

Sewing for Large Dolls



Sherralyn St. Clair

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Front cover: The brunette doll is Emma from Springfield® Collection. Springfield® Collection dolls can be purchased in craft stores in the US, Canada, and Europe. They can also be ordered on line.

ABOUT THE FRONT COVER

You can find a free pattern for Kitty's stuffed cat at www.sherralynsdolls.com. Select Florabunda's page from the buttons at the top of the main page. On Florabunda's page select beginning sew projects from that page's directory. The pattern for Kitty's doll, Twinkle, is found in the companion book, *Sewing for Mini Dolls* or for purchase and download at www.sherralynsdolls.com.

INTRODUCTION

This book contains patterns for 18" (46 cm) doll clothing. I have tried the clothing on American Girl® dolls, dolls from the Springfield® Collection, and other similar dolls. Because I have received several requests for shoe patterns, the book includes patterns for sneakers, bedroom slippers, and Mary Jane shoes. If you would like to make your own doll instead of purchasing a doll, I have added a pattern for Kitty, an (18" 46 cm) cloth doll. Kitty can be made with optional details such as fingers, toes, and ears.

If you would like to make the mini doll Kitty is holding on the cover, the pattern is in the companion book, *Sewing for Mini Dolls*. That book includes a pattern for Twinkle, a 6½" (16.5 cm) doll and clothing that fits her and other mini dolls, such as American Girl® Mini. Twinkle's pattern is also available at www.sherralynsdolls.com.

At the beginning of each project I list the supplies and equipment that you will need to make the doll or garment. I also list the skills that are explained in the instructions. Sometimes you are referred to the book's appendix called **Tools, Tips, and Techniques**. I discuss equipment and sewing techniques in this appendix. If you would like a copy of **Tools, Tips, and Techniques** with *color* illustrations you can download it free from the pattern page of my website, www.sherralynsdolls.com.

After each set of instructions are full size patterns for 18" (46 cm) doll clothing or for Kitty, the cloth doll. The pattern pieces are labeled with the name of the doll part or clothing item. Copy or trace the patterns and use them in constructing your projects.

If you are using a copier, you want the patterns printed full size. Before cutting out your pattern pieces from fabric, check the copied patterns against the patterns in the book to verify that they are the correct size and adjust your copier setting if necessary.

I invite you to visit www.sherralynsdolls.com for sewing tips, ideas for doll accessories, free patterns, and free children's stories. If you want to see color pictures of dolls wearing clothing from this book, check the Pattern Page or the Book Page.

Email me at sherralyn@www.sherralynsdolls.com if you have questions, suggestions, or just want to chat about dollmaking.

Here are the symbols found on the patterns and in the instructions of this book:

-  Indicates the pattern pieces for 18" (46 cm) doll clothing or for the Kitty doll.
- **Tips** p (page number) refers you to the page in the appendix, **Tools, Tips, and Techniques**, that contains additional information about the sewing project.
- — — — indicates the stitch line.
- · · - · · indicates stay-stitching.
- ······· indicates top stitching.
- ||||| indicates where to gather the fabric.
- · · - - - indicates where to align the pockets on the garment and the sneaker shoe sides on the tongue/toe.
- indicates where to fold a fabric piece after it has been cut.
- . . - - - . indicates stencil placement.
-  indicates the location of clips.
-  indicates the right side of the fabric.

CONTENTS

Kitty Doll	5
<p>This pattern includes the doll itself as well as panties, a camisole, and sandals. If you have some previous sewing experience and enjoy sewing, this doll will be fun to sew. The pattern includes optional details like fingers, toes, and ears. As an option there are instructions explaining how to prepare and print a fabric sheet with faces.</p>	
Nightgown, Sleep Cap, and Six Styles of Bedroom Slippers.....	31
<p>Your doll will be cozy and huggable in this this cotton flannel nightgown and fleece sleep cap. Your doll can choose her favorite from six animal slipper patterns: bunny, cat, dog, mouse, pig, or bear.</p>	
A-Line Dress and Short Jacket.....	45
<p>This pattern is a fairly simple, basic pattern. It is a fast and easy to make and can be embellished in many ways.</p>	
Pants, T-Shirt, Skirt, and Sneakers.....	55
<p>Make your doll a T-shirt and then add long pants, shorts, or an A-line skirt. Add the optional pocket to the pants or skirt to make jeans or khakis. Finish dressing your doll with socks and a stylish pair of sneakers.</p>	
Ballgown and Classic Dress with Accessories.....	71
<p>Your doll can dance her princess slippers to pieces while wearing her ballgown and crown. On less formal occasions, when she is not being a princess, she can wear her classic dress with her Mary Jane shoes.</p>	
Tips, Tools, and Techniques.....	87
<p>This appendix provides additional details for some of the sewing techniques and procedures used in the patterns.</p>	

