



the
COTTAGE MAMA

The
Party
Dress



Welcome to The Cottage Mama Sewing Patterns!

Home and family are central to my life and creating handmade items for my family is one of the ways I show them how much I truly love and care about them. I believe in the handmade lifestyle and I'm so happy you do, too!

I created *The Cottage Mama* sewing patterns to get you excited about taking the time to sew for your little ones. The goal of these sewing patterns is to make you feel confident in creating fun, timeless and classic looks for young children.

These patterns are simple in nature, but can easily be taken to a new level through the use of unique trims, different fabrics and buttons. Mix and match different patterns to create a truly unique look for your little one. I hope you find these patterns easy to understand and very user-friendly.

I feel living a handmade lifestyle extends beyond the sewing machine and craft room. So, I've included a delicious recipe in each of my sewing patterns for you to share with your family and friends. Not only do we want to show them our love through the material things we create, we want them to feel our love from the inside out.

Let's get sewing!

Lindsay Wilkes

The Cottage Mama

Visit my online shop and blog, *The Cottage Mama*, www.thecottagemama.com, to purchase additional sewing patterns and for free patterns, tutorials and to learn more about my cottage lifestyle.

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Original pattern artwork designed by Natalie Michalski of Moon Cookie Gallery. All artwork is the property of The Cottage Mama, Inc. To view more of her original work, please visit her website, www.mooncookiegallery.com.

The Party Dress

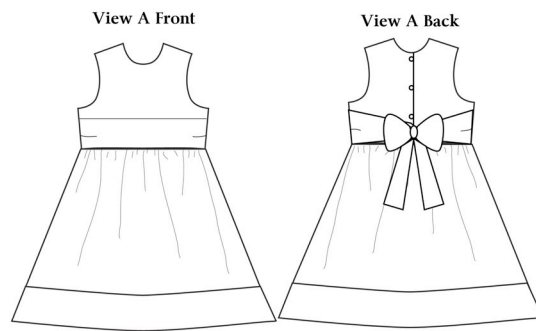
SIZE 6 MONTH TO SIZE 10 YEARS

Description:

The Party Dress is the ultimate classic dress. The feminine design is perfect for all ages and the big bow sash makes every little girl feel like a princess. The Party Dress can be dressed up and down depending on the fabric used. Consider using woven cotton for a more casual look or take it up a notch with silk Dupioni for those fancier occasions.

The Party Dress has a fully lined bodice and encased waist seams for total comfort for your little one. This is great pattern for confident beginner sewists and offers many ways to get creative with your design! The Party Dress is a free pattern from The Cottage Mama.

ALL SEAM ALLOWANCES ARE 1/2" UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
(Seam allowances are included in the pattern pieces.)



Yardage Requirements:

44/45" Fabric (1.12m)

Size	Fabric 1 (Main)	Fabric 2 (Contrast)
6 month	1 1/4 yd (1.14m)	7/8 yd (.76m)
12 month	1 1/4 yd (1.14m)	7/8 yd (.76m)
18 month	1 1/2 yd (1.37m)	7/8 yd (.76m)
2T	1 1/2 yd (1.37m)	7/8 yd (.76m)
3T	1 1/2 yd (1.37m)	1 1/4 yd (1.14m)
4T	1 1/2 yd (1.37m)	1 1/4 yd (1.14m)
5	1 3/4 yd (1.6m)	1 1/4 yd (1.14m)
6	1 3/4 yd (1.6m)	1 1/4 yd (1.14m)
7	2 yd (1.83m)	1 1/3 yd (1.22m)
8	2 yd (1.83m)	1 1/3 yd (1.22m)
9	2 1/4 yd (2.06m)	1 1/3 yd (1.22m)
10	2 1/4 yd (2.06m)	1 1/3 yd (1.22m)

Size Chart:

Please select your child's appropriate size according to the size chart below. Please do not assume that they will wear the same size in The Cottage Mama as they wear in commercial clothing or the same size as another pattern designer. For The Party Dress focus mainly on the chest measurement and adjust the length accordingly.

Size	Height	Weight (lbs.)	Waist	Chest	Inseam
6 month	22-25"	12-17	17.75"	18"	8"
12 month	25-29"	17-22	18.5"	19"	9.25"
18 month	29-31"	22-27	19.25"	20"	10.5"
2T	33-36"	30-32	20.25"	22"	13"
3T	36-39"	32-35	20.75"	23"	14.25"
4T	39-42"	35-41	21.25"	24"	16"
5	42-45"	41-46	22"	25"	17.75"
6	45-48"	46-51	22.5"	26"	19.5"
7	48-51"	51-57	23.25"	27"	21.25"
8	51-54"	57-66	23.75"	28"	23"
9	54-57"	66-76	24.5"	29"	24"
10	55-58"	76-85	25"	29"	25.25"

Completed Dress Measurements:

Size	Dress Length (Shoulder to hem)	Bodice
6 month	16"	10"
12 month	17"	10.5"
18 month	20"	11"
2T	21.75"	11.25"
3T	23"	12"
4T	24.25"	12.5"
5	25"	13"
6	27"	13.5"
7	30"	13.75"
8	32.5"	15"
9	35"	15.5"
10	35"	15.75"

Skirt Cutting Dimensions:

Size	Skirt Front - Cut 1 (width x length)	Skirt Back - Cut 2 (width x length)
6 month	35.5 in x 8.75 in (90cm x 22cm)	18.25 in x 8.75 in (46cm x 22cm)
12 month	36 in x 9.5 in (91cm x 24cm)	18.5 in x 9.5 in (47cm x 24cm)
18 month	36.5 in x 11 in (93cm x 28cm)	18.75 in x 11 in (48cm x 28cm)
2T	37 in x 12 in (94cm x 30cm)	19 in x 12 in (48cm x 30cm)
3T	37.5 in x 13.5 in (95cm x 34cm)	19.25 in x 13.5 in (49cm x 34cm)
4T	38 in x 14.5 in (97cm x 37cm)	19.5 in x 14.5 in (50cm x 37cm)
5	38.5 in x 15.5 in (98cm x 39cm)	19.75 in x 15.5 in (50cm x 39cm)
6	40 in x 16.5 in (101cm x 42cm)	20.5 in x 16.5 in (52cm x 42cm)
7	42 in x 18.5 in (107cm x 47cm)	21.5 in x 18.5 in (55cm x 47cm)
8	43 in x 20 in (109 cm x 51cm)	22 in x 20 in (56cm x 51cm)
9	43 in x 21 in (109cm x 53cm)	22 in x 21 in (56cm x 53cm)
10	43 in x 22.5 in (109cm x 57cm)	22 in x 22.5 in (56cm x 57cm)



Skirt Contrast Band Cutting Dimensions:

Size	Band - Cut 2 of Contrast	Button Loops - Cut 1 of Main
6 month	35.5 in x 4 in (90cm x 10cm)	1 in x 16 in (2.5 cm x 41cm)
12 month	36 in x 4 in (91cm x 10cm)	1 in x 16 in (2.5 cm x 41cm)
18 month	36.5 in x 5 in (93cm x 10cm)	1 in x 16 in (2.5 cm x 41cm)
2T	37 in x 5 in (94cm x 13cm)	1 in x 16 in (2.5 cm x 41cm)
3T	37.5 in x 5 in (95cm x 13cm)	1 in x 16 in (2.5 cm x 41cm)
4T	38 in x 5 in (97cm x 13cm)	1 in x 16 in (2.5 cm x 41cm)
5	38.5 in x 5 in (98cm x 13cm)	1 in x 16 in (2.5 cm x 41cm)
6	40 in x 5 in (101cm x 13cm)	1 in x 16 in (2.5 cm x 41cm)
7	42 in x 6 in (107cm x 15cm)	1 in x 16 in (2.5 cm x 41cm)
8	43 in x 6 in (109 cm x 15cm)	1 in x 16 in (2.5 cm x 41cm)
9	43 in x 6 in (109cm x 15cm)	1 in x 16 in (2.5 cm x 41cm)
10	43 in x 6 in (109cm x 15cm)	1 in x 16 in (2.5 cm x 41cm)

Dress Sash Cutting Dimensions:

Size	Sash Front - Cut 1 (width x length)	Sash Side - Cut 2 (width x length)
6 month	6 in x 11 in (15cm x 28cm)	6 in x 29 in (15cm x 74cm)
12 month	6 in x 11 1/2 in (15cm x 29cm)	6 in x 30 in (15cm x 76cm)
18 month	7 in x 12 in (18cm x 30cm)	7 in x 31 in (18cm x 79cm)
2T	7 in x 12 1/2 in (18cm x 32cm)	7 in x 32 in (18cm x 81cm)
3T	10 in x 13 in (25cm x 33cm)	10 in x 33 in (25cm x 84cm)
4T	10 in x 13.5 in (25cm x 34cm)	10 in x 34 in (25cm x 86cm)
5	11 in x 14 in (28cm x 36cm)	11 in x 35 in (28cm x 89cm)
6	11 in x 14 1/2 in (28cm x 36cm)	11 in x 36 in (28cm x 91cm)
7	12 in x 15 in (30cm x 38cm)	12 in x 37 in (30cm x 94cm)
8	12 in x 15 1/2 in (30cm x 39cm)	12 in x 38 in (30cm x 97cm)
9	12 in x 16 in (30cm x 41cm)	12 in x 39 in (30cm x 99cm)
10	12 in x 16 1/2 in (30cm x 42cm)	12 in x 40 in (30cm x 102cm)

Suggested Fabrics:

100% cotton, silk Dupioni, seersucker, broadcloth, chambray, corduroy, lined eyelet, lawn, voile.

Notions:

Back Buttons (1/2" - 1"):

6m/12m/2T/3T: 3 buttons

4T/5/6/7/8 /9/10: 4 buttons

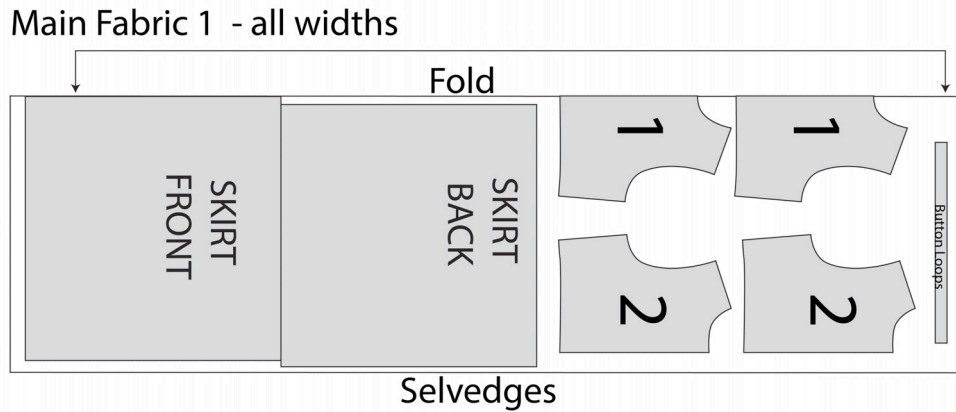
A Few Notes Before You Begin:

- ~ Please read all pattern instructions thoroughly before beginning.
- ~ Prewash and press all fabrics prior to garment construction. This will eliminate any shrinkage as well as dye bleeding.
- ~ Always press your seams as you go to ensure a professional-looking garment.
- ~ If possible, take child's measurements before selecting pattern size to guarantee a perfect fit.
- ~ Transfer all pattern markings prior to garment construction.

