

MENDOCINO SUNDRESS

Heather Ross / for personal use only, please do not use for commercial purposes

Pattern Includes sizes S/L (fits women's US sizes 0-6) and M/L (US sizes 8-14)

Materials: 2 1/2 yards lightweight quilting cotton, poly-cotton all purpose thread to match, elastic swing thread, 2 yards spaghetti, bias tape, or ribbon for optional straps.



MENDOCINO SUNDRESS PATTERN

by Heather Ross

This dress fits (and looks great on) everyone. Its a favorite class project at Patchwork in Soho, where I teach sewing. It's uper-easy to make and very comfortable. It can be completed in an afternoon, and is a great introduction to the "magic" of elasticized thread.

I designed this dress with my line of lightweight quilting cottons in mind, which are perfectly suited to summery dresses like this one.

Once you have downloaded the "Mendocino Sundress Pattern Sheet" file, you can prepare it for use in one of two ways. You can print it at home using the most current copy of the Adobe Acrobat application (be sure to select "tile" in you printer's layout window, or it will print a very small pattern sheet!) or, email it to a nearby Kinkos store, where they can print it out for you on a large sheet of paper. Visit Kinkos website or call your neighborhood store for more information.

If you are new to elastic thread, don't worry, its pretty easy! You will need to wind your elastic onto a bobbin by hand, without stretching it as you go. Its pretty thick, so this is a lot faster than it sounds. Load your bobbin into your machine in the same way as you would any other bobbin. When sewing with elastic thread, be sure that the right side of your garment is always facing up! When making rows of elasticized stitches close together, it may take a few rows before the garment really starts to "shrink up". Once you have finished your rows of elasticized stitching, dampen them liberally with your spray iron and press it, right side up. You will see that the fabric, once softened, really succumbs to the elastic thread! Washing and drying will help too.

For optional straps, I like to try a variety of widths and types once my dress is finished. To make a strap wide enough to cover a bra strap (you might decide once you have reached this point that you won't need to wear a bra underneath, many ladies, even curvier ones, are surprised at the amount of support this dress provides), cut s strip of fabric that is two inches wide and 4 feet long. with right sides together, fold it in half and sew it into a tube using a 1/4" seam allowance. Turn right side out and press. Now put your dress on over your bra, and pin straps into place. You can attach them onto the inside of your dress by hand-stitching them into place using a whip-stitch.

To hem your dress, simply turn the raw edge 1/8", press. turn again 1/4", and edge-stitch. You can always make it shorter if you like, even turning it into a hip-length blouse!

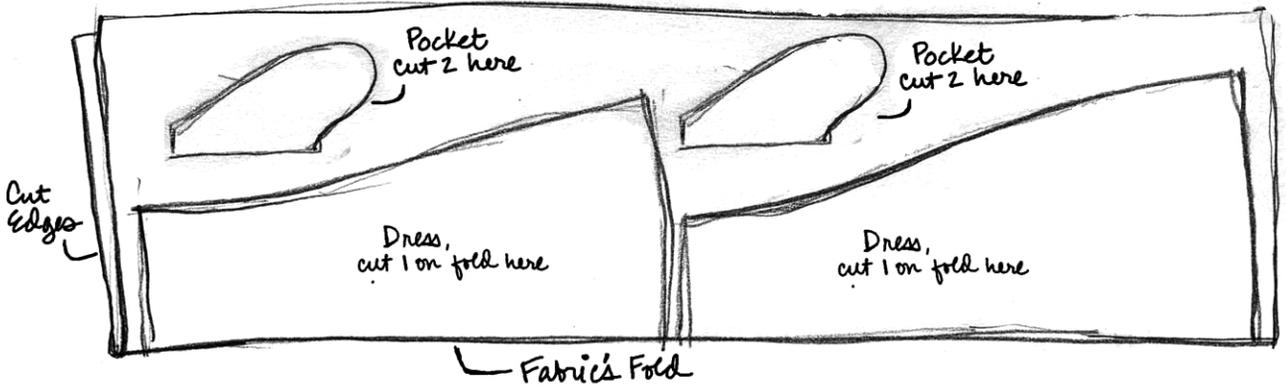
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Good Luck! I am looking forward to seeing your finished projects!

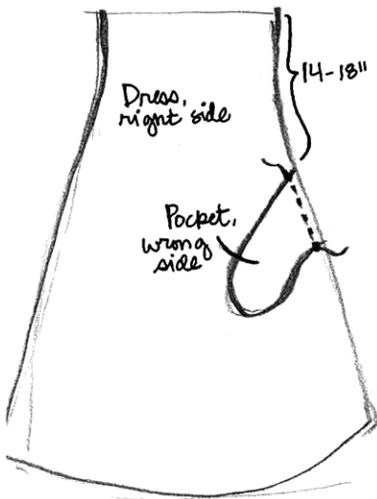
And please remember, this pattern is intended for home use. It is not to be used commercially or re-sold.

Simple Sun Dress / Heather Ross

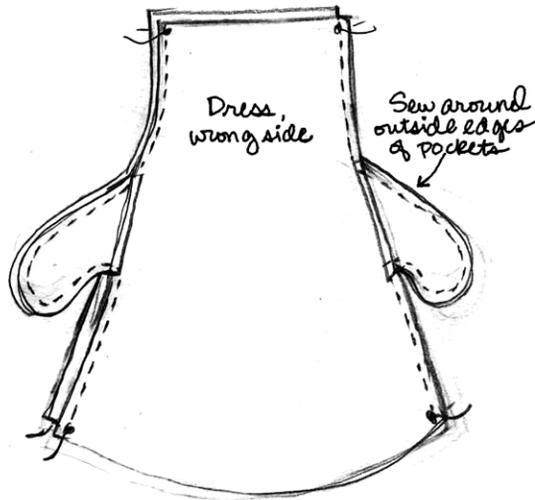
1 Layout and Cutting



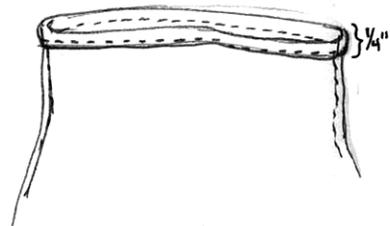
2 Attach Pockets



3 Join Front and Back



4 Finish Top Edge



5 Snuck top of dress

