



coffee date dress

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instructions and pattern for a petite unlined, sleeveless dress with fitted bodice, scoop neck, a-line skirt, back zip and ruffle detail at bust

size:

32 petite. This pattern fits me (30" bust, 25" waist) and a standard (non-adjustable) dress form with a 32" bust. If you are larger than a B-cup or taller than 5'3", you may need to alter the pattern to fit.

useful BurdaStyle How-To's for this pattern:

"Sew an All-In-One Facing," "Insert an Invisible Zipper," "Hand Sewn Blind Stitch"

fabric:

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards lightweight woven fabric such as poplin, shantung. Unsuitable for knits.
1/4 yard lightweight interfacing

notions:

18" invisible zipper
Hook and eye

pattern pieces:

All pattern pieces include $\frac{5}{8}$ " (1.5 cm) seam allowance. Skirt includes 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (4 cm) hem allowance.

- 1 Bodice front (cut 1)
- 2 Bodice back (cut 2)
- 3 Bodice front facing (cut 1 on fold)
- 4 Bodice back facing (cut 2)
- 5 Skirt front (cut 1 on fold)
- 6 Skirt back (cut 2)
- 7 Ruffle (cut 1 strip of fabric 6" wx 36"l, with fabric grain running lengthwise)

preparation:

Place pattern pieces on fabric, making sure grainline is correct. Cut pieces and transfer all markings to fabric.

Apply lightweight interfacing to the wrong sides of the facings.

Staystitch neck and armhole edges.

bodice:

Stitch front bodice darts, press dart excess towards center. Trim dart excess if desired. Stitch back bodice darts, press darts towards center.

Stitch back bodice to front bodice at sides, right sides together. Press seam allowances open.

ruffle:

Encase each long raw edge of ruffle with a narrow zigzag stitch. Fold in half lengthwise with right side on inside. Stitch short edges. Trim seam allowances on short edges. Turn right side out. Press.

Make a row of long stitches along the zigzagged edge of ruffle through both layers of fabric, $\frac{1}{4}$ " from edge. Make a second row to the first, $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge. Pull threads to gather until the ruffle measures 21" in length. Tie threads to secure ends. Adjust gathers evenly.

(**note:** for the following part, it is easiest to pin and stitch each section of the ruffle to the bodice one at a time. However, it is a good idea to "test pin" the entire ruffle in place, mark the ruffle where it meets each of the points, and unpin before doing the following steps.)

Pin one end of ruffle's gathered edge to point A on bodice front. Lay ruffle edge along ruffle line until point B. Pin ruffle at point B. Baste or pin ruffle between points A and B. Stitch ruffle in place $\frac{1}{4}$ " from ruffle edge. Fold ruffle back at point B and affix ruffle from point B to C in same fashion. Repeat until point E. (**note:** be careful not to pull the bodice too taut when attaching the ruffle, otherwise it will pucker.)

Pin remaining ruffle from point E to point F matching ruffle edge to neck edge. Baste. Stitch ruffle $\frac{1}{2}$ " from neck edge (stitching line lies in the seam allowance.)

Remove gathering threads from ruffle.

facing:

Sew bodice front facing and bodice back facing right sides together at side seams. Press seam allowances open. Trim seam allowances along lower edge and finish with a narrow zigzag stitch.

Follow the BurdaStyle How-To "Sew an All-In-One Facing" to join the facing and bodice. This process will also close the shoulder seams and enclose the raw edge of the ruffle along the neckline. (**note:** the how-to illustrates a dress in which the zipper is on the side, whereas the Coffee Date Dress zipper is at the back neck.)

skirt:

Stitch skirt front to skirt back, right sides together. Press side seams open.

Stitch skirt to bodice, right sides facing, matching centers and side seams. Press seam allowances upwards towards bodice.

finishing:

Without catching bodice back facing, sew zipper to dress using the BurdaStyle How-To, "Insert an Invisible Zipper."

Stitch back skirt seam from bottom skirt edge to bottom of zipper. Press seam allowances open.

Fold in seam allowances on bodice back facing and press. Lay folded edges of facing over zipper tape and hand stitch to zipper tapes.

Sew hook and eye at neck edge.

Try on dress. Mark hem at desired length (pattern includes 1½" hem). Hem as desired (for example, see BurdaStyle How-To, "Hand Sewn Blind Stitch").

Take photo, show off creation on BurdaStyle!