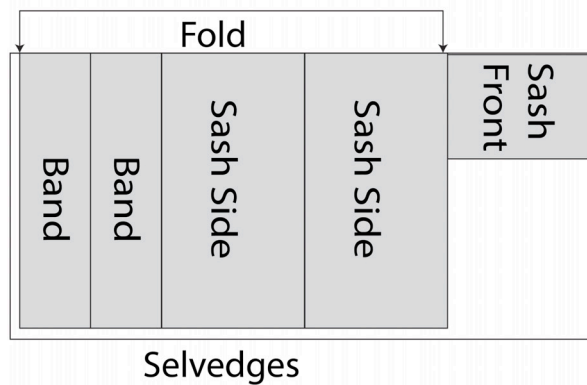
Sewing Instructions:

- ~ Please read "PDF Printing Instructions" on the last page of the instructions right before the pattern pieces.
- ~ Again, all seam allowances are 1/2", unless otherwise noted.
- ~ *Asterisk denotes - see glossary for more information.

Cutting Layouts (All Widths):



Contrast Fabric 2 - all widths



Pattern Pieces:

1. Skirt Front: Cut 1, Fabric 1 (on fold)
2. Skirt Back: Cut 2, Fabric 1 (not on fold)
3. Bodice Front: Cut 2, Fabric 1 (on fold)
4. Bodice Back: Cut 4, Fabric 1 (not on fold)
5. Skirt Contrast Band: Cut 2, Fabric 2 (on fold)
6. Sash Front: Cut 1, Fabric 2 (on fold)
7. Sash Sides: Cut 2, Fabric 2 (on fold)

Please note that the cutting charts include the finished measurements for each piece.

The Party Dress Construction:

(You do not need to use a serger. The entire dress can be constructed on your regular sewing machine, but if you have a serger, feel free to use it.):

Step 1: Place skirt band pieces right sides together. Stitch along both shorter ends to create a circle.



Step 2: Place main skirt pieces right sides together. Stitch both back pieces to the front piece at the side seams.



Step 3: Stitch the back two skirt pieces together, but leave a 3-inch opening at the top. Press all seams open.



Step 4: Fold skirt band in half (length-wise) with wrong-sides together. Press with iron.



Step 5: Place the raw edge of the skirt band along the raw edge of main skirt pieces. Skirt band should be placed on the right side of the main fabric. Stitch all the way around the bottom of the skirt to attach the band.



Please note: If you are not using a serger, you should finish the raw edges with a zig-zag stitch or cut them with pinking shears for a more professional look. Plus it will prevent fraying when you wash your garment.

Step 6: Press skirt band seam open and then press the seam up towards the main dress fabric. Topstitch* 1/4" from the bottom of the main skirt fabric or Edge stitch* even closer. I believe topstitching* is what gives garments a truly professional look, so even though it might be tempting to skip this step, I wouldn't recommend it. Also, by pressing your seam up toward the main skirt fabric, the topstitching will lock this seam in place. Press the topstitching with a hot iron. This will set your stitches nicely.

Step 7: Now it's time to make the button loops for the back of the dress. Take the piece of fabric you cut previously (see cutting chart, in case you missed it).

Step 8: Fold it in half, right sides together. Stitch down the long side with an 1/8" seam allowance. Turn it right side out.

Step 9: Once your long tube is turned, press with your iron. You can turn this long tube with a bobby pin or a small crochet hook. They also make inexpensive tools in the notions section of your sewing shop, just for turning little skinny bands of fabric, so check those out as well. It can take a little work to get this skinny tube turned. Cut the long tube into four even pieces 4" each if you are approximately 1" buttons. If you are using smaller or larger buttons cut your loops larger or smaller so they fit nicely around the button size you have selected.

Easy Alternate Idea: To make skinny loops, you can use store-bought 1/2" single fold bias tape cut the same length as specified in the loop fabric-cutting chart. Fold the single fold bias tape in half again lengthwise with the right side facing out, press and Edge stitch* as close to the edge as possible. Cut in 4" pieces (or larger or smaller depending on your button size). This will give you 1/4" wide loops.

Step 10: Bodice construction - The bodice is fully lined and the skirt piece is entirely encased within the bodice. This makes for a truly high-quality dress. For special occasions, I definitely think the little ladies deserve the best! Stitch the side seams of the bodice. With right sides together pin the back bodice pieces to the front attaching at the side seams. Do this for the exterior and the lining. Stitch in place.



****You can also skip ahead to the alternate bodice construction at this time, if you would prefer.**

Step 11: Press your side seams open. Then press 1/2" of the bottom of the bodice up (wrong-sides together). Do this for both the exterior and the lining.



Step 12: Next, pin your button loops in place on the right side (your buttons will go on the left). The raw edge of the loop should be lined up with the raw edge of the bodice. For the 18-24 month size I spaced them about 1.25" apart, but adjust them accordingly for the larger sizes. They should be spaced so that the final one is about an inch above the bottom of the bodice and looks pleasing to the eye.



Step 13: Stitch or baste in place to make sure they don't slide around in the next step using a 1/2" seam allowance.



Step 14: Place the bodice exterior and bodice lining right sides together. Pin in place.



Step 15: The next step gets a little complicated. You are going to stitch down both the sides and stitch the top of most of the bodice; however, you will leave the tops of all the shoulders and part of the arm curves open. See the next picture for a better visual.



