



*Fine Stitchery*

## *Princess Buella's Embroidered Eyelet Lace Sundress*



Because this is made from Edge-Embroidered Eyelet fabric there are a few differences in the construction – the first thing you need to do is determine the finished length – before you even begin!!

Have your little girl stand up or lie down stretched out – sometimes the best time to do this is after she's fallen asleep! Measure from the underarm seam of whatever she has on to the point on her leg where you want the dress to fall – then deduct 2". That's your Finished Skirt Length. NOTE: the underarm seam should fall about 1" below her armpit.

You will need to cut a piece of fabric for the Skirt, the length will be your Finished Skirt Length and the width will be the size you're making on the Cutting Chart (below) – the bottom of the lace is the bottom of the Skirt. NOTE: If you are making this dress with regular fabric then add in a desired hem depth to your finished Skirt length measurement, the measurement given for fabric on the Cutting Chart includes a 2-1/2" hem allowance.

Cut out the rest of the sundress pieces using the measurements given for the size you're making on the Cutting Chart (below).

Cut 2 yokes from the top part of the Embroidered Eyelet Fabric – or cut one piece from the Embroidered Eyelet and one piece from white batiste, the batiste will be your yoke lining.

Transfer the strap position marks from the pattern and mark the center front of the bottom of the yoke.

NOTE: I did a machine embroidered monogram on the Embroidered Eyelet Fabric before I cut it out so I could position it perfectly.

Cut the Back Yoke/Casing from the top of the Embroidered Eyelet Fabric. Mark the Center of the length.

Cut the Straps from the top of the Embroidered Eyelet Fabric or construct them from lace and ribbon – very pretty! I used a piece of 5/8" wide ribbon and 2 pieces of Embroidered Eyelet Edging, that's what's supplied in the kit.

Ok – now let's put this together!

1. Construct the straps – make them from Embroidered Eyelet Lace from the top of the Embroidered Eyelet Fabric, from fabric or from Embroidered Lace Edging and ribbon – the ribbon and lace are what I used and what is included in the kit.

To Construct Straps with Embroidered Lace Edging: Cut the piece Embroidered Lace Edging in half. Place WRONG sides of the lace together and stitch a 1/4" seam along the unfinished long edge of the lace. Place lace on ironing board RIGHT side up and press seam open and flat. Place ribbon on top of seam and pin in place. Carefully stitch ribbon down on top of the lace along both edges. Using Madeira 80wt thread will make the stitches almost invisible! Cut 2 straps from the finished piece.

To Construct Straps from Fabric: Cut the straps from fabric using the measurements from the Cutting Chart. Fold in half lengthwise and stitch a 3/8" seam. Press seam open. Turn strap right side out and press with seam running up the middle of the 'wrong' side.

2. Pin the right side of the straps to the right side of the Yoke Front, lining up the outside edge of the strap with the Strap Position mark on the pattern.

3. Pin the Front Yoke Lining, right sides together to the Yoke Front. Stitch the top edge ONLY with a 3/8" seam, leave the sides and bottom open. Clip curve. Press seam open and then turn and press.

4. Pin sides of the Back Yoke/Casing to sides of Front Yoke and Front Yoke Lining and stitch – illustration #3 – you need to leave an opening to thread the elastic in later.

Fold Back Yoke/Casing down, following the seam line of the Front Yoke and Front Yoke Lining. Press. You now have a completed Yoke.

Ok – now we're going to get the Skirt ready to join it to the Yoke.

5. Stitch the center back seam and finish by making a French seam or serging or zig-zagging the edges. Press the seam and fold the Skirt in quarters – mark the top edge at the center front and the sides.

6. Stitch 2 gathering threads around the top edge of the Skirt – the stitching rows should be about 3/8" to 1/2" apart and the stitch length should be at least 4mm long. Start and stop the gathering threads at the center back and remember NOT to back stitch or fix them in place.

7. Pin the Skirt to the Yoke – right sides together. Match the back center seam of the Skirt to the center back mark on the yoke, match center front marks and side marks of the Skirt to side seams of the Yoke. You are only pinning the Skirt to the right side of the Yoke – the back/lining of the Yoke should be hanging loose!

8. Now start pulling up the gathering threads – it doesn't really matter if you pull the top threads or the bobbin threads tho some say the bobbin threads are easier to pull – I can never keep track!

BUT – you DO need to be pulling the SAME threads from both ends! If you don't, the gathers will bind up and you will not be able to move them freely along the gathering threads. I will usually gather all 4 threads from the right side of the Skirt together and pull them down out of the seam allowance and stick them to the Skirt with a little piece of tape – then it's more obvious which are the threads on the wrong side of the Skirt and those are the ones I pull to make the gathers.

I pull from the center back to the center front on both sides, pulling the Skirt up to match the Yoke.

Adjust the gathers so they are distributed evenly around the top of the Skirt.

9. Stitch the Skirt to the Yoke with the gathers on top so you can watch them going into the machine and stop and make adjustments as needed as you're sewing them. Stitch a 3/8" seam. You can stitch a basting seam first, check for puckers or catches and then re-stitch with a regular stitch length. Press the seam UP to the top of the dress.

10. Turn under 1/2" along the unstitched edge of the Yoke and Press. Pull the fold down over the Yoke to Skirt seam, encasing the seam. Pin in place.

11. Pull the Straps from the front Yoke to the back Yoke/Casing. Place the inside edge of the strap 1" from the center back seam. Make sure Straps are not twisted! Tuck 3/8" of the end of the strap inside the folded edge of the back Yoke/Casing. Pin in place.

12. Stitch the Yoke down from the right side of the dress, stitching in the ditch of the seam allowance or very close to it. Top stitch along the top edge of the Yoke approximately 1/4" from the edge.

13. Cut elastic piece per the Cutting Chart or to fit your child. Insert the elastic thru the back Yoke/Casing, leave ends extending 1/2" toward the front, beyond the seam opening. From the right side, stitch in the ditch of the side seam to secure elastic.

NOTE: if you're sewing for a child who lives away from you, use Buttonhole Elastic, cut it 2" longer than stated. Stitch in the ditch on one side seam to secure and then sew a plain flat button on the inside of the front Yoke just past the seam and button the elastic to it. When the dress arrives the child's mom can adjust and secure it.

### **CUTTING Chart for *Princess Buella's Sundress***

SIZE	SKIRT	BACK YOKE/CASING	STRAP	ELASTIC
6mos	44"W* x 16"L**	3-1/2" x 12-1/2"	2-1/4" x 10-1/2"	8-3/4"
12mos	44"W* x 16-1/2"L**	3-1/2" x 13"	2-1/4" x 11"	9-1/4"
2	44"W* x 17"L**	3-1/2" x 13-1/2"	2-1/4" x 11-1/2"	9-3/4"
3	44"W* x 17-1/2"L**	3-1/2" x 14"	2-1/4" x 12-1/2"	10-1/4"
4	44"W* x 18"L**	3-1/2" x 15"	2-1/4" x 13"	10-3/4"
5	44"W* x 19"L**	3-1/2" x 16"	2-1/4" x 13-1/2"	11-1/2"

\* If using Fabric just use the width of the Fabric, be sure to trim the selvages off

\*\* This Length is for regular Fabric and includes a 2-1/2" Hem Allowance.  
For Embroidered Eyelet Fabric use your Finished Skirt Length or deduct 2-1/2" from the Chart Length

1"  
SQUARE

