

# Summer-Sweet

By Kathy Dykstra

SMOCKED HALTERS



## CLUNY LACE SET

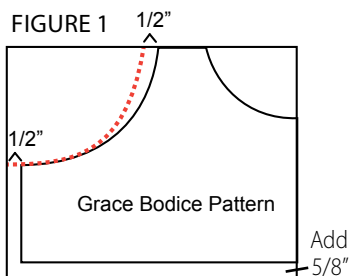
### Important Note

Measurements given are for size 3 top, similar adjustments will need to be made for other sizes.

Sample was smocked with Ellen McCarn's "Diamonds by Florence."

### PATTERN

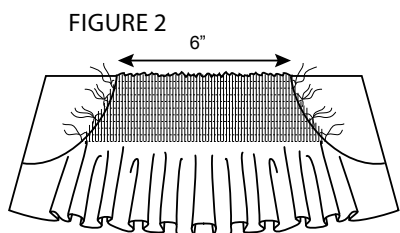
1. Trace front "Suntop" bodice pattern piece to pattern paper. Extend top width and side seam width by 1/2 inch and redraw arm curve as shown (fig. 1).



2. Lengthen bottom front skirt and halter back pattern pieces by 1 inch.

### PLEATING AND SMOCKING

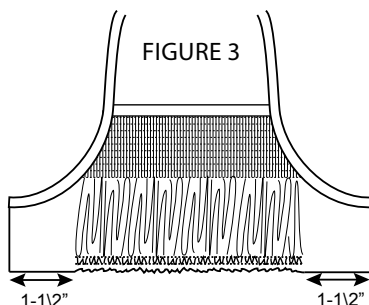
1. Tear a fabric strip for smocking 30 inches wide and 1 inch taller than bodice pattern piece. Before pleating, draw your armhole curves on each side, lining up top and side edges, but do not cut out. Pleat desired number of rows (sample has 10 rows).
2. Pull out guide threads on top two rows to arm curve marking. Pull up these two rows to 6 inches (or width of original pattern top edge depending on size you are making) and tie off. Pull up remaining threads and tie off following shape of arm curve (fig. 2).



3. Smock with bishop plate of your choice or use one suggested.
4. When you are finished smocking, remove all but top two rows of guide threads.

### CONSTRUCTION

1. Cut bias strips for top edge and arm curves.  
*Front bias* – cut 1 piece 2-3/8 inches x 6 inches (or width of top according to size you are making).  
*Arm curve and tie straps* – cut 2 pieces 2-3/8 inches x 26 inches.
2. Fold bias pieces in half lengthwise, wrong sides together and raw edges matching and press.
3. Pin folded bias strip on wrong side of top smocked front with raw edges even. Stitch with a 3/8-inch seam allowance. Press bias up and fold over seam allowance and to front (fold edge should extend just slightly beyond your stitching line). Pin or glue-baste in place. Edgestitch bias band along right side front.
4. Attach arm curve bias in same manner. When you press bias towards front, create tie strap: Press raw edge of bias strip 3/8 inch towards inside of bias band to form tie straps. Press under strap ends to finish. Edgestitch bias beginning at side seam and continuing all the way to end of tie strap.
5. Run two rows of gathering stitches along lower edge of smocked bodice piece, beginning and ending 1-1/2 inch from edges. Pull this up so that it will fit top edge of skirt piece (fig. 3).



6. Sew a piece of piping to top edge of "Suntop" skirt or apron piece. Topstitch wide Cluny lace insertion butted next to piping.
7. Sew smocked bodice piece to skirt piece with piping in seam. Trim and finish seam allowance with desired method (serged, zigzag, etc.).
8. Complete pattern per instructions. When you sew side seams, your front piece may be a bit longer than back. Trim off excess fabric evenly across front if needed. Hem is finished with Cluny lace edging.

## SWISS DOT SMOCKED SKIRT

### Important Note

Measurements given are for size 4 top, similar adjustments will need to be made for other sizes.

Sample was smocked with a modified version of Ellen McCarn's "Sweetheart" design.

### CUTTING

1. Do not use "Grace" skirt pattern. Instead, cut front skirt 12-1/2 inches long x 54 inches wide (length can vary according to style. You can make a top, tunic, or dress). NOTE: *If you use a heavier fabric, you can reduce width. For 45" fabric, you can cut width down selvage, or sew three 18-inch wide panels together and pleat over seams.*
2. Cut back skirt 14-3/4 inches long x 30 inches wide.
3. Cut out three bodice pieces from "Grace" pattern (one for front bodice, one to interline front bodice (not necessary if you're not using Swiss batiste) and one bodice for lining).
4. Cut out two straps using measurements given in "Grace" pattern.

## PLEATING AND SMOCKING

1. Pleat with desired number of rows. Pick out pleating threads  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch on each side for seams and tie off skirt to match bodice width.
2. Smock with design of your choice or use one suggested.
3. When you are finished smocking, remove all but top two rows of guide threads.

## CONSTRUCTION

1. Stitch piping along lower edge of front bodice.
2. Attach smocked front skirt to front bodice with piping in seam.
3. Continue with instructions given in pattern on page 6, "Neckline" through page 7. On page 8, instead of "sewing lining to bodice" as pattern instructs, press under seam allowance along bottom edge of lining and hand stitch lining to bodice. Then continue with instructions from "Back" to end of pattern. —SB