

Erin Hentzel

Doll Days!

Sew an Everyday Wardrobe
for 18" Dolls

Tips on fit,
sewing small,
fabrics & more



Stylish Patterns
to Mix, Match & Embellish



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Dedication

For Ali, whose sense of style inspired many of these designs



Acknowledgments

A special thanks to my husband, Eric, and my kids for believing in my creativity and being so supportive. Thanks also to my daughters for rekindling my love of dolls; to my students whose enthusiasm for sewing inspires me; and to Roxane, Monica, Nissa, Alison, Kristy, April, Jenny, Diane, and everyone at C&T who helped make my book amazing.

Thank you to Andover, Dear Stella, Riley Blake, RJR Fabrics, Robert Kaufman, and Timeless Treasures for providing me with gorgeous fabric; to Riley Blake for cute trims and small embellishments; and to C&T Publishing for giving me the wonderful opportunity to create this book.



Introduction

The designs in *Doll Days! Sew an Everyday Wardrobe for 18" Dolls* are extremely special to me. They encompass my love of classic styles and times gone by (though you'll find modern touches throughout).

Sewing doll clothes marries two distinct traditions: collecting dolls and sewing. Both seem to start out as play. We receive a doll when we are little, and for some, our love for dolls never diminishes with age. For me, it began with a *Sasha* doll. As I cared for my doll, I began to play designer, too, and my lifelong love of sewing was kindled. Like many of you, sewing for my dolls in my room was how I caught the “sewing bug.”

Fast forward to motherhood, and my love for doll sewing was reignited when my daughters received their first dolls and I became the designer. As my girls grew older, the “need” for doll clothes in our home lessened, but my passion to sew for them did not. So here I am, years later, still designing and sewing doll clothes—or, as my family puts it, “Mom’s playing with her dolls again!”

In this collection, you will find doll clothes patterns and a guide for choosing fabrics and picking trims that will make great-looking doll clothes. Because dolls and their clothes are small, it’s important to consider scale when choosing project materials.

Sprinkled throughout the book are tips specifically for sewing doll clothes and examples of how to modify the patterns for additional looks. Adding ruffles, using different techniques for hemming sleeves, and incorporating trims are just some of the easy ways you can create fresh designs using the same basic patterns.

While all the projects include clear instructional photos and step-by-step instructions, this is not a “how to sew” book. You need to have basic sewing knowledge to work with these patterns. However, my first book on making doll clothes, *Sew in Style—Make Your Own Doll Clothes*, includes lots of basic sewing instruction. Although that book was aimed primarily at children, it provides tutorials and information that can help people of all ages learn to sew. You might want to take a look at *Sew in Style* if you need help with some foundational skills.

All the projects in *Doll Days!* are rated in difficulty from beginner to intermediate. Here are the basic guidelines:

Beginner: A pattern to help further develop the sewing basics; a great place to start to build sewing confidence

Confident Beginner: A pattern that builds on the sewing basics; a great pattern for those who have a firm foundation of the basics and are ready to do more

Intermediate: A pattern that is moderately complicated and includes more challenging sewing techniques

If you are new to sewing from patterns, try some of the beginner projects first.

Whether the dolls you are dressing belong to you, your children, your grandchildren, or other doll-loving people, I hope you enjoy sewing these outfits and sharing your talent.

—Erin



From left to right: My daughter Ali and her doll in the **Modern Vintage Sundress**, me and my doll in the **Vintage Party Dress**, and my daughter Avery and her doll in the **Vintage Party Dress**.

Photo Gallery



Modern-Vintage Sundress:
View A: Fabric: quilting cotton;
Trim: medium rickrack.
View B: Fabric: pima cotton gingham
and white cotton poplin accents.



Camisole Top and Underwear:
Fabric: cotton Lycra jersey knit.



Classic Skirt: View A: with scalloped hem.
View B: with straight hem. Fabric: quilting cotton.
Camisole Top: Fabric: cotton Lycra.



Modern Camp Shorts: Fabric: quilting cotton.
Crochet Lace Top: Fabric: quilting cotton; Trims: ¼"-wide lace for neckline and ½"-wide lace for waistline.



Modern Jumper: View A: Fabric: natural linen; Trims: jacquard and velvet ribbons (¼"-¾" wide).
View B: Fabric: fine-wale corduroy.
Button-Down Shirt: View B: Fabric: cotton poplin.



Vintage Party Dress:
Views A and B: Fabric: quilting cotton.



Button-Down Shirt:
 Fabric: quilting cotton.
Classic Skirt: With added ¾" ruffled hem; Fabric: quilting cotton.



Button-Down Shirt: View A: Fabric: quilting cotton with pima cotton gingham placket and sleeve bands. View B: Fabric: quilting cotton.
Modern Camp Shorts: View A: with 1/4"-wide crochet lace on hem; Fabric: quilting cotton. View B: with frayed hem; Fabric: white denim.



Crochet Lace Top: Fabric: quilting cotton; Trim: 1/4"-wide lace.
Classic Skirt: With straight hem; Fabric: quilting cotton.



Modern Camp Shorts: Fabric: interweave chambray; Trim: 3/8"-wide crochet lace.
Button-Down Shirt: Fabric: batik; Trim: 3/8"-wide crochet lace.

Modern-Vintage Sundress: With two straps, pleated skirt, and a big bow; Fabric: quilting cotton.



Modern-Vintage Sundress: Fabric: quilting cotton; Trim: ¼"-wide lace; Buttons: ⅜" and ½".



Button-Down Shirt: View B; with sleeve finish from Vintage Party Dress; Fabric: quilting cotton.
Camisole Top: Fabric: cotton Lycra.
Modern Camp Shorts: Fabric: quilting cotton.



Crochet Lace Top: With a peplum hem; Fabric: quilting cotton; Trim: ¼"-wide lace.
Modern Camp Shorts: Fabric: lightweight cotton twill.



Tools and Supplies

You'll need a basic arsenal of sewing tools to make any of the projects in this book. These familiar tools include a tape measure, seam ripper, straight pins, fabric scissors, thread, iron, nonpermanent fabric marker, and hand sewing needles.

Additionally, I highly recommend the following particular items for making top-notch doll clothes.

TRACING/PATTERN PAPER

All the doll clothes patterns are printed in a special pullout section. Trace the patterns to make your own patterns that you can pin to your fabric when cutting. I like to use Swedish Tracing Paper or Pellon's 830 Easy Pattern. They're stable enough that they don't tear or stretch easily, but flexible enough to pin onto fabric. This enables you to cut out patterns more accurately than you can with plain white paper. They also work great for fussy cutting fabric because they're easy to see through. You can also use a lightweight, nonfusible, nonwoven interfacing.

SEWING MACHINE NEEDLES

Good-quality machine needles help make sewing more trouble-free. Use the correct needle for your fabric type and weight, and replace it after six to eight hours of sewing for the best results. When your stitches start to go awry and you don't know why, replace the machine needle. Sometimes that's all it takes to get your sewing back on track.

SMALL IRONING BOARD

Sleeve boards and mini/tabletop ironing boards work beautifully for pressing the seams on doll garments, especially once those seams are "in the round" and no longer flat. These small garments don't fit over the end of a traditional ironing board, but they do fit over these smaller boards easily, which makes pressing them less complicated.

WONDER TAPE

Washaway Wonder Tape (by Dritz Quilting) is a washable, flexible, double-sided sticky tape for sewing. I use Wonder Tape often when working with small projects and notions. Wonder Tape can take the place of pins to keep things in place when basting collars, straps, pockets, and trims. It can also help tame curling edges of stretch knits and help match stripes along a side seam. I also use it to hold in place tiny items, like buttons, before I attach them permanently.

ANTIFRAY SEALANT

Antifray sealant has many uses in doll clothing construction. It helps prevent fraying in lace and ribbons and keeps buttonholes from becoming untidy. My favorite is Fray Block (by June Tailor), because it dries very quickly and remains soft and flexible even after it dries.

ROLLED-HEM PRESSER FOOT

This traditional presser foot makes perfect narrow hems easy. Once you get the hang of it, you'll use it all the time for doll clothes. For a tutorial on using this foot, refer to Tutorial: Narrow Rolled Hems.



A rolled-hem presser foot is a great tool for creating neat, narrow hems on doll clothes.

ROTARY CUTTER, ACRYLIC RULER, AND MAT

Some pattern pieces are rectangles; the measurements for these are given in the project instructions rather than being presented as patterns to trace. Many sewists use a rotary cutter, together with a self-healing mat and gridded ruler, to cut straight-sided shapes from fabric. If you don't have these tools, use graph paper and a ruler to create your own pattern pieces.

TUBE-TURNING TOOL

Tube-turning tools make quick work of turning narrow straps right side out.

PINKING SHEARS

Pinking seam allowances with these zigzag-blade scissors is a fast way to finish raw edges without adding bulk (or much work).

Big Tips for Small-Scale Sewing

Even though doll outfits are small, quality still makes a difference. If you start with high-quality fabric and trims, your doll garments will be both easier to sew and better looking when finished. Keep the following details in mind for these diminutive duds.

Fit

All 18" dolls are not the same size (even if they are technically the same "height"). Some are slightly wider than others. Some may be narrower in the waist and chest. Some have soft bodies, and others are made entirely from vinyl or plastic. Even dolls made by the same manufacturer can vary in dimensions.

The patterns in this book are designed to fit the most popular 18" doll. It has vinyl arms and legs and a soft cloth body. It has a 10½"–10¾" waist, a 10½"–11" chest (measured directly under the arms), and a 12¼" hip (measured across the horizontal seam on the rear end).

Although not usually necessary, slight changes can easily be made to adjust for a narrower doll. For patterns with side seams, sew with a ⅜" seam allowance along the sides, instead of the ¼" seam allowance used in the book. The back openings can also be adjusted by folding more than ½" when sewing or applying the back closures.

Scale

Scale is the most important consideration when purchasing fabric and trims with which to make and embellish doll clothing.

Trims and Embellishments

Print Scale

The fabrics you choose should have small-scale prints. Big designs can be lost and look abstract when cut into small pieces for doll wear. I try not to use any design with images bigger than 1½" or with motifs spread far apart.



Small-scale prints look best when making small-scale clothes.

It's helpful to audition prints for doll garments by looking at swatches that are between 4" and 6" in any direction. This is the approximate amount you would see on a finished doll skirt, top, or dress. You don't need to cut swatches of all your fabrics. Instead, you can easily make an "interview card" by cutting a hole out of cardstock; it will look like the mat that goes in a picture frame.



An "interview card" with a 4" × 4" opening shows how this fabric would look as a straight skirt or top.

The print scale can be slightly larger (or more spread out) when used for a gathered skirt, because the images are scrunched together and the scale is not as obvious.

Bulk and Drape

Two other important considerations for choosing fabrics for doll clothes are bulk and drape. Choose fabrics that hang nicely, and avoid fabrics that are bulky or thick, especially for a garment with gathers. Look for lightweight fabrics that have a nice drape and a soft hand.

Quilting Cottons

Many quilting cottons work very well for doll clothes, especially for bottoms. For tops and dresses, it's important that the fabric has a nice drape and a soft hand. Stiff fabrics won't drape well or look as nice. Many fabric companies that traditionally produce quilting cottons are now making fabrics intended for garments, like shirting fabric.

Tip

Quality makes a huge difference in the drape of quilting cottons. Once you feel the softness of quilt shop cottons, you won't settle for less again. Plus, you will be supporting a local business owner and improving your local economy.

Some quilting cottons have prints that mimic fabrics traditionally used for garments. These fabrics are great to use for doll clothes, because they give you the look of classic apparel fabric without the bulk.



The **Modern Camp Shorts** and **Crochet Lace Top** with peplum were both made with quilting cottons. The fabric used for the shorts looks like old-fashioned herringbone.

Knits

When choosing knits, look for good stretch and recovery. If you pull and stretch the fabric, it should return to its original shape. If it stays stretched out and looks a bit wavy, then it does *not* have good recovery.

I prefer cotton knits that have some added spandex or Lycra (usually about 3–10 percent). These knits are extremely forgiving and drape really well. Many well-known fabric companies are now offering knits with mini prints that are ideal for doll clothes.

Upcycling and Repurposing



School uniform style: Repurposed wool from worn-out slacks was used to make this **Modern Jumper**. The **Button-Down Shirt** is made from cotton broadcloth.

Upcycling and *repurposing* are just the current terms for cutting up old clothes or linens and

sewing the fabric into something new. It's a great way to make doll clothes from nice apparel fabrics. I made a **Modern Jumper** from an old pair of women's designer wool slacks. There was enough usable fabric to make a very classy school uniform outfit for a doll.

Repurposing children's clothing is great way to find cute prints suitable for doll clothes. You can sometimes make several doll outfits from just one child's garment. The **Button-Down Shirt** was made from a poplin skirt that both my daughters wore when they were younger but have long since outgrown.



Techniques and Terms

Marking Notches

Notches are marks shaped like diamonds, triangles, or wedges that are printed on the cutting lines of patterns. The notches on patterns indicate where to match up different fabric pieces when sewing.

The easiest way to mark notches when making full-sized clothes is by making a small snip. However, since most doll clothing seam allowances are $\frac{1}{4}$ " , I prefer to cut around the notches. Trim off the notches after sewing a seam to eliminate the bulk they may have added.

Starting to Stitch

When you first start sewing a seam with your machine, grab hold of the upper and lower threads to avoid tangles on the underside of your work. Sometimes fabric can get pulled down into the needle hole along the machine's stitch plate; if you develop the habit of tucking the threads under your fingers as you sew the first few stitches of a seam, you can avoid this mishap.

If a fabric is particularly fussy when you start sewing, then use the threads to gently pull the fabric for the first few stitches until the feed dogs take over and do the job of moving the fabric. It also helps to start sewing a few stitches down from the edge, backstitch up to the edge, and then continue sewing normally to finish the seam.

Sewing $\frac{1}{4}$ " Seams

It's imperative that you sew accurate $\frac{1}{4}$ " seams when sewing these patterns. Being over (or under) the expected allowance can add up quickly on a small doll garment.

Some people like to use a $\frac{1}{4}$ " piecing foot to sew an accurate $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam. Others prefer to adjust the needle position on their machine and use a regular presser foot. If you opt to move the needle, position the edge of your fabric along the edge of the presser foot and then move the needle until it is $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge.

As you sew, keep the fabric's edge even with the edge of the presser foot, just as you would when using a $\frac{1}{4}$ " presser foot. This is what I do, because the fabric seems to feed more evenly when all the feed dogs are completely covered by fabric and the presser foot.

Tip: Check for Features on Your Machine

On many modern sewing machines, the use of the preset needle positions (typically needle left, needle center, and needle right) allows for automatic needle positioning at the push of a button. The needle-right setting is typically preset for a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Since machine features vary, check your user's guide and sew a test piece to verify your seam allowance.

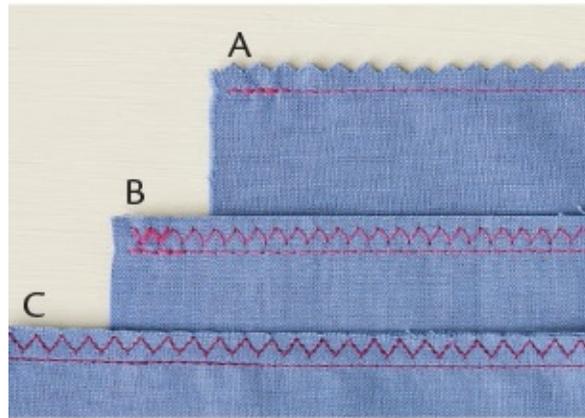
Backstitching

When sewing doll clothes, it's important to minimize the amount of bulk within seam allowances. When backstitching to secure a seam, make just two or three stitches backward.

Trimming, Clipping, and Notching Seam Allowances

Even though doll clothes are sewn with a smaller seam allowance ($\frac{1}{4}$ " is used in most seams in this book), corners still need to be trimmed. In addition, curves should be clipped or notched as necessary to allow the seam allowance to spread—or to keep it from bunching—as it goes around curves.

Finishing Seam Allowances



Seam finishing options include pinking (A), regular zigzag (B), and three-step zigzag (C).

Whether or not to finish your seam allowances when making doll clothes is a personal choice. (I often choose to leave mine unfinished.) It's usually an important step when making full-size garments to prevent fraying, but it's unlikely that doll clothes are going to be machine washed and dried many times. Finishing seams can be time consuming and can add bulk; so before deciding how to finish yours, consider the audience for your doll clothes and the different techniques.

Knits don't fray, so it's usually unnecessary to finish the seam allowances on a knit garment.

Tip

If you finish seam allowances with a method other than pinking the edges, you will need to press the seam allowances to one side rather than pressing them open.

Pinking

Trimming seam allowances with pinking shears actually reduces bulk, so it's a great choice. Just carefully cut along the raw edge after sewing a seam. Pinking allows you to press the seam allowances open, which distributes bulk.

Regular Zigzag Stitch

After sewing a seam, sew with a zigzag stitch within the seam allowance along the fabric's raw edge. This stitch adds less bulk than serging.

Three-Step Zigzag

Some machines have a specialty three-step zigzag stitch that can be used to finish the seam allowances along the fabric's raw edge after the seam has been sewn. This stitch does add a little more bulk than the regular zigzag stitch, but it seems to stop more fraying.

Serging

Using a serger to finish seam allowances after sewing a seam adds the most bulk and can be tricky to do on small projects like doll clothes. If you choose to serge the seam allowances, use a two- or three-thread overlock stitch and a narrow width.

Topstitching

Topstitching is done as a decorative element on clothing, typically with a long stitch length. On doll clothes, however, the stitch length should not be too long so you can maintain a proper scale.

Sewing Sleeves

Even sewing tiny sleeves in the flat can be a bit tricky because it involves sewing together opposing curves. Here are some helpful tips for making super sleeves.

Tip: Ease Stitching

Use an ease stitch when a sleeve is not gathered. Sew a single row of long, straight stitches (called ease stitching) along the sleeve cap and leave long ends at the start and finish. To use ease stitching, pull slightly on the bobbin thread to help the sleeve fit more easily to the armhole if needed. Ease stitching can be removed once the sleeve is securely sewn in place.



Ease stitching on sleeve caps helps fit them into armholes for pucker-free finishes.

- Use lots of pins and keep the edges even when you pin the sleeve to the bodice.
- Pin the sleeve at the sides first and then work up to the shoulder on each side.
- Place pins within the ¼" seam allowance and as close to the edge as possible.
- Sew right up to each pin before taking it out to help ensure that the edges stay together as you sew the sleeve to the bodice.
- Use the needle-down feature if your machine has one.
- As you stop to take out each pin (or to pivot), check that the bodice is not folded underneath along the seam allowance in the

small section you are sewing.

- If you inadvertently sew a little tuck when attaching sleeves, pick out those stitches with a seam ripper and resew just that part.



Pin within the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

TUTORIAL: Gathering



The sleeves and skirt are gathered on this **Vintage Party Dress**, which was made with quilting cotton. The sleeve finish is

There are numerous ways to gather fabric. Here's the tried-and-true method I use when gathering sleeves, skirts, or ruffles:

1. Use a long stitch length to sew 2 parallel rows of straight stitches close to the edge of the fabric. Leave long thread ends at both the beginning and end of the rows and do not backstitch.



Leave the threads long when sewing gathering stitches so you have enough to hold onto when pulling the threads to gather the fabric.

2. Working from 1 side of the fabric piece at a time, pull on both bobbin threads at the same time to gather the fabric. Slide the gathers across the fabric by loosely holding them between your thumb and finger; distribute the gathers evenly.



Hold the bobbin threads taut as you slide the fabric together to create gathers.

3. Pin the gathered fabric piece to the other piece, using lots of pins to hold the gathers in place and to keep the raw edges even and together. You can wrap the bobbin thread ends on a pin to keep the gathers from loosening before you have a chance to sew them in place



Wrap the thread ends on a pin to hold the gathers in place.

4. Sew together your fabric pieces with the gathered piece facing up. Sew right up to each pin. Don't sew over any pins; instead, leave them in the fabric as long as possible. This keeps the presser foot from pushing the gathers.



Gathering stitches are shown in black thread. The seam is shown in red thread.

5. Once the gathered fabric is securely sewn in place, remove the gathering stitches by pulling the bobbin threads all the way out or by picking out the stitches with a seam ripper.

