

LEARN WITH LAURA STRUTT LITTLE GIRL'S SUMMER DRESS

Get started

- Main cotton print, 70cm x 150cm
- Contrast cotton print, 45cm x 112cm
- Contrast solid cotton, 45cm x 150cm
- Transparent elastic tape
- 5mm wide elastic, 40cm
- Grosgrain ribbon, 1cm x 15cm, 1.5cm x 40cm
- Coordinating thread

Cutting guide

Dress front: cut one from main fabric on the fold

Dress back: cut one from main fabric on the fold

Contrast hem: cut two from contrast print on the fold

Sleeve: cut one pair from contrast solid cotton

Sizes

AGE	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs
HEIGHT	98cm	104cm	110cm
CHEST	52cm	56cm	58cm
WAIST	50cm	52cm	54cm

Note: for fabrics with large prints, you may need to increase the amounts to accommodate for pattern matching. 1cm seam allowance used unless otherwise stated.

This garment would suit any little girl during the warmer months, being loose and comfortable, yet pretty enough for a special occasion as well as everyday. The elasticated neckline and sleeves not only make this easy for little ones to wear, but also allow for adjustments to get the perfect fit. The dress can be made in a single fabric for a simpler style, or you could try combining prints and solid cottons to create your own design.

1 Download and print the dress pattern at sewmag.co.uk/templates. With wrong sides together, fold the selvages of the main and contrast print fabrics inwards to meet in the centre. Place the pieces onto the fabrics as shown in the diagram [1] and cut out according to the guide. Zigzag stitch around all the pieces to secure the raw edges then press.

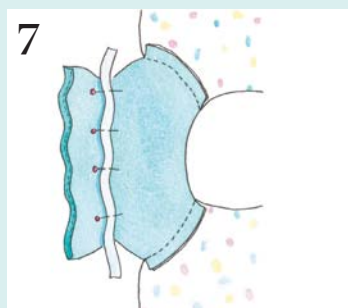
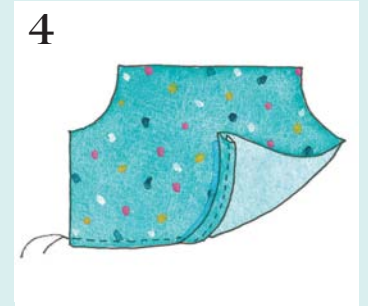
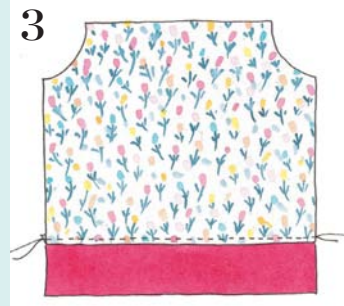
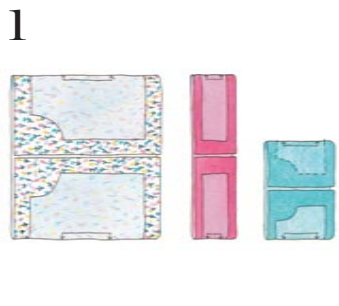
2 Set your machine to a straight stitch. With right sides together, pin and sew the contrast hem along the bottom edge of the dress front [2]. Press the contrast hem down and the seam allowance up towards the dress on the wrong side of the main fabric. Select a 3mm stitch and topstitch along the bottom edge of the main cotton print, 5mm from the seam [3]. Repeat to attach the contrast hem to the dress back.

3 Fold under a double 5mm hem to the wrong side along the straight edge of each sleeve,

and pin in place. Topstitch close to the fold to secure [4]. Set the stitch length back to normal. With right sides together and aligning the curves, pin and sew the sleeves to the dress front around the armholes [5]. Repeat to attach the other side of each sleeve to the back of the dress.

4 The dress front and back will now be joined together along the seams at the raglan sleeves. Press each seam of the raglan sleeves towards the dress. Select a 3mm stitch and topstitch 5mm from the seam on the front and back dresses to secure the seam allowances [6].