Step 16: Notice how I stitched.....I stitched around the neck, under the armholes (leaving the upper part open) and down both sides. I left the shoulders open and part of the armholes open as well as the bottom of the bodice.



16

Step 17 (a and b): I want you to be very clear regarding where you do NOT want to stitch, so please refer to picture 17a and 17b and pay careful attention to the stitching.



17a



17b

Step 18: Once you have stitched the bodice together, clip all of the curves and corners. Do this by notching to remove bulk. Turn right side out and press with your iron. You will need to really work the bodice with your iron to get it to lay nice and flat. If it's not laying as flat as you would like, you probably need to turn it back inside out and spend more time notching and clipping closer to the seam.



18

Step 19: Now for the trickiest step of all attaching the shoulder seams. Use your iron to press the arm seams under it will make the next step easier.



19

Step 20: Turn your shoulder seams, right side together. Place lining to lining and exterior to exterior and stitch one long seam across the top. It may seem a little strange, but it works. Do this on both shoulder seams.



Step 21: Once you have sewn your shoulder seams, you will still have a little opening around the armholes.



Step 22: Press this fabric under so that it lines up with the rest of the armhole. Now you have two options, you can either close this hole by hand-sewing it closed or you can topstitch* around the arm hole to close it. Either way works – it's really whatever look you prefer.



Step 23: If you topstitch* the opening closed, press your stitches to set them and use a 1/4" seam allowance.



Step 24: Now to gather the skirt. Run two rows of gathering stitches* across the top of the skirt piece at 1/4" and 1/2". Do this by setting your straight-stitch to the longest length (on my machine it's 5.0) and increase your tension to the highest setting (on my machine it's 9.0) and stitch all the way around the skirt top. Do not backstitch or your skirt will not gather properly. You will start in the middle of the back where you left the 3" opening and end there as well. Do not close the little opening.



Step 25: Pull your gathering threads to gather your skirt to the same width as the bottom of the bodice.



Step 26: Place the skirt 1/2" up in between both bodice pieces (exterior and lining). Line up the opening in the back of the skirt with the opening in the bodice. All of the skirt should be tucked up under the bodice. Pin in place and topstitch* using a 1/8" seam allowance. Use your 1/2" gathering stitches as a guide to see how far up to tuck your skirt into the bodice.



Step 27: Sash Construction - Stitch the three sash pieces together at the short seams - right sides together. The center sash piece should be in the middle between the two side sash pieces. Fold the long sash piece in half, right sides together, and cut both ends on a diagonal. Stitch sash closed, but leave a 3-4 inch opening somewhere in the middle of your stitching line. Clip the corners to remove bulk. Turn the sash right side out by pulling it through the opening and press the sash. Hand-sew the opening closed or topstitch* around the entire sash to close the opening.



Step 28: Pin the sash to the sides of your dress. It's a good idea to try the dress on your child for this step. Make one good-sized pleat in the side. If your pleat is not deep enough, the front of the sash will appear too wide. The sash should start right underneath the armhole and extend down to the top of the skirt. Stitch sash in place at side-seams.

Sew on your back buttons and your Party Dress is complete!



*****Alternate Bodice Construction:***

If you found the previous bodice construction a little complex, I have an alternate construction technique for you. Constructing the bodice this way is fast and easy, you can choose to have an exposed waist seam or encase it as you would in the previous method.

Step 1: Apply button loops as previous instructions discussed. Instead of folding them in half, you can also make your loops as pictured in picture 1 (just another option).

Step 2: Sew shoulder seams of for the exterior bodice and the bodice lining. Sew both shoulder seams.....you will sew a total of four; two for the lining and two for the exterior. Press seams open.

Step 3: Place the exterior bodice and the bodice lining with their right sides together. Line up the shoulder seams. Sew up the back of the bodice, around the neck hole and back down the other side of the bodice. Sew both armholes, leaving the sides open. Clip the corners and curves, turn right side out and press.

Step 4: Here is what your bodice will look like prior to sewing together the side seams. Although it's tempting to do some topstitching* around the armholes at this point, please do not because the next step will not work properly. You can; however, topstitch* the back of the bodice and neck hole.



Step 5: Separate the bodice lining and exterior bodice side seams. Place the exterior side seams with their right sides together and the lining side seams with their right sides together. You will need to kind of flip one side over to the other and twist the bodice a little to do this. See next picture for a better visual.



Step 6: At this point your exterior side seams are right sides together and your lining side seams are right sides together, so now sew the side seams in a straight line.



Step 7: Cut out the extra bulk in the seam allowance where all the seams come together. This will make the bodice lay nice and flat. Press seams open. Sew on your back buttons and your bodice is now complete.

Attach the skirt: To attach the skirt to this bodice with an encased seam, simply follow the directions stated in the main pattern instructions. Press the exterior and the lining up 1/2" towards the wrong side of the fabric before you attach the skirt.



However, if an exposed waist seam doesn't bother you, then instead of placing the skirt in between the exterior and bodice lining, you will place the skirt and the entire bodice with their right sides together, lining up the raw edges and sew together using a 1/2" seam allowance. Finish the edge with a zig-zag stitch, serger or pinking shears. Press the seam up towards the bodice and add some topstitching* to secure in place.

There are many, many different ways to attach a skirt to a bodice, so please feel free to use whatever technique you prefer!

Additional Tutorials:

Here are some additional tutorials you may find helpful when adding details to your dress:

How to Use Piping: <http://thecottagemama.com/2010/07/sew-basics-piping/>

Make Your Own Custom Piping: <http://thecottagemama.com/2011/02/sew-basics-make-your-own-custom-piping/>

The Cottage Mama Pattern Facebook Group:

Please join us over in The Cottage Mama Pattern Facebook group where you can share pictures of your The Cottage Mama creations, ask questions and connect with other fans:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/600695049985572/>

Additional Patterns:

To purchase additional The Cottage Mama Sewing Patterns, please visit www.thecottagemama.com.



