

## *We Dress Bleurette*

### **Garden Party Dress -- 1925**

*Here is a delicious little dress that clothes Bleurette in a charming fashion. This costume for a garden party will also serve for the casino, dance matinée, a tea, or in short, every circumstance for which our stylish doll needs to be very well-dressed. An elegant note, this little dress is, however, very simple, and easy to make.*

*It is of old-fashioned pink taffeta and garnished with ruffles of matching ribbon, which form the little skirt [and sleeves].*

These are the instructions Suzanne Rivière gives us in the opening paragraphs of her instructions for the dress. She also suggests that if you have no ribbon suitable for the ruffles (a desperate situation), you could use hemmed strips of taffeta. The ruffles are to be sewn to the dress with number 5 pearl cotton in a matching color, or a contrasting color, if you prefer.

If you wish a different sort of dress, one more practical, you could use silk toile, wool mousseline (a light-weight, plain weave wool) or a lightweight wool flannel. In this case the ruffles should be made of silk faille ribbon, or matching taffeta.

The skirt ruffles are to be 2 cm wide (1") by 30 cm long (11.75"), while the sleeve ruffles are 1 cm wide (½") by 12 cm long (4.75"). To bind the neckline, use a narrow ribbon or bias strip of matching taffeta.

The dress front is cut on the fold, and the back can be cut on the fold also, with a slit cut for the center back opening, or it can be cut with seam allowances along the center back of the dress. The amount of seam allowance provided is not stipulated, but many of the twenties patterns use just a little more than 1/8" seams.

Having cut and procured all the necessary pieces, the dress is assembled by first sewing (and finishing, if you like) the shoulder seams. Now is a good time to apply the neck binding, right sides together, to the dress, turn inside and stitch down the binding to cover the raw edges of the neckline.

Hem the sleeves, and apply the sleeve ruffles along the lines marked on the pattern. (See skirt ruffles, below, for application methods.)

Sew the side and sleeve seams, and finish them, if desired.

Make the center back seam, if you have cut seam allowances for it, leaving plenty of opening for dressing your doll, but making sure the seam goes beyond the mark for the top-most ruffle. Hem the seam allowances of the center back opening and apply closures of snaps or hooks and loops, with the right side overlapping the left at center back.

If you have cut the center back on the fold, slit the opening and finish it with a continuous lapped placket, using a ribbon or a straight grain or bias strip of matching fabric. Apply the closures of your choice with right side overlapping the left.

Hem the dress using a tiny rolled hem.

Finally, apply the skirt ruffles as marked on the pattern, bottom one first, then the top one. If you are hand-stitching the ruffles with pearl cotton as suggested by the original pattern instructions, use a backstitch or small running stitch. They can also be topstitched to the dress with a sewing machine.

