

# Gigi's Fabric Shop

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## Spring Dress Workshop Homework: Modifying a Commercial Sewing Pattern to Include Smocking

**Description:** Learn to modify a sewing pattern to add a smocked insert, yoke, or skirt for an heirloom dress that will be treasured. This is a two part class that will cover pattern modification, cutting, pleating and smocking in the first class, and assembly and finishing in the second class. Registry for the class includes participation in parts 1 and 2, and there is a three week gap between sessions to allow students to complete their hand smocking. Instructor will have a pleater in class to pleat your garment for you, or you are encouraged to bring your own pleater if you have one. M5613 is available in Children's sizes 3-6 or 7-14.

### Date:

Part 1: Monday, Feb 4, 2019, 10-4. Part 1 will include pattern modification, cutting, pleating, and smocking techniques.

Part 2: Monday, Feb 25, 10-4. Part 2 will cover blocking, construction, and finishing techniques for the finished garment.

**Pattern:** The pattern used in the shop is McCall's M5613, View A, but you are welcome to choose any simple dress or tunic pattern you would like. I would recommend choosing a pattern with a defined waist seam or a high yoke, but we can also modify a dress to include a pleated insert rather than an entire pleated bodice. Each student is responsible for purchasing their own pattern.

### Materials Needed:

-**Fabric:** Quilting cotton, lawn, batiste, and gingham are all great choices for light weight smocked dresses or shirts. I would recommend purchasing 1/2 yard more than the pattern requires for your chosen size to accommodate the amount of fabric required in a smocked bodice panel.

-Machine sewing thread to match your fabric selections. The thread fiber content should generally reflect the fiber content of your final garment fabric- if you are making a dress from cotton, cotton thread is a great choice. If you are sewing with manmade fabric, 100% polyester is a great- you are

generally safe with a multipurpose polyester thread as well unless you are working on a special occasion garment.

- DMC thread in one or several colors to harmonize with your fabric choice for the smocking
- Crewel or embroidery needles with a larger eye that you can easily thread
- Straight Pins and a pin cushion
- Any notions listed on the back of your pattern
- Sewing Machine in working order (You will not need your machine for Part 1- only Part 2).
- Seam Ripper
- Pencil or erasable Pen
- Optional: Pattern tracing wheel and tracing paper (instructor will have some during class)
- Fabric Scissors and snips
- Quilting Ruler
- Hand quilting thread in a color that contrasts your fabric
- Pleater (if you own one, bring it and I will show you how to use it if you'd like)
- Optional: Serger for seam finishing
- Desired pattern

### **Homework PRIOR TO CLASS:**

Prewash, dry, and press your fabric. When sewing clothes out of natural fibers like cotton, it becomes critical that you prewash and dry your fabric as you intend to launder the finished garment to allow for shrinkage before you sew. If you are comfortable cutting out your paper pattern to the correct size for your garment, please cut it out before class. If you are unsure, we can cut it together in class. If you have any questions about the pattern, choosing your own pattern, choosing a size, or fabric, please don't hesitate to call or text Kathleen.

\* Doors open 15 minutes prior to class

\* Do you need to rent a machine? Please call shop and let us know at least 24 hours prior.

\* All classes are supported by fabric purchases at Gigi's. A 10% discount will be provided for all class materials. Please do not bring in fabrics purchased outside of Gigi's. This is how we keep our doors open. We appreciate your support.

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[www.gigisfabricshop.com](http://www.gigisfabricshop.com)