

1927 Summer Ensemble: A Translation of *Ensemble d'Ète*
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The ensemble is very much in fashion now. So here is a delicious one, composed of a print dress and hat, which we provide for the very charming doll, Bleurette.

According to the fabric you choose for the pattern, it can be an everyday dress or more dressy. Floral printed cotton or linen makes a simple costume. In printed silk or printed crepe de chine, you'll have a luxurious dress.

The style that looks well on a blonde Bleurette is a pink overprinted with small flowers. You realize that it is not very possible to give your girl a dress of *toile de Jouy* with people or peasants on it. Bleurette would be dressed entirely with a peony, or with the roof of a thatched cottage, or worse, she would disappear under the wings of a majestic bird! Therefore, select a print with small designs so as not to overwhelm this tiny person.

First, cut the dress. It is made up of the pattern for the back, which you cut with flaps on the side, and the pattern for the front, which you cut the same way, but cut off the flaps as shown by the line from point A to B. Place the pattern on the fold of doubled fabric for both the front and the back. This style is meant to be seamed on the sides, from C to A, and from B to D. The little flap is left free. [Hem it all around.]

The yoke is also cut on the fold from doubled fabric, and the back is the same as the front. Leave the one shoulder open, without a seam, to be closed by two buttons. [Hem the seam allowance of the shoulder, and hem or bind the armhole.] The yoke is placed under the dress and sewn down with top stitching, after turning under the edge of the dress at the top [where the pattern says "rentre"].

To the ends of each of the side flaps you sew a ribbon that knots in the front to form a belt. The back of the dress hangs straight.

The fabric used for the yoke is plain cotton or linen, and the ribbon is the color of the flowers of the printed fabric.

Now, you make the hat, which is simplicity in itself. It is cut from the little pattern placed on the straight grain of the fabric. The pattern for the crown is cut four times from the printed fabric [piece marked "fond du chapeau"]. The four pieces are joined together with four seams, and then you re-cut anew the same pattern piece from a light fabric for the lining.

To cut the brim of the hat, take a piece of fabric 16 cm square [6 & 5/16ths inches]. Fold the piece in quarters so you have an 8 cm square [3 & 1/8 inches; put both edges on the folds of the square.] Cut the brim a second time from the lining fabric, or the plain fabric you used for the yoke of the dress. Unite the right and wrong sides with a seam made along the edge using top-stitching. [Construct one hat from fabric and one hat from lining; place right sides together, and seam the two together around the edge of the brim leaving a small opening to turn them right side out. Turn and press; invisibly sew the small opening shut.]

To go around the little hat, a gros-grain ribbon, multi-colored or the color of the belt.

Thus is Bleurette given a charming ensemble which will honor your sewing and milinery talents. But admonish your girl if she seeks too much admiration. It is said that for modesty's sake, the compliments are for the pretty dress and not the little person.

This charming ensemble could be made equally well in all-white fabrics. For this, use embroidered linen, feather-stitched, or embroidered mouselline. For the yoke, in this case, use a plain linen or a double layer of tulle, or another time, imitation Valenciennes lace.

You may, if you will, make this dress with the bottom part white or a color. Fashion the belt, knotted in front, of satin ribbon or faille in a vivid color. The little hat could also be made of doubled silk in the same color as the belt.

Advice in passing: when you wash the dress, unsew and remove the silk and the ribbon, and you will avoid disaster*, and your girl won't be dressed as a rainbow!

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* Silk and ribbon were not color fast and might run onto the dress fabric when washed.