INTERLOCKING SCALLOPS

By Kathy Barnard

DRESS INSTRUCTIONS

BODICE CONSTRUCTION

Scallop should already be completed on yoke and lower bodice. Set lower bodice aside to join back to front yoke section along shoulder seams.

1. Stitch back yokes to back bodice pieces (if back bodice has yokes).
2. Join back to front fashion yoke at shoulder seams (yoke lining is separated).
3. Join back bodice lining to front yoke lining at shoulder seams.
4. Turn front yoke and back bodice inside out so that right sides are together. Pin neck and back bodice edges together. Stitch back edges and neck seam. Trim and clip neck curve. Turn right side out and press seams.
5. Stitch side seams of back bodice to fashion fabric of lower front bodice with right sides together (lining is separated).
6. Stitch side seams of back lining to lining on lower front bodice with right sides together.
7. Pin interlocking scallops on front bodice together for now.
8. If applying binding to arm curve edge, remove seam allowance. Use prepared bias binding or prepare you own bias strips using a Clover bias tape maker (1/4 inch to 1/2 inch finished width). If applying a bias facing, leave seam allowance and apply facing.
9. Prepare piping if covering your own or use prepared piping by the yard.
10. Apply piping to bottom edge of bodice.
SKIRT

1. Cut a skirt to desired finished hem with no hem allowance.
2. On wrong side, draw a line 2” from bottom edge across skirt.
3. Make a template using a large 7” circle. Mark a line 3/4” from circle center and draw a line across it to establish scallop height at 3/4” (fig. 1). Cut off top of circle to use for a wave template (should be approximately 5-3/4” long).
4. On wrong side of skirt, starting at side seam line (1/2” from edge), draw a half scallop above the line, then flip the template and draw a whole scallop below the line. Continue drawing nine whole scallops across front, alternating them above and below the 2” line. End with a half scallop facing up. Leave a 1/2” seam allowance and trim off side of skirt to fit if necessary to keep scallops even and math easy (fig. 2). Repeat for back skirt. Do not cut out scallops.
5. Tear two hem facing strips from skirt fabric or from a solid lining fabric 4-1/4” by width of fabric. Cut to exact measurement of skirt front and back.
7. If applying trim, draw a line 1” above wavy line on right side of skirt and glue baste trim in place. Stitch trim in place before adding facing (a double needle is great for applying spaghetti bias, or use clear thread and a buttonhole stitch on your machine and stitch both sides).
8. Place facing to bottom of skirt with right sides together and pin all around in a tube.
9. Stitch following the traced wavy line on the wrong side of the skirt (fig. 3).
10. Trim 1/4” from stitching and clip inner curves and notch outer curves. Turn facing to inside and press wavy seam edge.
12. Separate hem facing from skirt and pin raw edges of contrast band to raw edge of facing with right sides together. Stitch with a serger, or straight stitch and overcast edge with a zigzag.
13. Pin facing and contrast band seam to inside of skirt and blind stitch or pick stitch catching just a thread of the skirt fabric to hold facing and band in place.

FINISHING DRESS

1. Apply a continuous bound placket to center back of skirt.
2. Gather top of skirt with two or three rows of gathering stitches and pull to fit bodice.
3. Press bottom edge of bodice lining under 3/8” to 1/2”. Separate lining from bodice and stitch skirt to bodice.
4. Blind stitch bottom edge of bodice lining over waist seam.
5. Stitch buttonholes and buttons to back edges and to bodice scallops.