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Distinctive Sewing Supplies
www.distinctivesewing.com
info@distinctivesewing.com

Trade Show Update—October 2005

Creative Sewing & Needlework Festival—Toronto

Canada's largest show for sewing enthusiasts takes place on **October 13 through 16 2005**. Held at the Metro Convention Centre in **Toronto**, it promises to be four fun-packed days of workshops, shows and shopping.

Distinctive Sewing Supplies (DSS) will be at the show. You may visit us at **Booth No. 716** or attend one of our daily shows on the main fashion runway. Show times are Thursday, 2:45 pm, Friday 11:45 am, Saturday 4:15 pm and Sunday 2:00 pm.

We are planning a special surprise for Festival attendees. A selection from The Batik Butik's newest designs

promise to be a big hit. Two new crinkle rayons dyed using the "corona" hand manipulation technique will be introduced.

And there will be a guest appearance by Barb Alexander, owner and founder of The Batik Butik. This is a fashion sewing event not to be missed!

We have a limited supply of one and two-day Festival tickets for sale through our website. Festival brochures with all activities and classes are provided with each ticket purchased.

For more information about the Festival contact us at info@distinctivesewing.com or visit www.csnf.com.

Inspirations Needlecraft Show—Ottawa

A show designed for anyone interested in needlecrafts, it takes place on October 28 and 29, 2005 in Ottawa, Ontario.

Customers are welcome to visit us at our Booth No. 25 and to attend our trunk show which will be taking place on the fashion runway both days at 10:00 am.

Some items that we will be featuring at the Ottawa show include the new fall batik rayon fabrics from The Batik Butik, the Bali Collection patterns, and Petite Plus Patterns by Kathleen Cheetham.

If you are not able to make either trade show, you can always order online from us

Secure Online Order Form—Now Up!

DSS has implemented a new secure online order form. This form creates a 128 bit encrypted order. That means that you can submit your credit card payment information online, avoiding the need for a separate telephone call from

us. This will result in faster processing of your order. If you would still like to be called for your payment information, we are happy to do so.

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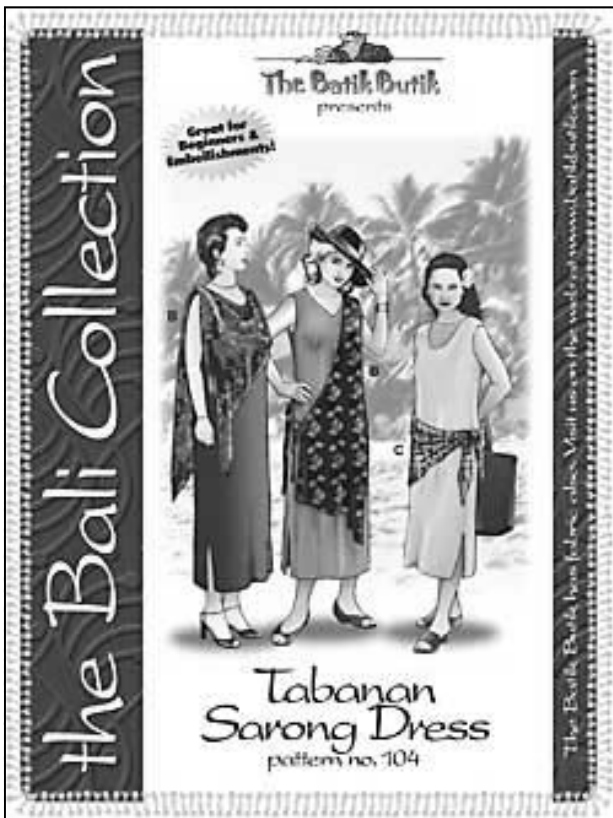
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The Tabanan Sarong Dress—A versatile garment.

About the Bali Collection

The Tabanan Sarong Dress is pattern No. 104 in the Bali Collection series from The Batik Butik. This pattern is based on a design created by a Bali-



nese woman named Frida who works at the family-owned business that produces the handmade batik rayon that The Batik Butik is so famous for. Frida sold the rights to her design to The Batik Butik and the pattern was professionally graded by fit expert and pattern designer Kathleen Cheetham of Petite Patterns Plus.

The Batik Butik is a member of the Independent Pattern Company Alliance (IPCA), ensuring quality in pattern pro-

duction. The Independent Pattern Company Alliance (IPCA) is made up of Independent Fashion Pattern companies who have joined forces to increase awareness of quality independent pattern companies. The goal is to support each other by developing and implementing marketing plans that produce a greater presence for their products in both the retail and wholesale fashion sewing market, and set the standard for Independent Pattern Companies. Patterns must be of high quality and include all of the following:

1. Professional packaging
2. Professionally drafted
3. Professionally graded when appropriate
4. Thorough well written and illustrated instruction sheets.

