

Wee Care Gowns
Sewing Construction

Smocking

Smock gown using design of your choice, but it must have waves on the bottom of the design. Let your imagination and creativity run wild with these gowns. Experiment with bouillon roses, a variety of threads or silk ribbon, colour combinations or new stitches. Pastel and white smocking is preferred since these gowns are often used as christening gowns.

Note: Upon completion of the smocking, leave holding row of smocking in your garment until after Step 8 below to make construction easier.

Sleeves:

1. On bottom edge of sleeve, turn under 1/4" and zigzag into place (or experiment with your machine's various stitches using matching or complimentary thread).
2. Sew 4" of 1/8" elastic approximately 1/2" above hem from edge to edge seam to seam. 3. With right sides together, match bottom edge and sew underarm seam.

Gown:

4. With right sides of gown and sleeve together, sew sleeve to gown matching top neck edge and "U" shape of armhole. Clean finish seam line. (French seams may also be used).

Back Opening:

5. Turn under back edges and hem of gown 1/4", and zigzag. If you've used fancy stitching on the sleeve, it can be carried through by using the same stitching on the hem and back.

Applying Bias Strip

6. Sew gathering stitch along top edge of gown back and sleeves to match top holding row thread from pleating.
7. Pull neck edge gathering threads to fit bias strip. Pin right side of bias strip to right side of gown leaving 1/4" of strip free at each end. Sew bias along neck edge, using 1/4" seam.
8. Grade neck edge.
9. Turn under 1/4" on long edge of neck bias and neatly turn under both ends. Fold bias again over neck edge to stitching line. Hand stitch bias into place. If you prefer, you may use a French bias.

Closures

10. Use plastic dome fasteners or ribbon ties to close back opening (may overlap or meet). Do not sew up the back seam, as it makes the gowns harder to put on the infants.