Sew Retro!

Spring Dresses By AIM Member

Kathi Mendenhall

Dress Ideas

Using the pattern and instructions in this project , the sky is the limit for the way you can accessorize, decorate or the styles of dresses you can create. This project is completed with a 6” wide by 9 1/4” high piece of cotton fabric. I found this tiny retro print in a quilt shop locally. All you need extra is some thread to match , glue and a contrast mini braid for a belt. About 2”. Raid your scraps! It is the perfect project to use them.

Great for an Easter dress, wedding dress, in honor of the new princess, or any festive outing you have in mind. Have a great time thinking of new ways to accent the style. Have fun!

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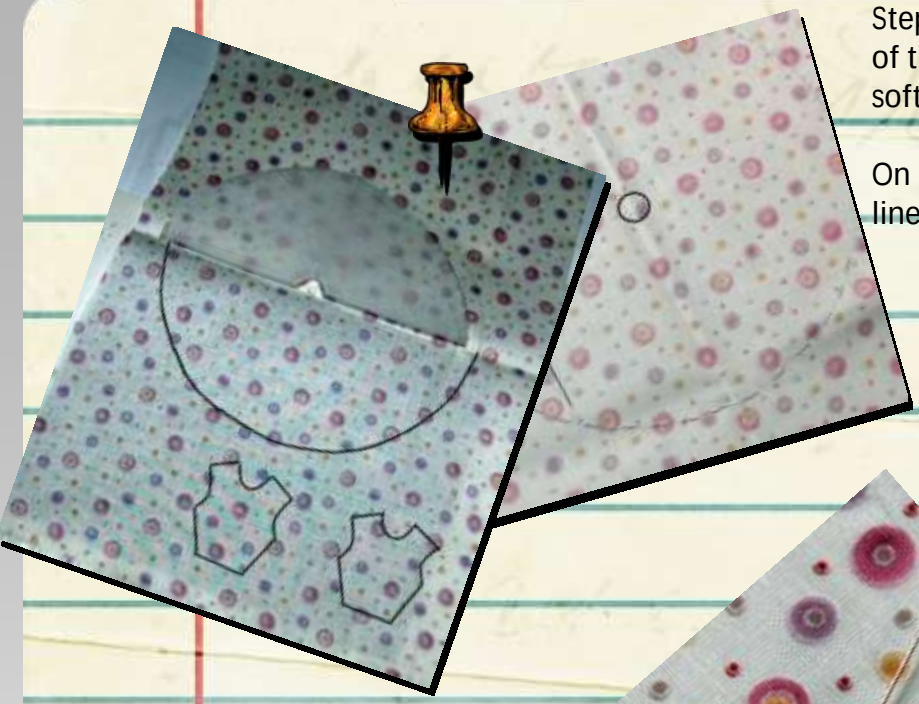
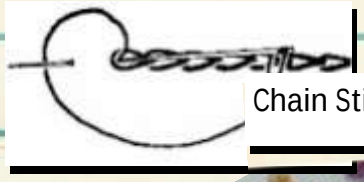
Sew Retro cont.

