

## *Tankini for a Little Girl.*

### *Description:*

This tutorial is for Tankini bathing suit with a lined top.

### *Materials:*

½ Yard swimsuit material  
Matching thread  
½ Yard Swimsuit elastic  
Embellishments (optional but always fun!)

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Lets begin shall we?

First, find some swimsuit material. I've heard it is hard to find prints. I found mine at a fabric warehouse.



Next find a pair of well-fitting underpants for you child. You will use these as the base of your measurements for the bottoms.

Next, find bribe child to stand still for measurements.

Upper chest:	_____	B
Lower chest:	_____	
Shoulder to waist:	_____	
Desired top height to waist:	_____	A
Desired top height to underarm:	_____	
Underarm to waist:	_____	C

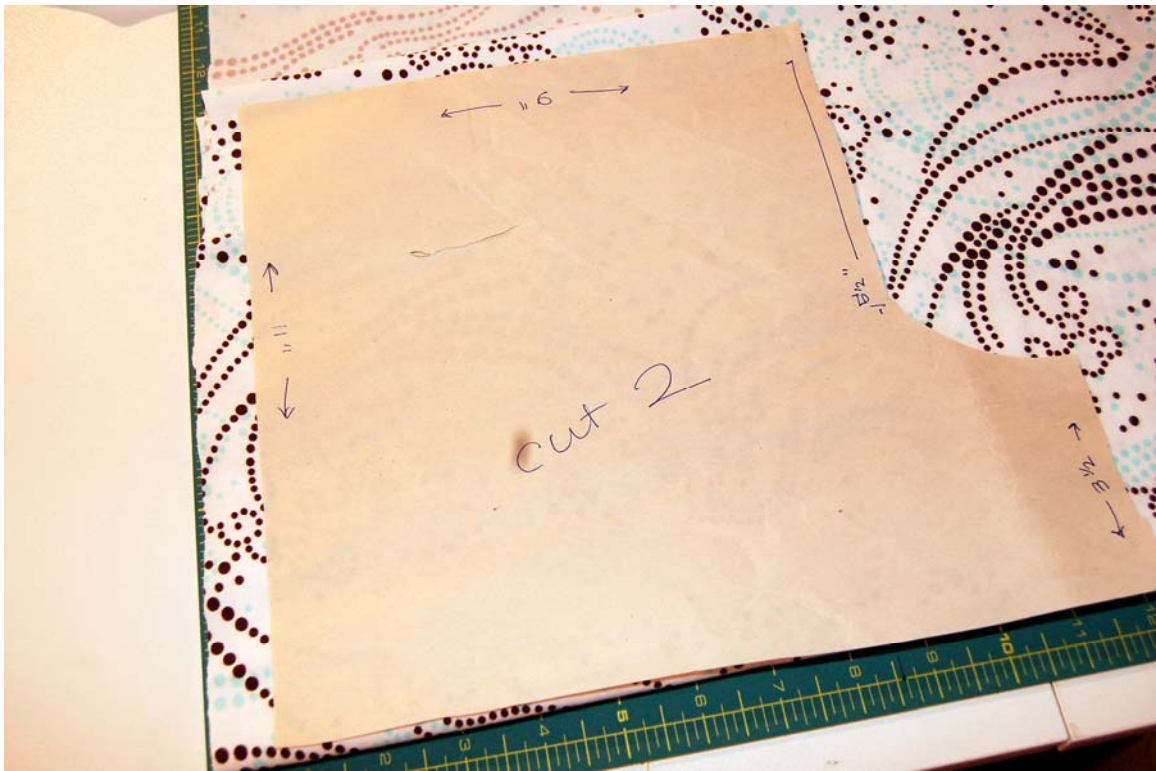
Now go steal some used paper from your child's large art tablet (reduce – reuse – recycle!) or some tracing paper to draw your pattern (if not using the art tablet paper, I use the tissue paper for presents as it is see through).

### The top pieces (cut 2):

The type of top is a halter top. You can make the top rounded or straight across. I chose straight across since it lays better once wet.

Take your measurements and draw up your bodice piece, which is all one piece – joined in the back.

The pattern will look like this:



Measurement A will be along the fold line plus  $1/2$  " for seam allowance. Measurement B is divided by 2 plus 1" for the seam allowance. Measurement C is the short side. I think cutting at around 6 inches across the top is plenty for 3T-4T, so make the shorter piece 3" and then curve down to the short side for the underarm. Measure your child and see how long you think that piece should be for the halter and then divide by two.

Next, cut it out.

