

- Two Top Front (A)
- One Top Back Interfacing (C), on fold
- Two Side Back Interfacing (D)
- Two Button Band (G)
- Two Front Neck Facing (H)
- One Back Neck Facing (I), on fold
- Two Front Armhole Facing (J)
- Two Back Armhole Facing (K)

3 From the Accent fabric, cut:

- Two 4" strips straight of grain, from selvedge to selvedge. Stitch together and cut to the following length for Belt, with seam at center back: XS - 65", S - 70", M - 75", L - 80", XL - 85".
- Bias strips, 1 3/8" wide, to make a total of approximately 5 yd of bias band (generously measured)

PREPARE THE MATERIALS

4 Fold and very lightly press two yards of the prepared bias strips in half lengthwise, right side of fabric facing out (skip this step if you use ready-made bias band).

5 Apply fusible interfacing to wrong side of all Facings, Button Bands, and corresponding Top pieces, following the manufacturer's instructions.

6 Serge or zigzag all raw edges along side and shoulder seams, and around the edges of the facings that will be visible inside the dress.

ASSEMBLE THE DRESS

7 Stitch all darts closed. Press darts on the front flat and darts on the backside toward center back.

8 Close shoulder seams of Top pieces, Neck Facings, and Armhole Facings and press seam allowances open.

9 With right sides together, stitch Front Neck Facing to Top Front. Clip seam allowances and cut corners of seam allowances where necessary to reduce bulk. Fold Facing inside dress and press in place. Understitch Neck Facing.

10 Baste bias band to one side of each Button Band (to left side of underlapping and right side of overlapping Button Band), with raw edges aligning and bias band on top of Button Band. Make sure to start at the seam allowance of the neckline and



go through the seam allowance of the waistline.

11 With right sides facing and bias band sandwiched between Button Band and Top, stitch Button Band to Front Top, starting at the seam allowance of the neckline and sewing all the way down through the seam allowance of waistline.

12 Press Button Band toward center front, with seam allowances pointing toward button band. Fold Button Band lengthwise, right sides facing. Carefully stitch seam along neckline closed, beginning at the (remaining) seam allowance of the Button Band. Clip corner of seam allowance and fold Button Band inside out.

13 On the wrong side of the top, fold remaining seam allowance of button band toward inside, barely covering the seamline. Press in place. Baste, if necessary.

14 Topstitch button band about 1/8" away from each edge. Begin and end at the seam allowance of the waist, pivoting at the corners.

15 Repeat Steps 11–14 with other Button Band.

16 Stitch right sideseam of top closed and close about 5" of left side seam at underarm, following notches. Leave the remaining sideseam unsewn and press seam allowances open.

17 Stitch side seams of armhole facings closed. Press open. Baste folded bias band to seam allowance of armhole facings with raw edges aligning. Begin and end under the arm, where it is less visible.

18 With right sides facing and bias band sandwiched between layers, stitch armhole facing to armhole. Cut corners of seam allowances where necessary in order to reduce bulk. Clip seam allowances around armhole and fold facings inside dress. Press in place. Repeat with other armhole facing.

19 With right sides together, stitch right side seam of Skirt closed. Press seam allowances open.

20 With right sides facing and aligning center front/center back and side seam(s), stitch Skirt to Top, evenly distributing/gathering the fullness of the skirt to the width of the waistline. Serge or topstitch all layers together to prevent them from fraying. **Tip:** If you want a very clean looking inside, you may also bias-bind the waistline seam allowances.

21 Stitch invisible zipper into open left side seam, between notches. Close remaining sideseam of skirt and press seam allowances open. Zigzag stitch across upper and lower end of zipper to fix them and give support to these areas.

22 With right sides together, stitch unfolded bias band to lower raw edge of Skirt, using a 1/4" – 1/2" seam allowance. Fold bias band toward wrong side of Skirt to cover the raw edge. Press in place. From the right side, stitch in the ditch to hold bias band in place.

23 Check buttonhole placement. Adjust, if necessary. **Note:** Remember that a button should sit at the widest part of your bust to prevent gaping. Stitch buttonholes in place. Stitch on buttons according to buttonholes.

24 Fold fabric strip for Belt in half lengthwise. Press lightly. Fold raw edges toward center fold, like you would fold a bias band. Press. With right sides facing, stitch short edges closed. Clip corners of seam allowances and fold strip inside out again. Topstitch about 1/8" away from long edges, closing the strip.

25 Embellish the dress by adding the embroidery design of your choice to the skirt.