Tips

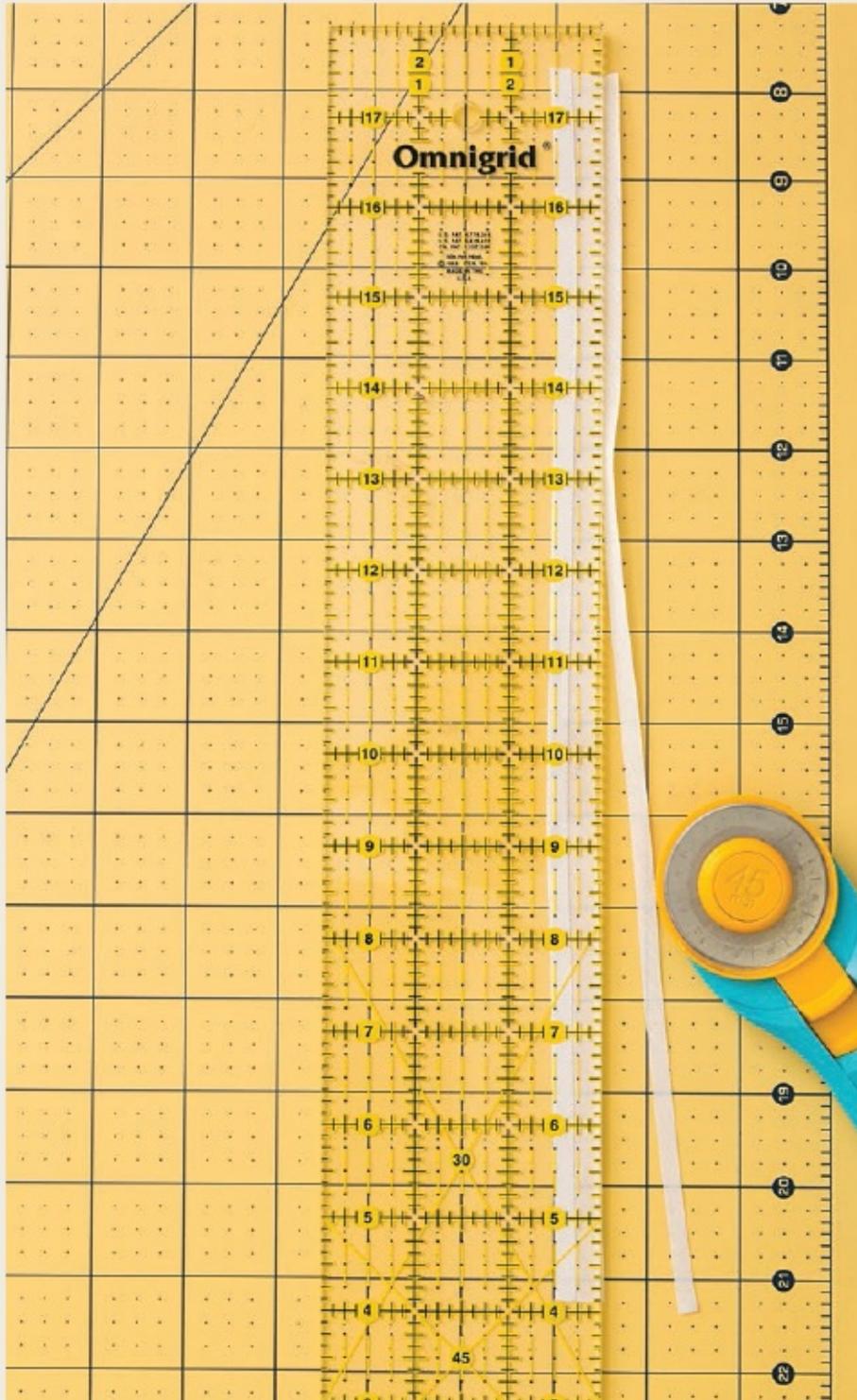
Here are some tips to help you gather easily and evenly:

- Reduce the thread tension when sewing your gathering stitches to make pulling the threads easier when gathering the fabric.
- When sewing the gathering stitches, work with the right side of the fabric facing up. This way, the bobbin threads are always on the wrong side of the fabric, which makes adjusting the amount of gathers easier when the fabric pieces are pinned right sides together.
- For best results, sew your gathering stitches on either side of your final stitching line. In other words, one row of stitches will be within the seam allowance, and the other row will be outside the seam allowance. When you sew the gathers in place, stitch in between the two rows of gathering stitches.

TUTORIAL: Finishing Necklines

I recommend finishing necklines with single-fold bias tape, which molds easily to curves and adds little bulk. This method can also be used to finish the armholes of sleeveless tops and dresses.

1. Unfold 1 side of the bias tape and carefully trim it off along the fold.



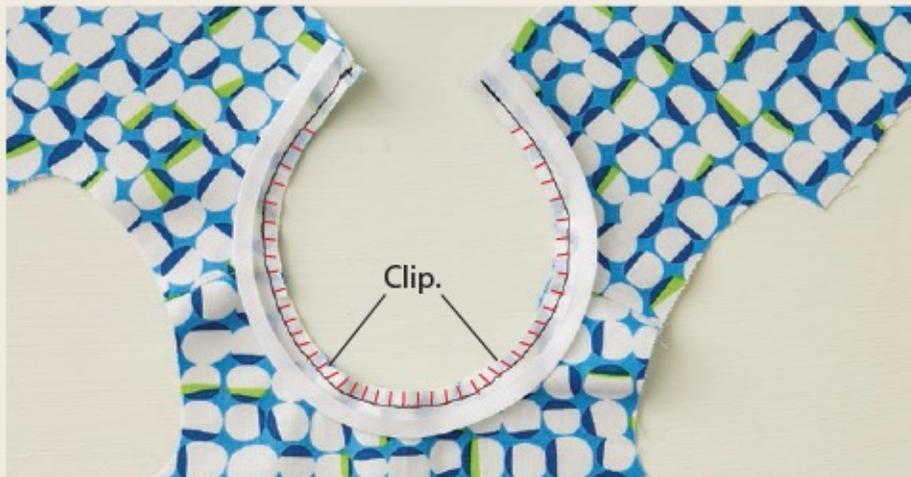
2. Pin the unfolded edge of the bias tape to the neckline, right sides together. Use a lot of pins to ensure the raw edges stay aligned. Place the pins perpendicular to the neck edge,

ideally within the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance (or as close as possible).



Pin within the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.

3. Sew the bias tape to the neckline just inside the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance. Carefully clip the curves.



4. Press the bias tape and the seam allowances away from the garment. Understitch the bias tape facing, sewing close to the seam and through all layers *except the bodice*. This understitching will make the facing stay to the inside of the garment and not show on the right side of the garment.



After pressing the seam allowances toward the bias tape, understitch through all three layers.

Tip

When there's a collar, it should *not* be understitched. Sew through only the facing and seam allowances.

5. Trim off any extra bias tape that extends beyond the center back edges.
6. Fold the bias tape facing to the inside and press it with an iron.
7. There are 2 options for the last step:

Option A Keep the remaining folded edge of the bias tape tucked away, and sew the binding in place around the neckline, close to the folded edge of the bias tape.

A line of stitching will show on the right side.



Option A: Stitch down the bias tape along the fold to finish the neck with a line of stitching.

Option B Unfold the free edge of the bias tape and press it flat along the neckline. Tack the facing in place at the shoulders. There is no need to finish the raw edge. Since it's cut on the bias, it won't fray.



Option B: Unfold the bias tape and tack it in place at the shoulder seams.

Tip

As an alternative to using bias tape for finishing a neckline, tops can be made with a fully lined bodice. Use a lightweight fabric, such as batiste or muslin, and cut out an additional bodice front and bodice back piece. Follow the instructions in Lining the Bodice for the **Vintage Party Dress**.

Hemming

When a $\frac{1}{2}$ " hem allowance is included on the patterns, I recommend using this double-folded hem technique:

1. Fold fabric $\frac{1}{4}$ " toward the wrong side of the fabric and press.
2. Fold over another $\frac{1}{4}$ " toward the wrong side of the fabric and press.
3. Sew straight stitches along the folded fabric.



TUTORIAL: Narrow Rolled Hems

For great small hems that are professional and proportional, use a rolled-hem presser foot (also called a narrow hemmer). This specialty presser foot makes narrow hems much faster and more accurately than trying to measure, press, and sew with a standard foot. Plus, there's no ironing needed. Just fold the fabric over the curved part on the foot as you sew. The presser foot automatically tucks under the raw edge as you sew, making petite hems easy and faster to sew.



USING A ROLLED-HEM FOOT

This technique works best with stable, lightweight, woven fabrics, such as quilting cotton, piqué, and poplin. Sheer fabric should have a narrow piece of fusible interfacing fused to the very beginning to stabilize it. This technique is easiest to do when working in the flat, which works well with doll clothes.

Prepare the Fabric:

1. Trim any stray threads or fraying along the fabric edge to be hemmed; make sure the fabric edge has a clean cut.
2. To encourage the proper rolling and tucking of the fabric, fold and press the first inch of the fabric $\frac{1}{8}$ " toward the wrong side of the fabric.



3. Fold the fabric toward the wrong side another $\frac{1}{8}$ " and press to make a crease.

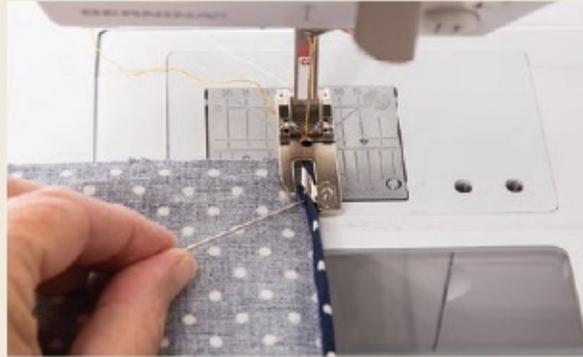


Tip

Press any seams along the hem before stitching, so the hem gets sewn correctly over those bulky areas.

Sew the Rolled Hem:

1. Make sure the threads are long enough to hold onto.
2. With the wrong side of the fabric facing up, slide the fabric into the curve of the presser foot as far as it will go. If necessary, use a straight pin to coax the fabric farther into the curve of the presser foot.



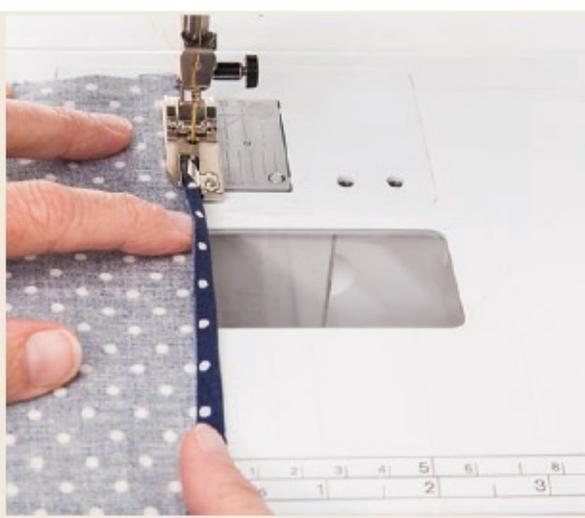
3. Lower the presser foot and hold onto the threads behind it. As you start to sew, pull the threads to help the fabric move into the curve of the presser foot.



Note: If your presser foot has a large enough opening for the needle, then you can use a short, narrow zigzag stitch (satin stitch) instead of a straight stitch. This will mimic the rolled hem created by sergers.

Keep the Rolled Hem Going:

Keep the fold along the right side of the fabric at $\frac{1}{4}$ " with your right hand and keep the rest of the fabric smooth with your left hand.



Note: To encourage proper rolling, I place my index finger inside the fold directly in front of the presser foot as I sew.

TUTORIAL: Sewing with Fold-Over Elastic (FOE)

Tips

- FOE should be stretched slightly while sewing. Stretching the elastic as it's sewn to the garment helps the garment “hug” the doll's body and fit well.
- The cut lengths for FOE include extra length that won't be sewn onto the garment. This is so you have something to hold onto at the very beginning (1") and at the end ($\frac{3}{8}$ "), making it easier to guide the fabric as you stretch and sew.
- Use very few pins, sometimes just at the very beginning and at the end of where you will be sewing.

Sew the fold-over elastic using a two-step sewing process.

1. PIN AND BASTE

- **Pin** the wrong side of the FOE to the wrong side of the fabric as shown, leaving 1" extra at the beginning and about $\frac{3}{8}$ " extra at the end to hold onto while sewing.
- **Baste** the FOE in place with a wide zigzag stitch. Stitch with the right side of the fabric facing up and the raw edge of the fabric aligned with the center fold of the FOE, slightly stretching *only* the FOE as you baste it in place.



It's helpful to sew a few stitches to "anchor" the FOE to the fabric when basting it in place. After you've sewn a $\frac{1}{4}$ " or so, start to stretch the FOE as you baste it in place. Stop stretching about $\frac{1}{4}$ " before you reach the end. Remember to keep the raw edge of the fabric as close to the center fold in the FOE as you stretch and sew.

2. FOLD AND SEW

- **Fold** the FOE over to the right side of the fabric, wrapping it around the raw edge of the fabric.
- **Sew** it with a zigzag stitch or stretch twin needle. Sew as close to the edge of the FOE as possible for best results. Trim the excess FOE.



Making Back Closures

For tops and dresses with back openings, you need to insert hook-and-loop tape to finish the closures. The methods are slightly different, depending on the garment type.

If you prefer to use zippers, snaps, or buttons instead of hook-and-loop tape, all the patterns in this book with back openings have a $\frac{1}{2}$ " allowance that can accommodate other closure types.

Skirts and Tops

In this method, the back closure is sewn after the garment has been hemmed. It is then sewn to the entire length of the garment.

1. Finish the raw edges of the center back opening using one of the methods explained in *Finishing Seam Allowances*.
2. Fold back 1 side of the opening $\frac{1}{2}$ " toward the wrong side of the fabric; press. Leave the other side unfolded.



3. With the hook-and-loop tape stuck together, cut a piece to fit the back opening. Pull apart the pieces.
4. Sew the scratchy side of the hook-and-loop tape to *the right side of the unfolded edge* of the center back.
5. Sew the soft side of the hook-and-loop tape to the garment's wrong side along the folded edge of the center back.



Dresses

In this method, the back closure is sewn before the garment is hemmed, and the hook-and-loop tape is only sewn to the upper part of the center back. If you choose to sew a rolled hem finish, then it's easiest to hem the dress *before* sewing the center back and back closure.

1. Finish the raw edges of the center back opening using one of the methods explained in *Finishing Seam Allowances*.
2. Pin and sew together the center back seam, from the lower edge to about 3" below the waistline, with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance and right sides together.



3. Press the seam allowance to 1 side. Continue to press the center back opening to the upper edge.



4. Cut and sew the hook-and-loop tape to the center back opening by following Steps 3–5 for Skirts and Tops.

Tips: Hook-and-Loop Tape

- Look for hook-and-loop tape that is labeled “soft and flexible.” It’s less bulky than traditional hook-and-loop tape.
- To reduce bulk in the back of garments, cut hook-and-loop tape into narrower widths than are readily available.
- Trim the scratchy side of hook-and-loop tape narrower than its soft-side mate. This helps prevent doll hair from getting caught in the tape, which can damage the hair.

Glossary

bastings Long, straight stitches used to temporarily prepare or hold something in place for a later step

bias Diagonal direction of fabric, 45° angle to the grainline

bias tape (or bias binding) A narrow strip of fabric, cut on the bias

binding A strip of fabric used to cover a seam edge or enclose raw edges completely

casing A folded and stitched tunnel of fabric that holds elastic or a drawstring

ease stitching Long, straight stitches, similar to gathering stitches, that help sleeves fit into the arm opening more easily

edgestitching A line of stitching $\frac{1}{8}$ " away from a folded edge or seam

facing A lining along the edge of a piece of fabric, used to finish the edge of the garment, such as a neckline opening

grainline The lengthwise direction of fabric that runs parallel to the selvage edge

nap The texture on the surface of a fabric that runs in a particular direction, such as with velvet or corduroy (Pattern pieces should all be facing the same way when cutting them out of fabric with nap.)

notches Pattern markings that are shaped like diamonds, triangles, or wedges and are printed on the cutting line of a pattern

peplum An extension of the waistline, either by extending a pattern or sewing on a separate piece of fabric (The extension can be flared, pleated, or gathered.)

selvage The lengthwise finished edge on woven fabrics

sleeve cap The rounded, upper edge of a sleeve

topstitching A line of stitches that runs parallel to a seam or edge, sewn from the right side of the garment

understitching A line of straight stitches sewn close to the seamline on the facing side that helps hold the seam allowance in place

Modern-Vintage Sundress

Sewing level:
Views A and B: Confident Beginner



View A

View B

Inspired by the classic styles of the 1950s, this sundress has a semifitted bodice and very full skirt. View A is adorned with front collars and button details along the front bodice. View B is embellished with rickrack trim accents.

Materials

Use woven fabrics, such as seersucker, poplin, gingham, lawn, chambray, quilting cotton, cotton piqué, broadcloth, or oxford cloth.

Views A and B

- **Dress and straps:** ¼ yard of fabric
- **Waistband:** scrap of complimentary fabric
- **Lining:** scrap of lightweight fabric, such as muslin or batiste
- **Hook-and-loop tape (½" wide):** ¼ yard

View A

- **Collar:** scrap of fabric

- **¼" buttons:** 2

View B

- **Rickrack (½" wide):** 1¼ yards

Cutting List

Refer to the pattern pieces for specific cutting directions.

Views A and B

- **Pattern pieces:** 1, 2, and 3
- **Waistband:** 1 piece 1¾" × 12⅝"
- **Skirt:** 1 piece 6¼" × 28"

View A

- **Pattern piece:** 4

Tip

Fussy cut the waistband to play up cute images in the fabric. Or cut the waistband on the bias for an additional design element. Plaids, stripes, and gingham look especially great when cut this way.

Making the Dress

Transfer any pattern markings to the wrong side of the fabric pieces. All seam allowances are ¼", unless otherwise instructed. For extra guidance, refer to [Finishing Seam Allowances](#), [Gathering](#), [Hemming](#), and [Making Back Closures](#).

Collars

VIEW A

1. Pin and sew together 2 collar pieces along the lower edge and sides as shown, keeping the raw edges even. Trim seam allowances diagonally at the corners.
2. Repeat Step 1 for the second collar.
3. Turn the collar pieces right side out. Use a turning tool to carefully poke out the corners. Press the collar pieces.



4. Pin the collars to the right side of the bodice front. Center the collar pieces and make sure the collars are at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the side edges. The collars should overlap slightly at the center.

5. Baste the collar pieces in place.



Bodice Trim

VIEW B

Cut a piece of rickrack $4\frac{1}{2}$ " long. Pin and sew the rickrack to the right side of the bodice front along the upper edge.



Straps

VIEWS A AND B

1. Fold each strap piece in half lengthwise and sew together along the long edge. Turn the straps to the right side and press. *Optional:* Add topstitching or trim details.

2. Pin the straight ends of the straps to the front bodice where indicated by the placement lines on the pattern. *Note: The angled strap ends that will be attached to the bodice back should hang below the bodice front, pointing toward the center of the bodice.*

3. Baste the straps in place along the upper edge of the bodice front.



Side Seams

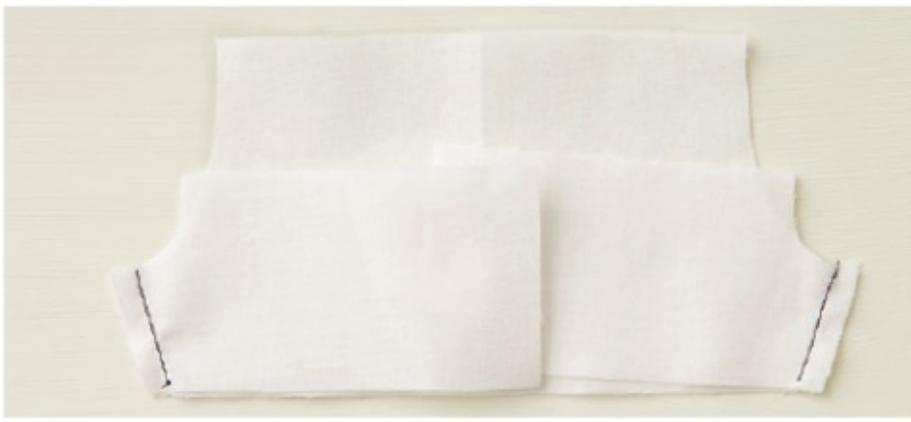
VIEWS A AND B

1. Pin and sew the bodice front to the bodice back pieces along the side seams, with right sides together.



2. Press the seams open.

3. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 for the lining front and back pieces.



