

Bear in Mind

An electronic newsletter from Bear Threads Ltd.

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From The Editor –

In spite of the many storms in April, we in the South managed a beautiful Easter Sunday. Now the storms have returned and I hope they find you curled up with a new sewing project.

If you have not already decided on that next dress for your little ‘bunnykin’, you will find our guest, Trisha Smith, has just the pattern you need for inspiration. The pillow case dress looks nothing like its’ namesake. It is oh-so elegant and sweet. Her pattern line, Trisha’s Treasures, will debut **LILY** the second half of May. In her article this month she is walking you through the steps for finishing the underarm with a French binding and hemming with grow tucks. Both will be so useful to you in many other applications as well. I can even picture **LILY** in a fun fabric with nautical ribbons for the beach!! Use your imagination and have fun. We thank you Trisha, for sharing your talents with us this month.

In closing, with all eyes and ears on the British Royal Wedding, I leave you with the following quote from the late Princess Diana:

“Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.”

Happy Stitching,

Sheila

Meet the Designer

Trisha Smith is the designer and owner of a pattern line, “Trisha’s Treasures”. Her patterns are unique and sassy. The backs are as cute as the fronts, with each having its’ own special point of interest. Trisha enjoys not only designing and making children’s clothes, but teaching others sewing as well. Sharing with others the art of sewing these timeless garments for the special child in their life is what she enjoys most about teaching.

Trisha has traveled throughout the United States teaching for Needlework shops, SAGA Groups, and Sewing Guilds. She has taught for many years at the Martha Pullen School of Art Fashion and teaches on a regular basis for The Children’s Corner in Nashville, TN. She was privileged to travel with Elizabeth Travis Johnson for 11 years and considered it a tremendous blessing to have learned from “*The Master*”.

Known for her sweetness and patience in the classroom, Trisha gives great detail to seeing that every pattern and class handout has very clear, easy to follow directions. She particularly loves giving students those little extra points that make the difference in a garment being just ‘O.K.’, or making it really special.

Published in Sew Beautiful, she has also produced HGTV segments. Trisha lives in Franklin, TN with her husband Bob. They have two married sons and look forward to grandchildren.

Memories That Last A Lifetime

By Trisha Smith of Trisha's Treasures

As a child I watched my Mother sew. Many times she was sewing garments for me. When she was lovingly creating a dress “just for me”, I would stand by her side and watch each step. I remember at an early age how badly I wanted to learn to sew. When I was 12, Mother gave me a pattern and fabric and said, “Here you go, see what you can do”. If you need me, come and I will help you. That was the beginning of the rest of my life. I have been sewing ever since that day. It is so rewarding to create beautiful things. If you had told me that one day I would design children’s clothes – well, let’s just say, I would not have believed you. It is interesting the turns that our lives take and I am so thankful to be able to do what I love for my career.

My husband and I were blessed with two beautiful little boys. What joy I received from sewing for our two sons when they were little. How quickly time passes and now they are grown. I will never forget the thrill I felt when someone would compliment one of our sons on what they were wearing and I would hear them say, “Thank you, my Mommy made it for me!” Hearing those words made all the time and effort that went into making that garment worth it for sure. It made my sons feel special to wear what I had lovingly made, “just for them”. My desire is that I can help you make memories with, and for, the special child in your life, through the garments you will lovingly make, “just for them”.

Heirloom Pillowcase Dress ©
By Trisha Smith of Trisha's Treasures

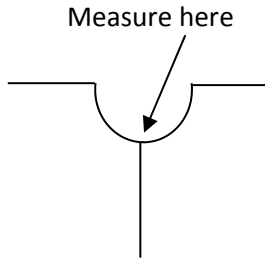


By choosing to use the finest of fabrics and trims you can turn a basic pillowcase style dress into a beautiful treasured heirloom. After making a few adjustments it turns a fast and fun dress into one that can be made quickly yet it will become an heirloom dress that can be handed down through the generations. The “Lily” pattern, by Trisha’s Treasures will be available in late May and will contain all details of how to create this garment. A beautiful 6” wide Swiss edging has been added at the neckline to create a ruffle. The hemline has been finished with a 3” wide Swiss edging. Above the edging are two 1 ¼” grow tucks which are mainly for appearance but may also be functional if lengthening the dress is needed when the child grows taller. The fabric that I choose to use for this dress is White Dotted Swiss by Bear Threads. The Swiss edgings are E-52 in White – 6” wide and E-51 in White – 3” wide. For lining the dress, use Bear Threads Bearissima Swiss Batiste. Working with these wonderful fabrics and trims was a pleasure. They were a dream to sew on. When sewing on these fine fabrics, use a Microtex size 60 needle and lightweight thread.

