

# CHILD'S Smock

A SWEET, SIMPLE SUMMER FROCK AND  
A GREAT WAY TO PRACTISE SHIRRING



**W**hen you're sewing for the little dynamos in your life, you'll know it's important their garments are comfy, practical and designed to handle all manner of summer frolics. Our little kiddie smock, which is ideal for energetic two- to four-year-olds, gives you a golden opportunity to work on your shirring and embroidery skills, whilst crafting a pretty dress that gives your little angels every freedom for those sunshine escapades.



**7** Trim the elastic to length by measuring from just under your child's arm to the opposite point on her back. Stitch one end to the top of the side seam and the other to the opposite side. Neaten the side seams, fix the press folds at the top of the back piece so they cover the elastic, and edge-stitch a channel across the back, stretching the elastic as you sew.

**8** Attach the back ties to the same stitching line as the channel, positioning them a little closer together than the front ties. Neaten the base of the skirt, fold and press up a 3cm hem, then sew in place.

## ESSENTIAL KIT

Main fabric, 1m x 130cm  
Matching thread  
Stranded embroidery threads,  
two colours  
Transfer smocking dots  
Elastic, 1.5cm wide

## CHILD'S SMOCK

**1** Cut the pieces following the guide. Neaten the top edge of the front rectangle, fold and press 4cm over on to the wrong side. Hand-stitch as if stitching a hem; this will form the top ruffle. On the reverse of the fabric, transfer six rows of the smocking dots, across the width of the piece underneath the folded ruffle.

**2** Start and finish the gathering for the smocking, 6cm in from each side. To gather, tie a knot in the end of a length of thread. Make a running stitch joining the row of dots, but don't tie the end of the thread; leave it hanging and move to the next row with new thread. When all six rows are stitched, pull the threads. When the gathering is even, tie off the ends.

**3** Embroider the gathered area. Apply a rope stitch to the top and base. Bring your embroidery needle and thread up through the first fold on the left. With the thread above the needle, make a stem stitch across the row, picking up small pieces of material on each fold to the end of the row.

**4** Using a diamond stitch in the centre, work from left to

right, bring the needle out on the second line, then up to the first. Back-stitch in the first fold, then the second. Slide down to the second line, back-stitch the third and fourth fold, then repeat across the row. Start the second stage of the stitch on the third line. The diamond should have two folds in the centre. Make one more row of stitches to complete.

**5** Lay the template from [makeittoday.co.uk](http://makeittoday.co.uk) on the top corner along the folded ruffle and the side edge and cut out the armhole curve. Pass the bias strip through a bias binding folder, pressing the folds in as you pull. Fold and press in half lengthways. Slot the binding over the armhole edges and edge-stitch. Sew the folded sides from the ruffle to the end of the binding to create the shoulder ties. Make the back ties in the same way.

**6** Fold and press the back rectangle to the wrong side of the fabric by 2cm, then another 2cm along the top; this will be the channel for the elastic. Match the second fold line to the outside folded edge of the bias binding at the base of the armhole curve on the front piece. Pin the rest of the side seams to the base of the skirt and stitch together.



## Cutting Guide

**Front:** Cut a rectangle half the fabric width x 50cm

**Back:** Cut a rectangle half the fabric width x 48cm

**Shoulder ties:** Cut four bias strips 50cm x 5cm  
Use 1.5cm seam allowances, except for neckline, which needs 1cm.

These dress dimensions will fit a two-year-old.

The same width measurements could be used for kids up to age four; you just need to adjust the length to suit the height of the child.

## Fabric LOVE



**GÜTERMANN 647527  
LONG ISLAND**

Sublime cotton concoction blending citrus limes and marshmallow pinks in a cheerful froth of blossoms and leaves. £17 per metre, [gutermann@stockistenquiries.co.uk](mailto:gutermann@stockistenquiries.co.uk)





## Why not try?

For playful alternatives, try some of Laughing Hedgehog's prints, including pink spots and patchwork hearts. £10.95 per metre, [laughinghedgehog.co.uk](http://laughinghedgehog.co.uk)



PINK SPOTS



PATCHWORK HEARTS





# CHILD'S SMOCK

MAKE IT TODAY, ISSUE 15,  
PAGE 48  
Designer Amanda Walker

## CUTTING GUIDE

### Main Fabric:

**Front:** Cut a rectangle half the fabric width x 50cm

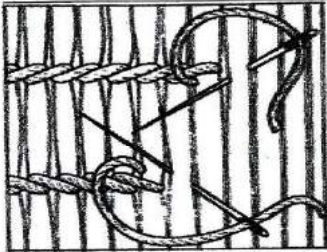
**Back:** Cut a rectangle half the fabric width x 48cm

**Shoulder ties:** Cut four bias strips 50cm x 5cm  
Use 1.5cm seam allowances, except for neckline, which needs 1cm.

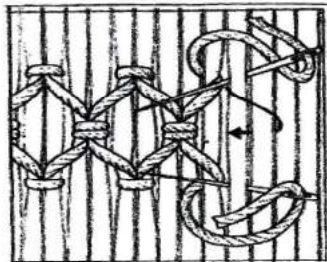
Dress dimensions will fit a two-year-old.

These width measurements could be used for kids up to age four; just adjust the length to suit the height of the child.

## SMOCKING STITCHES



ROPE STITCH



DIAMOND STITCH

