



Party Dress *Feliz*

“Feliz” is Spanish for “happy”. This dress has been named for the Los Feliz District of Los Angeles. Los Feliz is located in the heart of Los Angeles, between Griffith Park and Silver Lake. During the Golden Age of cinema of the 1920s and 1930s, many of the movie studios called Los Feliz home. Today, one will recognize in this sometimes sophisticated, sometimes dilapidated quarter many famous movie locations. Many famous examples of modern architecture from Frank Lloyd Wright and Richard Neutra can be found in Los Feliz.

The dress FELIZ takes its cues from historical clothing as well as from the newest fashions. The apron pinafore recalls the clothing worn by the first settlers to this area. When sewn as a skirt, one recalls the hostess skirts of the 1950s. And when sewn

somewhat shorter as a tunic, perhaps with a bias cut flounce along the edge, the fashionistas on Hillhurst and Vermont Avenues might just ask you if that tunic is available for grown-ups.

Sewn from simple fabrics, FELIZ offers an elegant silhouette. When embellished with ruffles down the back, FELIZ makes any occasion a special occasion. The generous apron pieces offer a blank canvas to express your creativity with appliqué, embroidery or fabric painting.

FELIZ, like the district, changes with the times. This year’s dress may be worn next year over jeans or leggings as a tunic top. The year after that, in about 15 minutes, you can make FELIZ into a skirt. The fit is adjustable with the sash.


If you would like to sew a FELIZ skirt, please note that the “chest” measurements on the table will correspond to your waist measurement. You will likely want to choose a size or two smaller.

Thank you for your purchase! Much joy in your sewing project!



Recommended Fabrics: Cotton percales, voile, batiste, fine-wale corduroy, lightweight denim and twills, linen.

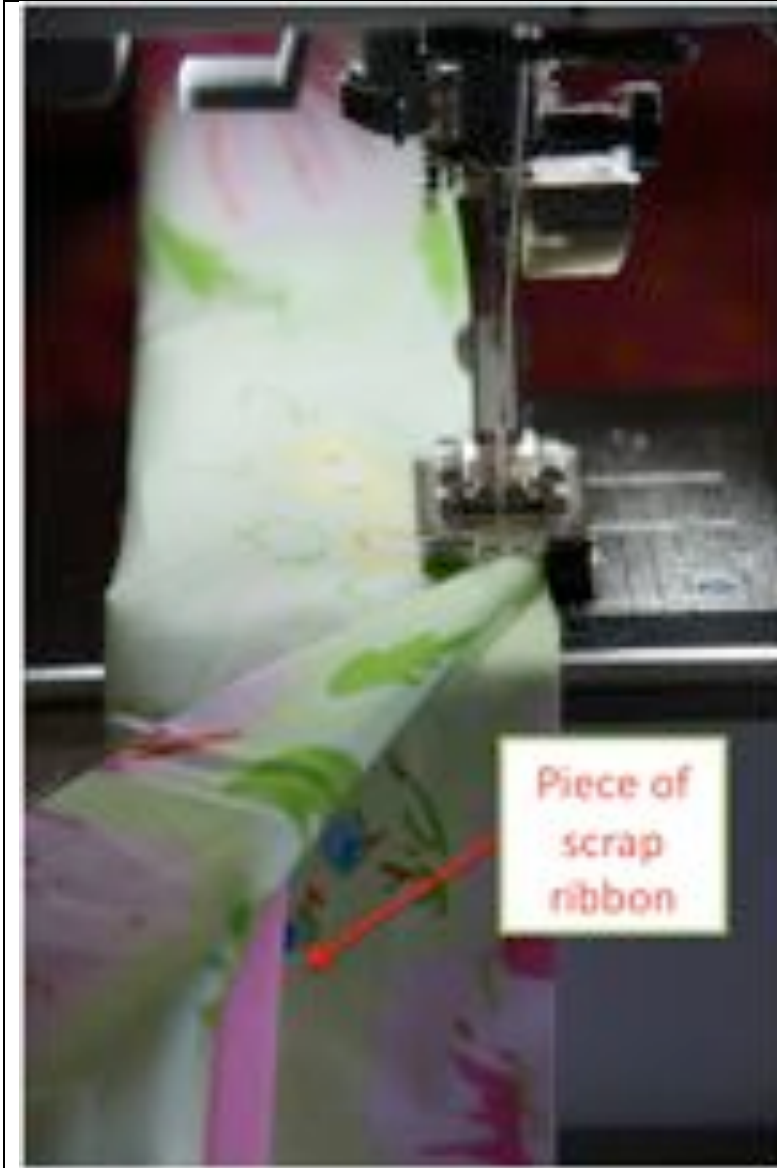
It is important to maintain the sequence of steps when constructing FELIZ.

| Illustration | Directions |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Apply fusible interfacing at the seam allowances where the ties will attach.</p> <p>If you wish to include additional buttons to the back, please apply fusible interfacing to the back apron facings.</p> |



Cut two pieces of ribbon to length for the sash ties or sew a sash from your fabric (here, one method to turn the sash):

Cut a piece of scrap ribbon a bit longer than the sash. Tack this ribbon to the end of the sash.



