

Vareuse Ét Béret Basque Pour Costume Marin: A Translation

La Semaine de Suzette 1908

(Navy Pea Jacket and Basque Beret for Sailor Costume)

Note: Translator's comments are in these brackets. []

You are not given a pattern for the skirt, but it is made, entirely simply, of a strip of fabric the length required for *Bleuette*, 15 cm hem included, suffices, and 70 to 80 cm wide [5 $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 27.5" to 31.5"]. Fold to make deep pleats and mount on a round belt [waistband]. Above the hem, a double row of stitching, or narrow white braid. [The sample shows a shorter skirt, finished length 3.5" or 9 cm, which was cut at approx. 4.25" or 11cm long.]

Pea Jacket: For the pea jacket, you have six pattern pieces. We give you here the exact size needed for *Bleuette*. You only need to trace them.

1st: One-half the sailor collar. It is placed on the fold of the doubled fabric. You ornament the collar the same as the skirt with 2 rows of stitching or with narrow white braid.

[Line the collar, leaving the neckline open, and baste the neckline of the collar to the jacket neckline before stitching the jacket lining to the jacket.]

2nd: One-half the plastron. It is placed on the fold of the doubled fabric. It is tacked to each side of the front of the jacket under the collar. Ornament it as you wish with broad braid in navy stripes or with small embroidered dots all the same size [the option that is shown in the original sketch].

[Line the plastron entirely, and tack the finished piece to the left side of the jacket. Fasten to the right inside of jacket with the closure of choice.]

3rd: One-half the front. It is placed on doubled fabric on the straight of the grain. The two fronts are the same, they are joined to the back at the side seam.

[And at the shoulder seam. Who would dare to try a curved welt pocket in a jacket this size?, but if you want to imitate the sketch, embroider a faux pocket on each front, or sew a little curved piece of braid there. This jacket is easy to finish if you line the body of the jacket. Sew the right sides of the lining and the jacket together, leaving a small gap at the back for turning. Turn the right sides out and press. Turn the armhole seam allowance of the lining under and hem to the armhole of the jacket. If you prefer, you can also line the sleeves.]

4th: One-half the back. It is placed on the fold of doubled fabric.

5th: One-half the sleeve. It is placed on the fold of doubled fabric. You form the sleeve with the seam along the small of the arm. It is gathered and set into the cuff.

[It is gathered and set into the armhole, too. The seam goes toward the front, as marked, or it works pretty well with the sleeve seam matched to the jacket side seam. You can use this option to avoid setting in the sleeve; sew the sleeve cap to the armhole, sew the entire underarm and side seam at once—see cuff first, though.]

6th: The cuff is sewn to the gathered bottom of the sleeve. The turn-up flap is edged with braid.

[The cuff given in the original pattern is too small for the hand to pass through if the jacket is made of wool; an alternative is given. For an easy application, line cuff leaving sleeve end open, turn both raw edges of the cuff to the inside and topstitch onto the sleeve's end before sewing the side seam—be sure the lining is showing on the right side, so the fabric side will show when the cuff is turned up. Sew the sleeve seam right up to the edge of the cuff.]

Under the collar you pass a cravat of silk that you tie sailor-style.

[No pattern is given, but a length of ribbon works well. This holds the jacket closed; you could add a hook and bar or button and loop closure as well.]

Basque Beret: It is a single large circle of fabric of the dimensions indicated in the sketch. It is gathered and mounted onto a strip of bias fabric 2.5cm wide and 21 cm long [measure the head of your Bleurette for exact fit and alter the length if needed—1" x 8.25" or longer]. On the wrong side, hidden, you fashion a flat-felled seam.

The anchor is embroidered in red silk or white silk. It is placed as in the sketch.

To make this little costume, take a wool serge or antique linen of marine blue. Match the fabric of the beret to that of the costume, wool beret for wool costume and linen beret for linen costume.

Or, to make the beret another time, choose white wool flannel, and it has the advantage of going with any costume. It is a mistaken belief that white wools soil more easily than colored wools, in summer white wool is nothing less than practical.

Wash it like a handkerchief, and your washing will be very successful, on the condition that you use cold water. For wool fabric, if you wash it in anything warmer than lukewarm water, the fabric will stiffen like felt, shrink, and soon be useless.

The little beret can be joined to a neck-shield. This is simply a little rectangle of white linen which is adapted to the back of the beret with buttons and buttonholes, which pass through a hem made in the neck-shield. This neck-shield hanging down in back will hinder the sun from striking the back of the head and guard against the often deadly sunstroke.

Naturally, if Bleurette is not stiff-necked, she will not bear it ill; but the little lessons of sewing are not only for your amusement in dressing the doll, but also to give you an idea of the exactness of the art of the needle which you will someday thoroughly understand and practice.

Tante Jacqueline