

Dress A Girl Around the World - How to make a SunDress

fabric, scissors, 14-inches of 1/2" elastic, 2 pieces 42-44" of double-fold bias tape, safety pin, thread, straight pins.

1. Cut 42-44" wide cheerfully colored high-quality cotton or cotton blend into any length ranging from 16" to 36". Serge OR double-seam the fabric into a 'tube.'
 2. Lay the fabric 'tube' flat and cut J- shaped armholes at the top corners (3 - 4" by 3 - 4"-depending upon how the length.)
 3. Using pinking shears, cut 2 pockets ON THE FOLD (5-6" squares or rounded-square) from a coordinating fabric (this makes the dresses cuter than using the same fabric for the pocket). The fold is the top of the pocket; folding it provides a facing for the pocket.) This is a good time to decorate the pockets with lace, trims, buttons, etc. Since the edges are pinked, the pockets can easily be added to the dress using a straight stitch without turning under the edges! Position as you see fit, but please use TWO.
 3. On the top edge of the 'tube,' iron down a casing for elastic by turning the cut edge under 1/4 " and then another 3/4". Iron in place—it needs to be wide enough so that 1/4" to 1/2" wide elastic pieces will slide through easily. Sew close to the edge. Repeat this step for the back of the dress. You should now have a casing on both sides at the top of each side of the tube.
 4. Cut 2 pieces of 1/4"or1/2"elastic, each 7 inches long. Attach a safety pin to one end of one of the cut pieces of elastic and pull it through the casing using caution not to pull it too far. Sew across each end of the casing to hold the elastic in place. Repeat this step for the other side. You should now have a gathered top on both the front and back of the dress. (Make sure you remove the safety pin).
 5. Using double-fold bias tape, **cut 2 pieces approximately 42"long**. These will bind the armholes and become the ties at the shoulders, so they should be long enough to tie a bow at the top. PLEASE TAKE CARE NOT TO MAKE TOO SHORT!
 6. Now pin the bias tape to both arm edges, centering it lengthwise so there are equal amounts on each end for shoulder ties.
 7. Starting at one end of the bias tape, begin sewing the tape closed. Continue sewing, binding the edge of the armhole with the tape. Make sure you give yourself enough room to catch the edges of the tape on the inside and outside of the dress.
 8. Finish off the end of the tape on the diagonal with a close zigzag stitch or tie each end with an overhand knot.
- *Special Note on the ties: Packaged bias tape is folded not quite in half lengthwise. When you get ready to sew it on make sure the narrower half of the tape faces up. That way you will be sure you are always catching the underside of the tape, even around the curves. Beginners should sew one side at a time--open up the bias tape and attach to armhole--then fold it over and sew again--this will insure that the ties are attached properly with no gaps.)*
9. Fold the raw edges of the ends of the bias tape inside and when you sew along the tape you will catch those also. Sew to the end of the bias tape. Repeat this for the other armhole. If provided, iron or sew on a Hope-4-Women or Dress-A-Girl tag in a visible location, usually the pocket. If not provided, we will do this before sending them..
 10. Embellish with lace, buttons, or whatever you want! Be creative! **Tie your ties and your dress is finished!**

For ideas check out other dresses: go to the photo gallery at www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com

