The Fashion Archaeologist

Free PDF Pattern #FP-01 – 1862 Fancy Ladies' Cravat

"Cravate Béatrice"

This pattern is offered free of charge to give you an opportunity to try PDF printing and assembly before purchasing a full-size pattern. The pattern and translated instructions are copyright, for your personal use, not to be copied, re-sold, or used for commercial garment production purposes.

Below is some information to help with constructing the patterned item, including a copy of the original French sketch and text, as well as my translation.

General Guidelines:

➢ These PDF patterns are not "full service" patterns, they are taken directly from the antique pattern sheets as free trial patterns. They do **not** include seam allowances – <u>you will need to add your own allowances appropriate to the fabric and item type</u>. The lines shown are the seam lines only.
➢ On some patterns, the garment or item pieces may be superimposed, to make the best use of the relatively small space on the scan. Where this is so, you will need to trace off the pattern pieces separately after printing the PDF pattern out on paper. Pieces are marked with the original Figure numbers, to match the antique French text.
➢ Some lines on these patterns may need to be "trued up" slightly before cutting out. Also, the antique sizing may not be what you might expect -- allow for this when cutting out. It's always best to make a mock-up out of inexpensive fabric before cutting the pattern from your fashion fabric.
➢ Other than translations of any existing antique sewing instructions, you may need to work out the order of construction and sewing methods on your own. Bear in mind that some patterns may only need to be cut once; others may have to be cut twice. This may not always be clear from the antique text.
➢ Pay careful attention to the letters or numbers marked at corners, etc. on the patterns – these show which edges are to be matched up when sewing, or they will relate to something mentioned in the antique text.
➢ Watch for additional notations on the patterns themselves which will assist in construction or finishing.

Notes for This Pattern:

This is an exquisite little 1860's fancy cravat that could be worn with any day round-necked dress of the era, or with a fine white waist and jacket.

For your convenience, my translation of the 1862 French text is below. My own clarifying notes are in square brackets. The original French text is on the following page, along with a copy of the 1862 fashion sketch of this item. Recommend fabrics are silk or synthetic moiré taffeta, velvet ribbon, and lace edging. This pattern is cut as two pieces, both on the bias – the dotted line marks the centre back seam. I recommend that the cravat be lightly interfaced and lined with lightweight taffeta or satin.

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"This cravat is made of antique-style violet-coloured moiré, trimmed with black velvet and black lace; a black rosette *appears* to be the front closure: in fact the cravat is attached in back by way of a brooch-pin [a safety pin will do today!].

Cut the two sections of the cravat <u>on the bias</u>, according to the pattern [be sure to add your seam allowances!] and join them at centre back with a neat, narrow seam. Interface the cravat with a stiff black tulle [NOTE: modern interfacing is fine]. The ends of the cravat are trimmed with 3cm wide [1-1/4" wide] black lace. The velvet ribbon is sewn on as indicated by the pattern. In the middle of each ribbon an oval opening should be made, through which the moiré fabric underneath can be seen. The velvet ribbon is affixed in place with black soutache. This soutache

also serves to hold down and finish the edges of the oval openings, as well as providing for the little (curved) decorations along the ribbons [see paper pattern]. Lastly, sew on the little black beads or pearls [along each side of the soutache, as indicated on the paper pattern]. [*NOTE*: do all of this embellishment work <u>before</u> adding any lining].

The portion of the cravat that goes around the neck is then lined [NOTE: I would recommend lining the entire cravat with a lightweight silken lining], by turning under the edges of the lining [and hand-stitching in place].

The two halves of the cravat are then sewn together, on the underside, [matching up] "N" with "N" and "M" with "M". The rosette is comprised of a pearl-ornamented button bordered with two rounds of [ruched] lace. [No pattern is given for the rosette]."

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<u>Original (1862) French text:</u>

"***Cravate Béatrice.*** **–** Cette cravate est en moire antique violette, ornée de velours noir et de dentelle noire; une rosette noire *semble* la fermer par devant : en réalité elle est fixée par une broche-épingle.

On coupe les deux parties de la cravate sur la figure 19, en biais, et on les réunit au milieu, par derrière, avec une couture fine. On double cette cravate avec du tulle noir, roide; on garnit le bout des pans avec une dentelle noire ayant 3 centimètres de largeur, puis on dispose le velours ainsi que l'indique le patron. Au milieu de la bande de velours se trouve une ouverture ovale, qui laisse voir l'étoffe de la cravate; on fixe le velours en cousant dessus de la soutache noire, qui borde aussi l'ouverture du milieu, et qui sert pour les petits ornements; on ajoute ensuite les petites perles noires.

Le tour du cou est doublé, replié en dessous, puis les deux côtés cousus ensemble. Les pans sont cousus à l'envers, N avec N, M avec M; la rosette se compose d'un bouton orné de perles et bordé de deux rangs de dentelle. »

1862 SKETCH