

Classic Jumeau Bébé Paris Party Frock

Directions: 11 Inch French Bébé Circa 1880

Denise Buese & Janet Hollingsworth



This pattern and directions are the third and last of the trio created by Denise Buese, our DOLL NEWS Editor-In-Chief. It is another classic French doll costume style with the coat and bodice panel on a box pleated skirt. This was popular in the 1880s for Jumeau Bébés as well as other French dolls. As always, Denise selects just the right fabric and trims creating lovely costumes in period styles and construction. This dress is hand sewn with the inside as finished as the outside.

The selections of fabrics and trim make this costume unique and so much like the original costumes from the 1880s. Please look closely at the illustrations. The pink silk coat fabric is a doll sized damask trimmed with matching pink silk piping. The center bodice pattern is also a doll size silk pattern with piping at the bottom in the same fabric. It's that attention to detail that makes a wonderful doll costume.

Please read all the pattern directions completely including the notes on the pattern pages before starting.

All materials, patterns and directions are for an 11 inch Bébé doll.

PATTERN

The following pattern pieces are included:

- 7 for the bodice (coat and front panel): 2 coat front panels, 1 coat back panel, 2 coat side panels, 1 coat collar, plus 1 center front bodice panel.
- 3 for the jacket sleeves: 1 top sleeve and 1 for the under sleeve plus 1 for the sleeve cuff.
- The skirt is a rectangle 34-1/2 inches wide (cut to 35 + inches) and 4-1/2 inches wide. (Pattern drawing for the skirt shows the dimensions but is not actual size.)

MATERIALS

The color choices are yours even though the model is shown in pink. For an 11 inch Bébé for following are the materials. (The yardage shown is generous.):

- 1/2 to 3/4 yard silk fabric depending on the width for the coat and pleated skirt. (Pleated skirt is 34X4.5 inches). Additional fabric may be needed to line up the pattern in the fabric you choose.
- 1/8 yard silk fabric for the front bodice panel shown in white. (Another option is to make this out of the same fabric as the jacket.)
- 1/4 to 1/2 yard plain silk fabric matching the coat fabric for cording trim around the jacket and cuffs. (Strips will be cut on the bias.)
- 1/3 yard fine cotton batiste for lining of coat front bodice panel, sleeves, collar and cuffs. .
- 3-1/2 yards of coat ecru trim.
- 1/2 yard of lace trim for the collar, cuffs and a small piece for the top of the front bodice panel.
- 9 small brass/gold buttons for bodice and cuffs.
- 3 small hooks.
- Matching silk or cotton thread.

SEWING TECHNIQUES

A combination of machine sewing and hand sewing would be appropriate. Long straight seams lend themselves to machine sewing. Armholes, trim and small bodice seams are best done by hand. The choice is yours.

Pressing as you sew is so very important to producing a finished costume. With pressing you are using the steam heat to form the costume and mold seams, hems and pleats into the costume so they are relatively “seamless.” Use a clean pressing cloth, especially when working with silk fabrics that can easily be water stained. Again, **press as you sew – don’t wait to the end.**

Please note: With pressing, the iron barely touches the fabric. The iron is placed so close the steam and heat going through the pressing cloth changes the fabric to the desired form. Patience with pressing pays off.

SIZING & FITTING

Doll bodies have great variances. Cut a muslin or paper towel of the bodice and sleeve pattern and fit to your doll. French doll costumes are made in expensive silks and other fabrics. Better to fit and cut once than have to cut twice in expensive fabric.

If you are re-sizing, do the following on a copy machine or a printer feature for enlarging and reducing:

Enlarging Example

Pattern for 11 inch doll enlarged for 20 inch doll: 20 divided by 11 = 1.82 or X 100 = 182%. Enlarge 182% on the copier.

Reducing Example

Pattern for 11 inch doll reduced for 9 inch doll: 9 divided by 11 = .82 or X 100 = 82%. Reduce 82% on the copier.

CUTTING THE PATTERN PIECES

Cut the fabric and lining pieces as shown on the actual pattern pages. **The pattern pieces include 1/4 inch seams.**

LINING

As Illustrated, the bodice jacket, front panel and sleeves are lined to give more body to the fabric. The collar and sleeve cuffs are also lined. The lining is sewn so it is finished on the inside versus sewing the lining and fabric as one.



