

snuggle & play dress

by anna maria horner
for JANOME



Introducing the **Snuggle & Play Dress** inspired by my feisty, littlest girl, Mary Anna, who loves being able to get dressed by herself every morning. The ease and comfort of the stretch knit top of the dress makes it simple for her to pull over her head, and adding a little embroidery to the front allows her to tell which side is front and which side is back. Really, I feel so lucky that I get to play around with all of the embroideries in the Skyline S9, especially because I contributed an embroidery collection that is part of the machine's design library! So I am always thinking of ways to include a little bit of embroidery in my patchwork and garment sewing for myself and my family. I kept the rest of the assembly and shape of the dress easy to sew and comfy to wear, for a go-to pattern that will keep up with your growing girl! Enjoy & Happy Sewing, xoAnna Maria

MATERIALS

FABRIC

For the actual dress top, you only need about ½ yard or less of fabric, however having a little extra is good for hooping the material for embroidery.

- 3/4 yard interlock, jersey, or sweatshirt material
- 1 ½ yard woven print or yarn dye for skirt

NOTIONS & TOOLS

- 3/4 yard of lightweight stabilizer
- Marking tool like fabric chalk
- Machine embroidery thread in colors for design
- Iron & ironing board
- Cutting Tools, cutting mat
- Downloaded pattern, tape for joining
- Swedish Tracing paper (optional)

PREPARING FOR EMBROIDERY

(If you are new to Janome Embroidery, be sure to read the tips I've prepared for you to get started here: http://janome.com/siteassets/products/machines/embroidery/skyline-s9/amh.letter_emb_guide.pdf)

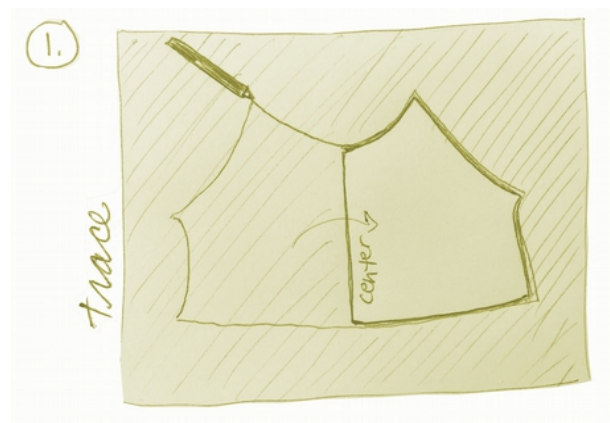
1. The **Bodice Front** pattern is only half the pattern (for cutting on fabric fold), and if you'd like to make it a full pattern, trace it (in desired size) onto Swedish tracing paper, by flipping at the fold line in mirror image. This full piece will help you mark out the area for embroidery. (See image (1) below.)
2. Using fabric chalk, mark the full pattern piece of the **Bodice Front** onto the **right** side of the dress top fabric, keeping all edges well away from cut fabric edge to allow enough excess border for hooping the design. Also mark the top and bottom center marks of the **Bodice Front**.
3. Separate inner and outer hoops. Layer stabilizer (in a size cut a little bigger than your hoop opening on all sides) onto the outer hoop first. Then layer fabric, marked side up, on top of stabilizer. You can loosely lay the inner hoop and clear grid overlay onto fabric now, keeping an eye on vertical and horizontal center markings of hoop and grid to place the marked fabric in the ideal position.

EMBROIDERY

1. After selecting your desired embroidery on screen, order your desired threads colors to complete the embroidery design. Keep in mind that you may want to choose colors that coordinate with the skirt fabric of the dress but make sure they still show up on the Bodice Fabric well.
2. After you've snapped and tightened hoops together and made sure fabric is smooth (not too tight), you can lock into position and begin stitching out the design, changing thread colors as necessary. Once complete, remove material from hoop and trim away excess stabilizer carefully from the back of stitching.

