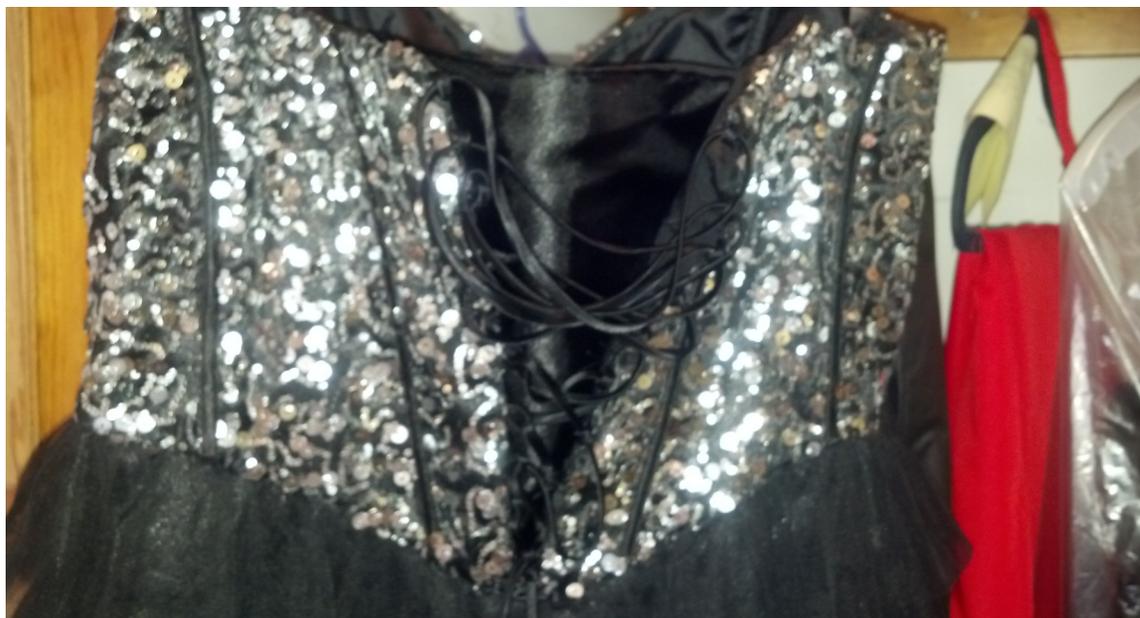




Corset Backs



Don't let this simple addition and alteration intimidate you. It's easier than you think! With sewing experience, you can add your own corset back in less than an hour.

Materials: Fabric to coordinate or match the dress (Satin, Cotton, Stretch, etc.), Seam Ripper, Lacing (at least 4 yds), Matching Thread, Paper, Measuring Device (Ruler or Tape Measure), 18" approx of boning.

1. Remove zipper with seam ripper (carefully so you don't cut the fabric on the dress). The dress is usually lined and this is a good help! If it's not lined, you will need wide satin facing.
2. Measure the length from the top of the bodice to the bottom where the zipper stopped. This will be how long you need to make your corset loops, leaving about a 1/2" - 3/4" opening at the bottom of the corset loops. Your paper should be the length + 1" of the area you will be making loops for.
3. Mark the paper with 1" increments apart and 1/2" from the side edge. Next, dab a bit of fabric glue or pin the end of the lacing to the edge of the paper (See Image).
4. Position paper and lacing at your sewing machine. You will be making your loops one at a time as you sew through the paper and lacing. Follow the 1" marks and edge of the paper for the guide to size the loops.
5. Make the same set exactly in number and size on the other edge of the paper. Cut away excess paper. You can leave the strip behind the loops—it gets sewn in the seam and won't show.
6. Insert one set of loops into the a seam where the zipper was taken out. Pin loops in place with only the top loop extended out (showing). If you leave too much of the loop out, the loops will pull away from the dress and not be as attractive.
7. On the outside of the garment, stitch close to the edge of the seam to secure loops in place. Check both sides to assure fabric is sewn on front and back. Repeat for the other side. Make sure the loops are lined up evenly.
8. Modesty panel: Using measurements in length for corset loops, add the width to make an inverted triangle or a rectangle (it's personal preference). Standard is about 10" at the top and tapering down to a point for triangle shape or for rectangle approx 10" x 12". Cut 2 pieces of coordinating fabric.



9. Sew fabric pieces right sides together, leaving the top edge open and turn right side out.
10. For rectangle, on each side sew a 5/8" strip with an opening at the top. Cut boning to fit the length and slide in place on both sides. *Triangle will not require boning.*
11. Press and fold in the top edge, then stitch the opening closed end to end, assuring boning is below the stitch line.
12. Attach one side of the modesty panel to a seam, boning or other area inside the corset loops. Options: you can leave the other side loose or place with snaps. Most leave it loose as it will be held in place with the lacing.
13. Lace from the top down, inserting extra lacing into the bottom opening below loops to hide. Or, you can tie a bow with larger lacing if preferred.
14. Corset Backs work best with strapless dresses. It can add as much as 7" to a dress size.

