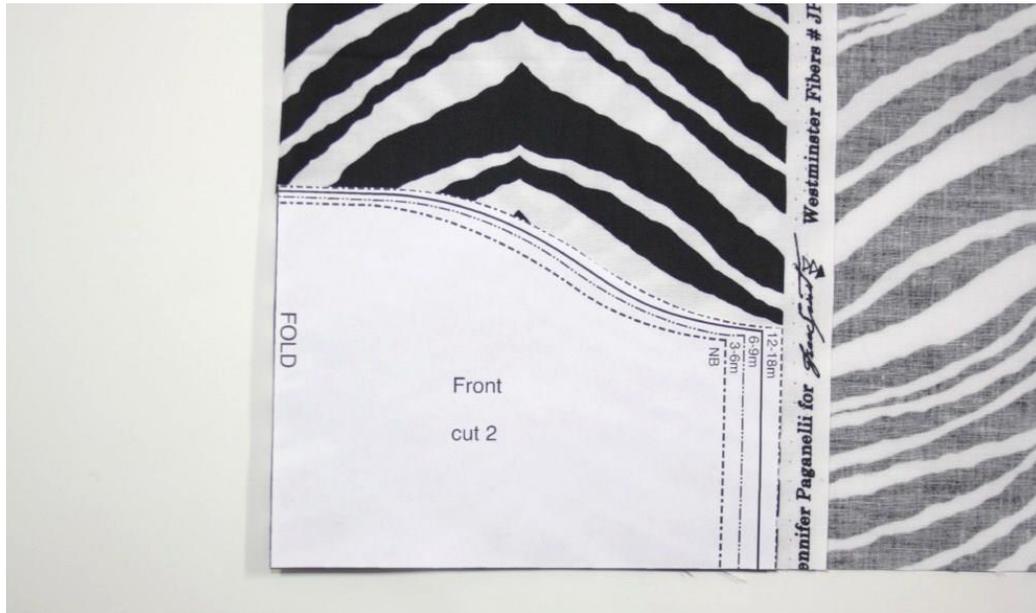


These are 6 tulle/netting panels (layered):



To cut your front bodice piece:

Fold your fabric over from selvage to selvage and place the front template onto the fabric fold as shown:



Cut around the template:



Cut another front bodice piece from the lining fabric.

Lay front bodice pieces aside.

To cut your back bodice piece:

Repeat steps above to cut ONE back bodice piece according to the BACK bodice template.

To cut the strap ruffle pieces:

Repeat steps above to cut 4 strap ruffle pieces according to the STRAP template. Cut 4 on FOLD.

These are the pieces you have cut out:



These should be your strap pieces:

**To sew the strap ruffles:**

Place 2 of the 4 strap ruffle pieces with right sides together:



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You want to do the following steps with the other 2 ruffle pieces as well.

Pin and sew along the red line:



Trim off about half of the seam allowance:



Turn piece with right sides out and press:



To gather your fabric:

Most machines allow to ruffle fabric automatically by setting the tension to the highest number (strongest tension) and stitch length to the highest number (longest stitch). Some machines may have different number indications.

Some machines may allow only hand gathering and in this case you want to set your machine to the lowest number tension (weakest tension) and longest stitch. Then sew as instructed below by placing the fabric with the raw edge to the right. Sew with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance along pink line:



This should now be your ruffled piece. Make sure it's gathered tightly and won't exceed a total length of 6" for up to 4t and 6.5" for up to size 12:



To make the straps:

Place one strap piece with right side down horizontally in front of you. Fold down the top edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press with iron. Fold up the bottom edge $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press:



Repeat the above steps with the other strap piece.