CUTTING

1. (Optional) After all patterns are printed if desired trace and transfer **Bodice Back** and **Sleeve** patterns onto Swedish tracing paper.
2. Center and cut one **Bodice Front** making sure the embroidery is positioned within it as desired.
3. Cut one **Bodice Back**.
4. Cut two **Sleeves** (opposite - or one **right** side, one **wrong** side) and mark front join edges.
5. Cut **Neck Band** in one of the following lengths depending on the size you are making and 2" wide. Be sure to cut on width (stretch) of fabric:
2y: 16" 3y: 17" 4y: 18" 5y: 18.5"
6. Cut two **Skirt** pieces in the following dimensions depending on what size dress you are making:
2y: 17" x 24" 3y: 18" x 25" 4y: 19" x 26" 5y: 20" x 27"



SEWING

1. With **right** sides together, align the front edge of each **Sleeve** piece to each sleeve edge of the Bodice Front and pin. Sew each **Sleeve** to **Bodice Front** using 1/2" seam allowance, press open.

2. With **right** sides together, align the back edge of each of the **Sleeves** to the sleeve edge of the **Bodice Back** and pin. Sew each **Sleeve** to **Bodice Back** using 1/2" seam allowance, press open.

3. To finish the underarm and side seam in one pass, align front to back with **right** sides together and **Sleeve** folded. Sew with 1/2" seam allowances making sure sleeve seams stay pressed open and are aligned under the arm. Making a pivot turn in your sewing with the needle down right at the sleeve intersection is helpful. Repeat on other side.

4. Clip out a notch of excess seam allowance in the side seam then press open for a neat finish.

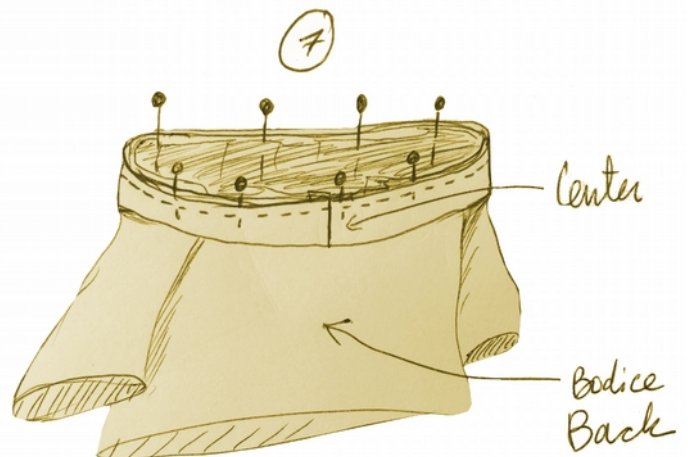
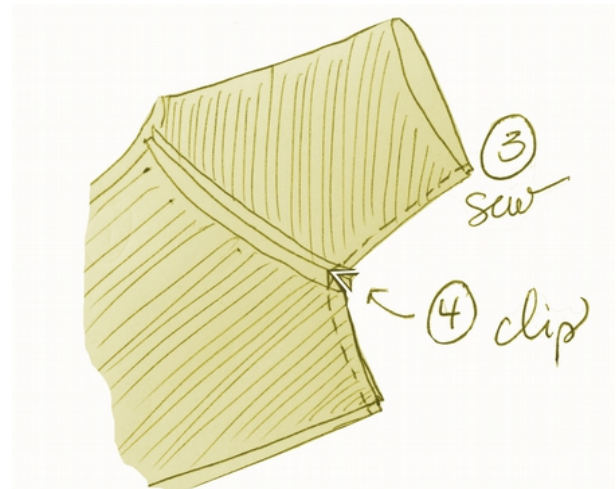
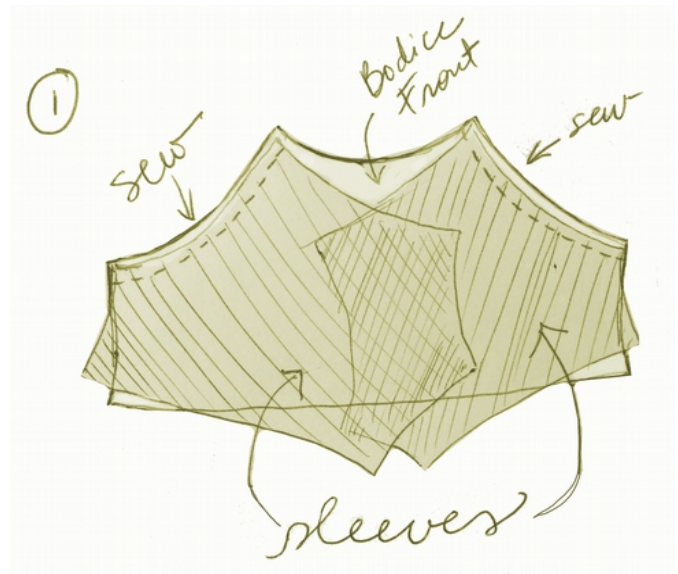
5. Fold the **Neck Band** lengthwise in half with **wrong** sides facing a press a crease. Now open crease and sew the two short ends together with **right** sides together and using a 1/2" seam allowance, making sure that the **Neck Band** is not twisted. Press this seam open and return it to being creased.

