

As a summer sundress or worn in winter over a long-sleeved shirt and leggings or tights ODA is a darling dress with a nod to vintage charm. Your choice of fabric will determine whether your look is romantic, girly or sporty. Large, eye-catching buttons on the collar present a nice accent and, because they make a zipper unnecessary, allow this design to be suitable for beginner sewists.

Most light- to medium weight fabrics are suitable for this design, including percale, linen, twill or baby wale corduroy.

The dress grows with the child, as it can be worn later over jeans or leggings as a tunic top.

The pattern sheet includes two dresses, one graded narrower and one graded wider; One is for an average stature and the other is for a stockier stature.

One picture is worth a thousand seam-ripped stitches: Photo-illustrated step-by-step instructions are available online at [www.studiotantrum.com/shop](http://www.studiotantrum.com/shop).

Be certain to take measurements, including dress length and chest circumference.

#### Fabric Requirement and Sizes

The measurements in the table reflect the finished garment. It is best to choose a pattern size according to your child's measurements and not her age.

Fabric/size	74/80	12-18 months	86/92	2-2T	98/104	3T-4	110/116	5-6
Chest – average size	62 cm	24 ½ in.	64 cm	25 ¼ in.	66 cm	26	68 cm	26 ¾ in.
Chest - plus sized stature	72 cm	28 ½ in.	74 cm	29 ¼ in.	76 cm	30	78 cm	30 ¾ in.
Collar width	5.4 cm	2 ¼ in.	5.8 cm	2 3/8 in.	6.2 cm	2 ½ in.	6.6 cm	2 5/8 in.
Front length	48 cm	19 in	54.5 cm	21 ¼ in.	61 cm	24 1/8 in.	67.5 cm	26 5/8 in.
<b>Fabric – 140 cm/54in.</b>	60 cm	5/8 yrd.	65 cm	¾ yrd.	70 cm	¾ yrd.	80 cm	7/8 yrd.
<b>Notions</b>	2 buttons, bias tape, sewing thread, fusible interfacing							

Fabric/size	122/128	7-8	134/140	9-10	146/152	11-12
Chest – average size	72 cm	28 3/8 in.	76 cm	30 in.	84 cm	33 1/8 in.
Chest - plus sized stature	82 cm	32 ¼ in.	86 cm	33 7/8 in.	94 cm	37 in.
Collar width	7.0 cm	2 ¾ in	7.4 cm	3 in.	7.8 cm	3 ¼ in.
Front length	76.5 cm	30 ¼ in.	85.5 cm	33 ¾ in.	96.5 cm	38 in.
<b>Fabric – 140 cm/54in.</b>	90 cm	1 yrd.	110 cm	1 ¼ yrd.	150 cm	1 5/8 yrd.
<b>Notions</b>	2 buttons, bias tape, sewing thread, fusible interfacing					

## Cutting the layout

Trace the pattern pieces and add an additional seam allowance, except at the armscyth of the bodice pieces. The pattern does not need an additional seam allowance at the armscyth. Lay the pattern pieces on your pre-washed and pressed fabric with respect to the grain and secure with a few pins or pattern weights. In addition, cut two pieces of extra-wide double-fold bias tape. If you are making the bias tape yourself, the bias tape should be 3-4 cm (1 inch) and 23-45 cm (12 ½ -18 inch) long and cut along the true bias (45°).

The bodice may either be gathered along the top edge or accented with stitched pleats.

## Piece List

### **Version for an average stature**

1 - Front piece	cut 1 on fold
2 - Back piece	cut 1 on fold
3 - Front collar piece	cut 2 on fold
4 - Rückenteilpasse	cut 2 on fold

### **Version for a plus-sized stature**

5 - Front piece	cut 1 on fold
6 - Back piece	cut 1 on fold
7 - Front collar piece	cut 2 on fold
8 - Back collar piece	cut 2 on fold

## Sewing ODA

Stabilize the collar pieces with a light-weight fusible interfacing, especially if the material is light-weight. For medium-weight fabrics that require no stabilizing around the entire collar, strengthen the stress points where the buttons and buttonholes will be worked with a fusible interfacing.

### **Dress version with stitched pleats**

The pleats may be stitched in place to any length: Just an inch or two, almost all the way to the hem or anywhere in between. The longer the pleats are secured with stitching, the more the dress has a slim silhouette.

1. Finish all fabric piece edges
2. On both the front and back bodice pieces, mark the top and bottom of the three pleats with a small dots on the fabric wrong side. Connect the dots with a lightly drawn vertical lines. Using a disappearing ink textile marker or tailor's chalk will work well.
3. Press the pleats individually along the marked lines. Stitch the pleats from the fabric wrong side. As an orientation for the pleat width, your machine's presser foot will have a width of about 1 cm (5/8 in.) and you will want to stitch with the presser foot 2-3 mm (1/8 in.) from the edge of the fold. Repeat for each of the three marked lines.
4. Press the pleats flat from the fabric wrong side. Secure the pleats from the garment right side with either a straight stitch or a decorative stitch of your choice.
5. Stitch the dress bodice front to the dress bodice back right sides together. Press the seam allowances open, such that front bodice piece seam allowance lays toward the front and the back bodice piece seam allowance lays toward the back.
6. Unfold the bias tape. Pin the bias tape to the armscyth right sides together. If looking down on the garment left armscyth, you will align the right edge of the unfolded bias tape to the fabric edge of the armscyth, fabric right sides together. Stitch along the first fold to the left. You may gently pull the bias tape along the curve for a smooth turn. Remove the pins and fold the bias tape over the stitching line and over the fabric edge of the armscyth. Secure with a few pins. Stitch the bias tape in place from the garment right side. You may want to use a zig zag or blanket stitch to make it easier to catch the bias tape on the wrong side.
7. Stitch the two front collar pieces right sides together along collar inside and along the two short sides. Leave the bottom open. Trim the corners for a smooth turn.
8. Turn the front collar piece, tuck the lower seam allowances toward the inside of the collar piece and press.
9. Repeat Steps 7 and 8 for the collar back pieces.

10. Mark the centers the front collar piece. Place the collar front piece over the front bodice piece, aligning the centers and pin. The front bodice piece will be sandwiched between the two layers of the collar. Pin the unstitched lower seam allowances along the bottom edge of the collar.
11. Edgestitch all along the front collar piece. You will secure the bodice front between the two collar halves with this stitching.
12. Repeat Steps 10 and 11 for the back collar piece and the back bodice.
13. Work the buttonholes and stitch on the buttons. Leave approximately 1 cm (5/8 in.) between the end of the buttonhole and the narrow edge of the collar back piece. Make certain that the buttons are stitched on securely, so that curious toddlers cannot pull them off.

## **Dress version with gathered bodice**

1. Finish all piece edges.
2. Evenly gather the fabric of the bodice front between the two outer pleat markings. To do so, increase the stitch length and stitch two parallel lines of baste stitches. For heavier fabrics, you may want to use a heavier weight sewing thread in your bobbin. Leave enough trimmed thread for gathering. Gently pull the bobbin threads and distribute the material for neat gathers. Reduce the width of the bodice piece only about 2-3 cm (3/4 - 1 1/4 in.)
3. Repeat for the back bodice piece.
4. Complete the dress as instructed above in steps 5 through 13.

Much joy and success in your sewing projects!