

# PILLOWCASE DRESSES

## ***SUGGESTIONS:***

- New or gently used pillowcases make darling dresses for lots of girls around the world!
- Seamstresses are very creative and have added ruffles and pockets. If pockets are placed on the dress, make sure nothing is placed in the pocket (i.e., money, prayers, blessings, etc.).

## ***INSTRUCTIONS***

Using a new or gently used pillowcase, cut along the top of the pillowcase (where it is sewn together, opposite of the open end). This will become the top of the dress.



Lay the pillowcase flat and measure and cut J-shaped armholes at the top corners (3" to 4" x 3" to 4" depending upon the size of the pillowcase).



Make casing by turning the top of the cut edge under  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and then another  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Iron in place – it needs to be wide enough that  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide elastic pieces will slide through easily. Sew close to the edge. Repeat this step for the back of the dress. You should now have a casing on both sides at the top of each side of the pillowcase.



Cut 2 pieces of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or  $\frac{1}{2}$ " elastic, each 7" long. Attach a safety pin to one end of one of the cut pieces of elastic and pull it through the casing using caution not to pull it too far. Sew across each end of the casing to hold the elastic in place. Repeat this step for the other side. You should now have a gathered top on both the front and back of the dress.  
(Make sure you remove the safety pin!)



Using double-fold bias tape, cut 2 pieces approximately 32" - 34" long. These will bind the armholes and become the ties at the shoulders, so they should be long enough to tie a bow at the top.

Fold one tie in half to find the center and line it up with the center of the armhole - then work outward from there to both sides. Pin the open ends of the bias tape over the raw edges of the armhole - the ties will extend evenly over each top.

*Special note on the ties: packaged bias tape is folded not quite in half lengthwise. When ready to sew it on, make sure the narrow half of the tape faces up. That way you will always catch the underside of the tape, even around the curves.*

Fold the raw edges of the ends of the bias tape inside and when sewing along the tape, it will catch those also.



Tie your ties and your dress is finished!

