

## Paper Crane

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Paper Crane was the result of experimentation with pleating techniques that I was introduced to during a Madame Gres workshop in Paris. The goal was to use pleats as a way to manipulate fabric into a form-fitting silhouette. I was inspired by Madame Gres's sculptural, experimental approach to dressmaking and aspired to create my own technique. The resulting dress is the product of many hours spent experimenting with different ways to pleat and fold fabric around the form. I allowed myself to discover ways that worked, as well as ways that did not. I experimented with fabric to find something lightweight but with enough structure to accentuate the shapes created by the pleating.



The dress is made from a silk dupioni blend, pleated on the bias over a corset. Two pieces of fabric are pleated in opposite directions over the bodice, overlapping each other at the center front. Each pleat stops at the waist and is turned back at a 90 degree angle to create the silhouette of the skirt. Separate pieces of silk dupioni are pleated over the four pattern pieces that form the cups of the corset. The pleats run in contrasting directions to draw attention to the piecing of the cups and provide another play on angles and texture. The corset understructure is boned with Rigilene. This garment was completed as part of a Special Occasion Apparel course where the objective was to learn to create form-fitting understructures and to work with evening wear fabrics

