

The Ultimate Guide to Making Quick & Easy Dance Costumes

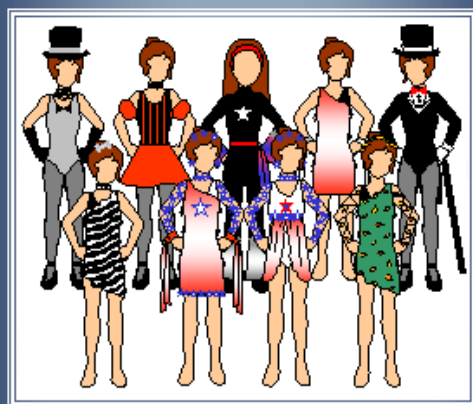
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Costumes

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The Ultimate Guide to...

MAKING QUICK & EASY DANCE COSTUMES



By Melissa Darnell

Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend



1). Start with a basic boat neck leotard in silver.

2). Measure the width of the dancer's back across the small of her back, from side seam to side seam (measurement #1) for the top seam of the half skirt.

3). Measure from the dancer's waist to the end of the curve of her backside for the side seam of the half skirt (measurement #2).

4). Measure from the dancer's waist to just above the back of her knees for the length of the half skirt (measurement #3).

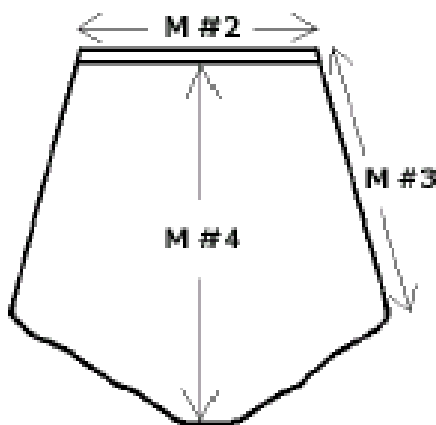
5). Choose a fabric that won't fray (see the Foreword section for a description of materials that do not fray), or you may choose to have a product called Fray Check on hand to prevent raveling along the edges of the material.

6). Cut the length of the skirt first using measurement #3, and immediately apply Fray Check to the cut edge and let dry. Repeat this process after each following cut.

7). Use measurement #2 to measure the length of the top of the half skirt. Mark off the ends of this measurement using straight pins.

8). From each pin, use measurement #3 to measure off each side of the skirt, flaring out to the sides a little for each one. Mark the end of each side with a straight pin, then cut each side.

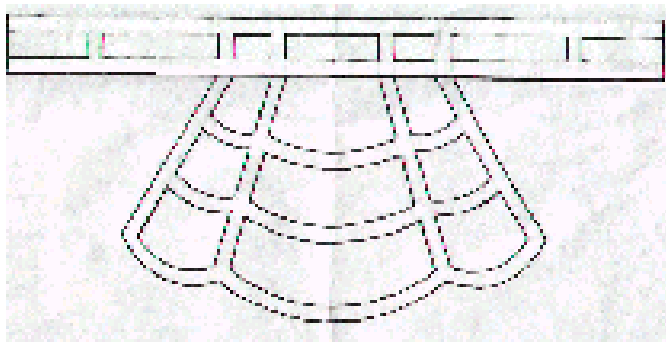
9). Fold the skirt in half lengthwise to find the middle of the top and bottom edges of the skirt. Use a straight pin to mark off the center of the bottom edge, then lay the skirt out flat once more. Cut from the end of each side of the skirt down to the center point of the bottom edge.



10). To attach the skirt for performances, simply use safety pins to pin the top edge of the skirt to the back of the dancer's leotard.

11). Another great addition to this costume is the black sequined bow tie that's pinned at the front of the leotard's neckline. To make, simply use two large triangles of black felt, then cover the front side of each triangle with black sequins using fabric glue. Let dry, then use two safety pins per triangle to pin the triangles in a bowtie shape along the leotard's neckline.

12). Diamond necklaces look stunning on anyone, and really give this costume sparkle! Make your own faux diamond necklace using the pattern below. Simply measure the circumference of the dancer's neck and add one inch, then enlarge the pattern on a copying machine until the top of the necklace pattern matches this measurement.



Cut out your enlarged pattern, then cut out all the inside shapes. Then trace around it onto black craft foam and cutout your foam necklace base. Add Velcro to each end of the foam necklace to hold it around the dancer's neck. Then cover the remaining areas with silver or white rhinestones using strong craft glue or hot glue. Leave a tiny amount of space in between each rhinestone to allow the necklace to curve around the dancer's neck. Let dry completely before trying it on. You can use a half-inch wide length of the same black craft foam and rhinestones to make a matching bracelet as well. Simply measure the dancer's wrist, add one inch to this length, and cut a half-inch wide length of craft foam. Apply a $\frac{1}{4}$ " of Velcro to each end, cover the outside with silver or white rhinestones, then wrap around the dancer's wrist over the black gloves and overlap the Velcro ends to secure.

13). The last item you can make for this costume is the silver topped cane. Just spray paint a length of half-inch or quarter-inch round dowel black, including both ends. Let dry, then paint the top three inches of the cane silver. Or, for extra sparkle, dip the top three inches of the cane into craft glue, then dip into silver glitter. Let dry, and your dancer is ready to

use this "dapper-looking" prop as a great element in her choreography!

14). To complete the entire look for this costume, have the dancer put her hair up in a ponytail and pin on a black plastic top hat. Add black fishnet hose, a pair of long black gloves, and black low-heeled dance shoes, and you've got the Moulin Rouge look!

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