

Pillowcase Dress Instructions

If you received the pillowcase(s) from Sewing for Smiles, they've been laundered. If not, please launder before you start sewing....thanks so much!

1. Fold lengthwise. Determine how long you want the dress to be and then cut off the top in a straight cut.
2. While folded, cut the armhole the shape of a 'J' about 3-4" deep, depending on the size of the dress. (see page 2)
3. Make the casing. On the top edge, fold down about ¼" and press; fold down another ¾" and press. This allows ½ inch elastic to flow smoothly through the casing. Stich close to the folded edge to make the casing.
4. Reinforce the underarm by stitching/backstitching about 1" on the side seams
5. Remove/ cut off the manufacturer label/tag for recipients' comfort
6. If you have one of the fold-up and in pillowcases, please take the time to fold that up and add some stitching/hemming before adding any embellishment. It may create a 6 or 7" hem and that's ok...much better than have it dragging for the recipient. Thanks.
7. DECORATE/ Add embellishments.

Horizontal decorations: From the top of the casing, measure 2 ½ inches down from the top of the casing and sew on some lace, ribbon, rick rack, trim, creative stitching.....from the bottom of the dress, along the natural pillow case hem (or about 3"), sew on ribbon, lace, rick rack, creative stitching.

Vertical decorations—find the center of the front of the dress. Use wide (3" or more) lace/ribbon. Attach lace right under the casing and continue around the bottom of the dress to the hemline. Sew to secure the entire vertical piece.

Miscellaneous decorations--Pockets: place in an appropriate location on the dress. If there are spots, feel free to add ribbon/ bows or other creative solutions to help 'love' the dress. If sewing on buttons, *PLEASE* make sure they are securely fastened as we don't want children swallowing them. Feel free to be creative!!! (see page 2)

8. Cut 2 pieces of ½" elastic—6 – 8" long each...depends on how wide the pillowcase is and how tall the recipient will be.
9. Using a large safety pin, thread elastic through the casing and pin at each end. Stich across each end of the casings to secure so the elastic won't pull out.
10. Cut 2 pieces of double fold bias tape 30-36" long each, depending on the size of the dress. These will bind the armholes and create shoulder ties.
11. Fold each piece of bias tape in half to find the center. Find the center of the armhole. Pin center of tape to center of armhole, keeping smaller side of the bias tape on the right side of the pillowcase. This makes certain you catch the other side of the bias tape when sewing. Stich/sew the bias tape onto the dress, starting at one end of the tape and continuing to the other end of the tape to make the ties. Please back stich at beginning and end to secureyou're welcome to fold the bias tape in about ¼" at each end for a more finished look. Please back stitch to secure the thread.
12. When both armholes are bound and ties made, the dress is ready to wear!

Feel free to call your team lead with questions, or call Susan 630-688-8937

