

# After Five

## The Little Black Dress Remake

By Beth Ann Cecchetti, for Baby Lock

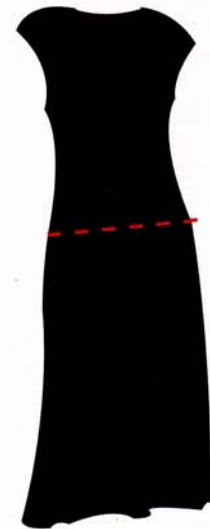


### Embroidery Products

Baby Lock Ellageo Embroidery Machine  
Built-in design on the Baby Lock Ellageo, under the exclusive section, page 2, first row, and 2nd design.

### Materials

A purchased "Little Black Dress"  
3 yd. of complementary fabric  
Elastic  
Hook and eye  
2 spools black wooly nylon thread

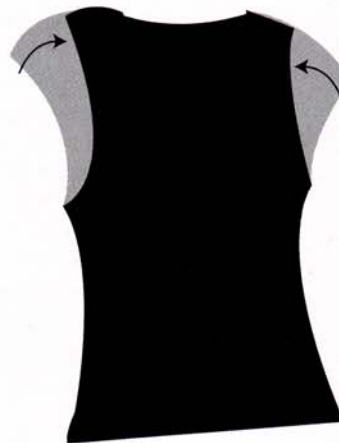


### Step 1. Cut the Dress

To make the dress into a two-piece ensemble, determine the correct length for the top. Mark and cut away the bottom of the dress. Set aside the bottom of the dress and lining. This will be made into the skirt later.

### Step 2. Transform the Top

Change the look of the top into a halter by marking from the shoulder, around and under the arm, to the low center back. Stay stitch along this line before cutting. The stay stitching will hold the lining in place with the face fabric as well as stabilize the edges of the halter before the binding is applied. Open the zipper before cutting along the new halter lines.



Once the top has been cut, safety pin each side of the zipper tape, so the zipper pull is not accidentally pulled off the zipper tape/teeth.

Cut two bias strips of complementary fabric 2 1/2" wide. Fold and press the strips in half, wrong sides together, to form the binding. Align the raw edges of the strips with the raw edge of the halter lining and pin in place from the shoulder around to the center back on

each side of the bodice. Stitch the binding in place. Press the binding over the seam and around to the right side of the halter. Again, pin the

## Take a tired, worn "little black dress" and create a festive wear-anytime ensemble!

folded edge of the binding to the right side of the halter, encasing the raw edges. Stitch the folded edge to the halter.

Fold under and hand tack the ends of the binding at each side of the center back. Hand-stitch the hook and eye at the edges of the binding, just above the zipper.

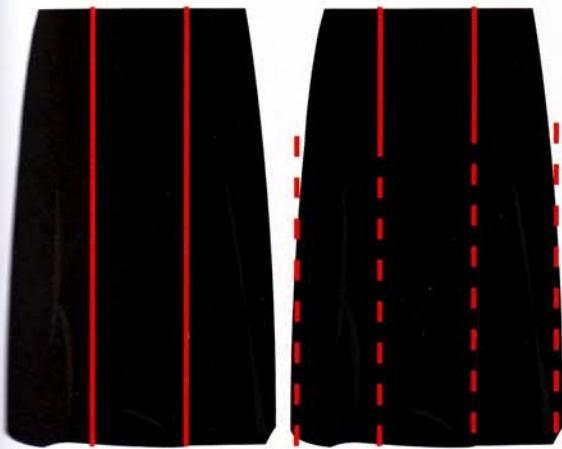
Cut two bias strips of the complementary fabric for the neck ties, 5" x 28". Fold the strips in half lengthwise, with right sides together. Cut one end of each strip at an angle. Stitch with a 14" seam, leaving one end open for turning.

Turn and press each tie. The ties will be wider than the top of the halter. Tuck the excess fabric to fit the shoulder of the halter, pin and stitch one tie to each shoulder of the halter.

Use wooly nylon and a narrow rolled hem for the bottom hem of the halter and halter lining. Hem the halter lining about 1/4" shorter than the hem of the face fabric.

### Step 3. Make the Skirt

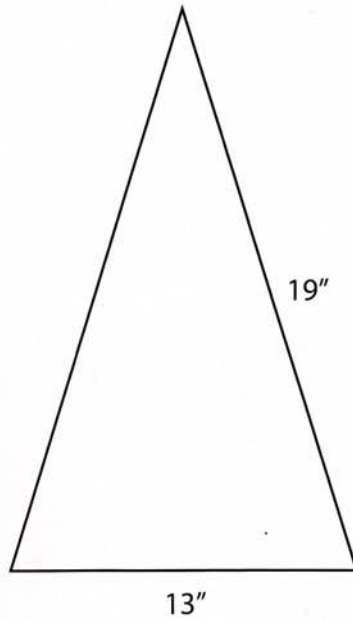
Separate the lining from the skirt and set aside. Divide the skirt into six equal sections. Mark the sections from the hem to 3/4 of the way up the skirt.



From the hem, cut on each of the marked lines.



Measure the length of each cut line. Using this measurement cut six bias triangles 13" to 15" across at the widest part of the triangle and as tall as the length of the cut line. The triangle on the sample measured 13" x 19" as shown below.



Pin and stitch one triangle into each cut line of the skirt, forming six gores. Serge the seams.



#### Step 4. Embroidery

Hoop tear-away stabilizer and one plain panel. Center and stitch the embroidery design onto each panel.

#### Step 5. Finishing

Pin the lining to the skirt at the waist, right sides together. Stitch with a 1/4" seam. Turn the lining to the underside of the skirt, understitch the lining. Stitch a casing wide enough for the elastic, leaving an opening to insert the elastic.

Insert the elastic. Fit for comfort and securely stitch the elastic. Allow the skirt to hang for 24 hours. Before hemming, evenly trim the bottom edge of the skirt. Use wooly nylon and a narrow rolled hem for the hem of the skirt.

#### Step 6. Top it off with a Shawl

For the shawl, use the remaining fabric and cut a length of 72" x 23" wide. With wooly nylon thread and a narrow rolled hem, clean finish each edge. Trim away all thread tails.