5 Cut a piece of elastic tape measuring two-thirds of the width of the sleeve and pin in place, stretching it across the fabric. Work two lines of stitching down the tape to hold it in place, then remove the pins. Repeat to elasticate the second sleeve [7].



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6 Pin the dress front and back right sides together, aligning the raw edges. Starting from the hem of the dress, stitch up the side and along the sleeve. Repeat on the other side seam, then press them both open [8]. Fold under 1.5cm to the wrong side around the entire neckline and press neatly. Tuck the raw edge under by 5mm, press, and pin in place. Stitch around the neckline 3mm from the lower fold to create a casing, leaving 3cm-5cm unstitched at the centre back [9].

7 Feed the elastic through the casing. Pull both ends out and overlap them by 2.5cm to accommodate the wearer's head and neck measurements. You can adjust the size of the neckline by slipping the dress on the child and adjusting the elastic in the casing before stitching. Carefully box stitch the overlapped ends together (see Core Skill panel), then allow the elastic to slip back inside. Slip stitch the gap in the casing closed [10].

8 Hem the dress with a double turned 1cm hem. Make a small loop from the ribbon and stitch another loop of wider ribbon around them. Add tails of the wider ribbon behind, trimming the ends diagonally. Stitch in place at the neckline. Snip any remaining thread ends and press to neaten.

5



10



core skill: BOX STITCH

This stitch involves sewing a rectangle or square outline, followed by a diagonal cross inside, running from corner to corner. It provides more strength and stability, especially when joining straps to a garment or bag.



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Find more beautiful youngster's garments in *Sewing for Babies and Children* by Laura Strutt (£12.99, CICO Books) rylandpeters.com

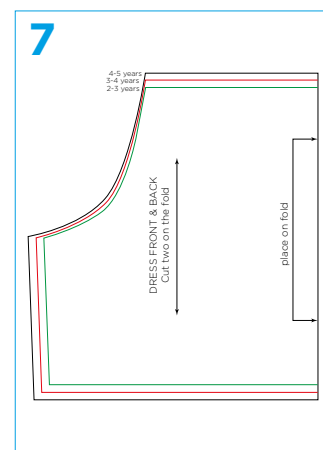
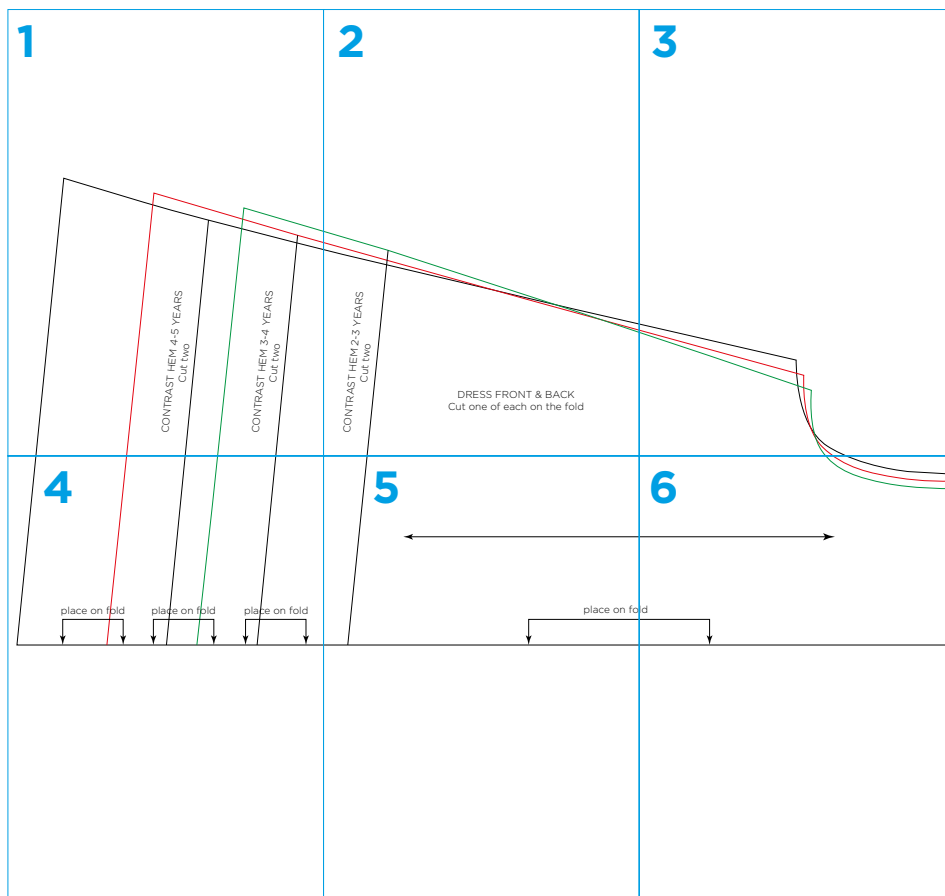
LITTLE GIRL'S SUMMER DRESS

