

Project: Pillowcase Dress

American Patchwork & Quilting



1 MILLION PILLOWCASE CHALLENGE

Pattern 61



FABRICS are from the Sugar Bloom collection by Verna Mosquera for FreeSpirit Fabrics (makeitcoats.com).

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Materials

FOR ONE PILLOWCASE DRESS

- $\frac{3}{8}$ yard red print (dress band)
- $\frac{7}{8}$ yard blue print (dress body)
- 2—40" lengths of $\frac{7}{8}$ "-wide ribbon
- Water-soluble marking pen

Finished dress: 20×30"
(child's size large)

Yardages and cutting instructions are based on 42" of usable fabric width.

Measurements include $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowances for piecing strips and $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowances for pillowcase construction. Sew with right sides together unless otherwise stated.

Cut Fabrics

From red print, cut:

- 1—10×41" strip

From blue print, cut:

- 1—26 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×41" rectangle

Assemble Dress Body

Use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance for the following steps.

1. Place red print 10×41" strip right side up on work surface. Place blue print 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×41" rectangle right side up atop red print strip (**Photo 1**). Align a pair of long edges.
2. Beginning at the unaligned long edge, roll up the blue print rectangle until it is about halfway up the red print strip (**Photo 2**). The aligned pair of long edges should still be aligned.
3. Fold the red print strip over the blue print roll (**Photo 3**). Pin the three raw edges (two red print, one blue print) together, making

sure the blue print roll does not get pinned.

4. Sew pinned edges together with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance (**Photo 4**) to form a flat tube.
5. Simultaneously pull the blue print roll out of the red print tube as if you were pulling a sleeve out (**Photo 5**), and turn the red print tube right side out.
6. Unroll the blue print rectangle to make the dress unit. Pulling slightly on red print band, press the band flat with seam allowance toward the band. Turn over; repeat pressing on the opposite side.
7. Fold the dress unit in half with the wrong side inside. Using a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance and beginning at the band, sew together dress unit long edges (**Photo 6**).
8. Turn the dress unit wrong side out; press the seam flat. With wrong side still out and using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance, sew the long edge of the dress unit again, enclosing the seam previously sewn in Step 7 (**Photo 7**).

4. Cut a backward J shape using the marks as a guide to form armholes (**Photo 11**).

5. Turn raw edge of one armhole under $\frac{1}{4}$ " (**Photo 12**); press. Turn same edge under $\frac{1}{4}$ " again (**Photo 13**); press. Topstitch folded edge to hem. Repeat with remaining armhole.

Make Neck Casing

1. Turn raw edge of a neckline half under $\frac{1}{4}$ " (**Photo 14**); press. Turn same edge under $1\frac{1}{4}$ "; press. Topstitch folded edge to form a ribbon casing. Repeat with remaining neckline half.
2. Pin a large safety pin to one end of a ribbon length. Leading with the safety pin, thread ribbon through a neckline casing, keeping layers flat (**Photo 15**). Repeat with remaining ribbon length and remaining neckline casing.
3. Make ribbons even in casings. Machine-stitch through casing midpoints, securing ribbons.
4. To finish dress, tie ribbons into bows to form shoulder straps (**Photo 16**).

Make Dress Armholes

1. With dress unit flat on work surface, center seam (**Photo 8**).
2. Fold the dress unit in half lengthwise (**Photo 9**); carefully smooth it out so there are no ripples or bumps.
3. Using a water-soluble marking pen, mark 2" from the dress unit sides and 4" from the dress unit top (**Photo 10**).

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PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2



PHOTO 3



PHOTO 4



PHOTO 5



PHOTO 6



PHOTO 7



PHOTO 8



PHOTO 9

Project: Pillowcase Dress



PHOTO 10



PHOTO 11



PHOTO 12



PHOTO 13



PHOTO 14



PHOTO 15



PHOTO 16