

How to...

MAKE A VINTAGE STYLE SWIMSUIT

Step 1 With right sides together sew front and back bathing suit pieces together using the stretch stitch (which looks like 2 dashed lines vs. the single dashed line of the straight stitch) or zig zag stitch on your sewing machine.

Step 2 Place the crotch and crotch lining pieces upon one another and sew the ends together. Align the crotch piece to the front and back body of the suit and stitch closed.

Step 3 Preparing the gathered front inlay: With the longest stitch setting, you will sew 2 rows of long stitches between the * markings on the pattern. Begin the first row at the seam allowance (5/8") and again 1/4" away from the edge. Make sure that you leave at least 5 inches on the thread-tails, you will need them in the next step. Now you will have 4 thread-tails at either end of the top front piece. Tie the bottom 4 in a knot to avoid losing your gathers. From the top 4 threads, grab the 2 bobbin threads and begin to pull away while bunching the fabric. Continue this until you have gathered the fabric all the way to the bottom knot. Repeat on the other side. Make sure the material has been gathered enough by placing the pattern piece insert on top. Continue gathering until the top is the same size as the pattern insert and pin – making sure that the gathers are evenly distributed.

Step 4 Now it's time to sew the tab (which holds the gathered front piece down) and band (which wraps around the neck), these are both prepared in the same way. Fold each piece over and sew along the seam lines. To turn the tube inside out, attach a safety pin to on end of the tube and snake it through to the other end. Press.

Step 5 Next you'll place the gathered front piece, tab and body together, matching the notches and placing the tab onto the body, the frontgathered piece over the tab, then fold the tab around the front gathered piece to create a sandwich.

Step 6 Finally sew the band onto the suit. The closure is up to you, add length to the band and tie it as a halter top, or use an "S" ring, you can find at any notions shop.



Materials

1.25 yards of Lycra,

Bathing suit closure

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