

Make Your Own

Nativity Costumes



The 'No Sew' Costume from
www.MakeYourOwnNativityCostumes.co.uk

Here are some very simple instructions on how to make a nativity costume, with NO SEWING required! The costume would be suitable for a Shepherd, Joseph, Inn Keeper, Traveller, Townsperson, Villager – you get the idea!

Good luck!

Lucy Jiwa

www.MakeYourOwnNativityCostumes.co.uk

www.WhileShepherdsWatched.co.uk

You Will Need:-

- **a piece of fabric approximately 150cm by 58cm.** Stripes are traditional, and cotton is great for not becoming 'static', and not making your actor too hot. However, polyester fleece can be great because it won't fray when cut!
- **a tie belt.** A thin piece of the fabric used for the tunic is ideal, must be at least 1m long and around 3cm wide. Alternatively an old tie, tie-belt from a dressing gown or coat, or a piece of rope could be used.
- **a clean tea towel or extra piece of tunic fabric.** Must be about the size of a tea towel, and cotton is best, as its less likely to slip off your child's head.
- **a headband.** Another old tie, or piece of elastic to hold the head dress on.
- **sharp scissors**
- **tape measure**
- **basic maths ability**

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1. Measuring

First step is to work out how large the costume needs to be. This will determine how much fabric you need, and will entail measuring your child.



Sadly, this requires them to stand STILL for a short while – I recommend getting them to stand up whilst watching the television, and then sneaking around with the tape measure.

If you don't have a tape measure, you can use a piece of string. You don't need exact measurements.

You need to measure how long the costume should be and how wide. So measure from the nape of the neck down to where the bottom edge will go. Can be knee level or longer, depends upon how much fabric you have.



Bear in mind that too long a costume can result in a child tripping over their costume, particularly if they'll have to climb steps up onto (or down from) a stage, or will have to sit down and stand up again.

You will also need to measure shoulder to shoulder.

2. Here comes the Maths...

Now you can calculate the size of the piece of fabric you need. You need to double the neck-to-hemline- measurement to give you the fabric length measurement.

Take the shoulder-to-shoulder measurement and add about 10" (25cm) to it to give you the fabric width measurement (it should be almost double).

There - that's the maths done!

For my model, I measured 80cm from neck to knee, and 33cm from shoulder to shoulder, so my Fabric measurements are length = 160cm and width = 58cm.

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3. Cutting Out



Ideally you will already have a long thin piece of fabric. Most fabric comes in widths around 150cm, so you may find yourself having to buy more fabric than you need in order to get the correct length measurement.

A top tip is to team up with another mum who has to provide a similar costume, and share the fabric.

An alternative is to use the width of the fabric as the vertical measurement of the costume. You may end up with horizontal stripes rather than vertical, but I shouldn't worry about that too much.

Trim all of the edges of the fabric so they are neat. If you've cut a piece from the width of the fabric, you'll have the selvedge as the front and back hem. These won't fray, so leave them on!

If you have any leftover fabric, you can cut a long thin strip for a belt. This needs to be at least 1m long, and around 3cm wide. If you have even more fabric left you can cut out a matching head dress as well. This needs to be around 62cm by 40cm.

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4. Cutting the Head Hole



Now you need to fold the long thin piece of fabric in half so you have a front and a back (fold where the shoulders and neckline will be).



Fold it in half the other way, so you are folding along what would be the centre front / centre back.



Now to cut out the neck hole.

On my example I cut around 11cm from the centre back towards the edge of the fabric. I started a couple of centimetres in, and angled the cut back up towards the shoulders.

The neck hole is always smaller than you think it needs to be, so start small, stand your model back in front of the television set again, and try it on.



If the neck hole is too small to go over their head, then cut a little bit further. Try on again. Repeat until you have a neck hole that fits snugly over your child's head.

It will fray a little as its worn, so it will become looser.

Nearly there!

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5. Final Touchs

As this is a 'no-sew' costume, your child will need to wear trousers or leggings, and a top or T-shirt underneath. Pop the costume over, and use a length of fabric, or a tie, or elastic or some rope to tie around their waist. I used just under 1m which is **just** long enough to be able to tie.



The tea-towel, or a matching piece of fabric if you had some left over, can just be put on their head and again use either a piece of fabric, a tie, or some elastic to hold in place.

Stand back and admire your hard work!

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