



## **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ANGEL GOWNS AND BOY OUTFITS**

### **Gown Sizes:**

- Size 0 (1 to 2 pounds)
- Size 1 (2 to 4 pounds)
- Size 2 (3 to 5 pounds)
- Size 3 (6 to 9 pounds)
- Size 4 (10 to 13 pounds)

As you make the gowns, you will refine your own method of construction. These basic instructions are to get you started. Please feel free to pass along any suggestions you may have to [sewing.lag@yahoo.com](mailto:sewing.lag@yahoo.com).

The patterns we are using have been adapted and tweaked to meet the needs of Little Angel Gowns, Indiana chapter, and should be used **solely** for that purpose.

It will be necessary for you to put each pattern piece together. Line up the lines, tape together and cut the entire pattern out. Each gown or outfit now has its own front and back pattern piece. You do not have to add any extra to the center back, sleeves or hem. This all has been included in the pattern. You may want to make multiple copies of the pattern on heavy weight interfacing since it holds up to repeated pinning and accidental clipping.

### **GUIDELINES:**

- All wedding dresses will need to be washed prior to using (including gowns received from the main office). Pre-treat stained areas, turn the gown wrong side out, wash in the washing machine on a gentle or delicate cycle. After washing, look it over before placing it in the dryer. If dress is still soiled, try treating and washing it a second time, then either hang it to dry or tumble dry on a low heat cycle. For discolored or heavily soiled fabrics try soaking overnight in BIZ, Oxi-Clean or another pre-soak detergent.
- Any other fabrics used to add accent color to the gowns or for the vests and bow ties for the boy's outfits should also be washed.
- If accent colors are used with the gowns, they **MUST** be pastel colors – light pink, soft lavender, pale green, pale yellow, etc. Boy vests and ties may be made from black, navy, soft blue or champagne. **ABSOLUTELY NO REDS OF ANY SHADE!** This includes wine, maroon, deep red and rust.

- Angel Gowns and Angel Outfits are to be made from dress fabric. Dress lining is to be used as lining. If the donated dress does not have adequate lining, you may purchase lining from the store.
- Cut the skirt from the bodice, then separate each section at the seams (if there are 'skinny' panels, you may not want to do this). Much easier to work with as the bodice of the dress typically has too many seams to use for a gown. Often there is a lot of lace or beads that can be removed and applied to other parts of the gowns. This may be the optimal place to cut out hearts for each gown made.
- Please use embellishments sparingly. Less is more.
- The bottom of the skirt is a great place to line up the bottom of your pattern for a beautiful hemline. However, be careful as the curve of the gown or train may vary greatly from the curve of the patterns and this could cause the lower edge to curve up at the side seams or in other areas.
- Please be aware that satin can have shading differences depending on what direction you are looking at it. If possible, all pattern pieces should be laid on the fabric in the same direction.
- You will have odd size pieces left from which you will make hearts to match each gown.
- All seams are to be  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide or slightly less. Please be careful as you sew. If your seams are larger than  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", you are decreasing the size of the garments.
- All gowns/suits should be fully lined with all seams and hems enclosed/hidden.
- For gown ties, please use  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide double satin ribbon in white or ivory. For all gown sizes please cut the ribbon 12" long for ease in tying. The ribbons can be shortened after they are tied. Ties are to be sewn at the center back edge at the neck and at the waist – as notated on the back pattern. Ties can be enclosed in the seam or added on after the gown is sewn.
- All gowns must have the size written on the inside. To be consistent, please mark the lower right center back edge with the size using an ink pen. If you have iron on LAG labels, please affix the label in this location and write the size on the label.
- Each gown or boy outfit should have a matching bonnet and heart.

**Thank you so very much for helping us be a blessing to the families we serve.**