

[T-shirt dress Tips tipshttp://dressagirlaroundtheworld-va.blogspot.com/2013/05/the-best-t-shirt-dress-tutorial.html?m=1](http://dressagirlaroundtheworld-va.blogspot.com/2013/05/the-best-t-shirt-dress-tutorial.html?m=1)

It's important to remember that we make dresses for girls around the world. That means girls of all sizes and shapes, from different cultures and climates. The simple sundress (pillowcase dress) was first used because it is easy to make. It's free form style, elastic and adjustable ties make this dress one of the best dresses to grow with a girl and be able to fit various sizes and shapes.

Requests from areas of the world that prefer or require a more modest covering of a girl's shoulders and areas that have a cooler climate have prompted us to make the t-shirt dress and other patterns that have sleeves. Please consider that with each different pattern we might use, flexibility and wear-ability is important. The dress should be able to stretch or be large enough to fit over head and shoulders, be able to accommodate a thin to stouter girl, and most importantly; be the best dress we can make.

After having the pleasure of previewing over 700 t-shirt dresses, I've come up with a little list of things to consider when putting together this dress. I was thrilled to see the quality of workmanship and creativity. VERY few dresses had any issues. I only compiled this list to help with teaching and mentoring new dress makers.

- Be sure to use the appropriate size t-shirt to match the dress size.
- Trims around the neck of the t-shirt should only be sewn on the front from shoulder to shoulder. This allows the shirt to be able to stretch over the girls head.
- Trims, laces, ribbons should be of washable materials and soft to the touch. Sometimes less is more as my mother used to say!
- Empire cut or slightly above the waistline is often the most flexible style to fit different shapes of girls. Drop waist is cute, but you need to be sure that the t-shirt is not a narrow/slim style. Dress must be able to stretch over the head and shoulder of the girl without tearing out the stitching attaching the skirt to the shirt. If you have any doubt, find a size appropriate model to test your dress.
- Pockets are a must for sizes 4 and above (smaller sizes optional). A general rule of thumb for placement of pockets: fold dress in half, neck to hem. The top of the pocket should be sewn approximately on or **slightly** below that mid line.
- Be sure to use new or very 'like-new' shirts made mostly of cotton. Avoid very thin or see-through knits, especially for the older girls. Most girls will not have under garments and modesty is important.
- Check each t-shirt for flaws or holes. Using an iron on stabilizer at the bottom of the cut t-shirt can help to prevent runs or holes from occurring when stitching. Don't forget to change your needle occasionally. Sharp needles make for easier sewing.
- appliques can be cute, but only if you and your machine are skilled enough to make it look good.
- Don't forget no raw edges: Serge /zig-zag or use French seams. Iron all seams and hems. Clip all threads.

I am blessed to be a part of this team that is working and employing their time and talents to share the love of Christ around the world. Enjoy making each dress and be blessed by the fellowship we have as sew sisters in Christ! Kay