Bodice

VIEWS A AND B

1. Pin the lining to the bodice along the upper edge and underarm sections, right sides together. Keep the edges aligned and the side seams matched up.
2. Sew together along the upper edge of the bodice front and underarm sections, leaving the upper edge of the bodice backs *unsewn*.



Do not sew along the upper edges of the bodice back pieces.

3. Trim diagonally at the corners and clip the curves. Turn the bodice right side out and press.
4. Fold the upper edges along the bodice backs to the inside $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press.
5. Place the strap ends into the upper edge of the bodice back, where indicated on the pattern, between the lining and bodice back. Pin the straps in place.

Tip

For a custom fit, put the unfinished dress on a doll and pin the straps in place.

6. Sew across the upper edge of the bodice back.
7. Baste together the bodice and the lining along the lower edge and center back edges.



Waistband

IEWS A AND B

1. Pin and sew the waistband to the lower edge of the bodice, right sides together.
2. Finish the seam allowances where the waistband and bodice meet.



3. Press the waistband and all seam allowances down away from the bodice.

Skirt

IEWS A AND B

1. Sew gathering stitches and gather along the upper edge of the skirt piece to fit the waistband.
2. Pin and sew the skirt piece to the lower edge of the waistband, with right sides together and a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance.
3. Finish the seam allowances and press them up toward the waistband. *Optional:* Topstitch along the waistband.



Finishing

Note: Refer to Making Back Closures: Dresses as needed. If you prefer a rolled hem, hem the dress before the other finishing steps.

VIEWS A AND B

1. Finish the center back edges.
2. Sew the back closure and hem the dress.

VIEW A

1. Sew buttons onto the bodice front between the 2 collar pieces.
2. Hand baste the underside of the collar to the bodice and lining to keep them from flipping up.

VIEW B

After hemming the skirt, pin and sew rickrack to the wrong side of the fabric along the hem, so that the rickrack is “peeking” out beneath the hemline.

Classic Skirt

Sewing level:

View A: Intermediate

View B: Confident Beginner



The A-line skirt is a classic style that will never be out of fashion—a staple in any doll's closet. The scalloped hem (View A) gives this skirt a fresh, modern look. The plain hem (View B) is a great beginner project that allows for easy embellishments, such as ruffles or lace, along the hemline. This sweet little skirt will be perfect for any occasion, whether it's a trip to the Saturday market or sightseeing at the seaside.

Materials

Use lightweight, woven fabrics, such as quilting cotton, cotton piqué, chambray, poplin, seersucker, or shirting fabric.

View A

- **Skirt:** 1 fat quarter of fabric
- **Facing and waistband:** 1 fat quarter of fabric

View B

- **Skirt and waistband:** 1 fat quarter of fabric

Views A and B

- **Hook-and-loop tape (½" wide):** ¼ yard

Cutting List

Refer to the pattern pieces for specific cutting directions.

View A

- **Pattern pieces:** 5 and 6

View B

- **Pattern piece:** 5

Views A and B

- **Waistband:** 1 piece 1½" × 12¼" (can be cut on the bias for that extra Wowfactor)

Making the Skirt

All seam allowances are ¼" unless otherwise instructed. For more guidance, refer to *Finishing Seam Allowances, Hemming, and Making Back Closures*.

Skirt Hem

VIEW A

1. Finish the short, straight edges of the hem facing.
2. Pin and sew the hem facing to the lower edge of the skirt, with right sides together and edges even.
3. Clip the seam allowances to the points and clip the curves.



Tip

Use pinking shears to quickly clip curves and reduce bulk.

4. Turn the skirt facing right side out. With a point turner or your fingers, smooth out the curves and press the hem. *Optional:* Sew along the upper edge of the facing.



Make Great Scalloped Curves

Here are some tips to make your scalloped curves look smooth and even:

- Mark the pivot points and stitching lines.



Taking the time to measure and mark your stitching lines makes it easier to sew great-looking scalloped curves.

- Use a short stitch length.
- Trim and clip the curves frequently to eliminate the bulk of seam allowances.
- When pressing, place the tip of the iron inside each scallop, between the skirt and lining fabrics. Press the seam allowances. Then press on top of both layers of fabric.



Press the seam allowances inside each scallop.

VIEW B

Refer to Tutorial: Narrow Rolled Hems.

Hem the skirt using a technique of your choice.



Use a narrow hemmer foot to create a rolled hem like this one.

Add a Pretty Ruffle to the Classic Skirt (View B)



1. If you plan to hem the ruffle with a double-fold hem, cut a piece of fabric $1\frac{5}{8}'' \times 36''$ for the ruffle piece. If you will be using a narrow rolled hem finish, cut a piece $1\frac{3}{8}'' \times 36''$.
2. Hem a long edge of the ruffle piece as desired.
3. Sew gathering stitches along the other long edge and gather the ruffle piece to fit the lower edge of the skirt piece.
4. Pin the ruffle piece to the skirt piece, right sides together. Sew with a $\frac{3}{8}''$ seam allowance.
5. Finish the seam allowances and press them up toward the skirt.
6. Finish sewing the skirt as directed (see Waistband and Finishing).

Waistband

VIEWS A AND B

1. Fold the waistband in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, and press.

2. Pin and sew the waistband to the skirt, with right sides together and raw edges aligned.
3. Finish the seam allowances and press them toward the skirt.



Tip

If your doll's waist is too narrow for the skirt to stay in place, insert $\frac{3}{8}$ "-wide elastic into the waistband before sewing the back closure.

Finishing

VIEWS A AND B

Refer to Making Back Closures: Skirts and Tops as needed.

Cut the hook-loop-tape to fit, finish the raw edges of the center back, and sew the hook-and-loop back closure.



Camisole Top and Underwear

Sewing level:
Intermediate



*A basic camisole top and underwear are a necessity for any well-dressed doll. The camisole is perfect for a casual summer outfit or for layering under a **Button-Down Shirt**. The camisole and underwear patterns can also be used to make a cute swimsuit for your doll.*

Tip

When sewing knit fabrics, reduce the presser foot pressure on your sewing machine. A Teflon-coated presser foot is also recommended for sewing knits and elastic, because the nonstick coating glides easily over fabrics and elastics.

Camisole

Materials

Use a stretch-knit fabric, such as cotton Lycra or cotton spandex.

- **Fabric:** ¼ yard (enough fabric to make both the camisole and underwear projects)
- **FOE*:** ¾ yard (½" wide preferred, though ⅝" wide also works)
- **Stretch sewing machine needle**
- **Stretch twin machine needle (optional):** for finishing the FOE

* FOE = fold-over elastic

Cutting List

Refer to the pattern pieces for specific cutting directions.

- **Pattern pieces:** 7 and 8

Making the Camisole

All seam allowances are ¼", unless otherwise instructed. Use a narrow zigzag or stretch stitch. For more guidance, refer to [Tutorial: Sewing with Fold-Over Elastic \(FOE\)](#).

Side Seams

1. Pin and sew the front and back pieces at the sides, right sides together.
2. Press the seam allowances open.



Finish the Front Bodice

1. Cut a piece of FOE 4½" long. Pin and baste it to the bodice front, leaving 1" extra FOE at

the beginning and $\frac{3}{8}$ " extra at the end.

2. Fold and sew the FOE to the bodice front. Trim off the excess FOE.



Tips: Basting FOE

- Right side of the fabric faces up.
- Raw edge of the fabric aligns even with the center fold.
- Anchor stitch first, then slightly stretch the FOE.
- Stop stretching the FOE about $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the end.

Baste the FOE to the Bodice Back

1. Cut a piece of FOE $19\frac{1}{2}$ " long to use as a continuous piece for the back binding, armholes, and straps. Fold the length in half to find and mark its center point.
2. Measure $4\frac{1}{2}$ " from the center mark in both directions and mark those points.
3. Pin the center mark of the FOE to the notch along the center back, wrong sides together. Match the 2 other points to the top edges of the front bodice and pin in place. The FOE will extend several inches past the top of the fabric of the bodice front on both sides; this extra FOE will become the straps.
4. Baste the FOE to the upper edge of the armhole edges and the bodice back, using a zigzag stitch and slightly stretching the FOE to fit as you baste it in place. Trim off the center back notch.

Make the Straps and Finish the Bodice Back

You will be sewing the straps and binding the bodice in a continual step. Begin 1" away from

an end of the FOE and stop at the other end of the FOE.

1. Fold the end of the FOE onto itself and start sewing on only the FOE at first, using a zigzag stitch or stretch twin needle and stretching slightly as you sew.
2. Continue to fold and sew the FOE to the bodice, wrapping it over the raw edge and slightly stretching the FOE as you sew.
3. When you reach the end of the fabric edge on the other side of the bodice front, continue to sew only the FOE, keeping it folded and stretched as you sew. This creates the second strap.



Hem the Camisole

1. Fold the lower edge toward the wrong side $\frac{3}{8}$ " and press.
2. Sew the hem with a zigzag stitch or stretch twin needle.

Finishing

Pin and sew the straps to the wrong side of the bodice along the upper edge on the bodice back, so that the straps measure 4". Trim off the excess FOE.



Underwear

Materials

Use a stretch-knit fabric, such as cotton Lycra or cotton spandex.

- **Fabric:** ¼ yard (enough fabric to make both the camisole and underwear projects)
- **FOE*:** 1 yard (½" wide preferred, though ⅝" wide also works)
- **Stretch sewing machine needle**
- **Stretch twin machine needle (optional):** for finishing the FOE

* FOE = fold-over elastic

Cutting List

Refer to the pattern pieces for specific cutting directions.

- **Pattern piece:** 9

Making the Underwear

All seam allowances are ¼" unless otherwise instructed. Use a narrow zigzag or stretch stitch. For more guidance, refer to Tutorial: Sewing with Fold-Over Elastic (FOE).

Leg Openings

1. Cut 2 pieces of FOE 6½" long.

2. Pin and baste the FOE to the leg openings, leaving an extra 1" at the beginning and $\frac{3}{8}$ " at the end.

3. Fold and sew the FOE to the right side of each opening.



Tips: Basting FOE

- Right side of the fabric faces up.
- Raw edge of the fabric aligns even with the center fold.
- Anchor stitch first, then slightly stretch the FOE.
- Stop stretching the FOE about $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the end.

First Side Seam

1. Pin and sew just 1 side seam, right sides together.
2. Trim away the excess FOE on the side just sewn.



Waistband

1. Cut a piece of FOE 11½" long. Pin and baste it onto the upper edge of the underwear, across the side seam, wrong sides together.
2. Fold and sew the FOE to the right side of the underwear.



Second Side Seam

Pin and sew together the remaining side seam, right sides together. Trim away the excess FOE.



BONUS PATTERN

Make a Tankini

Use the camisole and underwear patterns, along with swimwear fabric, to make a tankini swimsuit! Follow the instructions for the camisole top, or cut it on the tankini cutting line and hem it in the same way the waistband is sewn for the underwear, using fold-over elastic.

1. Sew together a side seam.
2. Apply fold-over elastic to the lower edge.
3. Sew together the remaining side seam.

4. *Optional:* Cross the straps in the back for an additional design element.



Modern Camp Shorts

Sewing level:
Confident
Beginner



Cute and trendy camp shorts are a fun addition to a doll's summer wardrobe. The **Modern Camp Shorts** feature functioning slant pockets in the front and a fly-style opening for a very polished look. Elastic is added to the waistband along the back for a perfect fit.

Materials

Use woven fabrics, such as quilting cotton, chambray, plaid, seersucker, fine-wale corduroy, lightweight twill, or denim.

- **Shorts:** 1 fat quarter of fabric
- **Pockets and waistband:** scrap of contrasting fabric
- **Hook-and-loop tape ($\frac{1}{2}$ " wide):** 1"
- **Elastic ($\frac{3}{8}$ " wide):** 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
- **Front closure:** 1 button ($\frac{3}{8}$ " diameter) or snaps

Cutting List

Refer to the pattern pieces for specific cutting directions.

- **Pattern pieces:** 10, 11, 12, and 13
- **Waistband:** 1 piece 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " \times 13 $\frac{5}{8}$ "

Making the Shorts

All seam allowances are ¼" unless otherwise instructed. For more guidance, refer to Finishing Seam Allowances and Hemming.

Pockets

- 1.** Pin and sew the pocket lining to the shorts front piece, with right sides together and angled edges even.



- 2.** Press the lining away from the shorts front.



-
- 3.** Pin and sew the pocket back to the pocket lining, with right sides together and curved edges aligned. Finish the seam allowances.



4. Fold the pocket to the wrong side of the shorts front. Press and baste the pocket in place along the upper edge and the side.



-
5. Repeat Steps 1–4 for the other pocket and front pieces.

Center Front

1. Finish the center front edges.
2. Pin and sew the center front from the dot to the lower edge, right sides together.



3. Press the seam allowance to 1 side. Continue to press the unsewn part of the center front to 1 side, creating a front fly opening as shown. Once pressed, 1 side of the center front will be folded, and the other will remain unfolded.



4. Cut a piece of hook-and-loop tape $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide \times $\frac{3}{4}$ " long.

5. Open the folded edge of the center front and sew the soft side of the hook-and-loop tape to this flap onto the right side of the fabric. Make sure the hook-and-loop tape is at least $\frac{3}{8}$ " down from the upper edge.

Tip

Use Wonder Tape to hold tiny pieces of hook-and-loop tape in place.

6. Sew the scratchy side of the hook-and-loop tape to the right side of the unfolded flap, so the pieces will align.



7. Refold the flap with the soft side of the hook-and-loop tape to the inside. Working with the right side facing up, and the other side of the center front out of the way, sew the topstitching detail of the front fly.



Side Seams

1. Pin and sew the back pieces to the front piece at the sides, right sides together.
2. Finish the seam allowances



Hems

Hem the lower edges.



Center Back

1. Pin and sew together the center back, right sides together.
2. Finish the seam allowances.

Inseam

1. Pin and sew the front to the back at the inseam, right sides together, keeping the edges and hems even.
2. Finish the seam allowances.



Waistband

1. Finish a long edge of the waistband piece.

2. Turn the shorts right side out. Pin the unfinished edge of the waistband to the upper edge of the shorts, right sides together. The waistband will extend $\frac{1}{2}$ " beyond each side of the center front.

3. Sew the waistband to the shorts using a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance. Press the waistband and all seam allowances up away from the shorts.



4. Fold the ends of the waistband over to the wrong side, so they are even with the center front edges; press.

5. Fold the waistband to the inside and press the upper edge of the waistband, so the finished waistband measures $\frac{1}{2}$ " on the right side.

6. Working with the right side of the shorts facing up, edgestitch along the waistband, catching the underside of the waistband. Leave small openings ($\frac{1}{2}$ "– $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide) at each side seam for inserting elastic.



7. Put a safety pin on both ends of the piece of elastic. Insert the elastic into an opening and feed it through the waistband toward the center back.

8. Once the tail end of the elastic is close to the opening, remove the safety pin and carefully push the end of the elastic into the opening. Pin and sew the elastic in place within the waistband.

9. Continue to feed the elastic through the waistband until it comes out the other opening at the other side seam. Pin and sew the elastic end in place inside the waistband.

10. Sew both openings closed.



Finishing

Add a snap, sew a button and buttonhole, or sew a small piece of hook-and-loop tape to the waistband to finish.

Crochet Lace Top

Sewing level:

Confident

Beginner



The **Crochet Lace Top** is both trendy and stylish. This not-so-basic top can be dressed up or down. The top features cap sleeves and a scoop neckline, crochet lace, and a slightly cinched waistline. Add a peplum to create a whole new look.

Materials

Use lightweight, woven fabric, such as cotton lawn, batik, chambray, shirting, Swiss dot, cotton poplin, cotton eyelet, linen, or quilting cotton.

- **Top:** 1 fat quarter of fabric
- **Crochet lace ($\frac{1}{4}$ "– $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide):** 1 yard (or $\frac{1}{2}$ yard each of 2 different laces to make the top as shown here)
- **Hook-and-loop tape ($\frac{1}{2}$ " wide):** $\frac{1}{4}$ yard
- **Single-fold bias tape:** 13"
- **Antifray sealant (optional)**

Cutting List

Refer to the pattern pieces for specific cutting directions.

- **Pattern pieces:** 14, 15, and 16

Making the Top

All seam allowances are $\frac{1}{4}$ " unless otherwise instructed. For more guidance, refer to

Finishing Seam Allowances, Sewing Sleeves, Finishing Necklines, Hemming, and Making Back Closures.

Shoulder Seams

1. Pin and sew the bodice back pieces to the bodice front at the shoulders, right sides together.
2. Finish and press the seam allowances.



Finish the Neckline

Finish the neckline with single-fold bias tape.

Sleeves

1. Hem the sleeves.
2. Refer to Tip: Ease Stitching to sew a row of ease stitching along the upper edge of the sleeves.
3. Pin and sew the sleeves to the bodice, right sides together. Finish the seam allowances.



Lace Trim

1. Cut a piece of lace as long as the neckline plus 1".
2. Pin and sew the crochet lace to the right side of the neckline. Fold under the ends of the lace at the center back edges, or trim the extra lace and use antifrill sealant to prevent unraveling.



Tip

A specialty trim foot makes it easier to apply trims. A Teflon foot is another good option when working with crochet lace because it glides easily.

Side Seams

Pin the bodice front to the back at the sleeve and side seams, right sides together, keeping the

sleeve hems even. Sew in one continuous line. Finish the seam allowances.



Hem and Add Lace

1. Hem the lower edge.
2. Sew gathering stitches along the lower edge and pull the bobbin threads just a little, so the fabric measures $12\frac{3}{4}$ "– $12\frac{3}{8}$ ". This row of stitches will create a "puckered" effect that will help the top cinch in at the waist, creating a "blousy" effect.



3. Cut a piece of crochet lace 1" longer than the gathered edge.
4. Pin and sew the crochet lace to the right side of the hemline. Fold under the ends of the lace at the center back, or trim extra lace and use antifrayer sealant to prevent unraveling.



Tip

If you find the gathers were stretched out when stitching on the trim, gather the bottom edge again and use plenty of pins to hold the lace in place so the presser foot won't push the gathers flat as you sew. Reducing the presser foot pressure and holding the gathered fabric firmly with your left hand as it goes under the presser foot can also help.

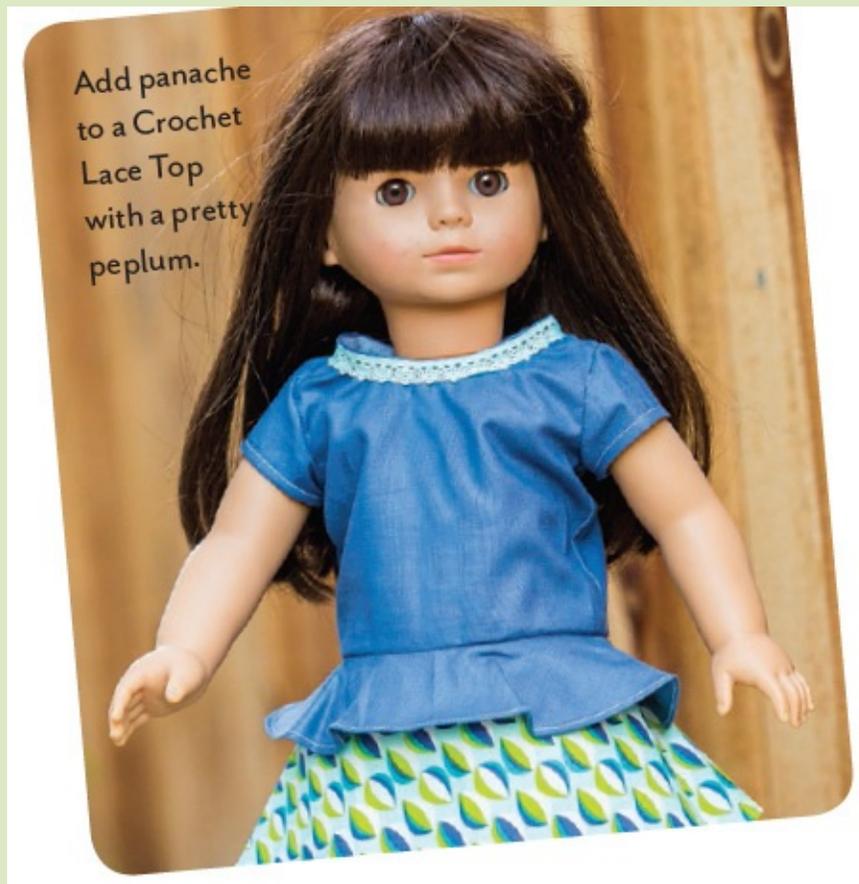
Finishing

1. Refer to Making Back Closures: Skirts and Tops to finish the center back edges and sew the back closure.

BONUS PATTERN

Add a Flared Peplum

Adding a peplum to the **Crochet Lace Top** is easy to do and creates a whole new look. Make the top as instructed, but add a pleated, gathered, or flared piece of fabric to create a flouncy peplum hem. A pattern piece for a flared peplum is included in the pattern pullout section.