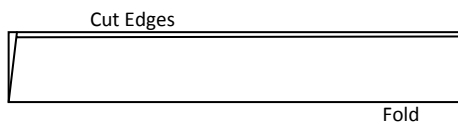
In this article I want to focus on two techniques that may be used often as you are creating garments for the special child in your life.

Finishing an Underarm Edge with a French Binding

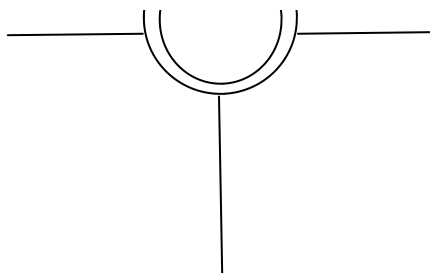
- Stitch side seams of dress using a French seam and press seam allowance toward back of garment.
- Measure total underarm length and add 2" to that number.



- Cut a bias strip that is 1 1/4" wide times the above length.
- Fold bias strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together and press a crease on the fold.

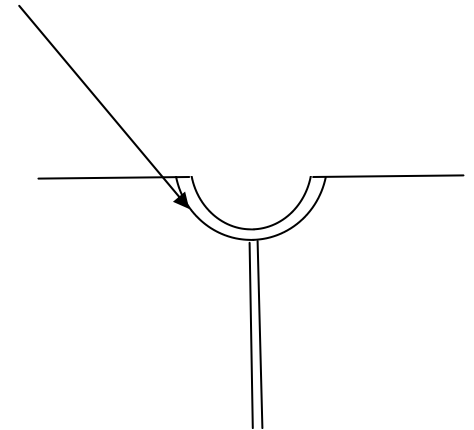


- Steam press bias to shape of underarm edge stretching bias slightly while pressing.
- Place long raw edges of bias even with underarm edge leaving 1" extending at the top edges.



- Pin in place if desired. Stitch bias to dress using a 1/4" seam allowance with a 2.0 stitch length. To do this: use a 1/4" foot or you may use your all-purpose foot and move the needle position so that the side of the presser foot is even with raw edges of fabric. Engage needle down. When stitching, stop with the needle down in the fabric and pivot as needed.
- Stitch again moving out 1/16" into the seam allowance.
- Trim seam allowance to 1/8".

- Place dress onto iron board with wrong side facing up. Fold bias strip over toward wrong side of dress which will cover up the underarm seam allowance and press well. TIP: Over roll the bias slightly to the wrong side to prevent it from showing on the outer fabric.
- Trim excess binding fabric at upper edges to be even with garment fabric.
- Blind stitch folded edge of bias to dress.

