**Children's Hospital Gown**

These are instructions on how to sew a hospital gown for a child.  The hospital gown has an opening at the back that completely overlaps to give full coverage.  The back has two 16" tie closures on each side - one is on the outside and one is on the inside. There is also a 16" tie closure at the neck. It has a square neckline and butterfly sleeves. The short butterfly sleeves allow for full access to the arm for ease in medical procedures.

The pattern is a very simple pattern to sew and is designed for beginner sewers. There are no complicated bias trims or rounded edges. A traditional sewing machine or serger can be used. It is helpful if the sewing machine has a zigzag stitch, but this is not necessary.

Please note that you may want to buy grosgrain ribbon instead of making your own ties as this will save considerable construction time; in which case, please omit the instructions below on cutting the ties. Each gown will require three yards of grosgrain.

The pattern includes five sizes: small (sizes 3-4); medium (sizes 5-6); large (sizes 7-8); extra large (sizes 10-12); and XX-large (sizes 14-16). Yardage ranges from one yard to two and a quarter yards. A good quality cotton/ polyester blend is recommended. This blend will allow for the garment to be laundered with minimal or no wrinkling.

Please see the blog post on how to make the pattern and cut the fabric at this URL <http://www.the-embroiderist.com/blog/2018/1/8/childrens-hospital-gown-how-to-make-the-pattern-cut-the-fabric>.  This blog post is merely on how to sew the hospital gown. Please read both before starting the gown. Both posts are available as a PDF to download without pictures at the end of each post.

All fabric should be washed and dried on the hottest temperatures possible before cutting.

**NOTE:** There are simple one page instructions that are also available on the same blog post. These are sometimes easier to refer to once you have read the more detailed instructions.

**WORKSTATIONS** - if you are sewing as a group, you may want to set up sewing stations based upon the different steps above. A sample made before hand is very helpful as well as making the patterns. One person or several people could be runners who move completed items from one station to another. Instructions could be printed with just that station’s instructions at each sewing machine and a sample of just that step hanging for everyone to visualize. Please contact me if you would like more help in setting up workstations.

**TIME FRAMES**

* The pattern will take about an hour to create.
* It takes about 20 minutes to cut the fabric.
* The gown takes about an hour and a half to sew.

**FABRIC YARDAGE BY GOWN SIZE**

* Size Small (3-4) - 1 yard
* Size Medium (5-6) - 1 yard
* Size Large (7-8) - 1 1/4 yards
* Size Extra Large (10-12) - 2 yards
* Size XX-Large (14-16) - 2 1/4 yards

**MATERIALS to Sew the Pattern**

* Traditional sewing machine (with a zigzag stitch if possible) or a serger
* Universal or standard sewing machine needle
* The patterns for the gown – Go to this URL for the pattern <http://www.the-embroiderist.com/blog/2018/1/8/childrens-hospital-gown-how-to-make-the-pattern-cut-the-fabric>
* Scissors
* Pins
* Seam ripper (optional)
* OPTIONAL: 3 yards of grosgrain ribbon to substitute sewing the ties for the closures. Cut 6 pieces that are 15” long.
* You will also need a good quality polyester thread in white or matching color. If you are not sure about your thread quality please try this test:
	+ Cut off about 12” of the thread
	+ Knot the thread in the middle
	+ With your hands gripping about 3” on each side of the knot, pull on the thread hard.
	+ Did it break? Please do not use this thread.

**INSTRUCTIONS on How to Sew the Gown**

**NOTES:**

1. All seams are 1/2" (the edge of the foot).
2. Start sewing 1/8" to 1/4" from the edge so the fabric does not bunch up under the feed dogs.
3. All sewing should begin and end with a backstitch or a tack down stitch to secur the stitches.
4. Most seams do not need to be pinned as they are straight and the fabric is not slippery. If this is a new concept to you, try it. It is very fast and this easy project is a great one to try new skills. Plus it is a lot faster.
5. While garments should be pressed, this fabric is so nice and the pattern so simple that no pressing is necessary.
6. If you do not have a zig zag stitch, please double stitch instead. The second stitch should be close to the edge of the opposite seam stitch.

