

Always

Sara Sybesma, Mount Mary University; Milwaukee, WI, USA

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The glamour of classic vintage brides was the inspiration for this bridal gown. The gown was created with the idea that it would be a classic piece that transcends through time. The gown is made up of two layers. The top layer is Alençon Lace, which was pieced by hand; this lays on top of a satin base layer. The gown zips up the back and has a puddle train. A separate corset is attached to a lining underneath the gown to give it shape. The champagne color of the lace is reminiscent of vintage gowns---a trend that is making a resurgence in popularity today.



Both the corset and gown were draped and then transferred onto pattern paper. The corset has Rigilene boning for support around the waist and under the bust; it zips up the back. This makes it easier for the wearer to get the piece on and off of their body. Reinforcement stitching gives body to the cups in the corset so that they are able to define and support the chest. The pattern

was hand basted onto the lace in a contrasting color, then cut out around the lace motifs surrounding the basting. Each of the 16 seams were lace pieced by hand to create the illusion that the dress is completely seamless. After stitching the seams by hand, all of the basting was removed and the seams were trimmed down to the seam line. The scallops were cut off of the lace panels before cutting out the gown so that they could be added to the bottom of the skirt to finish the edge. The lace is attached to the satin layer at the neckline, armholes, and zipper.

This gown was designed, constructed and patterned in a Special Occasion Apparel course. As an undergraduate, this was my first time working with lace and constructing a corset.