

the

BUTTON UP BOLERO!

A jacket from one piece of fleece!



The Button Up Bolero

by Caroline Fairbanks-Critchfield

You won't believe how easy it is to make this little jacket with a fold-back collar and cuffed sleeves. The bolero just folds together and is secured with buttons all along the front and the back of the sleeves. Adorable blanket stitching, crochet, or sewing machine decorative stitch on the edges gives a finished look.

Pattern pieces are provided at the end of this tutorial. Sizes 12-18 mos. and 2T will print up together on 9 pieces of paper. Sizes 4, 6, and 8 will print up together on 14 pieces of paper. Refer to page 3 for printing instructions.

Notions and tools:

Fleece – $\frac{3}{4}$ yard

Embroidery floss or Pearl Cotton in a coordinating color

15 Buttons (1" to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ")

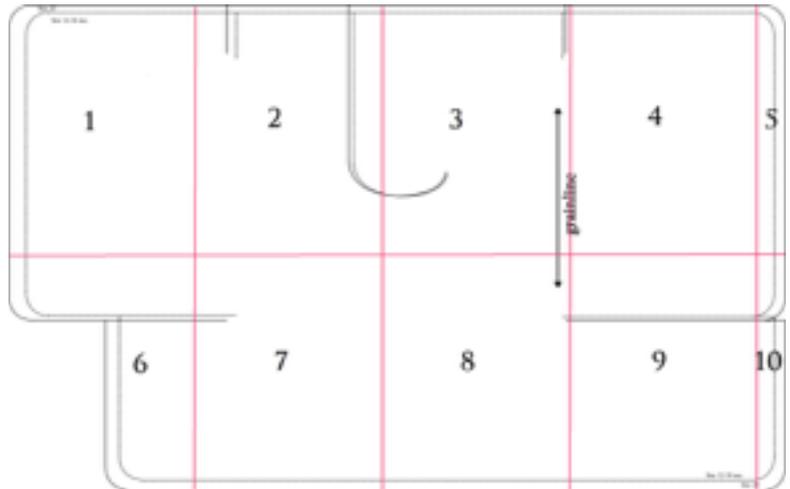
Embroidery needle (with an eye large enough to thread a whole strand of floss through)

Prepare the Pattern Piece

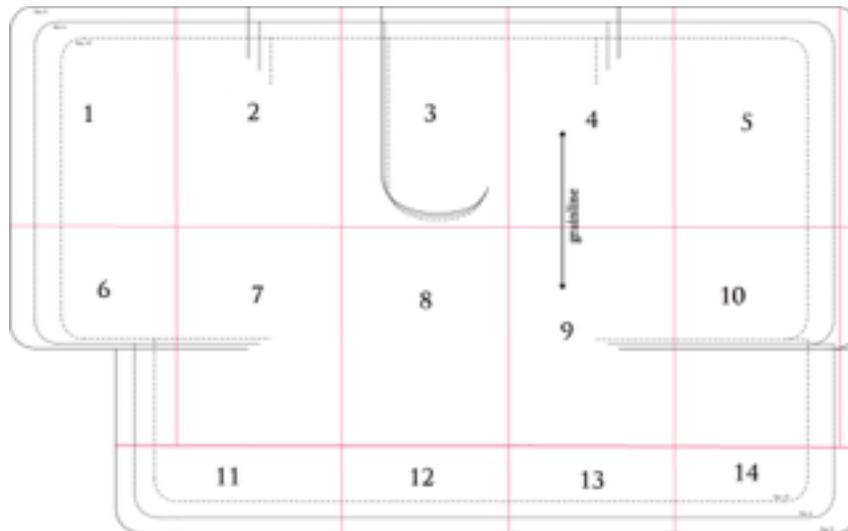
1.

Your print settings should be set to “auto-rotate and center,” but **no** “page scaling” or “fit to page.”

2. Cut out the pattern pieces and tape them together along the pink lines. This is what the two smaller sizes will look like:



This is what the larger pattern pieces will look like:



If you are making size 8, then page 40 will give you three skinny little pieces that go along this edge.

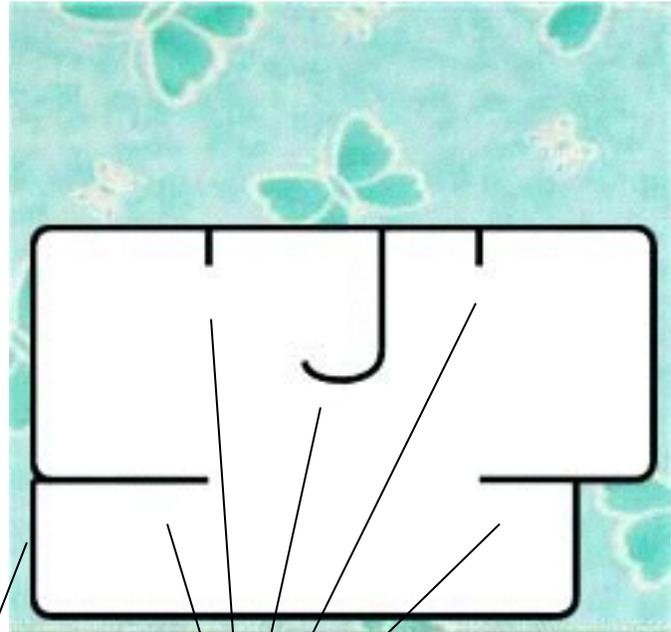
Step 1. Cutting

1. Spread your fleece out in a single layer and place the pattern piece on top.

If you are making a little girl's bolero, lay the fabric on the RIGHT side of the fabric. If you are making a little boy's bolero, lay the fabric on the WRONG side of the fabric. (This is because women's and men's jackets are supposed to button on opposite sides.)

Pay attention to the grainline arrow. It should follow the length (less stretchy direction) of the fabric.

2. Pin the pattern piece to the fleece around the edges, as well as along the other solid lines.
3. Select a cutting line based on the desired size. Cut your fabric along the solid line that goes all the way around the pattern.



4. Then cut along the other five solid lines going into the piece.

Step 2. Finishing the Fleece Edges.

I love hand sewing the edges on this project. It is easy. It can be done watching TV, riding in the car, or waiting in the doctor's office! All you need is a piece of fabric on your lap and a skein of yarn or floss to keep you busy. This part will probably take you the longest (a couple hours), so enjoy it! Brief instructions for blanket stitching start on page 9.

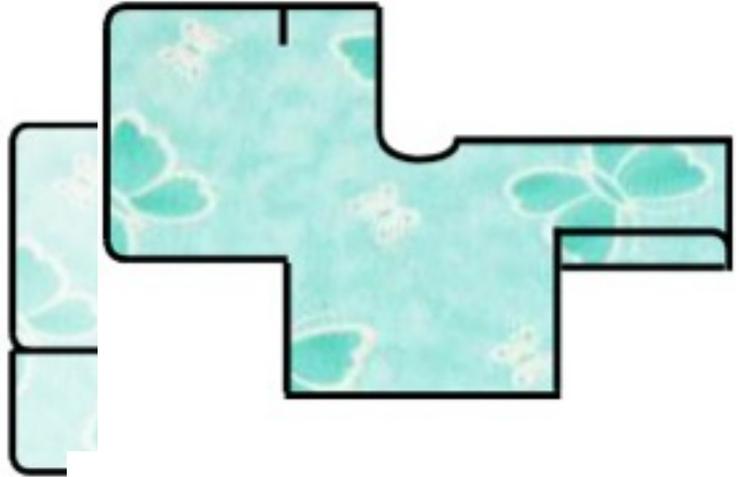
If you don't have time to hand sew a blanket stitch edge, you can crochet after cutting small holes around the edges. There is a special rotary blade available in stores and online that perforates fabric, making holes every 1/2 inch or so. It's called a 'Skipstitch' or 'Skip-cut' blade. After perforating the fabric edges you can crochet a simple single crochet stitch all the way around. The photos on page 8 are an example of this.