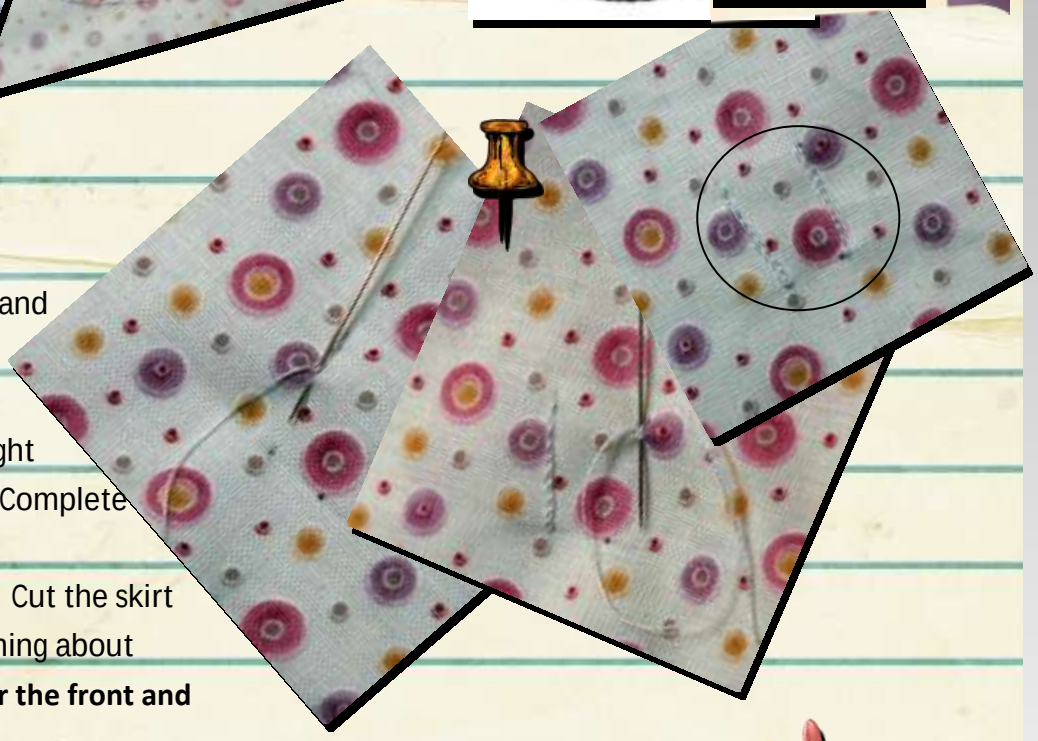


Step One—Trace the pattern onto the wrong side of the fabric. (I have enhanced the tracing with software) Picture Left.

On the right, thread a needle and trace the outline with straight stitch.

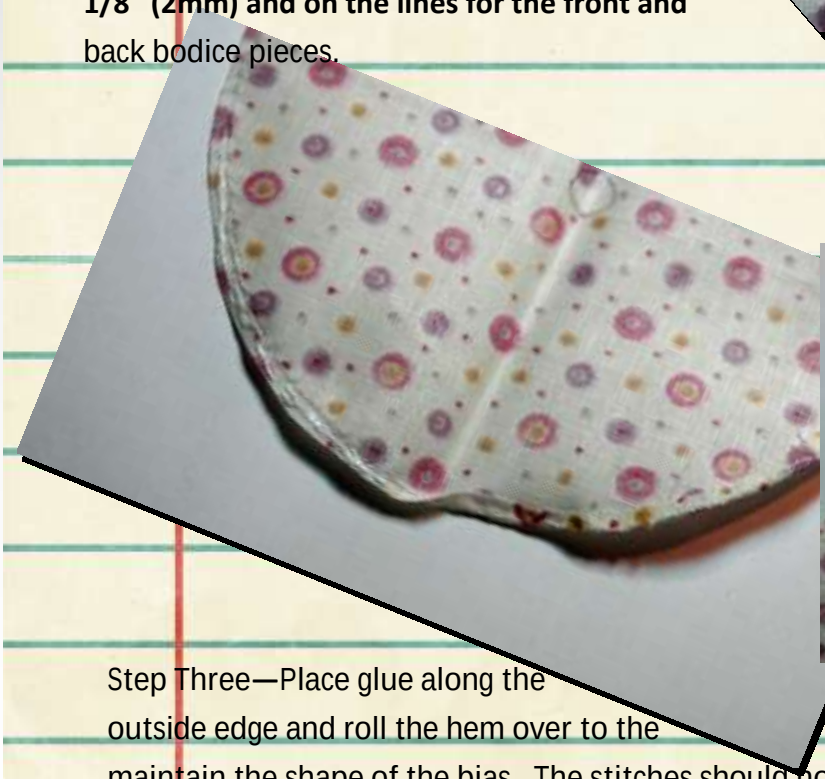


Chain Stitch



Step Two—Mark the dart tops and bottoms on the front of the fabric, and down the center of the back. Chain stitch on the right side to simulate a sewn dart. Complete both sides and the back.

Cut the pieces from the fabric. Cut the skirt around the outside of the stitching about **1/8" (2mm) and on the lines for the front and** back bodice pieces.



Step Three—Place glue along the outside edge and roll the hem over to the wrong side and glue down. The stitching helps maintain the shape of the bias. The stitches should not be seen on the right side edges.

Sew Retro cont.

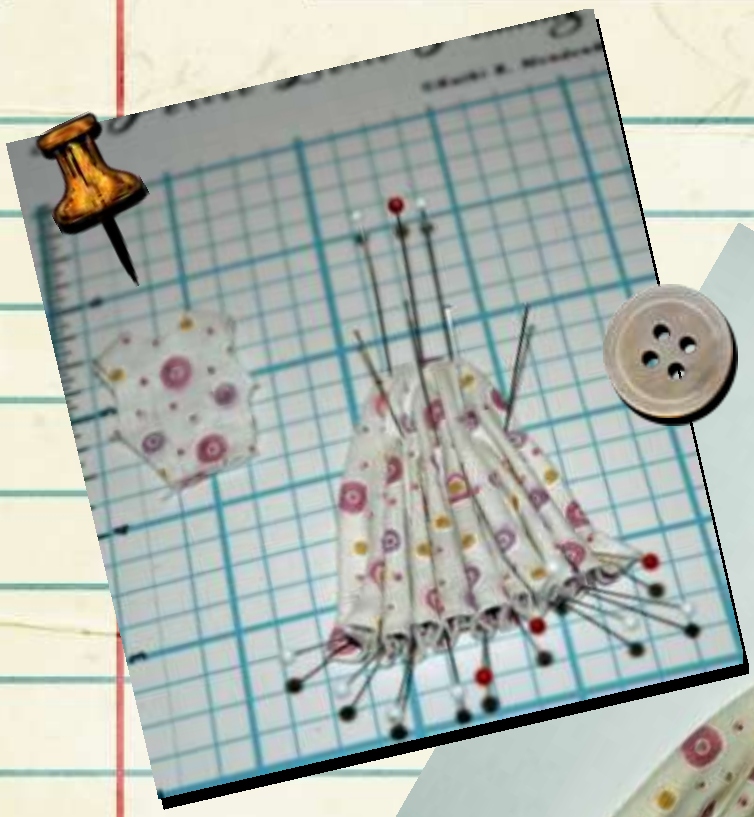
Step Four—Join Shoulder Seams—pictures show the wrong side and the right side of the first shoulder joined.