Kitty Doll



- About 8 oz (220 g) of polyester stuffing
- Two 30 mm doll joints and two 35 mm doll joints
- Seam sealant and wax paper
- Fabric glue stick
- For printing the face onto fabric (optional)
 - Freezer paper, Sulky Sticky+®, or quilt basting spray
 - Masking tape
- For coloring the face
 - Boxes of waterproof colored pencils in primary colors and earth tones
 - Thin line permanent markers in red, black, brown, and blue or brown for the eyes.
 - White acrylic paint and a thin brush
 - Powdered blush (optional)
- For yarn wig
 - 1 skein of yarn for hair in the color of your choice
 - Matching thread
 - Permanent fabric glue
 - Narrow masking tape for construction
- Size 14 commercial wig rather than yarn, if you prefer
- For clothing
 - 7" (18 cm) of cotton fabric (pants and camisole)
 - 1/8" (3 mm) wide elastic (pants)
 - 1/4" (6 mm) wide lace edging (pants and camisole)
 - Ribbon (camisole and sandals)
 - Small applique (optional for camisole)
 - Hook and loop tape (camisole)
 - Stiff felt (sandals)
 - Decorative buttons or small appliques (optional for sandals)
 - Tacky Glue® (sandals)

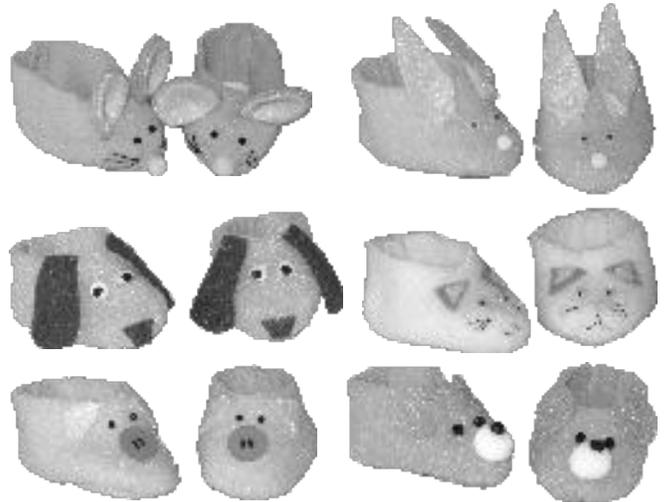
Equipment

- Basic sewing tools (**Tips** p. 88)
- An open embroidery foot to use when following sewing lines for arms and legs
- One 2" (5 cm) needle for sculpting toes
- Stuffing tools such as: a hemostat, a chopstick, and an inexpensive paintbrush (use the smooth end)
- Cardboard for wrapping hair yarn
- A bodkin for threading elastic through the casing (pants)
- Clothes pins (use as clamps when gluing sandals)

Supplies

- 1/2 yd (46 cm) 100% cotton fabric in skin color of your choice
- Thread for sewing doll in slightly lighter color than fabric
- Prismacolor® peach pencil or other washable pencil and thin line air soluble pen for marking

Nightgown, Sleep Cap, and Six Styles of Bedroom Slippers



Supplies

- ½ yd (46 cm) cotton flannel or other soft cotton fabric for nightgown
- Matching thread
- Ribbon (nightgown)
- Hook and loop tape (nightgown)
- Fleece in the color of your choice for sleep cap and bedroom slippers
- Ribbing for sleep cap band
- 1" to 1½" (2.5-3.8 cm) handmade or purchased pompom for sleep cap
- Felt in the color of your choice for slipper soles and animal ears and noses
- Air soluble pen for marking animal's facial features
- Check the chart included with the slipper instructions for eyes and nose suggestions to complete the animal slipper face

