

BUFFET DRESS

Who knew? Apparently, the Buffet Dress has no waistline, allowing the wearer to gorge at the buffet. Bring it on! Self drafted and simple for the owners of baby lock combination machines

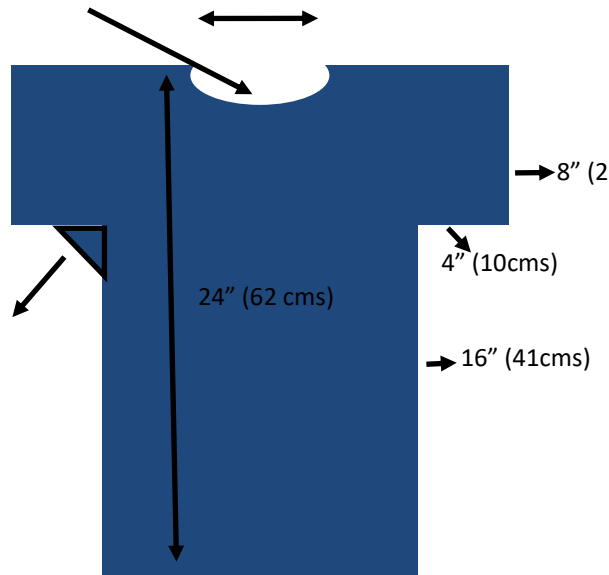


Instructions

Front neck drop 3" (8cms)
Back neck 2" (5cms)

8" (20cms)

Measure 2" horizontally and vertically to angle the underarm. This makes overlocking corners easier!



EASY PEASY BUFFET DRESS The baby lock way!

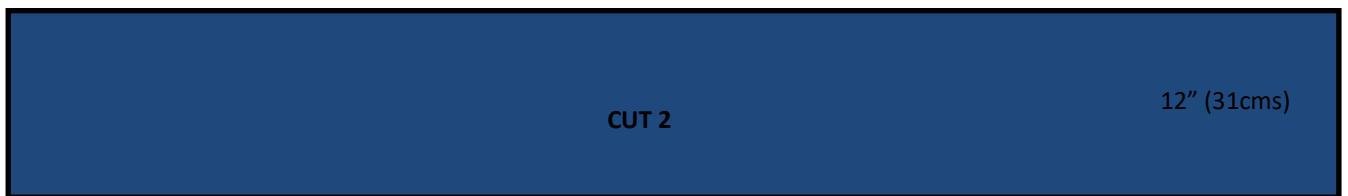
A. Bust or hip measurement (whichever is the biggest)
Plus 6" (15 cms) for ease. Divide this measurement in 2 for the width

TIER 1



TIER 2

A x 2



A x 4

Buffet Dress

REQUIRED:

Materials:

- Approx 3 metres of 60" wide fabric. I used a cotton linen. Any fabric with a good drape will do. Prewash natural fabrics
- 1.5 metres of lace if desired.
- 1.5 metres of bias binding, approx 1" wide folded
- Matching thread

Equipment:

- Combination Cover Stitch and Overlock machine, such as Gloria, Ovation, Evolution
- OPTIONAL: Cover Stitch Foot, 5/8" Down-turn Feller, 28mm Double Fold Bias Binder

Cut the fabric according to the diagram. Bodice width should be calculated by taking the bust and hip measurement, and working to the largest. Add the ease specified, and halve it. This gives the base measurement.

Sleeves are calculated at 4" (10 cms). I then added a diagonal line, to make stitching easier at the underarm.

Fold the pattern in half. Mark the centre and calculate the neckline according to the diagram.

Tiers are added to the body, front and back individually. This was purely because I didn't want to wrestle with yards of fabric! There will be some extra at the end of each tier, depending on the fabric. A light to medium weight fabric, with the recommended settings, will gather to approximately half of it's original length.

On the front, measure 1" (2.5 cms) from the neck edge.

Place the lace, if required, at this point. At the bottom edge, place the lace centre at the bodice centre point. I found a long steel rule helped to keep the line straight,



Set the machine to a chain stitch, Stitch length 3. Stitch down both long edges. Repeat on the opposite side, overlapping the lace at centre bottom. I find that the narrow Cover Stitch foot is ideal for jobs such as this.





SHOULDER SEAM

Set your machine for a Five thread Safety Seam; i.e. Chain Stitch and 3 thread overlock. As I was working with a fabric which frayed easily, I chose a wide overlock.

Stitch Length 2.5—3mm

Join one shoulder seam.

