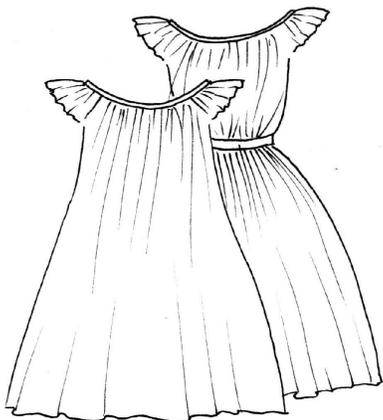


# Chemise Pinafore: SA-250 Girl's Dresses Base

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This pinafore uses your chemise bodice pattern (included in SA/HMP-250 or SA/HMP-105) as a drafting base.

With the small shoulder flounces, it is best suited to girls, but pleated fullness may work well for small boys.

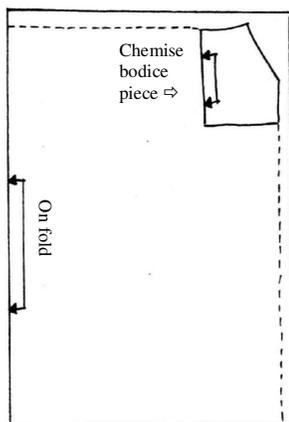
It may be made in white cotton, or in prints and plaids.

Most pinafores will use two widths of fabric; for small children, two widths of 36" fabric is sufficient. For older girls, two widths of 45" fabric provides enough "swish" to fit over their skirts nicely.

You will need two measurements:

1. **Overall Length:** measure from the middle of the shoulder (along a modern T-shirt seam line) to the desired hem. Add 2" for seam and hem allowances.
2. **Neckline Circumference:** drape a piece of string around the child's upper chest, where you would like the neckline to sit. This should be wide on the shoulders, but not off the shoulder—about 1-2" inside the joint. Add 1" to this length for turnings and allowances.

## Drafting & Cutting



Cut two widths of fabric, each as long as your Length Measurement (#1) above.

Fold each in half, meeting the selvages. Stack the two pieces, aligning the folds as in the diagram.

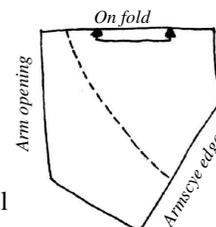
Lay your bodice front piece close to the selvages, as above; use chalk or pencil to draw a straight line to the fold of the fabric.

The selvages can be used as an instant side seam finish if desired; a drawn line is shown for clarity only.

Unfold one pinafore width and cut it in half, along the former fold. This will become the back pinafore pieces.

To draft the sleeve flounce, draw a pleasing curve from about half-way down the armscye edge, to the "cut on fold" edge of the pattern piece.

For a slightly full flounce, set the piece about 1" from a fold of fabric. For a full flounce, set the piece 3" from a fold of the fabric. Cut two sleeves.



## Assemble the Pinafore

All seam allowances are 1/2".

It is easiest to hem the sleeve flounce first; turn the long curved edge to the wrong side 1/4"; carefully tuck the raw edge under, and secure with a small running stitch (it is best to do this by hand.)

Following the diagrams in your pattern construction guide, stitch the sleeves to the pinafore bodies. Use a plain running stitch seam, and press all allowances toward the chemise bodies. Do not use a flat felled seam. Leave the remainder of the armscye seam (past the flounce hem) free.

Stitch the side seams; hand overcast all seams if desired. Tuck the raw edges of the remaining armscye edges to the wrong side, and secure with small running stitches.

## Work Hems

For a *tape closure*, turn the back pinafore edges to the wrong side 1/2"; tuck the raw edges under, and secure along the fold with running or straight stitches.

For a *button closure*, turn back edges under 1", then tuck the raw edges under. )

Turn the lower hem edge to the wrong side 1"; tuck the raw edges under and secure along the fold with running or straight stitches.

## Work the Neck Band & Neckline

Cut or rip a strip of fabric along the width of your fabric, 1 1/4" wide. Trim it to the length of measure #2.

Press one long edge to the wrong side 1/2". Fold the band in half, matching the short ends, and in half again, to find the "quarter marks." Mark the center front of the pinafore with a pin.

Work two rows of running stitches along the neckline edge. Pin



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the un-pressed edge of the band right sides together with the pinafore, having the short ends extend ¼" beyond the back placket edges. Match the center points, and pin; match the shoulder seams with the quarter marks of the band and pin.

Draw up the gathers to fit the band, distributing the fullness evenly. Do not gather the back hemmed area. Pin as needed.

Stitch with a ½" seam allowance; press all allowances toward the band. Trim the allowances to ¼".

### ***Finish Work***

Tuck the short ends of the bands to the wrong side; fold the band in half, meeting the long pressed edge of the band with the seam line, covering all seam allowances. Secure along the fold with a running or straight stitch.

To close the pinafore, run a tape through the neckline binding.

Or, work buttonholes and buttons down the back of the pinafore, to about waist level. Most will close securely with a button at neck and waist, or neck and mid-back; space as needed for your child.

### ***Waistband Variation***

For children who desire more definition of the waist, this pinafore pattern can be made with a set-in waist band.

Measure your child's waist comfortably over her clothing. Cut or rip two strips of fabric, equal to this measurement plus 2" for seam allowances and overlap, and 2" wide.

Measure your child from the middle of the shoulder to waist level. Draw a line across the pattern at this point, parallel to the hem edge.

Cut the pattern and fabric layers apart along the waist line; stitch the sleeve seams and side seams, and hem the armhole, as above. Stitch the "skirt" portions right sides together along the side seams. Hem the skirts and finish the neckline as in the basic instructions above.

Hem the "bodice" portion of the pinafore back with the 1" method; the skirts may be hemmed with the narrow option.

Work gathering stitches along the waist edge of the skirts, and pinafore bodice, as in the neckline directions above.

Lay one waistband strip (which will become the outer waistband) right sides together with the pinafore waist edge, having the short ends of the band extend ¼" beyond the pinafore backs. Draw up the gathers to fit.

Lay the second waistband strip to "sandwich" the bodice, and stitch the seam with a ½" seam allowance. Press all allowances toward the band, and trim to ¼" to reduce bulk.

Pin the skirt right sides together with the outer waistband, with

the waistband extending ¼" beyond the back skirt edges. Draw up the skirt gathers to fit; stitch the seam with a ½" seam allowance, and press all allowances toward the band.

Press the short ends of the outer band to the wrong side ¼". Press the long, free edge of the inner band to the wrong side ½", and tuck the short ends under as with the outer band.

Pin the inner band into place, covering all seam allowances. Whipstitch, or secure with a running stitch, along the short band ends, and the skirt/band seam.

Work a buttonhole in the center of the band at the back opening, and add a corresponding button on the opposite side.