Fold strap piece in half to meet both folded edges. It is very important to have the edge meet perfectly:



Press in place:



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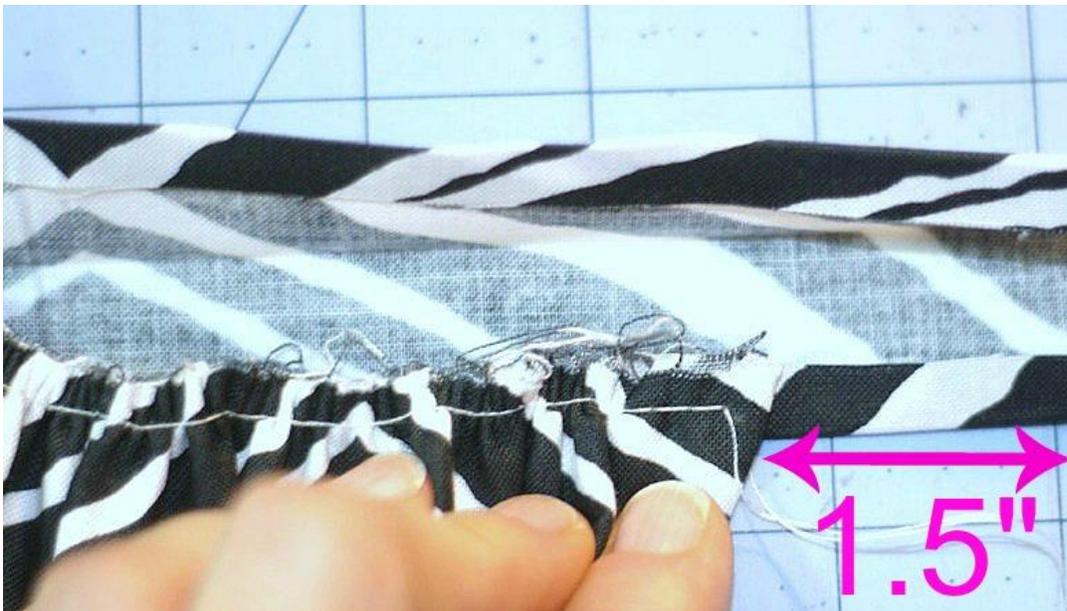
Fold down one end of the strap 3/8”:



Press and refold.

To sew the ruffles to the straps:

Place one ruffle onto the raw (unfolded) bottom edge of the strap 1.5” away from the edge. Make sure the gathering thread is not below the strap edge:



Fold top strap edge down and pin in place. Then sew along pink line with a seam allowance of 1/8":



Keep sewing until you have finished the entire strap including the short folded edge. Backstitch end:



Repeat with other strap and ruffle. These should now be your finished ruffled straps:



To make the back bodice:

Take your back bodice piece and place it right side down in front of you. Fold down the top edge 3/8" and press. Then sew along pink line:



This is now your back bodice from the right side:



To sew in elastic thread:

Wind some elastic manually onto your bobbin. I use the shown brand but any brand available at craft/fabric stores will be fine! Wind the thread tight but not too tight. You can pull slightly on your elastic thread while you are winding it up.