COAT

1. COAT: Pin and sew the front coat panels to the back side panels. Then sew each side panel to the back panel. **Sew seams only to the slash mark where the jacket tails start.** Fit to doll and adjust if needed. Trim seams and press open.
2. Fold over the 1/4 inch of coat fabric for all other seams and press. These will be sewn to the lining and includes the neck, front coat panel and tails, side back tails and center back tail.
3. LINING: Pin and sew coat lining the same as instructed in step 1 above.
4. PIPING: Measure and prepare the piping that will go around the coat. The piping that shows is barely 1/16th of an inch. Cut 2 bias pieces 1/4 inch width. One will be 16-1/2 inches and the other will be 22 inches.
5. Fold over the piping lengths and press. it is the piping fabric cut on the bias that will help ease the piping around all the corners and tight spots between the coat tails.
6. Then follow the instructions for each length (read through first): 1) 16-1/2 inch of piping will be pinned and tacked in place to the coat fabric on the doll’s right side starting at the center back of the collar and extending down the tight side of the coat front panel and tail, around the back side panel and ending with 1/4 inch to spare before the back center panel. 2) The second 22 inch piping will also start at the center back collar (make a neat slight overlap) and will be pinned to the other side of the coat extending down the coat front panel and tail, around the back side panel and around the center back panel meeting the first piping at the point between the center and side back panels.
7. After tacking the piping to the coat fabric, remove pins and trim and press seams. Fit to doll. (The tacking stitches will need to be removed after the lining is sewn to the coat fabric

with the piping in the middle.)

8. **SEW LINING & FABRIC:** Pin and sew lining to coat fabric - working wrong side out and **leaving at least 2 inches in the back of the collar** to turn the finished coat right side out. pin and sew lining to coat fabric with the piping in the middle. Remove pins, tacking stitches, trim seams, and press. Turn coat right side out and sew back of collar closed. Press using pressing cloth. Sew tacking stitch around armholes.
9. Hand sew trim to jacket fabric around the neck, down the front and along the same path as the piping and around each of the jacket tails. Set coat aside.



SLEEVES

1. Sew the coat sleeve pieces (top and bottom) together on each sleeve. Make sure both sleeves fit over the doll's hands. Trim seams and press.
2. Sew sleeve linings in the same way as step 1 instructs.
3. Mark the center point of the sleeve to the shoulder. (This will be the doll's shoulder not the coat shoulder seam this seam is at the back of the shoulder.) Check the sleeve lengths so they are even with each other and set aside for now.



FRONT BODICE PANEL

1. **BODICE PANEL:** Sew center seam of bodice fabric together. Trim and press center seam open. Turn bodice fabric sides and bottom 1/4 inch and press.
2. **PIPING:** Piping is at the bottom of the front bodice panel. Cut a bias strip of bodice fabric that is 1/4 inch wide and 4-1/8 inch long. Fold in half and press. Pin and tack the piping length in place at the bottom. (same as for the coat).
3. **LINING:** Sew the center seam of the lining together. Trim and press seam open. Turn lining sides and bottom edges 1/4 inch and press. Then pin and the lining to the front panel fabric and piping wrong sides out. Ease in the piping at each side of the bottom panel so it is finished. Sew lining and fabric together leaving the narrow top open. Remove piping tacking, pins, trim seams and press.





4. Turn front bodice panel right side out. Turn under the edges at the neck and sew a neat overcast stitch to close and press.
5. Sew lace trim to the inside top of the front bodice and sew 7 buttons down the front. Set aside the front panel for later assembly.

CUFFS AND COLLAR

1. **COLLAR:** Turn collar fabric edge 1/4 inch and press. Tack lace trim to collar so the lace shows above the fabric at the outer edges. Do not sew the edge that will be sewn to the coat.
2. Turn collar lining edge 1/4 inch and press. Pin and Sew lining to collar fabric and lining wrong sides together with the lace trim in the middle. Do not sew the side that will be attached to the coat. Trim seam and press. Turn collar to right sides out and set aside.



3. **FOR EACH CUFF:** Prepare piping for the top of the cuff. Turn cuff fabric edge over 1/4 inch and press. Then tack piping to fabric. Turn cuff lining over 1/4 inch and press.
4. Pin and sew wrong sides of cuff fabric and lining together with the piping in the middle only at the cuff top. Then pin and sew the side seam for each cuff. Make sure the cuff can easily go over the doll's hand. (Leave the bottom open.) Trim seams, remove tacking and press. Then turn right sides out and press with pressing cloth. Set cuffs aside.



SKIRT

1. The skirt has inverted box pleats. There are 6 to 7 inverted box pleats depending on the width of each pleat. The skirt is not lined unless the fabric is too lightweight.
2. Before pleating, measure the skirt length for your doll from the **doll's waist** which is about where it will be mounted on the coat. You may want to put the unfinished coat on the doll when measuring.
3. **HEM SKIRT:** Pin, press and sew a 1/4 inch double turnover hem. Press with pressing cloth after sewing hem.