If you want to embellish the top at all, do it now. I added a little crocheted flower I pick up along the way.



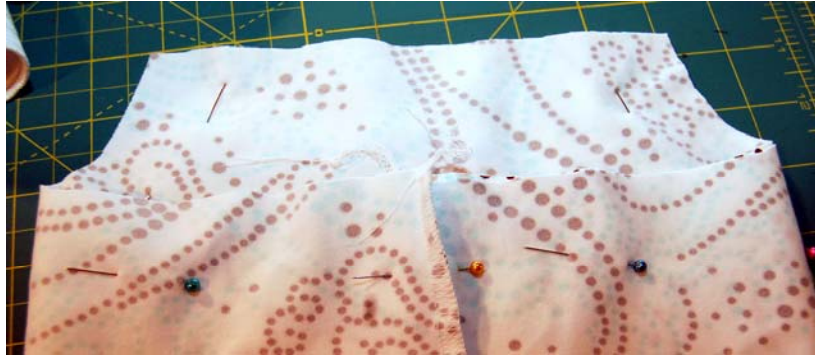
Now, put both your front pieces, right sides together and stitch up the back seam.



Now, turn one right side out, and place it inside the other. Both right sides will be facing each other. Pin the top seam from the side across the back, but not across the top.







Then, you'll need the halter straps, so cut a 20 – 25 inch long and 3 inch wide piece of fabric. Fold it over, right sides together, and stitch using a zig zag or serger. Next, using a pin and pull it right side out. Cut in two equal pieces.







Now, before you stitch it up the back seam on the top, you will need to place the straps in between the layers. I placed them on the outside to show you where they would go.

NOT like this...



LIKE this...



Now, stitch the seam up and then turn it right sides out.

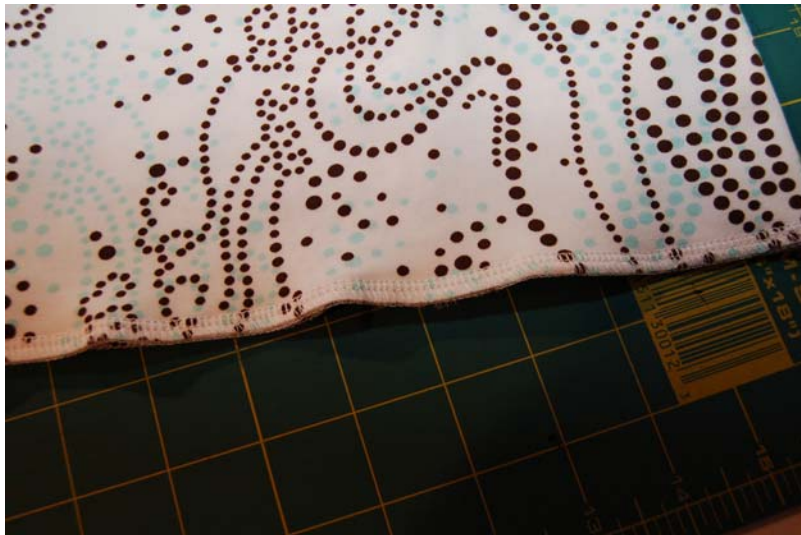
Now, you need to turn the top under about a ½” and place the straps at the corners. Adjust the length to suit the child. Use the measurements above to determine the appropriate length for shoulder to waist. Pin the seam up and sew.



All nice and pretty with the straps crossed in the back.



Now, for the bottom seam. With my serger, I just serge the bottom together. You could also finish it nicer by turning the bottom under a 1/2" and then top-stitching.





The bottoms:

I make the pattern in just one piece. Here is what it looks like, and you cut the long straight line on the fold. The back will be wider than the front. Use the underpants and measure the waistband on the front to the waistband on the back plus 2-3 inches depending on the width of your elastic.