Glossary:

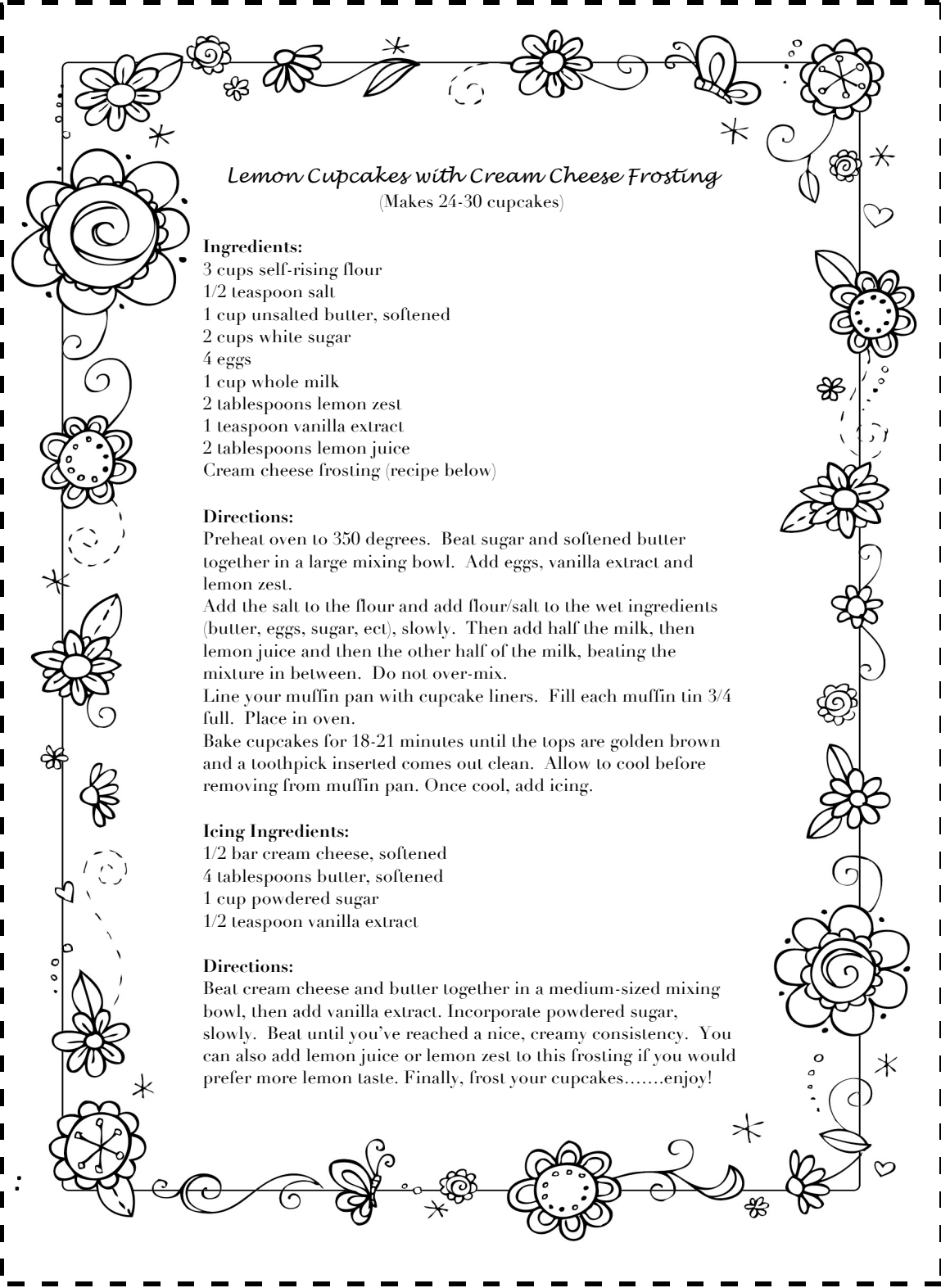
Baste: Stitch with a slightly longer stitch length to hold pattern pieces or trim in place.

Backstitch: To anchor your stitches, sew several stitches in reverse at the beginning and the end of your seam.

Gathering Stitch: To run a gathering stitch, set your machine on the longest stitch length possible. Sew a straight line along the edge you want to gather. I tend to gather between ¼" to ½" from the edge. For a straight piece, do NOT backstitch at the beginning or ending of your straight line or your gathering will not work. Pull the bobbin thread to begin gathering. Adjust your gathers so they are evenly spaced, then continue sewing according to your pattern directions.

Topstitching: Topstitching is sewing a straight line of stitches 1/4" from the edge of the seam. It is often used as a decorative element and helps the edges to lay flat, which adds a more finished look to a garment.

Edge Stitching: Edge stitching is very similar to topstitching; however, edge stitching occurs 1/8" from the edge of the seam.



Lemon Cupcakes with Cream Cheese Frosting

(Makes 24-30 cupcakes)

Ingredients:

3 cups self-rising flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
2 cups white sugar
4 eggs
1 cup whole milk
2 tablespoons lemon zest
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 tablespoons lemon juice
Cream cheese frosting (recipe below)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat sugar and softened butter together in a large mixing bowl. Add eggs, vanilla extract and lemon zest.

Add the salt to the flour and add flour/salt to the wet ingredients (butter, eggs, sugar, ect), slowly. Then add half the milk, then lemon juice and then the other half of the milk, beating the mixture in between. Do not over-mix.

