

A chemisette 1830-35



This might be worn under an open-fronted bodice, so that the front shows. It could be embroidered in a V shape. Having a separate chemisette certainly makes the gown to go over the top very much easier to make!

The finest, gauziest lawn you can find is best for our scale. Very fine crepe de chine could be used. To be authentic, it should be white. Decoration was embroidered or lace added to neck edges. An old, much laundered, embroidered handkerchief might be good for this, if the decoration is suitable.

You will need:

- normal sewing supplies (pins, needle, thread, scissors etc)
 - copier paper or similar paper for patterns
 - fabric at least 4" (10cm) by 5" (12.5cm)
 - cotton or cord for the drawstring such as fine crotchet cotton or linen thread
 - needle large enough to thread the drawstring
1. Trace the patterns **along the heavy line** -the seam allowances are only shown for guidance. Trace the grain-lines. Cut out the patterns.
 2. Place the patterns on the wrong side of the fabric, aligning the grain-lines and leaving seam

allowances all round, and pin. The garment will sit better if it is cut on the bias. Cut out the fabric about 1/4" – 3/8" (about 1cm) outside the pattern, which gives you your turnings/seam allowances.

3. Snip the curved neck edge about 3/4 the way into the allowance (not right into the fold line). Fold the allowances over the paper all round, starting with the shoulder seams, then the sides, the neck edge and lastly the waist (the order is important), and press. You may like to tack the allowances before pressing, both to ensure accuracy and prevent you burning your fingers.
4. Remove the paper (and tacking if used). With a tiny running stitch construct a channel wide enough for your drawstring along the front waistline. Do the same for the back waistline.
5. With right sides together, sew the shoulder seams of the front and back together, along the crease mark. You can either leave the allowances folded and use a whip stitch or unfold the allowances and sew with a tiny running stitch along the crease marks, then refold the allowances.
6. Turn right side out and press. Stitch a line of fine gathering stitches around the neckline, starting and ending at the centre back. Try on the doll, and pull up the gathering threads so that it all sits nicely. Tie off the gathering threads.
7. Thread a length of cord through the front waist channel, and another to the back. Tie one side in a bow. Back on the doll, pull the other ends around the waist and tie these in a bow.