**STEP 1**

Make the pattern and cut the fabric. See the blog post for the links to the patterns and instructions on how to make the pattern and cut the fabric.

**STEP 2 – How to Edge Hem**

Edge hemming will be used on most of the edges of this garment. Edge hemming is a three step process of sewing the edge of the garment so the woven fabric does not unravel. Most garments use a 1/2" edge hem, but since this is for beginners, we will use a 1" edge hem. Please refer to this step when "Edge Hem" is mentioned. It is as follows:

* Fold the edge of the garment 1/2"
* Fold the edge of the garment a second time 1/2" (this will encase the raw edge)
* Topstitch or stitch close to the edge that is not on the fold.

**STEP 3 - Making the Ties**

Skip this step if you are using grosgrain ribbon instead of making the ties with the same fabric.

* Fold in the short ends of the fabric 1/4" and then 1/4" again (this will encase the raw edge of the ends).
* Fold the fabric in half lengthwise. It will now be 15" by 1".
* Finger press along the crease.
* Open the fabric and fold one long edge up to meet the center fold line.
* Do this for the other side as well.
* Now fold it closed. The raw pieces will be encased inside.
* Topstitch or stitch close to the edge that is not on the fold.
* Repeat this for all 6 ties.
* Set the ties aside.

**STEP 4 - Sleeve**

* Edge Hem (see step 2 above) the top edge of the sleeve.
* Edge Hem (see step 2 above) the straight side that has both corners a right angle.
* Edge Hem (see step 2 above) the bottom of the sleeve.
* With both wrong sides down, place two of the opposite sleeves on top of each other leaving 5/8" that is not overlapping on each end. The sleeves should have the two hemmed straight edges overlapping in the middle and the two diagonal edges should be on the sides.
* Zig zag the top edge where it is overlapping.
* Set the sleeve aside.

**STEP 5 - Back**

* Edge Hem (see step 2 above) the large diagonal that is 3" less than the other. CAUTION: This edge is on the bias. It will stretch. You may want to pin this to avoid stretching.
* Edge Hem (see step 2 above) the top edge.
* Edge Hem (see step 2 above) straight edge that extends from the above sewn diagonal edge.
* Do this for the second back piece.

**STEP 6 - Adding the Ties**

* On the back piece, pin one tie to the wrong side of the corner of the diagonal and the straight edge that have been hemmed. This is where the long diagonal meets the long hemmed side. It should be about 3/4" from the edge with the length of the tie extending past the garment.
* Zig zag the tie to the back.
* Do this for both back pieces. These will be the side ties.
* On the back piece, pin one tie to the wrong side of the corner of the diagonal and the straight edge that have been hemmed. This is the top edge and the diagonal. It should be about 3/4" from the edge with the length of the tie extending past the garment.
* Zig zag the tie to the back.
* Do this for both back pieces. These will be the neck ties.
* Lay the front of the garment with the right side down and the top up.
* Put the other sewn tie up against this side to determine the tie placement and to make sure they line up.  This is especially necessary for the smaller sizes. For the size Large it was 6" from the diagonal.
* Pin the tie on the wrong side of the garment.
* Zig zag the tie to the back.
* Do this for the opposite side, but turn the fabric over so the right side is facing up. Fold the last tie over and place it in the same place, but on the opposite side and on the right side of the fabric.
* Pin the tie on the right side of the garment.
* Zig zag the tie to the back.
* Pin all the ties to the main pieces so they do not get in the way when sewing the remining seams.

**STEP 7 - Sewing the Sleeves to the Body**

* With the tops of the front and one sleeve matching at the top, and right sides together, sew along the edge with a straight stitch.
* Finish the edge with a zig zag stitch.
* Do this for all four sleeve seams.

**STEP 8 - Sewing the Side Seams**

* With right sides together, match the edge of the sleeves and the sleeve seams. Sew the seam together with a straight stitch.
* Finish the edge with a zig zag stitch.
* Do this for both side seams.

**STEP 9 - Hem the Bottom Edge**

* Edge Hem (see step 2 above) the bottom of the garment.

You are finished. Thank you for your labor of love.