Step Five—Glue edge of sleeve on the wrong side and roll to the wrong side to finish the arm-hole.

Step Six—Complete the neckline in the same way, clean finishing the neck edge by gluing the edge to the wrong side.

Step Seven—(Not pictured.) Join opposite shoulder seam and clean finish that edge. Join the side seams, wrong sides together, and press with an iron. Let the bodice cool, turn right side out and press again.

Sew Retro cont.



Step Eight

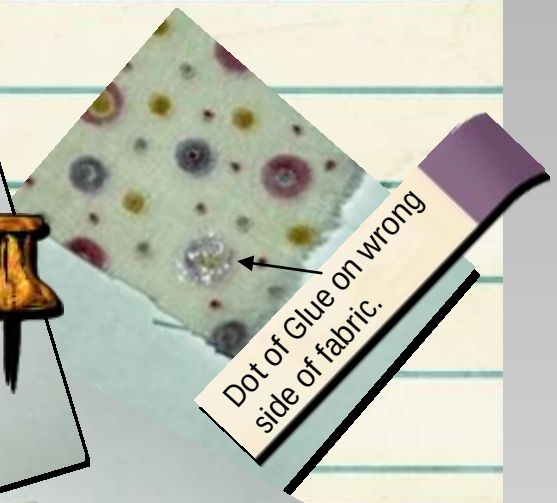
Pin the skirt to a board and pin in more pleats for a pleasing look. Press with steam to hold pleats. Allow to cool, and steam again. Allow all the heat to dissipate and pleats to rest.

When Cool, unpin from the board.

Open the bodice. Spread a small amount of glue around the waistline and insert the skirt into the bodice. Lightly press in place and allow to dry.

Sew Retro cont.

Finish it off and add the accessories.



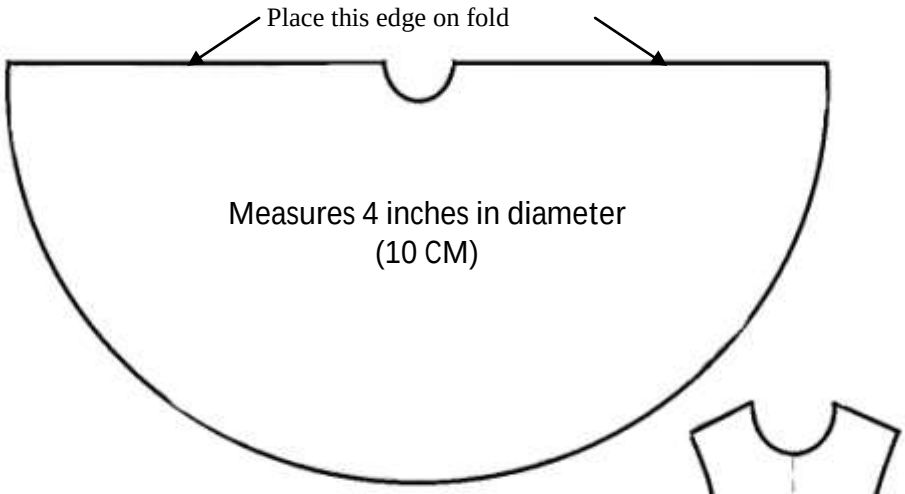
Step Nine
Cut a few inches of the mini braid you have chosen and glue around the waist of the dress. You have the option of placing the belt opening on the front or back of the dress.

Step Ten—Place a dot of glue and spread it out on the wrong side of the fabric design. In the small picture above, it is a dot with an arrow pointing to it. Allow this to dry and cut out the design.

Step Eleven—Glue this dot over the join of the mini braid to pose as the buckle. Cute, huh?

Sew Retro cont.

Pattern



Bodice pattern is for front and back. 1/8" seam Allowance included. Dotted line is center back. Solid lines are the dart lines.

Place the skirt pattern on the fold line of your fabric to cut out. OR ! Draw a half circle as show in the diagrams and flip pattern. Draw the second half.

Mark darts on both sides of bodice.

Mark center line down the back if **adding, buttons, "zipper line", or other closure technique.**

Enjoy! Kathi

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