

Make a Child's Sacque Jacket

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These instructions presuppose access to the individual who will wear the garment. It should not be used for ready-to-wear items or items for sale.

You can use a child's basic fitted bodice pattern, such as Sewing Academy/Historic Moments 250, to make a light jacket, lined or unlined, with a slim or coat-shaped sleeve to slip on easily over your full daywear, in a length extended to reach just to the upper hip. A lighter-weight, easily-draping wool cloth is best for this sacque jacket, as heavy wools or stiff fabrics will not drape on the figure with grace.

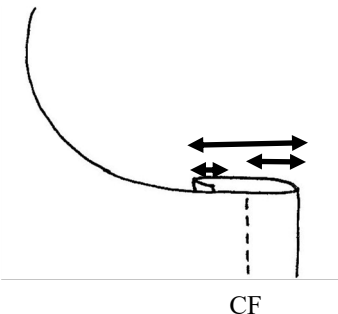
TRACE THE BODICE

- 1 bodice back, marking the center back for cutting on a fold (note: back closing bodices have extra fabric to create a closure. Trace the Center Back line!)
- 1 bodice front, with the center front line marked.
- 1 set of sleeve pieces (shaped or straight)

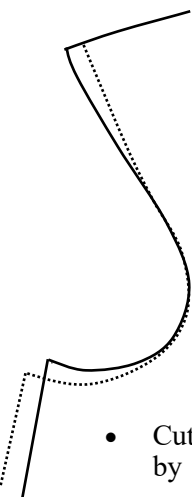
ADJUSTMENTS: CENTER FRONT PLACKET

Add 2" beyond the center front line to create a folded front placket allowance.

This allows 1/2" to the front fold, 1-1/4" for the placket itself, and 1/4" for finishing the inner hem of the placket (see diagram.)



ADJUSTMENTS: ADD EASE



Add a bit of wearing ease to your basic fitted bodice template:

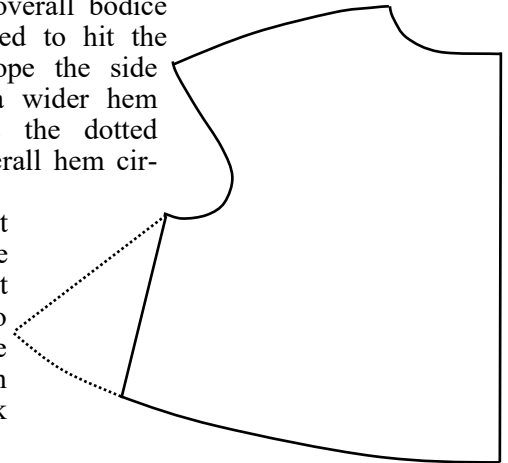
- Raise the armhole on the bodice slightly, about 1/2". This allows a bit of extra clearance over clothing.
- Copy this alteration at the back bodice armhole
- Lengthen and alter the sleeve cap as well to add 1/2".
- Add 1/2" width to the side.
- Cut the armhole base slightly deeper, but not by much, or you risk stapling the child's

arms to their sides. Again 1/2" may be all that is needed.

ADJUSTMENTS: CREATE FLARE

Lengthen the overall bodice shape as needed to hit the upper hip. Slope the side seam out to a wider hem (seen here as the dotted lines). The overall hem circumference

needs to rest easily over the skirt and skirt supports, so plan to copy the angle at both front and back side seams.



Darts will not be sewn in this style.

Test a sleeve and jacket body in muslin, slipping it on over full daywear to ensure there is sufficient range of motion and wearing ease. The sleeve may need a bit more width, for instance, to admit the dress sleeve easily.

Once the shapes are finalized, you can cut and stitch the jacket with or without a lining.

WITHOUT A LINING

Cut a bodice back on a fold of cloth, two front bodices, and two sets of sleeves.

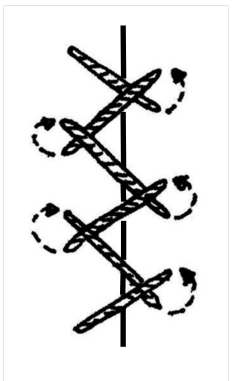
Stitch the shoulder and side seams, and the sleeve seams.

Fold the lower hem edge to the wrong side 1/4" to 1/2" and press well. Hem in place with a small running stitch or a herringbone stitch over the raw edge as desired (see diagram).

(You might also finish it off with a bit of silk bias fabric folded on both edges, and felled or whipped to cover the raw edge.)

Fold the front plackets in place and hem the placket flat to the body of the jacket.

Finish the sleeve wrist with a bit of self-fabric bias binding.



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Finish the neckline with a self-fabric bias binding.

Add closures.

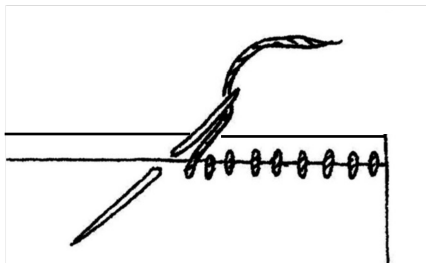
WITH A LINING

Use your adjusted pieces to cut one set of jacket pieces in wool, and one in your lining fabric. Stitch the lining and jacket pieces together to form:

- a set of sleeves,
- a set of sleeve linings,
- a jacket body, and
- a jacket body lining.

To finish the wrist of the sleeves, fell in the lining:

- Press the wrist edge of the outer sleeve to the wrong side about 1/4".
- Press the wrist edge of the sleeve lining to the wrong side a slight bit more than 1/4"
- Slip the lining into the sleeve and meet up the folded wrist edges, setting the lining just slightly back from the outer fabric.
- Use a single thread and a small felling stitch to attach the lining to the folded inner margin of the sleeve wrist. (see diagram)



Bind the neckline with a bit of self-fabric bias binding or fine piping. (Some jackets do have the raw edges of the neckline and lining pressed to the wrong sides, and the lining felled into the neckline edge.)

CLOSURES ON JACKETS

You have several options taken from originals—choose what works best for your needs and the climate!

- No closure at all, no overlap (adjust your construction process to eliminate the folded placket.
- Butted hooked closure at center front (just neckline or to the waist), no overlap (Again, adjust the pattern to avoid the overlapped fronts—extend only 1/2" beyond the center front line to allow for a folded hem there.)
- Overlapped hooked closure, usually to the waist
- Overlapped buttoned closure with larger functional buttons (self-fabric or contrast silk/wool)
- Overlapped or butted closure with decorative tabs (pipe the desired shape, press all allowances toward the body of the shape, and fell on a facing of the same shape, then stitch to the garment firmly in the "ditch" of the piping. Use functional buttons/buttonholes or hooks/eyes to close the overlapped tabs.

Examine image of original waist- to hip-length sacque jackets for trims, closures, sleeve variations, etc.

Fold the front placket of the jacket body into place.

Lay the jacket body lining wrong sides together with the main body, matching up side seams. You may trim the lining front edge shorter, to reach just the folded front edge, and slip it under the jacket body folded portion.

Hem the jacket placket flat to the lining.

Hem the lower edge by pressing the outer and inner layer edges to the wrong side, and felling the lining in place. This covers all the seams neatly and makes the jacket easy to slip on and off.

Stitch the sleeve into the armhole, keeping the sleeve lining free. Fell the sleeve lining to the bodice lining/seam allowance to close it all up neatly.

A "felled" finish is neater and lower in bulk than a modern bagged lining. Avoid any edge finishes that are sewn right sides together, clipped, and turned; they are invariably more bulky than a pressed/clipped edge that has a similar lining felled on.



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