



Seams

Julia Simons
Colorado State University, USA

Key Words: Parachute, dress, seams, recycled

Purpose

This project shows the diversity and beauty of military parachutes as a form of art through clothing. The parachute was originally used for military services and was then recycled for other purposes. The potential wearer of this dress is a woman attending an elegant gala or a military ball.

Process

The true inspiration of this design was the parachute itself and showcasing all the dynamic details that make up the parachute with the strict use of the parachute and its consisting components. I really wanted to make the dress look like it could fly to pay tribute to the service it provided in the military. One of the very unique details I wanted to incorporate was the preexisting seams and stitch lines as surface designs throughout the dress. The deep army green color of the material was already so rich and beautiful I did not want to change it.

The first step to creating this garment was draping and fitting the bodice and the skirt. The drapes were then transferred to flat patterns and trued. When cutting out the pattern pieces, the pre-existing seam line had to be taken into account. It took some experimenting to find where and which way these seams were going to be placed. The white nylon strips used for the back detail were taken from the encased seams of the parachute. Before sewing the back pieces into the dress, they were woven and fitted onto a dress form, then carefully transferred onto the bodice and sewn between the shell and lining layers. The rest of this garment was created by using traditional machine and hand sewing techniques.

Techniques

The bodice holds a face lining that is hand sewn at the waistline using a basic slipstitch. The hem of the dress is finished with a machine blind stitch by a Bernina home sewing machine. A traditional plain weave with ten strips helped create the woven back. This weave was produced on the backside of dress form and was stabilized by pins before being attached to the bodice.



Image 1. Front View (Left)
Image 2. Side Detail (Right)

Materials

Recycle parachute made from rip-stop nylon and nylon strips