

Sewing for Mini Dolls



Sherralyn St. Clair

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ABOUT THE FRONT AND BACK COVERS

Free patterns for Twinkle's stuffed cat and bear can be found at www.sherralynsdolls.com. Select Florabunda's page from the buttons at the top of the main page. On Florabunda's page select beginning sewing projects from that page's directory.



INTRODUCTION

I have always loved small dolls. I think that their size is charming. They are easier to display and store than larger dolls. I seldom need to buy fabric for them, because their clothes can be made from fabric scraps. Their accessories are easy to find. I have been designing small cloth dolls for several years. On my website I offer patterns that contain three sizes of small dolls. The pattern for the dolls themselves, containing all three doll sizes, is sold separately from the garment patterns. Each garment pattern is also sold separately and contains three sizes. In 2012 I wrote *Sew a Small Doll and Her Clothing* for the dollmaker who would like to sew only one size doll and her outfits. The earlier book was for Florabunda, the middle size doll of my three small dolls. This year I am publishing *Sewing for Mini Dolls*. This book features 6½" (16.5 cm) Twinkle. She is my smallest doll. I have noticed that there are not many patterns on the market for the American Girl® Mini clothing, but Twinkle's clothing will fit her. Like the American Girl® Mini, Twinkle makes a great doll for an 18" (46 cm) doll. The instructions for Twinkle and her clothing are the same as those in Florabunda's book, but the patterns and measurements are for the smaller Twinkle doll.

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 appendix called **Tools, Tips, and Techniques**. I discuss equipment and sewing techniques in this appendix. If you would like a free copy of **Tools, Tips, and Techniques** with *color* illustrations you can download it from the pattern page of my website, www.sherralynsdolls.com.

After each set of instructions are full size patterns for Twinkle or her clothing. 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 fabric pieces, check the pattern against the patterns in the book to verify that they are the correct size.

I invite you to visit www.sherralynsdolls.com for sewing tips, ideas for doll accessories, and a free sundress pattern for Twinkle. If you want to see a Twinkle or the American Girl® Mini doll wearing clothing from this book, check the small doll section of the Pattern Page or *Sewing for Mini Dolls* on the Book Page. For free beginner friendly patterns of Twinkle's bear and cat plus many other fun projects check Florabunda's Page.

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



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<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 small things, this doll will be fun to sew. The pattern includes optional details like tiny fingers and toes. As an option there are instructions explaining how to prepare and print a fabric sheet with faces.</p>	
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<p>This appendix provides additional details for some of the sewing techniques and procedures used in the patterns.</p>	

Twinkle Doll



Supplies

- 100% cotton fabric in skin color of your choice
- Thread for sewing doll in slightly lighter color than fabric
- Optional darker thread for sewing the toes
- Optional freezer paper, Sulky® Sticky+, or quilt basting spray for printing the face onto fabric
- Optional masking tape to help with printing on fabric
- Prismacolor® peach pencil and thin line air soluble pen for marking

- 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 (eyes)
- Optional powdered blush
- Polyester stuffing
- Pairs of 3/8" (9 mm) flat buttons and 1/2" (12 mm) flat buttons with two eyes for stringing arms and legs
- Unwaxed dental floss
- Seam sealant and wax paper
- Fabric glue stick
- Hair
 - 4 skeins of embroidery floss for hair in the color of your choice
 - Permanent fabric glue
 - Tear-away stabilizer
 - Or size 4 to 4½ wig (optional)
- Small piece of nylon tricot or T-shirt knit (panties and camisole)
- 1/8" (3 mm) wide elastic (panties)
- 1/4" (6 mm) wide lace edging (panties and camisole)
- 1/8" (3 mm) ribbon (camisole and sandals)
- Optional small appliques (camisole)
- Hook and loop tape (camisole)
- 1/4" (6 mm) wide ribbon (sandals)
- Stiff felt (sandals)
- Tacky Glue® (sandals)

Equipment

- Basic sewing tools (see **Tools, Tips, and Techniques**)
- An open embroidery foot to use when following sewing lines for arms and legs
- One 2¼" (6 cm) or longer needle for stringing the arms and legs
- Stuffing tools such as a hemostat, chopstick, and an inexpensive paintbrush (use the smooth end)
- A cylindrical object (such as a medium point Sharpy® pen with the cap on) to keep the neck open while attaching the head
- Doll hairbrush, toothbrush, or fine comb to separate embroidery floss
- Bodkin for threading elastic through the casing (panties)
- Miniature clothes pins (sandals)