Additional Materials

- Pattern piece: 17

1. Cut out and hem the larger curved edge of the flared peplum piece.

2. Follow the instructions to make the top. After sewing the side seams, pin and sew the peplum to the lower edge of the bodice, right sides together. Finish and press the seam allowances up toward the bodice.



3. Finish the top by sewing the back closure as directed.

Modern Jumper

Sewing level:
Intermediate



This **Modern Jumper** can be made for any season! View A is a modern color block jumper; when paired with a sweet floral poplin shirt, it is perfect for fall or spring. View B, shown in cool linen and embellished with Euro ribbons and trims for a modern styling, is perfect for sunny summer afternoons. It also makes a great school uniform. The **Modern Jumper** features a fitted bodice, a sloping waistline, a center inset, gathered side skirts, and straps that button in the back.

Materials

Use woven fabrics, such as fine-wale corduroy, plaid, chambray, lightweight wool, linen, or quilting cotton.

View A

- **Bodice and center front inset:** $\frac{1}{3}$ yard of fabric
- **Skirt pieces:** $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of complimentary or contrasting fabric

View B

- **Jumper:** $\frac{1}{3}$ yard of fabric
- **Assorted decorative trims or ribbons ($\frac{1}{8}$ "– $\frac{5}{8}$ " wide, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long):** 4 pieces for inset
- **Lace or ribbon ($\frac{1}{4}$ "– $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide):** 1 yard for skirt

Views A and B

- **Lining:** $\frac{1}{4}$ yard of lightweight fabric, such as batiste or muslin
- **Buttons ($\frac{3}{8}$ "– $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter):** 2 buttons
- **Hook-and-loop tape ($\frac{1}{2}$ " wide):** $\frac{1}{4}$ yard

Cutting List

Refer to the pattern pieces for specific cutting directions.

- **Pattern pieces:** 18, 19, 20, and 21
- **Center inset:** 1 piece 2" \times 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ "

Making the Jumper

*Transfer any pattern markings to the wrong side of the fabric pieces. All seam allowances are $\frac{1}{4}$ ", unless otherwise instructed. For extra guidance, refer to *Finishing Seam Allowances, Gathering, Hemming, and Making Back Closures*.*

Side Seams

1. Matching the notches, pin and sew the bodice side fronts to the bodice back pieces at the sides, right sides together. Press the seam allowances open.

Tip

When pressing corduroy, iron only on the wrong side of the fabric or use a pressing cloth to prevent crushing the pile of the fabric.

2. Repeat Step 1 for the lining front facing and back pieces.



Skirt

1. Sew gathering stitches along

the upper edge of the skirt pieces and gather to fit to each upper bodice piece.

2. Pin the skirt pieces to the bodice pieces, matching the notch on the skirt pieces to the bodice side seams. Using a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance, sew the skirt pieces to the bodice pieces, right sides together. Finish the seam allowances.



3. Press the seam allowances up toward the bodice.

Inset

VIEW B

Sew trims and ribbons to the right side of the inset, remembering the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance at the top.



VIEWS A AND B

1. Pin and sew the center inset piece to both bodice/skirt pieces, right sides together, placing the upper edge of the inset at the dot markings where indicated on the front bodice pattern.

Make sure the gathered skirts are the same distance from the top edge of the inset on each side.

2. Finish the seam allowances and press them toward the center inset.



Lining

1. Finish the lower edge of the lining.

2. Pin the lining to the dress, right sides together, keeping all edges aligned. Sew, starting at the upper back edge and pivoting to go up and down the straps and across the bodice to the other edge. Leave the sides open.

3. Clip just to the stitching at the bodice front corners, trim the strap ends diagonally at the corners, and clip the curves on the sides.



4. Turn the jumper and then the straps right side out. Use a special turning tool for the narrow straps, or try pushing the end through with the eraser side of a pencil or with a wooden knitting needle. Press the jumper.

5. Sew the lining in place along the side seams.



Finishing

Note: Refer to Making Back Closures: Dresses as needed. If you prefer a rolled hem, hem the jumper before the other finishing steps.

1. Finish or baste the center back edges.
2. Sew buttonholes on the bodice back where indicated on the pattern.



Tip

Use antifrasy sealant on buttonholes before cutting them open to prevent fraying and to help the buttonholes last longer.

3. Sew the hook-and-loop back closure and hem the dress.
4. Sew buttons to the strap ends. Straps can be worn crossed or uncrossed for different looks.



Tip

Hook-and-loop tape or snaps can easily be substituted for buttons and buttonholes. Sew hook-and-loop tape to the lining side of the bodice and to the strap ends. You can still add buttons to the right side of the bodice back to make it look like the straps button.

Button-Down Shirt

Sewing level:

View A: Confident Beginner

View B: Intermediate



Cute and modern design touches are added to this classic-style shirt, making it a perfect complement to many of the other garments in Doll Days! View A features puffy sleeves and a modern ruffle hem. It has a mock placket with a center back closure (so it's easier to make than it looks). View B includes a traditional placket that opens in the front. With contrast binding on puffy sleeves, it takes on vintage appeal.

Materials

Use lightweight, woven fabrics, such as quilting cotton, oxford cloth, broadcloth, seersucker, lightweight linen, or shirting fabric.

Views A and B

- **Shirt and collar:** $\frac{1}{3}$ yard of fabric
- **Single-fold bias tape:** $\frac{1}{2}$ yard
- **Buttons ($\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter):** 4 buttons

View A

- **Hook-and-loop tape ($\frac{1}{2}$ " wide):** $\frac{1}{4}$ yard

View B

- **Placket and sleeve binding:** scrap of contrasting fabric

Cutting List

Refer to the pattern pieces for specific cutting directions.

Views A and B

- **Pattern pieces:** 22, 23, and 24

View A

- **Pattern piece:** 25A
- **Sleeve ruffles:** 2 pieces $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 8\frac{1}{2}''$

View B

- **Pattern piece:** 25B
- **Front plackets:** 2 pieces $1\frac{3}{4}'' \times 6\frac{1}{2}''$
- **Sleeve bands*:** 2 pieces $1\frac{1}{4}'' \times 5\frac{1}{4}''$

** Purchased double-fold binding can be substituted for the sleeve bands.*

Making the Shirt

*All seam allowances are $\frac{1}{4}''$, unless otherwise instructed. For extra guidance, refer to *Finishing Seam Allowances, Sewing Sleeves, Gathering, Finishing Necklines, Hemming, and Back Closures.**

Faux Placket

VIEW A

1. Fold the bodice front in half, *wrong sides together*, and sew down the center front $\frac{3}{8}''$ from the folded edge.



2. Open the pleat and distribute the fabric evenly on each side of the seam. Press the faux placket flat and edgestitch each side.



Shoulder Seams

VIEWS A AND B

1. Pin and sew the bodice front to the bodice back at the shoulders, right sides together.
2. Finish and press the seam allowances.

Collar

VIEW A

1. Pin and sew together 2 collar pieces along the short ends and outer curve with right sides together. Clip the curves and trim diagonally at the corners to reduce bulk.
2. Repeat Step 1 for the second pair of collar pieces.
3. Turn both collars right side out. Use a point turner to poke out the corners. Press.



4. Pin the collars to the right side of the bodice, centering the collars on the bodice front with the notches toward the bodice back.

5. Baste the collars to the bodice *just inside* the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.



View A

VIEW B

1. Pin and sew together the collar pieces as described in Steps 1 and 2 for View A. If desired, refer to Hide Collar Seams to trim the collar.

2. Pin the collar to the right side of the bodice, centering the collar on the bodice back.

3. Baste the collar to the bodice *just inside* the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.



Hide Collar Seams

One key to making professional-looking collars is to make sure the seam at the outer edge does not show on the upper collar. Here's how you "hide" it:

1. Trim about $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the remaining raw edge of *only* the collar piece that will be on the underside of the finished collar.



Trimming the under collar will force the seam on the outer edge of the collar to roll out of view.

2. Keep the raw edges of the collar even when sewing the collar to the bodice.

The seam on the edge of the collar will automatically roll to the underside when pressed and be hidden for a great-looking collar.

Finish the Neckline

VIEWS A AND B

Finish the neckline with single-fold bias tape.

Placket

VIEW B

1. Pin the *right side* of the placket piece to the *wrong side* of the shirt's center front edge, keeping the lower edges even. The shirt's placket will extend past the top edge of the bodice.



2. Sew together the placket and center front with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance. Press the seam allowances toward the placket.



3. Fold the free edge of the placket $\frac{1}{4}$ " toward the wrong side and press.
4. Fold the upper edge of the placket down over the bodice and press.



5. Fold the placket in half lengthwise toward the right side of the shirt and press. Topstitch along both folded edges of the placket.

6. Repeat Steps 1–5 for the second placket.



Sleeves

VIEWS A AND B

1. Sew gathering stitches on the upper edges of the sleeves and gather to fit the bodice.
2. Pin and sew the sleeves to the bodice, right sides together. Finish the seam allowances.



Finish the Sleeves

VIEW A

Add Ruffles

1. Sew gathering stitches along the lower edges of the sleeves.
2. Fold the ruffle pieces in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, and press. Sew gathering stitches along the raw edges of the ruffles.
3. Pull the bobbin threads to gather both the sleeves and the ruffle pieces until they all measure

5¼" long.

4. Pin and sew the ruffles to the sleeves, right sides together. Finish the seam allowances.



5. Press the seam allowances toward the sleeves and topstitch.



VIEW B

Bind the Sleeves

1. Sew gathering stitches along the lower edges of the sleeves and gather to fit the sleeve bands.
2. Fold the band pieces in half lengthwise and press.



3. Unfold the band pieces and fold them lengthwise again so that the long raw edges come to the center crease created in Step 2. Press.



4. Unfold an edge of each band piece and sew it to the sleeves. The *right* side of the band will be facing the *wrong* side of the sleeves.



5. Fold the band pieces to the right side of the sleeves and sew in place, wrapping the raw edge of the sleeve ends in the binding.



Side Seams

VIEWS A AND B

Pin the bodice front to the bodice back at the sides, right sides together, keeping the sleeve hems even. Stitch a continuous seam, pivoting at the underarm seam. Finish the seam allowances.



Finishing

VIEW A

1. Hem the shirt.
2. Finish the center back edges and sew the back closure.
3. Sew buttons along the mock placket on the shirt front.



VIEW B

1. Hem the shirt.
2. Sew buttons and buttonholes along the front placket.



Vintage Party Dress

Sewing level:

Confident

Beginner

View A



View B



The Vintage Party Dress features a fitted bodice with a scooped neckline, puffy sleeves, and a full skirt. View A has a Peter Pan-style collar. View B has elastic along the sleeve hems and optional picot trim along its neckline. This dress was inspired by the beautiful illustrations by Garth Williams found in Charlotte Zolotow's picture books, which were written in the 1950s—a time when little girls' dresses were really sweet.

Materials

Views A and B

Use woven fabrics, such as quilting cotton, linen, cotton piqué, cotton lawn, shirting, chambray, fine-wale corduroy, or seersucker.

- **Dress:** $\frac{1}{3}$ yard of fabric (enough for entire dress)

- **Lining:** scrap at least 10" × 12" of lightweight fabric, such as batiste or muslin

View A

- **Collars and sleeve bands:** scrap of contrasting fabric

View B

- **Sleeves:** scrap of contrasting fabric
- **Elastic (¼" wide):** ¼ yard, cut into 2 equal pieces

Cutting List

Refer to the pattern pieces for specific cutting directions.

Views A and B

- **Pattern pieces:** 26, 27, and 28
- **Skirt:** 1 piece 6¾" × 28"

View A

- **Pattern piece:** 29 (collars)
- **Sleeve bands:** 2 pieces 1¼" × 5¼"

Making the Dress

Views A and B

Transfer any pattern markings to the wrong side of the fabric pieces. All seam allowances are ¼", unless otherwise instructed. For extra guidance, refer to [Finishing Seam Allowances](#), [Sewing Sleeves](#), [Gathering](#), [Hemming](#), and [Making Back Closures](#).

Shoulder Seams

1. Pin and sew the bodice front to the bodice back pieces at the shoulders, right sides together. Press the seam allowances open.
2. Repeat Step 1 for the lining pieces.



Collar

To prep the collar pieces for a more professional finish, refer to *Hide Collar Seams*.

VIEW A

1. Pin and sew 2 collar pieces, right sides together.
2. Clip the curves and turn the collars right side out. Press.
3. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 with the 2 remaining collar pieces to make the second collar.



4. Pin the collars to the right side of the bodice, centering the collars on the front bodice, with the notches toward the bodice back. Baste *just inside* the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.



Lining the Bodice

VIEWS A AND B

1. Pin and sew the bodice to the lining at the neckline, with right sides together and all edges even.



2. Clip the curves and turn the bodice right side out.
3. Press well from both sides. Topstitch the neckline.
4. Baste *just inside* the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance all around the bodice and then along the center back, lower edges, and armholes.



Sleeves

VIEW A

1. Sew gathering stitches along the upper edge of the sleeves and gather to fit the bodice armholes.
2. Pin and sew the sleeves to the bodice, right sides together. The wedge-shaped notch should be placed along the bodice back. Finish the seam allowances.



3. Fold the sleeve bands in half lengthwise, wrong sides together, and press.
4. Sew gathering stitches along the lower edge of the sleeves and gather the lower edges of the sleeves to fit the sleeve bands.
5. Pin and sew the sleeve bands to the sleeves, right sides together. Finish the seam allowances and press them toward the sleeves.



VIEW B

1. Hem the sleeves.



2. Follow Steps 1 and 2 for View A.
3. Sew the elastic pieces to the wrong side of the lower edges of the sleeves, as indicated by the dot markings on the pattern. Use a narrow zigzag stitch, stretching the elastic as you sew it in place.



Tip

The amount of elastic you need will depend on the amount of stretch in your elastic. When using elastic as a finishing technique to gather the sleeve ends, I prefer to use extra-stretchy elastic, designed for lingerie, and stretch it as far as it will go.

Side Seams

VIEWS A AND B

Pin and sew the bodice front to the bodice back at the sides and sleeves, right sides together, keeping the sleeve hems even. Finish the seam allowances.



Skirt

VIEWS A AND B

1. Sew gathering stitches along the upper edge of the skirt piece and gather it to fit the bodice.
2. Using a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance, pin and sew the skirt to the bodice, right sides together.
3. Finish the seam allowances and press them toward the bodice.

4. *Optional:* Topstitch along the bodice just above the waist seam.

Tip

Little details can make a big difference. Give your **Vintage Party Dress** a special touch by sewing ribbon to the waistline. Choose an accent color from your fabric for panache.



This $\frac{3}{8}$ "-wide velvet ribbon was sewn on by hand, using embroidery floss for something extraordinary.

Finishing

Note: Refer to Making Back Closures: Dresses as needed. If you prefer a rolled hem, hem the dress before the other finishing steps.

VIEWS A AND B

1. Finish the center back edges.
2. Sew the back closure and hem the dress.



VIEW A

Press the collar down toward the bodice. If the collar has a tendency to flip up, tack it down by hand from the underside.

Add Pleats and Trim

It's easy to add trims, such as picot lace, along the neckline of the **Vintage Party Dress** (View B). The skirt can also be pleated instead of gathered for another great design detail.



Picot Lace

Additional Materials

- Cotton crochet picot lace ($\frac{1}{4}$ " wide): $\frac{1}{2}$ yard



A picot edge pokes out at the neckline for a fun finish.

To create a picot detail, pin the lace to the right side of the bodice at the neckline before attaching the lining. Sew the lace around the neckline, making sure the lace is just beyond the $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.



Pleats



1. Fold and tuck the skirt fabric into small pleats, between $\frac{1}{4}$ " and $\frac{3}{8}$ " apart. Fold the first and last pleat $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edges to allow for the back closure.
2. Press each fold as you make it, keeping the top edge straight as you work.



3. Pin each pressed pleat in place and baste across the pleats. Sew the skirt to the bodice with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance.



About the Author



Erin first fell in love with sewing at age seven, when she attended a kids' sewing class at the Lucie Stern Community Center in Palo Alto, California. While growing up, she enjoyed sewing stuffed animals for friends, as well as clothing for herself and, of course, for her dolls. Erin earned a bachelor of science degree in liberal arts from Oregon State University and lives in beautiful Willamette Valley, Oregon, with her husband, their four children, two cats, and one blind chinchilla. She teaches sewing locally and runs an Etsy shop, where she sells her PDF sewing patterns.



Find Erin online at averylanesewing.com and facebook.com/AveryLaneDesigns.

