



Easy Costume Ideas

by Lydia Morgan, Beacon Fabric & Notions

Make adorable costumes for children, adults or pets. Using our free basic design instructions, nylon oxford fabric, batting, elastic and fabric glue. Visit www.beaconfabric.com or call us at 800-713-8157 for a free copy of our 48 page catalog of Sewing Notions.

The Basic pattern can be used to make a lady bug, frog, bumble bee, butterfly, turtle, crab and with a little extra creativity all kinds of bugs and flying insects. By using one basic design and different color fabrics and little imagination you can have a unique costume.

Directions for Lady Bug, as shown in Sew News

For the Lady Bug the undergarments are black pants and sweatshirt with a hood you can purchase at your local store. The costume is made of red and black nylon oxford cloth, batting to give it fullness and elastic.

Materials Needed:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Red Nylon Oxford- 60" wide (item # 051018) | amount needed determined by pattern Most adults- approx 1 yard of 60" fabric |
| Graph Pattern Paper (040040) | 1yd |
| Black oxford (051020) | ¼ yd |
| 1" black Elastic (090542) | 1 yd |
| ¾ oz batting- 27" (210052) | 1yd- usual amount for adult |
| Pencil and ruler | |
| Scissor | |
| Fabric Glue- (Unique Stitch) | (Item#090704) |
| Basic thread | |
| Pipe cleaner- | For antenna |
| Black hair band | For antenna |

General directions

1) Measuring the person for the costume:

Sit person on a chair and measure down the center of their back from the bottom of their neck to the chair. This will be the center length for your pattern. • Measure across their back at the widest location (usually the shoulder area). If larger than 24" you will need to decide whether to purchase additional fabric to accommodate the larger measurement.

2) Making The Pattern•

- I prefer using graph pattern paper listed above however you can use any size paper that will fit your finished dimensions.
- See Page Three for diagram of how to make your pattern.
- The whole pattern is shown however I normally make a half pattern using the fold line and the shoulder and center mark A.

3) Cutting Instructions

- You will need to cut two pieces of solid fabric (for Lady Bug this is Red oxford)
- For Lady Bug you also need to cut out circles in Black. I used a 3" round for the one shown in Sew News.

4)Final Assembly

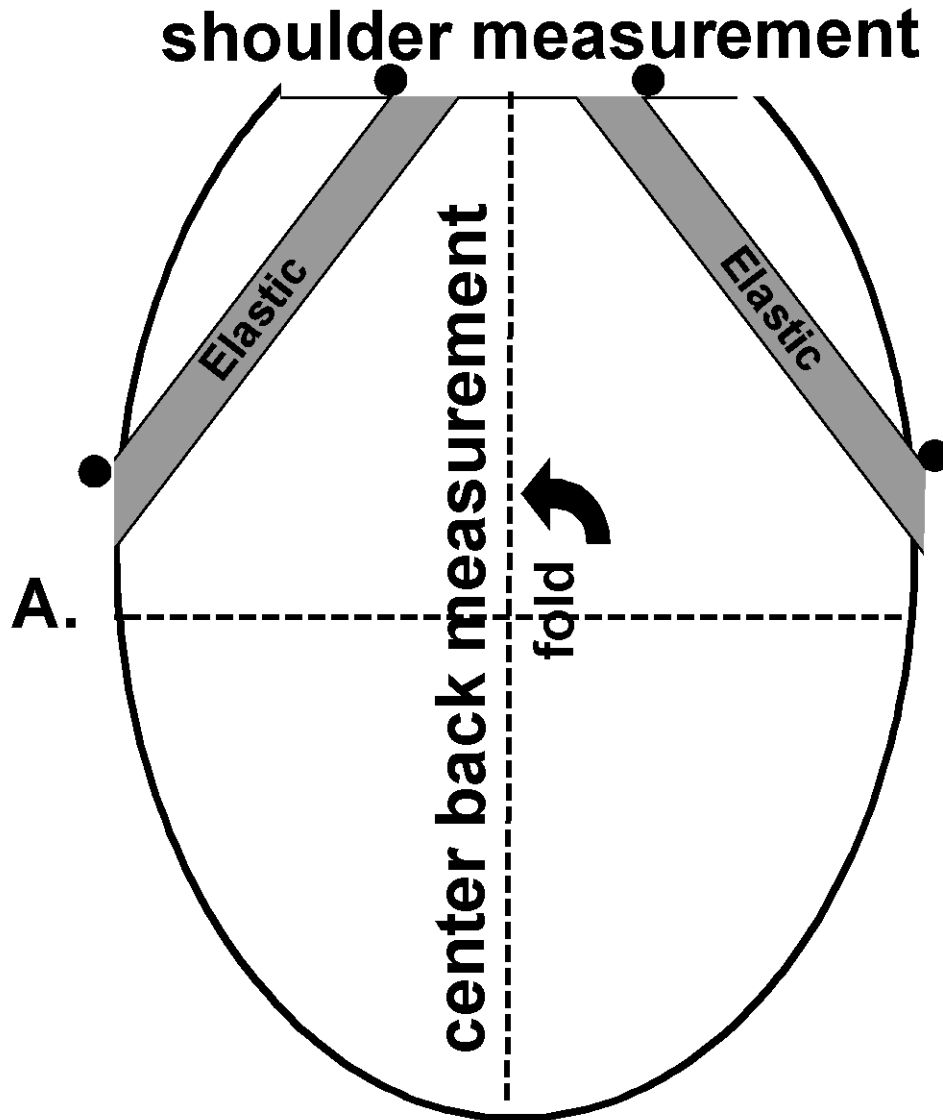
- For the Lady Bug, determine the location of the Black circles and glue in place.I used Unique Stitch to glue my circles, allowing it to dry over night.
- Next, place each piece of the elastic in from shoulder line on the right side of the red fabric that does not have the circles. Adjust the placement for each person. This is what holds the costume in place on the person.
- Set up the 2 red oxford pieces right sides together and place the batting piece over one wrong side of the fabric. Stitch around the shape leaving an 8" opening at the neck line of the costume. (You are sewing the 3 pieces together on the wrong side of the fabric.)
- Turn right sides out and stitch the seam at the neckline closed.
- Make your antennae piece with the black hair band and pipe cleaners.

