

## Sundress for 18in. dolls

This is the first tutorial I have ever made so please let me know if I am missing anything!

### Materials:

- Various scraps of knit fabrics. Try using old t shirts!
- Elastic- 5in piece. I used  $\frac{3}{4}$  in wide because it is what I had on hand. If you want to use something skinnier, by all means do so, but you must adjust the top seam allowance on the back piece. You may also use elastic thread for shirring across the back, but again, you will need to adjust the top seam allowance as you will no longer need the elastic casing.

Start by cutting out your materials. You will need 2 skirt pieces, 1 shirt back piece, 2 shirt front pieces and a 2" x 16" piece for the halter straps.



1. Take the 2" x 16" piece of fabric and fold it into thirds the long way so you end up with a piece 16" long by approx.  $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide, press. Top stitch down the middle of the straps to secure all 3 layers. Cut the piece in half to make 2 straps that are approx..  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 8". You will also need to finish one end of each strap. I just folded the strap over about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and stitched it down.



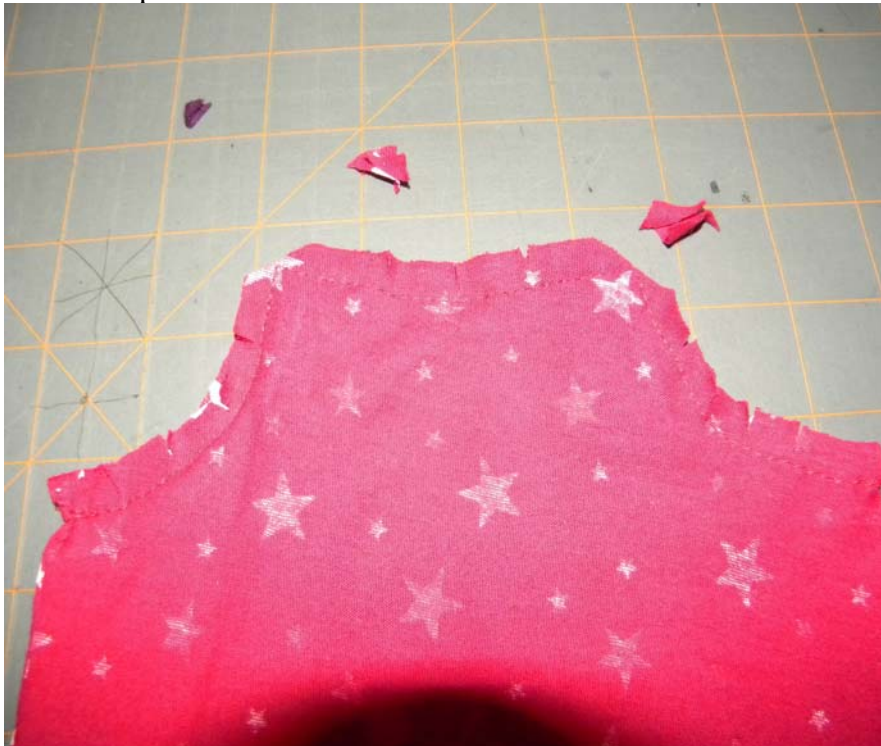
2. Pin the straps to one of your shirt front pieces at the top about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in from the armhole seam. Be aware of the front and back of your straps. In the picture below, the straps are right sides together with the shirt front (meaning the back side of the strap is facing up!). Baste across the top edges.



3. Then sandwich the second shirt front piece on top of this, right sides together. Starting at one armhole sew up the armhole, across the top edge (be sure your straps are still in place!) and down the other armhole. Do not sew the side seams yet.



4. Clip corners and curved seams.



5. Turn right side out and press. You can also topstitch the armholes and top edge if you prefer. I didn't prefer....



6. Now put the front aside and grab the shirt back piece. Since I was using really wide elastic I added a 1 1/4" tall seam allowance to the top. I pressed down 1/4" and then 1" more to create a casing. If you are using skinnier elastic, be sure to subtract some of the top seam allowance or you will have a really wide casing and the elastic will wiggle around in it.