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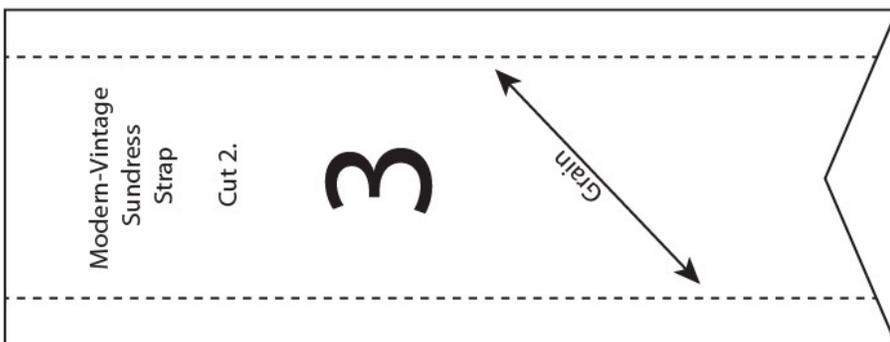
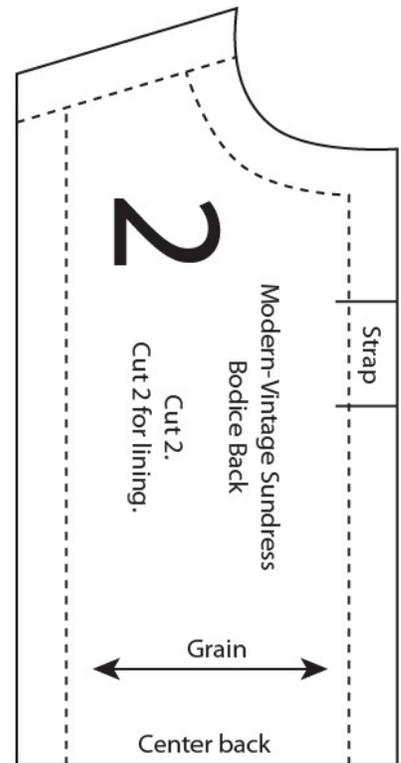
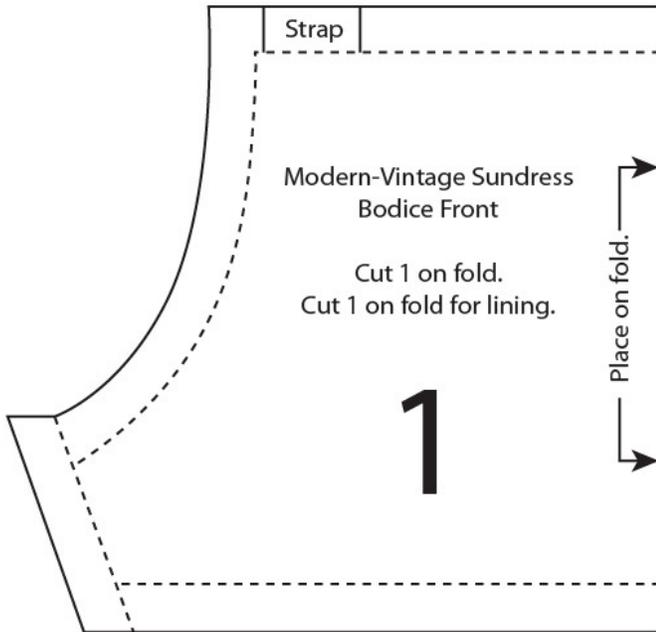
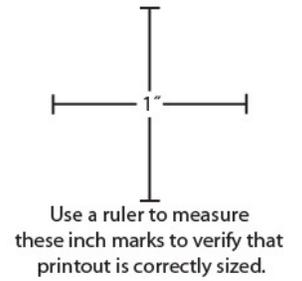
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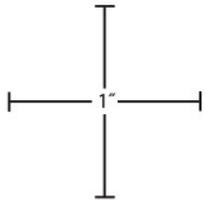
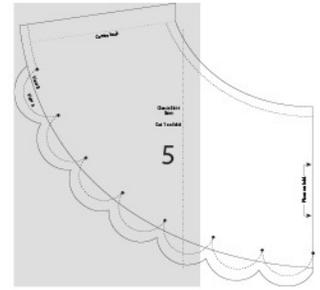
Modern-Vintage Sundress Bodice Front Pattern
Modern-Vintage Sundress Bodice Back Pattern
Modern-Vintage Sundress Collar View A Pattern
Modern-Vintage Sundress Strap Pattern

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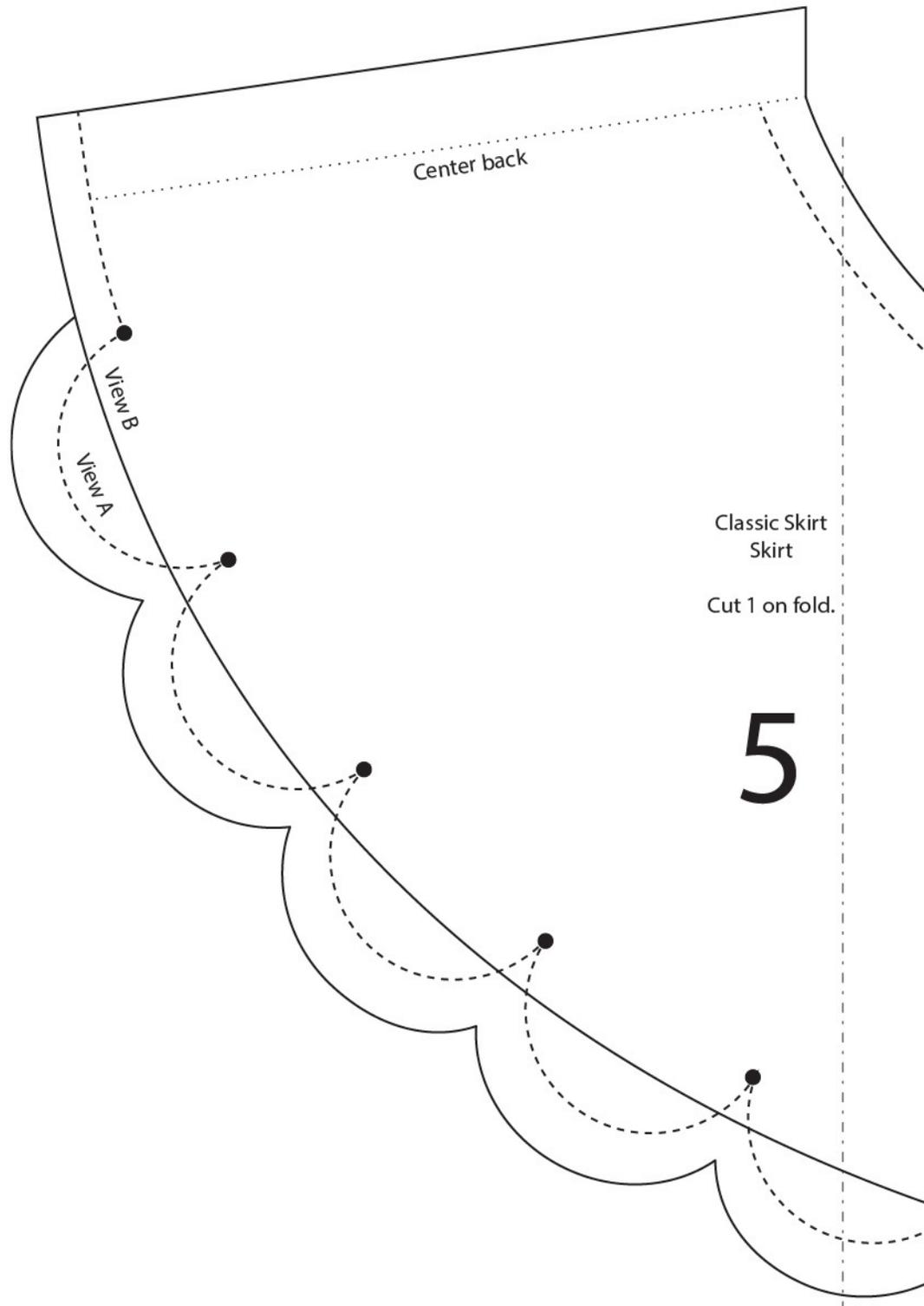


Classic Skirt Skirt Pattern

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Classic Skirt
Skirt

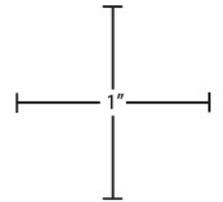
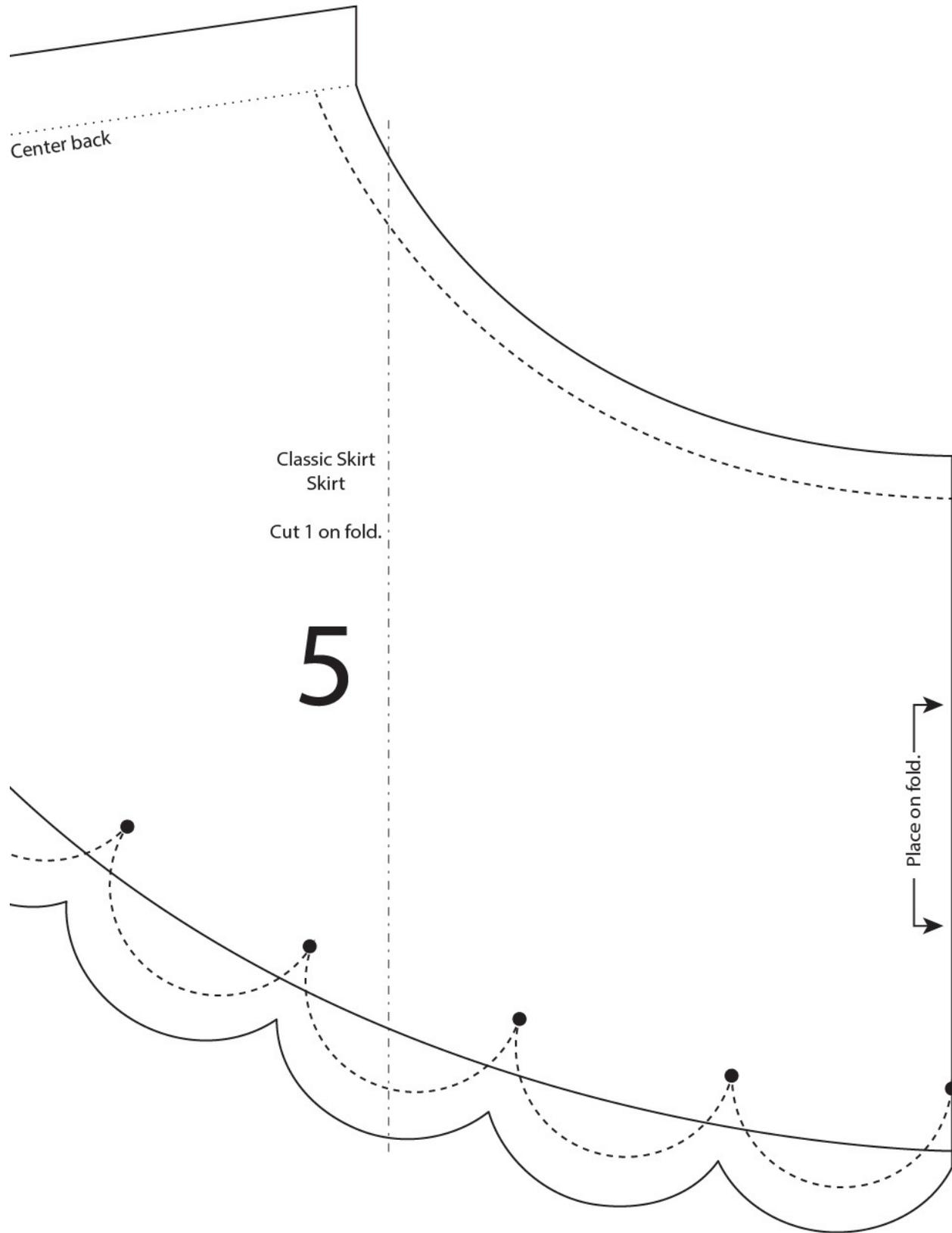
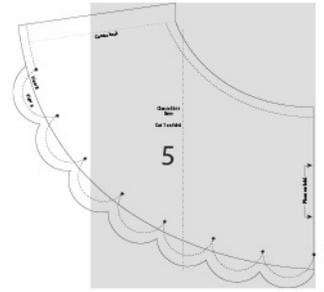
Cut 1 on fold.

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Classic Skirt Skirt Pattern

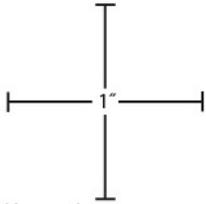
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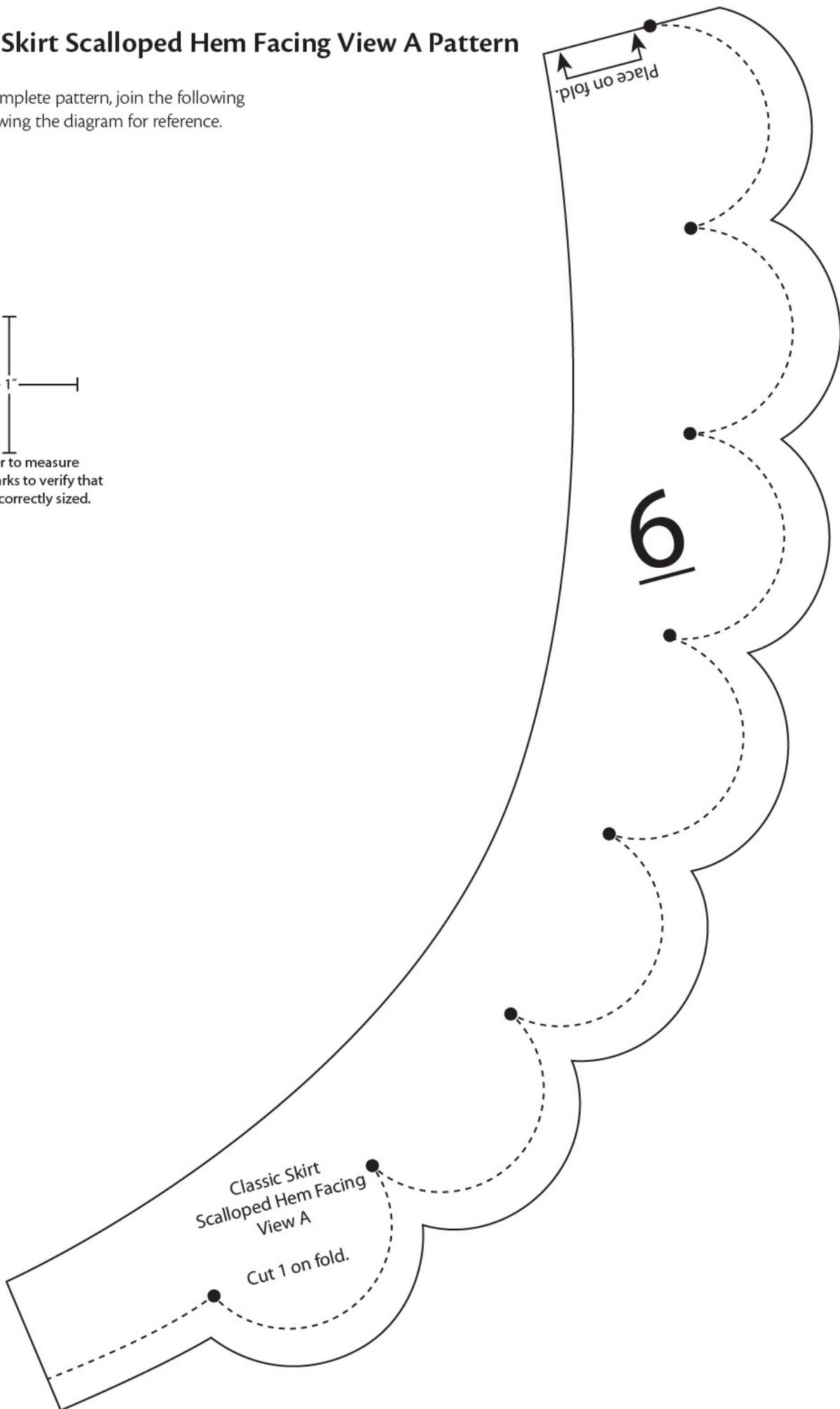
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Classic Skirt Scalloped Hem Facing View A Pattern

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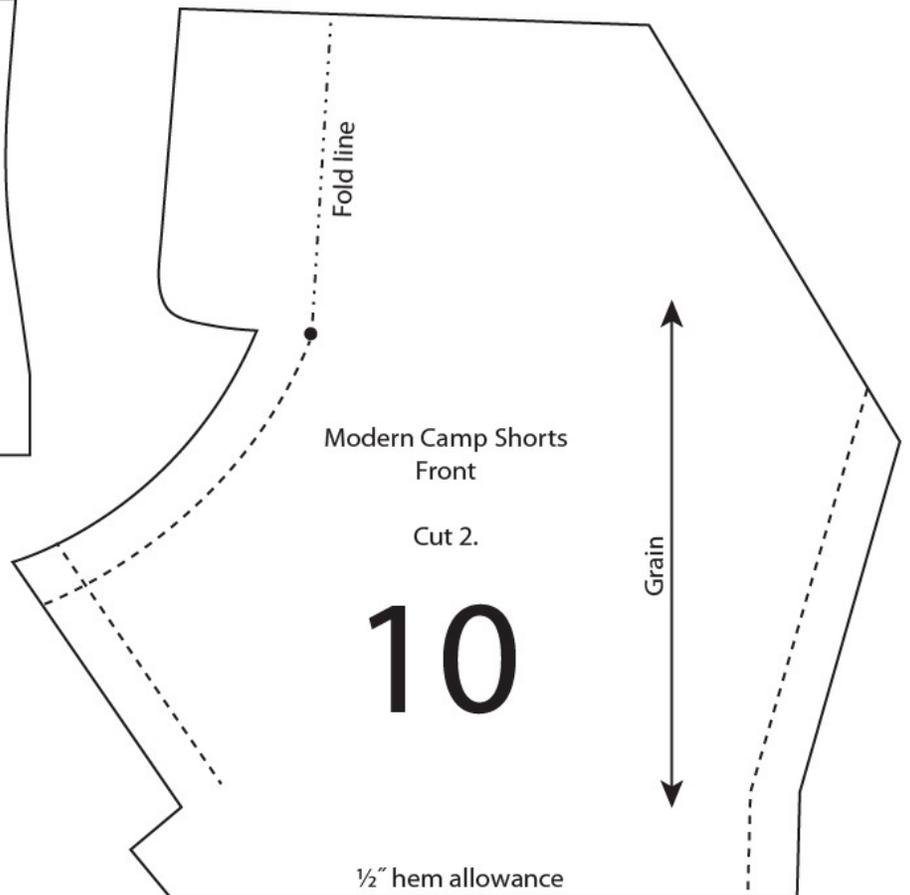
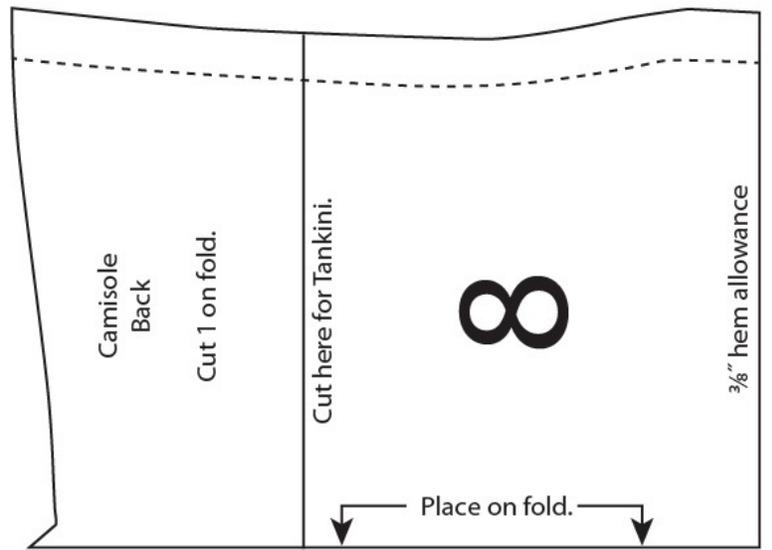
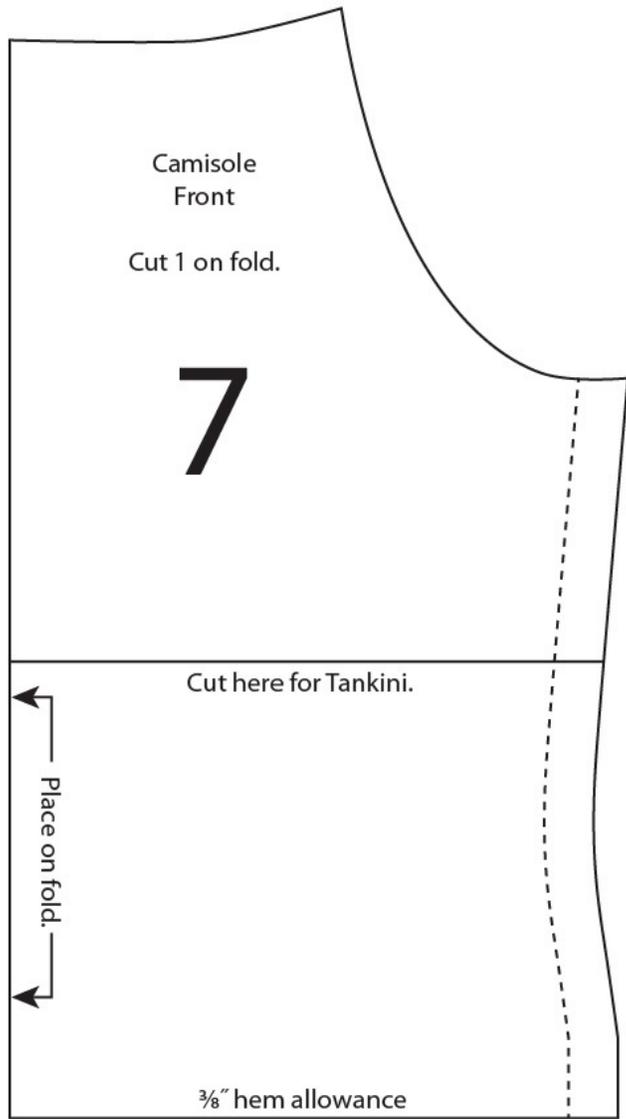
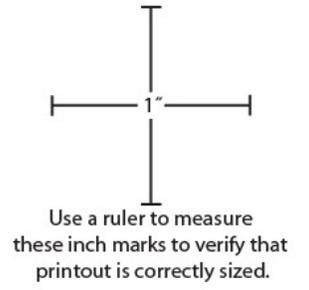
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Camisole Front Pattern

