

Directions for the 1916 Evening Dress with lace jacket

1. Cut two of the bodice pattern—one is for lining. Depending on your material, you can cut two of the same fabric or you can cut one of silk and a lining of cotton. If the silk is very “fluid,” you may want to use an interlining....a third light cotton bodice piece that is basted to the silk before sewing the lining to the bodice.
2. Sew the two bodice pieces together at the back openings and the top, leaving the bottom seam open. Trim corners. Clip armhole curves. Turn right sides out and press well.
3. Cut the silk skirt 11" x 7-1/2". Using lace that is about 5" to 5-1/2" wide (or can be cut to that width), cut a piece that is 12" long. Turn under a small double hem along the top 1" of the back edges of the lace and the skirt pieces. You will turn under the rest of the back seam edge in step 7.
4. Place the lace on the silk skirt, making a few pleats towards the back to make the lace fit the skirt.
5. Use a machine basting stitch and place two rows of gathering stitches at the top of the skirt.
6. Pin the skirt to the bodice, matching the centers. Stitch and press.
7. Sew the back seam of the silk skirt up about 4". Sew the lace overskirt about 3". For a clean finish, turn under the seam allowances of both the skirt and lace overskirt and catch stitch invisibly.
8. Try the dress on the doll and mark a hem. The 1911 style dress was often about ankle length. Hem the skirt.
9. Sew two snaps to close the bodice.
10. Take a strip of fabric about 1" wide and 8" long. Either by hand-sewing or machine-sewing, make straps for the bodice. Cut the strip in half to make two straps. Pin straps in place on the bodice where desired and invisibly stitch on the inside of the bodice to the lining.
11. Lace Jacket: This is not exactly like the drawings from the 1916 pattern, but is very easy to put together. From a piece of cotton lace edging about 2" wide, cut two strips of lace that are 6" long. Butt the non-scalloped edges of the lace together. Use a tiny zig-zag (or hand-stitching) to sew the two pieces together 2". This is the back seam.
12. Fold the lace piece in half as shown in the diagram on the pattern page. Sew with a tiny zig-zag up from the waist about 1". This will create sleeves. Now just place the jacket on the doll, lap the fronts just slightly, and cover the waist with a beautiful silk ribbon to tie in back. You can also sew silk trim to the neck edge and waist edge. For the red jacket, I used trim along the bottom of the jacket and a hook and thread loop for closure.