Change to Narrow Cover Stitch

It is not necessary to remove all the threads. Move the overlock needle to the relevant Cover Stitch position and thread it through the correct channel. Lock down the Upper Looper, and the Blade, and change to the Cover table. If you make a mistake, this stitch is INCREDIBLY easy to unpick. At the end, underneath, find the thread and unzip it like a chain stitch. For the overlock, pull the end of the needle thread.

NECK BINDING

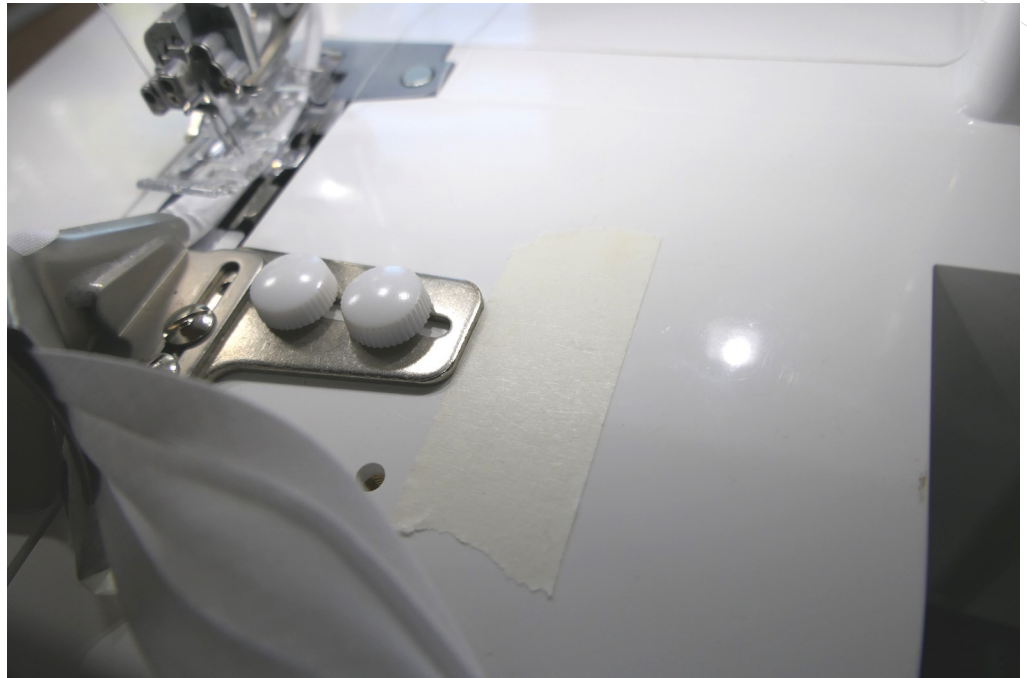
I was using a prefolded binding. In order to make this work efficiently with the Binder, I placed masking tape over the bottom of the slot in order to keep the binding correctly placed.

I was using the 28mm Double Fold Binder.



NECK BINDING

Set up the Double Fold Bias Binder on the machine, and run a test drive to check your settings. For this purpose, I prefer either the Standard Foot or the Clear Foot, as the extra width seems to help prevent the binding from twisting. Using two needles, also helps with this. It seems to be a “thing” with softer bind-



ings. As you will be using the Binder again later, you might find it helpful to mark it's position on the table, as I have done here with masking tape.



SECOND SHOULDER SEAM

Reset the machine for a 5 thread safety seam. When stitching over a thicker section like the binding, I find it helps to place a pin parallel to the edge as in the picture, wider than the foot. This helps to keep the two thick layers together at the beginning of the seam.

Sew the second shoulder seam.

Now set the machine for binding again, with narrow cover stitch. Don't forget; it is NOT necessary to keep unthreading the loopers.

Bind both armholes.





TIER ONE

Back to Safety Stitch, and a little prayer of thanks that you are using a baby lock, so these changes are simple!

Using the Gathering Foot, with right sides together, place the tier under the foot.

Place the main body through the foot, as in the photo. Settings:

If using a narrow overlock, Stitch Selector B If wide, SS at A

Stitch Length 4.

Differential Feed 2.

Hints: Allow the machine to trim off a little of the frill. This prevents you from trying to steer 2 layers simultaneously. Do not hang on to the frill. Steer it ONLY. Be sure to hold the two layers separately. They will feed through at different rates, don't impede the progress.

Repeat on the back.

Then add the second tiers in the same manner.

SIDE SEAMS

Return the Differential Feed to N. Stitch length 3. Stitch the side seams, making certain to match the seams. Press well.