Fold the sash lengthwise, laying the ribbon in the middle. Stitch the long edge of the sash.



Pull the ribbon through the sash to turn the sash. Snip the ribbon from the sash and save for another project.



Tuck in the ends of the sash pieces and press. Topstitch along the edges of the sash pieces.

TIP: It is recommended to securely stitch pieces of *elastic* to the inside ends of the sash pieces. This elastic will be hidden within the casing, but will allow the child to dress and undress without undoing the sash.



Finish the inside edges of the apron facing pieces.

These facing pieces are only necessary, if you choose to include decorative button closures. If you wish to forego the button closure, you may leave the facings off altogether. In this instance, however, you will need to finish the vertical edges of the back apron pieces.



Stitch button holes using binding tape or ribbon.

These button holes serve primarily a decorative purpose and can be left off completely.



Stitch the apron facing piece to the side apron piece. Right sides together. Turn and press.

Repeat for the other side. Secure the buttonholes in this seam. Turn and press.



Stitch the side apron pieces to the middle front apron piece. In doing so, secure the two sash pieces in these seams at the markings.

Press the seam allowances toward the middle and topstitch.



Hem the apron.

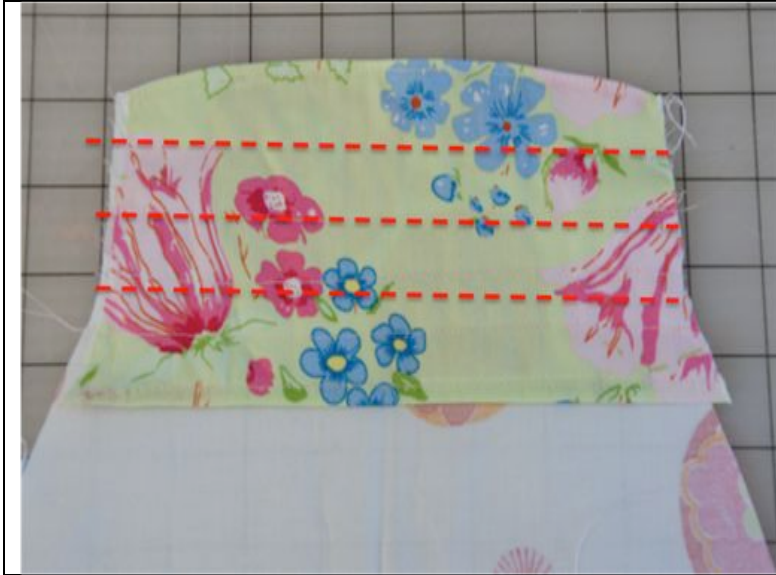
Topstitch the seam of the apron facings.

Lay this apron piece aside for the meantime.



Finish the bottom edge of the back facing piece.

Stitch the facing piece to the back underdress piece right sides together.



Turn the facing inside. Press and topstitch this seam.

Stitch 2-3 casings for the elastic.



Embellish the back underdress piece with ruffles if desired.



Insert elastic into the casings.
Secure the elastic along one side with straight stitch.



Cinch the fabric to the desired fit.
Secure the other ends of the elastic with straight stitch.
Trim the excess elastic.



Stitch the underdress side pieces to the back piece.

Important: Please leave a seam allowance at the upper edge between the side pieces and the back piece of approx. 1 cm (5/8 in.) for the side piece. The side piece will stick up a little bit over the back piece that has the elastic casings. This seam allowance is necessary to attach the apron piece in a latter step.



Stitch all underdress pieces together, finish the seams, press and topstitch.

Now lay this underdress aside for the moment.



Stitch the shoulder straps and strap facings at the shoulder seams. Press and topstitch these seams.

Stitch shoulder straps and strap facings together along the long edges right sides together. If desired, include a cap sleeve or ruffle in the outside seam.



Turn the shoulder straps.

Press and topstitch the outside edges.



At this time, the three components of the dress are finished: The apron, the underdress and the shoulder straps.

These three components will now be attached with a single stitching line along the top edge of the dress. It is important to pay careful attention as to which fabric side is facing which.



Pin the wrong side of the underdress to the right side of the apron. Pin the shoulder straps at the markings.

In this example, the shoulder strap facing is white. The green (right) side of the shoulder strap is facing the right side of the apron.



The shoulder strap will be pinned at two places around the side of the dress.



As seen from above.



As seen from behind.

Stitch the upper seam, thereby securing the shoulder straps and attaching the apron to the underdress.



Turn the dress. Press the seam and topstitch.



Using tailor's chalk or disappearing marker, mark a casing for the sash.



Please pin the sash in place, so that it does not get stitched to the fabric accidentally.



Please mark the casing generously, so as to not stitch the sash.



Carefully stitch along the marked lines for the sash casings. Be careful not to stitch the sash.

With this stitching line, the apron layer will be attached to the undersress.



Attach the buttons.



Hem the underdress.



Your Feliz dress is ready for the party!