

## Sewing Secrets

### Vogue 1152

### Rebecca Taylor



**What we like:** This dress is just as much fun to wear as it is to make! The details in the gathered bands on the front are delightfully done and are stunningly beautiful. The elastic in the back makes it very comfortable to wear.

**Timing:** You'll want to take some time with this dress – two days is probably a good estimate.

**Fabric selection:** Use a Liberty Cotton! Or, anything soft and drapery. I chose a very sheer cotton, so I ended up lining it with a cotton batiste, which makes for the ultimate in comfort, without the annoyance of wearing a slip that doesn't quite suit the design.

**Fabric requirements:** If you are using a 54" fabric, you can go by the 60" fabric requirements shown on the back of the pattern, if you are going to cut the front facing, the second yoke and the back casing out of a lining fabric. This is often desirable when using a printed fabric that is very light weight.

**Fitting:** This is a very loose fitting dress that doesn't require much in the way of alterations or fitting. Make sure that you have sufficient room in the back, across the shoulders, and around the bust. If those areas are the right size, the rest should just flow.

**The Zipper:** This calls for a 7-9 inch invisible zipper in the left side seam. Even with the zipper, you have to dive in to the dress and pull it over your head to get it on. This isn't the easiest maneuver!

**Cutting:** Seriously consider cutting the front higher. This dress is designed to show a lot of cleavage, which may, or may not, be appropriate for your selected usage. In my case, I realized this too late and ended up adding a piece in the front to cover an additional 4 inches.

**Sewing:** This pattern is very well done. The only hiccup was in the back elastic. The pictures all show three pieces of elastic, but the instructions tell you to use two. I thought that three was better, so that's what I used. It isn't a big deal, but can be a bit confusing on the first reading.

Produced by Melissa Dunning (720 480-3682) for Elfriede's Fine Fabrics (303 477-0132)  
Feel free to join us for Sewing on Sundays, if you would like more support and help!

**If you want a lining:** To line the body of the dress, leaving the sleeves unlined, I did the following:

- Cut all pieces out of the lining, just as for the fashion fabric. You can shorten the side front (#7), the side back (#11) and the back (#8) by two inches. You don't need to line the sleeves, so you can neglect to cut #13 and #14 from the lining. You won't need the gathered band (#5) or the back casing (#9) in the lining. Cut only one yoke from the lining (#12) and only one band (#4).
- The front facing (#2), the back casing (#9), the second yoke (#12) and two of the bands (#4) don't need to be cut from the fashion fabric.
- Construct the front from the fashion fabric, as shown in the directions, skipping steps 6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24 and 25. This creates the front without any facings yet applied.
- Construct the lining for the front in the same way, but using just one band instead of the 3 bands. Put the front and the lining, wrong sides together, and apply the front facing as shown in steps 6, 7 & 8.
- Construct the back from the fashion fabric, ignoring the yoke facing (steps 36, 37, 38, 39).
- Create the back lining in the same manner, but using only one strip of elastic. Put the back and the lining, right sides together, and stitch around the neck, as shown in step 37.
- Sew the shoulder seams, opening up to sew across the fashion fabric and then across the lining.
- Install the zipper in the fashion fabric, then sew the side seams. Sew the side seams in the lining, leaving open around the zipper.
- Insert the sleeves as shown in the instructions, leaving the lining free. Turn under the seam allowance and hand stitch to cover the sleeve seam.
- Attach the front band of the lining to the front band of the dress, invisibly with hand stitches, by sewing in the seam allowance.
- Attach the back lining to the dress at the seams where the elastic is sewn in to the seam.
- Hem the lining a full 2 inches above the dress, so that the lining doesn't show in the back.