Skills

- Color face with pen and pencil
- Attach head to body with ladder stitch
- Hand sewing fingers and toes
- Stringing arms and legs
- Prepare fabric and print face outline with a computer printer (optional)

Gown, Smock Top, and Two Tier Skirt



Supplies

- Scraps of soft cotton fabric with soft colors or small prints (The gown may be made in cotton flannel.)
- Matching thread
- Narrow ribbon (gown)
- 1/8" (3 mm) elastic
- Optional fairly thin lady's sock for sleep cap
- Optional 13 mm pompom for sleep cap

Equipment

- Basic sewing tools (see **Tools, Tips, and Techniques**)

Skills

- Gown and Smock Top
 - Use **Tools, Tips, and Techniques** for instructions on applying hook and loop tape.
- Two Tiered Skirt
 - Joining gathered fabric to ungathered fabric

Sizes

Twinkle's (★) clothing patterns fit

- Sherralyn's Dolls' Twinkle
- American Girl® Mini
- Other 6½" (17 cm) dolls

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A-line Dress with Short Jacket and Bloomer



Supplies

- Light cotton fabric in soft colors or small prints (dress)
- Light cotton fabric to match or compliment A-line dress (jacket and bloomers)
- Matching thread
- Hook and loop tape for closing back (unless you plan to close the dress with a zipper)
- 2" (5 cm) nylon zipper (optional for closing dress back instead of hook and loop tape)
- Optional small buttons or appliques
- 1/8" (3 mm) elastic (bloomers)

Skills

- Dress
 - Applying a facing to both neck opening and armholes (explained in the instructions)
 - Use **Tools, Tips, and Techniques** for instructions on applying hook and loop tape.
 - Applying a zipper to the back opening (optional)
- Jacket
 - Lining a jacket

Sizes

- Twinkle's (★) clothing patterns fit
- Sherralyn's Dolls' Twinkle
 - American Girl® Mini
 - Other 6½" (17 cm) dolls

Equipment

- Basic sewing tools (see **Tools, Tips, and Techniques**)
- Hemostat to turn dress and facing



Pants, T-shirt, and Skirt



Supplies

- Cotton broadcloth in the color or design of your choice for Pants, Shorts, and Skirt
- Optional blue or khakis colored broadcloth for jeans or khakis
- T-shirt knit in color of your choice
- Matching or contrasting ribbing (sometimes T-shirt knit works as a ribbing substitute)
- Matching thread
- Optional orange thread for jeans topstitching
- Sewing glue stick for optional pockets

Equipment

- Basic sewing tools (see **Tools, Tips, and Techniques**)
- Optional hemostat to turn pocket for pants and skirt

Skills

- Pants and skirt without pockets (easy projects)
 - Use **Tools, Tips, and Techniques** for any help that you need
- Optional applying a patch pocket to pants and skirt to make jeans and khakis (advanced project explained in the instructions).
- T-shirt (more challenging project than simple pants and skirt)
 - 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 (**Tools, Tips, and Techniques**)

Sizes

Twinkle's (★) clothing patterns fit

- Sherralyn's Dolls' Twinkle
- American Girl® Mini
- Other 6½" (17 cm) dolls



Ballgown and Classic Dress



Supplies

- Scraps of silky or cotton fabric
- Matching thread
- ½" to ¾" (12 to 19 mm) lace edging (Gold or silver metallic lace adds a nice touch to the ball gown.)
- Plain or metallic rickrack (optional)
- Embroidery floss or metallic pearl for sewing rickrack (optional) - Metallic pearl is a type of embroidery floss found in the embroidery section of craft stores. It is also used for making the Crown.
- 5" (13 cm) of ⅝" (15 mm) ribbon for ribbon flower (optional)
- Small bead for ribbon flower center (optional)
- Optional gold or silver trim for crown
- Optional craft store gems for crown

Equipment

- Basic sewing tools (see **Tools, Tips, and Techniques**)
- Crewel needles for applying optional rickrack and sewing the crown

