

# BLEUETTE

## 1905 PRESENTATION DRESS/CHEMISE

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by Kim Hayes  
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## 1905 Presentation Dress (Chemise) for Bleurette

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This is the dress that those few coveted Premier Bleurette dolls were shipped in to their new little mamans. The original garments (from which this was meticulously patterned) were meant to only be temporary, as the girls were expected to begin Bleurette's new wardrobe right away from the pages of La Semaine de Suzette so she could have her debut and be shown off to friends! Therefore, there were shortcuts taken – the original garment had the trim simply sewn over raw edges, which you can choose to do if you want to be truly authentic. In my construction directions, however, I have used techniques to give a cleaner finish to your chemise. This is the same pattern that I used to create the authentic reproduction chemises for the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday souvenir dolls by Mary Raleigh that were given at a special UFDC event in 2005.

### Materials:

You will need a piece of loosely woven white cotton fabric, preferably with a bit of stiffness to it. You will also need a light blue single fold bias tape (or you can use ribbon if you are going to just sew over raw edges) and a selection of white (cotton) laces:  $\frac{1}{4}$ " lace to go around the neck edge,  $\frac{1}{2}$ " lace to go on the sleeves and at the hem, and  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to  $\frac{5}{8}$ " lace to go across the chest.

### Construction:

1. Press pleat into front
2. Sew shoulder seams
3. Sew bias across chest as indicated on pattern, stitching down the pleat folds as you go across it.
4. Sew lace over bias on chest, gathering slightly. The original appeared to just have a couple of pleats in the lace along the way.

5. Encase neck edge in bias tape and sew the narrow lace over the top of it. (NOTE: you can also use white bias here at the neck and blue at the sleeves, hem and chest if you prefer.)
6. Gather bottom edges of sleeves
7. Tuck gathered edge of sleeve into one edge of bias tape, with the right side of the sleeve against the wrong side of the bias and stitch. You are basically just encasing that raw edge of the sleeve into one side of the bias.
8. Stitch top edge of bias to sleeves, being sure to pull gathers in under the tape to form a cuff. Stitch lace along the top edge of the bias (you can do this in one operation if you are very brave and have a steady hand!).
9. Gather top edges of sleeves and sew into armholes, right sides together.
10. Stitch underarm seams.
11. There are two ways to finish the bottom hem edge:
  - a) Method #1 – Zig zag raw edge of hem, stitch one edge of bias to hem edge, top-stitch bottom edge of tape so it won't come unfolded, and then stitch lace on top of upper edge of tape.
  - b) Method #2 - Unfold one edge of bias tape and stitch along the fold line, with right side of bias to wrong side of hem edge. Press bias to front and top stitch bottom edge. Stitch lace to top edge of bias, stitching to chemise through all thickness.
12. Stitch back seam to notch.
13. Turn under raw edges of back above notch and stitch to secure (or narrow hem if you like).
14. Sew a hook and loop at the neck edge to close the garment.

I hope that you enjoy it! If you have any questions – I am only an email away. You can contact me at [khayes4@woh.rr.com](mailto:khayes4@woh.rr.com). Thank you for trying my pattern!