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Designer: Laura Strutt
(extracted from *Sewing for Babies and Children*,
£12,99, **rylandandpeters.com**)
Magazine page: 24

2-3 years Green line
3-4 years Red line
4-5 years Black line



CONTRAST HEM 4-5 YEARS
Cut two

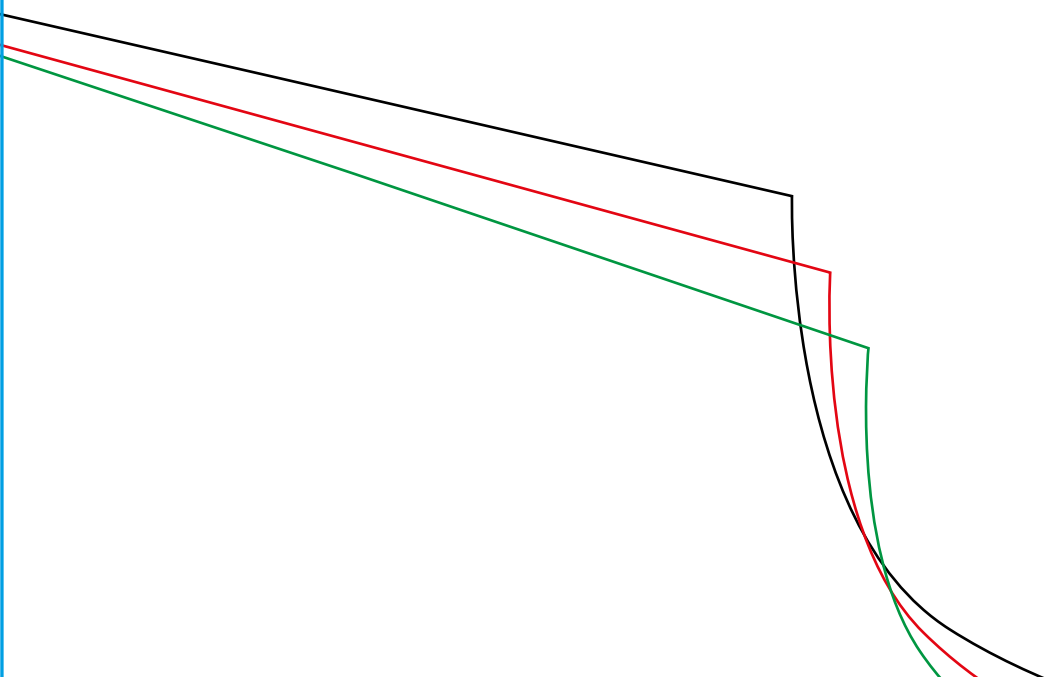
CONTRAST HEM 3-4 YEARS
Cut two

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CONTRAST HEM 2-3 YEARS
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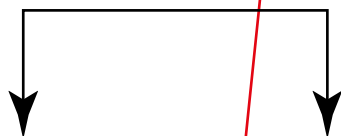
DRESS FRONT & BACK
Cut one of each on the fold

