

Barbie as Rapunzel

thatCostama
ECC 2024

The Design

I wanted to combine the three different versions of this dress – concept art, film, and doll - while adding my own embellishments to better make the dress come to life. I wanted to create this dress as I always imagined it when I watched the movie at 5 years old - giant, flowy, and sparkles galore.

Film



Doll



Film:

Hairstyle, sheer overlay skirt, gold trims

Doll:

Crown, gold design on overskirt

Concept art:

fuller skirts with overskirt/underskirt, fuller sleeves, front lacing on the bodice

From these, I made a sketch and a basic color blockout of what I wanted, and then started draping for colors I was happy with.

Concept Art



Sketch and initial drape

The Breakdown

Budget:

Total cost: \$463

I was able to use a lot of fabric and materials from my stash to keep the cost of this costume under \$500 - definitely not a true budget build, but for 60+ yards of fabric and 30 yards of trim, I'm very proud of myself for the final cost. I included a cost breakdown per element on each page.

Costume Philosophy:

I believe in comfort and practicality, so this gown is very functional. I can be in it all day, walk, run, bend over, and carry all my own things.

Total Work Time:

350 hours



This costume has 11 sewn elements,
3 resin 3D printed elements,
4 strands of lights and 1 very large wig.
The parts are:

Corset	Petticoats x2:
Chemisette	Tulle
Bum Roll	Organza
Pink Bodice	Pink Skirts x3:
Purple Bodice	Matte
Wig + Lights	Organza
Accessories:	Glitter
Crown	Purple Overskirt
Paintbrush	
Necklace	
Shoes	



First full try on

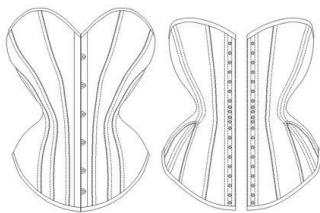
Corset, Chemisette, & Bum Roll



Final without boning



Mockup



Corset pattern



Final garment

Based off AraneaBlack's Hope corset pattern and modified:

- Edited out front busk
- Took out gores
- Shortened top and bottom by several inches

Constructed with double welt seams.
Handmade matching bias tape

Hand stitched on bias tape for clean front finish

Boned with a combination of spiral and flat steel

The seams are graded and pinked to reduce bulk.



The chemisette is a self drafted, simple bias cut garment made of a bedsheet. I prefer gathered chemises, but this dress is too bulky already!

It has an understitched front facing and handmade bias cut spaghetti straps.



The bum roll was made as a counterweight for the extra-heavy purple overskirt to keep the dress balanced.

Cost - \$0

Hoopskirt and Petticoats



WIP and final hoopskirt



This is a 7 hoop skirt with doubled steel for extra strength

I made a waistband with grommet lacing to accommodate the weight and any size fluctuation.

My hoop steel was recycled from previous hoopskirts.

Hoops secured in channels with duct tape, channels hand sewn to grosgrain ribbon.



Petti #1 is made of recycled tulle from a wedding dress. I cut the dress into strips and reorganized into a three tier petticoat.

Finished with overlocked and French seams

Attached to twill tape waistband for to minimize bulk in the waist seam.

I added some gold trim on the bottom with metallic thread.



Tulle petticoat



Organza petticoat

Petti #2, The organza petticoat is also recycled from another wedding dress.

This petticoat is a $\frac{3}{4}$ circle skirt, with the gold lace bottom fabric from my stash

Pleated at the top to reduce bulk and stitched to a twill tape waistband

Finished with French seams.

