

Jessica Stewart- Izzy & Ivy Designs

Change the Look of a Garment with Fabric

I love fabric? It's fun to play around with colors, scale, prints, and textures. One thing that's especially important in my line of work is scale. The size of the details on the fabric play a big part in how your overall look is seen, especially when sewing for children. A large floral print that shines on a women's skirt or dress might not read the same on a preschooler! Today we're going to look at some tips on how to choose what fabric goes where, as well as how to add fabric interest to a garment.

One of my favorite styles to work with is a dress that has a large skirt area. This is a great place to display your favorite print! You can go large or small, but the important part is what you pair it with so that your main fabric makes a statement. Choose your main print, and then gather some coordinating prints or blenders of your liking.

I like to use my largest print for my skirt, then work my way from largest to smallest from there. The next sized print might be the bodice, then the straps or sleeves, pockets, sash and ties, and hemband. The tiniest details on these dresses, like the loops and such, I just pick whatever I think goes best. Sometimes it's a repeat from the bodice, and sometimes I want a pop of color. The most important thing to remember is that while these are suggestions, they are not rules! No rules, just fun!

You can showcase certain parts of the fabric by strategically placing it within the bodice or some other focal point of the garment. Notice how you can feature a smaller blossom on a small bodice, but choose a larger one for the bodice on an older girl.

Another way to really get more mileage out of your fabric choice is to add little details, made from fabric scraps and trim. This adds a special touch to the garment and takes it from homemade to HANDmade. There are many ways to add fabric details, and today I'm going to demonstrate how to combine fabric and trim to make a faux placket.

You will need- A pattern with blank space (this can be a skirt, dress, top, shorts, purse...whatever!), fabric scraps, trim, pins, buttons, sewing machine, thread, and scissors

1. I'm using a dress bodice to embellish today, but feel free to adapt these instructions for whatever piece you are using. Take your scrap piece and cut it so that it is 2" wide by the length of the center of the bodice.
2. Cut 2 strips of trim to the length of your scrap piece. I am using a crochet edge bias tape that I have pressed into a flat bias tape and there is only one fold.
3. Place the trim on one side of the scrap piece and sew down the edge, using ¼" seam allowance. Press the seam to the center, then repeat with the other side.
4. Mark the center of your bodice on both the top and the bottom. You can even line this up on the lines of your cutting mat or press a light fold down the center. Align the placket on the center of the bodice, then pin well. You don't want it moving around on you and getting off center.
5. Topstitch the placket in place. You are now ready to use your bodice piece and add it to the steps as prescribed in the pattern you are using. You can certainly layer other trim here, but keep in mind that the more you add, the more bulk you'll have when it's time to sew on your lining. If you are adding buttons, you can add them now or wait until you're finished sewing the garment.

Patterns featured- [Izzy & Ivy Designs Addie Jo Skirt](#), [Stella Dress](#), and [Emory Dress](#)

Fabric- [Ashtyn](#), [Hayden](#), and [Zola](#) for [Ink & Arrow Fabrics](#)

Trims- [Vintage Door](#) crochet edge bias tape and French crochet trim