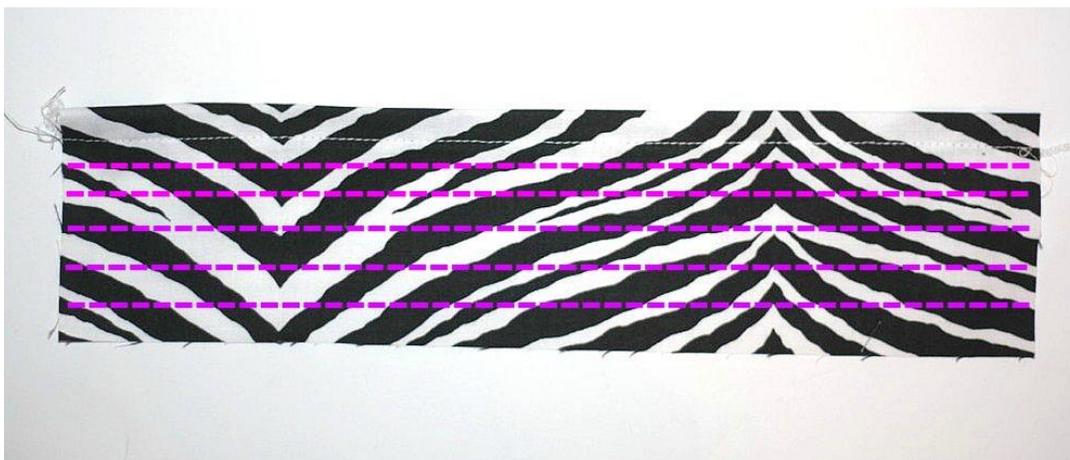


Insert the bobbin with the elastic thread into your lower part of your machine and thread the upper with regular thread. Insert your fabric into your sewing machine with right sides up and start sewing right at the edge with a good 4 inches of elastic thread hanging out. Set your machine to the longest stitch length and the tension to 2-3. Sew right beside the seam. Be sure to check while you are sewing if your elastic thread has not jumped out from over the bobbin. That sometimes happens and will make your elastic not being gathered. If that happens rewind your elastic thread!

NOTE: if you are having trouble with your machine not wanting to sew with elastic thread please google this issue with "sewing with elastic thread" or "shirring" or visit my blog for 2 interesting posts on that!

<http://whimsycoutureboutique.blogspot.com/2010/08/no-more-shirring-problems-ever.html> and here: <http://whimsycoutureboutique.blogspot.com/2010/01/tutorial-how-to-shirr-fabric.html>

Sew rows in a 3/8" distance which is about half your presser foot's width until you are about 0.5" away from the bottom edge:



You can continuously sew each row without having to cut the thread. Simply lift up your presser foot once you reached the end of each row and pull gently on the elastic thread to give it some slack. Then turn your fabric around so you can start a new row at the opposite side.

This should now be your back bodice. Do not steam it! It needs to remain as is:



Don't cut off the threads on the sides.

To place straps and sew bodice lining on:

Place your front bodice piece with right side up in front of you and place both straps onto the bodice with the ruffle facing outwards. Angle the straps slightly so they are criss/crossed in the center. The distance from each strap to the sides are as follows NB-9m=2.5", 12m-2t=3.5", 3t-4t=3 ¼ ", 5t=4", 6=4 ¼ ", 7/8=4 ¾ ", 9/10=5", 11/12=5 ¼ ":



Place front bodice lining (with right sides down) onto straps. Pin in place making sure the straps haven't shifted. Sew along red line



Trim off half of the seam allowance, also clip the strap ends:



Turn bodice with right sides out and press. Top stitch close by the top edge:



To sew front and back bodice pieces together:

Place your back bodice onto your front bodice with right sides together and pin the right side:



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Repeat with other side.

Sew along pink lines. Backstitch beginning and end:



This is now your finished bodice:



TIP: if the back bodice is not as tight as you wish you may steam press it to let the elastic thread shrink a bit more. If using other than cotton fabric please test the temperature first before placing the iron down!

To make the underskirt:

Place both underskirt pieces (with right sides together) in front of you:



Pin and sew the sides along the dashes:



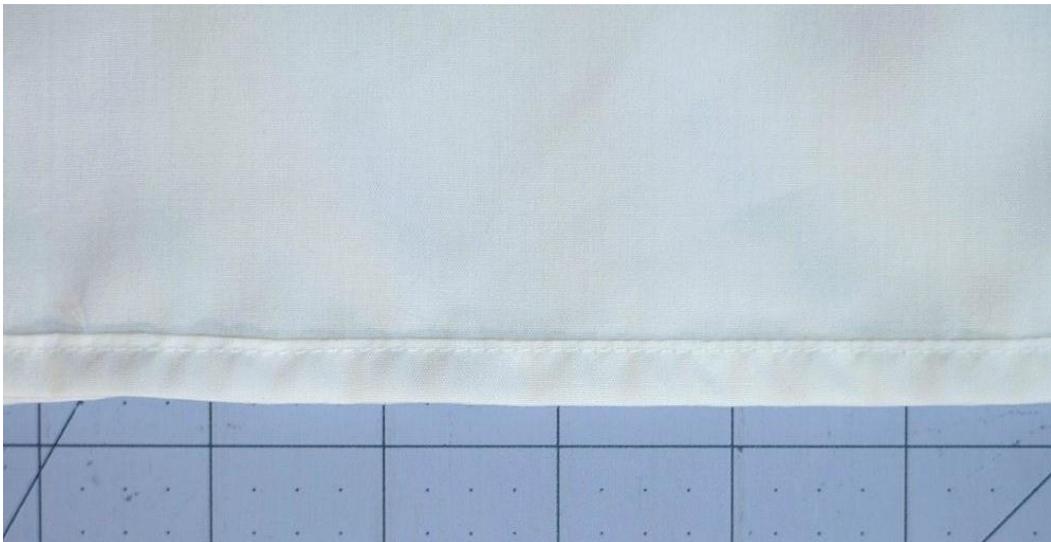
Fold up the bottom edge to 0.5" and press all the way around:



