

Hitty's Floral Dress Pattern

By Wendi Dunn

This pattern has ¼" seams included. I made it for my [Hitty's Garden fabric on Spoonflower](#), but you can use any lightweight cotton fabric for the tutorial. If your fabric has a tendency to fray, use Fray-Check on the exposed edges.

The tutorial combines hand and machine sewing techniques. The hand sewing stitches you will use are a basting stitch, gathering stitch, backstitch and hemstitch. Feel free to modify the instructions if you are more comfortable using a different method. The important thing is not to rush. When you go slowly and carefully, you will have more control.

TIP: When sewing by hand, wax thread with beeswax first to make sewing easier – less twisting!

Materials

⅛ yard cotton fabric
Silk pins
Thread to match fabric (and a contrasting color)
Needle for hand sewing
Seam ripper
Beeswax
Fray-Check
2 small buttons (available from Hobby Lobby)
Size 80 tatting thread for button loops

Cutting Out

Print the .pdf file on 8.5 x 11 paper. Cut out pattern pieces. Pin pieces to fabric with silk pins (they leave smaller holes). Cut skirt on fold. Cut one bodice piece. Cut neckline casing on bias. Cut two sleeves and sleeve casings. On bodice, mark centers of armholes and center front. Mark tops of sleeves. Mark center of skirt and dots on back of skirt. I use a regular graphite pencil for marking on fabric.



Neckline Edge

With right sides together, baste neckline casing to neckline edge. Ease in a little extra fabric at corners.



Hand sew casing to neckline with a backstitch, just below basting stitches. Clip curves at neckline.



Trim seam and roll edge of casing over to hide seam. Hem casing. Press finished neckline edge.



Sleeves

Hand or machine-gather top edge of sleeve. A sewing machine stitch length of 5 is used for gathering. With right sides together, pin top edge of sleeve to armhole at center marks.



Pull up gathers to fit bodice armhole. Baste sleeve to bodice, then check placement of gathers on right side of bodice. Hand sew sleeve in place using a small backstitch. Trim seam, clip curves at armhole and press armhole seam. Apply Fray-Check to cut edge.



Hand or machine-gather lower edge of sleeve to fit width of sleeve band. Hand sew sleeve to band with right sides together, using a backstitch. Trim seam and roll edge of casing over to hide seam. Hem casing. Press sleeve band.



Repeat all steps above for second sleeve.

Finishing Bodice

With right sides together, match edges of sleeves and bodice front and back. Hand baste side seams. Machine sew side seams, using a stitch length between 2 and 2.5. Sew a gentle curve from edge of sleeve casing to waist. Clip curves at side seams to release tension.



With right sides together, pin center of skirt to center of bodice (bodice piece will be facing upside down). Pin left and right edges of skirt to left and right edges of bodice back. Adjust gathers in between the pins, then add a few extra pins at top edge.



Remove basting stitches with seam ripper. Press side seams open. **TIP:** Insert a pencil inside the sleeve to press seam without flattening the sleeve. To finish center back, fold down $\frac{1}{4}$ " on both back edges of bodice and press. Hem back edges.

Skirt

Fold under $\frac{1}{4}$ " on left and right edges of skirt, which will become the center back seam. Use the contrasting color thread in your sewing machine and a stitch length of 5 for gathering. Sew first line of gathering stitches a bit less than $\frac{1}{4}$ " from top edge. Sew a second line of gathering stitches $\frac{1}{4}$ " below the first. Secure gathering stitches on one edge by tying them together. Place a pin at center mark on skirt. Pull up gathers until skirt width matches bodice width.



Machine baste skirt to bodice a bit less than $\frac{1}{4}$ " from top edge. Check the gathers on the right side of the dress. The gathers should be evenly distributed. If everything looks good, switch back to the thread color which matches fabric. Set the stitch length between 2 and 2.5. Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " from edge, which should be just above armholes. Be careful not to catch the sleeves in your stitching.



Remove all gathering stitches. Press seam flat. Gently press skirt waistband up towards bodice. Finish waistband with a zig-zag stitch in the seam allowance. Trim seam close to zig-zag stitching. Turn bodice sleeves right side out. Use Fray-Check on the cut edge of waistband.



Finishing Dress

With right sides together, pin back edges of skirt from bottom to dot. Machine sew back edge of dress, ending with a backstitch to secure at dot. Press seam open.



Fold up bottom edge of skirt $\frac{5}{8}$ " and press. Fold down $\frac{1}{8}$ " at edge, then hem bottom of skirt. Also hem edges of center back opening.



Add two buttons and button loops on back of dress for closure. Size 80 tatting thread works well for the loops. If you haven't made button loops before, look for a tutorial on Youtube.

TIP: If you insert a plastic drinking straw in the loops, then pull the threads tight around the straw, your button loops will be just the right size.



Congratulations! You made a dress for Hitty!

View "Hitty's Floral Dress" post here: <https://ataleoftwohittys.com/hittys-floral-dress>

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This free pattern makes a dress to fit most 6¼" – 6½" Hitty dolls. Use cotton fabric for the dress and ¼" seams. You may create doll clothes for personal use or for sale, as long as you credit *A Tale of Two Hittys*.

