

Using elastic thread or a casing and elastic to cinch the back of a dress.

Fabric: All fabrics are by [Art Gallery Fabrics](#): Chalk and Paint, Gleeful, Happy Home, and Skopelos

Pattern: [Sew Caroline Tank Dress](#) available in sizes XSmall - XXLarge

Other supplies: Pattern tracing paper, elastic thread, 1/4"-3/8" elastic, marking utensil such as tailors chalk



This pattern is so versatile. You can sew it with one or two fabrics, at any desired length and in either a knit or a woven fabric! Talk about endless possibilities!

Instructions:

Trace your pattern pieces onto pattern tracing paper

Cut your fabrics according to the pattern pieces and transfer any markings (ie. shirring lines) to the fabric

To make a color-blocked dress, follow the instructions on altering the pattern pieces that are found in the pattern.

Cinching the back, OPTION ONE: Shirring lines with elastic thread.

*Sew Caroline*

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Using elastic thread, hand-wind the bobbin pulling the thread tight... but not too tight as you wind. Drop the bobbin in and thread the rest of your machine like normal. You'll want to set the stitch length a little bit longer than usual.

Sew along the shirring lines without backstitching, but leave tails at the beginning and end. When you're finished, tie off the tails with a double knot. You'll want to sew 4-5 lines of shirring. When the shirring is complete, place a hot iron on top of the shirring lines and see how they begin to look more elastic!

Cinching the back, OPTION TWO: add a casing with elastic. For this method, you need to cut a piece of fabric that is at least the width of the dress by about 1.5". Turn the long edges towards the wrong side at 1/4" and press in place. Lay this casing in the middle of the shirring lines and top stitch down leaving the short ends unsewn. Cut a piece of 1/4" - 3/8" elastic at about 3/4" the width of the dress back. Use a safety pin to feed it through the elastic being sure it doesn't get twisted. Secure the ends in place by stitching 3-4 stitches.

Align the dress with right sides together and stitch in place along the shoulders and sides. Stitch in place.

Finish the neckline, armholes and hem [as designated in the pattern.](#)



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