6. With **right** sides together, center the seam in **Neck Band** at the neckline back of **Bodice Back**. Ease and pin all the way around neckline, keeping cut edges of **Neck Band** aligned with neckline edge of **Bodice**.

7. Sew **Neck Band** in place all around using a 1/4 inch seam allowance. Press seam allowance towards **Bodice** and topstitch with a zigzag stitch all around if desired. Set aside

8. Sew two rows of basting stitches at the top edge of each of the **Skirt** pieces: one 3/8" away from edge; and the second 5/8" from the edge. Start and finish these basting rows with long thread tails and about an inch away from each of the side edges of **Skirt** pieces.

9. Tug on the pair of top threads on each end of the basting rows to gather up the a **Skirt** piece and reduce the width across the top until it is roughly the width of the **Bodice** width. Repeat on remaining **Skirt** piece.



ASSEMBLE & FINISH

1. Keeping basting threads free of your sewing, begin the French seams on each side of the **Skirt** pieces by first sewing them **WRONG** sides together using a scant 1/8" seam allowance. Do this from top to bottom of the **Skirt** pieces on both sides.

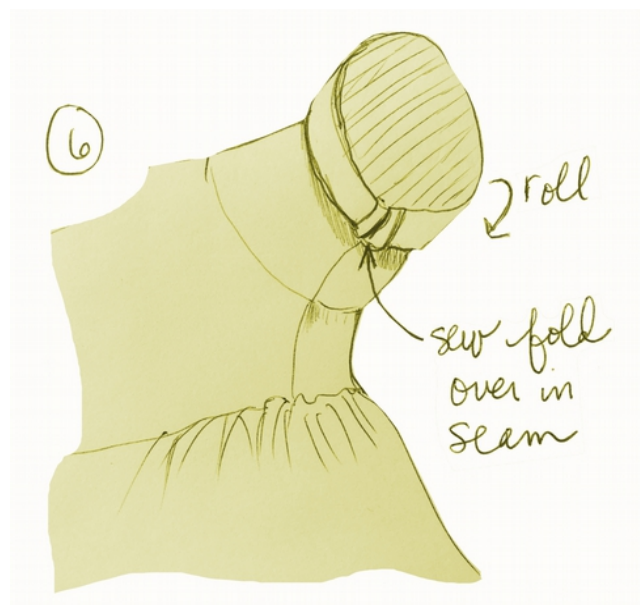
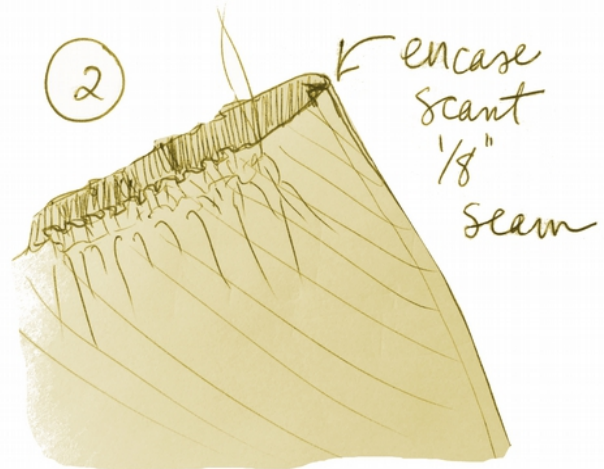
2. Flip the **Skirt** to be **wrong** side out (so that **right** sides are together), and fold to vertically on one side so that the seam you took is at the outer edge of fold, press if desired. Now sew the side seam using a healthy 1/4" or 3/8" seam so that you are encasing the raw edges from the previous seam. Do this on both sides of the **Skirt**.