Line your muffin pan with cupcake liners. Fill each muffin tin 3/4 full. Place in oven.

Bake cupcakes for 18-21 minutes until the tops are golden brown and a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Allow to cool before removing from muffin pan. Once cool, add icing.

Icing Ingredients:

1/2 bar cream cheese, softened
4 tablespoons butter, softened
1 cup powdered sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

Beat cream cheese and butter together in a medium-sized mixing bowl, then add vanilla extract. Incorporate powdered sugar, slowly. Beat until you've reached a nice, creamy consistency. You can also add lemon juice or lemon zest to this frosting if you would prefer more lemon taste. Finally, frost your cupcakes.....enjoy!

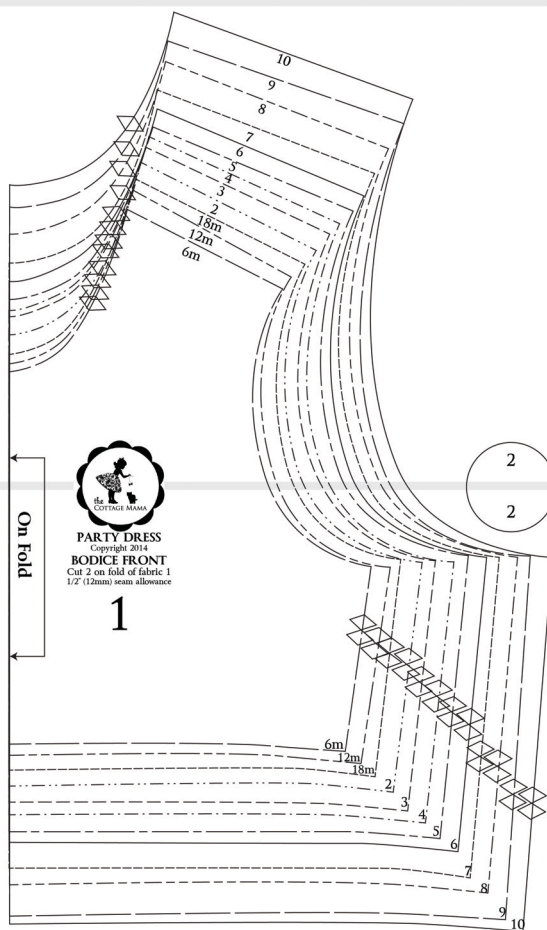
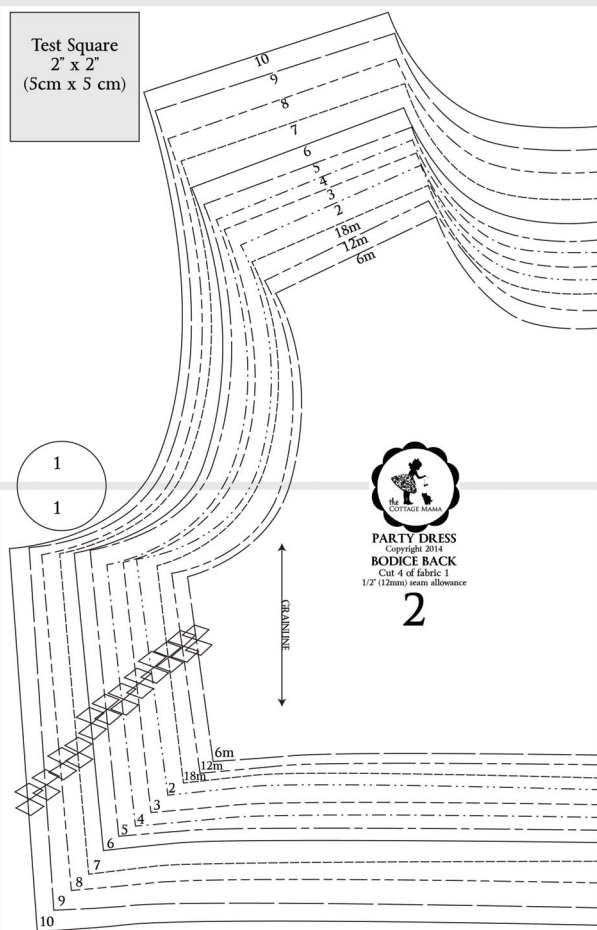


