

# *Tutu Etoile*

## CLEANING, HOOK AND BAR PLACEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

### **CLEANING:**

To clean your Tutu Etoile classical, or romantic skirts you must have a soft scrub brush and mild detergent without bleach. You can soak your tutu in the bathtub to get the dirt loosened up and then with a brush, gently scrub it. Rinse thoroughly and then hang upside down to dry. Make sure your net is straightened out (before you let it dry) so it doesn't lose its shape. Before washing, please make sure your embellishment won't bleed. If in doubt, remove it. Between cleaning, spray your tutu with *vodka* or *Febreze* to eliminate body odor. We do not suggest dry-cleaning your skirts. The chemicals used in the dry cleaning process can cause the net or tulle to soften.

To clean your Bodices or Tunics made from Bengaline or Brocade you may dry clean them professionally or by using *Dryel* or hand wash them with a mild soap but please remove the décor before hand washing. To spot clean bodices or tunics, use *Everblum Cleaning Fluid*. They also make a great makeup remover. If your Bodices or Tunics are made of Stretch Velvet we recommend hand washing.

**Note:** We recommend that a ballet brief should be worn for hygiene purposes and modesty especially when a tutu is being shared during the run of your performances.

To clean your travel bag, scrub with brush and mild detergent and lay flat to dry. Do not machine wash or dry clean. We also suggest spraying it with scotch guard to keep it from soiling.

### **FITTING for HOOK AND BAR PLACEMENT:**

To stitch on your hooks and bars you need a needle, thread and a pencil (or pins to mark placement). When stitching all hooks and bars /loops be sure to stitch though as many layers of fabric as you can and use a doubled heavy duty thread to prevent the threads from ripping away.

**Tutu placement:** First place the waist on the dancers natural waist and pin together. Make sure that the skirt is parallel to the floor and your dancer is in 6<sup>th</sup> position with her head facing front (not looking down). While your dancer is holding the front bust line of the bodice in its comfortable position, add pins to the rest of the bodice moving up from the waist toward top of the bodice. Remember that most fabrics soften (break in) over time. So, make sure to start off with you bodice pinned as tightly as possible so that it does not feel too loose after the "Break In" period.

1. With the Tutu or Tunic pinned on the dancers body, have a partner mark the hook and bar placement with a soft pencil mark while still pinned in to the costume. Remember, the fit of your costume depends upon the personal choice of the dancer. “Traditionally” the rule is the tighter the better.

**Skirt**, hook and bar placement

2. Place the large hook and bar on the waistband. The large hook should be facing in toward the body and on the inside of the right side of the Basque aligning within ¼” from the edge of the fabric. The large loop will be exposed; it will be on the outside of the left waistband with the edge of the loop placed exactly where you want the waist to close.

**Skirt (panty), Bodice and Tunic**, hook and bar placement

3. For the small hooks and bars the same applies as above for the sides and direction the hook and bars face. The hooks should be placed ¼ in. from the edge of the right side. The bars will be stitched vertically, exactly where you want your costume to close. These all should be placed approximately 1 to 1.5 inches apart. It is recommended that you stitch on the hooks first as this will determine the exact placement width of the bars.

Basque, panty and bodice placement;

a. The first hook and bar should be placed in the middle of the Basque, Panty or Bodice.

b. The second and third should be placed at the top and base of the Basque, Panty and Bodice.

c. From there, continue to split the sections in half until there is about 1 – 1 ½” space between them.

**Note;** for a flatter classical skirt, place tutu under heavy books for at least 24 hours.