

Forget Me Not

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Buttons, these notions have been around since 2000 BC (History, 2009). This design uses buttons for their initial purpose, as decorations, not as fasteners (History, 2009). It was not until 1200 AD that buttons were used as fasteners, and the first buttonhole was introduced (History, 2009). As a play on words and not forgetting the initial use of buttons, the Forget Me Not flower was also an influence in the design's creation. The *Forget Me Not* flower is blue in color, with purple buds. Both the blue and purple color was incorporated into the design, along with white and silver to add contrast and interest. Keeping with the "decorative" aspect of buttons, a sleeve was created using the buttons and giving the appearance of petals. Buttons were sewn starting at the button sleeve to create a cascade of buttons over the dress. An important aspect of the design focuses on sustainability. The recycling of cotton fabric necessitates less use of natural resources and energy, and less expulsion of chemicals into the environment (Murray). The 100% cotton fabric was a donation to my school from a company that makes fabric from recycled textiles. Wanting to help in the efforts of reducing waste, the fabric was selected and dyed to create the desired color.

A love of buttons began the flow of ideas for the design. Research about the history of buttons spurred the idea of using them for their initial use as decoration. Buttons are made in all shapes, sizes, colors and materials, so it was important that the design encompassed all types of buttons to add interest and uniqueness to the design. The draping of a simple princess seam silhouette with a trumpet skirt was the start of the design. The shape of the outline resembled the silhouette of a flower. The fabric is a cream colored recycled cotton with an upholstery hand. In order to obtain the color of the Forget Me Not flower, samples were tested and the fabric was dyed using a warm water bath and agitation. The effect was a beautiful, brilliant blue with a variation of color giving the



fabric a marbled pattern. Boning was added to the bodice of the dress to add structure to the somewhat heavy material. After the fabric pieces were cut and sewn, the buttons were sewn on in a radiating pattern, beginning at the top right corner on the front and back. The button sleeve was also added at the top right corner, front to back. Four strands make up the sleeve, each strand being made up of blue, white, purple and silver buttons. The finished garment incorporates two different forms of button decorations (radiated sewn pattern and button sleeve), as well as fabric in the Forget Me Not blue hue.

Work Cited

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