

DRESS A GIRL DRESS GUIDELINES

At Dress A Girl Around the World, we are making “God’s best dress,” and we carefully screen every dress before it is sent. Please carefully read and follow the instructions below for your dress to be included. Thank you very much for following these guidelines!

FABRIC:

Cotton/poly blend fabric is preferred.

- The dresses may be washed in rivers, creeks, watering holes and maybe scrubbed with rocks. Only a cotton blend will stand up to this treatment and not badly wrinkle.

These Dresses are examples of what we love here at headquarters! We aren't partners with Simplicity--the patterns we chose happen to be Simplicity but I'm sure there are other companies making similar patterns. We ask that the pattern is simple to slip over the girls' head without the use of zipper, button or velcro closures.

Our own pattern includes everything you need to make your first dress

<https://www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com/apps/webstore/>

We also recommend:

Simplicity patterns: 8102, 2377, 2241

- When choosing fabric, consider the size it will be. Use baby/nursery patterns for smaller sizes.
- If making a size 12 or 14, please put a small 3-4" 'kick-pleat' in the side seam.

• PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE NO LONGER USING PILLOWCASES.

FABRIC TO AVOID:

Avoid white fabric or thin fabric (gingham, for example, tends to be very thin). We are trying to give the girls dignity and their skin would show through. Hold fabric up to a light source. Is it see-through? Hold your hand under the fabric. Can you see it? It's too thin. If a thin fabric is used, please line it or turn it into a reversible dress.

Avoid using fabric that has: Americana/patriotic; Halloween (skulls, pumpkins, ghosts); obvious Christmas (Santa, snowmen; though red/green holly or pine/berry patterns ok); Disney or any character fabric (Cinderella, SpongeBob, Star Wars etc.); or any printed English words. None of these things would be appropriate in a foreign country.

Think about a little girl wearing a dress made out of the fabric chosen...is it appropriate?

TIES (ORIGINAL DRESS ONLY): Ties should be at least 36" long

- Ties should also be made of double-wide, double fold bias tape.
- Make sure there is enough length to be tied into a bow; otherwise, it's only enough to tie in a knot, which the girls then might not be able to untie. Ties should also be in one length (not pieced together) with the ends either turned under or zig-zagged across.
- Please do not use thin bias tape or ribbon for the ties.

POCKETS

- To place the pockets. Fold the dress in half. Top to bottom. Iron a crease on that fold. Place the top of your pockets right along the bottom of the crease and two inches in from the side seam unless you are using the angle pockets which are sewn into the side seam.
- Cut pockets in 6" Squares. Makes sure the pocket is doubled for extra strength. For example, if you are putting two pockets on your dress (we recommend that) You would cut out four 6" squares.
- Pocket fabric should coordinate both in color and pattern, i.e., please don't use a wild geometric pocket on fabric with a small, feminine floral print.
- We prefer 2 pockets (this might be the only place a girl has to herself for her 'treasures.,' as many times several family members live in a very tiny house).
- Pockets should be sewn securely onto the dress—all edges should be finished—no pinking or zigzagging edges.

SEAMS: Inside seams should be serged or zig-zagged or French seams in the seam allowance.

- This ensures that the seams will not break through. Think of little girls playing and running. If the seam opens, she has no way to repair it.

HEMS: need to be turned under and finished.

EDGES: All edges should be either serged, or turned under, no raw edges exposed.

- Ensure that all the raw edges are enclosed in the bias tape ties and that the bias is securely fastened where it intersects with the elastic.

EMBELLISHMENTS:

- Should all be securely SEWN on
- Could include appliques, yo-yo's, buttons, braided or woven trims, ric rack, lace, or eyelet.
- Please do not use hot glue to attach decorations or embellishments.
- If using ribbon as decoration please ensure to use a FABRIC ribbon (i.e. grosgrain), not CRAFT ribbon (craft ribbon will eventually disintegrate in water, which would be problematic with washing!)

PLEASE CONSIDER:

- The dress each girl receives maybe the ONLY dress they EVER have. We want it to be a high-quality product in which they feel dignified and beautiful
- These girls live in areas where they are easy targets for trafficking. Does the dress you are making add to their dignity?
- Girls in some of these countries are considered 'less than human' just by virtue of their sex, and they have no standing in their societies. We want them to know that they are loved by God and that they are indeed precious, with high standing in the eyes of God. We show them that by taking care to make the best dress possible.
- Some of these dresses will go to some of the poorest-of-the-poor, and the poor deserve nice things with good workmanship, not just leftovers or hand-me-downs. "The Lord hears the cry of the poor," we want to honor Him by honoring them.
- Is the dress that you are making a dress that you would be proud having your daughter or granddaughter wear? Is it "God's best dress"?