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Before sewing mark elastic placement according to where it fits individual best.



A. = shoulder measurement + 10"
max. width with 60" fabric is 28"



Animal costumes - Dogs, Cats, Ferrets

Using the principle of measurement from the easy costume ideas you can easily make an animal costume to match your own.

- For the Ferret in the photo we measured the length of the ferret center back and then the area at the neck and the widest width. We then made our pattern by adding slightly to the widest width to give us an oval shape.
- Using the directions from the adult pattern above without the elastic, make your base piece.
- I tack this piece to a harness style collar made for your animal.
- For the antenna piece you will need to determine the best way for your particular animal
- For the ferret in the picture we made a thin elastic circle and attached the antenna piece to it.

Other ideas modifying Lady Bug Costume

Bumble Bee

Use Black oxford Cloth (item # 051020) in place of Red used for the lady bug. Purchase $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of Yellow Nylon Pack cloth (item # 052025) for the stripes across. If you want wings use black tulle and shape like small fluffy wings and tack to back.

Frog

Use green sweatshirt with hood and green sweat pants instead of black. Use Green oxford fabric (item # 051011) in place of Red and make different shape circles and ovals in forest green (item #051013). Using green Foamie sold in craft stores make web feet and hands out of green and attach to hands and feet with elastic and tacking in place at wrist and ankle. Make some bold eyes using Foamie and attach with safety pins to the front of the hood.

Turtle

Use a green sweatshirt with hood and green sweat pants. Use Green oxford fabric (item # 051011) in place of Red and you will need $\frac{1}{4}$ yd of Yellow pack cloth (item 052025) to use for the shapes on the back. Look at photo's of turtles to get an idea of how to place the shapes on the costume. You can purchase additional yellow if you want an underside shell for the chest area. Just modify the shape of the back and attach at sides. I would use brown embroidery thread and a wide satin stitch to show the shell outlines. For the use foamie as mentioned above and add to hood area.

Butterfly

Modify the pattern to look like wings bringing the wing area so it is above the shoulders . You will need to place the elastic in a different place. Select fabric colors you would like for your butterfly and for accent colors and the main center body area. Antenna normally go on the head area, works best with a hooded sweat-shirt or headband

Crab

You will need to make claw arms and insert it into the seam. Can have them coming out at the shoulder area and then attached with elastic to your arms.

Other insects or critters

Look at photo's of the insect and modify base pattern adding legs, arm, claws etc. You can also shorten or elongate the main pattern as needed. just think creatively to come up with some neat costumes.

Would love to see your finished product.

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