

Birds of a Feather

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Keywords: detachable, versatile, tucks, draping

As a college student, I have always embraced having a versatile wardrobe. When I shop, I look for items that I can wear different ways and to different occasions. The concept of versatility inspired this design, and each component that was added to it. This garment can be dressed up with all components to achieve an elegant and sophisticated look, and dressed down to have a simple, basic, dress for everyday wear.

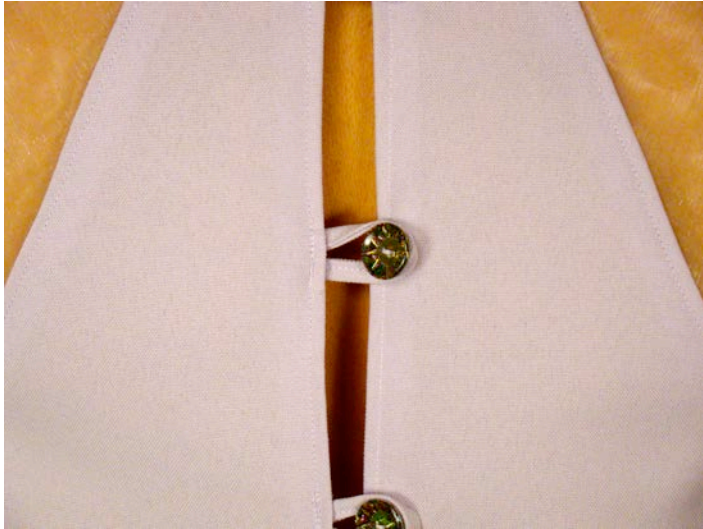
This dress was fully draped on the body form to create a cap-sleeved dress with sheer panels, a detachable tied collar, and detachable skirt. Draping this garment allowed me to visually create the detailed garment that I had envisioned. The process allowed me to check that each component was proportional and worked cohesively with the rest. The skirt component was draped and each tuck was pinned to make sure that it was accented in the correct areas.



I wanted the foundation of the dress to be a simple piece that a woman could pair with many items to make wearable for an everyday look. Without the detachable components, the dress is a simple lilac piece with sheer organza panels, a maroon bias binding neckline, maroon cap sleeves, and buttons down the center back of the dress as an extra visual component. Buttoning on the detachable tied collar, with holographic hand beaded detailing, adds more of a sophisticated feeling to the look and paired with any simple blazer could be dressed up for a professional daywear occasion. Now, adding the skirt component to the overall look, with the dress and collar, makes this garment ready and appropriate for an elegant occasion at night. I took time planning out each component for this garment, ensuring that adding each detachable piece would bring something different to the overall look.

The dress is constructed out of lilac and maroon poly poplin fabric (100% polyester). I choose this fabric as the base for my design because I loved the matte and textured appearance, and thought that it would complement the sheer organza and peacock fabric nicely. The sheer fabric

used to create the panels in the garment was an organza (100% nylon). I chose this fabric because not only did it create the sheer affect I was looking for, but it also had a shine to it that was more dynamic. The peacock fabric was chiffon (100% polyester) and when faced with another layer of the same fabric created the weight needed for my detachable component.



I used a lot of topstitching when constructing this garment in order for the sheer panels to look clean and finished. The topstitching helped to hold seam allowances in place and exhibited an extra decorative or aesthetic detail to the garment. Instead of including a simple zipper up the back of the garment, I chose to add the button and button loop detail. Adding this made the garment more cohesive to the front of the dress and enhanced the holographic detail. To create the tucks in the skirt component, I pinched areas of the fabric that I wanted to bring upwards and tacked them

together with a small row of stitches. Creating the multiple tucks made the skirt component more dynamic and exhibited more of that feathered look that I was trying to reveal through my design.

Overall, I found this design to be very successful in its mission to bring versatility to a young woman's wardrobe. The wearer of this garment can add and detach the various components to create the look that best fits their occasion. Pieces of the garment could even be added to other items they already own and can be mixed and matched with the everyday wardrobe.