Skills

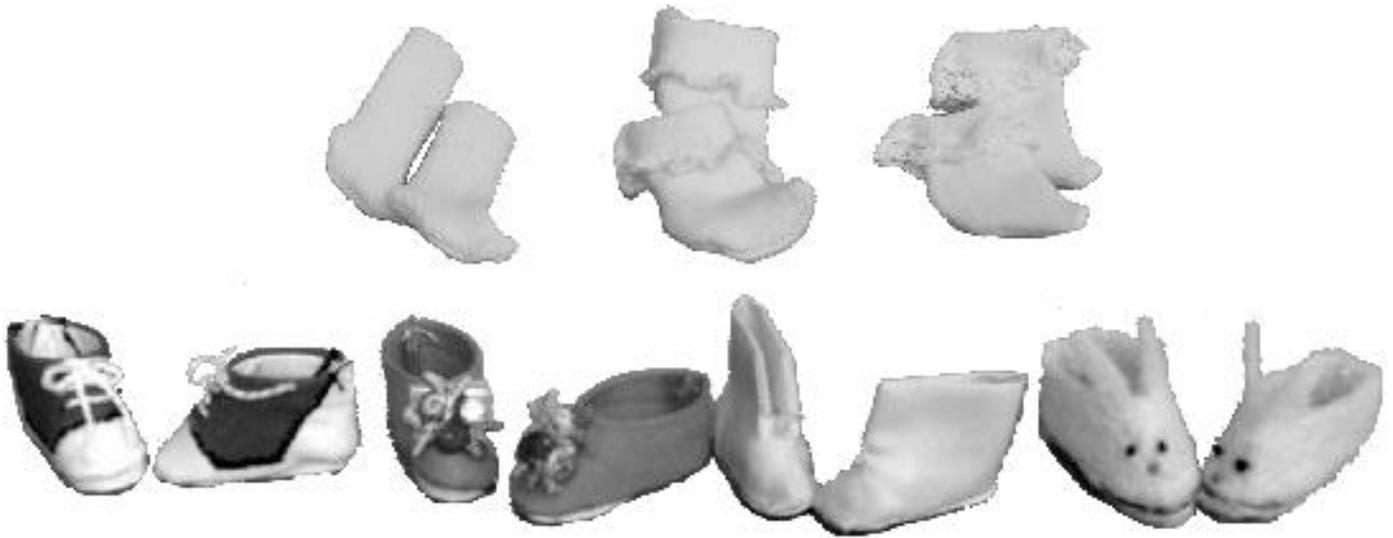
- Applying gathered lace to neck opening
- Applying ungathered lace to hem
- Attaching a cuff to a sleeve
- Applying rickrack (optional)
- Making a ribbon flower (optional)
- Setting in a sleeve
- Joining a gathered skirt to a dress bodice
- Applying hook and loop tape (Use **Tools, Tips, and Techniques**)
- Making a crown using metallic trim

Sizes

- Twinkle's (★) clothing patterns fit
- Sherralyn's Dolls' Twinkle
 - American Girl® Mini
 - Other 6½" (17 cm) dolls



Shoes and Socks



Supplies

- Woven fabric in the color of your choice for shoe last, shoe, sneaker overlay, boot, and linings
- White fabric for sneaker and lining
- Pink or white felt for bunny slipper
- Sewable fusible webbing for linings and sneaker overlay
- Seam sealant
- Felt for sole (I like stiff felt.)
- Index card for insole
- Tacky Glue®
- Optional buttons, bows, or small appliques for shoes
- Pearl cotton for laces for sneakers
- Black embroidery floss for the bunny slipper eyes
- Pink embroidery floss for bunny slipper nose
- Two pink or white ¼ " (6 mm) pompoms for bunny slipper tails
- Knit for socks (Use a thin sock or a stretchy knit fabric.)
- Optional narrow lace for top trim for socks
- Bamboo cooking skewer for shoe last
- Small amount of polyester stuffing for shoe last

Equipment

- Basic sewing tools (see **Tools, Tips, and Techniques**)
- Miniature clothes pins
- Size 20 or 22 tapestry needle

Skills

- Constructing a shoe by gluing sole and insole
- Applying lace to the top of a sock
- French knot for bunny eyes (Use **Tools, Tips, and Techniques.**)
- Constructing a shoe last to help in shoe making

Sizes

Twinkle's (★) shoes fit

- Sherralyn's Dolls' Twinkle
- American Girl® Mini
- Other 6½" (17 cm) dolls

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 Twinkle and her clothing. Some of the short cuts that I use are not traditional methods. If you prefer traditional methods, please use them.

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