Angel-Wing Wee Care™ Gown
Written for SAGANews by Kristine Curtis
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This angel-wing baby gown was designed by Terri Kilgore of Tucson, Arizona. Terry has been in charge of the Wee Care™ program for the Cactus Cablers for more than 18 years. She designed this style of gown in response to requests from hospital nursery workers for an easy access garment. The ribbon strung through the neckline smocking allows for an adjustable neck size within the three different gown sizes and the open sides of the gown allow easy access to baby’s arms and chest. This gown is easy to pleat and construct. Terri donated the design to SAGA to encourage fellow smockers to participate in the Wee Care™ program.

Materials:

Batiste, voile, or fine fabric:
- Large – 40” wide by 12” long (3 gowns from 1 yard)
- Medium – 37” wide by 10” long (3 gowns from 1 yard with 6” scrap)
- Small – 31” wide by 9” long (4 gowns from 1 yard)

Cotton lace edging or trim: ¼” - ¾” width (nylon lace is too scratchy for preemie skin)
- Large – 1 ¾ yds; Medium – 1 ½ yds; Small – 1 1/4 yds

Embroidery floss (your choice of colour(s))

Ribbon: 1/8” -1/4” width: ½ yd – 1 yd depending on size of gown

Construction:
Copy the pattern. You will need to increase the size of the pattern by 190% on a photocopy machine to obtain the correct size pattern. (Note: You will need to copy the pattern in two halves and tape them together to achieve the full size pattern).

Trace off the size pattern you wish to make from the enlarged copy.

- Cut one piece from fabric with pattern, placing the indicated side to the fold.
- Apply lace or trim to lower edges, gathering slightly around curves. A different edge finish such as shell stitch, serging, or satin stitch may be used.
- Turn and press under 1 inch at neck edge.
- Begin pleating ¼” from fold at the neck edge (this will be your first row of smocking; there is no holding row at the top edge).
  - Large – pleat 8 half space rows
  - Medium – pleat 8 half space rows
  - Small – pleat 6 to 8 half space rows
- Smock top row with a baby wave. Narrow ribbon will run under this wave and used to pull up gown. (You may find it easier to lay the ribbon on the fabric and smock over it to ensure your baby wave is deep enough).
- Smock the remaining rows with a design of your choice.
- Remove gathering threads.
- Narrow hem back edges.
- Thread narrow ribbon through top smocking row (baby wave) and tie in the back.
- Donate to your local SAGA chapter or take it with you to Convention to donate.