

YOUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEWING IDEA BOOK

# Sew Beautiful

WITH MARTHA PULLEN

## 38 embellishment TECHNIQUES & TEMPLATES

- **STITCH** 14 free designs
- **SMOCK** a pair of hoot owls
- **STYLE** an autumn wardrobe

Make these bags!  
weave with ribbon  
& measuring tapes

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ISSUE NO. 138, 2011  
VOLUME 25, NUMBER 5

\$5.99US Display until 10-24-2011



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# Fifi and Fido Fun!

Anna Griffin's "Fifi & Fido" Collection fabrics stitch up into fabulous kids' fashions with coordinating machine embroideries from Martha Pullen Company. We used Anna's Cats Pink print for these adorable "Jack & Jill Overalls" from the *Sew Beautiful* Collection pattern. The Dots Green cuffs, pockets, waistband and straps make it fun, and the kitten embroidery from *The Fifi and Fido Collection* CD adds a touch of sweetness. We paired the overalls with a purchased lime green top. For our boy's outfit, the Oliver+5 "Sketchbook Shirt and Shorts" features Anna's Plaid Blue fabric with black topstitching using the triple-straight stitch and two more embroideries from the CD. We cut the pocket, placket, cuffs and back yoke on the bias to add interest and paired the shirt with embroidered shorts made from MPC's linen blend in natural.





# make a *Bubble*

with no trouble!

By Khristal Jouett

*I*t all started with pretty prints from our "Francesca" line by Anna Griffin and an assignment for Khristal Jouett to make some sample garments for Anna's market show. Into my office walked Khristal with this very cool bubble dress. My first thought was what a great pattern; I wonder whose it is. "It's yours," Khristal said. "I used the 'Girl's Wrap Dress' pattern from the *Sew Beautiful* Collection." "No way," I said. But sure enough, it actually was! Khristal adapted the underdress/slip from the "Girl's Wrap Dress" pattern by converting the skirt pattern into a bubble and adding the flange sleeves from the dress pattern to the slip dress armhole. The bubble skirt idea was so sweet and simple, I decided to share it in this issue as a construction technique. Follow along as Khristal shares her bubble skirt secret, which will work for an adult skirt as well.

~ *Kathy Barnard*  
Editor

## PATTERN DRAFTING: Convert an A-line Skirt into a Bubble

### IN THE ARTICLE

- ▶ Bubble Skirt Instructions

### SUPPLIES

- ▶ Pattern with A-line skirt ("Girl's Wrap Dress" shown)
- ▶ 1 yard of polyester or nylon net tulle (60 inches wide)
- ▶ Long ruler or yardstick
- ▶ Pattern tracing paper and pencil

### SUPPLIES

- ▶ Design is "Scrolled Vine Corner" from *Heirloom Classics II*
- ▶ Sulky rayon machine embroidery thread (see CD for stitch sequence)
  - #630 – Moss Green
  - #1173 – Med. Army Green
  - #1151 – Powder Blue Tint
  - #1126 – Tan
- ▶ Hand stitched French knots are in three strands of Presencia #1225 floss.

### SO YOU WANT TO MAKE THIS DRESS

Use the slip/underdress pattern and sleeve from the "Girl's Wrap Dress" from the *Sew Beautiful* pattern collection. Dress fabric is Engraved Flora Blue, lining fabric is Diamond Multi Blue and sash fabric is Garden Rose Blue all from the "Francesca" line by Anna Griffin (see pattern for yardage and allow for full lining). Machine embroidery shown is "Scrolled Vine Corner" from Martha Pullen's *Heirloom Sewing II* CD. All supplies are from [www.marthapullen.com](http://www.marthapullen.com). For convenient shopping, visit [www.sewbeautifulmag.com](http://www.sewbeautifulmag.com) and select the "Shopping List" under the "Magazine" menu at the top of the page. Select issue #138 and click "go." Scroll to find this dress. All materials are listed and linked for easy shopping.

### PATTERN DRAFTING

Since you will be altering the skirt pattern, trace original pattern to paper so that you reserve the original skirt pattern for future use.