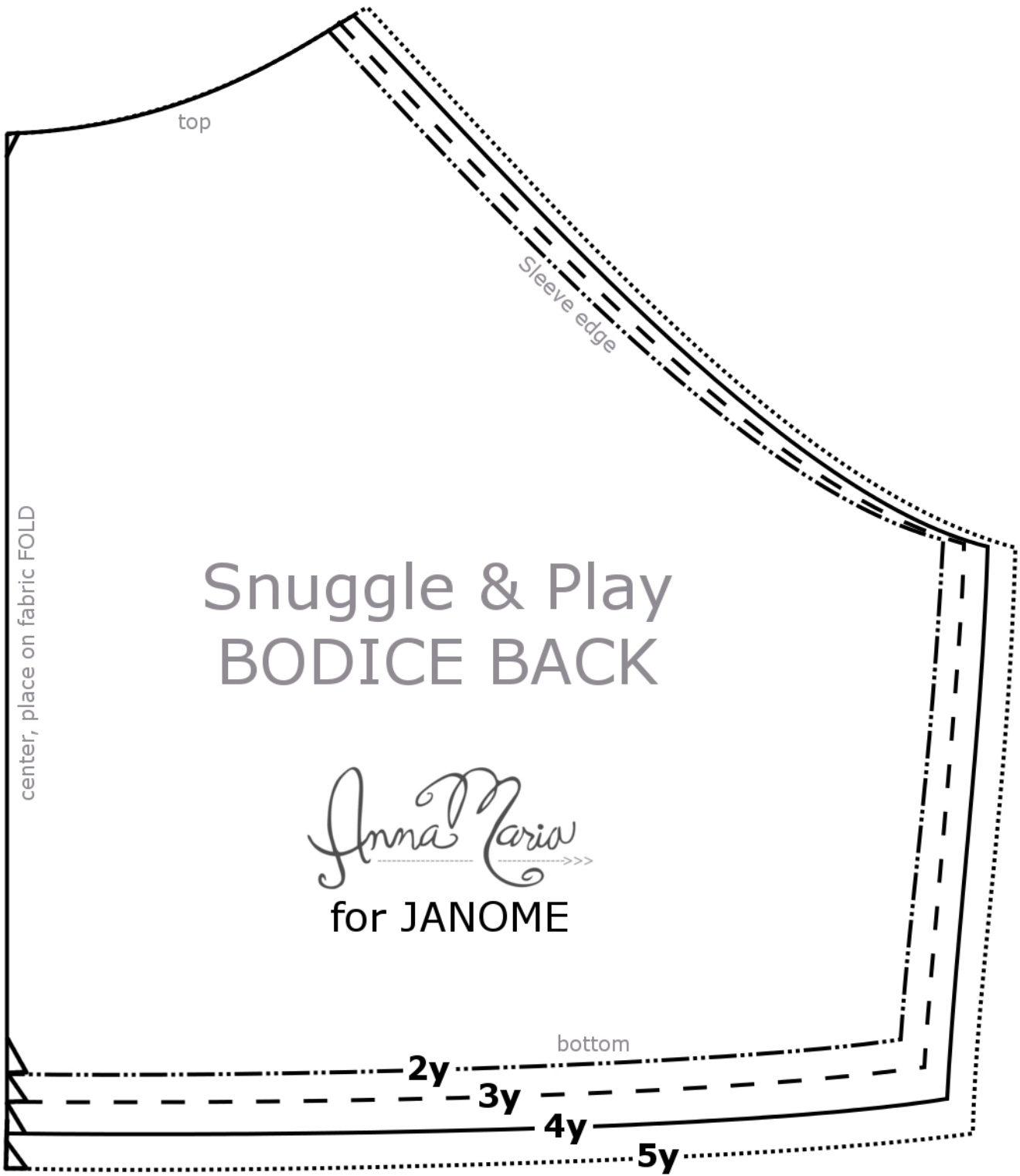
3. Create a rolled hem of 1/4" towards the **wrong** side all the way around the bottom perimeter of the **Skirt**. (Press a 1/4" creases first if you prefer.) Press well.

4. With **right** sides together you can now attach the bottom edge of the **Bodice** to the top edge of the **Skirt**. Make sure that when you pin the together that you are easing the gathers of the **Skirt** evenly and keeping in mind the knit bodice will give just a little as you sew. For this reason it is okay if the **Skirt** is gathered to be just slightly bigger than the **Bodice**. Use a 1/2" seam allowance for this seam, which will fall right between the basting rows. Once complete you can remove basting rows.

