



Jackie Bond made the outfits for the bridal party at her son's wedding, and also made doll-sized replica outfits of the bride and bridesmaid to commemorate the occasion. Here are the instructions to make Maddie's bridesmaid dress and bolero.

# Pretty Maddie

## MATERIALS

- The doll is Carlie, from Dianna Effner's 14" All Porcelain Body Dolls from the Portrait Head series
- 35cm (14") Dupion silk main colour for dress and contrasting piping on bolero
- 25cm (10") Dupion silk in contrasting colour for bolero and piping on dress
- 35cm (14") lining fabric matching colour to dress fabric
- Small scraps of lining fabric to line the bolero
- 0.5 mtr (½ yd) fine piping cord
- Matching threads for sewing and overlocking /zig zagging(serger)

**Finished size of doll: 36cm (14")**

## PREPARATION

Seam allowance for all seams is 1cm (¾"), and the binding on the bolero edges is 6mm (¼"). To neaten all raw edges means to use an overlocker (serger) or a Zig Zag stitch on a normal sewing machine on all raw cut edges to stop them from fraying and to tidy them up. If you feel you need to pin and baste pieces together to hold them in place please do so. I tend to just hold pieces together with pins – naughty I know.

## BIAS STRIPS FOR PIPING AND BINDING

Cut 65cm (25") from main dress fabric.  
Cut 30cm (12") from contrasting bolero fabric.

These can be cut in shorter lengths to fit top edge of bodice around edge of bolero and bolero sleeves. It does not have to be cut in a continuous length if you don't have enough fabric to cover that length.

## BRIDESMAID DRESS

Sew two rows of gathering stitches on all dress pieces where indicated on pattern, as this forms the ruching on the bodice. Neaten the lower edge of the stay pieces. Pull up the gathers on all the dress pieces until they fit the length of the stay pieces and then stitch them together, wrong side of panel to stay piece stitch up one side across the top and down other side as this will hold the gathers and keep them the correct size and shape. Neaten all raw edges on every dress piece.

With right sides together sew front side panels to each side of centre front panel, then side back panels to either side of centre back panels. Leave centre back seam open. Sew the side seams and leave back seam

until you have pressed all other seams open with an iron, then from the hem sew up back seam leaving it open from just below the waist to allow room to get your dolly into the dress. Press that seam open.

Now repeat that whole process minus the gathers and stays on your lining pieces. Don't forget to neaten all edges too and press all seams as you go, as it is much easier to do now instead of at the end and it will give your dress a more professional look.

Make up a length of piping using the contrasting colour of the bolero by folding the strip of bias in half over a length of the cord. Push the cord so it is sandwiched tightly in the middle of the strip and run a stitch line down against it as close as you can get it to the cord without actually stitching over it. Use a zipper pressure foot on your machine as this will allow the needle to get closer to the cord inside the fabric.

Place the piping around the very top of your dress bodice with the raw edges uppermost and the piping facing down and then stitch in place using the stitch line already on the piping. Make up the shoulder straps if you have one of those nifty gadgets for making long skinny spaghetti





straps and button loops. If not, just fold the edges of the fabric inwards until they meet in the middle, press then fold in half again, sandwiching the raw edges inside, and then press again and stitch down either side of the strap to hold the folds all together.

Place the ends of the straps over the front panel seams so the edges meet, and stitch in place. Try the dress on your doll and mark the length where the straps need to go at the back and again stitch in place.

Put the right sides of the dress and the lining together and stitch around the top using that same stitch line of the piping as a guide as to where to stitch. Be careful not to catch the shoulder straps in this seam as they will be fairly tight. Turn in the right side out. Sew up the hem on both the outer dress and the lining either by hand or machine.

To close up the back of the dress you can use press snaps between the two seam edges or you can sew your doll into the dress using a ladder stitch. Or if you are really keen and clever you can actually make tiny button holes with tiny buttons.

### **BOLERO**

In the contrasting fabric, cut out your bolero pieces and the bias strip for binding. The contrasting piping bias strip should be cut from the dress fabric. Make up the piping as you did for the dress. Cut lining from either matching bolero fabric for self lining or from scraps of matching lining fabric.

On both outer and lining pieces with right sides together sew all shoulder seams and side seams. Press open with an iron. (It is not necessary to neaten these seams as they will all be sandwiched inside so they will not

be exposed at all, but if you prefer to neaten them before you start by all means do it.)

With wrong sides together making sure seams match and meet on the outer edge of the lining, sew a holding line all around the edge of the bolero and around the edge of the sleeves. Place your piping from the middle of back neck all the way around the edge until you get back to the centre of the neck back again, and stitch in place using previous stitch line as before on dress. The piping should be facing inwards and raw edges all together. Leave a little tag of piping at the back of the neck so you can fold away the raw edge of it when putting binding over it. Do the same on the sleeves.

A little tip to reduce some of the bulk of the piping – get a pair of tweezers and pull out the cord of the piping from the end and snip off



about 1.5cm (1/2") of it then let the end go back inside the piping casing again. (You can do this at all ends of piping, top of dress, sleeves and around the bolero).

Lastly, place the matching bolero fabric bias strip starting at the back of the neck again and fold 0.5cm (1/4")

over one end with raw edges together and again use previous stitch line as a guide as to where to, sew go around the edge of the bolero and around the sleeve edges in the same way. The sleeves will be a bit difficult because of their small size so do just a few stitches at a time as you move around the sleeves.

Tuck the two ends of the piping upwards so that the binding will cover them and trim off any excess. Once the bias strip is stitched in place fold it over the raw edges tuck up the bias raw edges inside the binding and hand hem around in place.

Dress your doll, and tadaaaaah, you're done!

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