

We Dress Bleurette

Summer Robe – 1922

Suzanne Rivière suggests that this dressing gown for Bleurette be made of any lightweight, light-colored, semi-transparent fabric, such as muslin (the lightest possible), linen, tussah silk, organdy, batiste, or cotton voile. Color suggestions are: rose, misty blue, mauve or lemon yellow. Printed fabrics are recommended such as floral prints, dots, ovals, floral bouquets, or other small prints. Also, one could use dotted swiss, embroidered voile or batiste, or an all-over eyelet. Or what about chiffon?

The trim is a fine tulle that has a pointed edge, and is gathered lightly to make a ruffled effect. It goes around the neckline and down the front of the robe, and trims the pockets and sleeves. It is also suggested that you can use a gathered band of plain lightweight fabric, a gathered valenciennes-type lace, or that the trim can be made of ribbon. Construction of the robe is very simple, sew the side seams! This design is all about the trim!

Since the robe is cut on two folds, you have one entire piece before seaming the sides, so it will be easier to add the trim while the robe can be spread out flat. Hem the left side of the robe along the straight edge of the front, but no more. All around the rest of the neckline and right front, turn the edges inside (clipping where necessary) and press, or press and baste, if your fabric won't stay without basting.

Prepare approximately 12" of gathered trim for the neck and one front, and approx. 4.5" of gathered trim for each of two sleeves, and 2" of trim for each pocket. The trims should have a little hem at each end, to finish them, but you can do these as you sew on the trim. The lengths as given allow for a small rolled hem.

Pin the neck and front trim along the inside edge of the robe, starting at the place where your hem left off on the left side, going around the neckline and down the right side. Leave a little for the hem and cut off any extra. Stitch down the trim and hem the ends of it.

Now, if your trim has a raw edge showing on the inside, you could cover it with a narrow bias strip of the same fabric as the robe, but Suzanne does not mention this.

Next, turn the sleeve ends toward the inside, and press, or press and baste. Pin the trim along the sleeve edge, and stitch it in place. Later the edges of the trim will be caught up in the side seams.

Then, make the tiny pockets: Turn under the 1/8" seam allowances along the two sides of the pockets and press. (Baste if you need to.) Turn the top of the pocket to the inside and press (or press and baste). Pin the trim to the inside of each pocket top and stitch the trim to each pocket, turning under the raw edges at each side (or hemming them, if you like). With hand needle, make a tiny line of gathering just below the trim of the pocket, hiding the knots on the wrong side of the pocket. Finally, stitch each pocket to the fronts of the robe as shown--you can stitch the sides of the trim down, too. Don't they look sweet?

Now, sew the side seams of the robe, including in the seam two belt loops (which can be made of crochet thread or tiny ribbon, or what have you) and hem the bottom.

Find a black satin ribbon for the belt---Suzanne says that the contrasting belt is the latest fashion—or you may have a coordinating ribbon, if you choose, but of a darker shade, so Bleurette’s new robe will exhibit the contrast that is *trés á la mode*.

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