I've also finished the edges of this jacket with my sewing machine's blanket stitch. Visit www.sewcanshe.com to read the post.

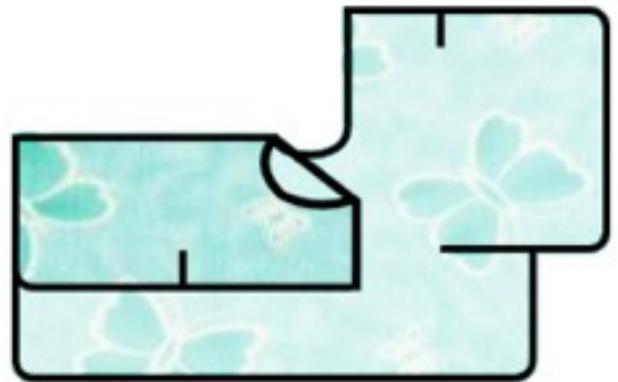


Step 3. Buttoning Up

1. Lay the jacket out wrong side up.



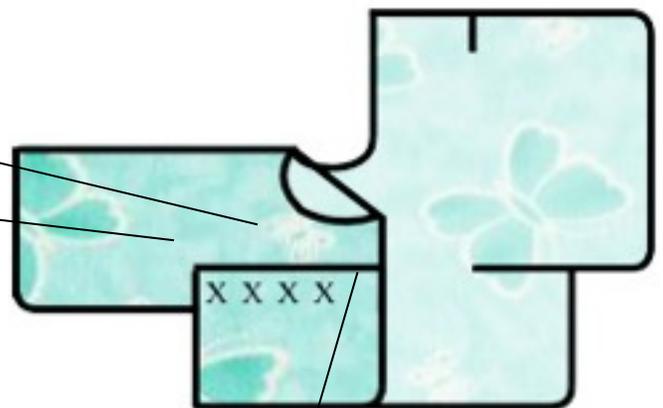
2. Fold the right sleeve/upper front section down.



3. Fold the right lower section to the center, overlapping the upper front section by a few inches.

Ensure that the corner fits snugly and this edge is straight.

Place four pins in the spots marked with an 'X'.

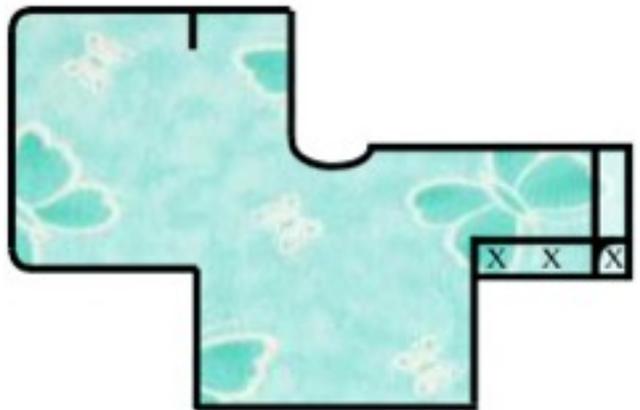


Leave a spot here for the buttonhole.

4. Turn the jacket over and fold the front of the sleeve around, overlapping the back by a few inches.

5. Fold the cuff back about 1 1/2" and place three pins on the back of the sleeve as shown.

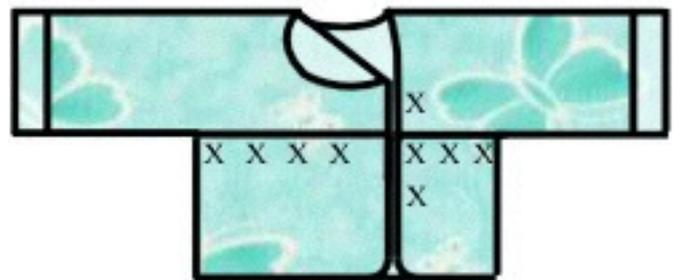
One pin should be close to the armpit to tightly close up any hole there. One pin should be over the cuff. And the last pin should be half-way in between.



6. Repeat steps 1-5 with the left side of the jacket.

This time, please use only 3 pins to secure the front pieces.

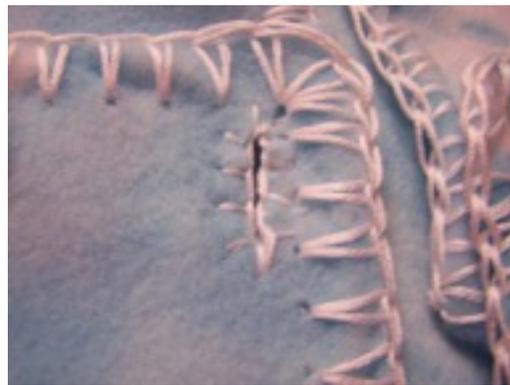
Sew buttons in each pinned spot, plus two more buttons along the front edge, as shown.



- Carefully cut buttonholes that are just long enough to squeeze your buttons in.
(One of the buttonholes will go through two layers of fabric.)



- Stitch around the buttonholes with a small blanket stitch.



Done, admire your work!

Simple Blanket Stitch Tutorial

1. Cut a strand of embroidery floss that is as long as you think you can handle. It will go fast. Then thread the whole strand of embroidery floss through your needle. Tie a knot at the end.



2. Choose where you will begin stitching.

Working from the back, stick your needle only part-way through the fleece and then up and out from the edge, so that your first stitch is *inside* the fleece.



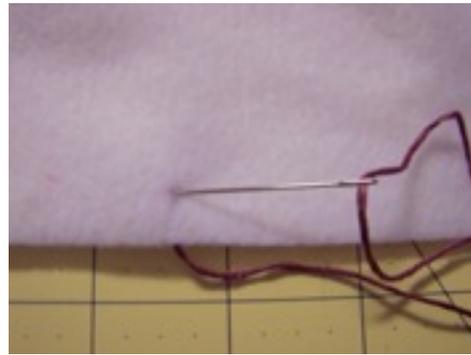
View from the front, see how the needle didn't go all the way through the layer of fleece?



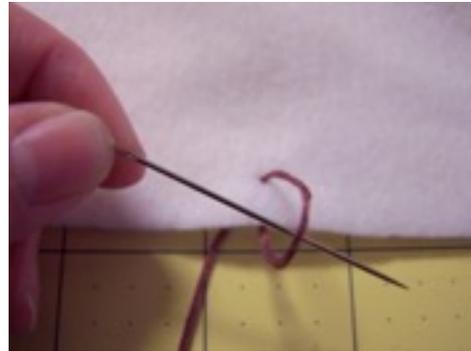
Pull the needle and thread through. On the back you will see the thread knot.



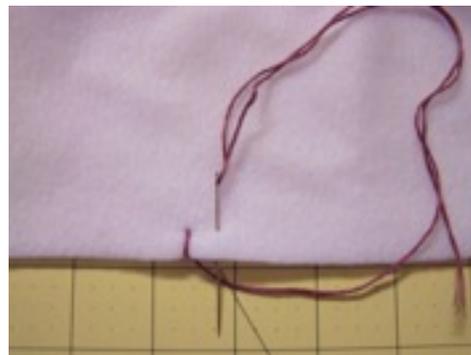
3. Now poke your needle down in from the front in the same spot as your thread knot.



