

## Eclipse Solar

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The beauty of a solar eclipse is timeless. I remember the first time I ever saw one was when I was younger. I was completely amazed at what a breathtaking sight two things could create. There is such simplicity in a solar eclipse, where all it takes is just the Sun and the Moon to produce a spectacular view. A total solar eclipse is when the moon, usually the new Moon, comes in front of the sun and completely covers it (McClure, 2014). With the Moon blocking the sun it creates a night sky during the day. What makes solar eclipses so incredible is that it occurs rarely and when it does you can see the stars and planets come into view as well as the Sun's corona (McClure, 2014).

The design of the dress represents a solar eclipse with a twist back representing the Sun rays peeking through the Moon. The straps represent different sunrays crossing paths since they are crisscrossed. The dress acts like the Moon that obscures the Sun, and the open back and side cutouts allow the skin to peek through like the Sun. To mimic the colors of the sunrays emanated during a solar eclipse I chose a bright red.

The shiny and pliable medium weight fabric was used to achieve the unity of the design elements of surface, lines, and shapes, complementing one another. A bias cut draping method was mainly employed to create a figure flattering garment. Both the front slinky silhouette of the dress and the twist at the center back hip were created using the true bias. The gathers on the backside seams to go with the twist were draped while draping the back twist. The lining was hand stitched along the opening of the twist back, and the hem was blind stitched. The straps were sewn wrong sides together, then turned right side out and sandwiched in between the lining and fashion fabric. The straps that crisscross were hand sewn to the vertical straps. The side front cutouts were finished with lining that was sewn and then under stitched.



This original design contributes to the field of textiles and apparel by exemplifying the unforgettable moment of solar eclipses as an inspiration. This design is also unique in capturing the natural spectacle with playful cutouts and thin straps that allow the skin to peek through this slinky vibrant red dress, while the open back captures all the attention featuring a twist and gathers at the side to illustrate the sun rays peeking through the Moon during a solar eclipse. This dress is suitable for special occasions by providing an elegant simplicity that will stand out amongst a crowd. Solar eclipses are hard to forget once seen and this dress captures that everlasting effect.

McClure, B. (2014, Apr 28). When is the next total solar eclipse in the U.S.? Retrieved from EarthSky <http://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/whens-the-next-total-solar-eclipse-in-the-us>