PDF Printing Instructions

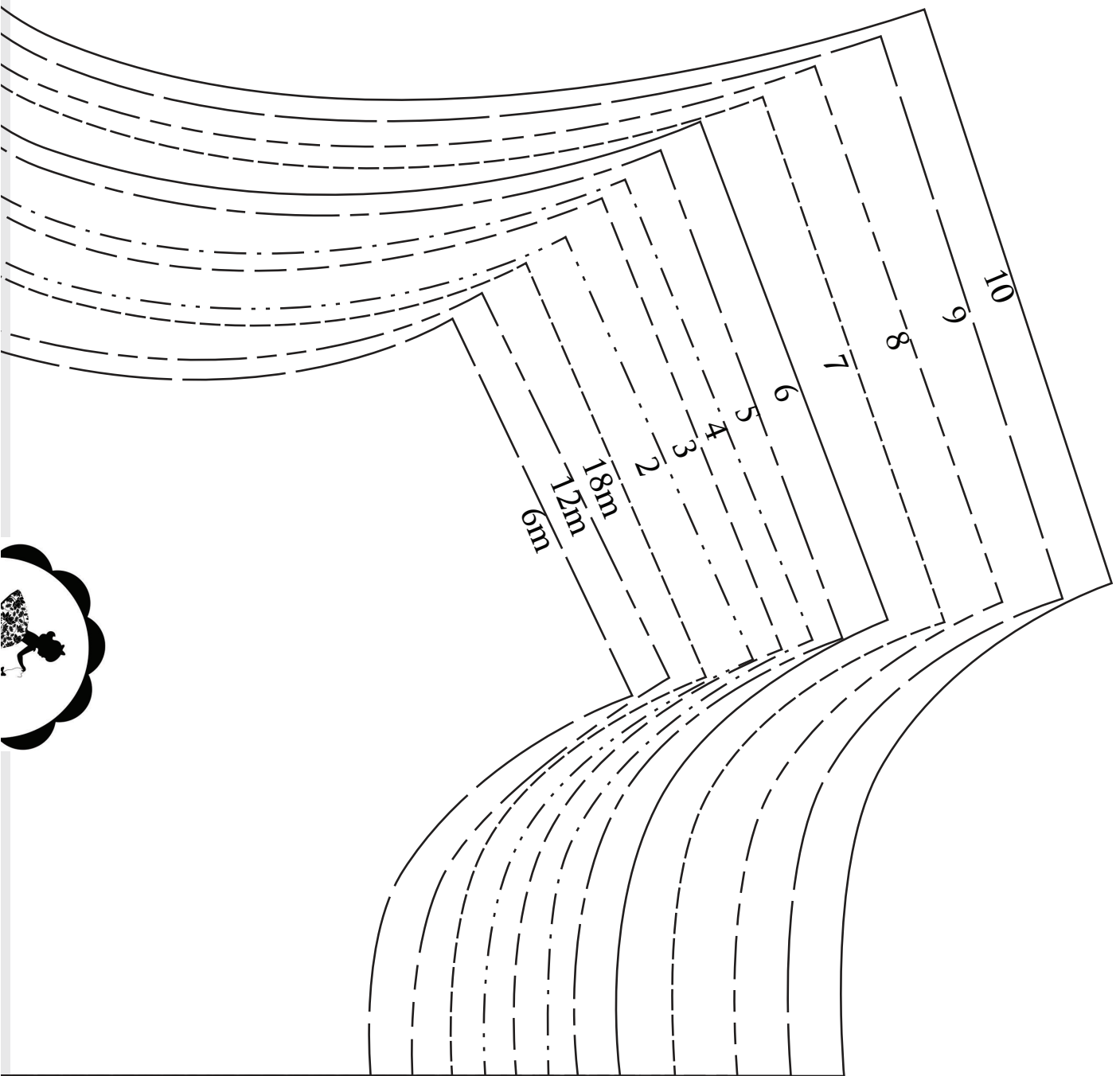
There are a few things to note when printing PDF sewing patterns. It is very important to make sure they are printed and assembled correctly to ensure a properly fitting garment. The Cottage Mama Sewing Patterns are originally full-size, printed sewing patterns and the PDF's have been adapted from these full sized pattern sheets.

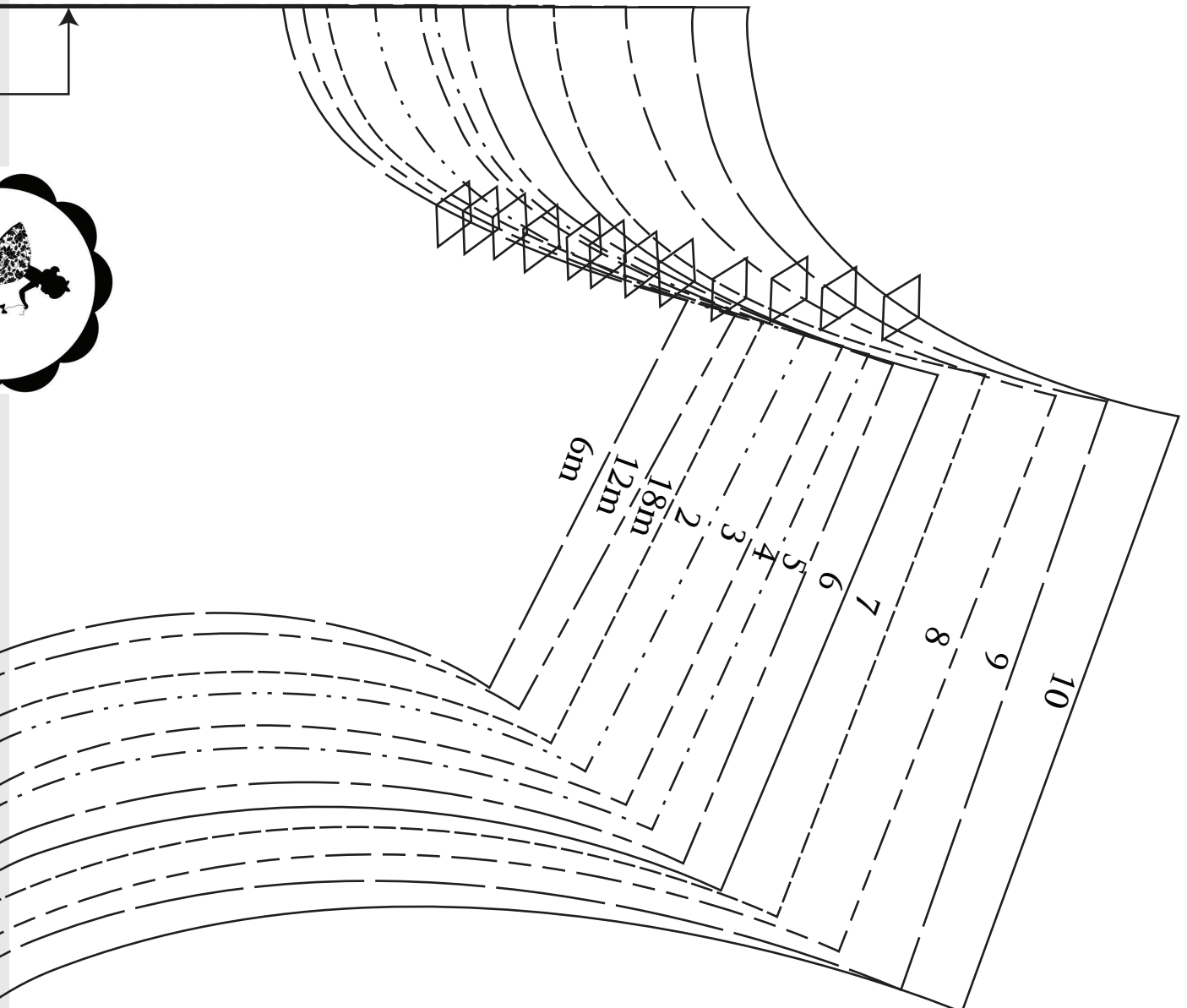
1. Pattern pieces are intended to be printed from your home computer on 8.5" x 11" paper.
2. Make sure your printer scaling is set to 'None' when you go to print. If your pattern sheets are not printing out correctly, then please check the scaling in the print dialogue box.
3. To make sure your pattern sheets have printed correctly, measure the 2" scaling box on the first pattern sheet. If this is correct, then your pages are printing correctly.
4. The pattern sheets can be assembled easily by matching up each sheet with the corresponding number. Tape the sheets together and cut out your desired pattern size.