Camisole Back Pattern

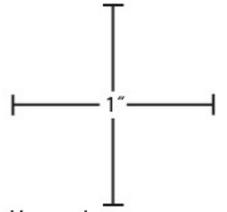
Modern Camp Shorts Front Pattern

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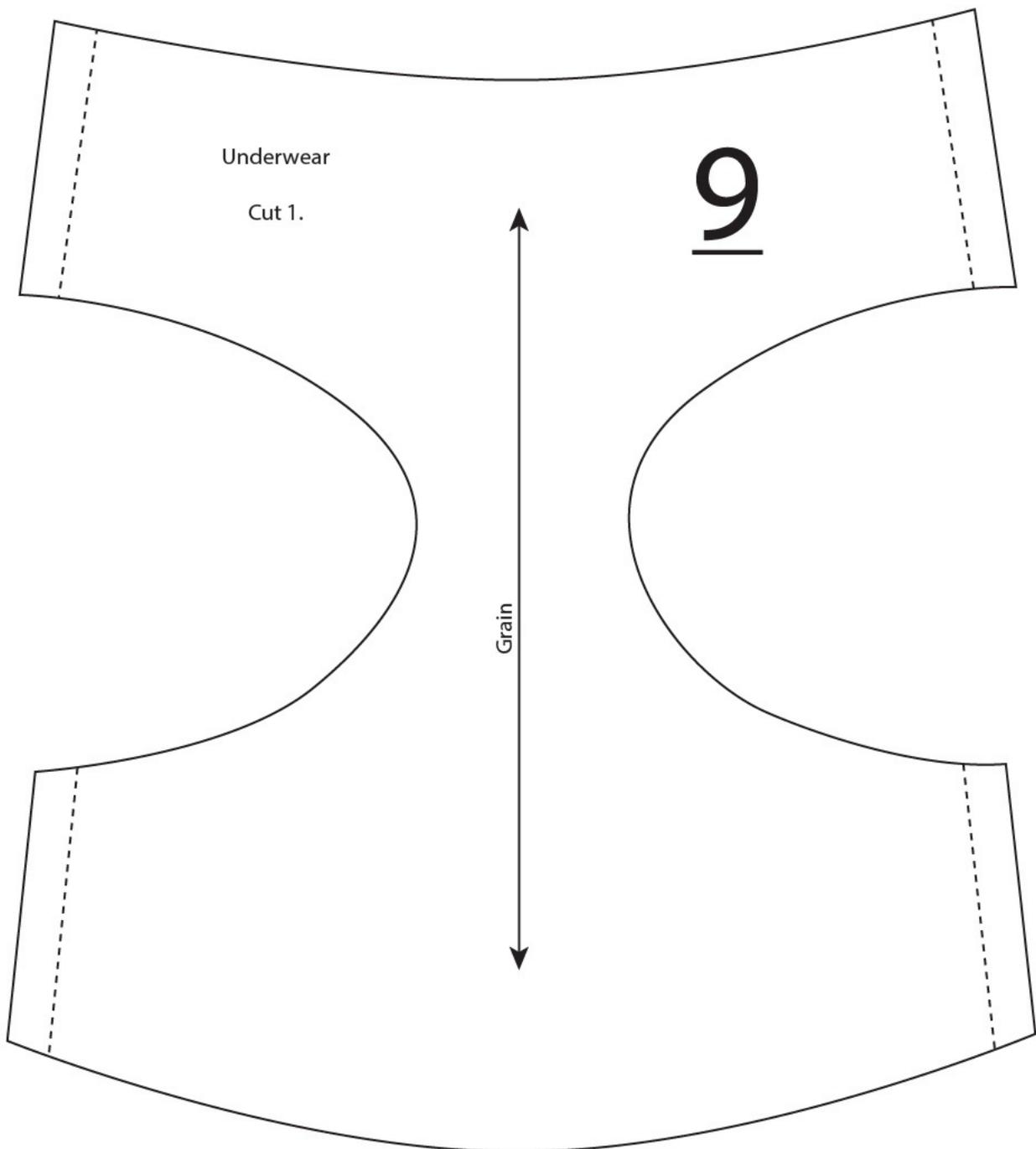


Underwear Pattern

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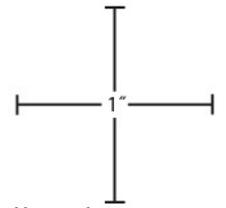
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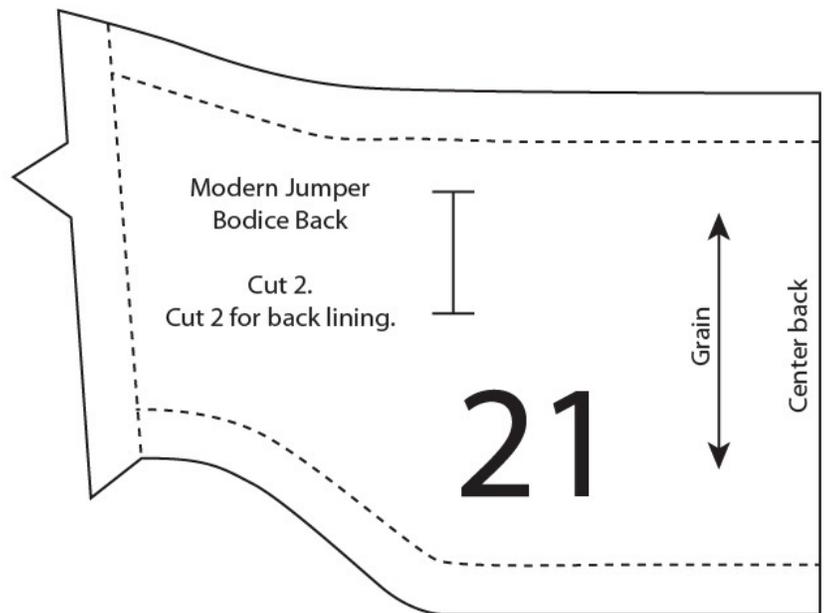
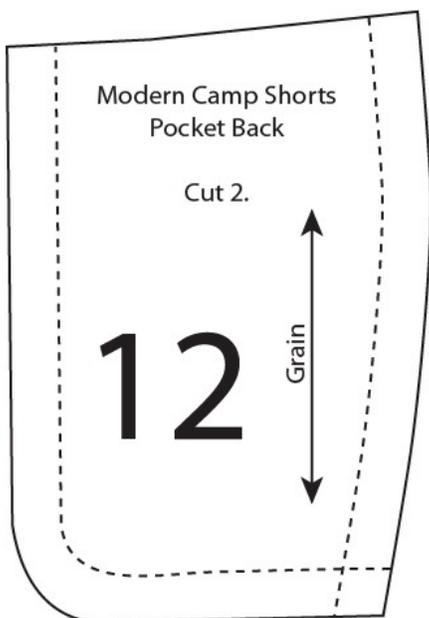
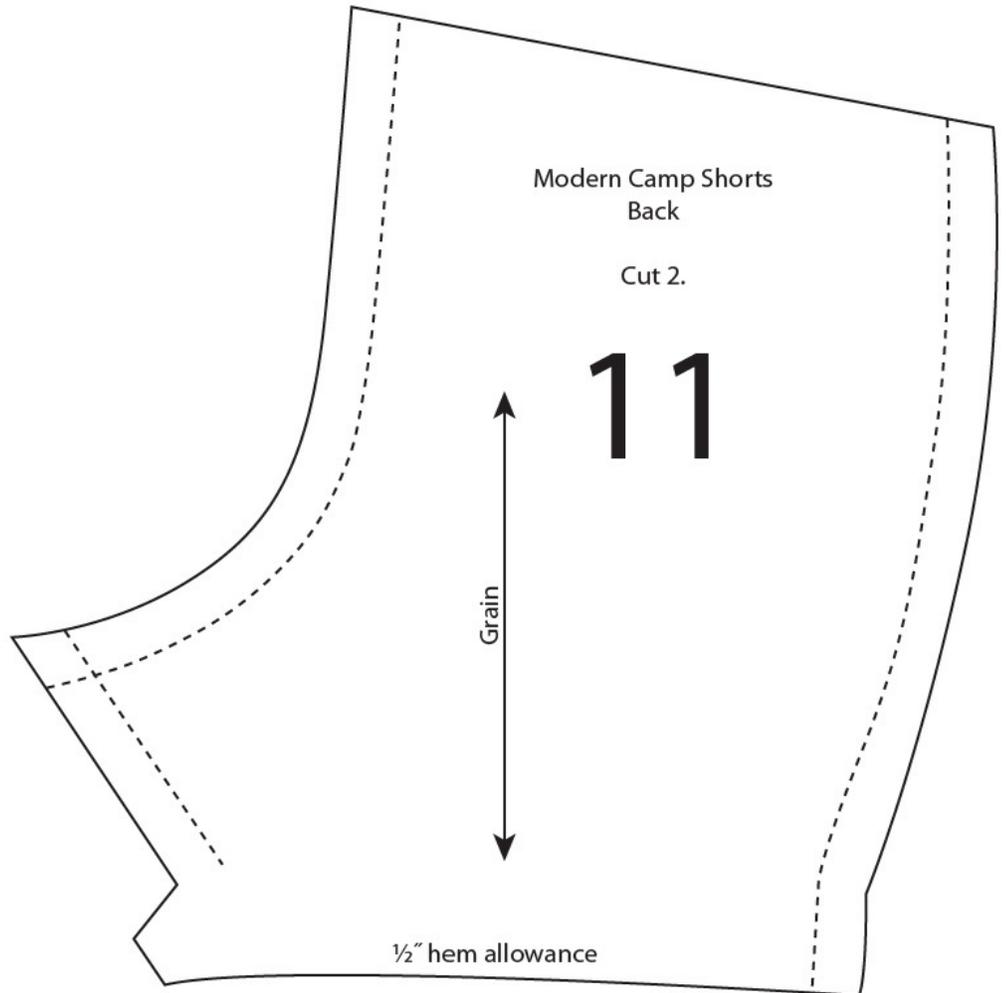
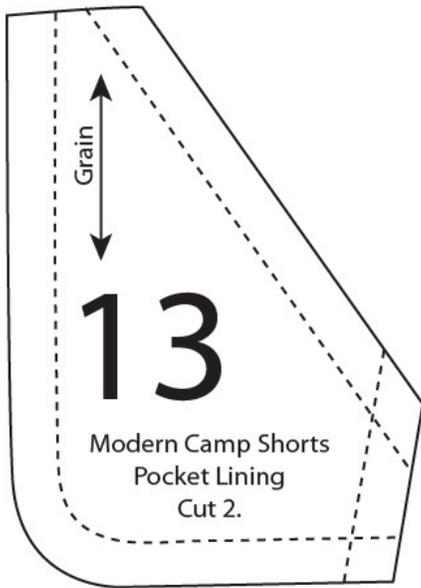
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Modern Camp Shorts Back Pattern
Modern Camp Shorts Pocket Back Pattern
Modern Camp Shorts Pocket Lining Pattern
Modern Jumper Bodice Back Pattern

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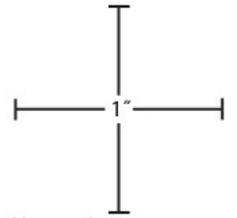


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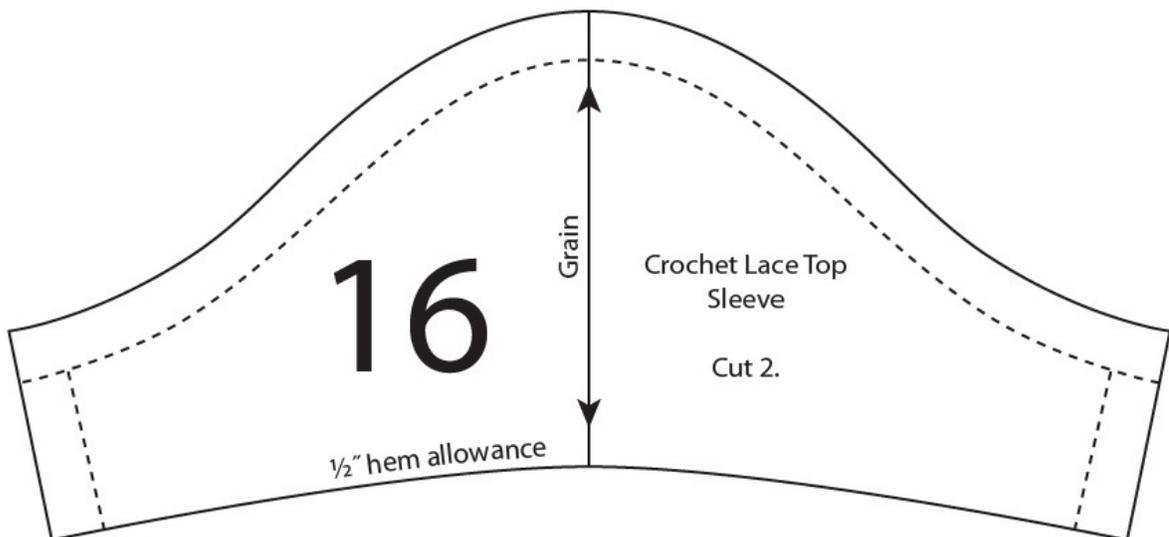
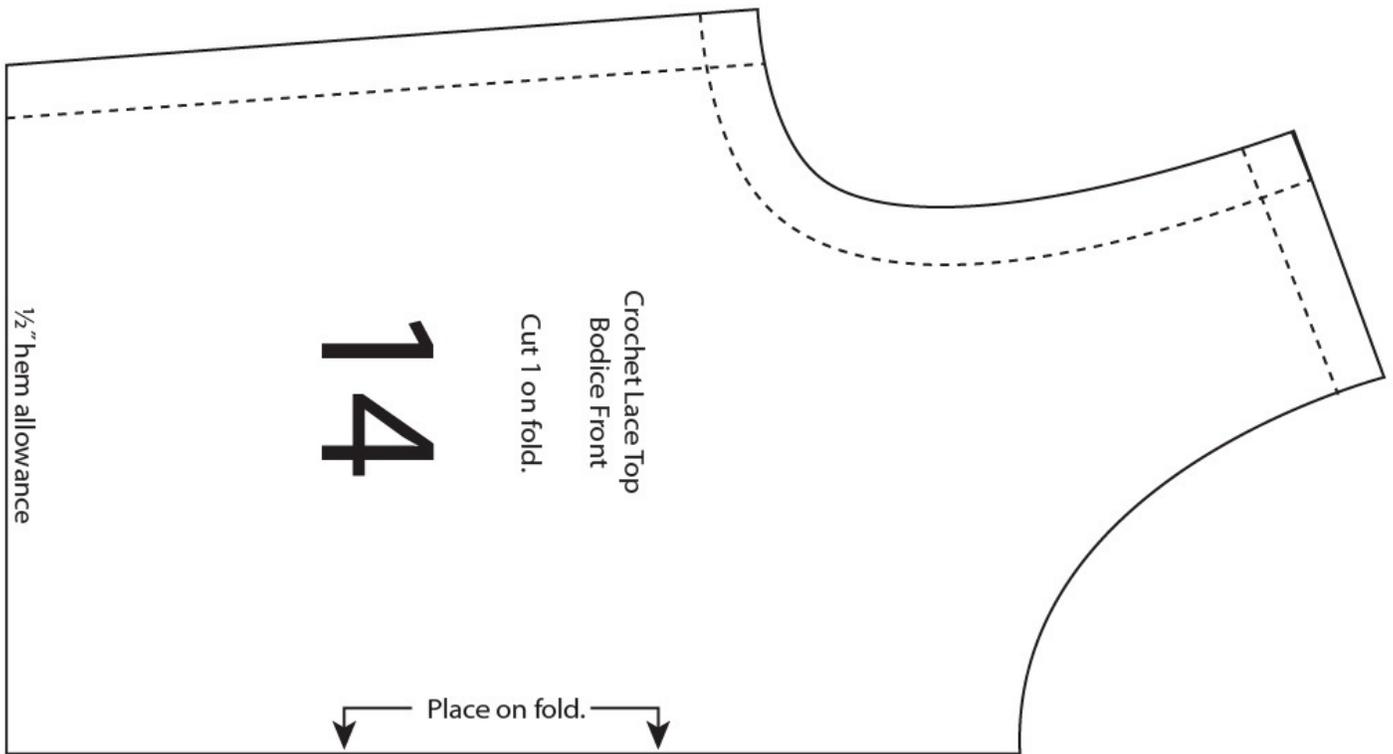
Crochet Lace Top Bodice Front Pattern

Crochet Lace Top Sleeve Pattern

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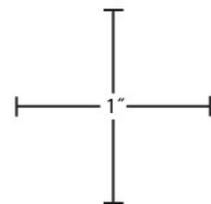


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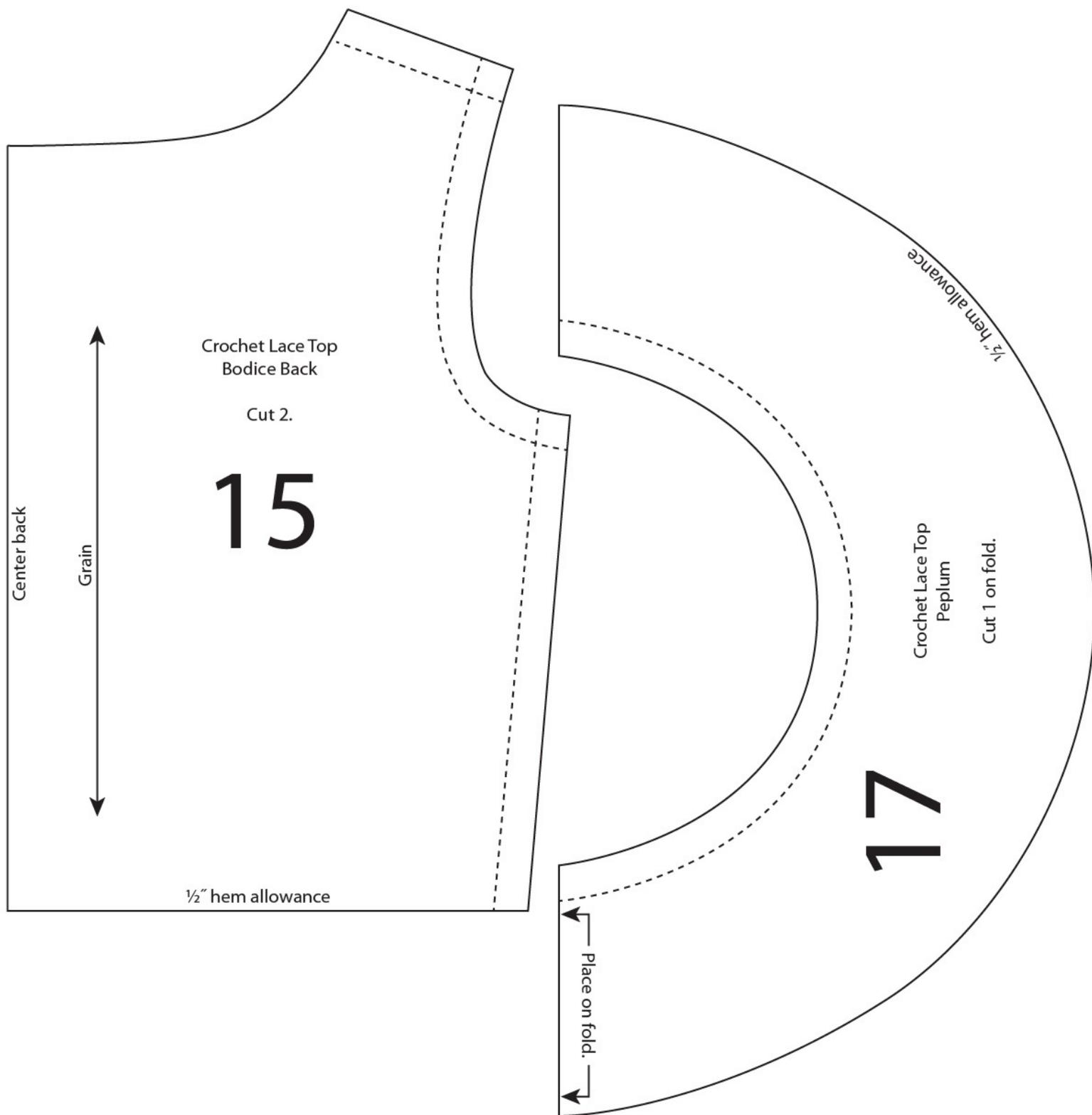
Crochet Lace Top Bodice Back Pattern