Equipment

- Basic sewing tools (**Tips** p. 88)

Skills

- Applying neck, sleeve, and cap bands
- Applying hook and loop tape. (**Tips** p. 95)

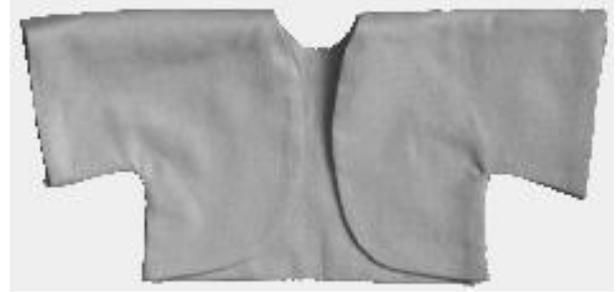
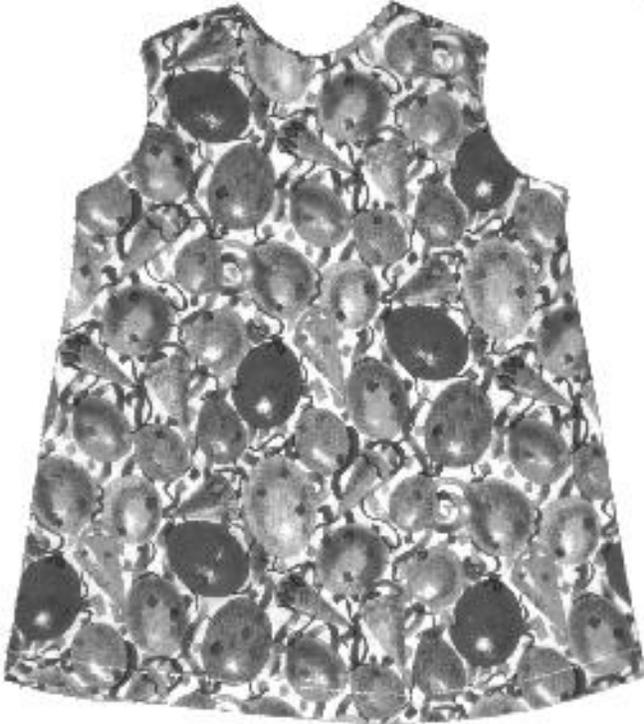
Sizes

This pattern fits 18" (46 cm) dolls such as: Sherralyn's Dolls Kitty, dolls from the American Girl® Collection, and the Springfield® Collection.

If you would like to make Twinkle, the mini doll Kitty is holding on the cover, the pattern is in this book's companion book, *Sewing for Mini Dolls*. Twinkle's pattern is also available at www.sherralynsdolls.com. You can find a free pattern for Kitty's stuffed cat at www.sherralynsdolls.com on Florabunda's Page.



A-line Dress and Short Jacket



Sizes

- This pattern fits 18" (46 cm) dolls such as: Sherralyn's Dolls Kitty, dolls from the American Girl® Collection, and the Springfield® Collection.

Here is Twinkle, the mini doll Kitty is holding on the cover. The A-line dress and jacket that she is wearing, matches the A-line dress and jacket on the back cover of this book. The patterns for Twinkle and her clothing are in this book's companion book, *Sewing for Mini Dolls*. Twinkle's patterns fit American Girl® Mini dolls and are also available at www.sherralynsdolls.com.

Supplies

- 1/3 yard (30 cm) cotton fabric (dress) You can also use a fat quarter for the dress.
- Cotton fabric to match or complement A-line dress (jacket)
- Matching thread
- Hook and loop tape for closing back

Equipment

- Basic sewing tools (**Tips** p. 88)

Skills

- Dress
 - Applying a facing to both neck opening and armholes (explained in the instructions)
- Jacket
 - Lining a jacket



