

## Creating a Backdrop for Costume Photos

Taking a lot of costume photos is a lot of work. It helps to have the costume against a neutral background so all you see is the costume - not the not-so-pretty shelves in your costume shop.

It is easy to make a backdrop from some light / neutral fabric and 2 dowels. If you don't have a hook in the ceiling to hang the costumes on you can use an IV pole (available from medical supply houses - look for a used one to save \$\$).



Backdrop on IV Pole



Dress on light background



Once you have taken the photos you can crop any extra edges out of the frame.

### Supplies and Directions for making a portable backdrop and storage sack:

#### Backdrop:

**Supplies:** White/light colored fabric - 37" x 72" (I like to use nylon but any fabric that doesn't wrinkle easily will do.) You could also make one side of dark gray fabric to photograph light costumes (see below).

4" Grosgrain ribbon

2 - 1/2" diameter - 36" long dowels

**Note:** you can also make it 4' wide with wider dowels and fabric that is 49" wide x 72" long

The finished backdrop is 36" wide and 70" tall.

- 1) Finish all four edges of the fabric using the serger, zig zag or by hemming.
- 2) Turn the bottom edge over 1.25" and sew at the very edge of the finished edge. You are making a tube that will hold the bottom dowel.
- 3) Mark the top of the fabric at 16" and 20" in from the left edge and 1.25" down from the top edge. Place the ribbon ends at the 16" and 20" marks and sew the ends to the fabric. The middle is not sewn. This makes a tight loop at the top to slip over the IV Pole bar.



- 4) Turn the top edge over 1.25" and sew the very edge of the finished edge. You are making the tube for the top dowel.
- 5) Insert the dowels and hang the backdrop on the IV Pole.

### Storage Sack:

The Storage Sack will hold the rolled up backdrop when it is not in use to help keep it clean. (See one below hanging on the IV Pole.)

#### Supplies:

Fabric - 7" x 40" - any fabric will do  
12" - 1/2" Grosgrain ribbon

- 1) Finish the top (narrow edge) of the fabric. Finish down the sides about 3 " This will give you a finished edge for the top.
- 2) Turn under 3/4" of the finished edge to make a hem. Keep the sides open for the ribbon to go through.
- 3) Fold the fabric in half long ways, right sides together and sew the bottom and side up to the place where the sides are finished. Turn the bag right side out.
- 4) Run the Grosgrain ribbon through the top hem. Tie a knot in the ends of the ribbon.

### IV Pole:



IV poles have 5 legs, on casters with brakes on 1 or 2 wheels. They are very easy to move around and will hold very heavy costumes without tipping over.

I have found a great, used, sturdy IV Poles on eBay. The cost of the pole is not too expensive but the shipping can be.

You might also try to find a local medical supply company that might sell it's used equipment. Be sure to look for a heavy base with 5 legs.



I have also made a backdrop with a light side and a darker side (Charcoal). Use whichever side suites the costume better.