Fold once more 0.5" and press:



Sew in place close to the bottom edge of the fold:

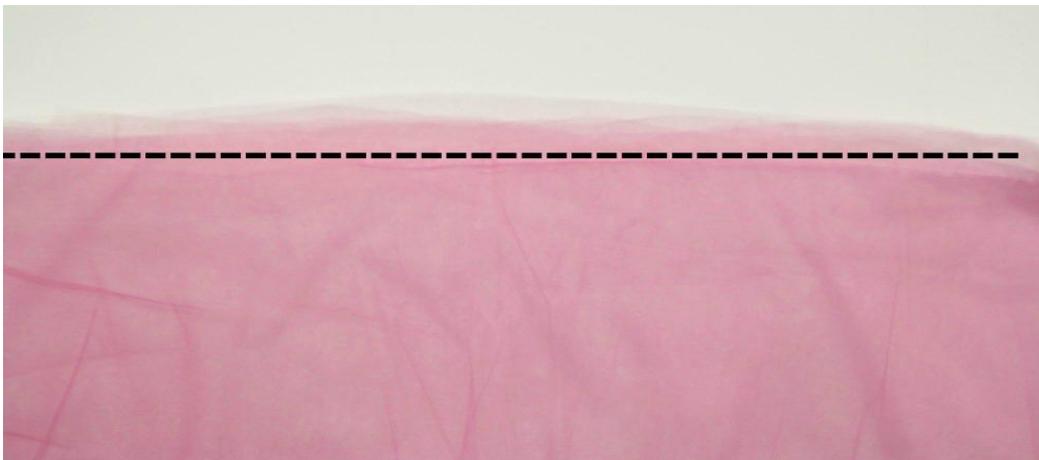


To attach tulle:

Place 6 layers of tulle onto one side of the underskirt:



Pin in place and sew along dashed line making sure you won't sew the other side of the underskirt. It is NOT that important to get the tulle to lay evenly while you pin and sew it!



Repeat with remaining 6 tulle pieces and pin then sew those to the other side of the underskirt.

You will see excess of tulle sticking up like shown:



Trim down the seam allowance to $\frac{1}{4}$ ":



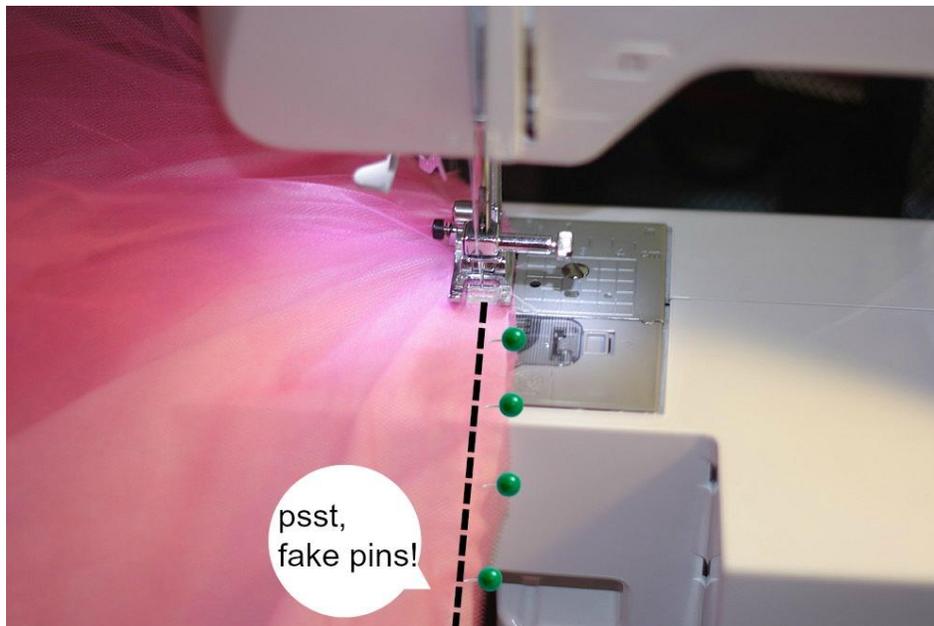
All trimmed off:



