

## *We Dress Bleurette*

When Cherry Time Comes Again – 1935

*A delicious little dress of linen strewn with cherries. The skirt of pale rose linen is the length shown on the pattern. It is one piece, on the straight of the grain, gathered at the top and hemmed at the bottom. The cherries are embroidered in red using chain stitch, and the stems and leaves in green. The bodice is of cherry red linen. The two notched fronts are similar and cross over each other. The back is cut from doubled fabric with the pattern of the front minus the notches. It is one single piece. Border the edges of the bodice with a bias binding of pale rose linen. The skirt can be cut a centimeter longer if Bleurette would imitate her own little mother.*

Above are the original title and instructions translated. There are many ways this little dress could be re-interpreted. One that springs to mind is the wonderful printed cherry fabric made by Mary Engelbreit, which could be used for the skirt. Dress or blouse-weight linen is hard to get, so consider using cotton. An all-white dress with red trim and red and green embroidered cherries would certainly be attractive. You can think of many other enticing designs.

The skirt is a rectangle of about 4 & 7/8” wide by about 12 to 14” long, depending on how gathered you wish the skirt to be.

If you cut the skirt from a printed fabric, and the top from a solid, you could cut a long bias strip (about 5/8” wide by about a yard long) of the printed fabric to use as binding for the neck, armholes, and center front. You could also use purchased bias tape.

However, it is quite difficult to make the bias turn such sharp points in such a small amount of space. A much easier method is to make a lining for the bodice, and use embroidery or tiny braid for the contrasting trim around the armholes and down the center front. To do this, cut one bodice of dress fabric and one of lining fabric. Stitch the bodice shoulder seams of both parts, dress and lining. Press the shoulder seams. With right sides together, stitch the dress to the lining, carefully following the jagged edges, and leaving the waist seam open for turning. Clip and trim the seams just made, and turn. Finger-press the seams to push out the edges, then press lined bodice. Embroider or embellish the neckline and armholes with contrasting trim.

To make the dress easier to put on and take off, you could make a false front with the notched front piece and two decorative 1/4” buttons, but make a longer opening down the center back which extends into the skirt. It could close with buttons and thread loops, snaps, or hooks and thread loops, with the right overlapping the left side. Another alternative is to put the seam of the skirt in the center front, and make an opening down the front of the skirt, so that the dress opens wider for ease of dressing. The center opening is also lapped right over left, and can be closed with buttons and button holes, button and loops, or with snaps, with the buttons sewn on as decoration only.

Don't forget to make a matching sun hat so Bleurette won't be sun-burned while picking those delicious red cherries!