

- Ruffle:
 - Draw a 5" x 10" rectangle.
 - Mark one 5" edge "Place on fold."
 - Mark "Cut two on fold" on the Ruffle pattern. (3)
2. Prepare fabric.
 - Fold selvages of fabric to the center of the fabric on each side. (4)
 - Fold the fabric in half lengthwise meeting the folded edges. (5)
 3. Cut patterns from fabric.
 - Cut two of each pattern piece by placing the patterns on the **double-folded edge** of the fabric.
 - Place the ruffle pattern on the **double-folded edge** of the fabric **twice**, cutting a total of 4 ruffle sections. (6)
 4. Press a $\frac{3}{4}$ " hem in each sleeve. Open hem and press edge to the hemline (about $\frac{3}{8}$ "). This process will make hemming easier later.
 5. Stitch the sleeves to the front and back at neck opening, stopping stitching $\frac{1}{4}$ " from armhole edges. Press seams open.
 6. Stitch bias tape around neckline opening to form casing for elastic.
 - Open out folded edge on one side of bias.
 - Turn and press under the short edge at beginning of bias tape $\frac{1}{4}$ ", toward the wrong side.
 - Start at center back, and place raw edge of bias at raw edge of neckline, right sides together. Stitch to neckline.
 - Stop stitching a few inches from the beginning edge of the bias. Trim excess length, leaving enough to turn under $\frac{1}{4}$ " and meet the beginning and ending edges of the bias. (7)
 - Complete stitching the bias. Press bias to the wrong side of the neckline and topstitch in position to form the casing. (8)
 7. Stitch front and back together at side seams. Finish seams if desired. Press seams open.
 8. Hem sleeves.
 - Fold up prepressed hems to wrong sides of sleeves.
 - Topstitch hems into position.
 9. Complete elastic casing at neckline.
 - Thread $\frac{1}{4}$ " elastic through the neckline casing at the opening in the back of the casing.
 - Stitch elastic ends together. Ease neckline gathers evenly around the neckline.
 10. Complete the ruffle.
 - Stitch the ruffle ends to make a complete circle.
 - Hem the lower edge by turning up a double-folded $\frac{1}{4}$ " hem; press. Edgestitch.

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hint I like to use Fuse 'n Gather tape for gathering—the results are fast and easy to accomplish. Press Fuse 'n Gather, with blue threads facing up, to the top edge of the wrong side of the ruffle fabric. Pull blue threads to gather. (9)

11. Join top of ruffle to bottom of dress, right sides together, adjusting gathers to fit. Stitch ruffle in place, using a $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{5}{8}$ " seam.

Get creative by adding pockets or trim to the dress for an extra special touch!