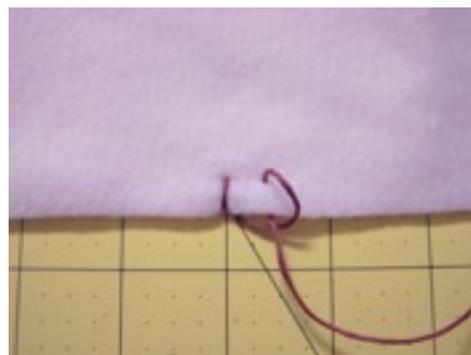
When the loop is almost tight, slip your needle through it so that when you pull it tight, your thread end is still coming from the fabric edge.



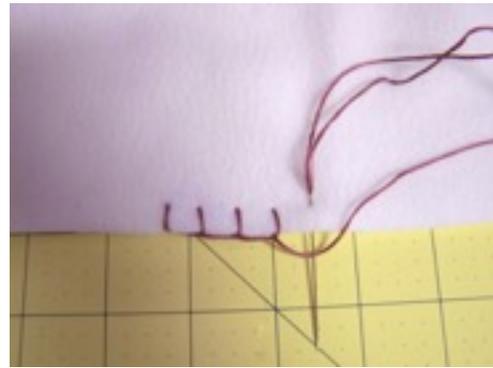
4. Now move about a centimeter away from your first stitch and make another stitch, still working from the front.



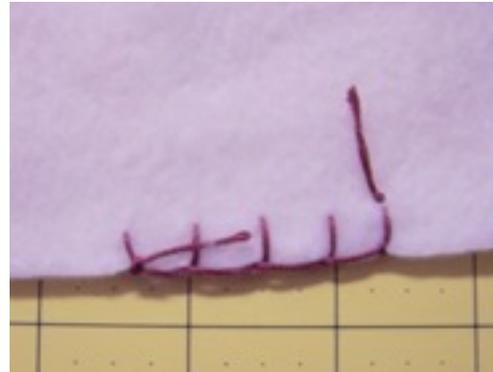
Just before you pull the fabric tight, stick your needle through the thread loop from the back to keep the thread end running along the fabric edge.



5. Repeat step 3 above until you come to a stopping point or are almost out of thread.



6. To tie off, just make a little knot on the back of the stitching and slip the end under a stitch or two.



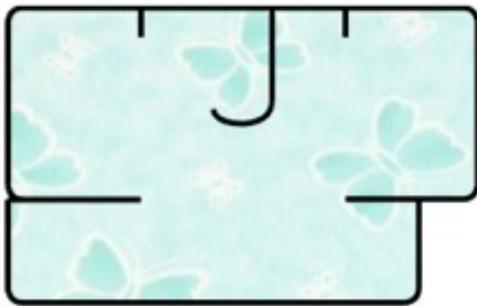
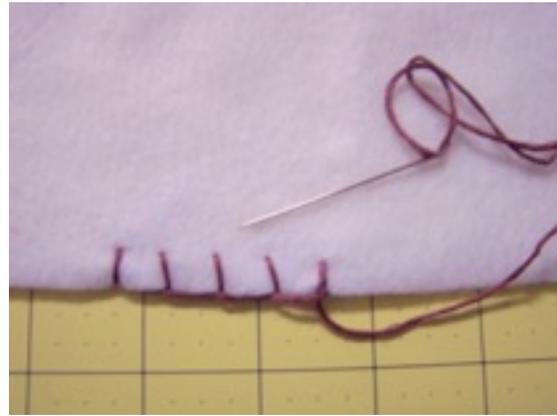
7. To start again in the same place (because you needed more thread), prepare your thread as in step one and poke your needle through the back at the bottom of your last stitch.



Run your needle under the last horizontal thread segment so the thread will come from the fabric edge again.



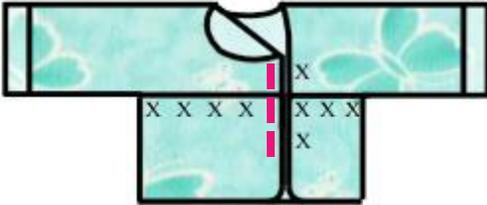
8. Continue blanket stitching around until all edges are finished, or at least all of the edges that will show.



Hint:

The sleeve cuffs are the edges indicated by asterisks on the diagram to the left. Keep in mind that they will be turned back on the finished jacket. If you have to tie off and begin again with more thread in these areas, you may want to put your knots on the fabric's right side.

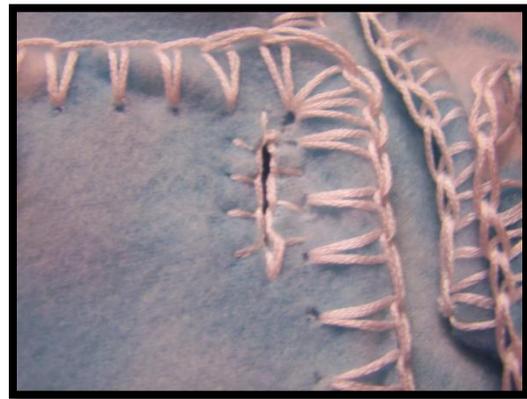
7. Carefully cut three buttonholes along the front right side of the jacket that are just long enough to squeeze your buttons in.



(The middle buttonhole will go through two layers of fabric.)



8. Stitch around the buttonholes with a small blanket stitch.



Size 2T

Size 12-18 mo.

