

## Tools of the Trade

Once you have sketched out a few ideas, it's time to experiment with real fabrics, trims and accessories. Take a moment to review the supplies you will be using.

**Sketchbook**  
Sketch your own original designs or add details to the different styles of dresses provided.



**Dressmakers Pencil**

Use your colored pencils to lightly mark your fabric or add details to your sketchbook. These marks will show you where to cut, pin and sew your fabric.



**Dressmakers Mannequin**

A mannequin is a working model used by designers and seamstresses. Each piece of the dress may be tried on the mannequin first to assure a perfect fit. Real mannequins can be adjusted to several different dress sizes.



**Trims**

Use the trims to embellish your dresses and add extra sparkle.



**Fabrics**

Add details to the satin dress and create your own original couture with the fabrics. Overlap a sheer fabric on top of a solid to create a layered effect.



**Swatch Booklet**

This sample selection is used by designers to help them choose the right color and style of fabrics to go with their designs. Look at these fabrics and think about your own dress designs. Try sketching some of these fabric designs onto your dress outlines.



**Thimble**

Usually worn on your thumb or forefinger. It protects your fingers as you push and pull the sewing needle through your fabric.



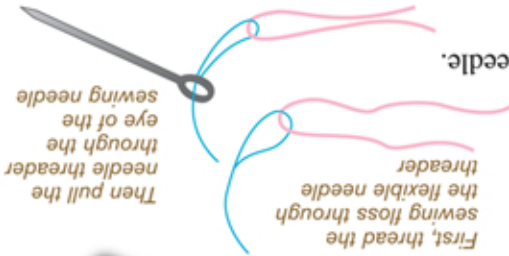
**Tape Measure**

This is a must-have tool for getting accurate body measurements. You can also use it to measure your trims and fabrics.



**Needle Threader**

Use this to help thread your sewing needle.



**Tiara**

We have included two silver tiaras. You can use them as is, attach trims or add on a tulle fabric veil. If you need to adjust the size, the metal can be gently bent to fit the mannequin or a small doll.



## Sample Dress

We have included a simple satin dress to get you started. Use the fabrics, trims and accessories to turn this basic dress into the dress of your dreams. Get creative by cutting, stitching, and gluing the trims, fabrics and accessories onto the dress. If you need design ideas, check out the photos and illustrations on the box. Once you have finished your dress, you can display it on the mannequin when not in use. -It might even fit one of your favorite dolls.

Ages 9 to 99

Designed By You

## Special Occasion Fashions

Real Fabrics Real Fashion Real Fun

From proms to wedding dresses, with this ultimate set, you can experiment with beautiful trims, fabrics and embellishments and design your own formal fashions. We even include a velvet bag to store all your tools and supplies.

Important – since the focus of this kit is on fashion design, we will just touch upon a few sewing basics. If you would like to learn more about pattern making and sewing techniques, check with your school or local fabric store. Many offer sewing classes for beginners.

### Safety First

Please work carefully. Your set includes real scissors, sewing needles and pins. Place the pins and needles in your pincushion when not in use. Keep out of the reach of small children and pets. Adult supervision is recommended.

## Where do I begin

Most fashion designers work as part of a team. Some designers work on sketching out the designs, while others may select the fabrics or make patterns. Skilled seamstresses and tailors work with the design team to sew the samples. Once the samples are approved a team of seamstresses work to make the final dress designs. Gather your pencils, sketch book and ideas –it's time to begin.



## Debut your Designs

When you are all finished, gather your designs and sketches and then invite your friends and family to your dress debut.



Visit your local toy retailer to see more Creativity for Kids® kits.

Designed By You Special Occasion Fashions #1257

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**WARNING:**  
FUNCTIONAL SHARP POINT/EDGE



# Dream it Draw it Design it

Inside your sketchbook you will find several formal dress styles to get you started. We also provide plenty of blank pages so you can experiment with your own unique creations.

Use the pencils included in your set to add in the dress details like sequins, lace, flowers, ruffles, bows -whatever. You can also look through prom, bridal and fashion magazines for ideas.

Once you sketch out your ideas you can start working with the fabrics and trims included with your kit.



*A-Line* – Like the letter “A” this dress is narrow on the top and then flows out into the shape of a triangle.



*Asymmetrical* – This style features a change in height from one side of the body to the other.



*Ball Gown* – If you want to feel like a fairy princess, this dress is for you. A tightly fitted waist is complimented by a very full skirt.



*Basque Waist* – This dress features an elongated triangle that falls beneath your own natural waistline.



*Drop Waist* – The waistline of this dress falls several inches below your natural waistline. This is a flattering style if you want to elongate your torso.



*Empire* – This dress features a high-waisted seam that falls just below the bust line.



*Halter* – This style features straps that wrap around the neck and then finishes with an open back.



*Mermaid* – Similar to a mermaid's tail, this dress features a slim skirt that hugs the hips and then flares out below the knee.



*Sheath* – This classic style features a slim profile that closely follows the outline of the body.



*Tiered* – This dress features a skirt made up of many layers of fabric.

## From Paper to Fabric

Now it's time to experiment with all the fun fabrics and accessories included in your kit and create your own special occasion fashions.

*Helpful Hint* – to reuse your fabric, you can just pin your designs onto the mannequin. This way you can change your designs over and over. If you want to sew it, lightly stitch or baste it in place so that you can easily remove it from your mannequin when you are finished.

As you experiment with the fabrics and embellishments, here are a few basics for you to know:

**Draping** - Designers use this technique when they want to see the look and feel of the fabric. Wrap the fabric around the mannequin and pin it in place. If you want to add trims, glue or lightly stitch them to your fabric.

**Basting** - This loose running stitch is often used to hold the fabric in position.

**Appliqué** - Often made of lace or ribbon, these cut out patterns and pieces are used over plain fabric to add detail and glamour.

**Embellishment** - These are the finishing details that make your designs special and unique. Use the trims, glitter glue, rhinestones, bows and flowers to transform your designs into extraordinary fashions. If the edges of your fabric are fraying, use the glitter glue to seal the edge and add a touch of sparkle.

If you need more fabric, you can purchase inexpensive remnants at most fabric stores. You can also recycle clothes that no longer fit –just be sure to ask adult permission before cutting.