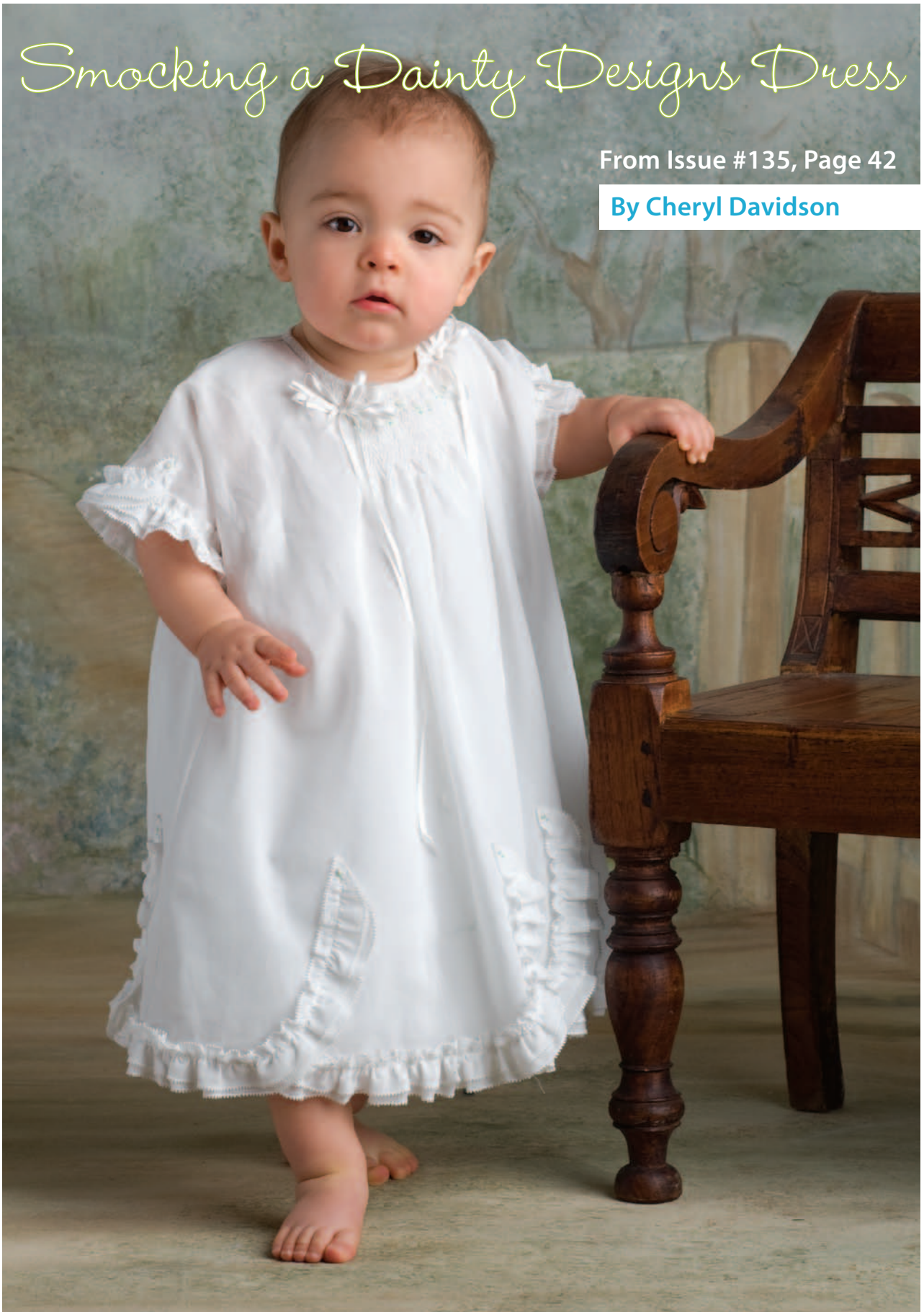


# Smocking a Dainty Designs Dress

From Issue #135, Page 42

By Cheryl Davidson

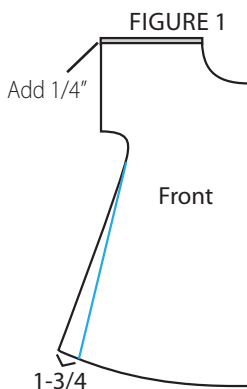




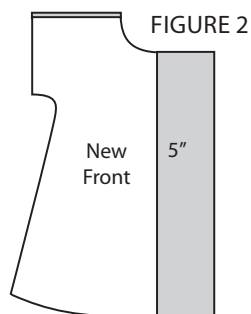
## PATTERN PREPARATION

Materials are listed on page 43 of Issue #135. Press and starch fabric before beginning.

1. Do not lay the shoulder on the fold line as pattern instructs, instead trace a front and a back pattern piece and add a 1/4-inch seam allowance to the shoulder line.
2. Remove 1-3/4 inch fullness at the hem from both side seams by placing the straight edge of a long ruler 1-3/4 inches from side seam at hem edge and taper into arm curve (fig. 1).



3. You will need an additional 10 inches at center front to accommodate fullness needed for smocking. To do this, simply add 5 inches to center front pattern and extend neckline and hem straight out (fig. 2).

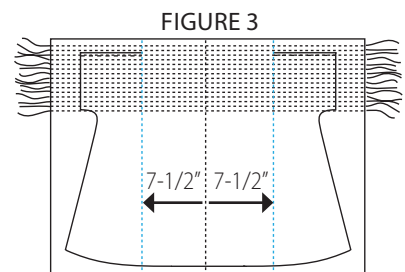


## PLEATING

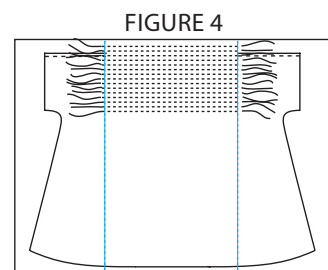
Use two contrast-colored quilting threads for guide threads. Thread needles alternating colors so that guide rows are more easily distinguished while smocking.