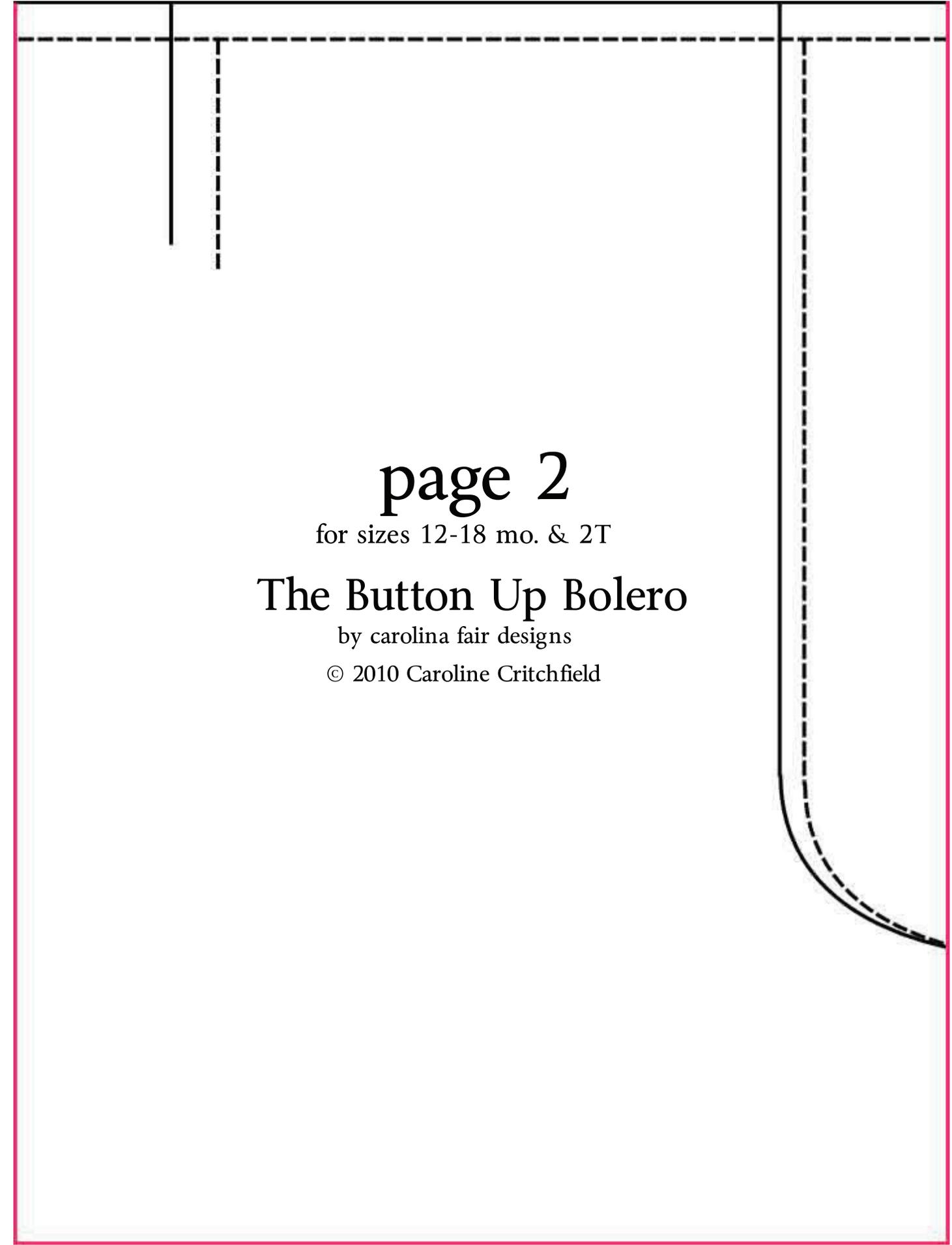
page 1

for sizes 12-18 mo. & 2T

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield



page 2

for sizes 12-18 mo. & 2T

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield

page 3

for sizes 12-18 mo. & 2T

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield



carolina

page 4

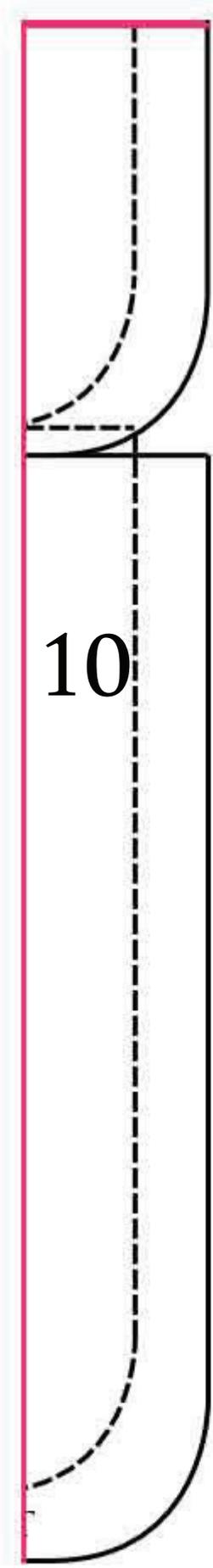
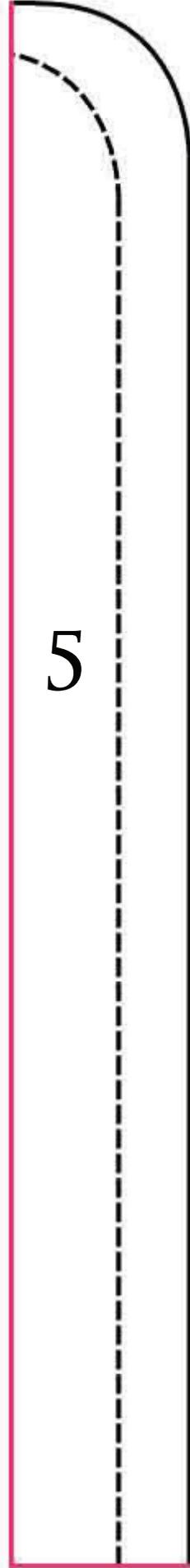
for sizes 12-18 mo. & 2T

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield



for sizes 12-18 mo. & 2T

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield

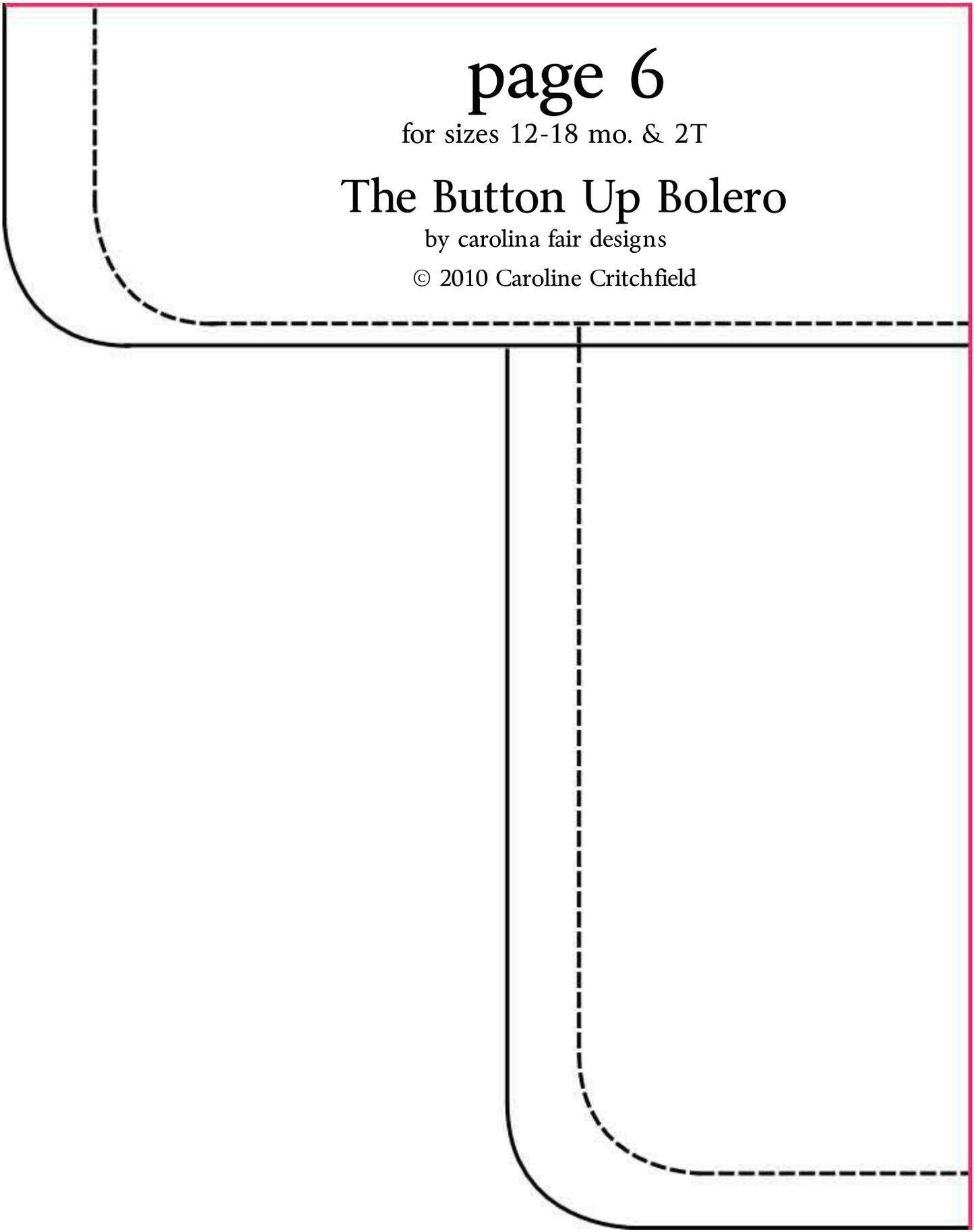
page 6

for sizes 12-18 mo. & 2T

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield



page 7

for sizes 12-18 mo. & 2T

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield



page 8

for sizes 12-18 mo. & 2T

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield



page 9

for sizes 12-18 mo. & 2T

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield

Size 12-18 mo.