Crochet Lace Top Peplum Pattern

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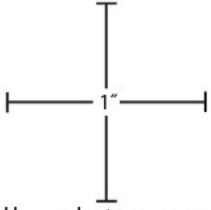
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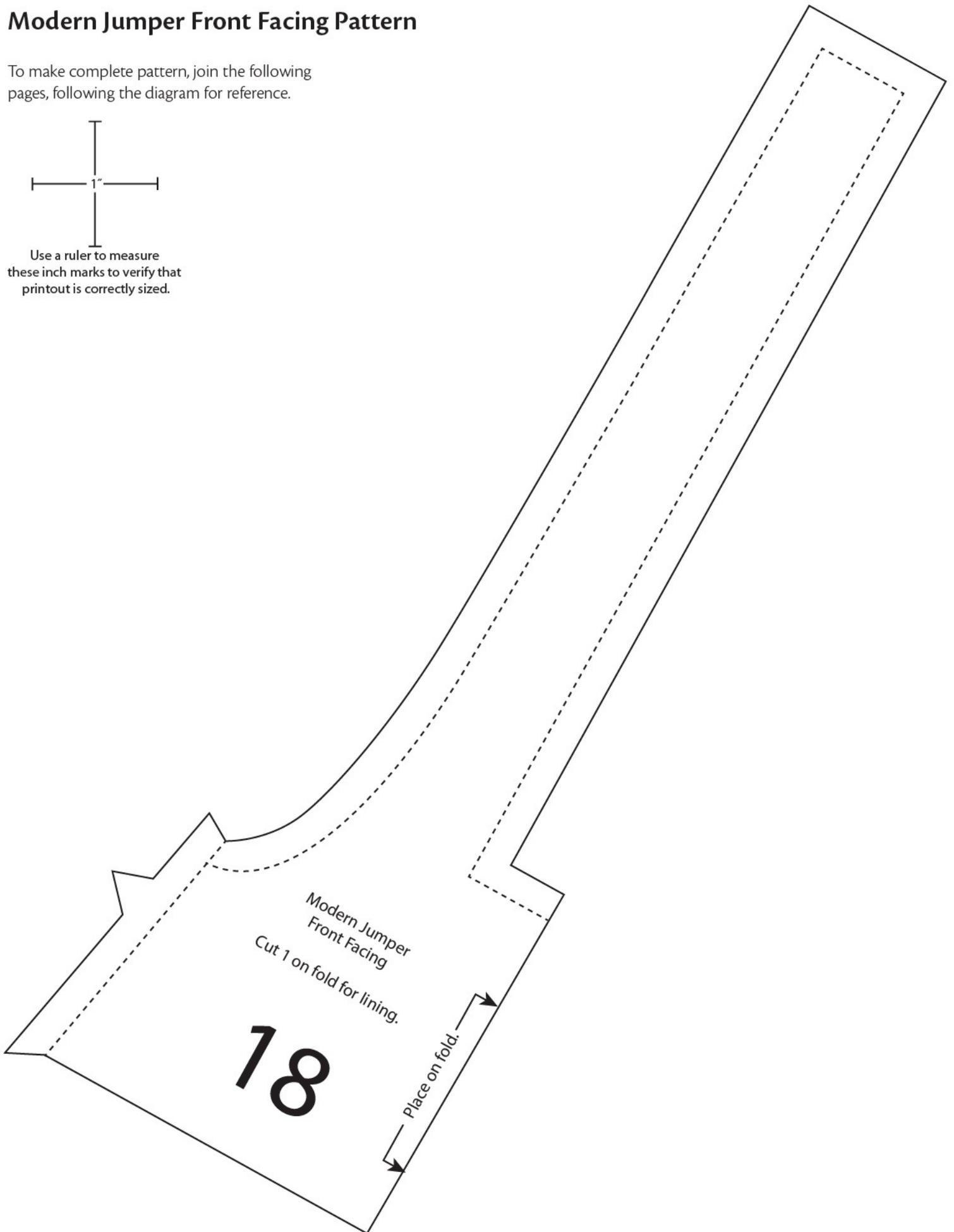
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Modern Jumper Front Facing Pattern

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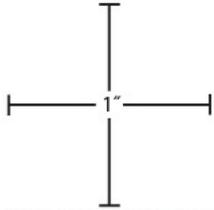
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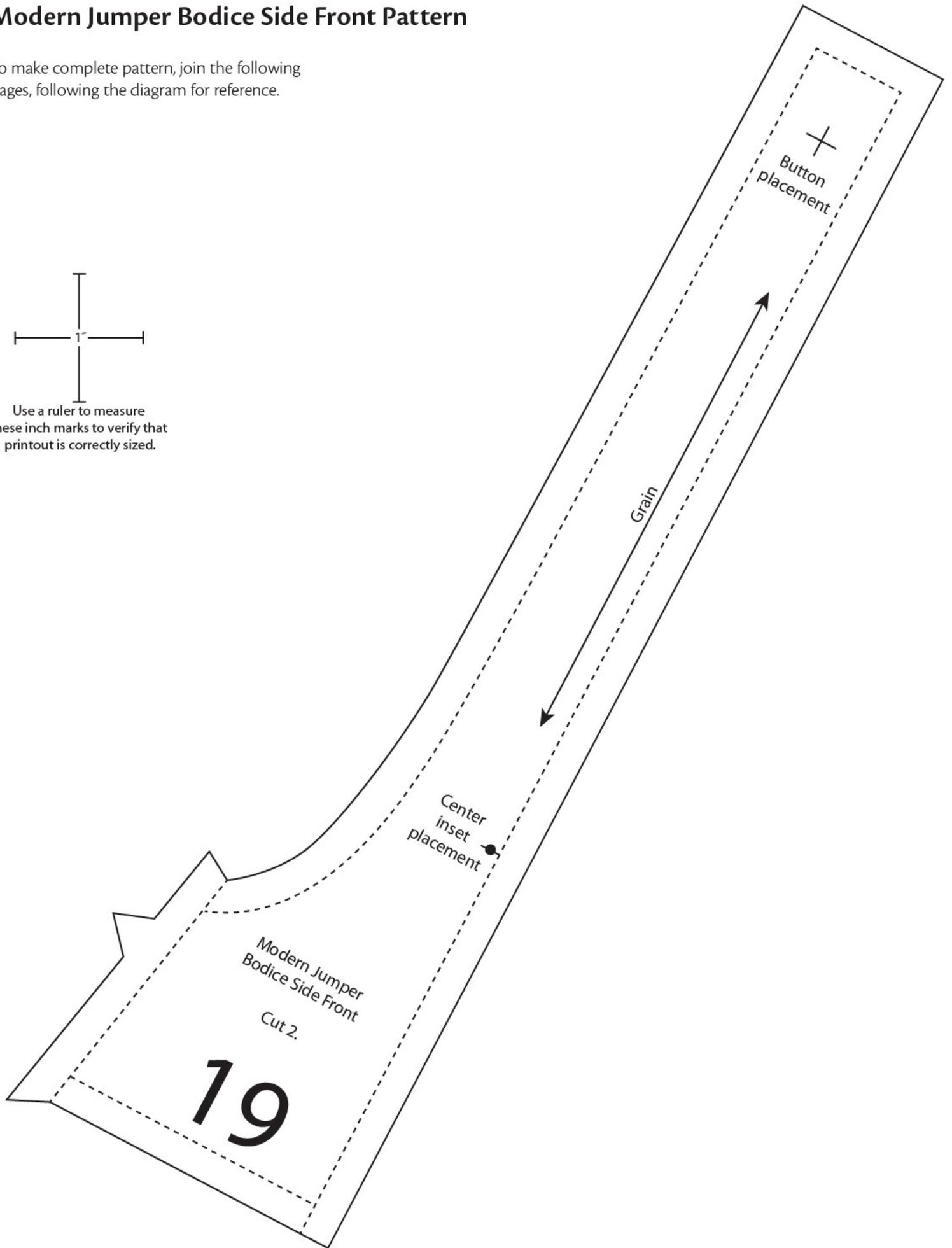
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Modern Jumper Bodice Side Front Pattern

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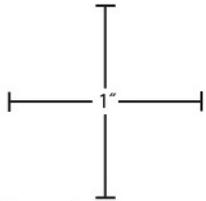
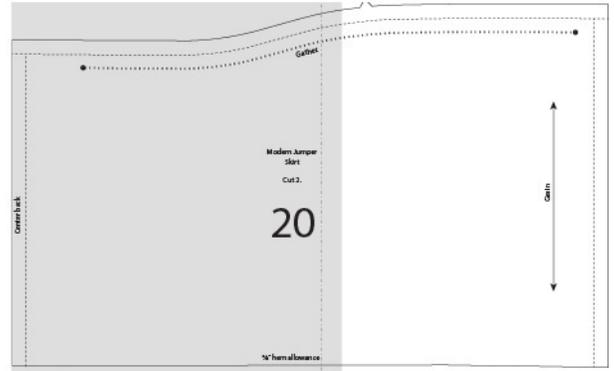


Use a ruler to measure these inch marks to verify that printout is correctly sized.

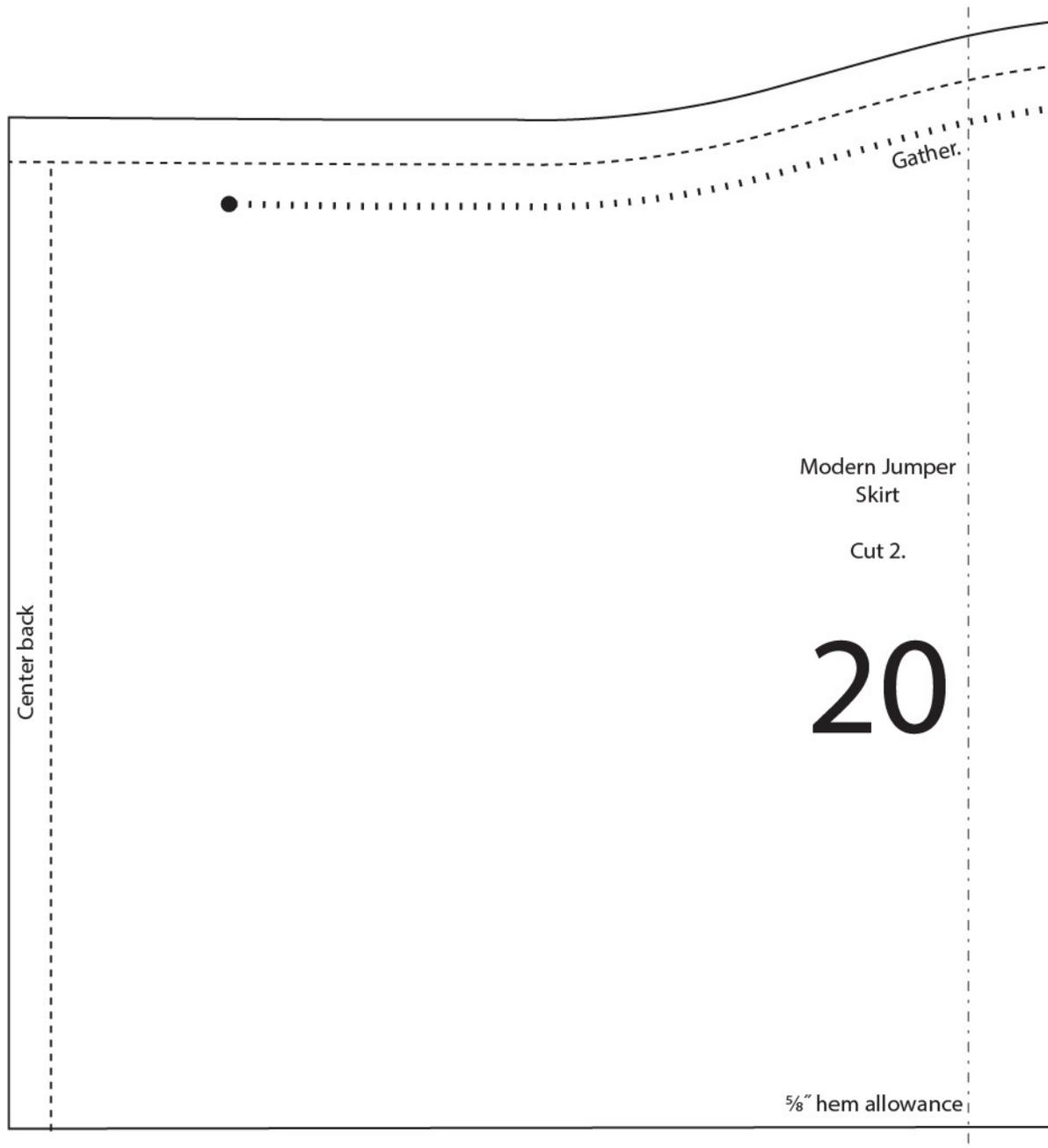


Modern Jumper Skirt Pattern

To make complete pattern, join the following pages, following the diagram for reference.

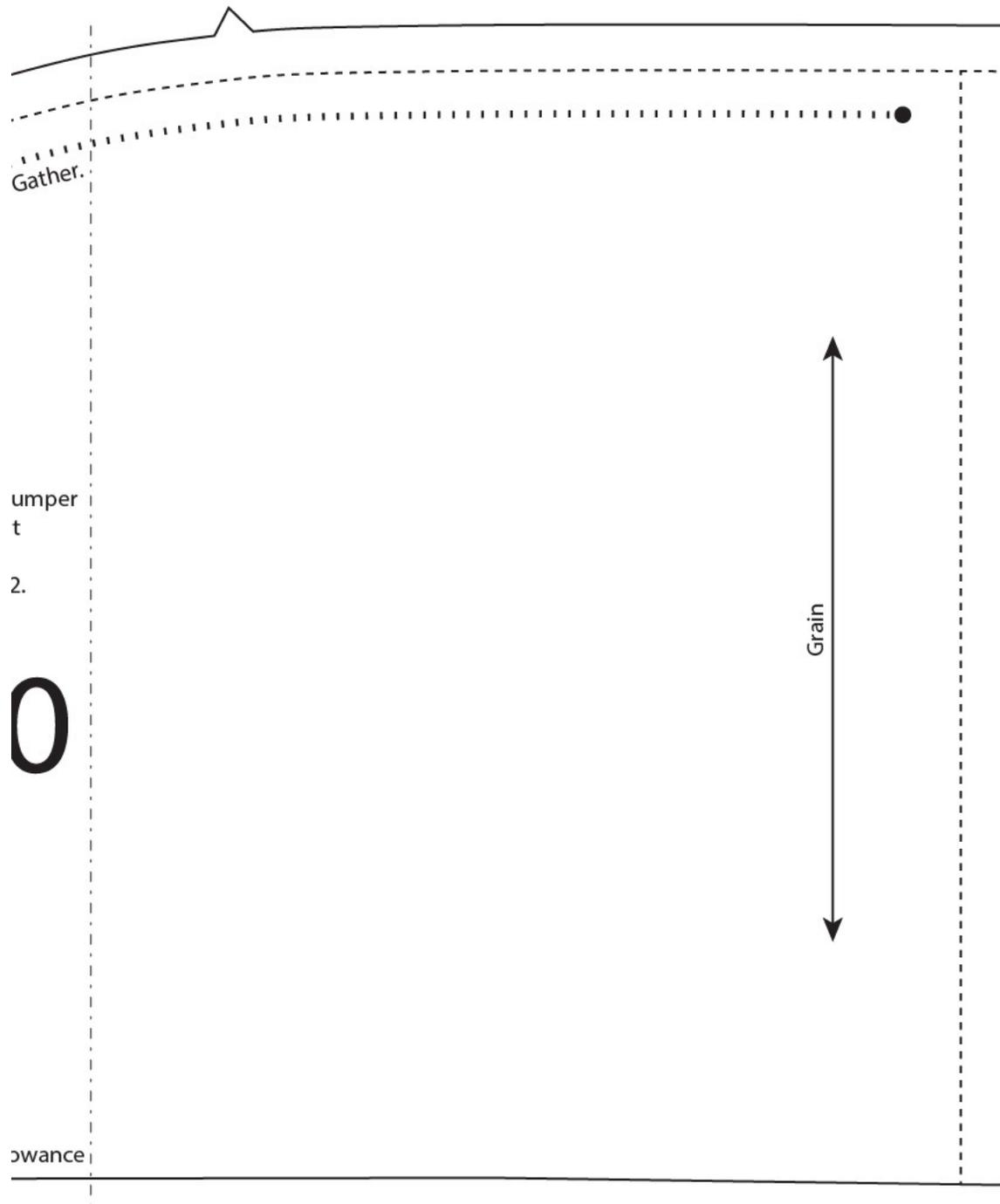
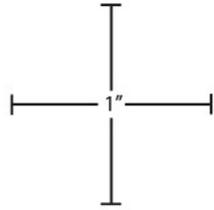
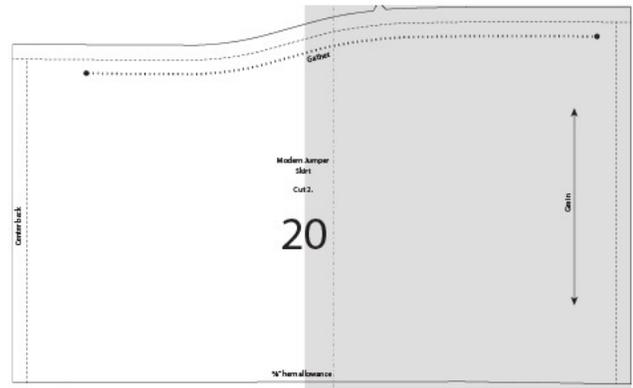


Use a ruler to measure these inch marks to verify that printout is correctly sized.



Modern Jumper Skirt Pattern

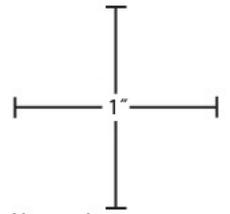
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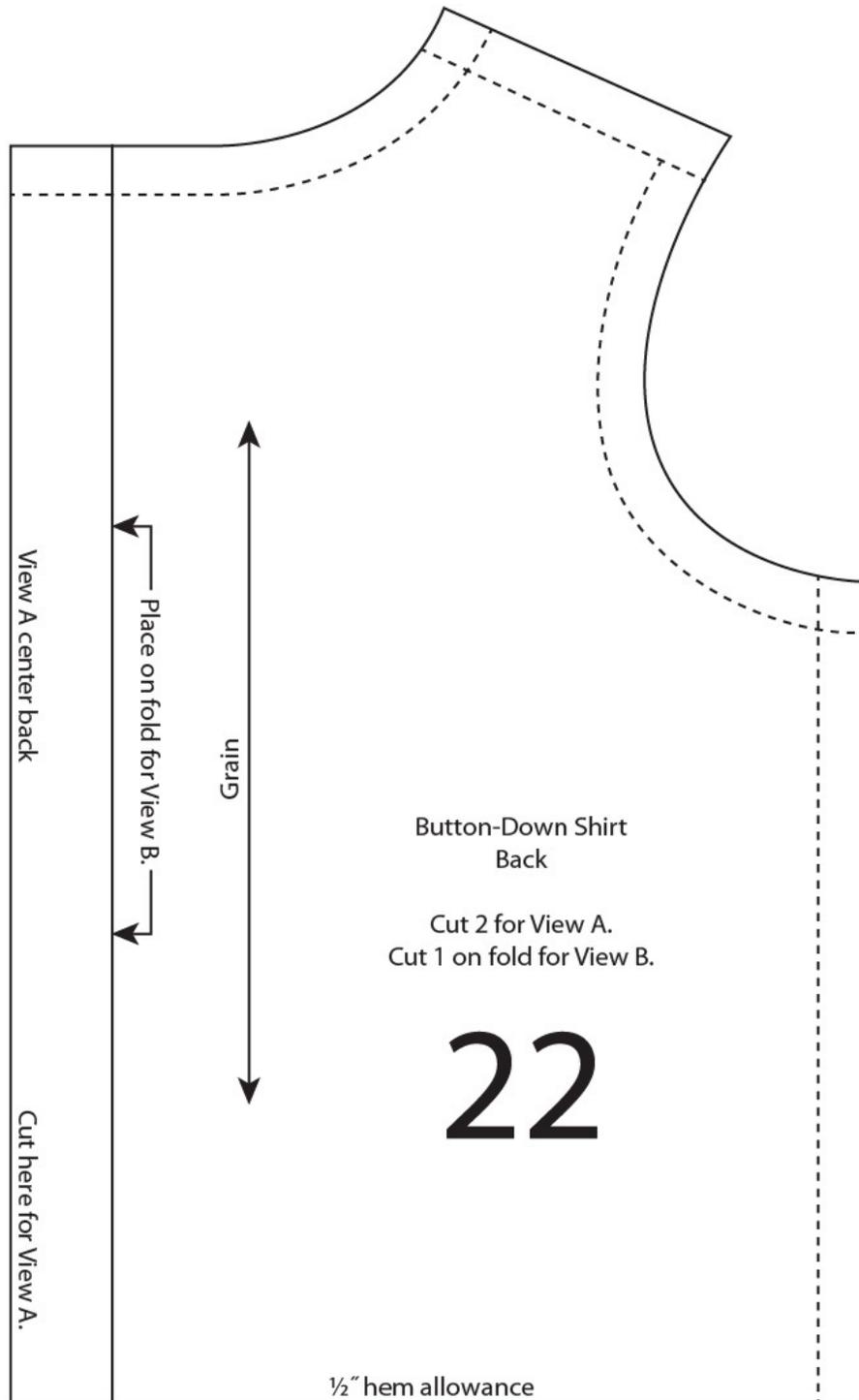
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Button-Down Shirt Back Pattern

