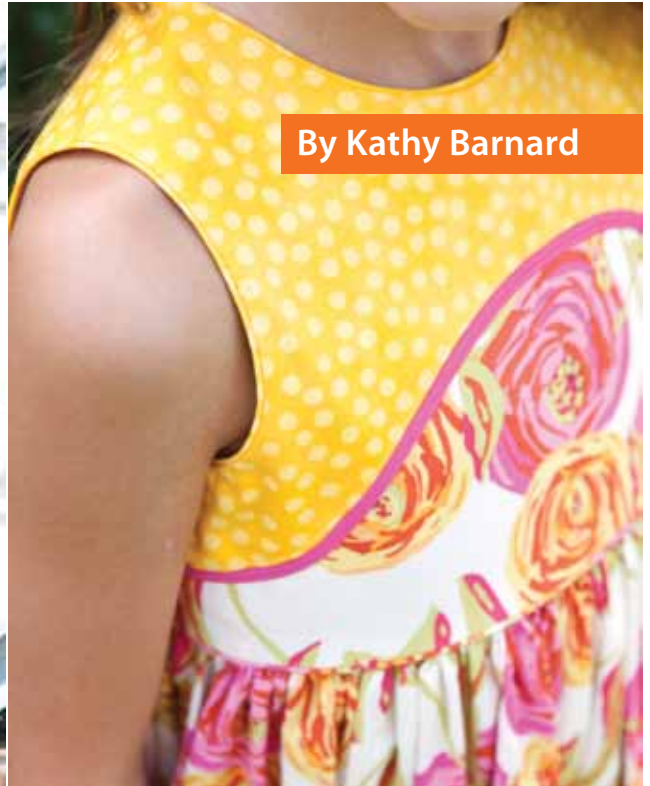


# Beyond the Basic Bodice

## WAVY SEAM DRESS INSTRUCTIONS



## BODICE

1. Construct front and back bodices with wavy seams as described in article (*Sew Beautiful* Issue #137, page 44).
2. Stitch shoulder seams to join front to back. If yoke is lined, pull lining out of the way and join to back lining in step 4.
3. Apply piping to neck and to arm curves while side seams are open.
4. Stitch shoulder seams of lining.
5. With right sides together place lining to prepared bodice and stitch back edges, around neck and around each arm curve. Trim and clip seams.
6. Turn bodice right side out by reaching front and pulling backs through shoulder channels.
7. Separate lining from bodice at side seam and stitch side seam from bottom edge of bodice, across piping at underarm seam and to bottom edge of lining.
8. Press seams open and place lining to inside.
9. Stitch piping to bottom edge of fashion bodice (lining is separated). Set bodice aside.
10. Prepare skirt.

## SKIRT

1. Cut or tear two rectangles for skirt front and back to desired finished hem with no hem allowance.
2. On wrong side, draw a line 2 inches from bottom edge across both skirt pieces.
3. Make a wave template using a

large circle like a dessert-sized plate (approx. 7 inch). Mark a line  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch from circle center and draw a line across it to establish scallop height at  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch (fig. 1).

4. Working on wrong side, starting at side seam line ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from edge), draw a half scallop above the 2-inch line, then flip the template and draw a whole scallop below the line. Continue drawing nine whole scallops across front, end with a half scallop facing up. Leave a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seam allowance and trim off side of skirt to fit if necessary to keep scallops even and math easy (fig. 2). Repeat for back skirt. Do not cut out scallops.
5. Tear two strips for hem facings from skirt fabric or from a solid lining fabric 4- $\frac{1}{4}$  inches by width of skirt.
6. Sew side seams of skirt together and side seams of facing together.
7. If applying trim, draw a line 1 inch above wavy line on right side of skirt and glue-baste trim in place. Stitch trim in place before adding facing (a double needle is great for applying spaghetti bias, or use clear thread and a buttonhole stitch on your machine and stitch both sides like Kari Mecca).
8. Place facing to bottom of skirt with right sides together and pin all around.
9. Stitch following the traced wavy

line on the wrong side of the skirt (fig. 3).

10. Trim  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from stitching and clip inner curves and notch outer curves. Turn facing to inside and press wavy edge.
11. For floating contrast band, tear fabric 10- $\frac{1}{2}$  inches by width of fabric. Cut to match bottom edge of skirt and sew side seam together to form a tube. Fold tube in half with wrong sides together, matching raw edges and press fold.
12. Separate hem facing from skirt and pin raw edges of contrast band to raw edge of facing with right sides together. Stitch with a serger, or straight stitch and overcast edge with a zigzag.
13. Pin facing and contrast band to inside of skirt and blind pick stitch catching just a thread of the skirt fabric to hold facing and band in place.

## FINISHING DRESS

1. Apply a continuous bound placket to center back of skirt.
2. Gather top of skirt with two or three rows of gathering stitches and pull to fit bodice. Stitch skirt to bodice with lining pulled out of the way.
3. Press bottom edge of bodice lining under  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.
4. Blindstitch bottom edge of bodice lining over waist seam.
5. Stitch buttonholes and buttons to back edges. —*EB*

