

Just wanted to share a few thoughts about making these pillowcase dresses.

The directions say to use bias tape around the arm holes. This can be time consuming and expensive. I find that, if you have a surger, just surge around the armholes, (or just turn them in twice and zig-zag) also, at the top edge of both the front and back. Then turn the armholes in and sew them down. At the top and back just turn them inside and sew them down to make the casing.

You can decorate them with left over lace or decorative stitch or leave them as they are. You can add little pockets if you want. In the end, we just want to make as many as we can to send to these dear children.

Also, if you are a sewer, quilter, etc. just get in your stash. Take a 2"- 2 ½ " wide piece of fabric and surge or sew them right sides together then turn them. As I mentioned on the directions, it would be a good idea to sew through the casing and drawstring, ribbon (whatever you use) in the middle so that it cannot pull out. Then I just tie the ends in a knot to finish them off and so they won't fray.

Maybe we could have a sew-in in the fellowship hall. Everybody bring their machines and pillow cases, sheets to be cut up etc. and we could spend a day sewing together, have lunch and get to know each other. I will bring fabric for ties, ribbon pieces, lace pieces, etc. You do the same. I have more pillow cases than I could ever make on my own. Please, let's do this and get this done.

We will surely make some little girl's faces light up with their own pretty dresses.

I also have been buying tee shirts at Dollar Tree. They are of a nice quality. Haven't found too many little sizes, but I get what I can. I have purchased almost 90 of them so that the little boys can also have something. I stay away from black, brown and navy blue because they attract the sun and it is hot enough. The tees come in so many pretty colors, orange, lemon, lime, light blue, medium blue, tan etc.. I also stay away from white as they get so dingy so easy.

Looking forward to meeting ya'll. In His love, Pat Schwarz 410-551-6760

Nancy's Notions

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Little Dresses for Africa

Follow the simple directions below to make a dress that will be a prized possession for a grateful little girl in Africa. Use fabric yardage, or modify a purchased or gently used pillowcase. Mail completed dresses to Little Dresses for Africa, c/o Nancy's Notions®, 333 Beichl Ave., Beaver Dam WI 53916-0683, and we'll ship the dresses to their destination. If you would like confirmation that your dresses have been received at Nancy's Notions®, please enclose a self-addressed stamped postcard. For additional information, go to littledressesforafrica.org/blog/.

Dress with Elasticized Top

Materials required:

- $\frac{3}{4}$ yd.–1½ yd. cotton fabric, depending on size
- 2½ yd. double fold bias tape
- 12"–16" elastic, $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, depending on size
- Coordinating all-purpose thread

Making the Dress

1. Cut a fabric rectangle.

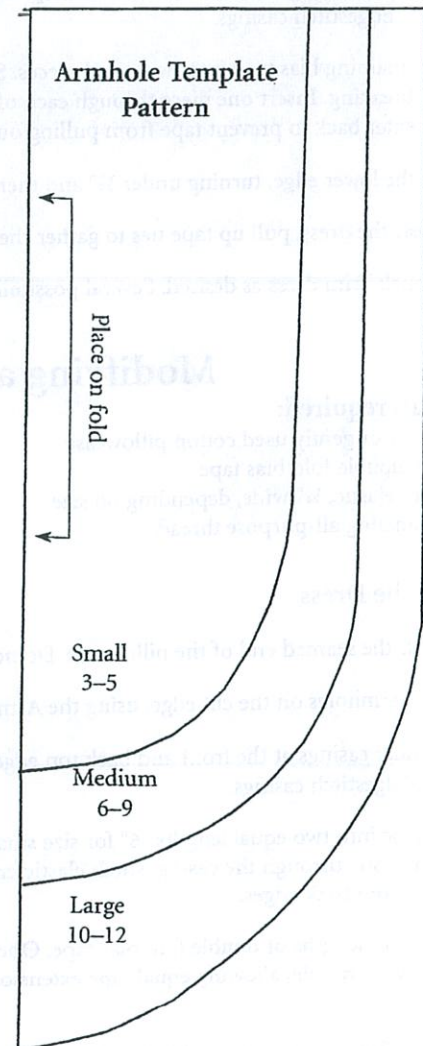
Size	Cut size	Finished length	Size	Cut size	Finished length
3	22" x 42"	19"	8	33" x 42"	30"
4	25" x 42"	22"	9	35" x 42"	32"
5	27" x 42"	24"	10	37" x 42"	34"
6	29" x 42"	26"	11	39" x 42"	36"
7	31" x 42"	28"	12	41" x 42"	38"

