

# Dress with Elasticized Top

## Materials required:

- $\frac{5}{8}$  yd.– $1\frac{1}{8}$  yd. cotton fabric, depending on size
- $2\frac{1}{2}$  yd. double fold bias tape
- 12"–16" elastic,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, depending on size
- Coordinating all-purpose thread

## Making the Dress

1. 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"

I made the dress smaller for the littler sizes about 22"x 30" for the size 3 dress; bigger for the larger dress about 41"x44". I think this helps to make the dress more proportionate. You can cut two size 3 dresses out of one yard of fabric.

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. You can also make an estimate depending on the size of the dress.
4. Fold down the top about  $\frac{3}{8}$ " at the front and back. Edgestitch to make a casing. Slide 6 inches of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " elastic through to cause it together in the front and repeat in the back. (I used a 9 inch piece of elastic for the size 12 dress- adjust as necessary)
5. Cut two 38" lengths of double fold bias tape. Use bias tape to encase armhole, allowing equal tape extensions at each end so that the dress can be tied at the shoulders. Pin. Sew entire length of bias tape.
6. 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 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 or machine embroidery.
- Use your imagination! This is a great way to use bits and pieces of leftover trims and fabrics.



Directions adapted from Nancy's Notions and patterns from [littledressesforafrica.org](http://littledressesforafrica.org)