To gather your tulle skirt:

Most machines allow to ruffle fabric automatically by setting the tension to the highest number (strongest tension) and stitch length to the highest number (longest stitch). Some machines may have different number indications. Some machines may allow only hand gathering and in this case you want to set your machine to the lowest number tension (weakest tension) and longest stitch. Then sew as instructed below by placing the skirt with the raw edge to the right.

If some layers of tulle haven't gotten caught while sewing on you want to pin those down for this step. Sew along dashed line with a seam allowance of $\frac{1}{4}$ " :



Sew all the way around the skirt. This should now be your gathered skirt:



The sides of the tulle remain open.

To attach bodice to skirt:

Place bodice with right sides out in front of you and place your skirt underneath. Since the back bodice is shirred you want to keep a difference of about 1" of the skirt to the bodice on both sides. Distribute the skirt gathers to achieve this distance:



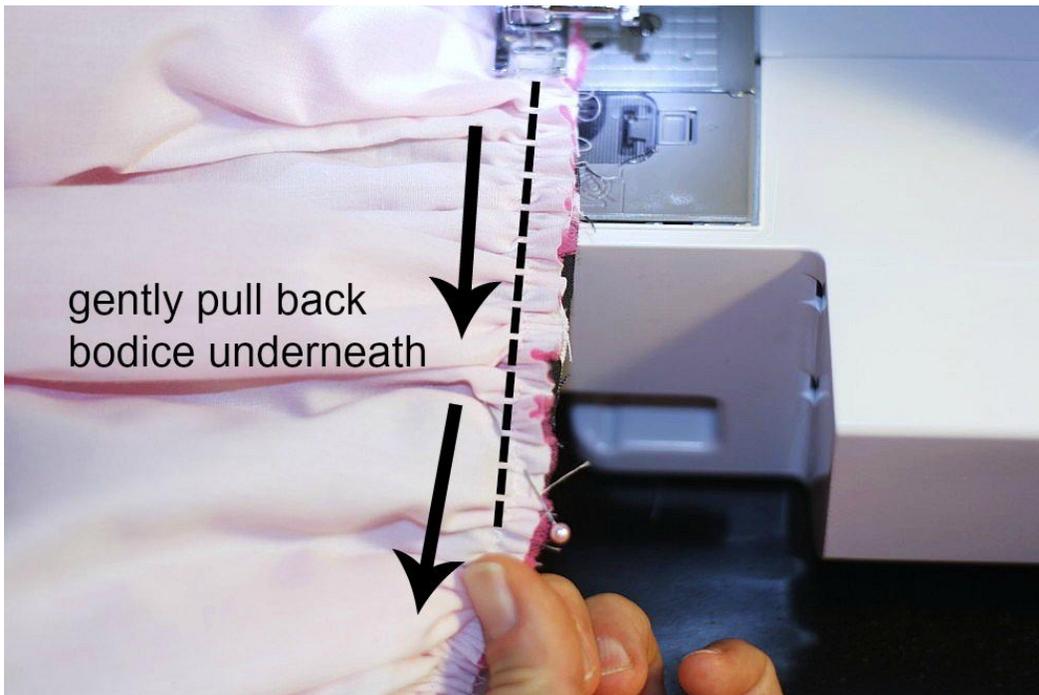
Flip the bodice upside down and turn the skirt with wrong sides out:



Insert bodice into skirt and pin the raw edges of bodice to skirt along black line:



Insert dress into your machine starting at the back side (side seam). Since the back bodice is shirred you want to gently pull the back bodice to make it fit even with the skirt. Sew right over the gathering seam:



Sew all the way around and backstitch the end. Serge/zigzag stitch the raw edge:



To finish the dress:

Top stitch where the bodice meets the skirt on the right side:



Tuck in threads on the sides of the bodice and top stitch along green dashes:



All done!