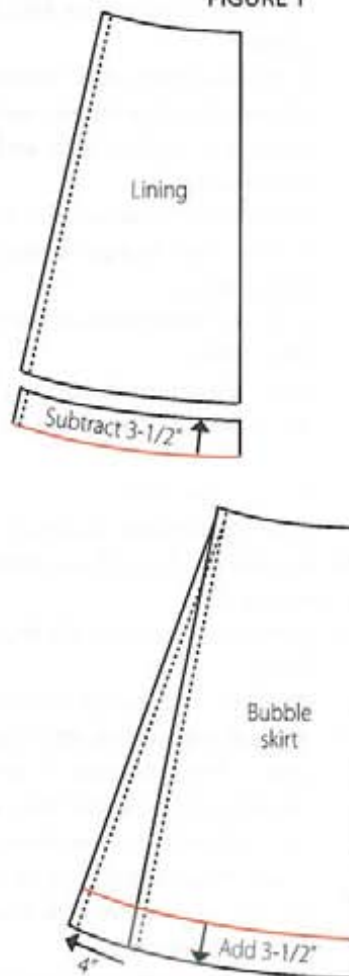
1. Determine desired finished length of skirt and adjust traced pattern to appropriate length using "lengthen and shorten" line provided on pattern (cut off hem allowance). Align center front edges and retrace side seam from waist to hem with a yardstick if adjustments were made. This will be bubble skirt lining.
2. Use new skirt lining to trace a second skirt pattern leaving



room on paper for bubble pattern adjustments.

3. Add 3-1/2 inches to bottom of second skirt (bubble skirt pattern) and subtract 3-1/2 inches from first skirt (skirt lining pattern) (this allows bottom of bubble to roll under and fall at desired finished length); refer to figure 1. Set lining aside.
4. To create bubble effect, bubble skirt must be wider at hem than lining so that outer skirt hem is gathered into flat lining skirt hem, thus making skirt "bubble" at the bottom. To do this, extend side seam 4 inches at bottom edge and true up side seam from waist to hem (fig. 1). This will add 16 total inches to bottom edge of bubble skirt.
5. Instead of a pullover style dress, make the back bodice open with buttons and buttonholes. To do this, you may add 1 inch to the center back pattern edge with paper, or you may offset your pattern with the edge of the pattern 1 inch from the selvage of the fabric.

FIGURE 1





Photos show dress inside out. Notice how the bubble skirt is gathered to the skirt lining at the bottom edge and rolls upward slightly to the inside.



## INSTRUCTIONS

Use embroidery software to enlarge design to fit neck of dress. Machine embroider front bodice before constructing dress; percentage of enlargement will depend on the dress size you are making.

### Cutting

- Cut one bodice front on fold from dress fabric and one on fold from lining.
- Cut bodice back edge 1 inch from selvage edge for a button opening. Cut two from dress fabric and two from lining fabric.
- Cut two sleeves from dress fabric.
- Cut two skirt linings on fold from lining fabric.
- Cut two bubble skirts on fold from dress fabric.
- Cut one skirt placket strip 1-3/4 x 10 inches from dress fabric.

### Dress Construction

The following instructions assume knowledge of basic garment construction.

1. Sew shoulder seams of bodice and lining.
2. Prepare and stitch sleeves to armhole edges before stitching side seams. Finished ends of sleeves should not go beyond side seam lines of bodice; there should be a gap of space from end of sleeve to side seam (sleeve ends will not connect under arm).
3. Pin lining to bodice with right sides

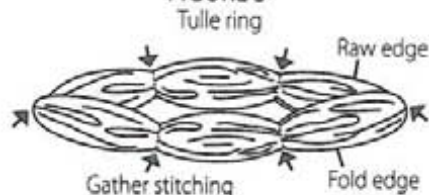
together and sew around neck and along back edges. Sew arm curves with sleeves sandwiched between layers. Trim seams; clip curves. Turn bodice right side out by reaching through front layers and pulling backs through shoulder channels. Press all finished edges.

4. Separate lining from dress fabric at side seams. Pin bodice to bodice, and lining to lining with right sides together. Stitch from bottom of dress bodice across underarm seam to bottom of lining bodice. Flip lining to inside of dress and press underarm seam. Set bodice aside to prepare skirt.
5. Sew side seams of skirt lining and bubble skirt separately.
6. Run two rows of gathering stitches from side seam to side seam in front and back bottom edges of bubble skirt.
7. Gather bubble skirt to fit bottom edge of skirt lining and stitch a 1/2-inch seam with right sides together.
8. Fold 1 yard of tulle netting in half widthwise and sew ends together to form a tube. Now fold tube in half matching cut edges on one side. Stitch six vertical lines of gathering stitches from fold edge to cut edges evenly spaced. Pull up gathering stitches to create puffy sections in ring of tulle (fig. 2). NOTE: Adjust fullness according to size and desired amount of "puff" by removing some of the tulle.

FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3



9. Place tulle ring between bubble skirt and lining (fig. 3). This will keep the bubble from collapsing at the bottom. NOTE: Do not tack ring to bottom of skirt. Gravity holds the ring in place while worn. You will want it loose so that the ring can be shifted upward to press the bottom portion of the skirt and shifted back down to press the top.
10. Match waist edges of lining and skirt and baste wrong sides together.
1. Mark a 5-inch line from top waist edge at center back for placket. Sew a V starting 1/4 inch from