

# Vest for Angel Gowns

When I started with Angel Gowns, I was posed the question on how to make a gown more male orientated. Now, when faced with loss, I really don't feel that gender identity is all that important, but I understand that it is to others.

Angel Gowns by Michelle (America) forwarded me the Angel Gowns patterns, and so I decided to draft a set of vest patterns that line up with the gown patterns. I have drafted a vest each for the size L, M, and S. Unfortunately the micro really is too small to be able to successfully make a vest for, so we will have to consider other ways to make a boyish style for them.



## **Choice of fabrics:**

For my first vests, I used a beautiful piece of silk satin, located in a remnant bin. You can use the same fabric as the gown. If the wedding dress has a brocade element, you can use that. Please be aware that some fabrics, when layered up, can be bulky. This occurred in my first tester, the large size. To combat this, use a thinner, finer fabric for the underside of the vest. For the medium and small sizes I used white batiste. You could also use a soft cotton lawn (soft florals would be a sweet look), or if your donated dress has a lining, you could use that. Please ensure that when you cut the vests out, the grain lies parallel to the front edge, and take care when handling and stitching seams, as on a small piece of fabric, the possibility of bias stretch is high.

As with the gowns, please be encouraged to apply your own style to the vests. Boyish doesn't have to mean plain. Trim at the bottom of the gown, embroidery along the neck edge or vest edges, pretty buttons ..... all can be incorporated into the gown.

# Instructions

Seam Allowance is **6mm or ¼ inch**.

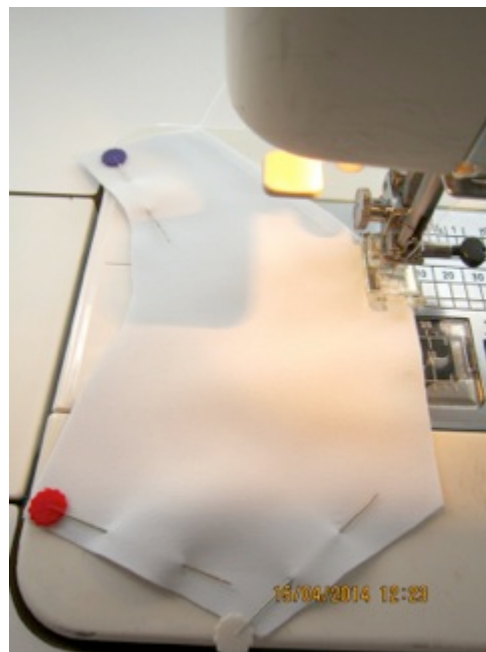
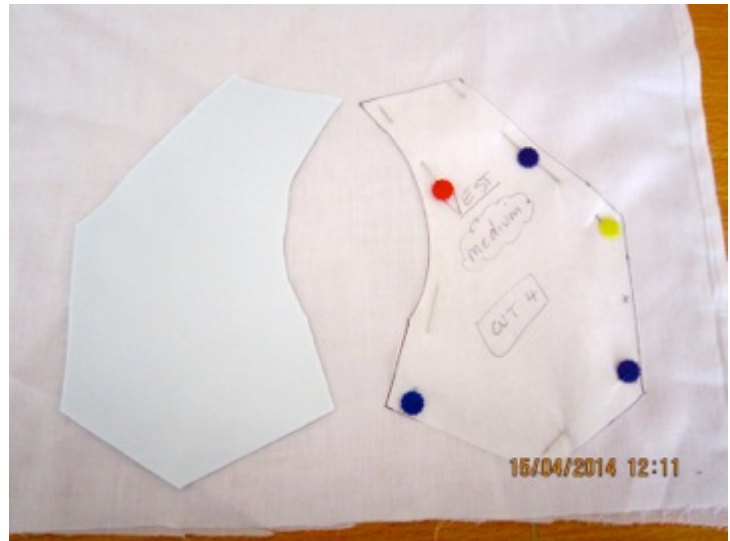
Extra has been allowed at the front edge for overlap

Using your vest pattern cut out 4 vest pieces (or 2 from fabric, and 2 from lining).

If you have decoration you want to apply, now is a good time to do it, taking care to keep it out of the seam allowances.

With right sides together (fabric and lining), stitch the neckline, front edge, bottom edge and armhole seam.

Pivot at corners, and take care to not stretch the fabric, especially where it is cut on the bias.



Leave the side seam and shoulder seams unstitched. These will be used to turn the vest, and then stitched into seams.

Trim the point corners, and clip the armhole seams, taking care to not snip into the seams.



Using the shoulder seam gap, turn the vest piece, right side out. Push out the corners carefully, so that you have neat points.

Using a setting appropriate to your fabric, firmly press your vest pieces.

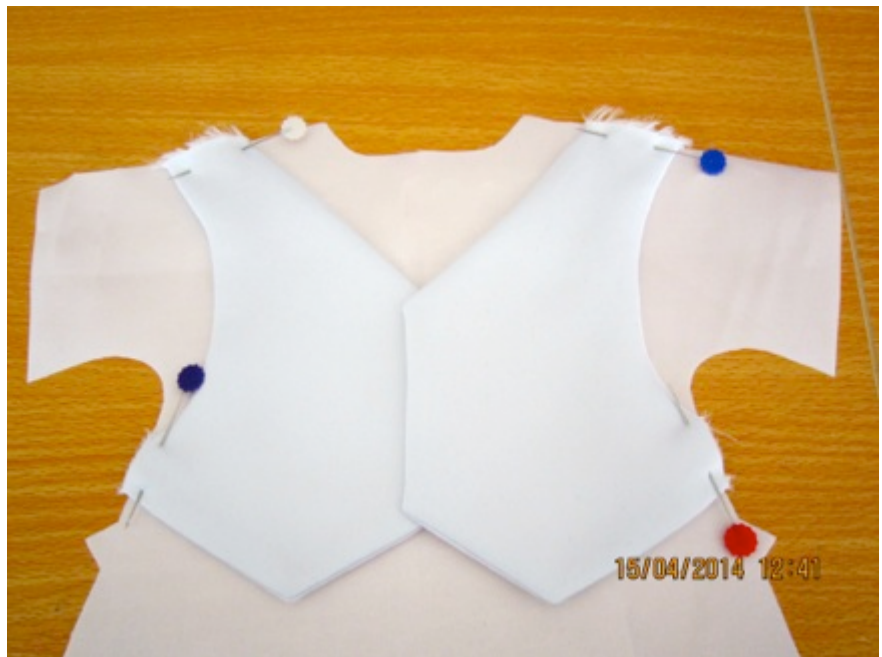
Lace or trim can be applied at this state if you want.

(if at this point you realize you have made two left side vests, don't panic. Just make another set, this time right side, and then keep going)



Place your vest pieces onto your gown front, and then baste them into place at the shoulders and side seams.

Continue to sew the gowns as per gown instructions.



When top stitching the neckline edge, be sure to fold back the vest piece so that it isn't caught in the stitching.

Attach buttons, and your vest is finished.

Patterns for the vests are in a separate file. Be sure to check the patterns against the gowns patterns to ensure the size is accurate.

Please don't feel constrained to the pattern. Change the shape, length ... alter how you see fit. These instructions are meant as inspiration.