Cost - \$20

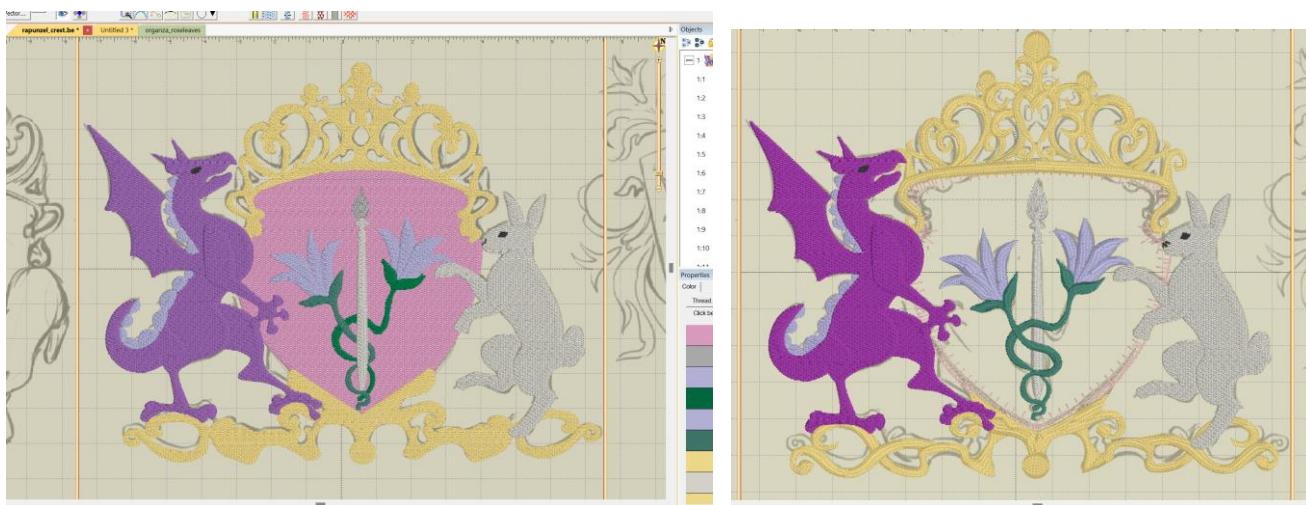
Pockets



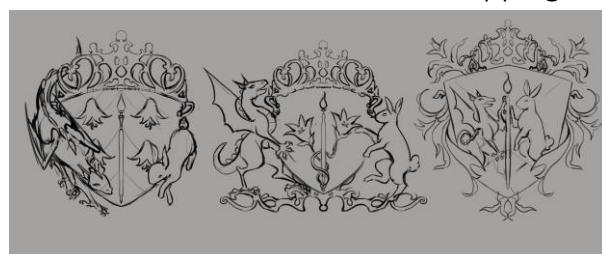
Handstitching on the back of the pockets to secure the bias tape



Below: First iteration of the design on the left, final on the right.



Below: The three designs Sakina made for me. I chose the second because of its clear silhouettes and minimal overlapping elements.



Cost - \$20

My best friend designed a heraldic crest for Rapunzel incorporating her two sidekicks, as well as her paintbrush, crown, and Rapunzel flowers.

I digitized the design and the 2002 Barbie logo with Embrilliance

I also used the pink skirt fabrics as the shield of the crest to match them with the rest of the dress.

Usually, pockets like this are worn right next to the skin, but for this costume I wear them just underneath the purple overskirt.

Pink Skirts



Mock up and matte skirt before hemming



There are three pink skirts in total

They are 1 1/2 circle skirts with shorter fronts and longer backs, and the width of the fabric at the waistband increases with each skirt

The skirt pattern was self drafted

The matte pink skirt is pleated at the waist to reduce bulk with ribbon tie waistband

Hemmed with 1 inch horsehair braid



Interior waistband of sheer skirts



Matte skirt hem



Fishing line hems



Final skirts pre and post hemming



Pink organza + pink glitter skirts

Waistband gathered and hand finished with the ties in the back

Lettuce hemmed with fishing line and metallic thread

These fabrics are also used for the sleeves and the pink bodice

All the skirts are French seamed

Cost - \$83

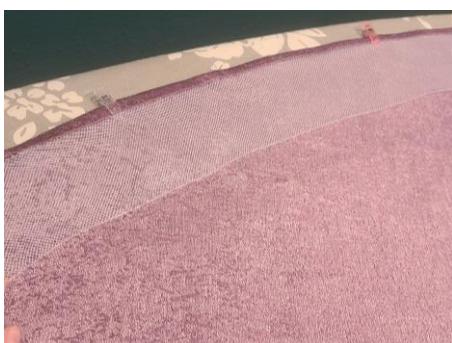
Purple Overskirt



Mock up



Stitching on the glitter applique + organza rolled hem



Upholstery skirt horsehair hem post-press

The overskirt is two layers made of purple upholstery fabric and lavender organza.

