

Dream Dress

A hi-low prom dress inspired by my family friend, Emma, who suffers from Spina Bifida, and is finally old enough to attend her first ever prom! With her spina bifida causing her to have ambulatory and fine motor challenges, Emma uses AFOs (ankle foot orthoses), Twister Cables, and Lofstrand (forearm) crutches. But that is nothing to stop Emma from wearing her dream dress on her dream night!



Extensive research has been done to figure out exactly what people with spina bifida and ambulatory difficulties experience while clothing shopping. While I found many awesome adaptive clothing pieces (such as leggings with elasticated hems and extra soft thread to pull over AFOs!) I struggled finding dresses, gowns, and evening wear in the market place that wouldn't either get in the way of proper mobility or restrict breathing through tight seamlines, and possibly inducing pressure sores on the skin.

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Aesthetic Features:

- Spring Color Palette
(Perfect for prom time!)
- Lace Yoke and Sweetheart
Neckline
- Floral Applique
(on front and back bodice,
very flattering and on
trend!)
- Flowy Skirt for Movement
(and gorgeous in pictures!)

Primary Features:

#1.) Silhouette Choice- Choosing a hi-low length for this dress, (hitting above the knees in the front, and mid calf in the back) allow for the wearer to move freely without worry of tripping while wearing AFO braces and using forearm crutches.

#2.) Closure- The closure on this gown is an invisible velcro strip that goes along the centerback, allowing for easy over the head dressing and comfort.

#3.) Strap Design- When using forearm crutches and facing fine motor challenges, I want the wearer to be ensured that the top of their dress won't fall down. Thick 3 1/2" straps allow for comfort and assurance that there won't be adjustments.

#4.) Fabric Choice- The bodice of the gown will be made out of a soft cotton lace with 4 way stretch (and a spandex lining) to keep the dress breathable and avoid pressure sores that can develop on the skin from tight clothing. The bottom of the gown is made out of a lightweight chiffon crepe, so the wearer won't be weighed down all night long.