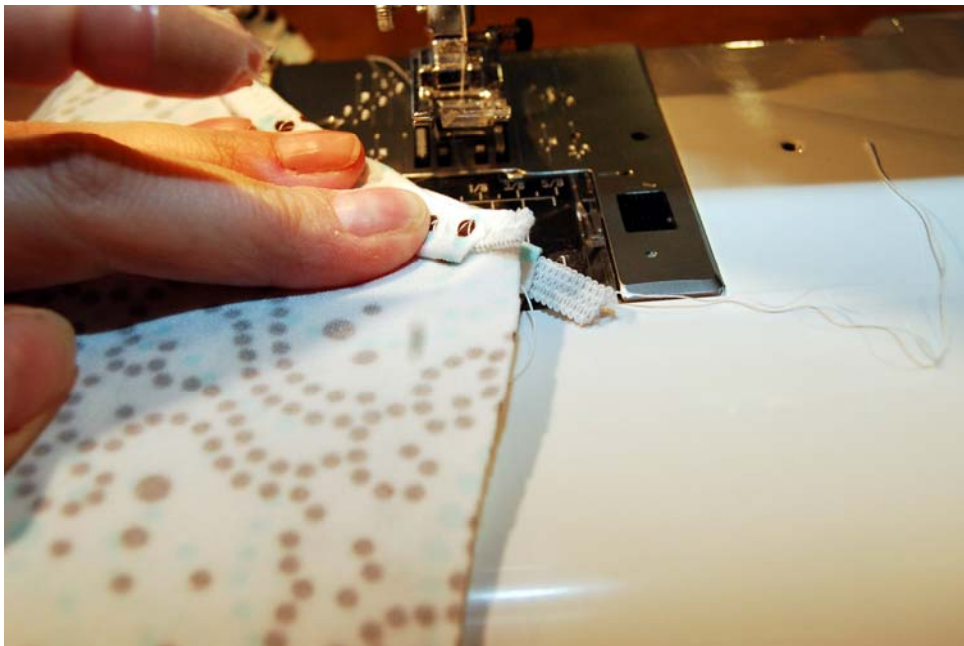
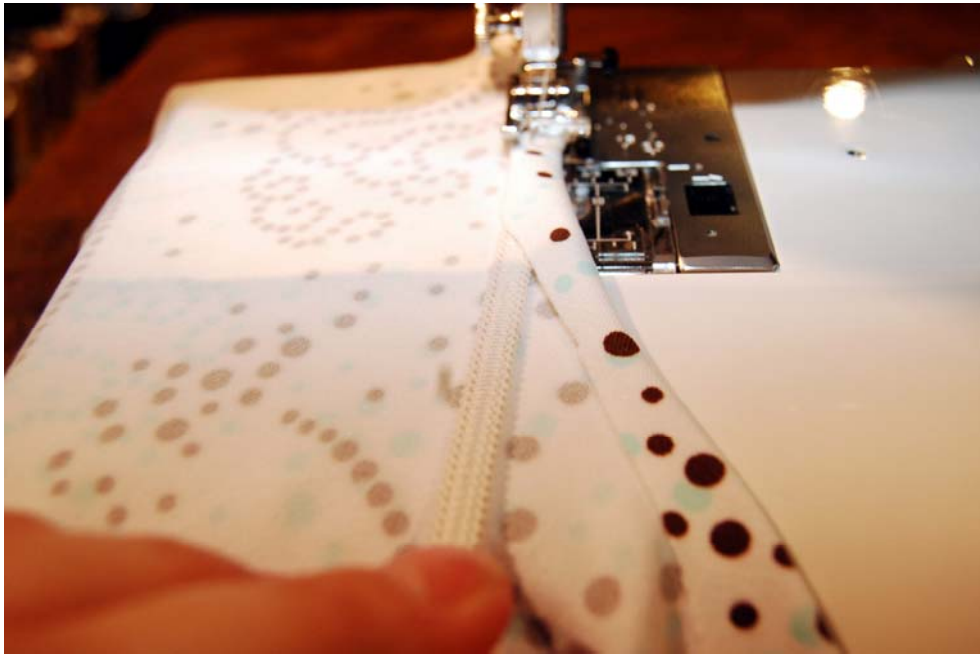
Next, cut your fabric on the fold.



The next step is putting elastic in the leg areas. Now you can do the side seams before doing this step, but it is easier to do it this way. It doesn't look quite as nice, but it is much less frustrating. I fold the elastic in a foldover seam and zigzag it straight on.



Anchor the elastic at the end and then start rolling the seam around the elastic. Pull the elastic gently as you sew it on. I usually don't cut a piece of elastic to fit, and just start it with the whole piece and cut it at the end of the seam.





Sew up the side seams and make sure to anchor the leg seams at the bottom by backstitching a few times.

Next is the elastic waist. Cut a piece 4 inches less than the child's waist and attach the ends together by zigzagging across it a few times. Next pin the elastic to the waist band in a fold over seam.



Now, sew the elastic onto the bottoms with a wide zigzag stitch.



All done with the bottoms!

....And the finished product...



\*if anyone has any suggestions to improve the pattern, please let me know. You can e-mail me at [stacy@thelandofka.com](mailto:stacy@thelandofka.com).