I then stitched the casing down straight across the back leaving the 2 ends open. (I failed to get a good picture of this part, sorry!)

\* You may also shirr the back piece if you would like. I would cut the top edge of the back piece about 1" shorter, then stitch a narrow hem of 1/4" across the top. Shirr several rows in order to ensure that the back of the dress doesn't sag when dolly is wearing it.

7. Cut a 5" piece of elastic and thread it through the casing. Secure the elastic at both ends by basting.



8. Next we will sew the side seams of the shirt pieces. Right sides together place the shirt back and shirt front together at the side seams aligning the top edge of the back piece with the bottom of armhole on the front piece. Sew the side seams.



9. The top is now complete. Moving on to the skirt, place the 2 skirt pieces right sides together and sew the side seams.



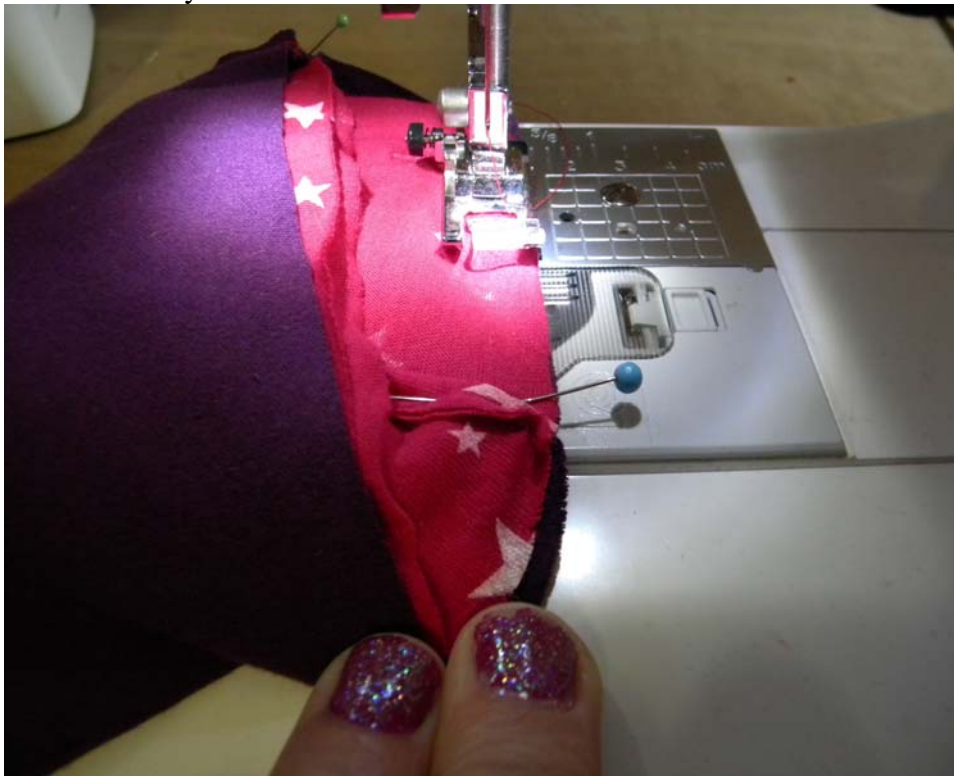
You will now have the top completed and the skirt completed.



10. Press and stitch a narrow  $\frac{1}{4}$ " hem.



11. With right sides together (my top was right side out and the skirt inside out) place the skirt top edge and shirt bottom edge together matching side seams. Stitch the seam all the way around.



12. Turn inside out and press. Your dress is complete! Enjoy!  
Front (I didn't hem until this step so ignore that in this pic!)



Back





Cut 2 on fold,  
one for the front, one  
for the back.

Skirt

$\frac{1}{4}$ " S.A.

Allows for a narrow  $\frac{1}{4}$ " hem

fold

Shirt back <sup>Top</sup>

Cut 1

The top S.A. allows  
for  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " hem to  
fit the elastic I  
used. ( $3\frac{1}{4}$ ")

$\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance

fold

Shirt  
front

Cut 2 on  
fold, one for  
front, one for  
lining.

$\frac{1}{4}$ " S.A.

fold