HEM

Set your machine for a Wide Cover Stitch. You could use narrow, but then you'd have to be VERY accurate! I used the 5/8"

Downturn Feller. Check the alignment of the attachment on a scrap of waste fabric first. Slide the fabric, right side up, into the Feller. I use my left hand on the plate of the Feller to keep it edged to the right, and my right hand gently folds the fabric under.

It's a long way round the hem of this dress!





TO FINISH THE HEM IN THE ROUND

When the start of the hem approaches the Feller, slide the fabric out of it. Undo the left screw and rotate it out of the way.

Manually fold the last few cms and stitch to the beginning stitches. Overlap by approx. 1 cm.

With needles down and foot up, pull the needle threads towards

you, making a loop which reaches to the end of the CS table.

Cut the thread at the extent of that loop. Raise the needles and pull the fabric sideways, to take the top threads through to the back.

DO NOT, under any circumstances, turn the Balance Wheel backwards, as this would release the thread and cause your stitching to unravel! Don't ask me how I know.

Give your Buffet Dress a good press, then raid the larder without fear!

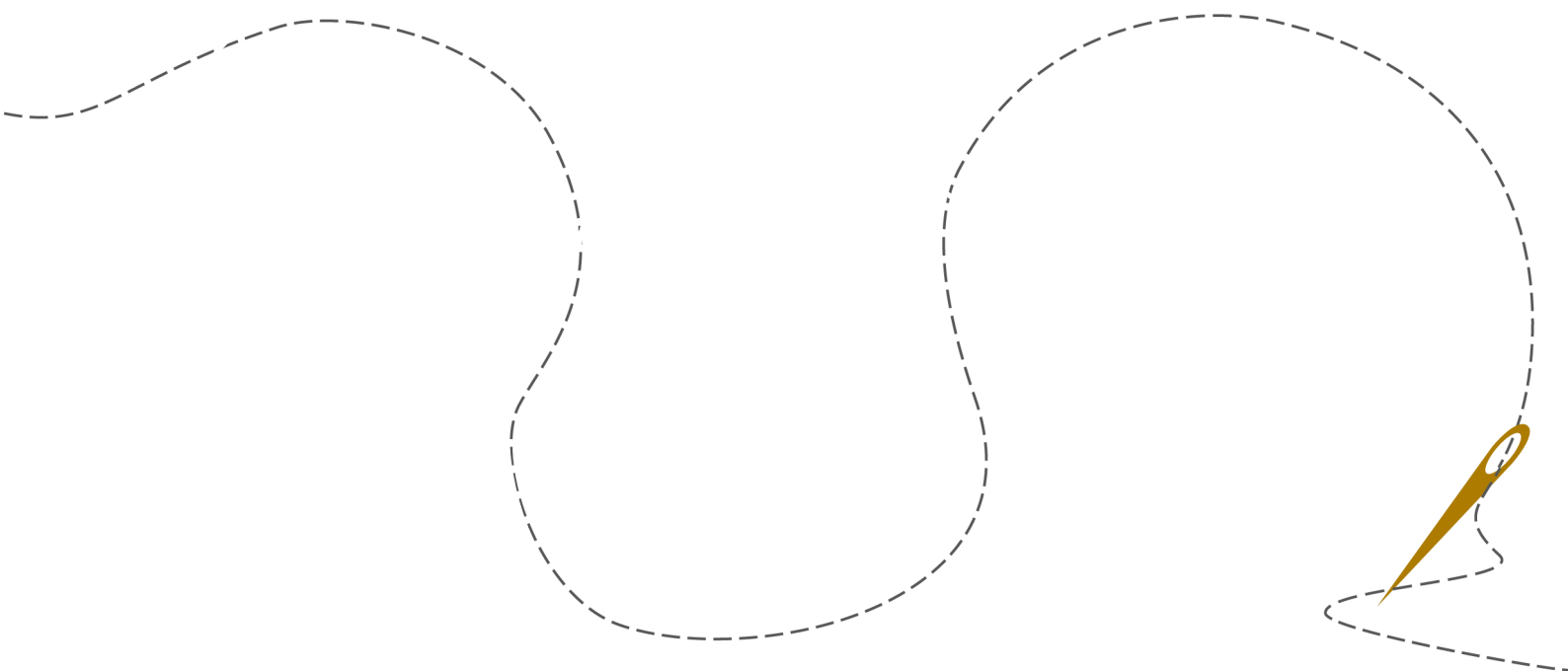




The first and still the best



Design by Jan Wright
on behalf of **baby lock uk**



Baby lock (UK) Limited, Office 2 Phoenix Building,
Sywell Aerodrome, Sywell,
NN6 0BT
Tel: 01604 211833