5. If desired, press seam allowance towards bodice and finish a zigzag topstitch through **Bodice** and seam allowance.

6. For the knit Sleeve finish, I simply rolled the cuff twice towards **right** side, and stitched in the ditch (the underarm seam) to tack the roll in place. The knit won't fray, so no need to finish edge. Enjoy!





top

Sleeve edge

center, place on fabric FOLD

Snuggle & Play BODICE BACK

Anna Maria

for JANOME

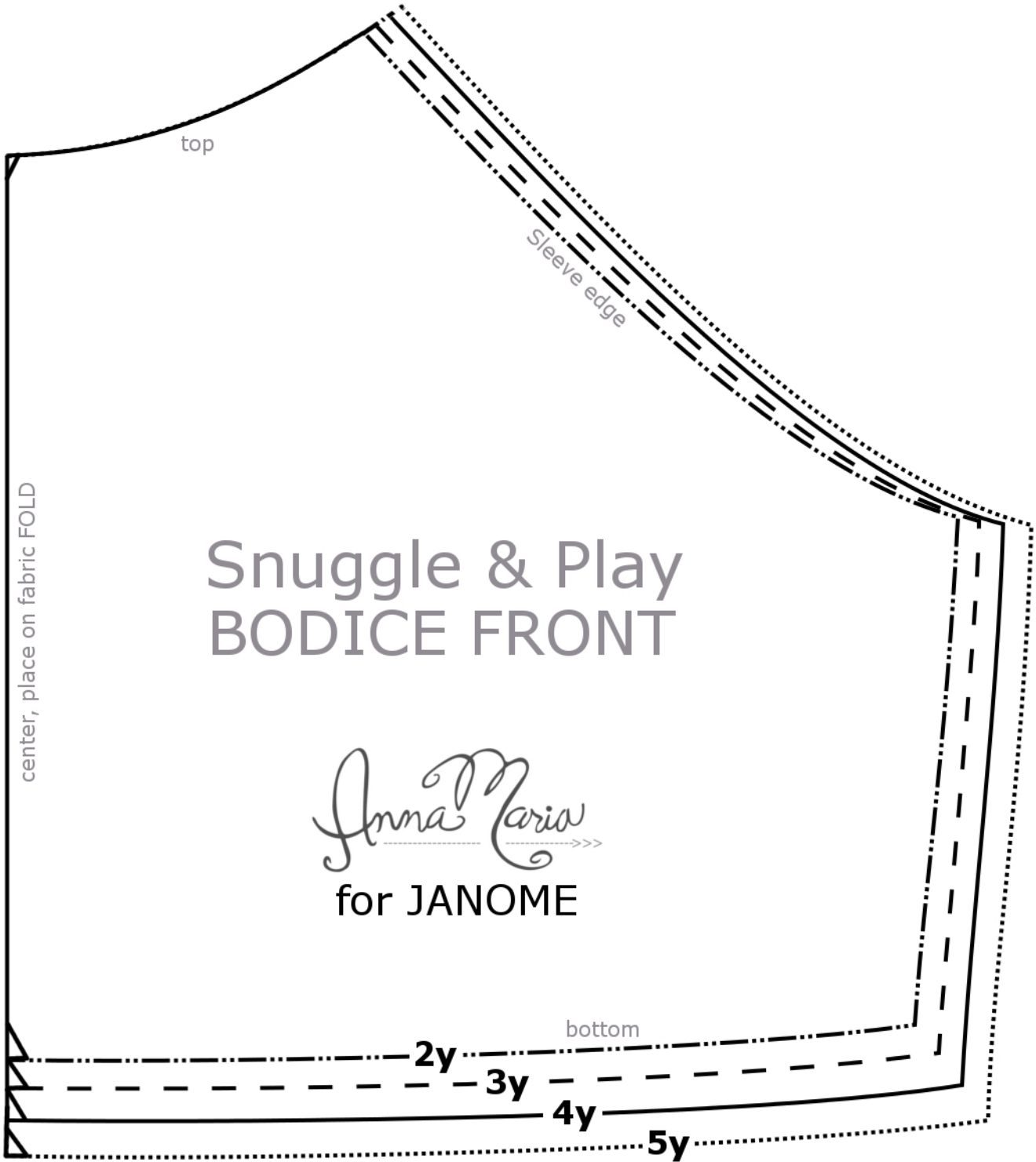
bottom

2y

3y

4y

5y



Snuggle & Play BODICE FRONT

Anna Maria >>>

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center, place on fabric FOLD