Test Square
2" x 2"
(5cm x 5 cm)



Test Square
2" x 2"
(5cm x 5 cm)







PARTY DRESS

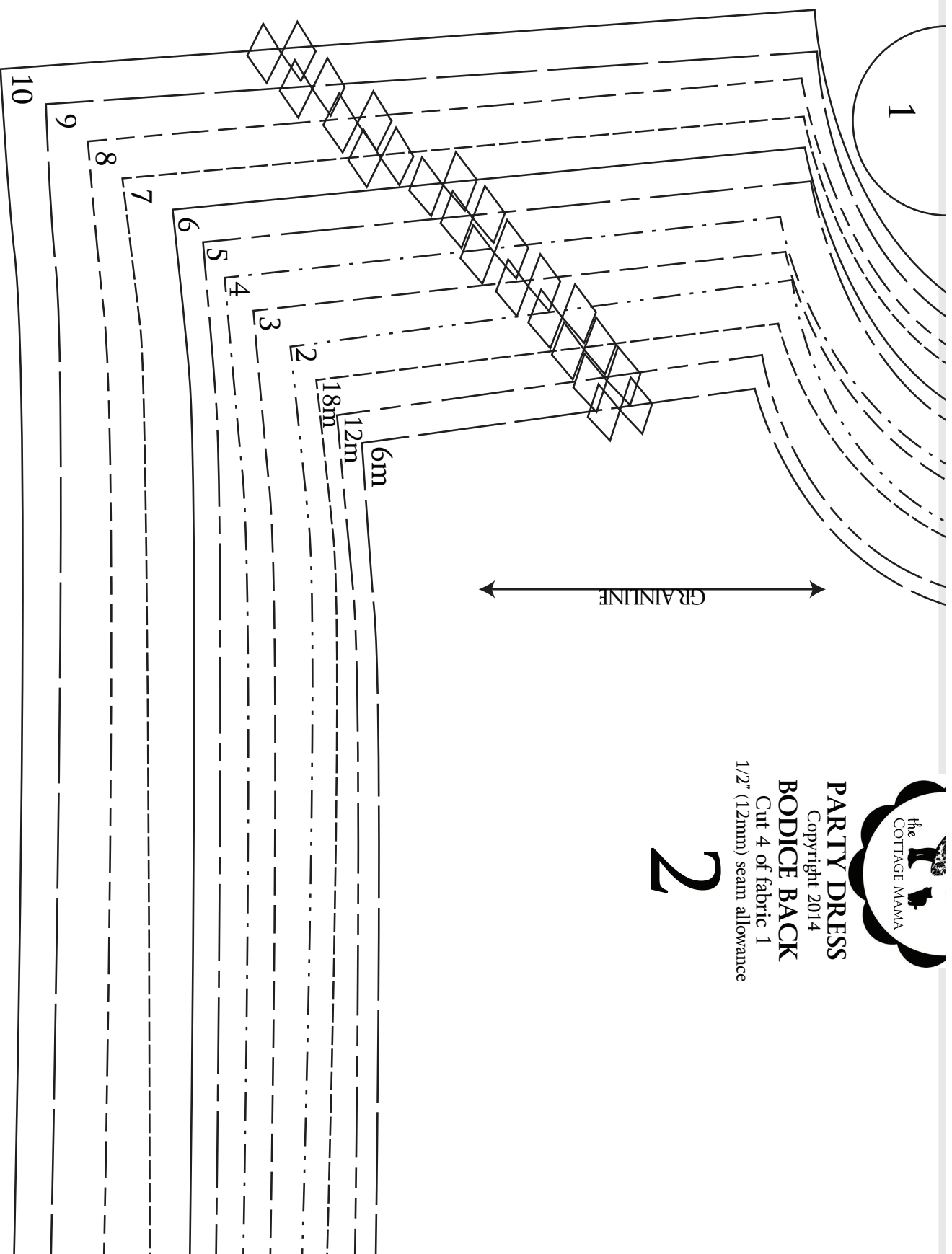
Copyright 2014

BODICE BACK

Cut 4 of fabric 1

1/2" (12mm) seam allowance

2





Copyright 2014

BODICE FRONT

Cut 2 on fold of fabric 1
1/2" (12mm) seam allowance

On Fold

1