Size 2T

Size 8

Size 6

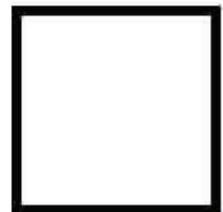
Size 4T

page 1
for sizes 4, 6, & 8

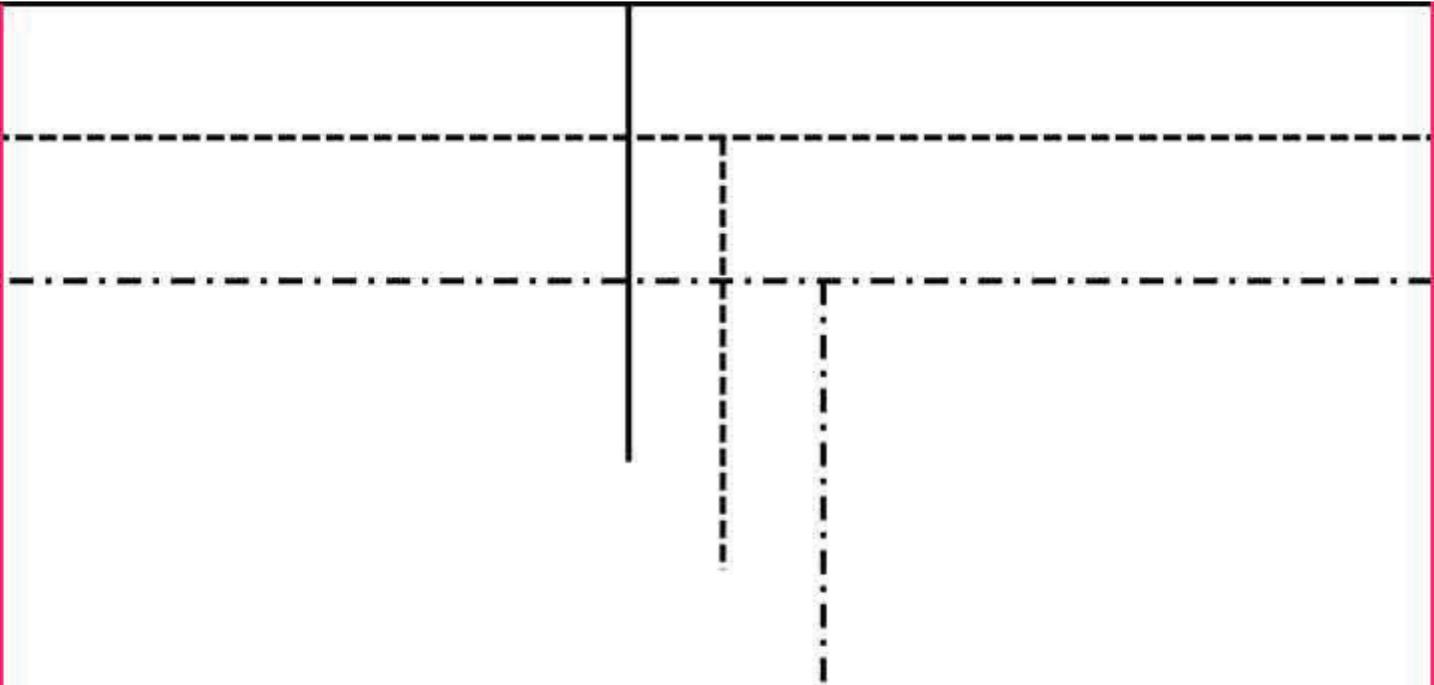
The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield



one inch square

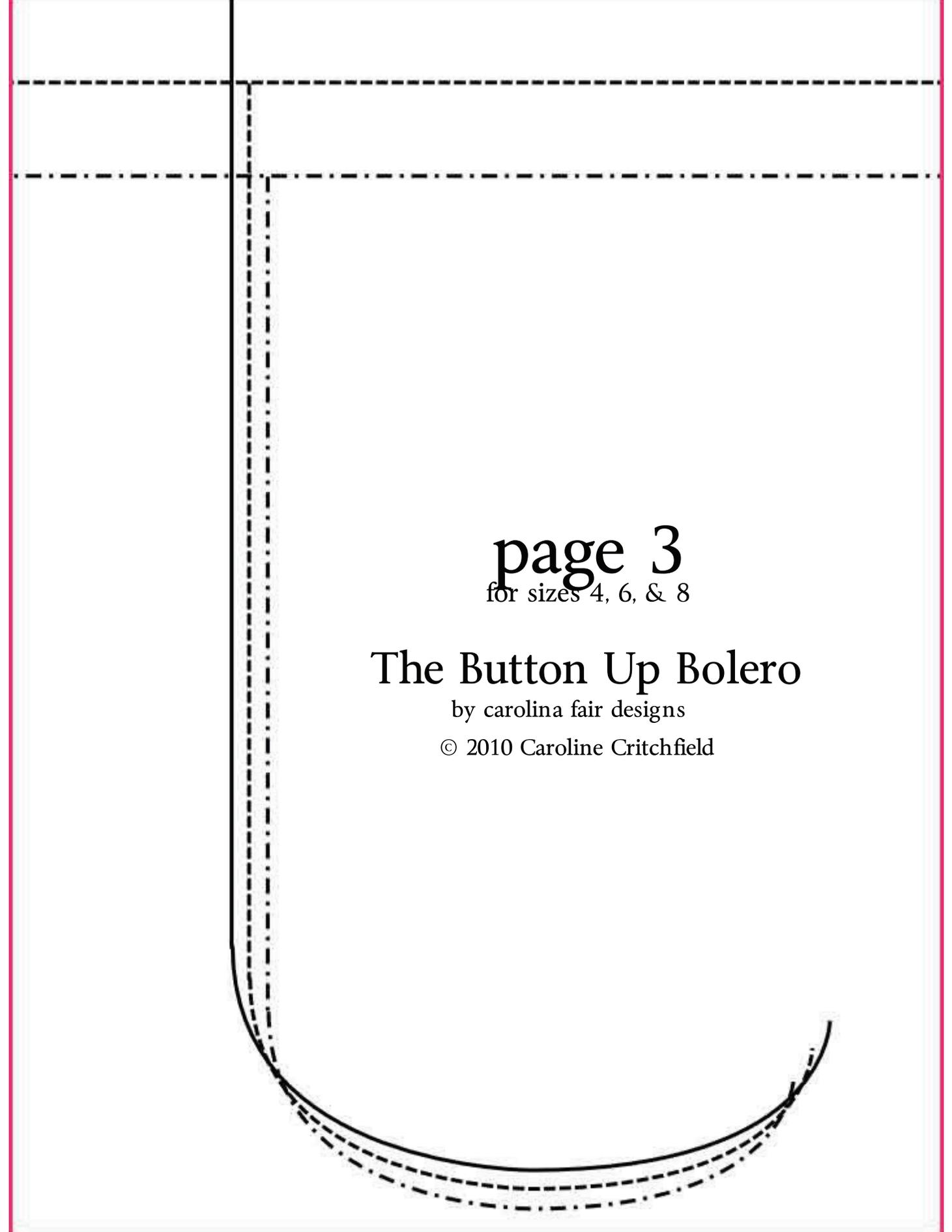


page 2
for sizes 4, 6, & 8

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield

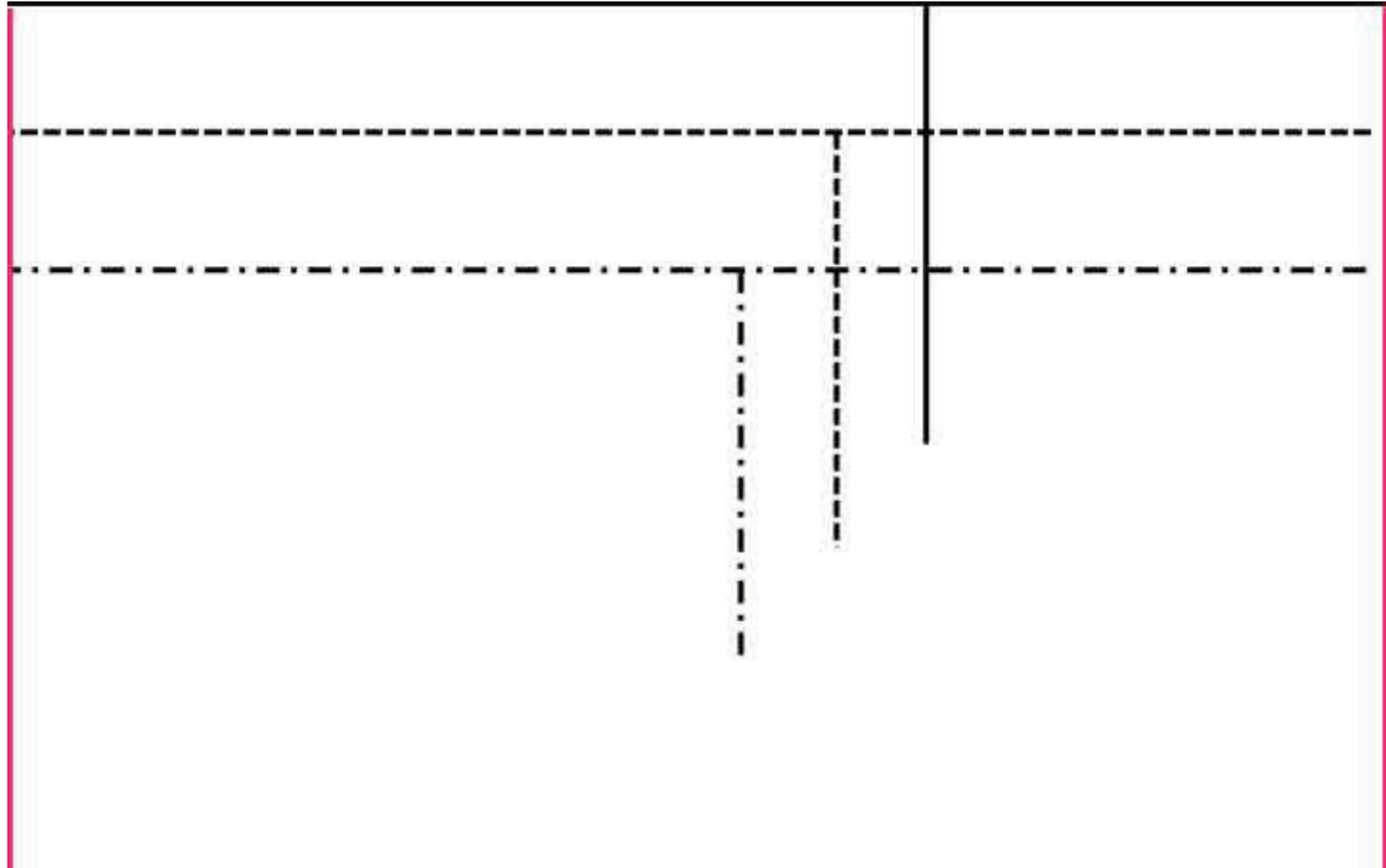


page 3
for sizes 4, 6, & 8

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield



page 4
for sizes 4, 6, & 8

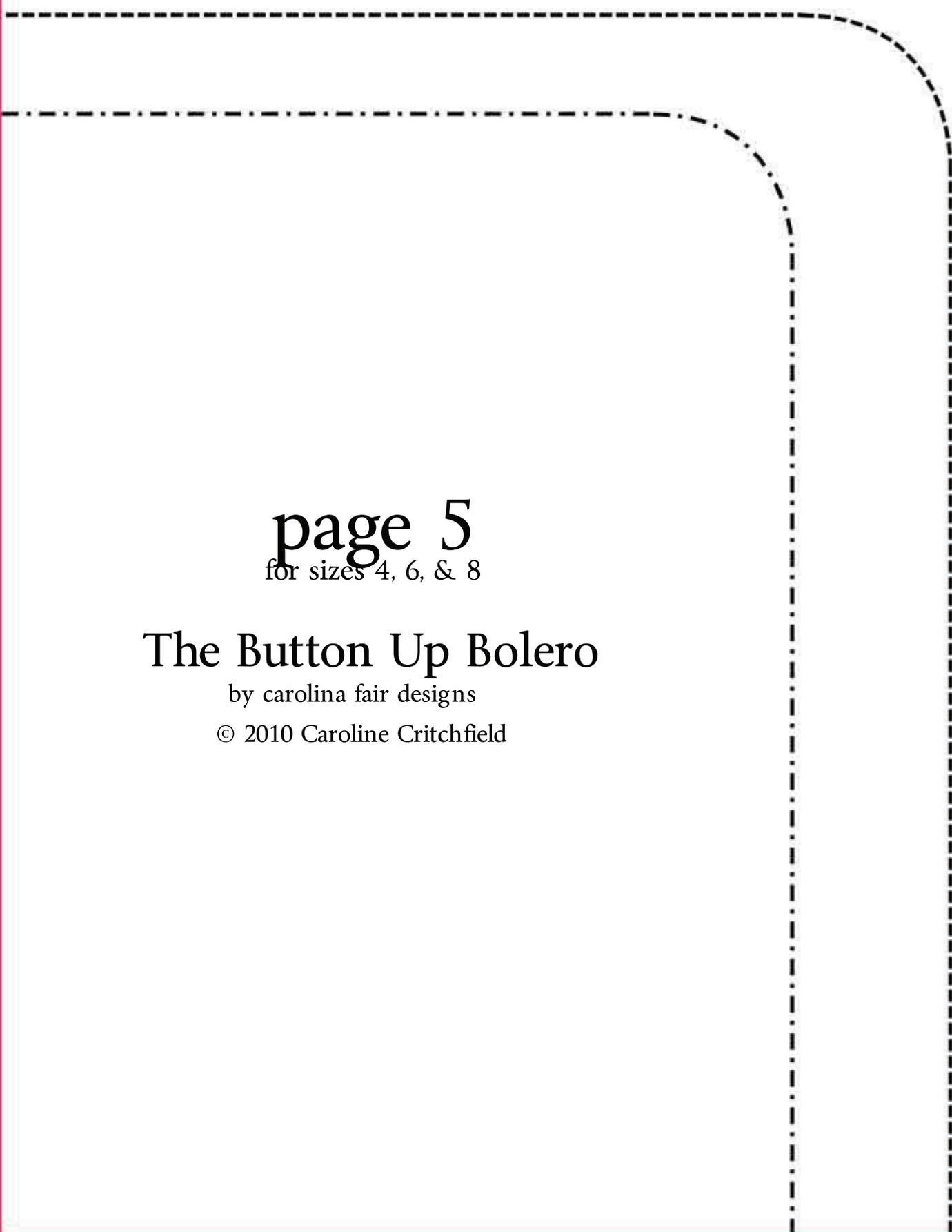
The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield



inline



page 5
for sizes 4, 6, & 8

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

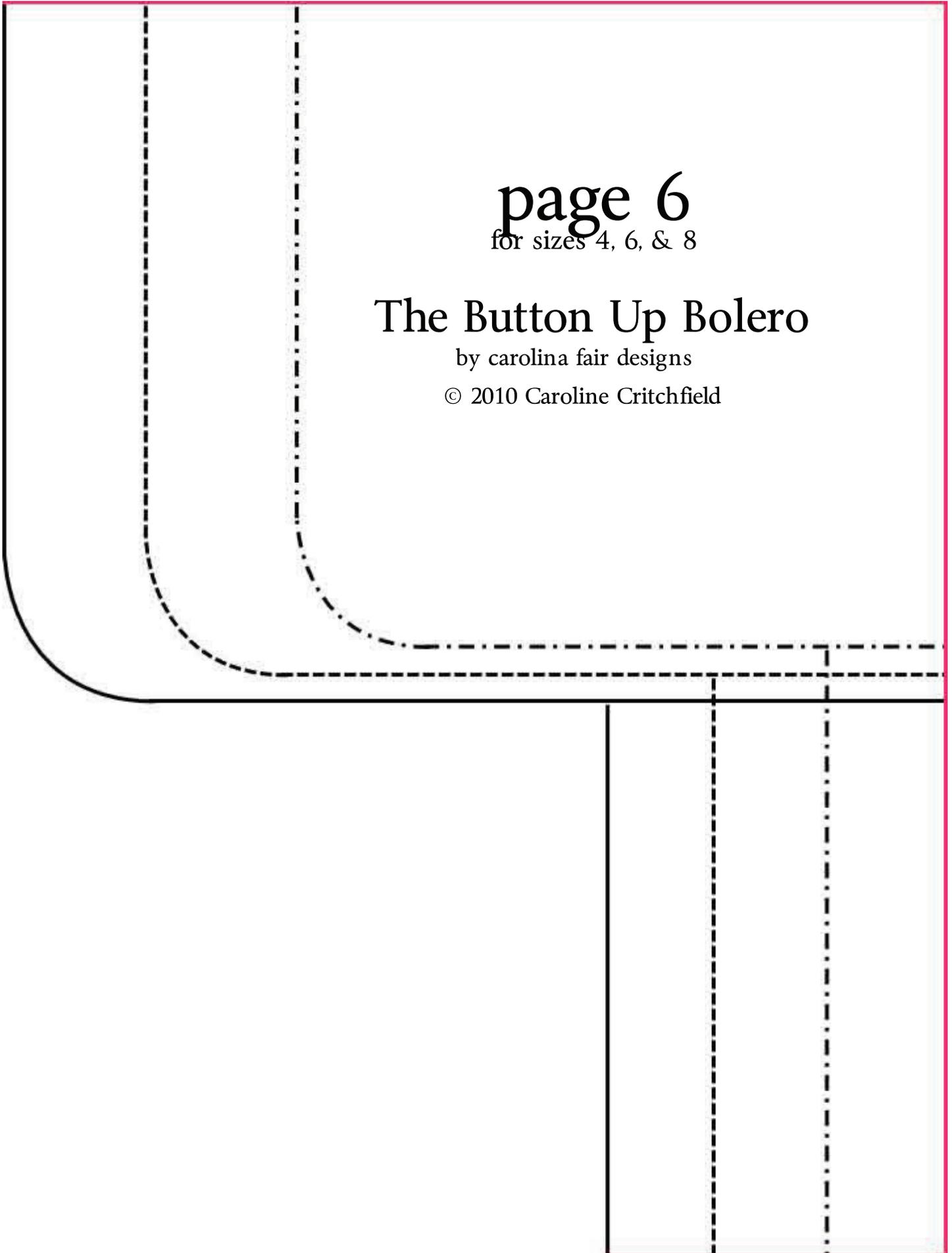
© 2010 Caroline Critchfield

page 6
for sizes 4, 6, & 8

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield

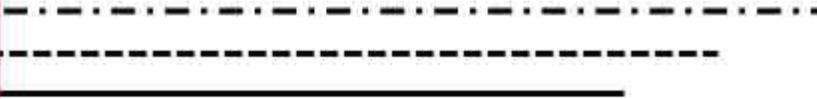


page 7
for sizes 4, 6, & 8

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield



page 8
for sizes 4, 6, & 8

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield

gr2

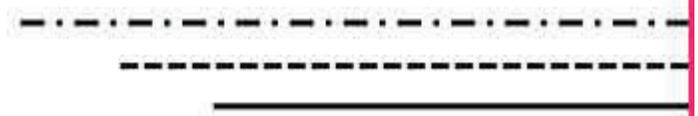


page 9
for sizes 4, 6, & 8

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield

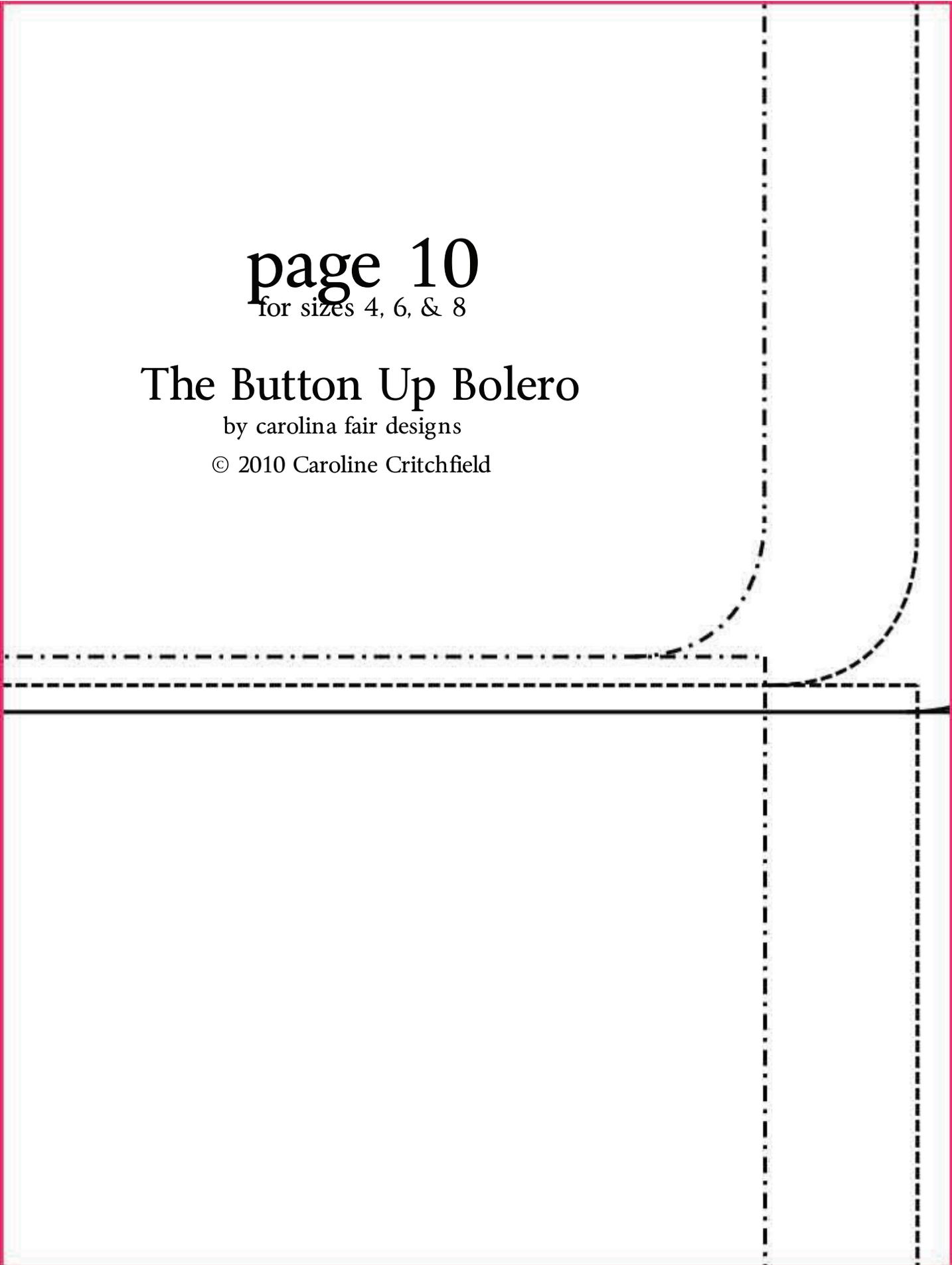


page 10
for sizes 4, 6, & 8

