

Design Challenge



Extraordinaire: The Vampire Teen
Design Project: A Ceremonial Outfit

About the Extraordinaire

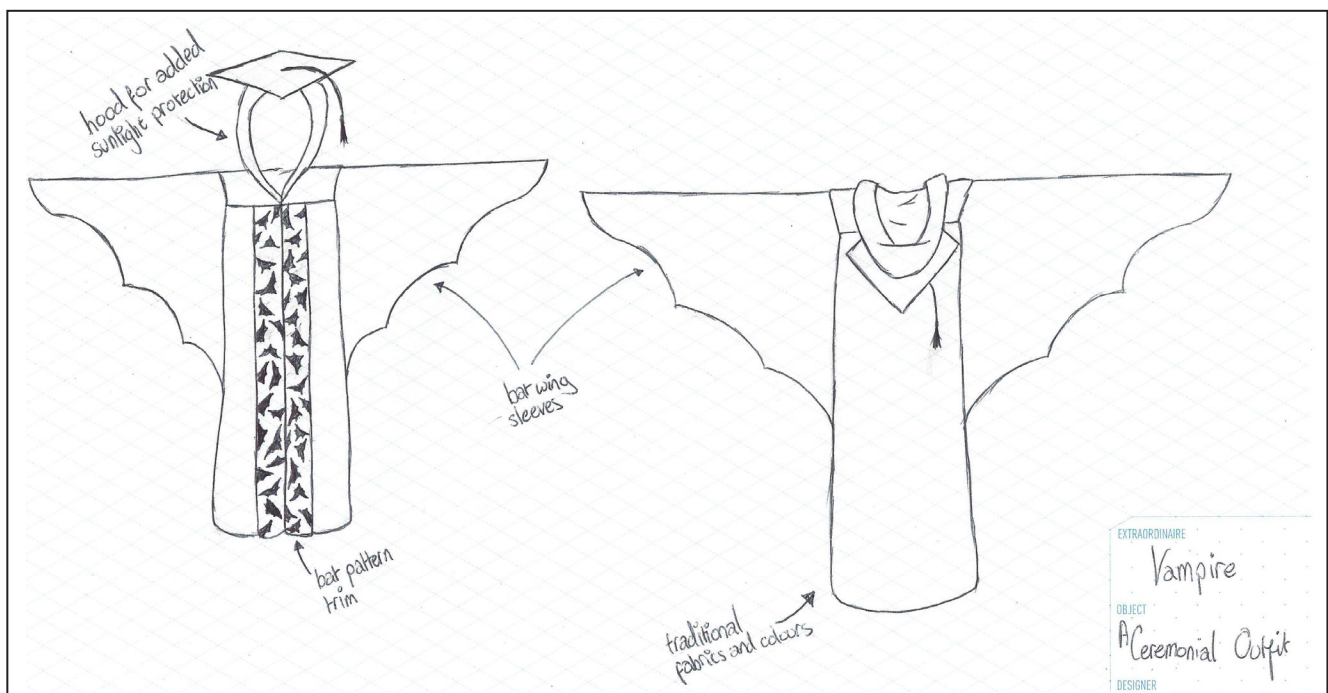
The Vampire is an Extraordinaire who has a great deal of trouble fitting in. At school, his 'different' appearance means many of the other students pick on him. During the day he has to be extremely careful about sunlight which can also make our Extraordinaire a target for bullying. Being a 200 year-old vampire in a teenager's body isn't easy, and because of his condition, he struggles to make human friends.

When The Vampire is at home during the day, he enjoys playing computer games. The Massively Multiplayer Online Games (MMOG) he plays give The Vampire an opportunity to connect with his friends, even if he doesn't have the option of going outside to see them.

During the night, The Vampire is at his most powerful. He runs through the city with his vampire friends, performing parkour and enjoying the freedom the night brings them.

Designs for The Vampire should aim to help with the severe consequences of his vampirism, while also remembering that The Vampire has his own style and preferences. Always use compassion and understanding to find design solutions that aim to accommodate the Extraordinaires rather than trying to change them.

Design Solution: The Vampire's Gown



Materials

- Half yard of Polyester fabric (for the exterior of the gown)
- Half yard of Cotton fabric (for the lining)
- Needles
- Thread (recommended colour to match the exterior fabric)
- Cardboard
- Fabric Glue
- Tailor's chalk
- Velcro
- Fabric Scissors
- A print out of the sewing pattern
- *Optional* : A 12 inch mannequin (or similar doll/action figure)

Procedure

1. The first step is to print and cut out the pieces of your pattern. This pattern is designed to fit a 12-inch manikin, no resize required.

Remember to use regular scissors, and not your fabric scissors to cut paper!