Based on the same basic skirt pattern, minor alterations in length

I pleated to minimize bulk in waist and finished the waistband by hand.

These skirts are also French seamed!

Appliques on the lavender organza were cut out of fabric with a soldering iron (and proper PPE!) and then stitched onto the skirt with a free motion quilting foot and silver metallic thread.

The bottom hem of these skirts is approximately 7 yards long.

I touched up the glitter where I had bare spots and sealed it with fabric mod podge to minimize shedding.



Original glitter overlay material. I burned out all the netting and cut it up to fit my skirt.



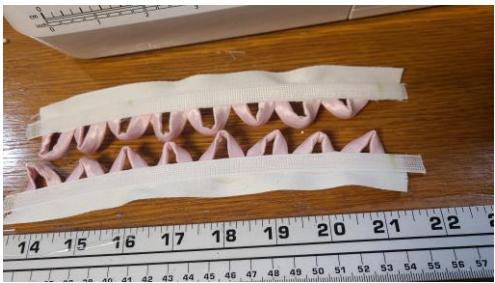
The final skirt is a little too big for my house.

Cost - \$250

Pink Bodice

I altered this from Simplicity 5006.

- Shortened out the entire hip region
- Eliminated the front seam
- Exaggerated the sweetheart neckline
- Brought the front bottom to a point



Lacing loops before install and in final bodice with lacing ribbon



Interior seams finished with pinking shears to minimize bulk



All the trim is hand sewn.



Bodice in progress with completed sweetheart neckline before added trim



Boned lightly for structure with spiral and flat steel

Constructed with bag lining technique

I made bridal style lacing loops for the back and a matching lacing ribbon

I'm very proud of how clean the sweetheart neckline and bottom point of the bodice are!

Finished with handmade organza rose



Fabric cost included with skirts
Cost - \$10

Purple Overbodice



Mock up



This is a self drafted vest and sleeves

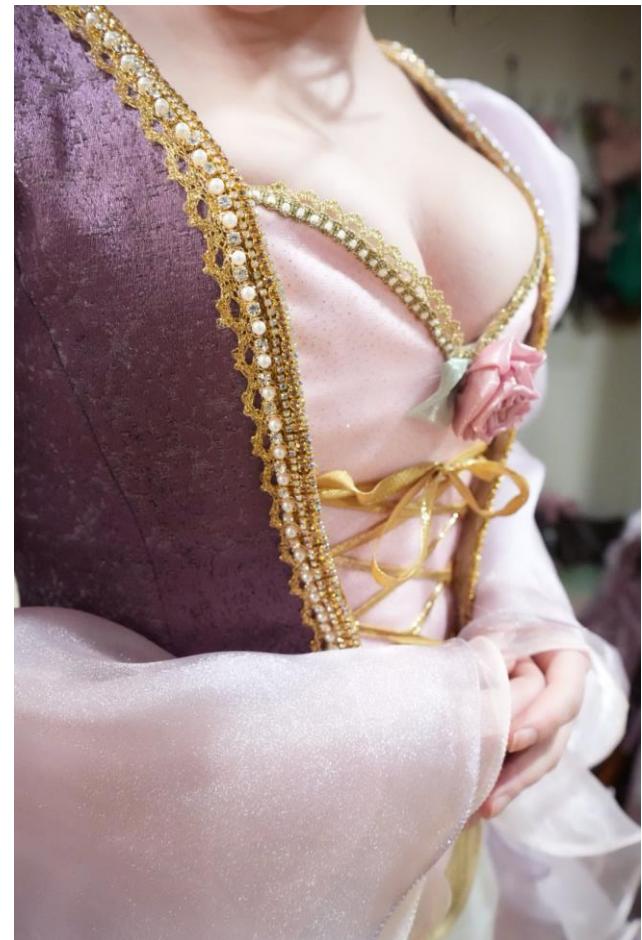
The vest is the same purple skirt upholstery fabric with a duck canvas lining, interfaced for extra strength

