

Bleuette's Early Patterns

1912 Wedding Gown and Veil

This is a dress-up/make-believe costume for Bleuette, who, like any little girl, would like to look in the mirror and see what she would look like as a bride. In order to encourage everyone to make this wonderful gown and veil, the pattern has been altered a little to simplify construction.

Where the original showed a “guimpe” (waist-length blouse) and skirt, the pattern has been modified to create an under-dress instead, which was often used in early Bleuette patterns. The under-dress skirt may be cut to make use of the shaped or scalloped edge of a piece of lace (see pattern). All of the openings are in the back, for ease of dressing, and the collar is lined. The veil is decorated with ribbon flowers as shown, but no embroidering on tulle is required.

If you prefer the original, please see *Bleuette's World*, Summer 2006, for Agnes Sura's more faithful rendition of this pattern.

Fabric Suggestions: Over-Tunic: satin, silk, or faux silk
Under-Dress: Lace (soft and flexible is best)
Veil: Fine nylon tulle, fine netting

When looking for these fabrics, consider old bridesmaid or prom dresses, old lace curtain panels or sheers as sources. Look also for a suitable trim for the veil—gathered lace, tiny ribbon roses on a ribbon, lace with a shaped edge, or other white trimming.

Lace Under-Dress:

Stitch the darts in the skirt, tapering to nothing.

Stitch the shoulder seams of the bodice.

Sew the under and upper sleeves together, making sure you have a left and a right.

Sew the sleeves into the bodice armholes, placing the sleeve seams equidistance from the shoulder seam.

Sew the bodice to the skirt at the waistline.

Fit the dress to your Bleuette, and mark and hem the skirt and sleeves (or just the sleeves, if you have used the shaped edge of a piece of lace. Narrow hem the neckline, or bind it with a strip of bias-cut tulle (cut strip 5/8” by 5.5”). Hem or face the back opening, and add the closures—hooks and loops, or buttons and loops, or snaps.

If desired, add a flounce of lace to the circumference of the under-dress skirt as marked—or add this after you have tried on the hemmed tunic, for correct placement.

Over-Tunic:

Sew center front seam of tunic top.

Turn top edge of lace applique piece, and pin to collar pieces—stitch down invisibly. With right sides together, stitch linings to collars, leaving neckline edges open. Turn and press. With lining side to right side of dress, stitch collar pieces to neckline. Bind neck edge with bias strip (cut 5/8” by 8” of tunic fabric) to hide all seam allowances. Invisibly hem the binding.

Sew side seams of tunic top, clip underarms. Hem sleeves.

Gather waistline of tunic top lightly; fit to tunic skirt and stitch top to skirt.
Hem or face the center back opening; apply closures of your choice.
Hem the bottom edge of the over-tunic with a small rolled hem.
Make tiny pinch pleats in the skirt as marked on the pattern, and tack them in place invisibly. Apply the ribbon roses, or flowers of your choice to the top of the pleats.

Veil:

Press the tulle with a warm iron (nylon setting) and cut carefully on the double fold so as not to leave any ragged edges. Using a sheet of waxed paper under the tulle, carefully glue your choice of trim to the outer edge of the tulle, covering the raw edge if possible. (Sample shows a tulle ribbon-rose trim widely available on a spool.)

From one edge to the other, gather the tulle as marked, and fit to the head of your Bleurette. When gathering tulle, do not use a knotted thread which won't hold, but make several tiny stitches at the start and finish to hold the gathering thread. Sew flowers or ribbon roses to cover the start and finish of the gathers, as marked.

Don't forget to make Bleurette a bouquet, maybe she would even like a stocking garter!