

Discussion of the Pattern & Sample Pea Jacket and Basque Beret

This is an uncomplicated early LSDS pattern; it was fun to make. The jacket is large enough to fit easily over a dress or blouse. The sample jacket is of marine blue wool (skirt weight) and the collar, plastron, and Basque beret are of white handkerchief linen. Pearl cotton made the running stitch blue embroidery on the jacket, collar, and plastron. The skirt is a woven cotton plaid.

My only small difficulty was with the sleeve and cuff—I felt the sleeve was a bit oversized; it wasn't easy to fit the gathered sleeve end into the tiny cuff, even the larger, alternative cuff. This might not be a problem in a lighter fabric than this wool. I would like to try this jacket with the sleeve provided in the 1906 Quarter Master's Uniform, which has a dart to shape the sleeve end, and a simple hem. It might fit into the armhole of this jacket pretty well.

In linen the Basque-style beret looked like a chef's hat without being blocked. It would probably lie down better in wool, but there wasn't enough of the blue wool for me to try that. The hatband is white satin. The embroidered anchor was made using 1 strand of DMC cotton floss in a wine red. Just for fun, the rope part of the anchor is a loose thread. You could use this anchor motif on the plastron, instead of stripes or dots.

Bleurette could easily wear this jacket over a dress with a pleated skirt, or even a dress with a gathered skirt—then you could omit the plastron.



The model is little Dorée, a reproduction 60 mold Bleurette made by Suzanne McBrayer. She has a spade and baskets to help her dig for clams and carry them home. Oh, to be at the seaside!

Brief History of the Child's Sailor Costume



The earliest record of a child's sailor costume I could find was this British carte de visite photograph dated 1875 showing a little boy in a sailor blouse and short pants. Butterick patterns offered a boy's sailor costume in about 1878, and again in 1879 and 1880. The earliest record I found of a girl's sailor suit was a *Delineator* pattern from 1893. In 1897 *The Delineator* offered a "Girls' French Sailor Costume" comprised of sleeveless dress with gored skirt and a jacket much like the 1906 *La Semaine de Suzette* pattern, called the Quarter Master's Uniform, below.



The McCalls pattern book of 1909 showed several sailor costumes for both boys and girls, evidence that the sailor suit had gained in popularity. The sailor suit continued to be popular until the first World War, after which it faded from children's fashions, as far as I can tell, until the late 1950s. I have a "first day of school" photo of myself wearing a sailor dress; it was taken in about 1965.