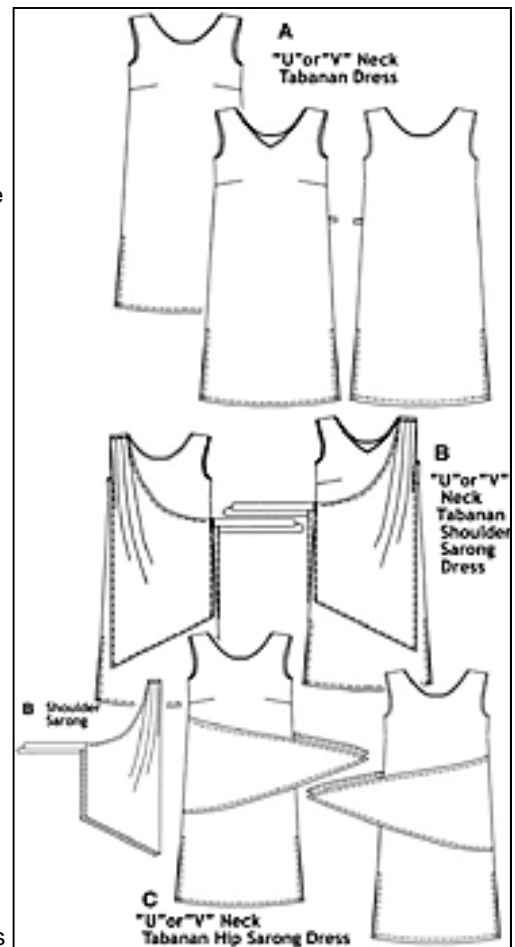
The Bali Collection patterns are multi-sized from XS-XXXL. #101, 102 & 103 are "beginner friendly". And for experienced sewers these patterns offer the possibility of quick, comfortable garments they can either embellish or let the fabric speak for itself. Thorough guide sheets encourage beginner or novice sewers with abundant illustrations, while Zeke (the gecko mascot) provides tips for success with his own style of humor.

Simply Beautiful

The beauty of The Tabanan Sarong Dress is in its simplicity. There are no

zippers, interfacing or facings. The basic slightly A-line shape is perfect for drapey, figure skimming fabrics.

Bust darts add shape where it's needed and there are two neckline options; a gentle V or scoop. Both the neckline and sleeveless armholes are bound with self-fabric bias strips. For walking ease and style, side slits are located at



the bottom of the dress.

Sleeveless tank styles sometimes come with gap problems around the armhole. However, this pattern seems to have

The Tabanan Dress continued...

that problem licked, at least for standard size B/C cup women. Others might want to either tissue fit or make a bodice muslin before cutting into the fashion fabric.

The Sarong Options

Two sarong options add to the versatility of the Tabanan Dress; a hip sarong and a shoulder sarong.

The hip sarong is sewn into the left side seam of the dress eliminating slippage problems normally associated with sarongs. A fabric loop on the right side seam anchors the tie end keeping the whole thing in place. These design elements make the style very wearable. (Have you ever sewn a "stylish" garment only to find that you are forever pulling and adjusting it, making the wearing experience a frustrating one? You won't have that happening with the Tabanan Sarong Dress.)

The shoulder sarong is separate from the dress and is attached by buttons (or Velcro if you prefer) at the left shoulder. The sarong drapes across the torso ending with a tie at the right hip. For a different look the ties can be lifted to the right shoulder. Because the shoulder sarong is completely detachable, you can wear your Tabanan Dress alone; with the sarong tied at the hip; with the sarong tied at the shoulder or,

make another sarong in a different fabric. Switching to a glittering sarong will quickly turn your dress into an evening outfit!

Unleashing Creativity

The advantage of this pattern is its suitability for creativity. Lots of embellishment ideas are included with the pattern



instructions and here are a few for your consideration:

1. *Designer Look:* Use coordinating fabrics such as those available from The Batik Butik.
2. *Quick Change Artist:* Make the dress in a neutral colour such as black, and sew up several shoulder

sarongs in daytime and evening fabrics.

3. *Get Coordinated:* Cut the bias strips for the neckline and armhole out of the same (coordinating) fabric as the sarong .
4. *Gypsy Touch:* Sew dangling shell buttons or other trim along the bottom of the hip sarong.
5. *Tank Top:* Shorten the dress to hip length. Include shorter slits at both sides for style and wearing ease.
6. *Jazz It Up:* Add embroidery, stencils, stamps or beads to your sarong fabric.
7. *French Connection:* When you are comfortable with the sizing of your dress, French side seams are great for a totally clean finish inside.
8. *Top It Off:* Use leftover fabric scraps to piece together a scarf and tie it around a wide brimmed straw hat.

In Summary

It's the quality drafting and grading that help ensure that this pat-

tern results in a comfortable, wearable and flattering garment. With the right fabric and many options available, this is a sure to be a wardrobe favourite. ❖

I base my fashion taste on what doesn't itch. *Gilda Radner*

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