Option to add a ribbon loop for tying the straps through:

Cut a small piece of grosgrain ribbon, fray check the ends.....



Fold the ends in and pin to the center of the back bodice before shirring:



Sew it down with several stitches back and forth:



Then sew the elastic thread in:



Design examples:

(dress with extended ties)



For instant download patterns please visit <http://whimsycouturesewingpatterns.com/>

Etsy shop: www.whimsycouture.etsy.com/

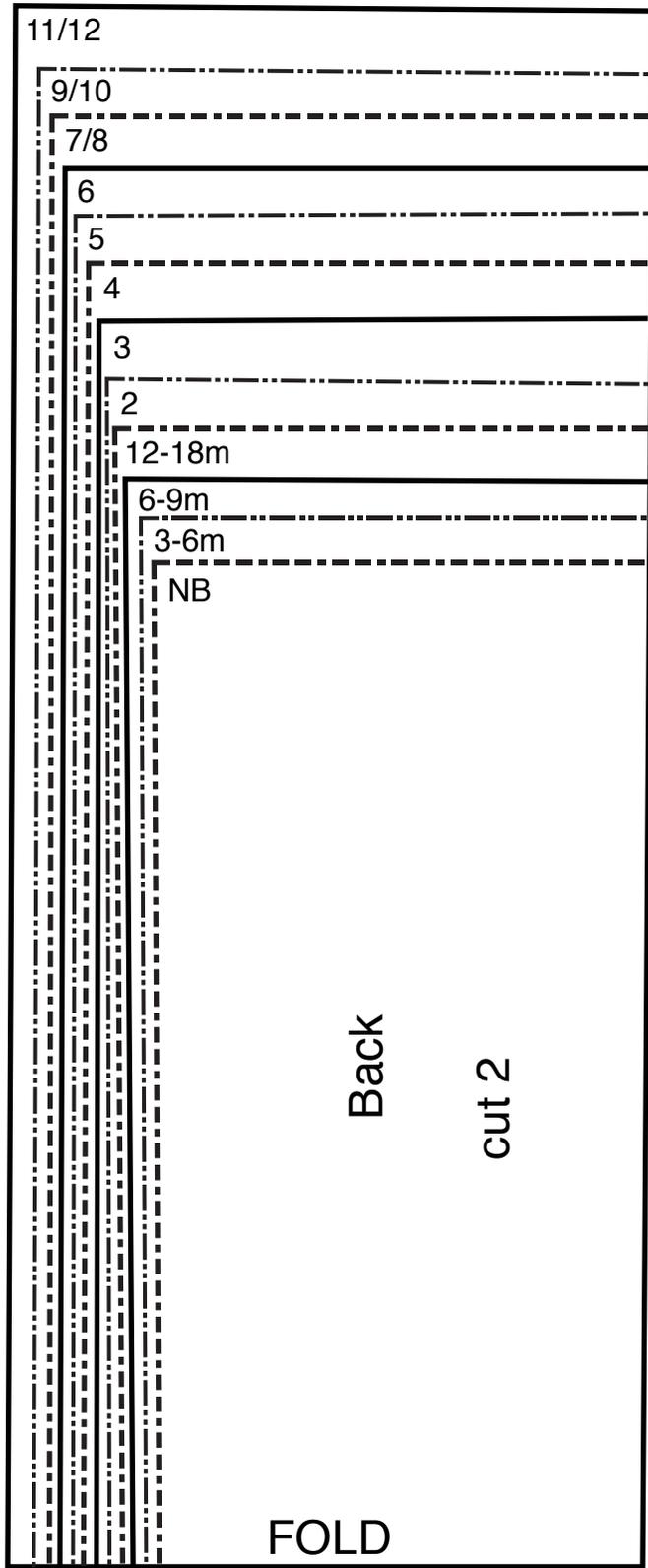
Blog: <http://whimsycouturesewingpatterns.com/blog>

