



## Light Your Flame

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**Statement of Purpose:** This look, Light Your Flame, was created for my sophomore-level final project to showcase sustainability, hand crafted elements and technology. Designed for the Spring/Summer of 2021, I drew inspiration from the 1920s because our target customer for our final project was a female from the baby boomer generation. She likes classic garments with a twist from the 1920's and 30s. While creating the dress, I was inspired by the bold flapper girls from the 1920s who dared to be different and pushed the barriers in economic, political and sexual freedom for women.

**Aesthetic Properties and Visual Impact:** Bold, fierce, nostalgic, and dressed to kill are words that best describe the Light Your Flame dress. The Light Your Flame look encompasses each of these words though its red, orange and ombré colors creating a fire/flame look, finishing with feathers at the bottom of each laser cut wave. The silhouette allows for comfort, yet it flatters the female figure by becoming smallest at the waist and flaring out to the bottom.

**Process, Technique, and Execution:** The design and development of Light Your Flame includes multiple steps: design ideation, material selection, pattern development, prototype development, laser cutting, model fitting, and assembly of the final design. In my design process, I looked to previous examples of designers that had used laser cutting as the main focal point in their design. The color palette and fabrics were chosen based on the trend forecasting analysis, considering the target customer. I came across challenges when laser cutting the front and back pieces of the dress so that the ombré matched up perfectly on the side seams of the dress. I also had the same challenge when cutting out the underlay/lining of the dress. I decided on Poly Crepe De Chine for the underlay/lining of the dress to allow for comfort and movement. The fabric was very thin and did not work well when using an overlock stitch so to finish the seams I used a French seam. The laser cut parts of the dress (front, back, and sleeves) are organic cotton sateen. Both fabrics were sourced from spoonflower. It was a challenge to sew these fabrics because any seam I took out and redid left small holes in the fabric from where the old stitch was. The organic cotton sateen gave the waves some structure but to build more structure and stability I used a fusible red interfacing, sourced from mood fabrics. After putting the dress together, the waves still needed more structure. So, after pinning the waves in place on a dress form, I hole punched lightweight double sided fusible interfacing with a 3/4" hole puncher and used it to hold the waves in places where it was needed. I also used the double-sided interfacing to finish the hem of the dress to

create a seamless finish. The feathers enhanced the curve at the end of each wave and were attached with E6000. I used a ½” cover button kit to create a handcrafted fabric covered button that is used as a closer on the back of the dress at the neckline. The button loop was also handcraft using a thin piece of elastic and a square piece of the yellow part of the ombré fabric.

**Cohesion:** The cohesiveness of this look is conveyed using bold ombré colors cut crosswise from the fabric, the creation of waves, and the visualization of the bold and energetic 1920s flapper girl. As a look on its own, it will complement the wearer with its innovative design and bold colors, Light Your Flame, is a statement piece. Although there are two different types of fabrics used because both fabrics use the same print it is not noticeable to the eye. The waves give movement down the dress and the red ostrich feathers float effortlessly along the ends of the waves.

**Originality and Innovation:** Inspired by the 1920s flapper girls with bold colors, red ostrich feathers, and laser cut waves the look, Light Your Flame, emphasizes sustainability with the use of fabric sourced from eco-friendly textile company, Spoonflower. In addition, an empathizes on technology with the use of the laser cutter to cut out the waves of the dress, and the colors of the fabric make the waves look like beautiful flames. This design is unique because it uses new technology advancements to create the dress while incorporating handcrafted elements, sustainability, and a nostalgic feel from the 1920s. This classic A-line silhouette is taken to the past and future as you Light Your Flame throughout time.

#### References

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