



# rainbow dress tutorial

by Rae Hoekstra  made-by-rae.com

## Materials Needed:

- 1/2 yard of four fabrics
- elastic thread
- 1/2" elastic for straps

## Finished Size:

This tutorial makes a size 2T dress or a size 3-5T skirt, 18" long with a 26" waist (fully stretched).

**Please don't email or redistribute this tutorial without permission; it's protected by copyright. Thanks!**

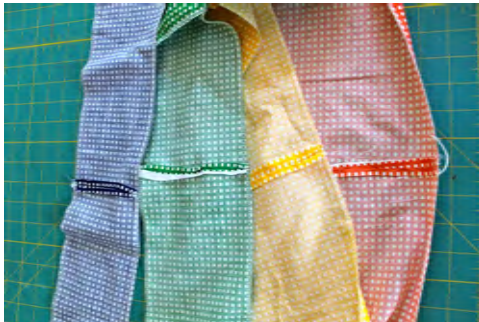
### Step 1:

Cut out two rectangles of each of the sizes shown. The grain arrow should run parallel to the fabric selvage.



### Step 2:

With right sides facing, sew matching rectangles together along one short end (not both) with a 1/4" seam.



### Step 3:

Finish the edges using a serger or zigzag stitch. If you prefer a more finished look, add 1" to the width of each of your panels when cutting, then fold 1/4" under twice and sew down to hem the long edges.



### Step 4:

Set your stitch length as long as it will go and your tension as high as it will go, then sew 1/2" from the top edge of the second tier. Gather the second tier along this stitch line and pin it to the first tier with a 5/8" overlap, lining up the ends and seams. The wrong side of the second tier should be facing the right side of the first tier. Sew together with a 1/2" seam, directly over the gathering line.



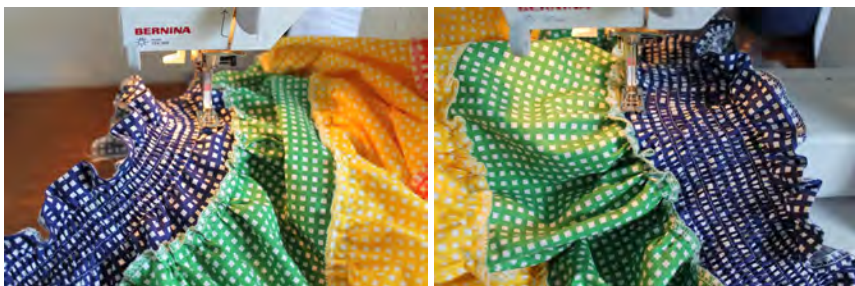
### Step 5:

Repeat for the third and fourth tiers until you have all the tiers sewn together as shown (bottom photo)



### Step 6:

Using elastic thread in your bobbin, shirr the top tier beginning 1" below the top edge. Sew with rows of shirring that are 1/4" apart, leaving a little bit of extra elastic thread at the end of each row before turning around.



Shirr as far as you can go. You may need to lift up the top edge of the second tier as shown to do this. See next page for more shirring pictures.

A few shirring hints:

- Hand wind the bobbin loosely with elastic thread.
- Test on a scrap of fabric before attempting on any valuable fabric.
- If the shirring is too loose or too tight, you may have to adjust the machine tension, stitch length, or loosen your bobbin screw slightly to achieve the desired results. Try just one thing at a time!
- When you are finished sewing the rows of elastic thread, press with your iron's steam setting on high. The thread will shrink as it is steamed and tighten up even more.



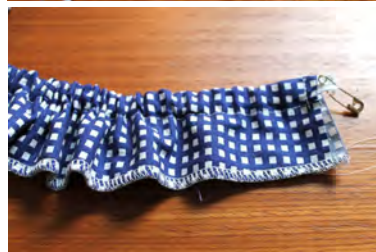
**Step 7:**  
Pin the edges together and sew side seam with a 1/4" seam. Serge or finish edge with a zig-zag stitch.



**Step 8:**  
Fold under 1/4" twice along top and bottom edges. Press, then sew down along the edge of the fold to hem. Stop here if you are making a skirt.



**Step 9:**  
Cut two more 4"x14" rectangles for the straps. Fold in half and stitch 5/8" from the folded edge (to form an elastic casing). Serge the two remaining edges together to finish. If you don't have a serger, cut the rectangles 1" wider than indicated, then fold under 1/4" twice and stitch down to finish. Cut 8" of 1/2" wide elastic and thread through the casing.



**Step 10:**  
Attach the straps to the dress, 4" apart in the back and 2" apart in the back. Pin straps on the dress and try on child first, adjusting if necessary. Sew across the entire strap, backstitching a few times at the elastic to secure.



Yay! Finished dress!  
Now add your pictures to the Rae Made Me Do It! Photo pool so we can all enjoy:  
<http://flickr.com/groups/madebyrae>

