

*"Serger & Elastic Smocked Sundress"*



Simple serger techniques can change a plain sundress into a special one-of-a-kind sundress. Your serger pin-tuck foot makes this easy elastic smocked bodice and your serger belt loop binder turns a strip of fabric into simple shoulder straps. Add silk flowers to make your little girl a hit at any party.

**Skill Level: Intermediate**

Created by: Sharon Sullivan

**Supplies:**

- Baby Lock® Evolution serger
- Baby Lock® Sewing Machine
- BLE8-S11 (serger wide belt loop binder presser foot)
- BLE8-PTF (serger pin-tuck foot with cord guide)
- Madeira® Aerolock premium serger thread
- McCall's Pattern M5613 – view C (or similar pattern)
- Fabric to make view C
  - 1-1/8 yard of solid color fabric for underskirt and straps
  - 1 yard organza or chiffon for overskirt
  - 1/3 yard white for the bodice
- Spray of silk flowers
- Elastic thread (or very thin elastic cording for smocking the bodice)



**Instructions:**

### Cut pattern pieces for view C

- 1) Cut piece 9 according to pattern instructions.
- 2) Cut pieces 7 and 8 on the bias for extra ease and smocking and cut twice the width and length for the size recommendation.

Pattern pieces for the size 6 dress measures 14-3/4" x 3-1/4"; therefore for this dress size cut the pieces on the bias 29-1/2" x 6-1/2".

### Instructions for dress straps:

- 1) In place of pattern piece 10, cut a strip of fabric 1-5/8" wide by 16" long.
- 2) Set up your serger with the wide belt loop binder following instructions included with the wide belt loop binder.
- 3) With fabric right side up, sew the dress straps in the belt loop binder according to instruction sheet in the binder.
- 4) Cut the finished strap the length of the dress pattern.
- 5) Set straps aside to attach to dress when pattern indicates.

### Instructions for floral skirt:

- 1) Cut pattern piece 9.
  - Cut 2 in solid colored skirt fabric as instructed in pattern.
  - Cut 2 in organza.
- 2) Set up your Sewing Machine.
  - Change to the "N" presser foot.
  - Select a flower or star decorative stitch. Stitch #8-51 on the Ellisimo Gold



or Ellisimo was used for this dress.

- 3) Flower placement
  - Separate the spray of silk flowers into individual petals.
  - On the underside of the organza, randomly place and pin the petals, right side against the organza fabric. Then place a small piece of tear away stabilizer behind the petal.
- 4) Sewing the petals to the skirt
  - Position the stabilizer, petal, organza sandwich on the machine with the organza side up.
  - Place the center of the petal in front of presser foot.
  - Stitch a single pattern repeat of the flower or star stitch chosen  to attach the petal to the organza.
  - Carefully remove the tear away stabilizer from the back.
  - Finish stitching the petals randomly on the underside of the organza in the same manner as explained for the first petal.
- 5) Hem organza with rolled hem on your Baby Lock serger.
- 6) Hem underskirt with double 1" hem.
- 7) Assemble the skirt.
  - With right side up on both, place organza and underskirt together with flowers between layers.
  - Match side seams of underskirt and organza.
  - Stitch 1/2" in from top edge to secure both skirt layers together.
  - Finish the waist of the skirt with a 3-thread overlock stitch.

- Gather the skirt at the waistline.
- 8) Set skirt aside to attach to bodice when instructed by pattern.



Instructions for bodice:

- 1) The bodice pattern pieces for the size 6 dress measures 14-3/4" x 3-1/4"; therefore for this dress size cut the pieces on the bias 29-1/2" x 6-1/2".
- 2) Set your serger for a narrow rolled hem and finish the top and bottom edge with the same color thread as the underskirt.
- 3) On the wrong side of the fabric, mark elastic placement every 3/8 inch (10mm) at the side seams of the bodice front and back.
- 4) Within the seam allowance, secure the elastic thread with a short (1.0mm) stitch length on your sewing machine.
- 5) Rethread your Evolution serger to a narrow cover stitch (needles C2 and C3) following instructions in the operation manual.
- 6) Attach the pintuck foot and cord guide according to instructions with foot.
- 7) Thread white thread in the chain stitch looper.
- 8) Thread colored thread to match the flowers in each needle.
- 9) Thread the long end of the first elastic in the cord guide.
- 10) With the right side up, place fabric under the pintuck foot with the first row of elastic under the channel of the foot and between the C2 and C3 needles.
- 11) Stitch the cover stitch slowly over the elastic thread. The cord guide will position the elastic through the center of the cover stitch.
- 12) Stitch each row until the bodice is complete.
- 13) Gently pull the loose ends of the elastic until you have the desired gathering for the smocked bodice.
- 14) Secure the loose ends within the seam allowance.
- 15) Sew 5/8" seam allowance attaching the front to back bodice.
- 16) Flatten seam and sew a narrow zigzag of 2.5mm wide and 1.5mm long down the outside of the bodice side seams.
- 17) Trim excess seam allowance and elastic ends.
- 18) Top stitch seam on outside of the bodice side seams with a 3.5mm wide and 1.5mm zigzag.
- 19) Set your completed bodice aside till time to assemble your dress.

Assembly:

Follow pattern instructions to attach the straps to the bodice.

To attach the skirt to the bodice:

- 1) Pin the right side of the gathered skirt to the underside of the bodice matching the side seams.
- 2) The gathered seam of the skirt should be 3/8" from the lowest edge of the bodice.
- 3) Set up your serger for a cover stitch (needles C2 and C3).
- 4) Stitch one more row of narrow cover stitch at the waistline of the dress to attach the skirt to the bodice.
- 5) Now, dress your little princess for the party!



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