2. Take the shapes from your pattern and lay them out on your fabric. Draw around each shape individually using your chalk and cut them out. Make sure to leave roughly a half-inch of excess fabric around each shape. The excess fabric is called your seam allowance. Don't forget about it! This has to be done for both fabrics! The exceptions to this are the front pieces for the gown. Piece A and B are for the outside of the gown, and the other front piece is for the lining. There are small diagrams at the end of the instructions which show you all the pieces together, so if you feel lost, don't panic!

3. Starting with the exterior fabric, lay out the three shoulder pieces so that the front two shapes lie on top of the back. The chalk outlines should roughly line up, ignoring the "V" that the front pieces form. Pin and sew along the shortest edge of the front pieces.

When you pin fabric, try to make sure the pin is level along the chalk lines. By pinning the fabric, you're making sure that the fabric doesn't move out of place while you're sewing.

4. Fold the fabric back so that the stitching you did is against the table. This is now the outside of your gown. For this project, the seam, where the two pieces of fabric join, should face up while the seam allowance should face down. You can now fold your seam allowance under for the front "V" of your gown and sew, forming a hem.

A hem refers to a piece of fabric which has had the edge folded over once or twice and sewn. A hem creates a nice finishing edge for a piece of fabric which won't unravel. Don't forget the end of the fabric should be on the inside of the gown.

5. Moving onto the sleeves, make cuts along your seam allowance, perpendicular to your chalk outlines. These cuts should go almost up to your chalk lines and should be in the middle of the curves and where the "bat wing" shape becomes a point, leaving the longest edge as single piece of fabric.

6. Fold over the cut fabric, following the chalk outlines and sew, creating a hem. Once again, leave the long edge.

Make sure you do this for both sleeves!

7. Place down one of your sleeves, with the seam allowance on the table. Figure out roughly where the center is; line the center of the long edge up with the seam on the shoulder pieces. Flip the shoulder piece over so that the seam allowance is facing up, and line up the edge of the shoulder chalk outline with the sleeve chalk line. The shoulder piece should be on top of the sleeve piece completely. Pin and sew along your chalk line.

You have to do this with both sleeves, so remember, when you fold the fabric back over, the seam allowance should always be on the inside.

8. Moving on to the hood, take both pieces and place them back to back. You then need to pin and sew along the curve of the hood, leaving the other two edges as they are.

9. Once you have sewn the hood pieces together, pin and sew the hood to the back of the shoulder piece. Turn the hood inside out, so the seam allowance is inside the hood.

10. Next pin and sew the back piece on to the shoulder piece, ignoring the other sides for now.

11. For the front of the gown, take one pair of front pieces (A and B) and sew them together along the long edge. Do the same with the other pair.

At this point I also recommend sewing the hem on piece B. At the end, both B pieces should come together to form the front of the gown. Fold the edge of the fabric in, and then sew.

At this stage I used the excess fabric for the lining of my gown to make small bats and stick them onto the front of the gown using fabric glue, but you could create any pattern you want!

12. Once the front pieces of the gown have been sewn, you can sew them to the shoulder pieces. When you're doing this, make sure that the seam allowance faces the inside of the gown.

It's now time to sew your lining into the gown!

13. Taking up your pieces of lining and, just as you did in step 4, make cuts along the seam allowance of your sleeves. You then want to stitch the lining to your sleeve.

14. Repeat step 7 to get the lining of the hood. To attach it to the rest of the gown, make sure both hoods are inside out. Stitch together the hood pieces along the straight edge, and turn the entire hood inside out.

15. For the rest of the lining, repeat step 2 to create an identical shoulder piece. Similarly you want to attach the front and back lining pieces – following steps 9 and 11.

16. Sew the two back pieces together, so that the seam allowance ends up on the inside, between the lining and the exterior fabric, securing the hood in the process. You can then proceed to stitch each part of the lining to their respective parts, with the exception of the bottom of the gown.

17. As you sew together the rest of the lining and gown, fold the seam allowance for both back pieces in and stitch all the way up to the back piece, making sure the sleeve is between the lining and gown to secure it in place.

18. Stitch the lining of the sleeves together, from the base to the corner of the second arc. This should help to emphasise the “bat wing” shape.

19. Taking a piece of leftover lining fabric, cut out an oblong for your Velcro to attach too. Make sure there a small allowance at the end to glue the Velcro strip to the inside of the gown.

20. Now that your gown is mostly put together, roll the bottom of the gown up roughly quarter of an inch, folding under and sew to form a hem.

21. Finally it's time to make the hat. Take a 2.5 inch square of cardboard and, using fabric glue, cover it in a single piece of fabric (preferably the same fabric you used for the exterior of your gown).

One side of your square should be completely flat, while the other should have the pieces of fabric forming diagonal lines towards the center. Create this look by gluing the corner to the center and then folding over the excess.

22. To make a tassel, wrap thread around your fingers and cut in half to make lengths of thread the same length. Tie them together, and use fabric glue to attach this to a longer collection of threads. You can then use fabric glue to attach this to your square.

23. To finish, glue the hat to the hood.

The Vampire's Graduation Gown Sewing Pattern