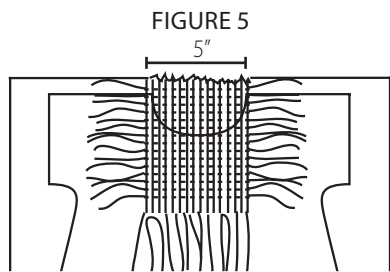
1. Cut a block of fabric 1-inch larger all around than size of your altered pattern front. Trace pattern to fabric block except for

neck curve. Mark 7-1/2 inches on each side of center block for a total of 15 inches. (fig. 3). Do not cut out.

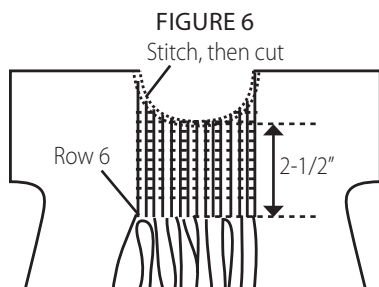


2. Pleat 16 full spaced rows. Feed top fabric edge into pleater 1/2 space above the first threaded pleater needle.
3. Pull out guide threads from fabric block starting at fabric side edge and stop at marks (fig. 4).





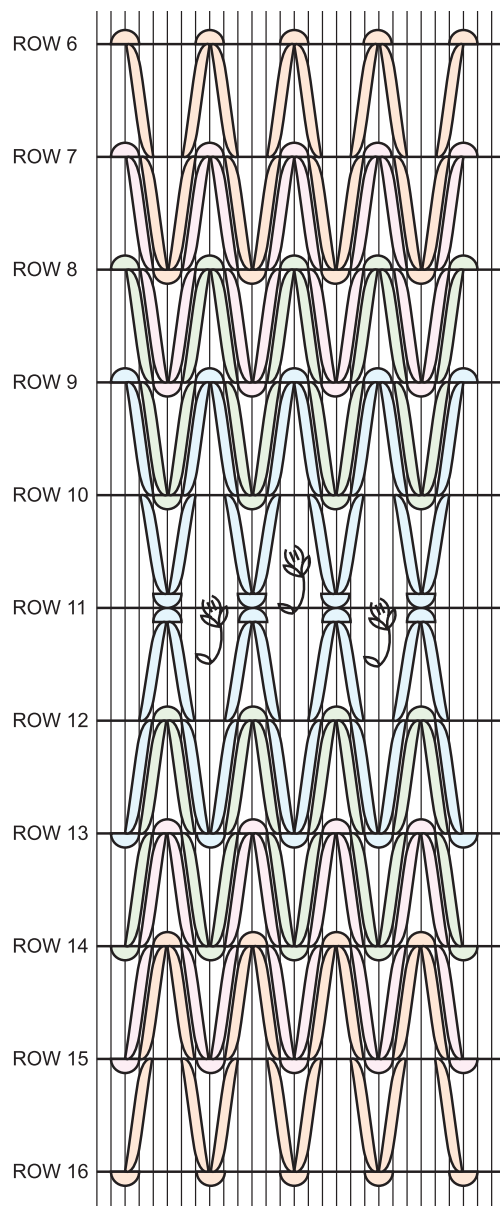
4. Pull up the center front to measure 5 inches and tie off (fig. 5).
5. Smock using design provided here, or choose one of your own. Rows 1- 6 are not stitched, as this will be cut away later (keep guide thread in place though). If smocking design provided, backsmock rows 10,11,12,13,14, and 15. Begin each row at center pleat. Design is two-step, double space waves (each step takes a whole space).
6. After smocking dress front, place pattern over smocked area and trace around neckline (center front neck edge rest 2-1/2 inch above Row 16). Sew a straight stitch along this marking, and then stitch over the straight stitch using a narrow zigzag. Cut out dress front (fig. 6).



7. The ribbon bows are made from 1/8-inch white silk satin ribbon. Cut a length of ribbon 44 inches long. Measure from cut edge of ribbon 14 inches and mark a dot. Measure from that mark 2-1/2 inches and mark; repeat 7 more times for a total of 9 dot. With a threaded needle run thread through each dot and pull up until you have an 8-loop bow. Wrap one of the 14-inch lengths over center of loops and tack in place with thread. Attach to dress with a safety pin.

## CONSTRUCTION

1. Sew shoulders with entredeux in the seam (optional). Or use a French seam.
2. Sew side seams and finish.
3. Hem sleeve edges and add ruffles so that the ruffles cover hem.
4. Cut a bias strip from Voile fabric measuring 1-1/2 inches wide x neck measurement + 1 inch extra. Fold bias strip in half lengthwise and press carefully



without stretching. Baste edges of bias together 1/8 inch from cut edges. Pin to neck edge with right sides together and raw edges even and stitch a 1/4-inch seam. Trim seam allowance to remove bulk. Fold bias strip over neck seam allowance, and pin fold of bias to stitching line and hand stitch in place. Stitch a featherstitch on right side of neck band with one strand of floss if desired.

5. Mark skirt for ruffles and apply swirl ruffles as directed in magazine article. Hem dress with a blind stitch. —SB



### About the Designer

Cheryl Davidson is the owner of A Frayed Knot heirloom sewing shop and the designer of Heirloom Originals in Lakeland, Tennessee. She teaches the art of fine hand sewing and construction in her shop and at many local businesses. Cheryl also designs for and is a regular contributor to *Sew Beautiful Magazine*.