



Bodice to skirt

a) Use a ready made onesie.

b) For a long sleeve onesie, cut off sleeves 2" from shoulder seam, or use a short sleeve onesie and cut off the sleeve hems.

c) To create the bodice, cut onesie 5 1/2" down from HPS (High Point Shoulder). Put the bottom part aside for now, this will be used for your bloomers.

d) Cut the clear elastic length. To get the measurement, measure the width of the bottom of bodice and multiply by 2 then add 5" extra. Sample is $9" \times 2 = 18" + 5" = 23"$. This elastic will be used to keep the bodice from stretching out of shape while adding to the skirt and also to help give baby movement. Put elastic aside for now.

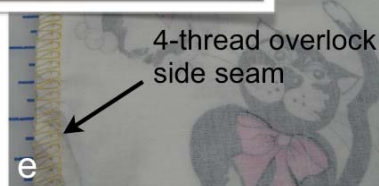
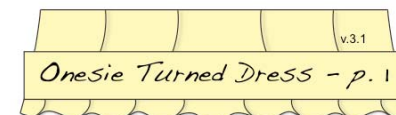
d) Cut the skirt fabric 12" x 44". Not shown.

e) Set serger up for 4-thread overlock with regular serger thread. Fold width of skirt fabric right sides together and serge the side seam. Press flat, then press seam to one side.

f) Section the top of the skirt and the bodice into quarters. Pin right sides together at the quarter sections.

What you need to get started

- 1) Onesie (for bodice and bloomers)
- 2) 1/2 yd fabric (for skirt)
- 3) 1/2" wide elastic (for waist, about 19"-23")
- 4) 3/8"-1/2" wide clear elastic (for empire seam, about 20"-25")
- 5) sewing machine straight stitch (thread to match)
- 6) serger capable of a 4-thread overlock and a 3-thread rolled hem (thread to match, one decorative thread for upper looper)
- 7) seam sealant
- 8) marking pen
- 9) basic sewing supplies



Bodice to skirt and hemming

g) Set serger up with Ruffling/Gathering foot. Length 3 and width about 6-7. Set differential feed at 1.5

NOTE: Test your material on scrap to see how much gather will be produced using the differential feed: I started at 2 and ended up using 1.5, each material and machine will be different. (Not shown)

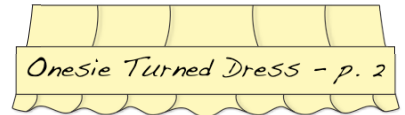
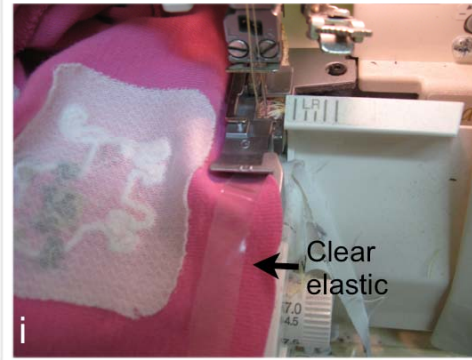
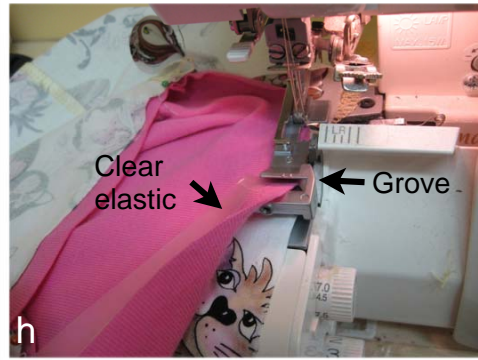
If you do not have a Ruffling/Gathering foot or differential feed, set serger for 4-thread overlock and the longest length you have. Serge the top part of the skirt. Pull the needle threads in order to create gathers. Pin the top of the skirt to the bodice right sides together and serge using a 4-thread overlock with length at 2-3. (Not shown)

h) To join skirt to bodice, start at the side seam. Place skirt under foot with right side up. Place bodice in the groove of the gathering/ruffling foot with right side down. Clear elastic lays on top of bodice.

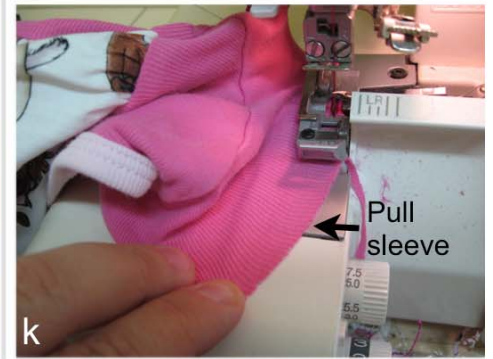
i) While serging, do not pull too much on bodice or clear elastic. Let the skirt be gathered in. The elastic will help keep the bodice from stretching out of shape. At the end of the seam, the bodice will need to be pulled out of the groove and placed under the foot. While doing this keep the needles in the down position. Continue serging until overlapping the original start point. Press seam flat, then press toward the bodice.

j) To finish the hem of the sleeves and skirt use either a sewing machine straight stitch or 3-thread rolled hem. In the sample, the rolled hem had Pearl Crown Rayon in the upper looper and regular thread in needle and lower looper. Length was set for rolled hem at 2-3 and width 3.5. Use regular serger foot; no differential feed.

k) Serge the sleeves starting at the under arm seam. While serging stretch the knit material to create a lettuce edge. The hem for woven skirt will use same settings except do not pull material as serging. Use a seam sealant to prevent serger threads from fraying. Dress is complete!



Susan's Tip: Talk with your local dealer about the right serger feet for your serger.



Bloomers

a) Cut bottom of onesie so it measures about 7 1/2" from bottom of onesie. Discard the extra material from onesie.

b) Use straight stitch sewing machine to create casing for elastic. Sew 5/8" hem at top edge of bloomers, leaving about 1/2" opening to insert elastic.

c) Cut the 1/2" elastic length. To get the measurement, measure the width of the top of bloomer and multiply by 2 then add 1" extra for overlapping elastic. Sample is $9" \times 2 = 18" + 1" = 19"$. NOTE: It's better to have the elastic a little loose than too tight around baby's belly.

Insert the 1/2" wide elastic into the casing opening, overlap and stitch ends of elastic together. Close the casing opening with straight stitch.

d) Cut 3 strips of extra skirt fabric 2" x 18". With 3-thread rolled hem serge the length of each strip, then serge around all edges of each strip. Use seam sealant on the ends and trim threads. Mark placement for all three strips on back of bloomers. Start top mark 2" from top edge of bloomers. Space marks for other strips 2" apart from top mark.

e) Set sewing machine for longest length and stitch down middle of each strip, slightly off center. Once all strips are stitched, gather each to width of back of bloomers. Place on back of bloomers one at a time and stitch to bloomers with stitch length 2-3. Remove gathering stitch and press.

You are finished!