4. LAYOUT PLEATS: Suggest you lay out the pleats on a padded ironing board. This will require adjustments. Mark a piece of tape with the waist measurement plus 1/4 inch seam. (When laying out the pleats you will need to have this tape in front to help with the pleat adjustments.)
5. The front of each pleat is 1-1/4 inch. The inverted (underside) pleat is 1-1/2 inch. The turn back of each pleat is 5/8 inch.
6. Pin where the skirt seam will be on the side and pin the center front pleat – both the front and the inverted part of the pleat.
7. There will be about 6 or 7 front pleats. Working from this center pleat, start laying out the pleats on each side. This process is one of adjustments. In the end not all pleats will be the same. Try to make the top of the pleats the same and adjustments on the back or inverted side.
8. The total circumference (distance around) at top of the pleated skirt needs to be about 7-6/8 inches. Measure on your doll.
9. The finished pleated skirt needs to be fitted to the waist, the front of each inverted pleat need to be the same width (1-1/4 inch) and the side seam needs to be hidden on the inside of one of the pleats. (Have patience with this step.)
10. Once the pleats are pinned to where you want them, **Stitch across the top to secure the pleats. Also tack them in place at the bottom for this same purpose.**
11. PRESS TO SET PLEATS: Once you have the pleats pinned in place. Steam press, using a pressing cloth, 3 times allowing the pleats to cool after each press.
12. After the final press is cooled and you are satisfied that the pleats are set, sew the 1/4 inch side seam and press. Sew an overcast stitch on the raw edges of the seam.



ASSEMBLY

1. COLLAR TO COAT: The open end of the collar is sewn to the neck of the coat leaving about 1/2 inch from the edge of the front coat panel. Start by pinning the collar to the center point of both the collar and the back of the coat at the neck. The collar is sewn to the coat fabric. See photos below. Sew the collar to coat neck. Trim the seam.



2. FRONT BODICE PANEL TO COAT: At this point you should have a finished coat and front bodice panel. The bodice panel is to be sewn to the coat front panel on the doll's right side. The coat will overlap the bodice panel 3/8 of an inch. On the doll's left side is the costume opening. This also overlaps 3/8 of an inch and is not sewn to the bodice until the skirt is sewn to the coat and bodice.



3. Put the coat and bodice on the doll and pin the overlap to make sure it is even and the center seam on the bodice is lined up with the center of the doll. Pin or mark with blue sewing pencil where the 3 hooks and 3 thread loops will go on the doll's left side.

4. Remove coat and bodice, re-pin and sew the doll's coat on the **right side** to the bodice. The left side is not sewn until the pleated skirt is sewn in place.
5. **SKIRT TO COAT & BODICE PANEL:** The top of the pleated skirt will be sewn to the lining of the coat and bodice. Turn the coat and bodice to wrong sides. Place the wrong side of the skirt in position (About 3 to 3-1/8 inches from the neck.) and pin. skirt to lining. The circumference of the skirt waist is about 7-6/8 inches. You may need to make adjustments and to pin skirt to lining.
6. Once pinned in place put on doll to make sure it fits and everything hang nicely.
7. Sew skirt to coat and bodice lining. Note: The costume opening is on the doll's left side. The skirt is sewn to the skirt on the left side. **It is not sewn to the front bodice left side.**

11. Fit to doll to check each sleeve length and trim if needed. Make sure each sleeve is same length.
12. Position and pin each sleeve into the bodice armhole, starting with the center shoulder marks. Tack in place and fit to doll to check the line up of the sleeves. Make sure they are even to each other and can go over the hands.
13. Sew sleeve into armhole with whipping/ overcast stitch. Trim seam being careful not to cut stitches.
14. Again, fit coat bodice with sleeves to doll.



8. **CUFF TO SLEEVES:** Mark where cuff top (at cuff point) is to be pinned to the top of the sleeve and doll's hand. With right side of the cuff to lining side of sleeve pin and sew cuff to sleeve for each sleeve. Trim seams.
9. Sew lace trim to the sleeve lining at the point where the cuff meets the sleeve. This is positioned so that the lace shows at the doll's hand when the cuff is turned back.



15. **HOOKS & LOOPS & FINAL PRESS:** Sew 3 hooks and thread loops and give the costume a final pressing.



10. **SLEEVES TO COAT:** Verify the center shoulder point on each sleeve and the coat shoulder and mark. (This needs to be the center of the doll's shoulder not the shoulder seam that is off center.) Sew 3 to 4 gathers at the top of each sleeve with lining in place.

CONGRATULATIONS! Your doll has a lovely party costume just in time for the Paris party season.
jfh