

Bustled Romance

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Purpose of Design. The purpose of this garment was to create a piece that would embody the bustle detail of the Victorian Era in a modern way. The Bustled Romance jacket is a statement piece for a classy lady looking to hit the town and drop some jaws. Not to be mistaken for a simple cover up, this jacket is paired with a micro-mini dress to keep the attention on the pleated mock-bustle details. While not suited for everyday wear, this jacket is perfect for a fancy dinner, garden party, or even don it over a simple dress at a wedding.



Design Process. The Victorian Era was truly a great time for fashion – lavished fabrics, over the top silhouettes, and intricate handwork. The bustle in particular has stood the test of time. The heavy embellishments and skilled handwork was what initially caught my eye about the Victorian Era. While this era may be a designer favorite, I was eager to put my own spin on one of the most influential time periods. The dusty pink colors, of the jacket fabric, was carefully chosen to represent the era and preserve the romantic sense of the design. A simple micro-mini dress, in the cream colored counterpart to the dusty pink, was chosen to accompany the jacket to keep the focus on the mock-bustle details.

Techniques and Materials. The jacket and the micro-mini dress were both created with the flat pattern method. The fullness of the two-layered mock-bustle was achieved by slashing and spreading the flat pattern, allowing for 1-inch knife pleats. Likewise, the fullness at the cuff of the sleeves were also created by slashing and spreading the flat pattern. The materials used include 5 yards of cotton/polyester dusty rose jacquard, 1 ½ yards of cotton/polyester ivory and gold accented jacquard, 2 packages of 100% cotton beige ½” bias tape, and one 12-inch ivory invisible zipper.