Two pieces of flat steel boning in the side seams for structure

D rings lace it closed in front

Finished with handmade bias tape that matches the corset underneath

I covered the bias tape in three stacked trims for glitz and handstitched all of them on as well.



Hand stitching for D rings, bias tape, trims, and back of overbodice

Fabric cost estimated with the skirts.
Cost - \$15

Sleeves



Mock ups



Organza rosette, trim, and glitter



The sleeves are also self drafted and made of the 3 layers – the pink organza, the lilac organza, and the pink glitter tulle

In the top portion of the sleeve, the glitter is sandwiched between the organzas for comfort, in the bottom it's out front for maximum sparkle

Sleeves are cut to fall in waterfall pleats

Hemmed in metallic with fishing line to match the pink skirts

Inner seams hand finished with dyed bias tape for comfort

I hand stitched the sleeves into the vest so that if I want to use either for a different costume in the future, they'd be easy to swap out

Painted a slight glitter gradient on the sleeves with fabric mod podge



Cost - \$5

Wig



Wig in 2019 for its previous costume, photo by @journeysincolor



Sewn in wefts for the braids



Soldering the lights



Battery pack storage and netting on the underside of the wig to keep it untangled

The wig is constructed from:
3 Arda Wigs Ororos
1 XL curly ponytail clip
And 1 pack of XL wefts

I made this wig several years ago for my Historical Rapunzel. it needed a complete detangle and restyle for this costume, as well as more wefts.

This wig is 5.5 feet long and curled at the ends to harmonize between the film and the concept art. The curls also help mask the ends of the shorter hair.

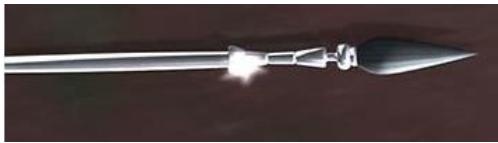
I also added lights into it, powered by a battery pack in the wig.

The lights are painted gold to better hide them in the wig and give a little sparkle even when they're off.



Cost - \$30

Accessories



Reference (Above) and final paintbrush (Right)



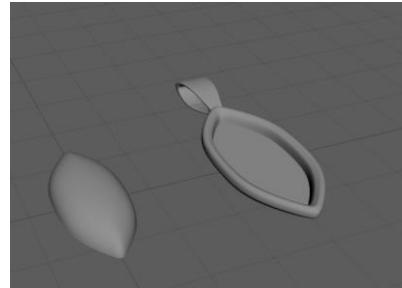
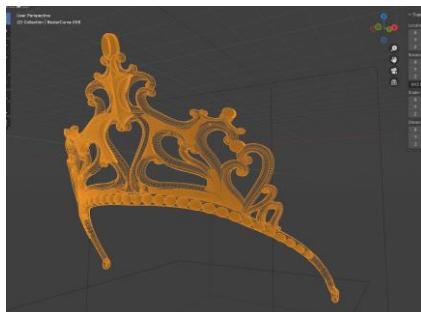
Paintbrush -

Modeled in Fusion 360 and printed in resin, then finished with chrome nail powder.

Crown -

Modeled in Blender, resin printed and finished with gloss black and then gold spray paint.

I tried to harmonize the doll's design with a look that makes sense in full size.



Necklace modeled in Maya, resin printed and finished with chrome nail powder and spray paint.



Organza roses -

5 organza roses throughout the costume were folded, melted, and stitched together. Above is an example of the technique.



Painted old shoes with Angelus leather paint and glued on roses with UHU adhesive.

Cost – approx. \$30

Thank you for your time and consideration!