2. Fold fabric in half, meeting selvage edges. Stitch or serge the seam. Press seam open or to one side. Center seam on the stitched tube. (This will be the center back of the dress.)
3. Cut out armholes on upper side edges using the Armhole Template Pattern at right.
4. Fold under casings at the front and back top edges (the edges containing the armholes). Fold edge under $\frac{1}{4}$ ", then $\frac{1}{2}$ " to make each casing. Edgestitch casings.
5. Cut elastic into two equal lengths (6" for size small, 7" for size medium, and 8" for size large). Insert one length into each casing. Thread elastic through the casing; stitch elastic ends to the outer edges of the casing to prevent them from pulling out. This gathers the front and back edges.
6. Cut two 38" lengths of double fold bias tape. Open tape and turn under $\frac{1}{4}$ " on each end to finish the ends of the tape. Refold tape and encase armhole, allowing equal tape extensions at each end of the armhole so the dress can be tied at the shoulders. Edgestitch tape.
7. Hem the lower edge by turning under $\frac{1}{4}$ ", then 2". Edgestitch.

You're finished! Wasn't that easy?

Optional trim ideas:

- Add one or two pockets.
- Add a band of a contrasting or coordinating fabric to the dress.
- Add lace or other trims.
- Add an appliqué.
- Add machine embroidery.
- Use your imagination! This is a great way to use bits and pieces of leftover trims and fabrics.



Form 524 (Rev. 10/10)

If you sew through the casing and tie in the middle the ties cannot be pulled out.

Dress with Bias Tape Ties

Materials required:

- $\frac{3}{8}$ yd.–1 $\frac{1}{8}$ yd. cotton fabric, depending on size
- 3 yd. double fold bias tape
- Coordinating all-purpose thread

Making the Dress

1. Cut a fabric rectangle.

Size	Cut size	Finished length	Size	Cut size	Finished length
3	22" x 42"	19"	8	33" x 42"	30"
4	25" x 42"	22"	9	35" x 42"	32"
5	27" x 42"	24"	10	37" x 42"	34"
6	29" x 42"	26"	11	39" x 42"	36"
7	31" x 42"	28"	12	41" x 42"	38"

2. Fold fabric in half, meeting selvage edges. Stitch or serge the seam. Press seam open or to one side. Center seam on the stitched tube. (This will be the center back of the dress.)
3. Cut out armholes on upper side edges using the Armhole Template Pattern on p. 1.
4. Cut two lengths of bias tape long enough to bind the armholes. Bind cut edges of armhole and edgestitch tape.
5. Fold under casings at the front and back top edges (the edges containing the armholes). Fold edge under $\frac{1}{4}$ ", then $\frac{3}{4}$ " to make each casing. Edgestitch casings.
6. Cut remaining bias tape into two equal pieces. Stitch folds and cut ends of tape together with a narrow zigzag to prevent stitches from breaking. Insert one piece through each of the casings, allowing equal extensions at each end. Machine stitch at center front and center back to prevent tape from pulling out of the casing.
7. Hem the lower edge, turning under $\frac{1}{4}$ " and then 2". Edgestitch hem.

To wear the dress, pull up tape ties to gather the top of the dress to fit. Tie bias tape at the shoulders.

Optional: Trim dress as desired. Several possibilities are listed on p. 1.

Modifying a Pillowcase to Make the Dress

Materials required:

- One new or gently used cotton pillowcase
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ yd. double fold bias tape
- 12"–16" elastic, $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, depending on size
- Coordinating all-purpose thread

Making the Dress

1. Trim off the seamed end of the pillowcase. Do not cut off the hemmed edge; it will be the hem of the dress.
2. Cut out armholes on the cut edge, using the Armhole Template Pattern as a guide.
3. Fold under casings at the front and back top edges (the edges containing the armholes). Fold edge under $\frac{1}{4}$ ", then $\frac{1}{2}$ " to make each casing. Edgestitch casings.
4. Cut elastic into two equal lengths (6" for size small, 7" for size medium, and 8" for size large). Insert one length into each casing. Thread elastic through the casing; stitch elastic ends to the outer edges of the casing to prevent them from pulling out. This gathers the front and back edges.
5. Cut two 38" lengths of double fold bias tape. Open tape and turn under $\frac{1}{4}$ " on each end to finish the ends of the tape. Refold tape and encase armhole, allowing equal tape extensions at each end of the armhole so the dress can be tied at the shoulders. Edgestitch tape.

Optional: Trim dress as desired. Several possibilities are listed on p. 1.