

## The Scorpio

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A traditional prom dress can generally be worn only once; therefore, the purpose of the design was to create a prom dress that is versatile and suitable enough to be worn to various special occasions. The design represents the astrological Scorpio sign. She is unafraid and filled with passion. Since leather was selected for making the dress, the cutting and stitching of the leather patterns were the challenges of the design.

Flat patternmaking technique was used to create the pattern. A half circle pattern and experimental tuck folding created the cap sleeve, which was later successfully prototyped in the selected leather. Then, the tucking and dart techniques were applied to the waist and skirt to add dimensions to the dress.

Leather was chosen for its striking attributes, and the silver color was selected for its luster. For cutting, patterns were strategically placed on the leather and eventually altered slightly so that no leather was wasted. For construction, the cap sleeves with tucks were first sewn. To draw attention to the neck, leather was cut into strips to create long lengths of spaghetti necklaces. To add dimension to the surface of the dress, the 1" wide strip was stitched 1/8" pin tuck; at the middle distance between each pair of pin tucks, two holes were punched through the strip by sewing machine. Next, the strip was hand sewn onto the waist of the dress with four plies of heavy thread. The skirt was drafted with a bouffant silhouette and then darted.

Silver metal teeth zippers were chosen to match the color of the leather. The lengths of the zippers were only 9" and



12" long. Therefore, for the closure on the center back, one zipper was set from the waist down and the other was set from the waist up. The two zipper-pulls meet at the waist establishing a focal point. Two plies of acetate lining were set to accommodate the heavy leather shell.

The dress features princess style lines, front neck keyhole with collar band, pin tucked waistbands, spaghetti necklaces, cap sleeve with tucks, back built-up neck with exposed zippers closure, and flare skirt with accentuated stitching dart. The dress was completed in May 2013, and the measurements are 33" bust, 25" waist, and 35" hip.