3

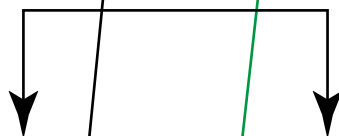


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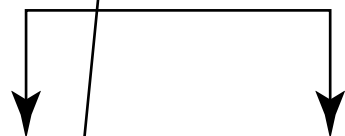
place on fold



place on fold



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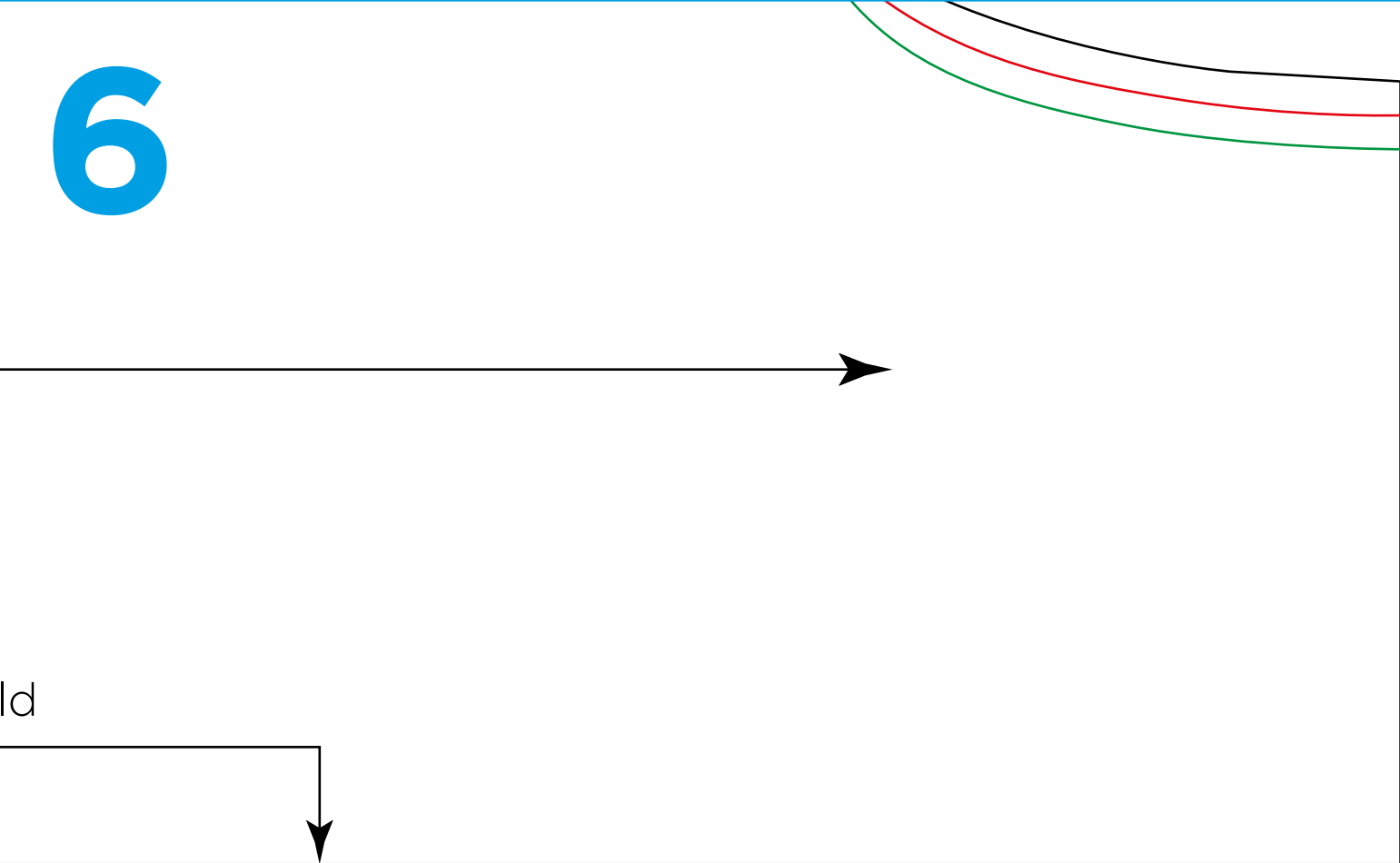
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place on fo



6



4-5 years
3-4 years
2-3 years

DRESS FRONT & BACK
Cut two on the fold

place on fold

