

A Vision of Lights

Patricia Clariza, University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA

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For this dress, whimsical nature escapes and twinkling lights inspired me. This romantic vision would be personified as a glowing pale pink gown to adorn any effervescent young lady. Strings of sparkling LED lights and layers of soft organza was the finished dream that I wanted realized and after weeks of searching local fabric stores, the materials that I found and used exuded the sprightly energy that was perfect for my design.

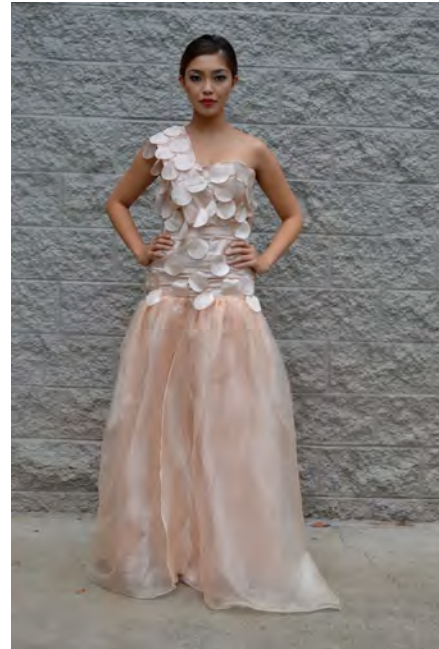
Overall, I wanted a gown that was soft, but subtly dramatic. Thus, the pale pink fabric with the hanging circles only consumed half of the entire gown so that it wouldn't overpower the design. I chose the circle fabric because of the way it fluttered when moved, adding playfulness to the pixie quality of the gown. From there I paired the drop



waist base dress with a skirt of layered organza.

The organza underskirt is actually a different color from the top layer, a deeper pink to offset the pale overskirt. The LED lights would be the finale to achieving the ethereal look.

The technique in creating this gown required a meticulous cutting procedure for the pattern pieces and fabric. For the base dress, I placed the bodice and strap patterns strategically on top of the circle fabric and traced each pattern onto the fabric with fabric marker. This ensured the right amount of circled rows for each pattern piece and none of the circles accidentally cut in half. For the sewing of the long a-line skirt, I gathered three layers of organza at the center back for more fullness. The third top layer is the added train. The front of the skirt consists of two organza layers, the deeper pink underskirt peeking underneath a veil of the cream overskirt.



The front of the overskirt has a slit at the center front so that the gown will open and flow softly as the model walks. When the full dress was finished, I cut away a few circles from the base dress so that, again, the circles wouldn't be overwhelming. Finally, the LED lights were hand sewn onto the shoulder strap and bodice with a string of lights hanging down each side of the gown. As for the battery packs, I sewed a small pouch out of cream cotton muslin and sewed it onto the center back hem of the base dress. The battery pack for the shoulder strap is placed behind the back strap. The final garment was completed on December 2012.

The exact fabrics used were: 1 ½ yards of pale pink circle fabric, 1 ½ yards of pink lining, ¼ yards of cream cotton, 5 yards of deep pink organza, and 5 yards of cream organza. The notions that I used were: pink invisible zipper, one 10 foot, and two 5 foot strands of LED lights. Finally, the exact measurements and dimensions of this garment are as follows: 45 inches for the skirt length, 60 inches in length for the train, and 13 ½ inches for the zipper length. For the dress size measurements, the chest or bodice opening is 34 ¼ inches with a 27-inch waist, and a 37-inch hip size.