

Important tips, tricks, and helpful hints on sewing the hook and eyes, how to attach the wings, and more!

Step One:

Remove the tutu from the plastic bag, shake it out, pull the hanging loops through the panty legs and hang upside down. Any folds and creases will naturally fall out over a few hours. *This is how your dancer hangs and transports the skirt - using the hanging loops on a hanger - in a large garment bag.*

Hook & Eyes:

Each skirt has a small bag of hook and eyes included.

Fitting the Tutu:

- Have dancer put on tutu, pull back **tightly** to close and pin in place.
- Mark where right side of basque meets left side with pins. *Note: this may not be exactly straight up and down, which is fine. It will be different for each student*
- Tighten leg elastics to fit snugly but comfortably. These can then be knotted and trimmed or stitched closed and trimmed.
- Unpin tutu from dancer and remove - make sure to keep pins marking where right side meets left.
- Mark right side of basque for hooks (this is the side with the boning).
- The most important places are the stress points - waist, seam where panty is sewn to basque, and halfway down into panty.
- Stitch hooks in place - make sure to stitch securely.
- Pin right side to left as if closed and mark with the eyes should be placed; sew threaded eyes per video and instructions above.



****When closed, everything should hook in the center.**

As these costumes were made per exact measurements provided, they should fit accordingly but if there is extra material at the waist, you will need to add darts so the skirt lays appropriately. If this arises, please reach out to me and/or one of the seamstresses

and we can provide more detailed instructions.**

Wings:

For those in Les Sylphides only: review the two photos below of where the wings need to be sewn and attached to the inside of the skirt. Complete this once the hook and eyes are done - it needs to be attached once all other alterations are completed.

For those in Waltz/Original: Instead of sewing the wings, you need to attach a large snap - we recommend the male on the wing; female on the inside of the skirt - as the girls have to remove the wings between Les Sylphides and Waltz.



Sleeves:

You do not need to do anything to the sleeves!

Hairpieces:

- Despite ordering all white headpieces, some arrived with purple or orange buds. Not everyone received ones with color. For those who did, using white acrylic paint, carefully paint the purple or orange buds on the Flower Headpiece – it is to be completely white.
- They are fragile - if desired you can reinforce the flowers.

Additional Tips:

- Do not iron the skirt. You can steam if/as needed.

- There is a tag inside the leotard - this tag will need to be removed prior to the production.
- LABEL EVERYTHING. Even with all tags removed, you can still label the leotard and skirt on the inside seam/lining and it will not be visible. The same goes for the sleeves, wings, and headpiece.
- The sleeves and wings are handmade and fragile - I recommend keeping them in a ziploc bag inside the garment bag so they don't get lost or damaged, especially when transporting the costume.

Angela MacWilliams, who made the wings and sleeves, is available to assist and complete sewing. Her number is 443-624-2886. She can come to rehearsal tonight (Friday) if anyone is interested in having her mark, pin, and sew the skirt and/or wings. If you would like her assistance, please either text her directly or let me know as soon as possible so she can plan accordingly.

Jenn Brady, one of our seamstresses, is also available to complete the sewing. Her number is 410-474-0790, if you would like her to complete the sewing for the skirt and/or wing.