top

Sleeve edge

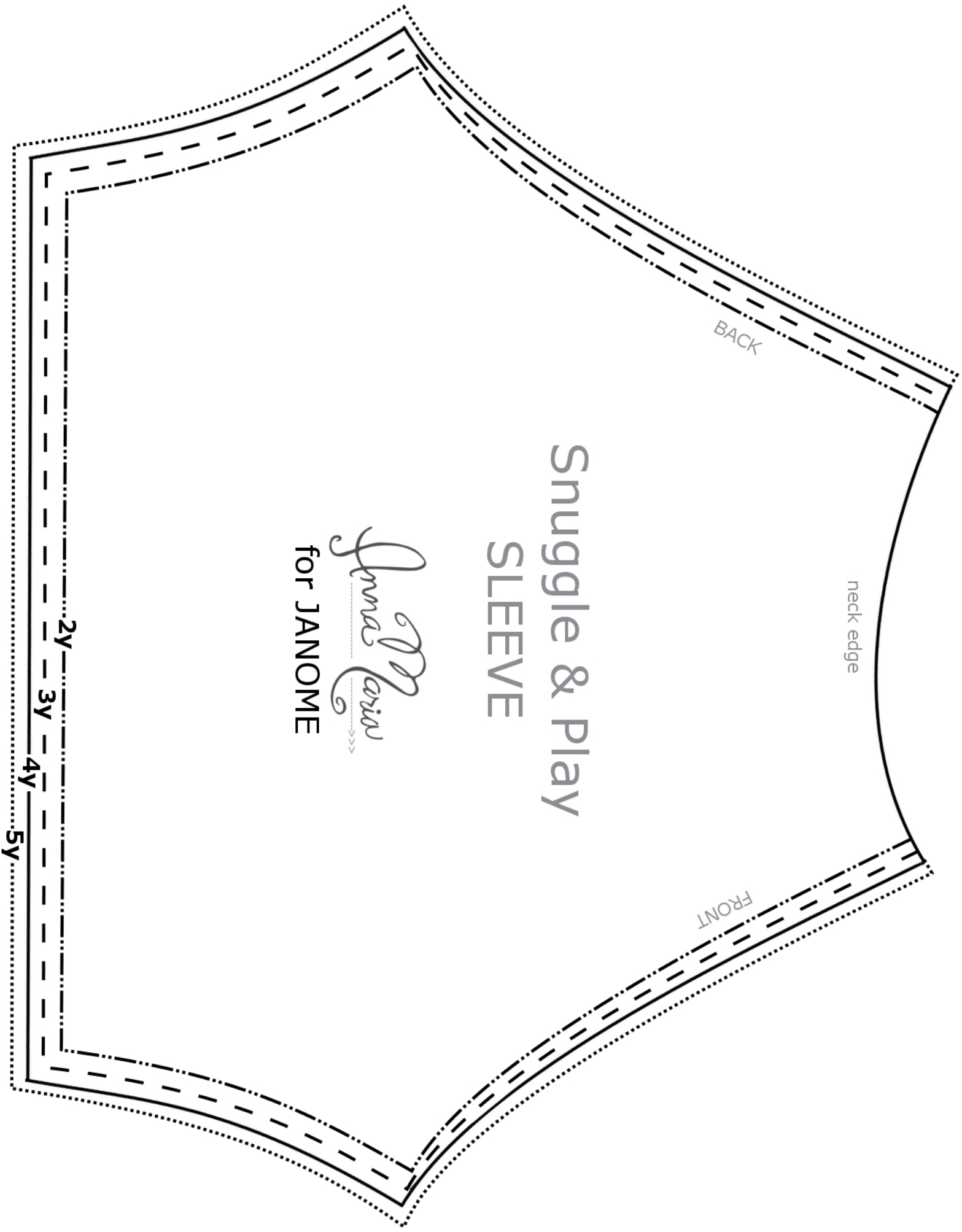
bottom

2y

3y

4y

5y



neck edge

BACK

FRONT

Snuggly & Play SLEEVE

Janice Paris
for JANOME

2y

3y

4y

5y