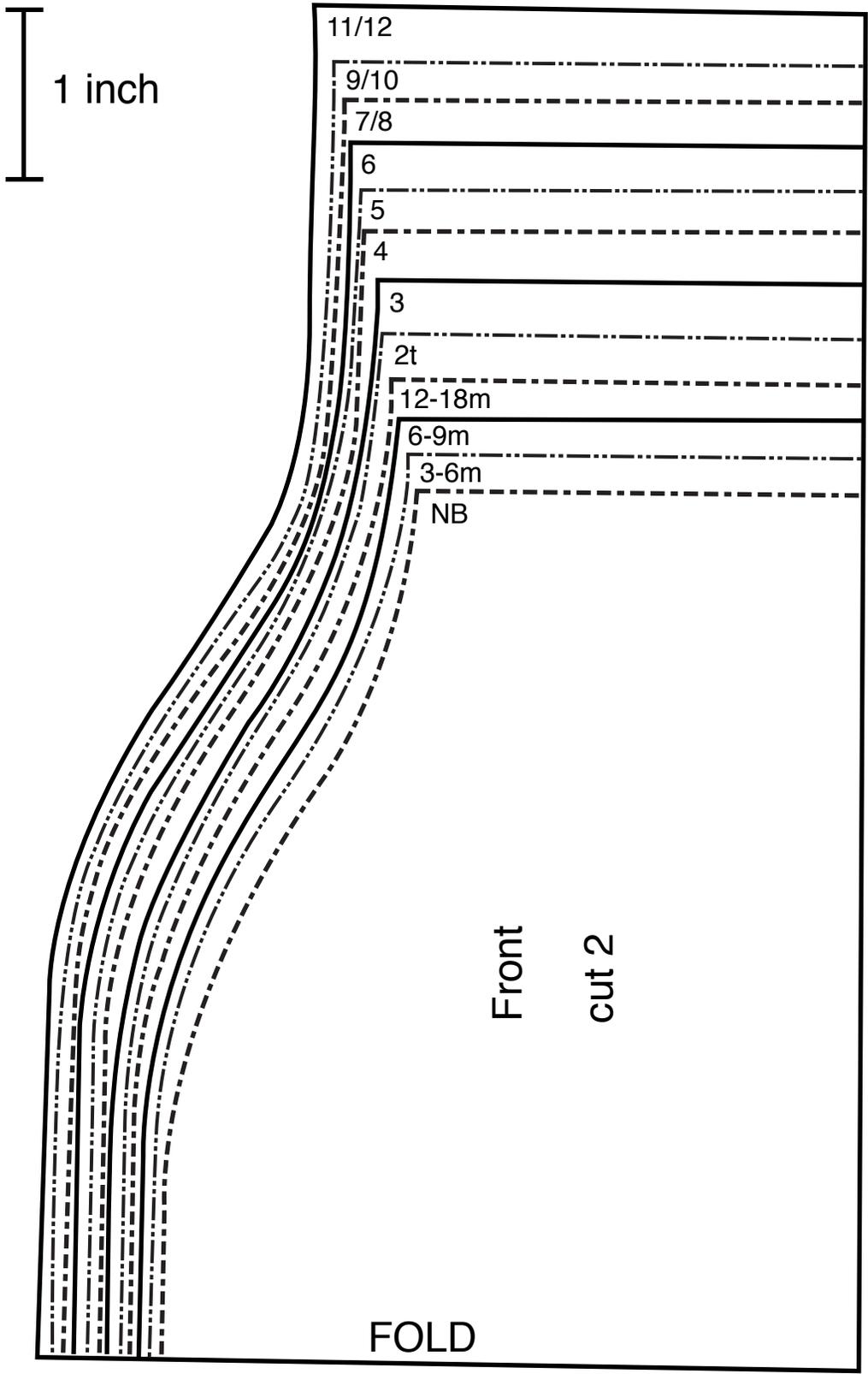
For questions please email whimsycouture@hotmail.com

Thank you so much for using this pattern!

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1 inch





Ruffles for straps