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield

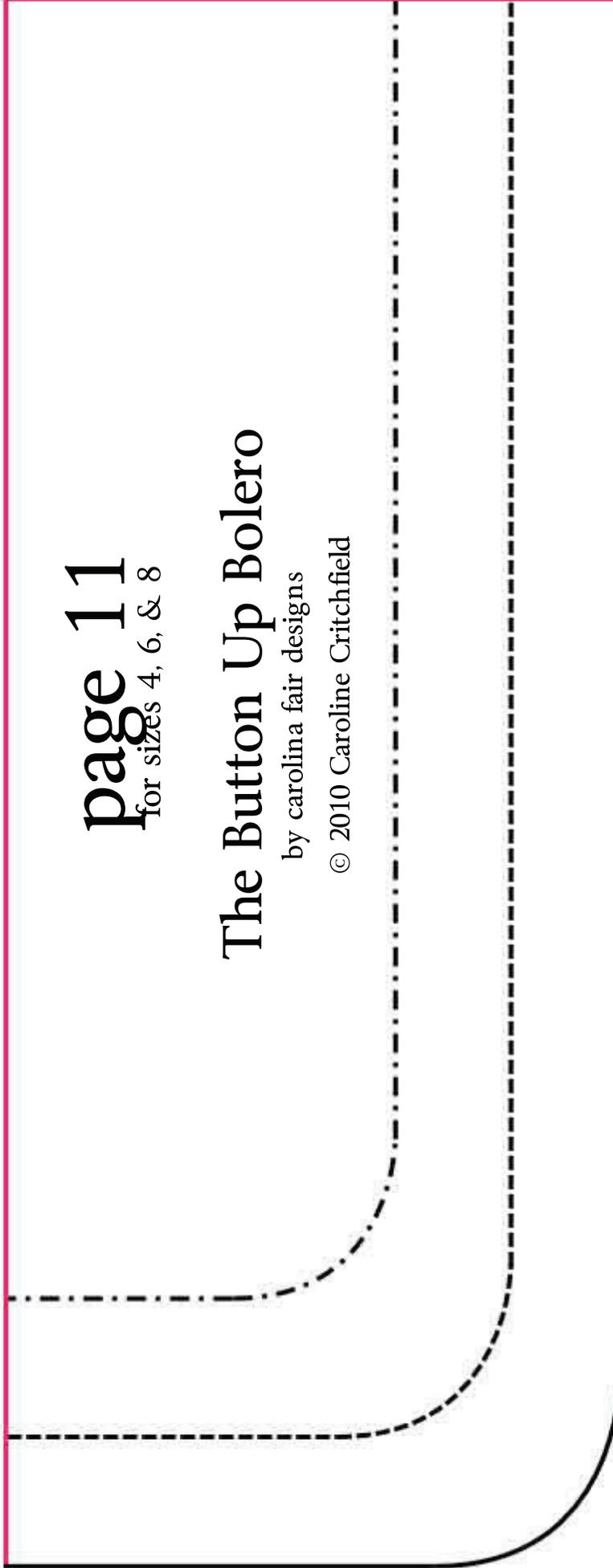


page 11
for sizes 4, 6, & 8

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield



page 12
for sizes 4, 6, & 8

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield

page 13
for sizes 4, 6, & 8

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

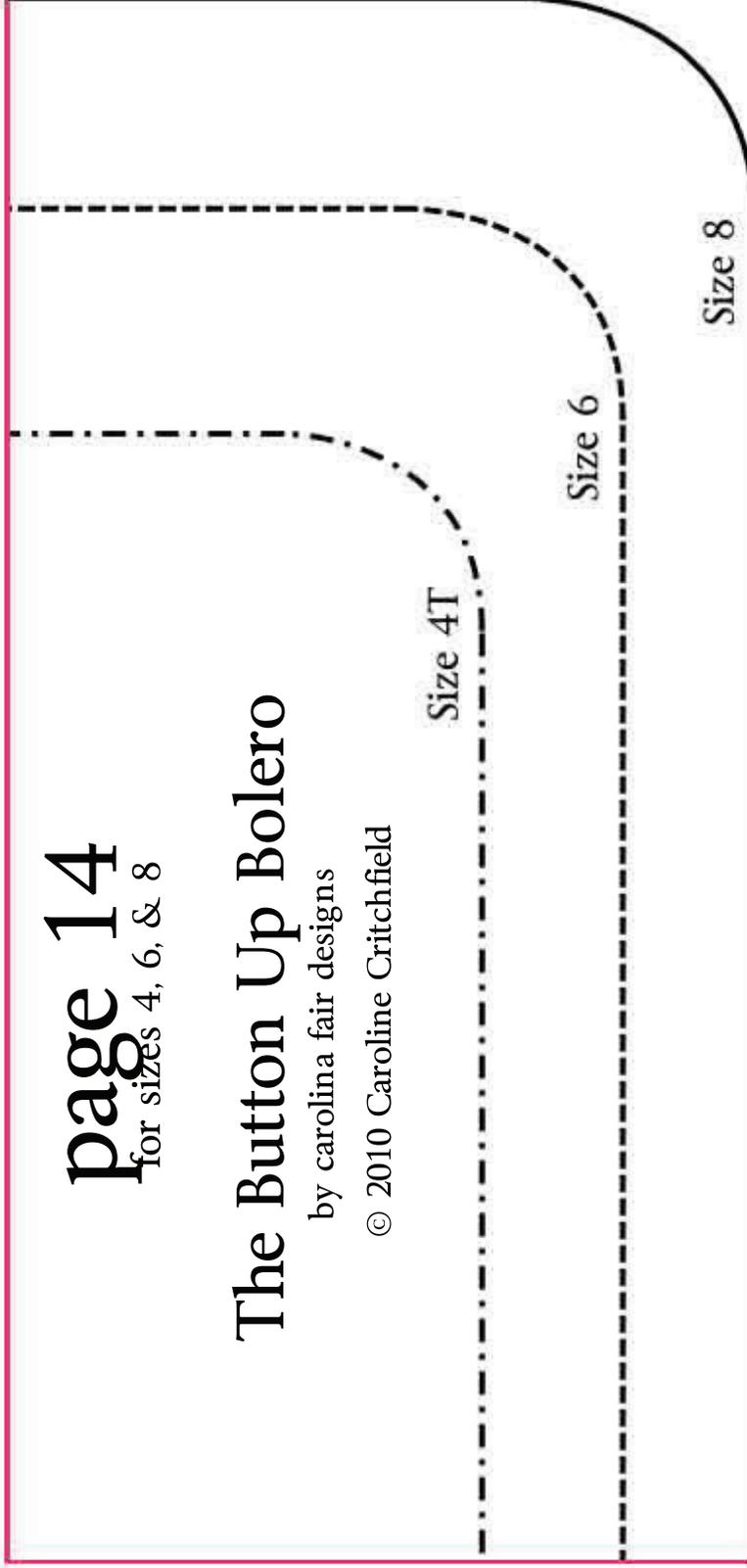
© 2010 Caroline Critchfield

page 14
for sizes 4, 6, & 8

The Button Up Bolero

by carolina fair designs

© 2010 Caroline Critchfield



Top far right piece for size 8 only

Middle far right piece for size 8 only

Bottom far right piece for size 8 only