

Pillowcase Dresses 4 Girls



Directions for Making Pillowcase Dresses



Optional: There are several ways to embellish your dress to make them fun!

Here Are a Few Ideas:

- add a pocket
- add ruffles and/or bows
- put on ribbon
- add banding
- add trim
- use any cotton fabric in place of a pillowcase

Things to Avoid:

- Using “home decor” weight fabrics are uncomfortable to wear and do not hold up to washings.
- Using 100% synthetic fabrics - these are uncomfortable in a hot climate
- sing too thin or sheer fabrics that can be “see through” and do not wear well.

**The Pillowcase Project:
Make a Dress. Create Change.**

Project Description

The Pillowcase Project is a unique and fun initiative started to get the community involved in making pillowcase dresses for young children in third world countries. The project involves collecting pillowcases to turn into dresses that are perfect for young children who have limited access to clothing. Many children face several hardships in developing countries and these dresses are a simple way to bring joy and help take away the financial burden placed on the parents of buying clothes for their children. These dresses also help prevent diseases and allow children to focus on things such as education rather than worrying about having clothes to wear.

The Pillowcase Project is so special because nearly everyone has pillowcases in their own home or can go to the store to buy some at a very reasonable price. Pillowcases are easily accessible and cheap and come in many great patterns; so no matter where you are or what you do, this project is a great way for anyone to change a life. Also, sewing these dresses are super simple and it does not take very long. With the step-by-step instructions provided anyone with a sewing machine or needles can help turn donated pillowcases into a dress.

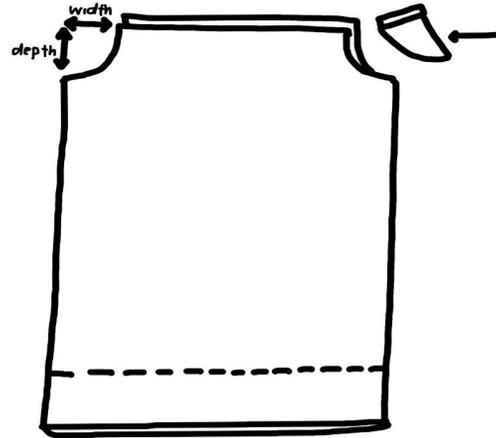
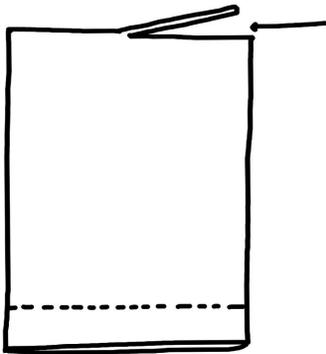
Pattern and Instructions

Supplies:

- New or gently used pillowcase-any size- cotton or poly/cotton is best. Avoid synthetics as they are uncomfortable third world countries' hot climate and do not mate well with bias cotton bindings. Also prints and patterns are preferable.
- Two 27" Long Pieces of Ribbon
- Thread to Match Pillowcase
- Safety Pin
- Optional (washable) trims for simple embellishments on solid pillowcases.

Instructions:

Step #1: Cut off 1/2" of the closed end of the pillowcase.

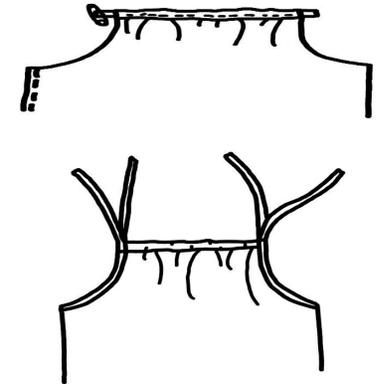


Step #2: Lay pillowcase flat. Cut out "J" shaped arm holes on each side of the cut end. The arm holes should be cut 5" wide and 5" deep in the "J" shape.

Step #3: Next make two casings for the ribbons to go through on the front and back. Turn the pillowcase inside out and press under a 1/4" on raw edges. Press under enough width again to accommodate the ribbon. The width of the casing will depend on the width of the ribbon. There must be enough room to fit the ribbon through the casing, but it should not be too wide to where the ribbon will slide through. Stitch each casing close.



Step #4: Thread the ribbon through one casing using a safety pin. There should be enough ribbon left on the outside of the casing to use as ties over the shoulders. Repeat for the other casing. Turn the pillowcase right side out.



Step #5: The last step is to tie the ends of the ribbons to prevent them from sliding through the casing. The dress is now finished.

