



# LITTLE DRESSES FOR HAITI



**Little Dresses for Haiti**  
Contact Person

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## Little Dresses for Haiti Instructions:

These instructions include making dresses from new or gently used pillowcases and making them from fabric. I will start with the pillowcase dresses which are a good beginners to experienced level seamstress. The arm hole pattern can be found on page 2. I encourage you to be as creative with trim, pockets, and fancy or colorful buttons or items you feel comfortable adding.

### Materials needed:

- A pillowcase ( Standard size will make the smaller 3-5 sizes, Queen will make sizes 7-9, and the King will make sizes 10-12) Because of climate concerns 75%- 100% cotton is recommended.
- (2) 38" lengths of double fold bias tape to match or compliment the pillowcase
- 3/8" elastic the length varies (dress size 3-5 requires (2) 6" pieces, sizes 6-9 requires (2) 7" pieces, and sizes 10-12 requires (2) 8"pieces. 1/2" elastic may be used but the casing will need to be larger
- Thread in a matching or complimenting color
- Optional trims such as rick rack, eyelet, durable lace, appliqués, fancy or colorful buttons, contrasting or matching pocket (s), ribbon sown across the casing and or hem or whatever you think the girls would like. Use your imagination!!!

### To create a dress from a pillowcase:

- Trace the armhole patterns on tissue paper or tag board as desired. Put aside for later use.
- Cut (open) the closed end of the pillowcase . This will be the top of the dress and the pillowcase hem will be the hem of the dress.
- Orient the side seam of the pillowcase so it will be in the center back of the dress. If your pillowcase has 2 seams leave them as side seams.
- Measure the length of the pillowcase and decide what size dress you will be making. (use the chart below)

### Sizing Chart

For a size:	the cut length:	For a finished length:	For fabric method the <b>cut width</b> should be:
3	22"	19"	36-42"
4	25"	22"	36-42"
5	27"	24"	42"
6	29"	26"	42"
7	31"	28"	42"
8	33"	30"	42"
9	35"	32"	42"
10	37"	34"	42-48"
11	39"	36"	42-48"
12	41"	38"	42-48"

- Once you have decided on the size, you need to select the armhole pattern for that size. (example dress size 4 use the pattern marked 3-5).

You may choose to mark and cut each side individually or (I prefer to fold the dress in half length wise matching the sides), place the flat side of the pattern on the side and trace and then cut out the armhole(s).

- The casing is next. Fold under the casings at the front and back top edges by first folding over 1/4" of the edge toward the inside of fabric and pressing. Next fold 1/2" to 3/4" (depending on your elastic size) and press and/or pin. Then stitch along the lower edge.
- At this time, if you choose to add trim to the lower edge of casing do that.
- Cut your elastic to the correct length (see page one) and thread it through the casing and stitch the ends.
- Cut your bias tape (see page one) and open the ends so you can turn and stitch so raw edge will be inside when the bias is folded to original position.
- Pin the bias tape to the armhole so that the ends are of equal length. Then using a straight, zigzag, or decorative stitch sew the bias tape to the dress.

At this point you have a dress. If you want to embellish it further by adding trim to the hem or adding pockets or decorative button etc. you may.

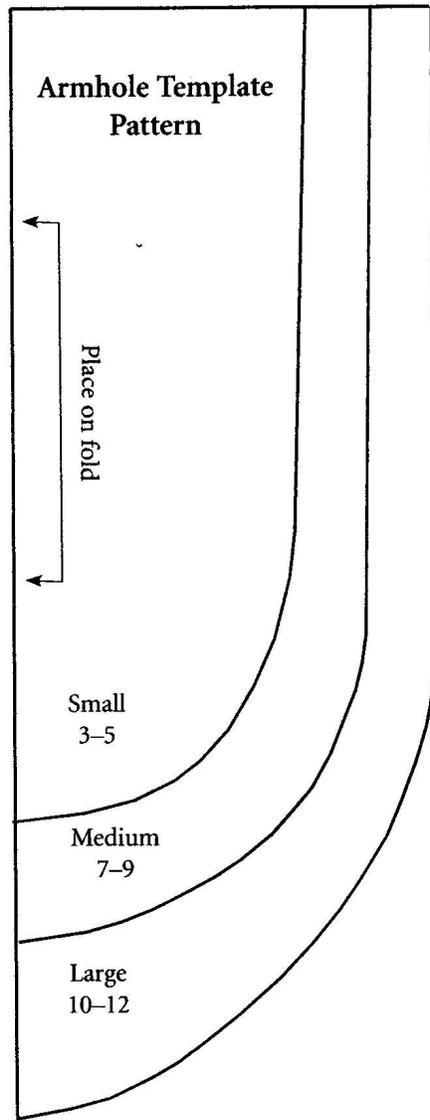
- Now Tag the dress so the girls know who made the dress and the size of the dress. Tags can be fancy or plain and should at least provide the size of the dress. See example below for a fancy tag.

**Using Fabric to make the dresses:** Use fabric with a high cotton content 100% is best.

- Use the length and width measurements on page one.
- Sew the back seam.
- Follow instructions (above) for armholes, casings, trim and elastic.
- Next you will need a hem. A fold of 1/4" and then 2" is recommend.
- See page 3 for armhole pattern and tag sample

**Thank You  
For Sewing!**





The pattern is the correct size. It does not need enlarged.

