

**Women's Traditional Dress:**

Chickasaw dresses are made from a cotton or cotton/polyester blend. Traditionally, dresses were worn as a loose, one-piece dress gathered at the waist with an apron and belt. The length should sit at or slightly above the ankle. The additional dress features include, round yokes at the neck and a large ruffle at the bottom of the skirt. Sleeves of the dress can be open or gathered with a ruffle at the end, depending on preference. Chickasaw dresses include two different colored rows of ribbon at the yoke and the ruffle of the skirt. Ribbons may also be added to the sleeve.

**How to make a traditional dress:****Supplies needed:**

Simplicity pattern 9012 (dress)

Fabric: cotton, cotton/polyester blend

Yards: large size-6 yards, average adult size-5 yards

Notions: thread, elastic

Ribbon: 2 colors, 10 yards each

Simplicity pattern 3544 (apron)

Apron: 2 yards

**Chickasaw color representation:**

Yellow- new life/summertime

Green-growth/spring

Red-wisdom/fall

White-elders/wise and powerful/winter

**Step 1:** Begin with Simplicity pattern 9012. This will serve as the basic bodice of the dress.

**Step 2:** From the basic design of the pattern, add a six-inch ruffle to the yoke. For the ruffle on the yoke, cut two strips of six-inch fabric from fold to the side of material. Sew the two ends together and sew ribbons on the edges. Gather at the opposite end to sew to the yoke.

**Step 3:** Add a four and one-half inch ruffle to the bottom of the dress. Make the length hit just slightly above floor level.

**Step 4:** To complete the dress, add ribbon to the outer edge of the collar, the outer edge of the bottom ruffle and the cuff of the sleeves.

**Apron:**

Begin with Simplicity pattern 3544. Aprons may also be adorned with ribbon around the edges. Pockets are preference of seamstress.