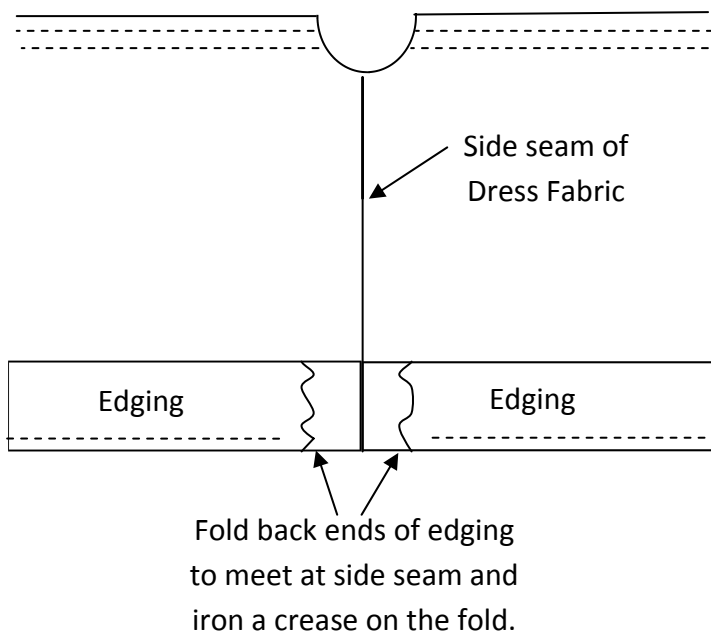


Hemming a Garment Using a Grow Tuck

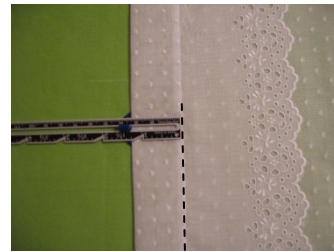
This method of hemming adds style and function to the dress. When the child grows taller and the dress needs more length, you simply remove the stitching at top edge of tuck and press the fabric flat. Next, turn under raw edge of fabric 1/4" and press. Turn up hem needed amount and press. Hem dress the traditional way. In doing this step you have just added the depth of the grow tuck amount twice to the length of the dress for each tuck that is released. If you should have a crease line that shows from where the tuck was released, place a pretty trim on top of this crease and stitch it in place to cover up the crease and add even more personality to the dress.

Placing 3" Swiss Edging at Hemline

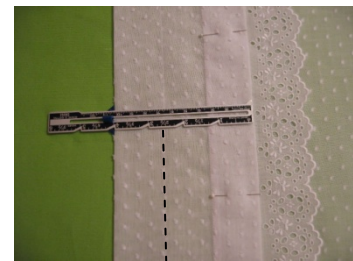
- Place edging and outer fabric with right sides together at hemline. Start pinning edging to dress fabric at a side seam leaving an extra couple inches of edging extending beyond the seam.
- Start stitching edging to dress fabric 4" away from the side seam using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. As you approach the other end, stop stitching 4" away from the side seam where you started. (Note: This means that you will have edging sewn to the lower edge of the dress fabric except for the 4" on either side of the one side seam).
- Remove fabric from machine and place on ironing board. Fold short ends of edging to meet at side seam and iron a crease on each fold.



- Trim away excess edging fabric $\frac{1}{4}$ " from each crease line. French seam ends of edging together so that it will fit lower edge of dress. Pin unstitched edging to dress fabric and then stitch in place.
- Press stitched seam. Flip edging down toward bottom of dress and press seam allowance up toward dress fabric.
- Fold Swiss up onto wrong side of dress fabric and press in the desired tuck depth amount. On this dress I measured up $1\frac{1}{4}$ " from where edging was sewn on.



- Stitch inside ditch where Swiss and dress fabric were attached. You have now created the first tuck. The seam allowance where edging was sewn on is hidden in the tuck.
- Prepare second tuck by folding Swiss edging and first tuck up onto wrong side of dress fabric again so that you have 4" of outer dress fabric showing from lower edge of first tuck to fold. Iron crease on fold of dress fabric. Pin in place. Measure from crease the needed amount of $1\frac{1}{4}$ " and stitch to form the second tuck.



- Press both tucks down toward bottom of dress. The lower edge of the second tuck should be touching the stitching line of the first tuck.



I hope you enjoy using these two techniques for your own personal use. The Lily pattern will include the hemming with a grow tuck technique in the guide sheet and also many other construction steps.

To purchase patterns from Trisha's Treasures, contact me at (615) 662-4823 or send an e-mail to: trishasdesign@comcast.net.

For a complete look at what I have available, please look at my Facebook page, "Patterns by Trisha's Treasures". If you are not on Facebook, I would be glad to e-mail that information to you.



“ALL IN THE FAMILY”

Hi! We are happy to have an opportunity to introduce ourselves to you this month. I am Buster Brown and my 'hunny' here is Sister Sue. Mom and Dad call us 'Bus' and 'Sis'. We made our first appearance for Bear Threads in 1989 at The Merchandise Mart in Atlanta during a trade exhibition. Many of you will recognize us from the cover of Mom and Dad's last catalog – you know, the Teddy Bear Picnic picture! I am the one with the smocked sailboat shirt and Sue has on the frilly pink bubble. Yeah, I just love sailboats and the water. I would love to be in the Caribbean now sailing, fishing and drinking rum punches, but Sue and Mom don't see eye to eye with me always. Frankly, almost never. Were it not for Dad, I would live in these ridiculous outfits! Nice to have another man around the office! Anyway, here we are modeling these Swiss Seersucker bubbles. I must admit the fabric is comfortable and cool. Mine has chocolate bunnies (closest thing to chocolate I'll get this Easter!!!) And Sue's sports little Easter chickens. Doesn't she just look grand? We've just finished our Egg Hunt and WOW how pretty the decorated eggs we found are. Don't tell Sue I said this, but at least these will not put any more pounds on her. Well, Thanks to The Ribbon Gardner for the beautiful eggs. (www.theribbbongardner.com) We hope you all had as wonderful an Easter as we did!

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