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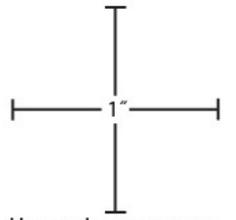
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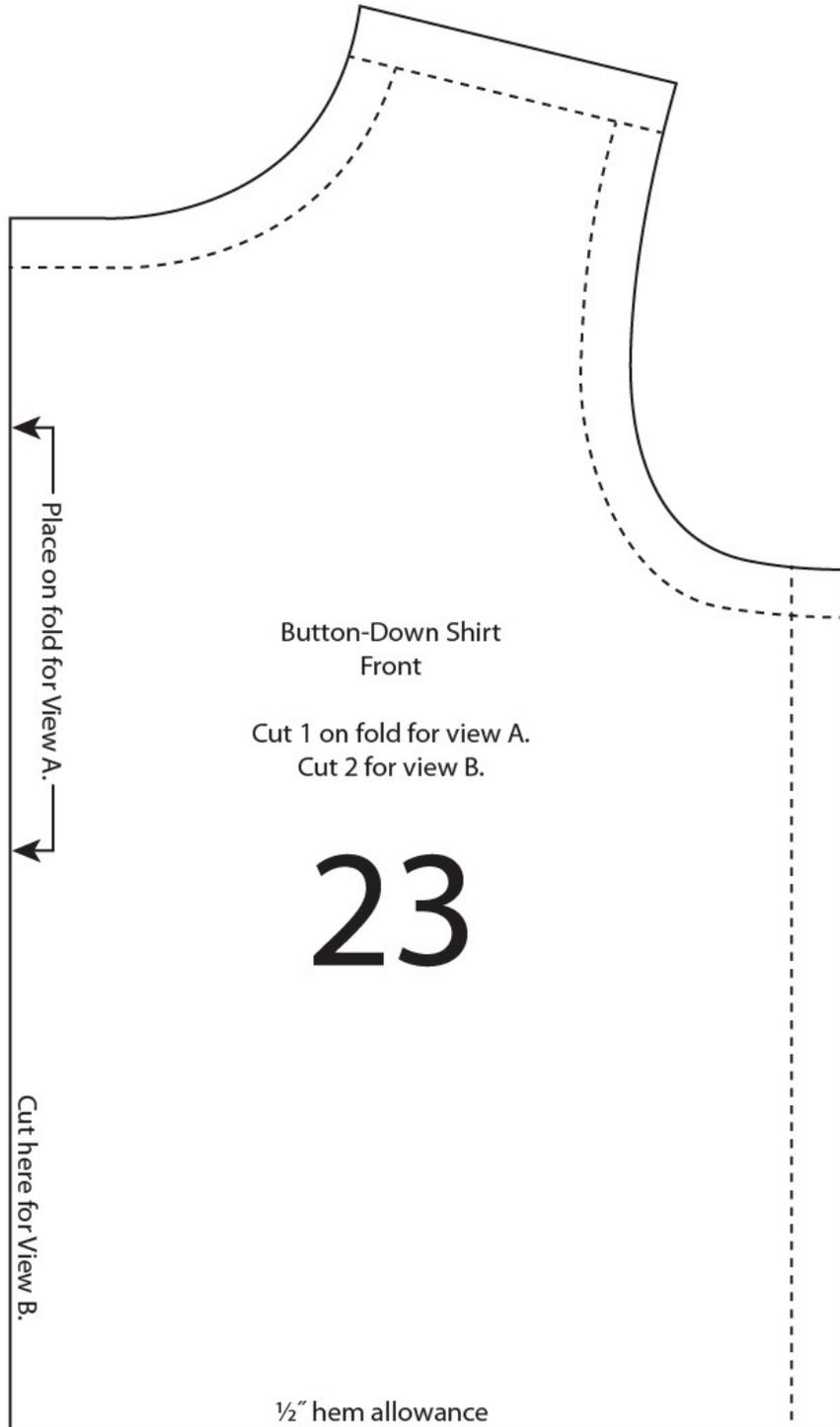
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Button-Down Shirt Front Pattern

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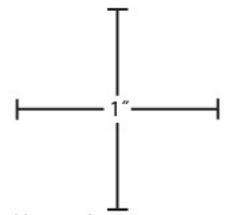
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Button-Down Shirt Sleeve Pattern

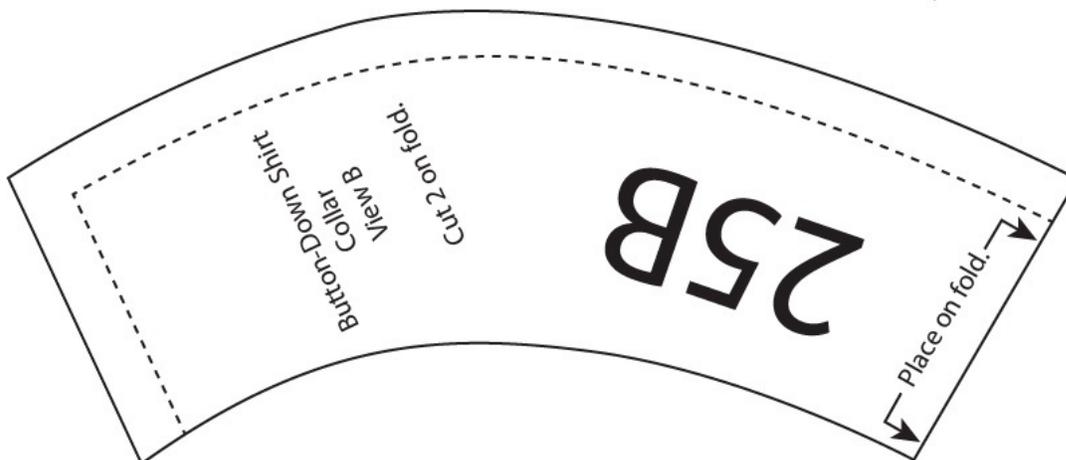
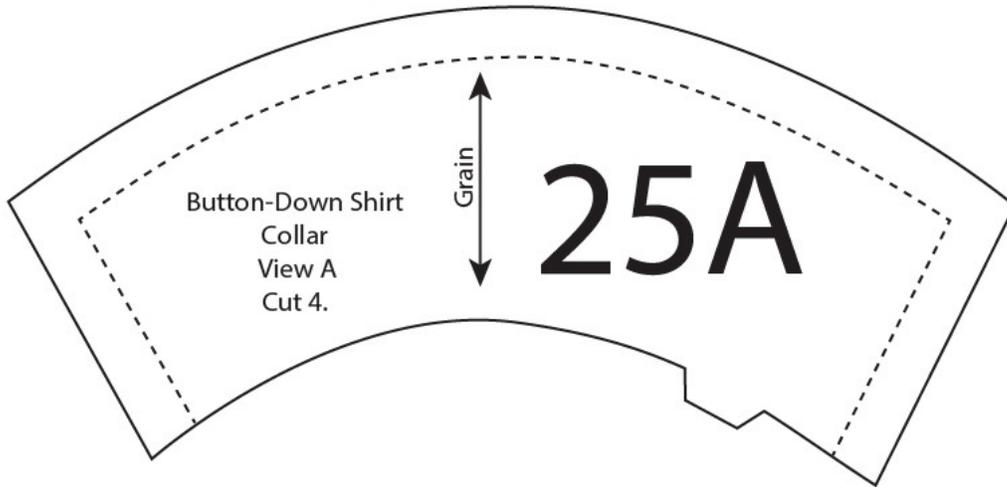
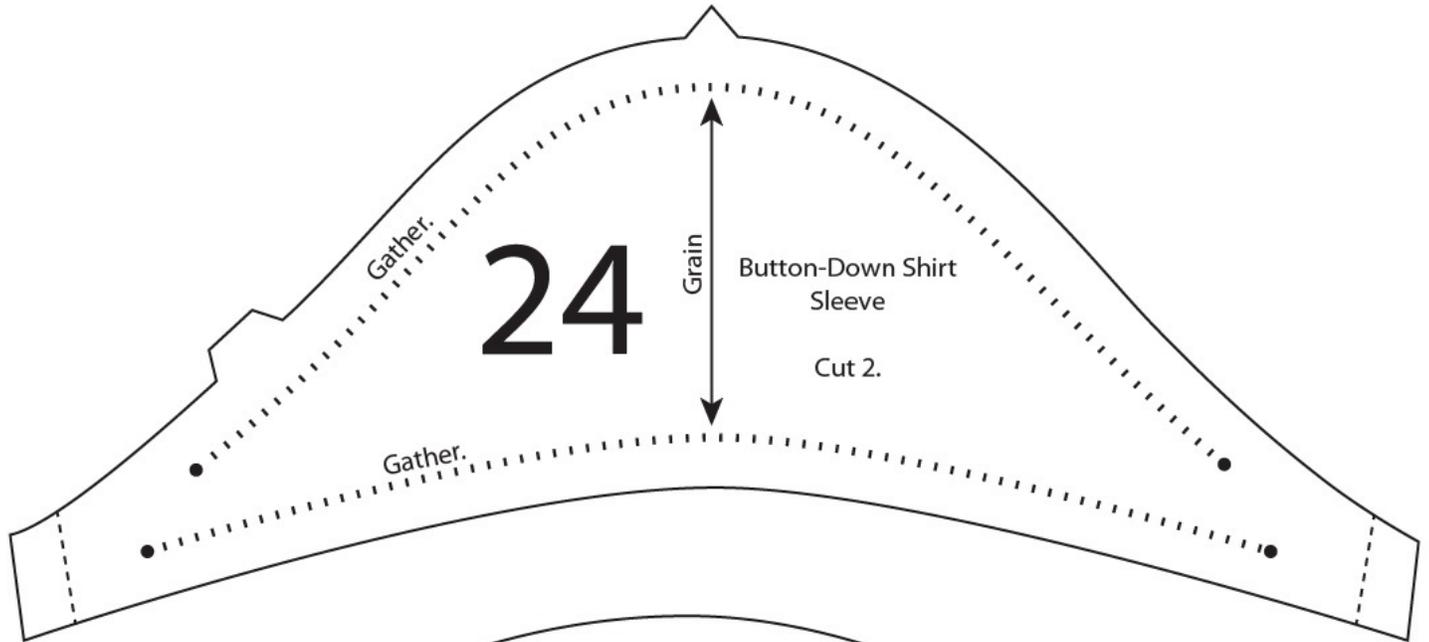
Button-Down Shirt Collar View A Pattern

Button-Down Shirt Collar View B Pattern

To make complete pattern, join the following pages, following the diagram for reference.



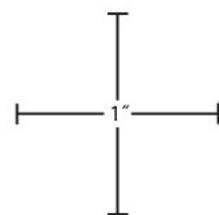
Use a ruler to measure these inch marks to verify that printout is correctly sized.



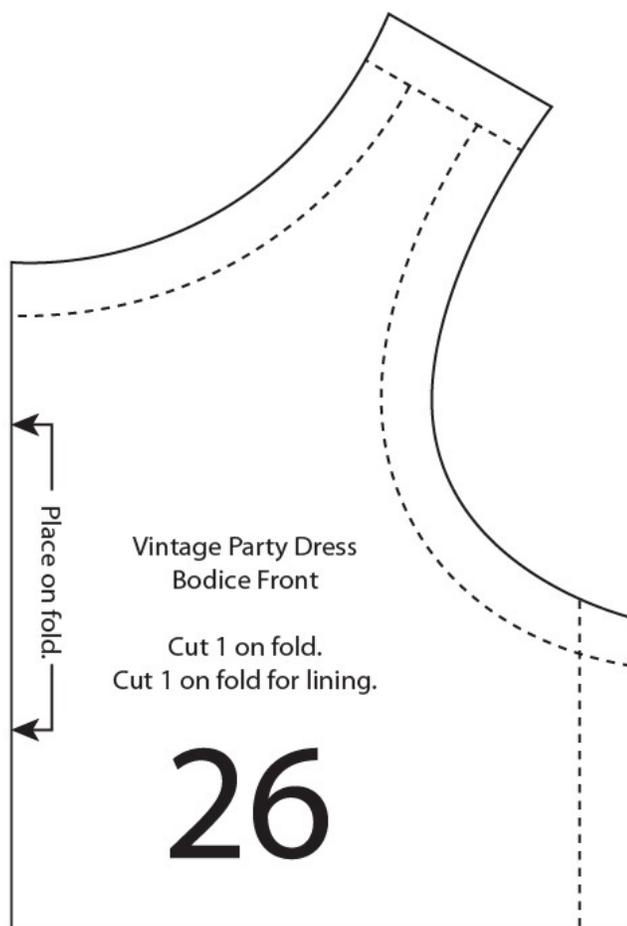
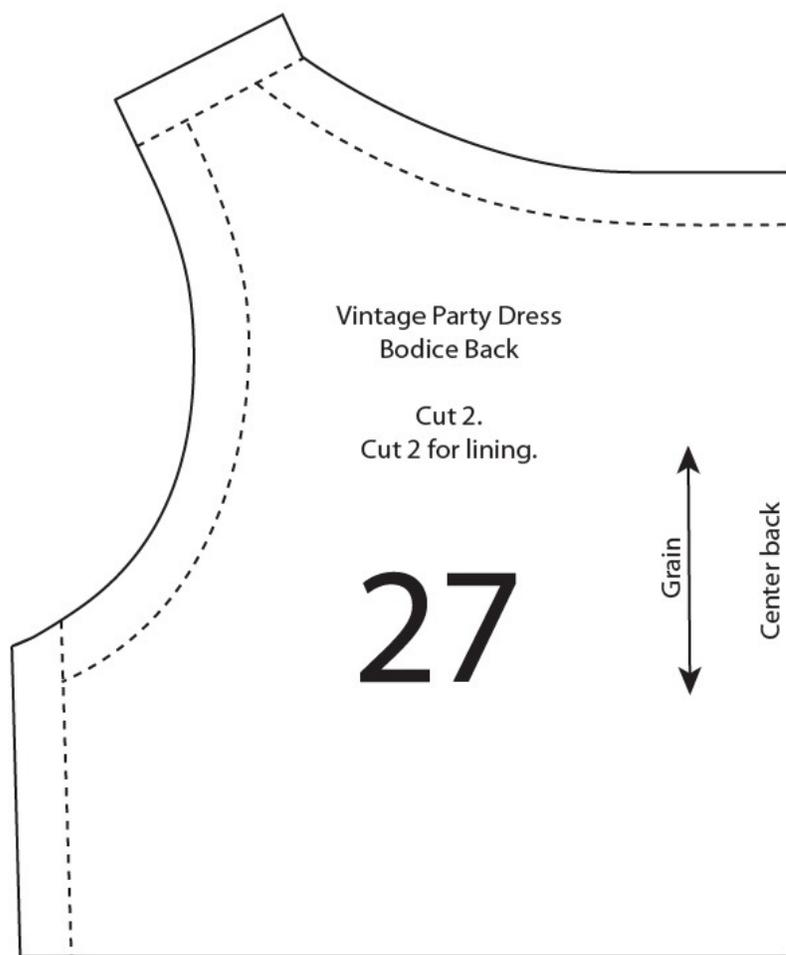
Vintage Party Dress Bodice Front Pattern

Vintage Party Dress Bodice Back Pattern

To make complete pattern, join the following pages, following the diagram for reference.



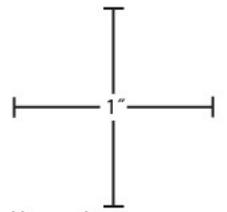
Use a ruler to measure these inch marks to verify that printout is correctly sized.



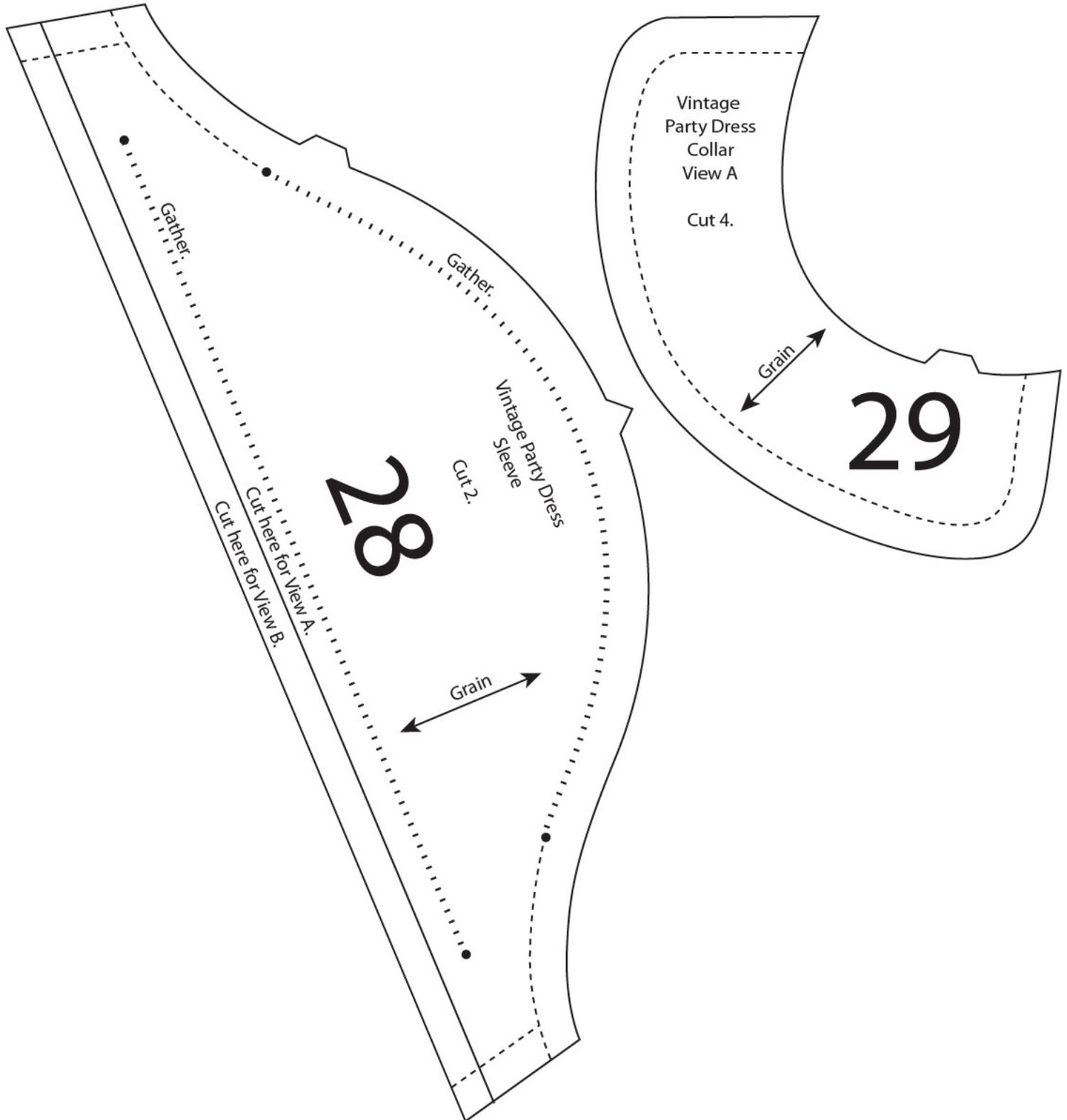
Vintage Party Dress Collar View A Pattern

Vintage Party Dress Sleeve Pattern

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Use a ruler to measure these inch marks to verify that printout is correctly sized.



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