Pants, T-Shirt, Skirt, and Sneakers



Supplies

- Pants, shorts, and skirt
 - Chambray, light denim, or cotton broadcloth in color of your choice for pants, shorts, and skirt
 - Matching thread and optional orange thread for jeans topstitching
 - Sewing glue stick for pockets (optional)
- 1/8" (3 mm) elastic for waist casing
- T-shirt
 - Knit fabric in color of your choice
 - Matching or contrasting ribbing
 - Matching thread
 - Hook and loop tape
- Sneakers
 - Light weight denim or cotton broadcloth in the color of your choice for sneakers and a scrap of white or contrasting fabric for the optional toe overlay
 - 1/4" (6 mm) elastic for band above sneaker sole
 - Seam sealant
 - Stiff felt for insole
 - White craft foam sheet for sole
 - Tacky Glue®
 - Midi braid for laces
- Socks
 - A thin sock or ribbing knit fabric

Equipment

- Basic sewing tools (**Tips** p. 88)
- Cotton swabs to hold shoe eyelets open

- Spring clothes pins for holding soles to shoes
- Pennies or other weights

Skills

- Pants and skirt
 - Applying a patch pocket to pants and skirt to make jeans and khakis
- T-shirt
 - Attaching a neck band (explained in the instructions)
 - Sewing knit with a zigzag stitch (explained in the instructions)
 - Setting-in a sleeve (explained in the instructions)
 - Applying hook and loop tape (**Tips** p. 95)

Sizes

This pattern fits 18" (46 cm) dolls such as: Sherralyn's Dolls Kitty, dolls from the American Girl® Collection, and the Springfield® Collection

Here is Twinkle, the mini doll Kitty is holding on the cover. She is wearing a T-shirt, jeans and sneakers. The patterns for Twinkle and her clothing are in this book's companion book, *Sewing for Mini Dolls*. Twinkle's patterns fit American Girl® Mini dolls and are also available at www.sherralynsdolls.com.



Ballgown and Classic Dress with Accessories



Supplies

- Dresses
 - ¼ yd (23 cm) cotton fabric for bodice and skirt of classic dress
 - A large scrap of cotton fabric for sleeves and ruffle of classic dress
 - ½ yd (46 cm) of silky fabric for ballgown
 - Optional 3" x 32" (8 cm x 82 cm) lace edging rather than fabric ruffle for ball gown
 - Optional 1" x 14" (2.5 cm x 36 cm) lace edging for neck ruffle
 - Matching thread
 - Optional plain or metallic rickrack or braid
 - Embroidery floss for sewing rickrack or braid (optional)
 - Optional tulle, netting, or metallic mesh, and 3" (8 cm) lace edging for slip



- Crown and shoes
 - ½" (12 mm) wide gold or silver trim for crown
 - Scrap of gold or silver colored fabric for crown
 - Craft store "gems" for crown

- Stiff felt for crown and shoe insoles
- Felt or cotton fabric for Mary Jane shoes
- Gold or silver fabric for princess slippers
- Light iron-on inter facing for shoes
- Cotton fabric for shoe lining
- Craft foam for shoe soles
- Snaps for Mary Jane shoes
- Ribbon for princess slippers
- A thin sock or ribbing knit fabric for socks
- Tacky Glue® for shoes and crown

Equipment

- Basic sewing tools (**Tips** p. 88)
- Embroidery needles for applying optional rickrack or braid
- Air soluble pen
- Spring clothes pins for shoes

Skills

- Applying gathered lace to neck opening
- Attaching a cuff to a sleeve
- Applying rickrack or braid (optional)
- Setting in a sleeve
- Joining a gathered skirt to a dress bodice
- Applying hook and loop tape (**Tips** p. 95)

Sizes

- This pattern fits 18" (46 cm) dolls such as: Sherralyn's Dolls Kitty, dolls from the American Girl® Collection, and the Springfield® Collection.

Tools, Tips, and Techniques



APPENDIX

The following hints have been taken from my blog and revised for the sake of continuity. Occasionally a note in my patterns will refer you to topics in this section. The topic **Basic Sewing Tools**, for example, is listed under equipment in all my patterns.

I have written other hints hoping that they might be helpful to you as you sew this doll and her clothing. Some of the short cuts that I use are not traditional methods. If you prefer traditional methods, please use them.

Sewing Tools.....	88
Stitches.....	89
Marking Fabric.....	92
Finishing Raw Edges.....	93
Casings.....	94
Closures.....	95