

III. SMOCKED VARIATION

Refer to original pattern instructions for smocking information . . . For maximum # of rows each size will accommodate, subtract one for bib. For picture designs, width of fabric for insert can be a full 45" except for sizes 3 & 6 mos. Those sizes should not use more than 36" of fabric for insert. After smocking is completed, block smocking 1" wider than indicated in pattern.

Tip: After blocking smocking, a strip of masking tape may be positioned approximately 1/2" above top row (and also below bottom row) of smocking to hold insert in blocked position. Tape should not be caught when stitching piping to insert (step 1) & should be removed after step 1 is completed.

1. Machine baste covered piping just above top row of smocking & just below bottom row. (Use zipper foot & stitch as close to piping as possible.) If covered piping is not used, stitch a machine basting row just above top row & below bottom row to be used as guide when stitching insert to bib. Trim top & bottom of insert to 1/2" above & below these basting stitches if top & bottom edges extend beyond 1/2".

2. To determine "length of insert" measure from machine basting stitches above smocking design to machine basting stitches below design.

3. To create bottom insert cutting line on bib, draw a horizontal line across bottom of bib (but not lining)--this line should be 2 1/4" above bottom edge. *Tip: All lines that are drawn should be measured & marked with bib folded to help assure cutting line is parallel to bottom edge.*

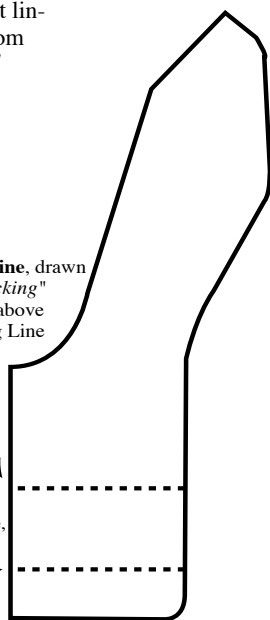
4. Measuring up from horizontal line drawn in step 3, draw top insert cutting line on bib.

This cutting line will be the "length of insert" determined in step 2 minus 1" (For example, if "length of insert" is 3 1/2", measure & mark top cutting line 2 1/2" above horizontal line.) Keeping bib folded, cut bib on these cutting lines.

Caution: You will attach insert to top of bib first (step 5, below). Be careful not to misplace the 2 1/4" strip (bottom of bib).

Top Cutting Line, drawn "length of smocking" minus 1 inch above Bottom Cutting Line (step 4)

Bottom Cutting Line, drawn 2 1/4" above bottom edge (step 3)



5. With right sides together & raw edges even, position top of insert against the top bib cutting line. Match centers & position first & last smocked pleat just beyond 3/8" seam line at sides (so first & last pleat will be caught in side seams when bib is sewn to lining). Sew top of insert to bib with 1/2" seam. (Use machine basting stitches done in step 1 as guide to help keep stitching straight.) Trim seam & overcast raw edges. Press seam & top of bib up--away from insert.

6. With right sides together & raw edges even, position bottom edge of insert against the top of the 2 1/4" strip (bottom portion of bib). Match centers & first & last pleats with side seams as directed in step 5 above. This seam should be trimmed as narrowly as possible & overcast, so it will not interfere with buttonholes when they are stitched.

The following possible changes from the basic patterns directions might be considered for easier construction & for eliminating some fabric yardage . . .

The **basic 90-Minute Pinafore** (the non-smocked variation) does not necessarily need the skirt seams in line with the front bodice seams as the pattern directs. If you will be satisfied with this look, it is easier to cut two skirts sections (one for front, one for back) & line the skirt seams with the bodice side seams. (With many fabrics, you can't even tell where the skirt seams are located unless you take time to study the garment.)

You can create a center back seam & follow the placket instructions in the pattern or you can simply slit center back of skirt down 5" from top edge & sew a continuous placket to the slit area.

Suggested skirt width for each front & back piece (when cutting from light weight fabrics & a lot of fullness is desired) is 40" for sizes 3 & 6 mos. and 45" for all other sizes. For most sizes, you can simply cut (or tear) two pieces each the desired length (plus extra for hem depth & for any of the optional tucks) X 45" wide. (*I like to cut away selvages, so width is actually a little less than 45".*)

Before sewing side seams (**Section I, Step 9**), gather & sew front skirt to front bodice. After sewing center back placket, gather & sew skirt back to bodice back. Then sew side seams & hem as directed.

If you do not want the extra buttons in front of dress (or to work buttonholes at bottom of front of bibs), you can eliminate that part of construction. Bib is attached by a button at back, so will stay attached to dress without the front buttons. Just decide if you will be bothered by the looseness of the bib at front. You can always work the buttonholes later if the detached front doesn't create a pleasing result when it is worn.



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